

PRESS RELEASE

Namibian Conservation Organisations Support Botswana's Democratic Processes Regarding Elephant Management

A Sub Committee appointed by President Masisi of Botswana recently made its recommendations in a White Paper regarding the hunting ban and human-elephant conflict.

We, as Namibian Conservationists, including environmental NGOs, researchers, community representatives and conservancies, hereby join a group of international conservationists in voicing our support for Botswana's consultative process to address the challenges associated with managing its large elephant population. We applaud President Masisi and Botswana's parliament for establishing the consultative process that looks to balance wildlife conservation with the needs and aspirations of the citizens of Botswana.

Namibia has felt the burden of international pressure against our policies that encourage the devolution of rights over, and sustainable use of, natural resources. We therefore take this opportunity to stand in solidarity with Botswana. We would like to draw your attention to this article [[see link below](#)] that sets forth the following important issues that have not been highlighted in other media reports covering this story.

- 1) President Masisi's establishment of the subcommittee to conduct a thorough Social Dialogue is a welcome move towards a more democratic style of governance.
- 2) Masisi's administration once more opened the research permit application system, which signals his understanding of the role of objective conservation research in finding new solutions to human-elephant conflict.
- 3) The process embarked upon by Masisi's administration is a welcome return to Botswana's historic emphasis on consultation with people at the grassroots level. This also presents an opportunity to strengthen Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in the country.

As Namibian organisations with extensive experience with the CBNRM programme in our country, we are especially interested in extending our support regarding point 3 above. This new dawn for Botswana will present many challenges and opportunities as the government once more involves local communities in wildlife management and conservation. We are therefore ready and willing to assist the government of Botswana in these important endeavours by drawing on the lessons we have learned in Namibia.

Yours in Conservation,
Namibian Chamber of Environment, and 42 member and partner organisations

List of supporting organisations

Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE)
African Conservation Services cc

African Foundation
Ashby Associates cc
A Speiser Environmental Consultants cc
Brown Hyena Research Project Trust
Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)
Desert Lion Conservation Trust
Development Workshop Namibia
Eco Awards Namibia
EduVentures
Environmental Compliance Consulting
EnviroScience
Giraffe Conservation Foundation
Gobabeb Research and Training Centre
Greenspace
Integrates Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)
JARO Consultancy
Kwando Carnivore Programme
N/a'an ku sê Foundation
Namibian Associations of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO)
Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust
Namibia Biomass Industry Group (Incorporated Association not for gain)
Namibia Bird Club
Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)
Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA)
Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)
Namibian Hydrogeological Association
NamibRand Nature Reserve
Otjikoto Trust
Research and Information Services of Namibia (RAISON)
Rare & Endangered Species Trust (REST)
Rooikat Trust
Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA)
Save The Rhino Trust (SRT)
Scientific Society Swakopmund
Seabirds and Marine Ecosystems Programme
Seeis Conservancy
Sustainable Solutions Trust (SST)
Tourism Supporting Conservation (Tosco) Trust
Venture Media
Zambia Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Forum
Zambia National Community Resource Boards (CRBs) Association

Link to article in Africa Geographic:

<https://africageographic.com/blog/opinion-human-wildlife-conflict-specialist-botswana-found-voice-will-listen/?fbclid=IwAR2W7VJWswABEYof3Ll9pHun7qqJZtUKyLFrmBYqky2me15zJhx792OTj7o>