



---

**Republic of Namibia**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

---

Press Release  
(For Immediate Release)

Editors and Journalists

09 February 2023

**Re: UPDATE ON HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT**

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) continues to invest in Human wildlife conflict mitigation and management across the country. The Ministry has in the since 2019 paid offset amounts to losses caused by wild animal amounting to Twenty-four million, one hundred and sixty with thousand and one hundred and sixty two Namibian dollar (N\$24 168 162).

The overall principle behind the country's conservation of natural resources is enshrined in the country's constitution that such resources are protected to benefit the country's current and future generations. This is the basis of our investment in trying to ensure that the cost of co-existence must not outweigh the benefits. One avenue to derive such benefits is through the community-based conservation programme has created employment and income generation opportunities. In 2021 through the conservancy programme a total of 3548 employment was facilitated comprising of 998 community members employed in conservancies; 774 full time and 62 parttime employed in joint venture tourism enterprises; 130 full time and 188 part time employed in the conservation hunting sectors while the rest are employed in small and medium enterprises.

Conservancies generated cash income and in-kind benefits to rural communities totaling to N\$91.7 million benefiting over two hundred and thirty-eight community members (238 701) of this, conservation hunting generated N\$ 25,952,651 with a meat value of N\$ 9,267,048, tourism generated N\$ 53,838,083, indigenous plants and other income generated N\$ 1,029,191 and N\$ 1,658,805 respectively

The Ministry is also engaged in providing meat to community and national events.

Incidences of Human Wildlife Conflict however remain a concern as they seem overshadow the benefits as well as opportunities created for Namibians- while managing HWC remains a challenge. These incidences mainly involve livestock losses, crop damages, loss of life and injuries both affecting the livelihoods of our people. Consequently the Ministry has paid N\$2 963 852,00 for livestock losses; N\$2 569 200,00 for crop damages; N\$640 000 for injuries; N\$3 300 000,00 for loss of life from 2019 to date. Within the same period N\$14 695 110,00 was paid to conservancies to offset HWC conflict losses to their members.

Within the same period, the Ministry has administered 33 claims for loss life of which 15 were in 2022 and 2 so far in 2023 with crocodiles, hippos and elephants being the main culprits. In terms of crop damages, 2637 hectares was destroyed by wild animals of which 270 hectares was recorded in 2022 and 60 hectares so far in 2023 mainly by elephants. A total of 862 livestock were killed by predators mainly crocodiles, hyenas, lions, wild dogs, leopard and jackals of which 204 was recorded in 2022 and 9 in 2023 to date. A total of 54 people were injured within the same period, 15 in 2022 and 3 in 2023 to date.

To mitigate the impact of HWC the Ministry has developed a National Policy on HWC management highlighting the types of conflicts and possible mitigation measures. Together with other stakeholder we are involved and implementing measures such elephant and lion collaring; early warning system; lion ranger programme; construction of predator proof kraals; translocation of problem causing animals; declarations and destruction of problem causing animals and wildlife population management. The Ministry would like to urge communities and property owners in HWC prone areas to put in place preventative and mitigation measures.

**Media Contact:** Public Relations Office; +264 61 284 2840, [info.pro@mefl.gov.na](mailto:info.pro@mefl.gov.na), 0811407844.

**Issued by:**  
**Romeo Muyunda**  
**Chief Public Relations Officer/ Spokesperson**

