

**NWX-DOI-FISH & WILDLIFE**

**Moderator: Cade London  
September 26, 2018  
5:15 pm CT**

Man: (Unintelligible)...

((Crosstalk))

Eric Alvarez: Members of the Council welcome. Members of the public also welcome and presenters. I'm Eric Alvarez I'm the designated federal official and kind of Secretary for this Council today and we will be running the meeting starting here in just a couple of seconds. And a couple of housekeeping items. There is one restroom here for members of the Council. It's a one space so please reserve that for the members of the Council. And around the corner there are additional restrooms for the public.

And we expect an orderly meeting. We'll have an opportunity for comments at the end from the public. And there's also an opportunity for additional speakers to sign up at the break. So if anyone would like to make any comments at the very end of the meeting there will be an opportunity to sign up.

And Mr. Chairman we have a quorum and the meeting is yours.

(Bill): Thank you Eric, appreciate the opportunity to meet with everyone today. I appreciate the Council coming in from scattered parts of the world and the presenters coming as well. We have a great group of presenters for this meeting. We will have issues such as human animal conflict habitat fragmentation poaching and trafficking of wildlife sustainable wildlife conservations. And the people who are going to be making the presentations are the people who live with it every day in Namibia in Zimbabwe in Botswana in South Africa and in Tanzania.

No one knows what it's like to live those lives unless they've done it. And so we feel extremely pleased to have people from those countries who are going to be talking about the issues that affect their lives their livelihood, et cetera. And so today let me introduce a few people at the start. Department of Interior we have Andrea Travnicek.

Andrea Travnicek: Travnicek (yes) (unintelligible).

(Bill): Any comments that you would like to throw out?

Andrea Travnicek: Yes I just want to say a quick hello. I'm new to the Council so I – they have me at the Department of Interior. I'm the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. So Andrea Travnicek, recently I've come from working for the last two governors of North Dakota on natural resource issues. I've worked for Ducks Unlimited in the past and even worked at the Omaha Zoo. So a little bit of background on wildlife and natural resource issues. So just really excited to be here with the Council. Looking forward to get to know all of you.

And I just want to thank the public for being here and looking forward to the presenters and just hearing the conversations so thank you.

(Bill): Okay. We also have someone from The State Department who has been with us at each of our meetings and we've certainly enjoyed their representation is Rowena Watson.

Rowena Watson: Yes I have been – this is my third Council meeting. I am from the...

((Crosstalk))

Rowena Watson: ...State Department here in – based in Washington. I'm with the Civil Service and I'm from the Bureau of Oceans Environment International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. I am the Team Lead for combating wildlife trafficking and wildlife conservation. Thanks.

(Bill): And I should have introduced her as Dr. Rowena Watson.

Rowena Watson: That's right Bill. (You do Dr.)...

(Bill): I will...

Rowena Watson: ...Travnicek as well then.

Andrea Travnicek: Oh yes we both are.

(Bill): ...okay and before we get into our first presentation. Do we have any of our Council Members that want to make any kind of opening comments or anything? Being none we will move forward. As I said we have some great

presenters that have come a long ways to tell us about life in their countries and what might be done to improve things from the US standpoint.

Our first presenter is going to be Mr. Shifeta from Namibia and it's great to have a Minister come and make the presentations that is over tourism ecology all the many things that he covers. And so Minister Shifeta we'll let you take the floor.

Pohamba Shifeta: Thank you very much the Chairperson and also the Members of the Council and audience, ladies and gentlemen. I'm from Namibia. I want thank you for having invited me to come and share some concept and efforts Namibia is making especially on this sustainable wildlife management for the benefit of the Namibian people and the world at large.

I will make a statement and if there are some questions I think you all will come to ask some questions because I will just do a summary of my statement what Namibia what to do in terms of conservation of natural resources bought in our wildlife. And also why in Namibia is successful in community conservation programs what you call community based natural resource management programs. And also challenges that face Namibia when it comes to management of wildlife. (Hope) thank you very much.

Namibia let me just give you a background maybe we think why in Namibia has got so many thousands of wild animals and what is the landmarks of Namibia and the population of Namibia. And also that we have a lot of landscape and there that makes Namibia unique. You find some parts, that's it and then they also have forest part and then mountainous part.

Namibia is (vast) and also (vast) and also very populated country located in South Africa. Its total surface land area is (8,824,629) square kilometers. It is

slightly half of more than half of the size of Alaska. It borders the Atlantic Ocean to the West Angola and Zambia to the North. (Zimbabwe) and Botswana to the East and South Africa to the South. The Namibian landscape consists generally of five geographic areas each with characteristics and (unintelligible) conditions and vegetation with some variation within and overlap (within) them.

The central plateau that's in Central Namibia and (unintelligible). Some of you went to Namibia (unintelligible) very beautiful (unintelligible) with sand dunes and also up to the sea. The only area where you find the sand dunes meet with the sea and the desert meet with the sea very beautiful.

Then also the great encroachment and also the bush field and the (unintelligible) that is – that's on the side of Botswana. The country has a population estimated of 2.4 million just imagine that vast area with only 2.4 million people with a population density of 2.5 per square kilometer. Of the 2.4 million people 58 live in rural areas that's 58% while the remaining 42% in urban areas. Namibia has an impressive network of protected areas there are 20 we have 20 protected that is now state-run protected areas we call them national parks and they cover about 17% of the country's land surface.

And Namibia's protected areas I established under the Nature Conservation Ordinance as Ordinance Number 4 for 1975 and we have amended that several times. The protected areas conserved part of the city by protecting some of the country's most important habitats and species of national and global significance. The country's commitment to (barter) the city's conservation is reflected in the Constitution our Constitution and so far I have not seen them in our Constitution that is (unintelligible) in it the protection of environment.

Our Constitution Article 95L provides the foundation for the formulation of policies and legislation framework and also programs and safeguarding the country's (barter) of the city and our eco systems for the benefit of the current and the future generations. Whatever we do is based on this provision of our Constitution and that is why (unintelligible) talks about protection of our ecological system about the city and then also making sure that we sustainably utilize that for the benefit of all the meetings. That means we have to create a balance and you'll understand when I go on with my statement.

However the proclamation of most protected areas in Namibia pre-dated the (unintelligible) of part of the city conservation science therefore parks that's national parks were established in the areas that were tested to have little other value such as the (unintelligible) that were unsustainable for famine. The country has therefore recognized the country's protected areas that they are truly – that are not truly (unintelligible) of regional (barter) the city with many indigenous and (unintelligible) species occurring outside of the protected areas network.

To complement this short for the country has put in place policies and legislative framework for free hold farms that is the farms that are private. We have two types of land ownership apart from local authorities. We have a communal land that's also (unintelligible) that in different act let's say a communal land and form act and they have also commercial land that is administered in different (unintelligible). There is a commercial (unintelligible) commercial land from act. These two are different.

One is for communal that means that it belongs to all those people who live there. And the other one that is commercial (unintelligible) land it's privately owned and we give (unintelligible) to all so that they can preserve and to conserve our part of the city. Before and for the communal land we amended

law because previously it was only commercial land private land that we suppose to own wild animals and the benefit from that a (unintelligible) benefit from that.

But 1996 we have amended the nature conservation ordinance, Ordinance Number 4 1975, so that we make provision for communal people. People who live in communal land to also create conservancies community conservancies and then translocate wild animals there. And they own this animal 100% and whatever benefit (unintelligible) from there they distribute among this community members. They have built schools clinics (electrified) villages and some of them they went to the point of design all the villages in their communities.

That's with these resources they generate from here. And these resources that generated from one trophy hunting and selling of wild games wild animals of course with the permission of the Ministry. Of course although these animals belong to them this where animals belong to this communities for sustainable use the (unintelligible) I have give that authorization and every year every quarter for instance (unintelligible) elephants go for all news. For instance for maybe they want to sell these elephants. How many for trophy hunting?

How many buffalos for instance for trophy hunting? How many for own consumption and other games (unintelligible) and others. So with that they'll be able to generate income and create employment for their members of the communities and also provide nutrition food meat for their communities want to have (unintelligible) they don't need to go and buy some meat they get from there. And to them that makes gives them (unintelligible) to make sure that they protect these animals because they know that these animals belong to them.

And that's why Namibia is successful because you cannot be successful in conservation of wildlife without the involvement of communities that's how we – that's our foundation of our success in the nature conservation.

So communal conservancies and also the community forest this have a they have acquired these rights over wildlife. They have acquired the rights of our trees and also (non-timber) products and also tourism they get tourism concessions and those were our neighboring protected areas in some areas especially protected areas they get concessions tourism concessions with communities.

And why when you go to Namibia you find this concessions belong to those communities and they have exclusive roads for instance into Etosha into some different parks but only those communities have (got that) concession and they take their tourists and the money they generate from there and they be their money it doesn't go to their central government at all.

To date 44% of Namibia's land mass that's Namibia's land area is under conservation management. It's 44% it's under conservation management. This policy framework has led to ever increased – increasing areas of land being converted to indigenous part of a city's production system including wildlife tourism and forest (unintelligible). This has seen a significant increase in number of wildlife and also diversity across the country through effective local management and (unintelligible) production of wildlife in areas where they were completely extinct.

Of course after independence and of course of wars of course soldiers had to feed themselves and (unintelligible) animals. Some with permission of the former (unintelligible) they had to feed because there were sanctions. In order for them to feed their animal their soldiers in the field because of (sanctions)

(sanctions) was (biting) so they had to put up (unintelligible) to call especially the big games like and like elephants buffalos every day to and attend them and to feed their soldiers. Oh at independence we had less than 4,000 elephants and today we have more than 22,000 elephants in the country the population so we had to go there and make sure that they grow.

After the whole leg of management previously we had to make sure that we introduce some kind of programs to grow this population.

Namibia has also promoted a good relationship with communities neighboring of national parks so that they can get benefits and become eyes and ears of the government to protect these animals so that from poachers. Why we are successful in poaching activities I mean in activities against poaching in the country is because we use the community members.

Of course they benefit from this policy and concessions they know that if this animals like this very high or valued animals like rhinos and elephants are being killed by poachers definitely they also lose out because they will not have tourists to take into those – to take them into those roads because they have concessions. So they become our informant they inform us whenever they have (unintelligible) people in their surrounding they inform the law enforcement and that's why we are successful in this conversation because the communities feel ownership they own these wild animals.

During the 1970s and 1980s populations of most large mammals such as the rhinos and elephants in Africa experienced very sharp declines. This was mainly due to habitat loss and the poaching. In some countries some species even went extinct. Forests like rhinos this very, very scarce species now in the world. There might be a large population of this you find in Namibia there

were many like rhinos before in the 60s the estimation was about close to 8,000 just 8 – 5,000 (around).

But today you only have about less than and about just slightly more than 5,000 in the whole world and mostly the habitat of this rhinos especially this one very, very important species that is you find it only in Namibia and then (unintelligible) Africa and that they call it with a scientific name Bicornis it's a black rhino. That was a that part of the Eastern part of Angola came to the Eastern part of Namibia and then Eastern part of Africa. And now today the species very, very last we have of course we have the majority of the number of population the population large population of this.

We have more than 2,500 but the very in Africa I've got about 300 and you only find it in Namibia Africa that type of that species. That is now (piece) of rhinos a family of rhinos black rhinos but only find it in Namibia then. So and that is very highly sought and I think probably the myth behind the rhino horns was the rhino horns that the poachers are looking for. It's vital it's (unintelligible). There is no value. The rhino horn has no value. But because of that methodology created poachers are dying to make sure that they get hold of a rhino in order to go and sell.

But they won't distinct they won't be able to distinct to distinguish between the black rhino if you are not part of the conservation you won't be able to distinguish whether this is from a white rhino or a black rhino. The horn is almost the same unless you are part of the conversation and be able to (distinct) or you do a DNA test.

The Namibian experience is remarkably recover your already large animals (so now) including the rhinos and elephants through commendable and (unintelligible) intervention of the government such as the program we put up

community based natural resource management and also that after that in Namibia has now obtained sustainable user of wildlife resources as (indeed) it provided for in our national constitution.

Sustainable use (unintelligible) the desire of growth conservation and the growth wildlife management and is our collective interest to ensure that we use this resources sustainably for the livelihood of livelihood security and by our (unintelligible) city conservation. By now it has become common knowledge that tourism in general has grown to be one of the most important industries in Namibia in terms of it is strong contribution to the (GDP) employment creation and the world being in a social applicant of the rural community.

Namibia has main tremendous (unintelligible) and has had a significant success history in barter (unintelligible) conservation.

An extensive network of national parks has been expanded to conserve it is globally a significant part of the city who have national parks for instance such as Bwabwata, Dorob, Mangetti and Sperrgebiet National Parks which were these parks were proclaimed after independence while the century old parks such as Etosha National Park and they also Namib-Naukluft Parks – Park where (this) were created before in the Namibia (unintelligible) of Namibia's conservation success.

This vital (unintelligible) concerning Namibia's essential barter of the city including (intensive) pieces through legislation and also community involvement that from conservancies gained to management rights over wildlife and their tourism. The – this community is able to use this management rights to develop economic opportunities such as equal tourism and their conservation hunting.

We have seen a spectacular response today's policy (unintelligible). We have seen a strong recovery of the wildlife and this conservancies not only through the active protection given by the (unintelligible) communities but also by the active introduction of wildlife in areas where they formally occurred. We have seen the growth of capacities in conservancies to manage their own wildlife and it's brought economic activities based on this wildlife. We have also seen the creation of jobs and the generation of revenue in areas that had few options other than subsistence planning.

We have seen how where local communities had integrated wildlife management in their and other communities and increasingly how such wildlife management is complementing other forms of land use. And some of our conservation highlights include the following. I just want to give you of this one. Now maybe it has population of black and white rhinos including the large free roaming black rhino population outside our national parks in the world. We have the largest population in the whole world and for black rhinos roaming freely.

That means they are not in those national parks. This now in community conservancies some of them are given as we have created a law to give these animals to free hold farming private farm farmers to have them in the custody ship because all the black rhinos because of they are endangered species and we say this international heritage animals because they are we have them in the large number of populations a large number and there is in Namibia we feel that they cannot belong to private individuals.

So all of them belong to the state. So we give them to the - when you visit Namibia we see your black rhinos in those private farms or private those were private reserves game reserves they belong to the government they are just in

custody ship. They signed an agreement to have them custody ship or cause a benefit from the tourism because the tourist they want to see them they don't just want to see them in some different parks but also want when they visit lodges private owned lodges they see them there.

So and this is very going very well and because we want to make sure that we spread this animals because of the range the habitants becoming it's (shrinking) it's becoming smaller and smaller to conserve these animals because they are very territorial. They kill one another. That's the way people want to ask why do you hunt this very endangered species rhinos. You know, I can tell you that one rhino right especially black rhinos are very, very vicious and they are very territorial.

When the – when a male is over productive age (otherwise) productive age they become so much paranoid that they know that when they are small ones are born they will definitely lose territory and their wife. Every male that's born they have to – they will start killing that. So in order as part of management the rhino management those who don't know they would not understand but if I tell you that if you allow it to be there every born male will be killed. The same applies to lions that's the way they do.

The lions of course they don't abduct a small female cub a male cub they will kill because they know that tomorrow come and get my (unintelligible). So it's a - it's that the thing you have to manage it. Then (unintelligible) they now rhinos that are over reproductive age. We use science to do that to mark them and say this one is causing problems in this area we must mark it so that we get the hunter for it. That's how we do it. So we don't just go wake up and go and hunt.

So we use science to do that. So by taking it away instead of just (unintelligible) it you (unintelligible) and you get money from it and this money now we have what we created as trust fund game trust for the trust fund and we put this money into this trust fund and this money is the money that you use to maintain those parks and also to make sure that you have provided food for the people in the field the personnel including the security in the area the guards in the area and those protecting them.

So we that's how we do it and we do it that way. So Namibia the oh only (unintelligible) population as I said has grown now at 22 over 22,000 and a large percentage of this as well at least out at national parks were (20) national parks and the old site the national many of this other (farms) they live outside the national parks. And that means communities are the ones who are looking after these animals.

If a community will not give (unintelligible) to look after these animals and these animals to have to live with these animals in the same habitant they have a price to pay because they damage their crops they damage their properties their water installations and they also the lions they (unintelligible) on their of their livestocks. So that's why we give them (unintelligible) and the one of the (unintelligible) they created their conservancies so that in those conservancies animals are (unintelligible) in those conservancies they belong to them.

So whatever they do these are their animals. And as I said to most of them will live outside there.

We have also had them population in several parks national parks and are expanding our lions. So the population of our lions is become so much that we do not know what to. They create problems to farmers both communal

and the commercial farmers. Sometimes they have to retaliate but we have now created a way of managing them we just (unintelligible) something that we how to manage this land not only lands population of lands about now 800 and because of the small habitants they live (indoors) as we create more development and they encroached in the habitants.

And their habitants become so small that they have to (live) in those small habitants. So they had to go out create more territories and encroach in those farms and then the conflict starts between human and their wildlife which we have to manage and it's very difficult to manage. Namibia is also the largest population of free roaming cheetahs in the whole world. When the majority of the cheetahs you find them in and in not national parks outside the national park. Namibian cheetahs, leopards, rions– lions in your farm.

I always tell people that see if you don't want these people to get this – people to get into both communal and the community of farms. Now if you don't want them to have to benefit from trophy hunting and so on I can just give you I was asking one person I said do you have a farm sir? I said, yes I have farm. How many acres? Two thousand acres. Okay I will just give you two elephants, two lions, a pair of lions, a pair of elephants, a pair of cheetahs and the leopard and also some wild dogs and I'll give you your farm. You will call me after two days come and collect your product.

So therefore when we he say let's get (unintelligible) to these people so that they can live with this animal. It is just logical that they if you take away for instance hunting there are some (unintelligible) are against hunting it will Namibia is the conservation will collapse because they live from this. And their hunting is part of a conservation that's why we call – we don't need to call it hunting so if you're hunting we call it conservation hunting because it's part of conservation managing in the farm conservation or wildlife.

And so we part of it and it's properly regulated by law. What type of animal to be killed unfortunately only male in this case and all the males and I'm sorry for that but it (just) to be that and just to make sure that you create yourself balance a ratio male and female and you managed properly but it's a part of management of conservation of all (unintelligible) because if you don't manage it you will have a problem. So because now we don't allow them to live freely anymore because it's more habitant to live in.

Namibia has also a very has population of a leopard as I said and then this also you find in both communal and the private farms majority of them not in national parks. We have them in national parks but the majority of them we create they are outside national park that means these people have to live with this. And also we have very half population of crocodile and hippo population and then sometimes it becomes a problem then the (unintelligible) as well. The crocodiles are the (unintelligible) of many human mortalities especially those who live close to the rivers.

Many people when they (unintelligible) they go in to swim in the river. They don't understand that there are crocodiles there and then we have a lot of deaths caused by this crocodiles and hippos. Sometimes they cross they attempting crossing the river seeing that now we know the areas and they find those crocodiles and hippos. So we need and just to highlight some of the key elements of our approach on this one. There are some underlying courses of this (unintelligible) with how did you do that.

We have created enabling environment and legal framework and that's now our policy and the legal framework and (unintelligible) installation of this (right) over wildlife and the all other natural resources of conservancies. I've

said that this conservancies we talk about 20% of Namibia's land mass and they're under this the community conservancies.

This means that the community conservancies and the (unintelligible) community conservancies they are the ones owned this 20% and the whatever natural resources except those that are distinguished by the Constitution like diamonds and others natural resources of course those ones they belong to the state and they are not owned by any individual but the (unintelligible) they belong to the communities. And the using of the economic value of wildlife is (unintelligible) for the conservation and we teach our people to understand the value of this animals and now they understand it.

And also forging a strong link linkage between the conservation and (world) development and also property reduction unless the main streaming of our community based natural resource management is a conservation and it's brought main strategy in our national agenda and we developed that in our agenda. And also in the recovery of diminished wildlife resources that some wildlife that was completely almost there were a few of them.

Like (unintelligible) we had left them 100 lions now we have talk about 800 both in national parks and the community conservancies and the free whole farms. They are now 800 and sometimes they give us problems because I don't sleep as (unintelligible) I don't where people get my number come the lions ate up my, you know, my goats my (unintelligible) and the elephants are here destroying my crops. So they've become mine and I said no some of this (unintelligible) this conservancies - this conservancy belongs to you.

Now the people are (unintelligible) so of course I can understand the frustration of a person (unintelligible) is an elephant is just outside your house. And that thing is huge and they destroy your water installation or - so

you just find sometimes they find (unintelligible) maybe they (unintelligible) this. So maybe (unintelligible) and not do anything so they go to the head of state and say we are in trouble.

So we have to create this (unintelligible) in order for these people to create to tolerate living with these animals. (Unintelligible) on the (unintelligible) communities and also inherit (unintelligible) position towards wildlife is part of the natural heritage and a strong sense of our ownership of the wildlife resource.

And also we have put up a strong regulatory and the monitoring framework for the use of wildlife resources. (Unintelligible) all news trade or conservation hunting. So this is all regulated...

((Crosstalk))

Pohamba Shifeta: ...nothing is outside the law done outside the law is regulated and people go and hunt place allow them to (repatriate) their product their wildlife product but once it's done and legally any done is part of (unintelligible). That's why our conservation and the wildlife is population is growing and then now we have many not - that we cannot handle.

The per clarity of this program that we call community based natural resource and managing program is being driven by escalating benefit and the development opportunities according to community members including collective income to conservancies job creation. A generation of in kind benefits such as meat and/or juice (unintelligible) donated equipment and the goods improved environmental services and an increasing ability of conservancies and community forest to sponsor and also leverage your community your development programs.

By this community's they make millions out of this, million dollars every year out of this and this the money that they use for their community (unintelligible) programs and also it's (unintelligible) for them because to live with these animals they have to endure every day.

I'm almost done now. A cross cutting characteristics of the community based natural resources and management program movement is the employment of (recognized) work on (unintelligible) through the devolution of rights over resources such as wildlife forest products fish grazing and (unintelligible) thereby providing resident communities with the ability to control resources access and the (unintelligible) to introduce sustainable natural resources managing practices.

The community conservation is about managing natural resources sustainably to generate (unintelligible) for people. And some of you just in the media you have (phoned) that those animals that (unintelligible) and (unintelligible) that's a wild animal. They live with livestock, you will see them there and the people are looking for their livestock they see them there. They won't do anything to them springbok this (game). Previously, you know, because they did not the communities believed that they don't belong to anyone.

The wild animal is what you call, you know, something does not belong to any one. So once you find it hunt it and eat it and that was the previous (unintelligible). Now right now you'll find them there no one will poach of course we will have poachers but in most cases we arrest them because community know that this animals belong to us and that's why you see them there. You see somebody looking after (unintelligible) or passing by there but there are some already there, there are some (unintelligible) there, there are some springbok there.

There are some buffalos there they don't do anything to them. So we created those conditions for communities to understand and to accept that this belong to us and therefore we need the protection and we need to protect them and we need to conserve this - out this heritage not only for Namibia. And we believe it for everyone in the world where some of those animals on this plant you only find them in those areas. So we want so that people when they come they also see that not only eventually seeing that in pictures.

However there are some still many challenges and these challenges and of course and opportunities and one of those challenges are market access for wildlife products and those wildlife produces that's one of the challenges and it's also the greatest importance for them to make to have market because some of those animals of course we do not have these communities do not have market they do not know what to do with those animals. Had we had market like we had and for this they can export game meat and the game meat is more healthier than beef.

I only had a quarter of beef for three times a week and I'm (slipping), I just don't go beyond that. But you can eat game meat as much as you want it's very healthier than anything else. So but the people believe traditionally they believe that this is meat the rest is not meat. Fish and the game meat is not meat but that is now healthier meat.

Human wildlife conflict that is one of the challenges that we have then (unintelligible) and also recognize that living with this wildlife (unintelligible) costs will increase wildlife population and they also expanded ranges into communal and the freehold farmings areas (unintelligible) in more frequent conflict between people and their wildlife and wild animals particularly elephants and the predators in the many areas.

This has resulted in livestock and their crop process damage to water installation and in some instances loss of human life. Illegal hunting is one of the challenges we have especially that of elephant and rhinos because ivory and the rhino horns. The protection of wildlife should essentially involve preventing crime right and the focus should be and that is our focus not only to follow after the incident of poaching but to make sure that before it puts a dent and it only (unintelligible) because most of this will prevent because of the communities.

The community like know there are some people here who are armed and they are very suspicious. So come immediately so that's how we arrest him. So before anything happens then they are arrested. And these communities have provided a shield to our animals. Many people come to Namibia to learn about Namibia's success and wildlife conservation. And some of the countries that come there they don't have anything anymore and they had millions of games of wildlife (unintelligible) today they don't have any.

Some of the even every day I receive so many from my counterpart, you know, can't we – can't you donate elephant? I said no, we can't donate elephant, no. We have (unintelligible) so we do we donate some but now we say before you donate an animal and that our law is very clear we have to make sure that the animal where it's going the environment is conducive. I can donate hunted elephants there hunted buffalos hunted but after two months they are vanished. So (unintelligible).

So our protection of wildlife not only in Namibia when we take it wherever we take it you make sure that the future of that animal is there not to put it there and we close off. We donated some animals to different countries and we make sure first that we send people there to check not only the pasture or

the grazing or the but also other will there be safety there. (Unintelligible)  
take it up those animals there they will be safe.

So we must get first guarantee that even though we have them plenty bigger  
larger population we need to make sure that you have created conditions  
conducive for those animals to live there.

Now the perhaps the most effective (unintelligible) of wildlife crime  
prevention is that of establishing and maintaining law enforcement or security  
prisons on the ground that's what we have done now and we have created a  
dedicated team they call it Anti-poaching unit and presently we have also  
introduced a unit with dogs in it kind of (neat) and are very effective well  
trained.

We procured some dogs from different environment they are very, very, very  
effective because we had sometimes a problem because Namibia is very  
(unintelligible) and they're sometimes people come in and they  
(unintelligible) come in parks want to poach and they it's very difficult to  
follow the (unintelligible). So with dogs they are in training now. We while  
they were in training they have already erected we have already erected many  
people. So they are trained in detecting any of the wild animals toward that  
any wild animal for that.

And also trained to detect ivory wildlife I mean the Pambolini is one of the  
very (unintelligible) in Africa and also the rhino horns. So and they can  
search a car and also bullets and ammunition. If you ask in the car you ask  
whether you have a rifle and you say no we send in a dog there and the dog  
will detect that. And if you carry any of the product even meat and of the  
game product they'll find it.

And we have, you know, we have found that there are very, very (unintelligible) said sometimes you search your car and this poaches they can put rhino horns somewhere underneath there tie it somewhere there on the chair somewhere there. So with a dog they will get it. So we have create we have launched that two weeks ago and they are very effective. So for wildlife protection but you need more resources to have this.

When I was – when I launched this we launched with the (unintelligible) of the United States (unintelligible) because they have us provided some support to this the (unintelligible) and it's a very expensive exercise to have all of these things and the people are using this mostly special forces. We selected special forces to use this because they need somebody who's well trained and the special forces and difference was elite and they need to endure the (unintelligible) to the dog are on there.

So it's something that you cannot just give ordinary person to do. So and they are doing well so far. So we just make sure that we cannot and we cannot – we do not have a loop hole at all because as much as other animals are getting extinct somewhere else the focus will be on Namibia and we are I'm stating that that we need to make sure that we have the resources we have both human resources and there are some financial resources to ensure that these animals are protected.

The higher valued product such as the rhino horn and the ivory and the importment of external criminal syndicates and that's where we need also some international corporation. This (unintelligible) sufficient was even if you protect these animals as much as this market somewhere. I was telling some colleagues from Asia where this product go to Asia mostly this (unintelligible) rhino horns and the current price now because of the measures

that we have taken those will have (unintelligible) those (unintelligible) the countries that they have rhinos.

The (unintelligible) countries taken measures and now the price was a demand has gone up. A kilogram now rhino horn it costs about \$60,000 to \$70,000 US dollars (unintelligible) and therefore rhino horns it's more than a diamond now more than a diamond in gold. But that thing has no value it's like your (unintelligible) your material here the same exactly. But because people wanted to create a market they created that (unintelligible) to make people to believe in the in some especially in Asia with all of them they got it all of them got it.

That's a way (unintelligible). People believe that this rhino horns kills this and that it's more than (unintelligible). I can tell you that while are people after this is (unintelligible) that we've created. Education is more important as well to educate those people and those communities to understand that's where we need international corporation that without education and to make people who are demanding to get this product that you are buying what you are buying is nothing.

I always tell people if you want the rhino horns and you even have to sometimes risk your life just give us something that you created business and you call everybody to come and you cut (your nails) and you have that those products. You will just have the simple (unintelligible). So instead of going killing us and animals

So we need international corporations on this one so that there will be no markets anywhere. Because as much as the market (unintelligible) there also be (unintelligible) will be that is more demand and the less the supply the price will go up and the price is gone now from 30,000 per kilogram

(unintelligible) 30,000 (unintelligible). Now and that is (unintelligible) only 2010 now it's 60% (unintelligible). I believe the rhino horn can go up to 6 kilograms. That person has got millions (unintelligible) every day. So it's a lot and the person can die for that especially if a person has no money will die for that.

So and we need and it's good to have someone here who will also talk to you and this is someone who worked with this community conservancies. We have now eight – six community conservancies. When introduced this there were only four community conservancies in 1998 the first introduction.

Now because communities themselves are the ones who come and say no we want to create we have we want to keep this land because the communal land is a state land but under the custodianship of community leaders that is now our traditional leaders and it's created this arrangement created in different laws that they are the ones who are (unintelligible) and they have to have their custodianship of this land.

They can now decide to what type of views of this land they want to put on is for grazing mix of we mix it with a grazing and the farm conservation whether it's conservation and other natural (unintelligible) and they come to us and below mutually once we are (unintelligible) and they have to vote in their communities that we need this and they make their meetings and they put out their constitution because there might be a constitution every conservancy has got a constitution. There are eight six now and I'll also sign some of this year because last year we only have eight three.

But this year we have also (unintelligible) three. So once the constitution is clear and everything is done so we can say that. So these are communities who feel that we need that. So in the - my colleague here Maxi Louise he's

the Director of the Namibia Association of Community Based Natural Resources Support Organizations should be able to tell you exactly. So (unintelligible) see if you want to know how hot is the fire (unintelligible) ask the cook then just the cook ask the pot to tell you how hot is the fire because the cook is there on the side in the fire is (unintelligible) pot (unintelligible).

So he will tell you how it's hard to live with this animals because he works with all of these conservancies community conservancies support them empower them training them and building capacity there and they come sometimes they, you know, (unintelligible) we have a (unintelligible) (field) and so on. But, you know, it's the one between the government and is a partner in this communities coming them we look we have to create this we have to do this we have to create (this and this).

And there is still room for improvement on some of this and they can do more and they generate more money. With this unless there are some questions I want to thank you very much and (Paul) invited me here and my colleagues to share some of our success stories and of Namibia and when it comes to conservation management. Thank you very much once again.

(Bill): Minister Shifeta I just want to thank you for an outstanding presentation. Your bio said that you're a strong supporter of Science Based (Unintelligible) for the Wildlife and Community Involvement and your speech sure reiterated that. You did an outstanding job...

((Crosstalk))

(Bill): ...I happened to be one of those you were talking about...

((Crosstalk))

(Bill): ...the health aspects of getting meat. I had bypass surgery a few years ago my doctor kept me off beef...

((Crosstalk))

(Bill): ...I've been in the cattle business most of my life but he kept me off beef...

((Crosstalk))

(Bill): ...but he did say I could have all the deer and venison, et cetera that I had chose because it was healthy. And so I understand completely what you were saying about that. You guys are at the epitome of community involvement. Everybody that I talk with in the conservation world talks about Namibia's getting the communities involved the community conservancies and I've had the privilege of being in Namibia four times plan to be back there next June again. So thank you very much for coming and making the presentation you made. Anyone have any questions for the Minister or shall we go on?

Man 1: No I've got a question if I could?

(Bill): Okay.

Man 1: Minister thank you for your presentation today but I was curious about moving back 20 years when the amendment to the – in 1996 the wildlife that created this incentive to the communities and the privatization and the management. I was curious because I haven't read that law did you force these communities to choose how they were going to utilize their wildlife in the lands?

In other words was there an (incentivization) to choose trophy hunting and to and consumptive use over say non-consumptive and photographic or grazing or was now 20 years later the results of the fact that we have 86 of these communities. Why are they doing trophy hunting instead of all photographic tourism or all pastoral or grazing? Do you have any idea with respect to that legislation?

Pohamba Shifeta: Yes thank you very much. That is a question that we one of the questions that we always meet whenever we talk to people. What are we this communities for our tourists who (unintelligible) no. As I said the law is very clear the law allows the community to initiate that and even to say this area they are the ones who will do that. We want this area to be not only utilized for growth farm and the grazing but also want to edge that conservation of wild animals because some of the animals are already dead wild animals already by the extinct so they both were getting extinct.

So we wanted to benefit from them not only to look at them but also to benefit from them. So for you to benefit from this type of programs you need to create the concerns, you cannot hunt anywhere. The hunting is restricted and it's restricted because you have to give benefit to those who are giving - making efforts to conserve. If there is no conserving today in this animal, you cannot hunt the animals. So that's also - we say now, if people - if you create that, you will get that. So and they do it totally, and they create a (unintelligible) - what we do is (unintelligible) to give them some land power to (unintelligible) in trusting their constitution but whatever they agree, in a constitution, it's their baby. And they also the bond with the constitution some of this boundary covered this traditional authorities.

So this traditional leaders comes together from the traditional. And also the sharing part – the sharing part. We have 70% of the land, so whatever comes

there. So, based on our land, you have 30%. So they agree on that. So what we do is give them sign (unintelligible). The whole thing is voluntary. Also they can say no, we don't want this anymore. We want to go back to our, to have never seen any of this conservancy. We only see them growing because they see others neighboring benefiting, so they also want in on it. So we never had, but also a provision of exiting from that. But we never had one of those conservancies wanting to get out of this arrangement. So it is their land - just to add the land use to other land use programs that they have.

(Bill): And so a follow up to that, should United States fish and wildlife policy encourage more Americans to visit your country to participate in photographic hunting and conservative hunting or should it discourage Americans from visiting your country to participate in those activities.

Pohamba Shifeta: Let me tell you maybe, land consumption is consumption. The American tourists - they do both. Most of the tourists - most of the conservation hunters are coming for meat. And they like it both. Both hunting and the land conservancy. We have this submission. As I said one live management is a question of time. It's not just leaving it to nature. Like now, we have to encroach and expansion of development, so the land is becoming less and less. You have to come up with interventions and manage wildlife.

And the conservation hunting is one of those management interventions that we supported to see how we can break out. Because even if you were not hunting it, you have to (unintelligible) some countries, that's how they manage. You have to (unintelligible) because, for instance, some of these animals, you have to put them down. In an animal giving problem to the community. Not elephant, and the bull, maybe less paranoid and the - or whatever type of animal, it becomes serious that you have to put it down.

Eventually you have to put it down, you have no option. But to put it down, there must be somebody that arranges that in the community or somebody in the farm that don't have a problem with lion. And this lion we translocated that lion, we (unintelligible) translocated somewhere. But it's come back. But it's really killing my animals, it's killed already how many livestock. And this and that and that. So what you don't, that doesn't ask this by law. Can this animal be - can I be allowed to kill this animal?

So what I do as a minister is to look at some communities or if the threat is very severe. Need to send somebody there. Someone on standby to put it down. And the money comes from there. It will now compensate that person. That's how we do it. You have to compensate that person. If you don't – it's a part of the business.

We shut off expenses for the damage. (Unintelligible) for that farmer or that community. The money that comes from there because once you determine that animal is causing a problem, it has to be put down. But now somebody has to put that animal. It has to be somebody who knows how to shoot that animal. You cannot say farmer, do it. Maybe farmer, what I know is how to handle a gun. So, we have to get a first hunter to put it down. And that hunter, we then give money there to that community. And that money will then - Give to the community. So that's how we do it. And then we do it that way. As I would say to kill that animal.

If you (unintelligible) That means you have exerted all the options. You have tried and the animal is just viscous. You just have to put it down. But when you have, for instance, female – female is always protected right? You have to make it for take it, capture it, and we do not have policies to conserve animal. We don't encourage to put animals in captivity. We don't have that policy. Say

that this animal is giving problems, must put it - we don't want to create zoos. We want animals to live in the wild.

So, what you do is to take the animal, put it in a private farm where you have probably in a good fence surrounding it – it cannot go out, but to take it there again, that farmer if you want that animal has to consult other farmers as well to get consent from that farmer. Once it's there, it's a problem. If it gets out, (Unintelligible) very long arrangements.

So, the only thing that we do very short arrangement to call it, to put it down. But then you can arrange a hunter and that money is more than - not the same as putting down and give the - or maybe kill. Community wants to benefit. But first hunter will get more money. So maybe to cut its (Unintelligible) No American when they come to Namibia, they come for both. Most come for tourism. But also we have what you call, conservation hunting policy. Those who just come there. And then we help them. (Unintelligible) but not for hunting.

(Bill): Counselor has the...

Pohamba Shifeta: For hunting...

(Bill): I think the answer is yes, we should increase people to go to Namibia. That was very well spoken. Yes. Minister, once again, thank you.

Pohamba Shifeta: But what tends to – support from most visitors there, they come, they enjoy staying there. They enjoy hunting. What is good. Thank you very much.

(Bill): Thank you very much. You have questions Mr. (Jackson)?

Mr. (Jackson): Yes.

(Bill): One quick one.

Mr. (Jackson): One quick one. If I understand right and correct me if I'm wrong. Your community conservancy program that communities have to qualify for, the steps you took, you suggested has benefited your species. Is it correct that your elephant population has been growing for 20 years, your lion population has been growing? Your leopard population has been growing. Your cheetah population is growing. Your black rhino population is growing. Your hippo and crocodile population is growing. And the cheetah and the black rhino are the largest populations in the world.

Pohamba Shifeta: And black rhino is the largest population.

(Bill): I'm not sure if that was a question or comment but thanks very much. Thanks. You did a fantastic job. I was supposed to open this meeting with a video. However I wasn't sure if it was ready at the time. And Eric just a moment it is ready. So we will play the video at this time. Can we dim the lights, Eric?

((VIDEO))

Man: (Unintelligible.) We heard the elephants come. They come every night now to the fields to lay down. The young men will light the fires and beat their drums. But it is dangerous, and the elephants still come. We have always lived among the wild animals. Since I was a small boy, the elephants have come. The lions and the leopards eat our goats and cattle. And sometimes the people. But we do not kill them for this. We have learned that they are valuable because of hunting.

People come to Africa to hunt a few of these animals. But the people have given the animals live better because of the hunting. In this village, many people wait for this safari company. And we depend on it to provide for our families. For many years, I worked as a tracker for company. It is the safari operator in this area.

They say hunting may stop here because of laws telling the hunter they cannot bring animals back to their home. People who make such laws do understand our life here. It is a hard life. Yet we must protect our families just as people do in other countries. Our villages learn to live with the wild animals, even the dangerous ones.

The money this brings to our area provides good things we never had before. The money for (unintelligible) safaris build a new school for our children so that they can live a different life than their father. They built a well in this village so now we have clean water to drink and to cook with. Now the women do not have to make distant walks into the bush to draw it.

Our (Unintelligible) has used money from hunters to build a network of doctors and the people come from great distances to see the doctor when they or their children are sick. We do not allow the torture of animals here. If we killed all the animals, all these good things would be gone. The safari company shares all the meat from the hunt. Nothing is wasted.

And the people here do not need to push the (Unintelligible) to feed their family. Even with safari hunting, there are more wild animals today than when I was young. Because we now treat the game as something of great value. If the hunters stop coming here, there would be no need to look after the wild animals. You will only see them as a problem.

Our lives are better because of animal. The few animals that are hunted let us protect the many from the poachers. I have lived among the animals since I was a small boy. Poachers are bad, not hunters. Some people think they are helping by saying "no hunting", but these people do not understand. These bad laws will kill all the animals. I'm afraid for their future.

((END VIDEO))

(Bill): Lights again, please. Minister Shifeta, that made many of the same points that you made. And once again, we appreciate your presentation. Eric? Our next presenter will be Maxie Via Louise.

Eric Alvarez: Actually Mr. Chairman, we have a couple of items of business to take care of first.

(Bill): Okay, go ahead.

Eric Alvarez: So, we have the subcommittee report out.

(Bill): Do you want to go ahead and do those - okay we'll do them now. Subcommittee reports did a full committee discussion on them. The first committee that met this morning was (Denise Welker), counselor Welker.

(Denise Welker): Hello, and I loved your talk. Thank you Minister. So actually I'm finding a lot of what we talked about in this morning in our subcommittee. We just had an excellent talk that goes directly to the people and animal conflict. Where the dollars are going, how hunting can make a difference, and that we need our fish and game to allow countries to say, "you can come hunt this elephant". And we as hunters want to be able to bring it home. So I really feel like if I

gab too much longer, I will say the same things he was saying. Because his speech was so excellent. So thank you.

(Bill): Okay. Thank you. The second one that met this morning was counselor Carter. (Unintelligible).

Mr. (Carter): Thank you Mr. Chairman. And again, thank you so much Minster Sherfie for your great presentation. Our council met and our focus was on the illegal trade and sorry...

Woman: If you could keep about a foot from your mouth and the mic that helps with the...

Mr. (Carter): ...we spoke about the illegal trade and trafficking. We discussed without the community benefits. And again in the words of Mr. Shefito own wildlife but can't benefit from it, won't look after the wildlife. So identifying and communicating better about the benefits of visiting hunters to the communities with regard to meat distribution, with regard to providing jobs, with regard to anti-poaching. That the hunting purses actually support. That was the foundation of our discussion and I think it went really well.

(Bill): Thank you. The third one was communications, (Olivia).

(Olivia): Yes, we met this morning and had a productive conversation. But at this stage, there is a lot of fact finding. A big part of the reason we're here today is to hear the perspectives of those that coexist and not draw conclusions. It's something we need to gleam knowledge from. And from that, we will be able to provide our recommendations to the secretary on how to communicate this.

(Bill): Okay. Mr. Hudson?

Mr. (Hudson): (Unintelligible) the first of which addressed the endangered species act and whether -- and to what extent -- its implementation assists with or interferes with range nation management systems. Because an endangered uplisting does not provide for affirmative action by the agency with respect to foreign listed species in contrast with respect to domestic species, the recommendation that we're considering is whether -- and to what extent -- we can work more cooperatively and with more deference and respect to range nation countries because they may have and be in the process of implementing very successful conservation programs and to the extent that our endangered species act interferes with or helps that, we should work more cooperatively.

Secondly, we want to consider technological innovations and maybe address web based electronic applications with respect to import and export permits, with respect to societies, and the entire permitting process. And maybe looking at an automation and the application of modern technologies instead of what is currently 100% paper-based system.

A third area was with respect to trying to get uniformity across the eight fish and wildlife regions concerning importation of trophies. Currently it's a mix match. And depending on what region of the country you might bring in a species as an importer, you will have a different rule and we believe that it should be uniform and it should be generated from Washington DC instead of the regional areas.

For example, one of the things that we addressed was whether a shipper can include the products from multiple importers in one crate. In half the regions you can, and in others you can't. And that creates confusion, which creates paperwork problems, which creates seizure and forfeiture and problems in the litigation world which can all be avoided, we think, with conformity.

Finally we addressed the upcoming of the conferences to the party with respect to societies and the fish and wildlife's role. Upcoming to look at that agenda and what recommendations the fish and wildlife service will be making. One of which the committee talked about was making an recommend to extend the timeframe for a society's import permit to six months, which it currently is, to a year.

As a result of the business and economy of moving products - wildlife products and the hunting season throughout the year. Veteran certificates are required oftentimes a legally hunted species, the society's permit expires. That creates again import problems for the fish and wildlife service law enforcement officers. So just a simple act of extending to one year versus six months, the validity of a society's import and export permit might alleviate some of those problems. Thank you.

(Bill): Eric, those were the discussions that occurred. There's not really anything to bring before the council for a vote at this time. Unless there is something that you know is necessary.

Eric Alvarez: That'll be fine. Then we can move on. And I believe the next item on our agenda was a break.

(Bill): It's probably time for a biological break. I agree.

Eric Alvarez: And again, ladies and gentlemen, there is a sign-up sheet if anyone would like to make any remarks to the council at close of today. The sign-up sheet, I believe, is outside. Thank you.

(Bill): Let's take a short 10-minute break. Be back in here.

((Crosstalk))

Man 2: I'm not sure how they're letting (unintelligible) you could go to the left. I'm going to go that way.

((Crosstalk))

Woman 1: They say 10 - I don't know if he really knows he's wearing a...

((Crosstalk))

Man 2: Yes. I'm just wondering how we can get this one louder. Because people in the back of the room...

((Crosstalk))

Man 2: Yes.

((Crosstalk))

Man 2: Okay. You - everything loaded okay? Good. You had it on jump drives?

((Crosstalk))

Man 2: I'll do whatever I need. We'll make it happen.

(Bill): Okay, we have a few more to get back in their places here.

Eric Alvarez: Mr. Chairmen, if I can make one more announcement. We will be picking up the sign-up sheet to speak in about two more minutes. If anyone wants to put their name on it, please do so now.

(Bill): We always will let everyone have the opportunity to speak that chooses to. So, I appreciate Eric circulating the sign-up sheet for anyone who might want it. Come on around Counselor Engram.

Okay, we will move on with our presentations. Our next one is Maxie Pia Louise, who's the director of NASCO, a community-based conservation organization, has a background in tourism, as a child wanted to travel the world, meet people, share cultural experiences. Her job today allows her to do many of those things. And she and the minister and others have helped fuel a tremendous increase in tourism and activity in Namibia. So Maxie, if you would make your presentation.

Maxie Louise: Okay. It's on. Thank you so much and thank you the chair of the IWWC, is that correct? Thank you so much for inviting Namibia to come and share our experiences in terms of conservation handing. But also in general, community conservation - that's what we call it in Namibia. I would also like to thank my minister. He made it all the way, I am sure he has so many other commitments, to come and share his experience from a government point of view.

I'll be sharing our experience from a civil society point of view. And a community point of view, as a support organization in partnership with our government but also in partnership with the community and private sector. One of the things that I need to mention from the offset is that the reason why we have been so successful is because of partnership. Partnership is very key in terms of the conservation work that you are doing.

So, let me start by saying that I work for a network of several (unintelligible) and these (unintelligible) together with a couple of other partners is called NASCO, one of the longest acronym. It's an acronym within an acronym. So, it's the Namibian association of CBNRM -- that is one acronym -- of communities' support organizations. We're around nine organizations, but we also as I say partner with several other institutions to make this work. I work as the director for the organization. But for many, many years, I was just a field worker. I was working with these communities.

I think (Vanessa) mentioned when the full conservancies were (unintelligible) in 1994, I was very fortunate to be part as a student to work to make sure that we start with implementation of the program. So over the years one of those fortunate young people around that 20 or however many years ago that saw wildlife coming back into areas where we did not have wildlife. I'm a testimony of - if you work with communities and give them benefits that it can happen.

So let me start my presentation by - so I will share with you a couple of things. And some of them have already been mentioned by the minister so I will not spend so much time on those ones. And put more emphasis on those ones that I think you probably want to know more. And I will also look at the achievements and one of the things that I've held - I took a case study from one of the communities and this is a (unintelligible) committee. There are some committees, known over the world as the bushman people.

One of the things is government gave them the right. They have the conservancy right. And it is one of those conservancies that has proved because it's a cultural right that has been given back to them as conservancies, they have made use of (unintelligible) support so much, the work they are

doing. The everyday work in the area that they are saying. Nothing specific in the world as much as we talk about success. Success also creates a lot of challenges. We had our (unintelligible) but I tell you they created a lot more challenges and I would like to share those also with you. Let me start, we already mentioned that.

This is the country in the northwest of Africa. A lot of - from what I understand - a lot of you have traveled there as people - as tourists. Also as hunters. So thank you so much for supporting. You do make a lot of difference by being there. So thank you so much for that.

Now the question that I would like to address is part of my presentation is that community conservation in Namibia, where are we coming from and where are we going? This is a program we presented over 20 years - more years. It also started - before the apartheid system. A lot of people don't understand that we also don't come from a very nice history. Around 27 years ago, a lot of those rights were taken away from those communities and it was not just your human rights that was taken away. Even the right to live with wildlife and to have that cultural attachment with wildlife was also taken away.

As a result, there was a lot of anger and people were poaching. And so we lost a lot of wildlife. That's why before the 1980s to the 1990s, we did not have a lot of wildlife on those private - public lands or the cumulative lands as being referred to. But this is a piece of legislation I want to share with you. This is what changed everything in Namibia.

This is an ordinance to allow those communities that were discriminated on those public lands to take part in the program. And it gave bits of rights in terms of what they could do. And one of it was for them to start owning the right to hunt. And start owning to make sure that they have management rights

over some of the wildlife. There are many states that say the wildlife is still owned by the state, the communities just have management rights.

But in Namibia, they benefit 100%. Even though they have those management rights. Secondly, there was a question here that I also felt I wanted to just to get what the minister was saying. I think it was from the (unintelligible) is this is a voluntary program. No community is forced to participate in this program. We just create awareness and other conservancies create awareness and it's up to them to participate. If you don't want to participate, it's really up to you.

The only thing that is that benefits the small discriminates. If there is any benefit, we don't see you are from the conservancy or not, we just give you the benefits. But we also created a vision that has a bind from all the partners in the country, whether you are government, whether you are community, if you are private sector, if you are conservation sector, we have created the vision that we all share. And this vision is to make sure we empower our communities and that is very key. And there we are trying to make sure there is an integrated wildlife and other natural resources that are recognized but also as a very valued development option for communities.

In Africa, it is always been agriculture. We're trying to do something for conservation and that is very key. And that is what we are trying to do in Namibia. Now just in terms of the support structure I quickly want to go through the how do we work? We have what you call a communal area of residence. It's not very clear. This is our strategy and we have those blue points that you see down there. I don't have a pointer, but you see those three things.

Those are our three-legged pot. In Africa, you have a black pot that you cook on. This is a three-legged pot. And that pot actually addresses key things. One

is that you need to have a very sound natural resource base. That is one of the aspects we are looking at.

Secondly, we address issues around governance. If there is no people to manage wildlife, forget about it. As the minister was saying, then you know, there is nothing, you know. So that's very key that you have people to manage those wildlife. And then benefit is key. We always say in Namibia, if there is no management there is no benefit. So you first have to manage to get those benefits. And that is very, very key.

Then the second circle that you have there is this is our conservancies. We have around 14 political regions, am I right minister? In those four political regions, we just have one region where there is no conservancies. And that is where it's very much where the capitol is. We don't have communal land there. That's why there is no conservancies.

And then up there, the next circle is the organization in terms of the network that I work for is the NGO's the conservancies that are supporting the program. And on top of that, because we have around - more conservancies now - around I hear there are more than what I know - around 87. That's what - 86 now. So it's very difficult for us to go all around and support them individually.

So what we do is we form farms. So in each region, we have conservancies associations. So the program itself as you can see - and those two arrows that you see there, something that appeared is the donors and yeah there was something I can't remember. But it's the donors and the other was the service provision from the organization. So that's what the strategy is.

Secondly this is the country. It's a very dry country. The video that you showed - that is Zimbabwe. Namibia is a very dry country. But it is a very good video. I think the message is across about the same. But it's a very, very dry contrasting country in the south. Very, very semi-desert in the northwest. It's just in the northeast and the north central area where you would begin to see at least some trees. But most of it is very much a desert.

So we work in the regions, we have a system we work in. We have three pillars and these three pillars form part of a way that we work. And that is natural resource management. Institutional development and governance is very key. Business and enterprise are lovely.

And one aspect that is very cross cutting is monitoring. It's very, very key that we monitor what we are doing. So we have around 650 guards in the conservancies. These are community monitors that I employed to look after wildlife. And we have a very good system in place to make sure that they know exactly what resources and wildlife is in those areas.

Then, in terms of the achievements, let me start with the natural resource management in terms of the conservation achievements I think this is what we have done over the past 26 - 25 years. Includes wildlife population, especially in areas where it never occurs. And we have also made sure that we try and bring back species that were poached out in certain areas.

We did some studies and you put them back. And they do come back. Then we created landscape connectivity because this is open areas. This is not fenced areas. It's very good for big mommas such as elephants to move around. It's good for lion ranges and so forth. So we have created this landscape of not just people meeting wildlife movements and so forth. So that's what we have done.

Then, I think the minister mentioned that 20 years ago, we probably had around 20 lions. This is the northwest of Namibia, very semi-desert. As you can see on your left-hand side, that's the national park that he was referring one of our national parks. We have just lions in that park. They never really moved out of that park in the late 80s because they were very much afraid to be poached or to be killed by animals.

But over the years as we created awareness with wildlife management in the areas, that range on the right-hand side actually increased. So you have around 150 lions at the moment free roaming outside of parks. And fenced moving into these areas. Which means that you have people, livestock, and lions and elephants all the big five living out of there. And that's what we need to manage every day.

And that's what the minister was saying. 24 hours we call you, the elephant is in my backyard. He's in my fridge. So that's what is happening. So that's some of the conflicts now being created in terms of some of the increase in some of those populations.

Let me just do this here. When we started way back 1994, before the four conservancies were formed, the only area the country (unintelligible) in terms of conservation areas were the parks and a couple of farms. Today we have as the minister was saying, around 44%, my presentation is a bit off. I hear him saying 44%. Very exciting. So there is an increase in terms of conservation. And 90% if country (unintelligible) by communal areas. These are people voluntarily giving up their lands for wildlife to move.

So it's a big area in terms of public lands that is making that contribution. So that is very huge. I am not going to repeat this. In terms of the game

population trends in 1995, we had merely around 7,600. From those 7,600, I think 60 of them were the known deaths of that big elephants. They were in the northwest. I remember I saw them. Now these are maybe around 1,000 - more than 1,000 moving around those big areas. In very dry areas that that is - in dry areas such as the desert, it's very - it's a lot of elephants for those communities. So that is one thing.

The black rhino, we have a very good program. In Namibia, we have a problem of having rhinos outside parks, living with communities in communal land and that is the black rhino, not the white rhino. The black rhino that is sought after that is with these communities. And we have conservation (Unintelligible) we have rhino rangers that are specifically just looking 24/7 after those rhinos. And we were a little bit taken back a couple of years ago in 2014 when we had our first rhino -- black rhino -- poaching cases. And then we had 100s and 100s of meetings with our traditional authorities' communities. And to date, there is no poaching for a year in that area when it comes to rhinos.

And that is because communities really have committed themselves looking after those rhinos. Then other trends - this is in the regions, it's very difficult to see. But the small prints you see on the bottom, these specific (unintelligible) in terms of the region and the trends over the years as we reduce the conservancies.

And then I'll also sharing with you some of the elephant range areas which is a little bit much more up in that area. This is where you find a lot of 22,000 - I think the survey is around 23,000 in that area of elephants moving. So yes. We collect this. A lot of these information is collected by the communities themselves.

We have a very good system, the way we work together as partners with government and scientists. We sit down and look at all these numbers. Then another thing that we are trying to encourage. In Namibia we have to be very innovative because we are not a forested country. If you are not forested, you have to be creative in terms of what you really want to do in terms of conversation.

One of the areas we're involved with is to try and encourage communities to wildlife open, keep corridors open for wildlife. And we have a very impressive in the northeast, we have camera traps in conservancies where we - all those pieces you at the background is in one of the conservancies. That is what has been recorded in that conservancy. And it's a good opportunity to show the communities. Listen you have all this wildlife, they also need a place to move. They also need a place to stay. So, how do you do that?

You need to start either opening up more space for wildlife or have what we call, wildlife corridors. So that the elephant can move. So the elephant can move from what it freely into Namibia, we hope it can also move into Angola. That we can address problems in those areas. So the wildlife corridors is a very important program. It's not just in Namibia, we're trying to expand it as part of what you call one of the largest trans frontier parks called Carva. That's what we're trying to encourage as those movements take place.

We also have other programs called wildlife credit. Wildlife credits is also an opportunity of schools' places that are visiting some of the (unintelligible). So societies they can make some contributions towards the human wildlife conflict. We have set up a fund within this conservancy so this offsets are being paid to the communities. So, there is a price to live with wildlife.

If the tourists come to see the wildlife, nice and easy. But the people that live with wildlife, the landscape always, you know, their landscape is being hammered. So what we are trying to do is say okay, you make a contribution. Next time when there is a (unintelligible) they can make the lunch, make the contribution towards the fund. And that works quite well.

And another thing is, as I said, we have an institutional mechanism where conservancies work like an organization. So they have organized committees, they have staff members. They employ people. And so, we have 84 of those government members. Not 83 anymore. Elected government instructors. We have the regional conservancies and communal forest associations in the regions. And that actually when you look at two million people - it's actually like over the country should be a conservationist. If you actually make that calculation.

And then one of the things that we really encourage is strong gender empowerment in this programs. Because women are the ones that are very closely working with these resources. It's a big encouragement. Not just for the income, but also making sure they're actively participating in leadership programs.

So those - the other one is looking at the income. We have photographic and sustainable use, what you call conservation hunting. And that's what we do. We do both of them. Conservancies participate. They have donation areas.

We know exactly what is our big periods in terms of the photographic tourism but we also know exactly when hunting should take place. We don't want to mix those two. Those are the two types of clients, are different clients. So we make sure the one does not see what the other is doing. But they are all enjoying it, okay? So it's like what someone was telling me, like at night -

during the day they hunt. And then the - no during the day - at the night they eat the meat from the hunt. And then you just explain to them this is where it's coming from. Most of them, they like it. Okay?

Then conservation hunting, why did we call it conservation hunting? Because we believe, as the minister said, it's not just about hunting, it's about conserving. It's making sure we conserve our resources. And we have done that over years. And that's why we have so much wildlife that is still consisting.

Now in Namibia, we just don't depend on hunting and tourism. There is other (comparity) for advantages we have. The one advantage we have is that we have vast and open spaces and especially wilderness areas for wildlife. And as I said, it's a very contrasting countries. There is so many other things that can be used directly - used in terms of resources. Meat is a big thing for us. We're meat eaters. Even though we have a big coast, we're not so much interested in the fish. We export those. We like our meat.

And then, average cultural diversities and valuable traditional knowledge system. That's one (comparity) for advantage that we have as a country. And then the other one is the efficiency. And so for ours - that makes us - sets us a little bit apart from others.

Now, I just want to quickly talk about the enabling environment. I think we are very grateful for our government, that they have this support. That we get the support. Not just from a policy point of view. But they support us across in terms of anything that has to do with free hunting. We have very good laws. We don't just have one law in the ministry that supports. It's a very well-regulated industry.

Secondly, we have high level ethics and professionalism. That is what is required, whether it's from the communities or whether it's from the hunters. It's something. We have very organized in terms of hunting associations. But you can also see my presentation in terms of the communities that you work with are very well organized.

We also very privileged to be able to have this hunting conservancy because a lot of people look for open areas. They look for trying to do it in a much more vast range area. We have lots of wide varieties through species and then the other one also that I need to add is that these other additional interests or rather the interests concentrating that is hunting.

We try to involve our communities as much in programs. I always say to my counterparts in terms of government, if it's one government that gives 100% to the communities it's our government. They don't take a cent from the communities. Everything goes to the communities and the communities make those decisions. And that's why the benefits are very clear. And the other one is security in infrastructure. That's how it works with us. And I think I cannot emphasize more that the reason why we need this hunting is that if it does not happen, people will go back to poaching.

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