

# A RISE IN WILDLIFE NUMBERS

Maintaining a steady rise in wildlife numbers is critical to the future of endangered species like black rhino. It also encourages ecotourism – a major source of income for the conservancies. Your support has helped us increase training in wildlife management, relocate black rhino to spread the population, and continue to monitor wildlife numbers.

We've just had the results of the 2010 game count and it's looking extremely positive. There's been an increase in numbers of kudu, springbok and zebra, with record highs in giraffe – one of our rarer species. Springbok have a fast reproductive rate and respond well to good management, so this improvement in numbers is a really positive sign of the conservancies' success.

The really good news is that black rhino numbers are up slightly, and although elephant numbers have not risen, they remain stable. Another significant development is that the elephants' range is increasing, and they are being seen in areas that they previously didn't occupy.

Finally, we're really thrilled at the recent sightings of eight new lion cubs (three litters)!



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## Successful rhino translocations

Last summer, we successfully translocated six black rhino onto conservancy land in Kunene. The capture and release areas weren't accessible by road, so we had to airlift the rhino one by one, by helicopter. This can be a tricky operation, so we're relieved it all went smoothly.

The local community in Kunene were fully involved in preparing for the new arrivals, for example digging boreholes for water. These will also be useful for livestock.

Before release, each rhino was fitted with a transmitter, and we'll be working closely with the conservancy game guards to monitor them, as they settle into their new home.

# 6

WE SUCCESSFULLY TRANSLOCATED SIX BLACK RHINO IN KUNENE LAST SUMMER



# NAMIBIA IN NUMBERS

# 700

More than 700 women are supported by our Caprivi and Kunene craft projects

# 12

Twelve of Caprivi's conservancies now earn income from ecotourism

# 66,097 SQ KM

Namibia's annual game count is the largest in the world. In Kunene alone, the area surveyed was 66,097 square kilometres (over 41,000 square miles)

# 140

Namibia is home to the largest free-roaming population of black rhino in the world, estimated to be over 140



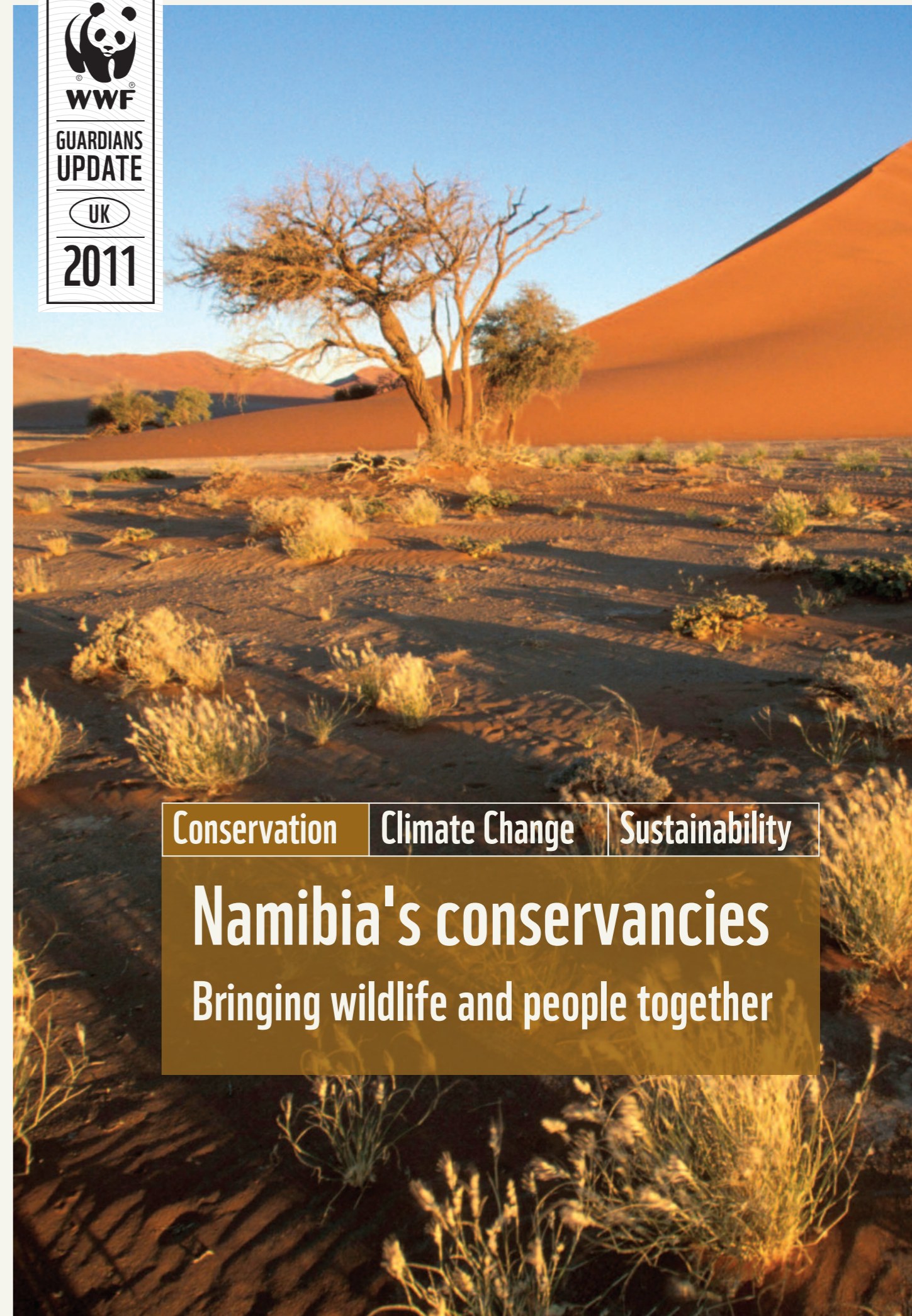
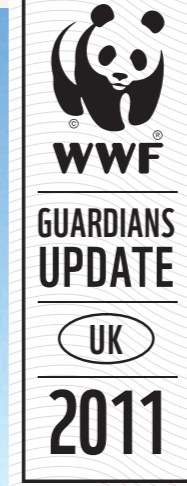
**Why we are here**  
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  
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# Namibia's conservancies

## Bringing wildlife and people together

FRONT COVER IMAGE © MARTIN HARVEY / WWF-CANON

## POACHING KEPT AT BAY



## SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

Omumbiri (Commiphora) resin is used in the manufacture of perfume, and provides much-needed income for Kunene's Himba tribe. Because of your generosity, we were able to support the 2010 harvest.

The resin falls naturally from the plant and is gathered by the Himba women. Harvesting takes place at the hottest, driest time of year and it can take a day or more to reach the plants on foot. But the income the resin provides is critical to the women and their families. The Guardians' generosity meant that once again, we were able to provide transport, equipment, food and water to support them.

Along with Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), our partner in the field, we also carried out quality management of the resin, and introduced new buyers from countries like Australia, Italy and South Africa. We're delighted to report that business is booming and new agreements have been signed with three purchasers. One of these is a company called Afriplex. They've agreed to pay a set fee for the resin and will also give the conservancies 10% of all sales, in recognition of their traditional knowledge.

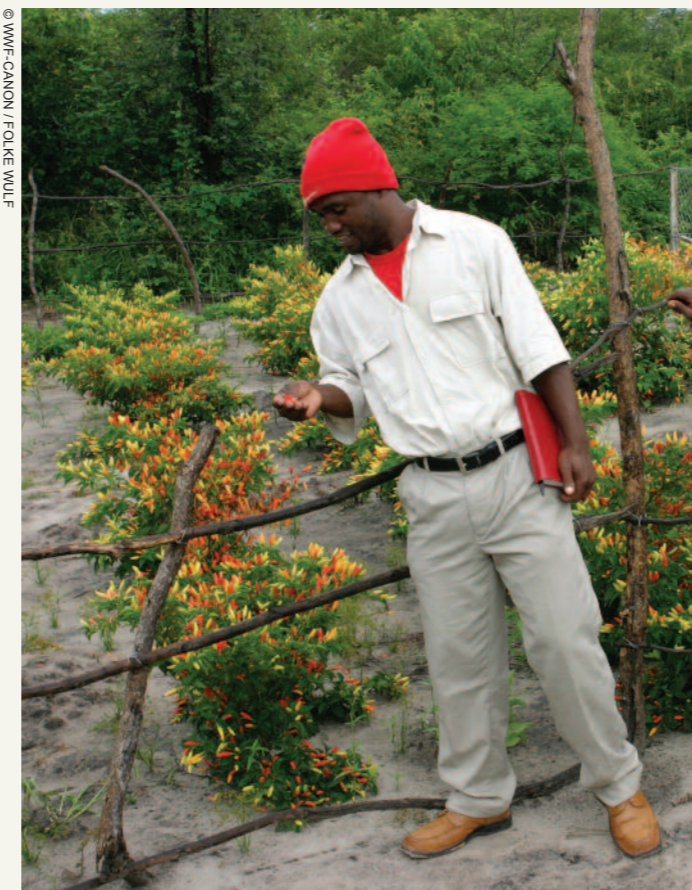
We've also helped establish a new resin processing plant. This will help the harvesters reach more markets and get a better price for their product. It will also make the resin cheaper and easier to transport. We'll be working with IRDNC to train conservancy members in operating the plant.

In Kunene and Caprivi, local people continue to embrace the many opportunities the conservancies offer. A major part of the long-term programme you've been helping to fund involves training community game guards to combat the ever-present threat of poaching.

We're pleased to report that reformed poacher Piet Hizaraku is still passing on his remarkable skills to the younger generation. You may remember we called Piet out of retirement in 2009 after an increase in rhino poaching in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Around the same time, a rise in elephant poaching was also reported in Caprivi. Unfortunately this escalated last year, with over ten elephants being shot for their tusks, some leaving behind orphaned calves. Incidents like these reinforce our need to stay vigilant, and carry on our fight to stamp out this horrific crime. Thankfully, your support means we've been able to increase community game guard patrols across all conservancies throughout 2010, and we'll continue to remain on our guard in 2011.



## REDUCING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



Inevitably, conflicts can arise when people and wildlife live side by side. The conservancies are increasingly taking on responsibility for managing elephant and other wildlife problems. And thanks to you, we've been able to continue supporting them.

As part of our ongoing programme, we've been testing out a range of inexpensive, affordable, and sustainable wildlife management methods, in both Kunene and Caprivi.

In the past year, we've given over 570 farmers in Caprivi practical training on reducing wildlife conflict. Chilli is one way of keeping elephants away from farmers' fields, as the animals don't like the smell. To ensure there's enough to go round, we've helped establish conservancy-owned chilli plots in four conservancies. We're also supplying seedlings, so local farmers can grow chilli commercially. These activities are proving to be so successful that we're sharing what we've learned with neighbouring Botswana and Zambia.

In Kunene, we've helped implement an insurance scheme that compensates local farmers for wildlife damage. Financial compensation can reduce the retaliatory wildlife killings that sometimes happen when cattle are taken by big cats, or crops trampled by elephants. The scheme was set up with the help of funding from supporters like you, and is currently being run across five conservancies. We're already seeing progress towards it becoming self-funding.

## SUPPORTING SELF-SUFFICIENCY

It's vital that every conservancy eventually becomes independent and self-sufficient, and the right skills are needed to make this happen. Because of your support, we've been able to carry on providing training courses and workshops, for both men and women.

Traditionally, women have had little voice in Namibia. An important benefit of the conservancies is the opportunities they offer all members of the community to get involved and make a living. Your generosity has given a huge boost to this. For example, we've been able to provide more training in key skills such as administration, financial management, and the monitoring and organisation of craft fairs, which help keep traditional skills alive.

In the 2009/2010 financial year, 11 conservancies were able to produce their own, accurate and comprehensive annual reports. This indicates that strong financial systems are in place to aid successful forward planning and management – important steps towards the conservancies becoming self-sufficient. A growing number of conservancies now have their own administrators and treasurers, and increasingly, these are women.



## GROWTH IN ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism continues to offer huge potential for the conservancies, as it brings in much needed income and employment. Alongside IRDNC, we've partnered with the Namibian Association of Tourism and Hospitality, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to provide technical support in key areas such as tour guide training, financial management and customer care.

This is resulting in the conservancies reaching new levels of professionalism, with ever-improving standards of facilities and services.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU



**John Kasaona**, Deputy Director of the IRDNC, was born and raised in one of Namibia's conservancies, Sesfontein. He wanted to give a personal thank you to the WWF Guardians.

*"Namibia's conservancies are pioneering a new way of life, and it has taken 20 years to win the trust of the people, and to increase wildlife numbers. If it wasn't for WWF's funding, we wouldn't be where we are today, and I want to thank the WWF Guardians for their incredible support, because it means we can build on what we have achieved."*

## LIFE IN THE BALANCE

2011 is a special year for us, because it's 50 years since we first began working to keep the wild safe, so people and nature can thrive. It's also the United Nations International Year of Forests, focusing world attention on the need to raise awareness and strengthen the sustainable management of forests, to protect them for future generations.

Forests have and continue to be a key focus of our global conservation work. And this year's Guardians' appeal focuses on Colombia and the urgent need to protect its forests and coastlands in the face of escalating human expansion.

This incredible country covers only 0.7% of the globe, yet is home to 10% of the world's species. But Colombia loses nearly 2,000 square kilometres of forest every year through deforestation and degradation. We're putting all our efforts into halting the decline and, as you'll see from the report we'll be sending you in the next few weeks, we really need your help.

