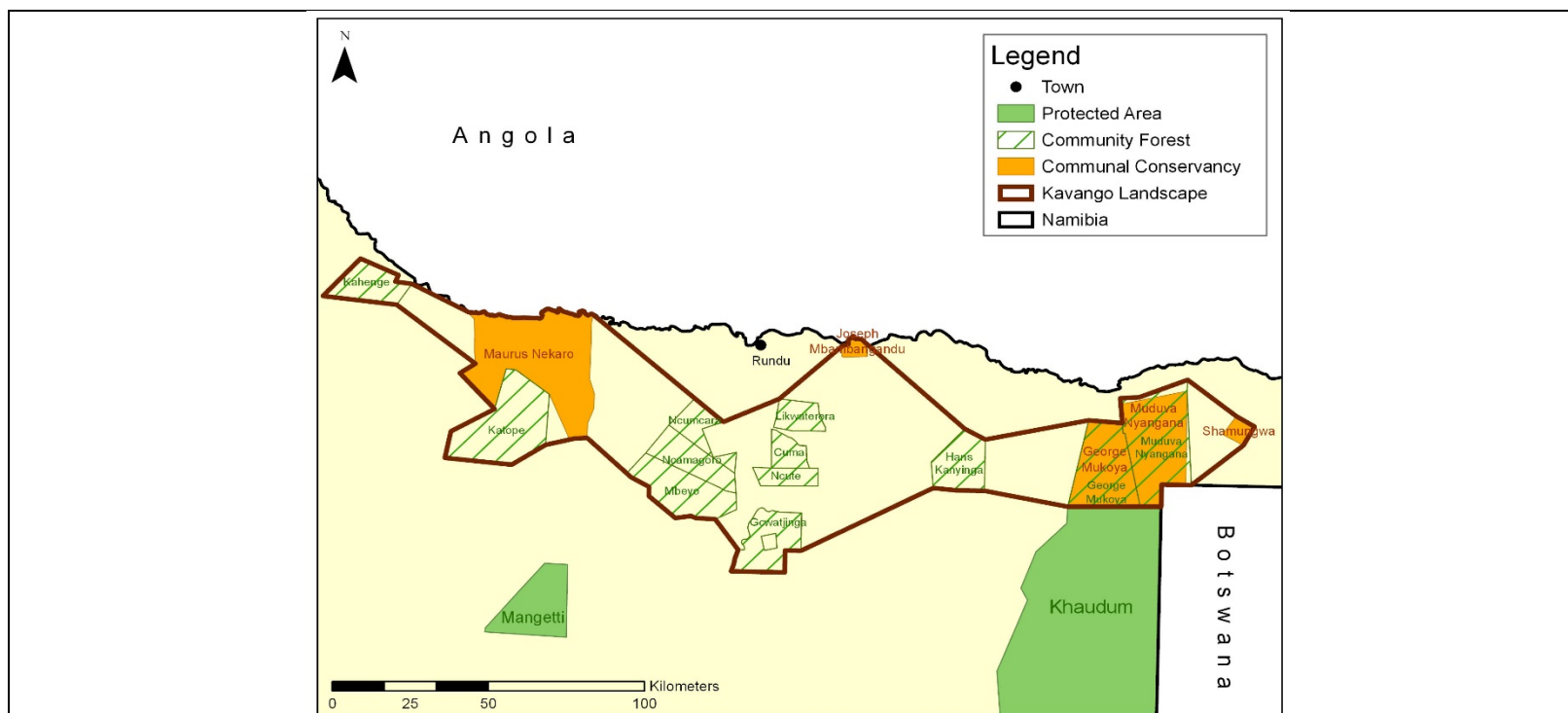


Landscape Name: Kavango East and West



Location & size: The Kavango East and West Landscape is 10,311 km² in size and straddles the two Kavango Regions, 13 constituencies (Kapako, Mankumpi, Mpungu, Muses, Ncamangoro, Ncuncuni, Nkurenkuru, Tondoro, Mashare, Ndinyona, Rundu Rural and Ndonga Linena) including five conservancies (Markus Nakero, Muduva Nyangana, George Mukoya and Joseph Mbambangandu) and twelve community forests (Hans Kanyinga, Likwaterera, Cuma, Ncaute, Gwcatjinga, Mbeyo, Ncamangora, Ncumcara, Katope, Kahenge, Muduva Nyangana and George Mukoya – the latter 2 coinciding with conservancies).

Population: The total population in the proposed landscape is estimated around 111,676 people with 71% living in rural areas and 43% of the whole population being less than 15 years of age. There are about 36,741 households, with an average size of 6.0 persons per household. The main language groups are Kwangali, Gciriku, Hambukushu, and Mbuza.

Landscape: Soils and topography: The topography is northern Kalahari sandvelds typically characterized by extreme flatness with a gradient towards the Okavango river in the north and towards the Makgadikgadi Depression in northern Botswana. Drainage is also typically poorly

developed with only a few drainage lines between some of the dunes, are locally known as *omurambas*. A few flow paths are traceable on the sandy surface, but very little run-off occurs even after heavy rainfall.

The Okavango river serves as the major source of water along the entire northern boundary of the 2 regions while a regional aquifer serves as a very reliable source of groundwater accessed through boreholes, as the water table is seldom shallower than 25 meters.

Rainfall: The mean annual rainfall of 348-871mm is received 90% of the time. Lowest rainfall recorded was only 288mm and the highest of 1,005mm gives an indication of the variability in the region's rainfall. The southern part of the region can expect a rainfall of 321-828mm (90% of the time) although extremes of 171mm and 1,038 mm have been recorded. Average potential evaporation for the region is estimated at 2,500mm per year. Evapotranspiration (loss of water from vegetation) is also very high, further reducing the amount of water stored in the soil.

Vegetation: The vegetation of the area comprises of dry medium to tall woodland and savannah associated with the featureless plains. Dominant vegetation types are *Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Terminalia spp*, *Combretum spp*, *Burkea africana*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Lonchocarpus spp* and *Guibourtia coleosperma*.

Wildlife: Elephant, giraffe, lion, spotted hyena, African wild dog are among the key species found in the area. The unfenced Khaudum National Park lies immediately to the south east of the landscape. The area to the west of the park forms a wet season dispersal area for species such as elephant, roan and giraffe. Khaudum National Park and the surrounding area is one of the last sanctuaries for African Wild Dog (an endangered species) in Namibia.

Socio-Economics Profile

On account of its higher rainfall than most other parts of Namibia, this region has agricultural potential for the cultivation of a variety of crops. There is also potential for organised forestry and agroforestry, which should stimulate furniture making and related industries. The towns of Rundu and Nkurenkuru are the only proclaimed towns within this landscape.

Land tenure: land is entirely communal and is being administered by various traditional authorities.

Sources of livelihoods: Farming accounts for 35.57% of household income followed by 26.31% earn from wages and salaries. Under agriculture crop farming accounts for 60.15% and livestock farming 26.06% of household income. A well-established and active regional farmers' association, which is affiliated to the national farmers' union, advocates for the small farmers.

Wildlife and tourism: Tourism activities and developments (lodges and campsites) are presently concentrated on the eastern part of the landscape around largely along the Okavango River. These follow the concentration of the biodiversity, wildlife and scenic areas in the eastern part of the landscape especially the wetland systems of the Bwabwata National Park. Well established community-level enterprises exist where producers sell handy crafts, thatch grass, baskets and even hand-made wooded furniture and wood carvings to tourists. There is a lower level of tourism investments in conservancies away from the Okavango River and also generally lower overall.

Climate change vulnerabilities: It is predicted that a 10% decrease in rainfall will be experienced in the northern and southern regions of Namibia, and a 20% decrease in the central regions, by 2050 . These figures are expected to worsen to 20% and 30% respectively by 2080 (Tripe et al. 2010). For the Kavango Regions, the likely long-term impacts of the increasing frequency and intensity of bush fires as well as what is likely to happen to the Okavango River, which receives most of its water from the Angolan highlands remain 2 critical areas of concern.

Infrastructure: The landscape has relatively good infrastructure, but most of the infrastructure is focused in central points or settlements areas. The area is relatively well served with an electricity network, although limited electricity within the remote areas of the region.

A network of roads is also fairly well-distributed although most of these roads are gravel or sandy roads. The Trans-Caprivi Highway that links the Walvis Bay port to eastern countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, northern Botswana, the south-east of Angola and the south east of DRC (also known as the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lumbabashi corridor) (UNOHRLLS, 2007) plays an important role in the trade potential of the region. Recently-built Rundu-Ondangwa all-weather trunk road (B10) serves as the major artery for connecting Namibia's populous central northern regions with the north-eastern regions. Rundu airport serves as regional aviation hub that also accommodates Air Namibia's 4 weekly flights on Windhoek, Rundu and Katima Mulilo route. Several smaller airstrips cater for the tourism sector especially in the eastern part of the region.

The Okavango River is the main source of water for the majority of people living within proximity to the river. The communities living far from the river depend mostly on water from boreholes supplied by MAWF. They collaborate with MAWF through community-based waterpoint committees.