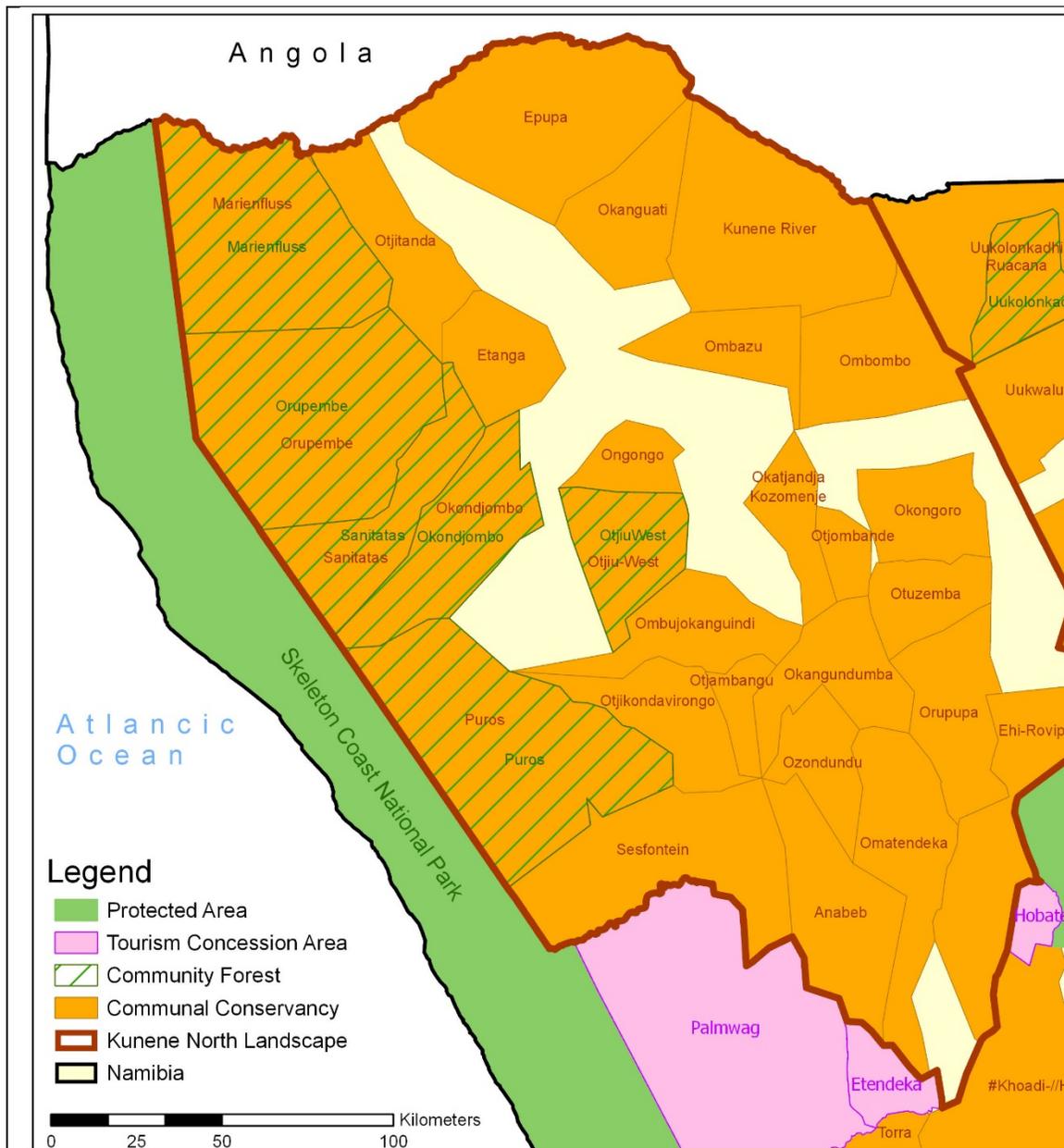


Landscape Name: Kunene North Landscape



Location & Size: The landscape, that measures 34,920km², covers northern parts of the Kunene region – encompassing 4 constituencies of Sesfontein, Opuwo Rural, Opuwo Urban and Epupa. Landscape is home to 28 conservancies (Anabeb, Omatendeka, Ehi-Rovipuka, Sesfontein, Ozondundu, Puros, Otjikondavirongo, Ombujokanguindi, Okangundumba, Orupapa, Otuzemba, Okongoro, Otjombande, Otjimbango, Okatjandja, Okondjombo, Sanitatas, Orupembe, Marienfluss, Otjitanda, Etanga, Otjiu-West, Ongongo, Okatjandja Kozomenje, Ombombo, Ombazu, Kunene River, Epupa, Okanguati) and six Community Forests (Puros, Otjiu West, Orupembe, Okondjombo, Sanitatas, Marienfluss). It borders on Angola to the north, Omuwati Region and Etosha National park to the east, Skeleton Coast National Park to the west and the proposed Kunene South and Dâures Landscape to the south.

Population: The total population of the landscape is 53,402 (NSA report, 2011) with effectively equal numbers of males and females, and accounting for estimated 9,693 households with 6.3 persons per household on average. Population segment in the age bracket of 15-59 account for 51% of the population which is largely rural. The inhabitants of the landscape area include Dhemba, Himba, Herero (majority inhabitants) Damara, and Ovambo people. The Himba, Dhemba and the San are classified as vulnerable minorities and reside only in this landscape.

Landscape: Soils and topography: The Landscape is divided into the interior highlands and the pro-Namib plains. It has six agro-ecological zones namely the Mountainous areas, Plateaus, Riverine, Lacustrine and Karst areas, Coastal desert and Etosha region. Soils in the landscape area are generally characterised by low organic matter content and a deficit of Phosphorus. Their depth varies from shallow to deep and can predominantly be described as sandy to loamy sand. To the west, soils are marginal and consist of a thin layer of soil, sewn with stones and are of no arable value. The most northern parts of Kunene are largely mountainous, without easy road access.

Rainfall: Rainfall in this landscape area is usually low and extremely variable which means that years of abundant rain are often followed by extreme dry conditions. The annual average rainfall ranges from 0mm along the coast to 340mm on the east.

Vegetation: The vegetation of this landscape is predominantly Mopane savanna (*colophospermum mopane*), mixed woodlands with several species of *Acacia*, *Cammiphora* and *Terminalia*. Additionally, grass species such as Bushman grass and *Stipagrostis spp* can be found in this landscape area.

Wildlife: The black rhino, eland, giraffe, blue wildebeest, roan, red hartebeest, sable and black-faced impala and zebra are some of the major animals seen in the area. This landscape forms part of the home range of the world's only free roaming population of the black rhino.

Socio-economic profile: The majority of the population within the region live in rural areas. The literacy rate in rural areas of Kunene are very low. About 50.8 % of households in Kunene relied on wood as the main source of energy for cooking and only 4 percent of households in rural areas used electricity from the main grid for cooking (NSA 2011).

Land tenure: The landscape is wholly communal, under the administration of traditional Authorities.

Sources of livelihoods: The main source of livelihood in the Kunene region is livestock farming, with cattle, sheep and goats. Farming is thus a difficult enterprise and livestock densities are low in most areas as a result of the low productivity of farm land. The landscape also falls outside veterinary cordon fence that controls livestock movements as foot and mouth disease control measure. This Livestock farming is in any event getting increasingly precarious due to recurrent protracted droughts. Farmers suffered massive livestock losses during protracted drought experienced since 2012 with 2016 having been particularly devastating. Water is another major limiting factor as the landscape relies exclusively on dwindling underground water sources accessed through deep boreholes –with the exception of the Epupa constituency where the Kunene River is a source of water. Many NGOs, CBOs, farmers' associations and government agencies collaborate in implementing various programmes around wildlife, tourism and water sectors. There are also conservancy-related tourism enterprises as an additional source of livelihood.

Wildlife and tourism: Rugged terrain, picturesque sceneries, low human populations and the culture of the Himba people makes this landscape a major tourism attraction. It is a niche product for adventurous four-wheel drive tourists. A handful One major recent development to have

contributed to the growth of the tourism industry and to have opened up new attractions for visitors is the establishment of conservancies on communal land in the area.

Climate change vulnerabilities:

Declining rainfall, recurrent protracted droughts and fast degrading lands, declining underground water sources, and extreme temperatures, high run-offs, high levels of evaporation are already being experienced. Livestock farming the main source of livelihoods, has been dealt a devastating blow during 2011 - 2016 drought and is highly unlikely to recover. This has increased vulnerability of the communities drastically – especially from food security perspective. Sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities could be identified e.g. in tourism and nature-based sectors.

Infrastructure: The landscape is rural, remote and very rugged. A bitumen road serves the regional capital of Opuwo and there are good standard gravel roads connecting Opuwo with smaller service points of Sesfontein and Epupa. Otherwise the rest is only accessible by 4-wheel driven vehicles. Rural electrification services are very limited especially to the west due to low populations and remoteness. Opuwo, Sesfontein and Epupa have registered aerodromes while a privately-owned registered aerodromes - mostly linked to lodges - service the tourism sector. Rural water supply is being implemented by MAWF in partnership with community-level waterpoint management committees but relies exclusively on underground water.