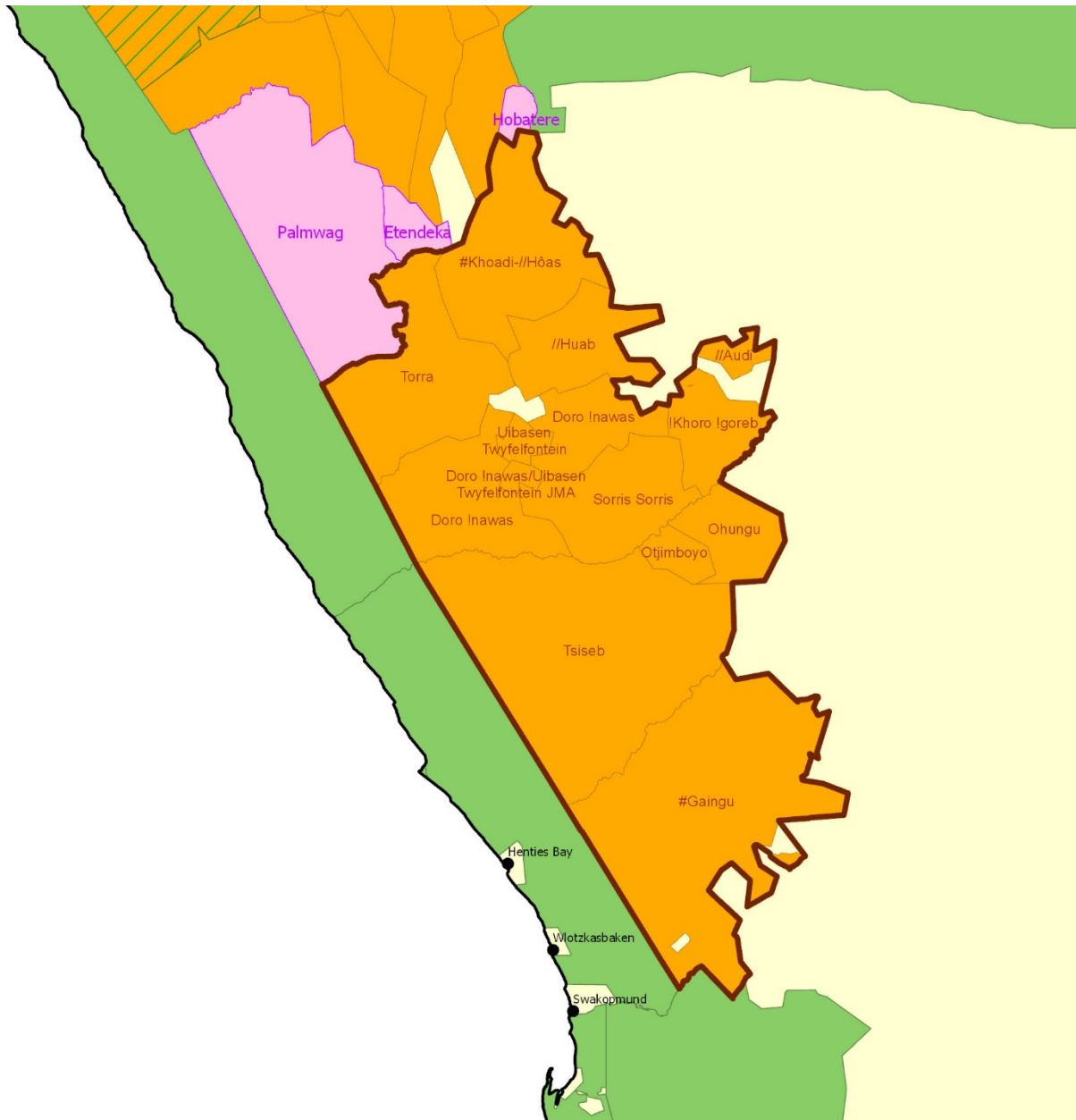


Landscape Name: Kunene South and Dâures Landscape



Location & size: This landscape covers southern parts of the Kunene Region (entire Khorixas constituency, communal areas of Kamanjab constituency and portions of Sesfontein constituency outside of the veterinary cordon fence). It also encompasses the entire Dâures constituency in Erongo Region which represents the northern communal areas of this region. The Ugab River marks the boundary between Kunene and Erongo Regions. The landscape shares borders with 3 national parks i.e. Skeleton Coast NP (west), Dorob NP (west and south) and Etosha NP to the north east.

Total size of the landscape is 34,920km² and hosts 12 conservancies in the landscape and no community forests. The conservancies are !Khoró !Goreb, #Khoadi-//Hôas, //Audi, //Huab, Doro !Nawas, Sorris Sorris, Torra, Uibasen Twyfelfontein, #Gaingu, Ohungu, Otjimboyo and Tsiseb.

Population:

Estimated total population in the proposed landscape is estimated around 30,224 people with 51% of the whole population being in the bracket of 15-59 years. There are about 2 911 households, with an average size of 3.8 persons per household (NSA, 2011 & NACSO, 2016). The landscape is mostly inhabited by Damara and Herero speaking people.

Landscape, soils and topography: Topography is extremely rough and rugged comprising of a mixture of mountain ranges, hills, sparse savannah plains and wooded river valleys dissected 2 major ephemeral rivers of Huab and Ugab with gorges which seldom carry water. The southern expanses are comparatively flatter Brandberg (Namibia's highest peak), sections of the Erongo Mountain range (Namibia's longest) and Spitzkoppe Mountain standing out. The entire landscape is rich archaeological and paleontological resources which include rock painting sites, rock engravings sites, and petrified forest sites.

Rainfall: The landscape falls within an extremely low rainfall hyper arid to arid climatic zones with a gradient increasing from less than 100mm to the south west to over 250mm per annum to the north east. The landscape is often subject to protracted dry spells with devastating impacts on livestock and wildlife.

Vegetation: Largely semi-desert and sparse savannah. Northern parts are mostly mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) dominated woodlands interspersed with terminalia (*Terminalia prunioides*) and various Acacia (*Acacia erubescens*) species. The area is also home to thick stemmed trees of the Commiphora species while the succulent Euphorbias species (*Damara*, *Verosa* and *Mauritania*) and the unusual looking Bottle trees. The he Ana tree (*Faidherbia albida*) and the Camelthorn tree (*Acacia erioloba*) tend to grow in ephemeral riverbeds with their pods serving as extremely important nutritional sources for both livestock and wildlife. The Brandberg massif is also known for high levels of species diversity as well as endemism.

Wildlife: Kudu, gemsbok, springbok, leopard, elephant (the so-called desert elephant), cheetah, ostrich, steenbok, duiker, black rhino, Hartmann's mountain zebra, black-backed jackal, klipspringer are some of the major wildlife found in the two landscapes. High incidence of human wildlife conflict are being experienced mostly predation of livestock and elephant damage to water installations and causing occasional loss of human lives.

Socio-Economics Profile and Sources of livelihoods: Livestock farming (cattle, goats and sheep) is the only and major agricultural activities because the landscape is unsuitable for crop farming due to its aridity and poor soils. Even livestock farming is 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. Small-scale mining for semi-precious stones, sale of handy crafts and employment at tourism facilities and heritage sites also contribute to livelihoods. Water is a major limiting factor as the landscape relies exclusively on dwindling underground water sources accessed through deep boreholes. Many NGOs, CBOs, farmers' associations and government agencies collaborate in implementing various programmes around wildlife, tourism, heritage and water sectors.

Land tenure: The land is exclusively communal and is being managed by various traditional authorities.

Wildlife and tourism: The landscape is one of Namibia's tourism draw cards due to scenic landscapes, low human populations, internationally-acclaimed attractions such as Twyfelfontein World Heritage Site (rock art site); Brandberg White Lady (rock art as well as adventure); Burnt Mountain and Organ Pipes (geological formations); the Spitzkoppe National Monument Area; and the Petrified Forest paleontological site. As a result quite a number of private and public sector tourism establishments exist some providing limited but decent job opportunities.

Climate change vulnerabilities:

The landscape, except in its north east, is already highly fragile and susceptible to climate change. 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, hitherto the main source of livelihoods, has been dealt a devastating blow during 2016 drought and is highly unlikely to recover triggering fears of depopulation in some parts while more sustainable alternative opportunities could be identified e.g. in tourism and nature-based sectors.

Infrastructure: The landscape is rural, remote and very rugged. As a result most of it is inaccessible by normal 2-wheel driven cars. However, major well-maintain gravel roads traverse the landscape making the area (especially the attractions) accessible to tourists and linking the service hubs of Kamanjab, Khorixas and Uis with the rest of the country. Rural electrification services are very limited especially to the west due to low populations and remoteness. Many 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.