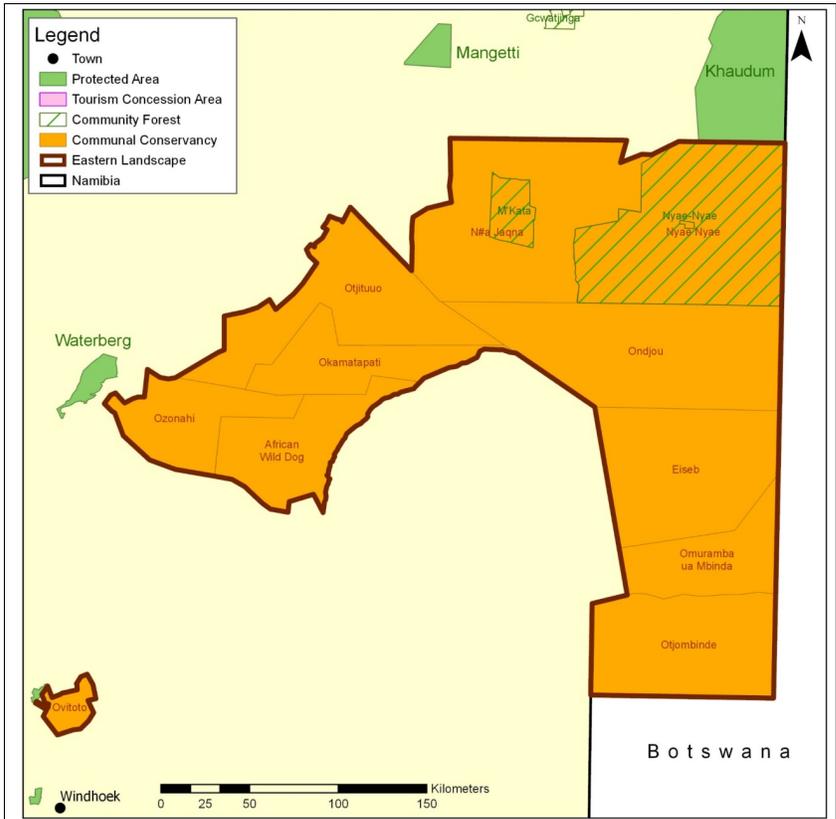


**Landscape Name: Lower Eastern Landscape**



**Location & Size:** The size of the landscape is estimated at 59,504km<sup>2</sup>. It straddles 2 regions of Otjozondjupa and Omaheke. It covers 2 rural constituencies of Okakarara and Tsumkwe in Otjozondjupa and Otjombeinde constituency in the Omaheke Region. The landscape borders 3 proclaimed national parks of Khardum (north), Waterberg (west) and Mangetti (northwest); completely surrounded by freehold cattle farms to the west and borders to Botswana to the east. It covers 11 conservancies (Otjombeinde, Omuramba Ua Mbinda, Eiseb, African Wild Dog, N#-a-Jaona, Nyae Nyae, Okamatapati, Ondjou, Otjituuu, Ovitoto, Ozonahi) and 2 Community Forests of Naye-Naye and M'kata.

**Population:** Total population is estimated to be 39,498 people – on average 51% female and 49% male. The age group of 15-59 on average accounts for 49-51% of the population. This is largely a rural landscape with only settlements of Okakarara, Tsumkwe and Otjombeinde as key service hubs. The landscape is home to the Herero, Damara, !Kung San, Ju-/hoasi San, Kalahari San and Batswana peoples.

**Commented [MK1]:** Workout size from conservancy size NACSO

**Landscape: Soils and topography:** Omaheke region is mainly dominated by the Kalahari sand soils and flat plains and Otjozodjupa is characterised by Central plateau, fringe plains around the Omatoko plains, mountain ranges and massive bright red sandstone cliffs.

**Rainfall:** Mean annual precipitation in Omaheke region increases from south to north, ranging from 250 mm to 450 mm per annum whereas in Otjozodjupa it ranges from 300–600 mm, increasing from the south-west to the north-east. Groundwater is generally available throughout the landscape, and the quality of water is also generally good. Higher yielding aquifer is in the Eiseb area of the Omaheke Region.

**Vegetation:** Vegetation in the landscape ranges from open savanna lush vegetation whereas in Omaheke, under a steep west to east rainfall gradient. More broad-leaf deciduous trees occur in the northern parts while more thorny species grow in the south. The western parts are covered in thorny species growing on more rocky, shallow soils. Common species include thorny *microphyllous Acacia*, *Terminalia sericea* and *Combretum spp.*

**Wildlife:** The landscape hosts diverse wildlife resources such as the Springbok, Steenbok, warthog, waterbuck, Kudu, Hartebeest, eland and Oryx and Omaheke has Lions, Leopards, African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Baboons, Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Oryx, Eland, Zebra, Hartebeest, Warthog, Impala (common), Hartebeest (red cape), Blesbok, Gemsbok, Giraffe, Leopard, Cheetah, Zebra (Burchells), Zable, Roan, White Rhino. Otjozondjupa accounts for most of the wildlife while Omaheke is mainly rich in bird species such as Ostriches, Secretary birds and other bird species both endemic to Namibia and migratory to Namibia The ephemeral Nyae-Naye Pans serves as an important transit point for migratory birds moving between Namibia's Walfish Bay Lagoon, Etosha Pans and Botswana's Magkadikgadi Pans.

#### **Socio-economic profile**

**Land tenure:** exclusively communal land administered by various traditional authorities.

**Sources of livelihoods:** Cattle farming is the major sources of livelihoods especially in Okakarara and Otjombinde constituencies. Livestock farming is not as strong in the Tsumkwe area which is predominantly and traditionally occupied by the San communities where tourism-based livelihoods are stronger. There well-established farmers associations and community-based waterpoint associations that collaborate with government ministries and NGOs in the landscape.

**Wildlife and tourism:** Wildlife populations occur in higher densities in Tsumkwe constituency than other 2 cattle-farming constituencies. As a result, tourism investments and developments are higher in Tsumkwe area. Comparative compatibility with the lifestyle of the San community, San culture as tourism attraction, remote and isolated location, fairly abundant wildlife numbers give Tsumkwe area an edge. There are several tourism accommodation facilities and conservation hunting enterprises operate in partnership with 2 conservancies. San communities also earn some income from sale of crafts. Such developments and investments are virtually non-existent in other 2 constituencies forming part of the landscape.

**Climate change vulnerabilities:** Besides the temperature changes, rainfall changes are expected to increase seasonally. The distribution of rainfall may become more erratic and an overall later start and earlier cessation of the rainy season is projected. There has been an indication that potentially greater rainfall totals will occur in the east, in line with projected increases of summer rainfall across much of the country, with high intensities over a shorter time period. These areas are the most degraded in the country as a result of bush encroachment. This problem is largely and directly due

to a lack of fires in areas used for livestock farming; farmers prevent fires and there is little grass to burn anyway because of heavy grazing (Mendelsohn, 2006).

**Infrastructure:** This is a rural landscape with fairly under developed infrastructure. There are well-maintained gravel roads linking the main centres with the regional hubs of Okakarara-Otjiwarongo, Tsumkwe-Grootfontein, Otjombinde-Gobabis. Okakarara, Tsumkwe, Gam and Otjombinde are all served by registered aerodromes. Rural water supply is managed by MAWF and implemented in partnership with community-based waterpoint committees. Water supply remains a challenge because of very deep underground water table. Rural electrification is managed by MME and CENORED (a regional distributor) but is a major challenges more in the Tsumkwe constituency because of remoteness and sparse population.