

REPORT OF THE



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HABITAT ON THE MOTION ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE
CONFLICT

TO

ZAMBEZI, OSHIKOTO, OSHANA, OHANGWENA, OMUSATI, KUNENE, KAVANGO
EAST, KAVANGO WEST, ERONGO REGIONS

AND

BENCHMARK STUDY TO TANZANIA AND ZIMBABWE

FROM

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Table of Content

The Committee Members	i
Acknowledgments	ii
Terms of Reference	iii
Executive Summary	iv
Acronyms	v
THE MOTION ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT.....	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Methodology.....	1
3. Presentation Approach	2
DELIBERATIONS AND FINDINGS	2
4. The Loss of Human Life	2
5. Losses to Property.....	6
6. Losses to livestock.....	8
7. The Role of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.....	10
8. Compensation for Loss of Life and Property.....	13
9. Compensation for Injuries Sustained.....	15
10. Reactions to ‘Compensation or Offset’ Scheme.....	17
11. Extra Reactions to the Motion.....	19
12. The Benchmark/Comparative study.....	20
13. Human-Wildlife Conflict.....	21
14. Mitigating Efforts.....	21
15. Compensation.....	23
16. Key findings.....	24
17. Benchmark findings in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.....	26
16. Conclusion.....	28
17. Recommendations.....	28

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For benchmarking activities, a sense of gratitude is hereby extended to the Government of Tanzania, specifically to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, WWF, and Save the Elephant Organisation of Tanzania. In Zimbabwe, a great thank you goes to the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Hospitality Industry, the Zimpark organization and the Campfire of Zimbabwe.

TERMS OF REFERENCES

The National Council established a Committee on Habitat in terms of Article 74 (2) of the Namibian Constitution. Also, the National Council Standing Rules and Orders provide for the establishment of standing/select committees to assist the House in performing its review functions.

Still, section 2 of article 74 of the Namibian constitution accords the National Council Standing Committees powers to conduct hearings and collect evidence as it considers necessary for the exercise of the National Council's powers of review and investigations.

Therefore, the august House referred the matter on the Motion of Human-Wildlife Conflict in Namibia to the Standing Committee on Habitat to:

- 1) Consult widely on the issue of compensation for the loss of human life resulting from the human-wildlife conflict with:
 - a) Communities in areas affected by human –wildlife conflict;
 - b) Relevant stakeholders involved with conservation of wildlife;
 - c) The Ministry of Environment and Tourism; and
- 2) Study and scrutinize the current policies, regulations and relevant laws on wildlife conservation in Namibia;
- 3) Make comparisons between Namibian legislation, policies and regulations dealing with human-wildlife conflict with other jurisdictions

Therefore, the Standing Committee sought to meet with Traditional Authorities, Wildlife Conservancies, Member of the Public and Farmer's Associations in order to asses issues pertaining to compensation for the loss human life and damages to property by wild animals. The Committee seek to understand how communities and conservation agencies deal with the problem in order to evolve and establish sustainable conservation systems. The findings will assist the standing Committee to make recommendations on the issues of human-wildlife conflict in the context of sustainable conservation practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The government has seen that cases of poaching in relation to wild animals such as elephants, rhinoceroses and other endangered species have risen to worrisome levels. This unfortunate eventuality threatened the existence of these animals, and, therefore, has the potential to deal a heavy blow on the tourism industry of the country.

It is beyond doubt whatsoever that the poaching activities could be blamed on local syndicates whose tentacles stretch to neighboring countries. Therefore, the need to safeguard entities of wildlife protection (such as national parks and game reserves) to curb cases of animal violence by human beings has become inevitable.

The attempts to address cases of poaching have equally necessitated the need to also address issues of counter violence, as perpetrated by animals on human beings, livestock and private property. As cases of violence carried out by animals come in so many forms and shapes, the specific issues of human-wildlife conflict, therefore, have to be investigated. The chilling footage (*see cover page picture*) of the rampage caused by animals on livestock has highlighted the challenge the nation faces as far as human-wildlife cohabitation was concerned.

Efforts are underway to investigate human-wildlife conflict in relation to the following: damage caused by animals to property, the role of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the prevention of human-wildlife conflict, issues of compensation, or its lack thereof, and liability on the part of the Namibian Government for loss of human life and damage caused to property by wild animals within Namibia.

Financial resources are inadequate, but if available, necessary measures to mitigate human-wildlife conflict will be considered. These mitigation measures would include both traditional and non-conventional mitigation techniques. Amidst all challenges, hearings have been conducted in areas where rates of human-wildlife conflict are high. In like manner, benchmarking activities with other jurisdictions with good practices of mitigating human-wildlife conflict have been carried out.

ACRONYMS

WWF: World Wide Fund

NACSO: Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organisation

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

CBO: Community Based Organisation

ZIMPARK: Zimbabwe Parks

PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

KAZATFCA: Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas

CBNRM: Community Based Natural Resource Management

THE MOTION ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

1. Introduction

The regional investigative public hearings provided an opportunity to interrogate and acquaint oneself with the pros and cons of governmental policies, in this case, the effect of conflict between humans and predators with a view to improving the living standards of the Namibian people. These sessions help inform law makers as regards the effectiveness, or otherwise of certain practices so as to assist with the review of certain policies, regulations and laws for the betterment of the livelihood of the Namibian people.

The National Council Standing Committee on Habitat conducted regional public hearings to consult widely on the issue of compensation for loss of human life resulting from human-wildlife conflict. It consulted with communities in areas affected by human-wildlife conflict; relevant stakeholders involved with conservation of wildlife; and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The hearing sessions were conducted in the following regions: Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Kunene, and Erongo. The Committee managed to meet with communities directly affected by the scourge of human-wildlife conflict and deliberated on the stance of these communities as far as compensation for loss of human life and damage to property, due to human-wildlife conflict, was concerned. Together with the consultations of stakeholders, the committee also studied and scrutinised the current policies, regulations and relevant laws on wildlife conservation in Namibia.

The local investigatory undertakings on human-wildlife conflict had to be complemented with the comparisons between Namibian legislation, policies, regulations and mitigating efforts dealing with human-wildlife conflict with other jurisdictions. The Committee, therefore, extended its investigations to Tanzania and Zimbabwe to benchmark on best practices of mitigating human-wildlife conflict, so as to enhance cohabitation between human beings and wild animals.

2. Methodology

In order to obtain facts and opinions, witnesses were requested to provide presentations as far as their experience with human-wildlife conflict was concerned. A series of quick fire questions were put to witnesses by Members to ascertain themselves on the existence of human-wildlife conflict in the area, evidence of loss of human life, damage to property, the mitigating efforts by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. And, lastly, the quick fire questions helped the Committee determine the stance of the affected communities on the current compensation scheme in relation to loss of human life and damage to property as a result of human-wildlife conflict. The pencil and paper technique was used to capture all deliberations that were in alignment with the purpose of the visit.

3. Presentation Approach

The presentation of the deliberations and findings contained in this report was broken into themes in relation to the key drivers of the motion on human-wildlife conflict. The findings that were gathered during the presentations and deliberations between the stakeholders and Members were presented in simple, ‘numbered-sentences’ format.

DELIBERATIONS AND FINDINGS

4. The Loss of Human Life

- 4.1 As an inseparable feature to the motion on human-wildlife conflict, the Committee had to ascertain itself with the actual cases of losses to human life as a result of violence perpetrated by wild animals.
- 4.2 It is in adherence to the aforesaid that attendees to the public hearing came up with a plethora of narrations as far as issues involving loss of life as a result of human-wildlife conflict were concerned.
- 4.3 In the Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions, issues involving loss of human life were almost indistinguishable in terms of the contexts, the agents of violence and the fashion in which the violence on human beings took place.
- 4.4 The slight difference involved the motives that put victims into harm’s way.
- 4.5 However, all motives emanated from the insufficiency of food sources and other services such as potable water.
- 4.6 People descended on rivers to access water for consumption and also for food sources such as fish and some consumable water lilies.
- 4.7 Fishermen were always sitting ducks on dugout canoes and attacks on these traditional ferries were often perpetrated by hippopotamuses.
- 4.8 The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) such as NACSO and WWF confirmed the above observation by arguing that vast amounts of animals were found in impoverished communities.
- 4.9 These communities directly competed for resources such as water (for fishing and drinking), wild fruits with animals and conflict therefore intensified.
- 4.10 Still, in the Zambezi Region, losses of life still came about as a result of attacks perpetrated by crocodiles as residents crossed rivers in search of greener pastures for their animals.

- 4.11 Also, the lack of recreational facilities in the Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West Regions, meant that people took chances and swam in these crocodile-infested rivers.
- 4.12 Children in particular, obviously swam about or descended on the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers for a sip of water especially when tending to their livestock.
- 4.13 There were few cases of attacks on toddlers who had been whisked away from their mothers' side as mothers were busy washing their dirty linens at the riverside.
- 4.14 A case in point is that of a child at Nzinze Settlement in Kavango West. The toddler was snatched away from the banks of the Kavango River as her mother was absorbed into her washing chores.
- 4.15 From the three north eastern regions (Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions), crocodiles and hippopotamuses attacks were only quite frequent in Zambezi and Kavango East.
- 4.16 These cases were a notorious misfortune in areas such as Kabulabula, Mutwalwizi, Sangwali, Choi, Kashila Kampenje and //Kara.
- 4.17 The hippopotamuses and crocodiles attacks were easily summed up by the emotional tales of the incidents these vicious monsters of the fresh waters inflicted on the residents of the Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions.
- 4.18 On 18 August 2017, the Samwaka family was attacked by a hippopotamus on a Canoe in the Mutwalwizi River. The attack left a father and his two-year old boy dead, and the mother survived by swimming across the crocodile-infested river with her baby clutched on her back.
- 4.19 Again, in the Zambezi and Kavango East, the low socio-economic situation of many rural women saw these people lose their lives as they frequented the riverside in search of reeds that grew by the riverside. These reeds held some market value in rural Zambezi and rural Kavango East, as traditional mats were meshed off them. The reeds still proved reliable in the construction of tough courtyards that enclosed many homesteads in rural Zambezi and rural Kavango East.
- 4.20 In the Kavango East Region, crocodile attacks saw the settlement of Kashila Kampenje of Ndiyona Constituency experience the loss of Mr Jose Mukuve's son, Maria Mungunda's grandchild and Valentino Kupepa's son.
- 4.21 Still in Ndiyona Constituency at //Kara Settlement, Ndango Shipapo's sister survived a hippopotamus attack while crossing the Kavango River on a dugout canoe.

- 4.22 The vicious herbivore tossed the dugout canoe on which Shipapo's sister had been sailing while fishing, and the girl was left airborne and to the mercy of the marauding riverine mammal.
- 4.23 The young lady was so lucky that when the incident unfolded, Angolan Police Officers were on the Angolan side of the banks of the river and a volley of bullets on the vicinity of the incident scared off the vicious water herbivore.
- 4.24 Incidents of this nature defined the vulnerability of residents in the riverine areas of the Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions.
- 4.25 Some forms of losses to human life came as a result of attacks human beings suffered from elephants that encroached upon villages especially during night times.
- 4.26 Most of the elephant attacks experienced in the Zambezi, the Kavango West, Kavango East, Kunene and the Erongo Regions were perpetrated on older people who were caught unaware as they gathered firewood, or used the thick thickets when nature called.
- 4.27 Some of the attacks were perpetrated at night as villagers walked from one settlement to the next, either after checking on indisposed relatives or in search of their wayward livestock.
- 4.28 For example, in the Omatjete, Johannes Mbinga's father was killed by an elephant and her body was found mutilated. Still in the same area, on 27 April 2017, Isai Rikondononee Upendura's cousin was killed by an elephant on his way from visiting relatives.
- 4.29 These incidents triggered the Omatjete community to tender a petition to the MET to have elephants removed from the Dauress Constituency.
- 4.30 The NGOs reacted to the call for the removal of elephants from certain places that it would defeat the purpose for why conservancies were introduced in the first place.
- 4.31 It was noted people of all the areas where conservancies had turned into a nightmare chose to have their areas turned into conservancies and no community was forced into it.
- 4.32 They felt it would be better if wildlife management through conservancies was to shift from committee based conservation to community based.
- 4.33 It was known conservancies would not alleviate poverty but they at least add value to the livelihood of many in such communities.

- 4.34 On the other hand, the MET reacted to the idea of removing elephants at the request of certain areas by pointing out that it would trigger a situation where all communities would make similar demands.
- 4.35 The ministry wondered how it could explain removal of elephants from one area and transport them to the next.
- 4.36 The Ministry was at a loss as to where the whole lot of financial resources required for the huge undertaking of transporting such gigantic mammals would come from.
- 4.37 It was asserted that the human-wildlife conflict just needed to be managed for the benefit of conservancies to be realised.
- 4.38 The nature of human-wildlife conflict cases of each area, including that of the Omatjete, just had to be examined for the determination of appropriate mitigation efforts.
- 4.39 The area of the Omatjete may need electrification, as it was badly lit during night and, therefore, nocturnal animals found it convenient to frequent communal water points under the cover of darkness.
- 4.40 It was further noted the introduction of the programme Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) was initiated by government.
- 4.41 The programme was meant to enhance community livelihood, employment creation, poverty reduction, rural development and even the general empowerment of people in rural Namibia.
- 4.42 The MET claimed it is this very programme that has led to, for instance, the birth of Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (KAZATFCA).
- 4.43 The ministry advised human-wildlife conflict was not a new phenomenon and it had been there since time immemorial.
- 4.44 The nation should just be so proud to see the attainment of community involvement in wild life management, and even the return of wildlife ownership and cultural heritage that has reached satisfactory levels in many parts of the country.
- 4.45 It is our time to learn how to cohabit with animals while mitigating the conflict associated with human-wildlife cohabitation.
- 4.46 It was, however, noted that there were no cases of losses to human life, or even loss of livestock, narrated by witnesses in the Ohangwena Region, except for diminished cases of crop invasions by herds of elephants, as herds descended on the region from the Kavango West Region.

- 4.47 This confirmed the observation by the MET and NGOs that cases of human-wildlife conflict were a common phenomenon in areas that were next to game parks.
- 4.48 Fewer cases of loss of human life began to surface again at the hearings held in Omuntele of the Oshikoto, and Otjozongombe of the Kunene Region.
- 4.49 Though there were no cases of losses to human life reported in the Oshana and Omusati, losses to private and public properties such as fences, water infrastructure, dams, crops, and livestock were a frequent phenomenon in all places of the public hearing.
- 4.50 The dismantling of fences and water infrastructure reached its tipping point in the Omusati and the Kunene regions.
- 4.51 A typical case in point is the evidence that was garnered at the Khorixas hearing where elephants stormed water tapes and drank water pumped in tanks. If no water was found in the dam, the infrastructure would then incur damages, as these areas proved to be the only sources of water for these animals.
- 4.52 A lot of money was spent on buying diesel for the generators, as the “Sesfonteiners” also provided water to elephants as if they now owned them.
- 4.53 The drought-stricken regions such as the Kunene and Opuwo have seen human-wildlife conflict intensify, as animals such as elephants sought for water, and even food, from residential areas.
- 4.54 Many of these people who perished left behind children that still needed parental care, and, therefore, their demise spelt out hardships for relatives who had to take over the roles of attending to these orphans.
- 4.55 This is a scenario many witnesses at the regions where hearings were conducted felt called for the establishment of a Fund that would cater for these vulnerable juveniles up to majority age where they could then be expected to fend for themselves.

5. Losses to Property

- 5.1 The loss to property was derived from the visited regions’ narrations of numerous attacks, which were perpetrated by wild animals on the livestock.
- 5.2 The losses still included the invasion of crop fields by elephants, wildebeests, buffaloes, kudus, hippopotamuses, porcupines, baboons, and monkeys.
- 5.3 These invasions of crop fields by the afore-mentioned class of herbivores, except for the hippopotamuses which were limited to the Zambezi and the two Kavango regions, were witnessed at most of the hearing sessions.

- 5.4 There were no cases of crop invasions at the hearings held at Sesfontein, Otjozongombe, Uis, Seringkop and Omatjete due to diminished practices of crop cultivation.
- 5.5 Furthermore, in these visited regions, elephants broke down fences, and knocked down water tanks meant to supply water to rural areas.
- 5.6 Cases of breaking down water infrastructure has become a common phenomenon in Khorixas, Otjozongombe and Uis where communal farmers are now adapting to the habit of providing water to elephants.
- 5.7 In Khorixas, Otjozongombe and Omatjete, elephants fed from the storage rooms where either animal feed (Lucerne) or the harvested grains were kept.
- 5.8 The MET and NGO such as NACSO and WWF explained that the invasions of homes for food was a consequence of lack of food in the forest and therefore these desperate animals smelt lucerne stored by residents for their domestic animals.
- 5.9 The human-wildlife conflict in Khorixas of the Kunene Region was further fueled by the manmade activities. The activities of commercial farmers in the upper parts of the //Huab River had hindered the flow of water to the lower lying areas where it was essential for the supply of water for the vegetation downstream.
- 5.10 It was specifically noted that the river originated in the Otjikondo area and the activities around the vicinity of Okorongo Lodge might have hindered the free flow of water to the lowlying areas.
- 5.11 This suspicion emanated from the fact that a dam was excavated in the middle of the river, and this had the possibility of weakening the flow of water to places like Monte Carlos Lodge, the Eersbegin Date Plantation, and the farms along the river.
- 5.12 Furthermore, the disturbed flow of water meant that the vegetation, springs and fountains that relied on its moisture dried up, and therefore, this could have diverted wildlife into nearby farms and communities.
- 5.13 It was noted that the MET needed an instruction from Parliament to formally launch investigation of the impact the dam constructed upstream might have caused to the flow of water downstream.
- 5.14 The vegetation has since dried up due to lack of water, and the elephants that relied on the riverine vegetation had now turned on the trees and shrubs in human territories.
- 5.15 Similarly, elephants in Uuvudhiya of the Oshana Region destroyed granaries in search of the millet ('mahangu' in local linguistic 'currency') that had already been harvested.

- 5.16 Furthermore, in the Nzinze Settlement of the Tondoro Constituency, an elephant charged a homestead and tossed over the food stuff that had been put up on a traditional ‘put-away’ structure.
- 5.17 A similar incident took place in the Uis Constituency of the Erongo Region where Tsiseb Conservancy-based elephants destroyed a lady’s house as they searched for food.
- 5.18 At the Okondombo settlement in Omatjete, elephants invaded Chris Muheua’s homestead and destroyed his N\$ 50,000.00 property he had built through the Bank Windhoek financier.
- 5.19 The Otjozongombe and Omatjete witnesses have had their freedom of movement restricted to their homesteads, and they disappeared into their houses just at dusk for fear of their new nemeses.
- 5.20 The witnesses at these two places, therefore, felt that they were under ‘siege’, and they needed assistance to have this ‘elephant-imposed curfew’ lifted. Witnesses in these two towns have very strong sentiments towards the elephants in the area, such “No More Elephants”

6. Losses to livestock

- 6.1 Just like human beings, herds of cattle, harems of horses, flocks of sheep and flocks goats were in some trouble, especially those that lived at riverine areas.
- 6.2 In the Zambezi, for instance, it was a culture to usher herds of cattle across rivers in search of pastures that were perceived plentiful across rivers.
- 6.3 It was during times like these ones where crocodiles swooped on hapless animals and their herders, as they lay vulnerable on the murky waters where the pecking order swung for the predator alone.
- 6.4 An incident worthy noting here is that of a calf that was snatched from the hands of a cattle header as they crossed the river in the Kabulabula area of the Zambezi Region.
- 6.5 On the other hand, attacks on the livestock in regions such as Kunene and the Erongo were perpetrated at night when domestic animals were on the pastures.
- 6.6 The tradition in these regions was such that herds of cattle, flocks of goats, herds of donkeys, harems of horses, and flocks of sheep grazed at night.
- 6.7 The ‘night grazing’ provided easy pickings for nocturnal animals of prey such as hyenas, leopards, jackals, caracals and lions.
- 6.8 The attacks on animals in the Kunene region required people to change the way they have been rearing their animals since time immemorial.

- 6.9 They should now graze their animals during the day, employ shepherds to attend to livestock during the day, and build tough enclosures and enclose their animals during night.
- 6.10 The livestock of the Kunene region was still exposed to attacks in situations where certain communal farmers (especially in Uis, and Omatjete of the Erongo, Sesfontein and Khorixas of the Kunene) used dog herders to tend to the flocks of sheep and goats.
- 6.11 Predators began by first attacking dogs and then freely swooped on the hapless flocks of goats and sheep.
- 6.12 In Khorixas, for example, human headers were easily 'set on the run' by the sight of all those prides of lions that had become plentiful.
- 6.13 The witnesses pleaded for a situation where these countless lions were shared by all nationals, as they had had enough of the havoc these vicious carnivores had been causing on their livestock.
- 6.14 The NGOs (NACSO and WWF) argued that hunting of game provided a balance to animal numbers, and further advised that sign post could be used to warn residents of the type of animals that frequent a given area.
- 6.15 Furthermore, in both the Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions, herds of cattle were also exposed to aquatic elements as they grazed on the ever green grass alongside the riverside estuaries.
- 6.16 Still, the livestock in these wetlands of the country fell prey to the riverine predators as they descended on the river to drink water.
- 6.17 Though there were no witnesses of animal losses in the hearing in Okongo of the Ohangwena, reports of livestock losses due to human-wildlife conflict intensified as the hearing continuum reached Omuntele in the Oshikoto Region.
- 6.18 The cases in point here were, for example, the livestock losses suffered by Raymond Kakonda of the Omunthele community, Abisai Petrus at Omutheu Ondjama Cattle Post, Titus Thomas at Okuma cattle post, and Sakeus Amutenya at the Otatashi cattle post.
- 6.19 In addition, at certain times, the animals of prey even entered kraals at night and inflicted detrimental attacks on livestock as they settled in their enclosures.
- 6.20 The case of Petrinah Tjauira of the Marrienhohe settlement in the Sesfontein Constituency still stands out here. Prides of lions charged on her kraal on numerous times.

- 6.21 The charges of these vicious animals on the kraals would see the herds break down the enclosure and then fell to the mercy of the vicious predators. These attacks dealt a heavy blow on her herd of cattle that once stood at 190, and, by the time of the hearing, this number had been reduced to just 13.

7. The Role of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

- 7.1 The majority of the witnesses expressed dissatisfaction with the intervention efforts that were made by staff members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (hence force MET) in response to the concerns of human-wildlife conflict.
- 7.2 The witnesses in all the regions that were visited narrated concerns involving delays by Game Rangers when it came to responding to violence perpetrated by wild animals on human beings.
- 7.3 Witnesses in these regions were startled by the quick response that followed the reports of violence perpetrated on animals by human beings.
- 7.4 The quick response offered to wild animals, when compared to human beings, was vehemently ridiculed by all hearings held in the Zambezi, Kavango East and the Otjozongombe of the Kunene Region.
- 7.5 This unfortunate eventuality was not made better by the fact that, at times, Game Rangers refused to put down animals that were known to be problematic despite the clear evidence of what the animal had done.
- 7.6 In the Kavango East Region, the delays by Game Rangers meant that villagers were compelled to search for their relatives who were snatched by crocodiles.
- 7.7 Many-a-times these reptiles would be located dragging or feasting on the remains of their loved ones.
- 7.8 The villagers would not be able to do anything to such animals other than just wrestle away the remains of their loved ones from their jaws.
- 7.9 Furthermore, in the case of attacks perpetrated by hyenas, lions, leopards, caracal, etc., the delays by the MET officials still meant that the evidence that could be provided by the presence of tracks, or paw prints, clearly distinguishable in the aftermath of the skirmishes, were lost.
- 7.10 The natural phenomena such as wind and rain could erase the tracks of wild animals that carried out the attack.
- 7.11 The loss of tracks, or paw prints, meant that losses to such attacks could not trigger the offset amount payable to owners of destroyed livestock, as proving such eventualities became a daunting task.

- 7.12 The sad situation emanating from the delays by the MET was still exacerbated by the fact that most of the rural subsistent farmers did not have guns to kill these predators.
- 7.13 In cases of attacks by crocodiles, for instance, the killing of the reptile by a farmer meant taking a risk of having to prove to the MET officials that the reptile killed was actually the one behind the demise of their loved one.
- 7.14 It was also deduced that the postponements of responses by the MET could be motivated by the perception that witnesses provoked these wild animals into attacking them.
- 7.15 The burden farmers experienced in trying to prove whether or not the killed predator was to blame for loss caused was still stressed by farmers at the Ndiyona hearing.
- 7.16 The Ndonga Linena farmer shot and killed two lions that had killed two of his horses, and the burden of proving whether or not the lions killed were indeed the ones responsible weighed heavily on him.
- 7.17 Cases that stood out in the Kavango East Region were those of the crocodile attacks that took place in the Kashila Kampenje settlement.
- 7.18 The tarried response by Nature Conservation officials meant that relatives took it upon themselves to search for their loved ones.
- 7.19 In the case of Mr Josef Mukuve's son, the reptile was found feasting on his son's remains, while nothing was found of the remains of Ms Maria Mungundu's grandchild.
- 7.20 The inability of the Ministry's officials to respond quickly, meant that the corpse of a grade 8 learner who was snatched by a crocodile at Nkinka Settlement in Kavango West Region could not be located.
- 7.21 Farmers, or those who suffered losses, especially in the Kunene, Zambezi Regions and the two Kavango regions, were often told by MET officials that the decision to put down problem animals could only be taken by the Minister in Windhoek.
- 7.22 The centralized decision of dealing with problem animals was coupled by many cases of nonresponsive Game Rangers who either responded way too late or did not turn up at all.
- 7.23 In particular, this kind of witness on the belated responses and the aloofness in general of MET officials was harvested from witnesses who hailed from areas such as Otjozongombe, Serinkop, Sesfontein, Khorixas, Kabulabula, Nchichimani, Sangwali, Choi, Kashila Kampenje, Ncara, Kahenge and Kapako.

- 7.24 A specific example of the MET officials' aloofness could be harvested from witness that was brought forward at the Omunthele hearing in the Oshikoto Region.
- 7.25 Hyenas attacked and killed some of Raynold Kakonda's livestock and, despite all his 'pleas for-help' with the MET officials, they still did not show up at the scene at all.
- 7.26 Another example could be extracted from the Kamanjab presentation in the Kunene Region. Prides of lions perpetrated a series of attacks on the cattle of Petrina Tjahura of Marriehohe over an elongated period, and in the current year alone, 30 of her heads have been killed by lions.
- 7.28 In the Ndiyona Constituency of the Kavango West Region, prides of lions wandered away from the fenceless Khaudom National Park to cause havoc in the settlements nearby.
- 7.29 It startled the residents in the areas such as Ndonga Linena, //Kara, Kashila Kampenje, Kashipo and the entire Ndiyona and Divundu areas in general, as to why the Khaudom National Park was not fenced like the Etosha National Park.
- 7.30 The wandering animals of prey also caused havoc in the Kavango West Region. Concerns of attacks on livestock by such wayward animals were also raised at both the Kahenge and Kapako public hearings by residents who came from areas such as Kahenge, Nzinze, Nkinka, Kamupupu, Matava and Kapako.
- 7.31 Most of the wild animals that caused mayhem in Kavango West came from the Mangeti Game Park.
- 7.32 The carnivores from the aforesaid national park, especially leopards, sneaked into animal enclosures and perpetrated attacks on flocks of goats and sheep. Packs of wild dogs caused mayhem to both herds of cattle and small livestock.
- 7.33 The Committee learnt, especially at the Kapako hearing, that the 'war' between these animals of prey and farmers of that vicinity continued relentlessly.
- 7.34 The farmers therefore wondered why such animals were not held away in parks encircled by mesh wire.
- 7.35 There were cases where Game Rangers failed to put down a problem animal and the victims themselves were told to find someone who could kill the animal.
- 7.36 A resident of Sangwali, for instance, was attacked and injured by a crocodile and all efforts by the MET to put it down, failed. The resident had to use his own initiative to ensnare the reptile, but still, even when trapped, the MET officials refused to kill the animal.
- 7.37 The victim survived the ordeal but was left maimed, and his incapacitation meant that he could not do anything to feed his family.

8. Compensation for Loss of Life and Property

- 8.1 A multitude of the witnesses who came forward to share their experiences of wildlife conflict were not satisfied with the compensation scheme that was underway, as per the national Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management of 2009.
- 8.2 In other words, the hearings proved that the policy received zero applause from all witnesses, and its dislike was the same as the hearing procession stretched away from the riverine areas of the Zambezi and those of the two Kavango Regions to the thick thickets and grassy and grassless sands of the Ohangwena Region.
- 8.3 Furthermore, the disgust of the 2009 policy even intensified as the public hearing procession reached the witnesses in the sinking valleys and the sloping terrains of the Oshana Region.
- 8.4 Its abhorrence by witnesses from the Oshana and the Kunene Regions owed to the fact that these regions were within the striking distance of the predators that found their way out of the Etosha National Park.
- 8.5 This sat well with the observation by the MET and NGOs (NACSO and WWF) who pointed out that human-wildlife conflict was prevalent in communities adjacent to game parks.
- 8.6 However, the intensity of the aversion to the policy began to dissipate as the public hearing procession reached the Ohangwena Region. This owed to the fact that there was no national park that would loosen its predators and herbivores on both the livestock and the crops of the region.
- 8.7 However, the witnesses that came forward from the greenery areas of the Omusati Region also queried the wisdom behind the creation of such an ‘unmerciful’ document.
- 8.8 The witnesses from the mountains and the rocky terrains of the Great Kunene even suggested that the policy was not a material worthy reading.
- 8.9 In particular, the witnesses at the Otjozongombe public hearing, openly stated their regret for having read such a document, which they felt was designed to exacerbate their impoverished lives by exterminating their livelihood.
- 8.10 The impact of human-wildlife conflict on impoverished communities resonated well with the argument by NACSO and WWF that conservancies were situated in areas of highest poverty and the problems were therefore compounded.
- 8.11 The idea of paying an offset fee of only N\$1, 500.00 for livestock was seen to be a consequence of lack of proper consultation from the side of those who were responsible for the policy’s advent.

- 8.12 The offset amounts were seen to be a joke in the face of the market value of most of the livestock referred to in the policy.
- 8.13 The case of Mr Adolf Muremi from Ndonga Linena Constituency provided the best example as regards the mismatch between the compensation amount and the actual purchasing prices of cattle heads.
- 8.14 A bull was bought from the commercial areas of Grootfontein at an amount of N\$ 40,000.00, and when the bull succumbed to an attack by a pride of lions, the owner received the offset amount of N\$ 1,500.00.
- 8.15 This dissatisfaction with the offset amount of N\$1,500.00 saw the NGOs (NACSO and WWF) point out that national efforts on wildlife protection would lose the support of communities.
- 8.16 They felt that conservancies should be contributing to poverty alleviation, other than exacerbating the phenomenon for which they were introduced to restrain.
- 8.17 The witnesses recommended that the compensation amounts be equated to the market value of the animal that had been lost.
- 8.18 The MET, however, advised that the market value compensation would not be possible, for government would not afford, and therefore the focus should not be on paying compensation but rather on preventing human-wildlife conflict.
- 8.19 The MET suggested mitigation efforts such as giving concessions to those living near game parks, for example by paying them for protecting their property.
- 8.20 The witnesses felt that the N\$ 5,000.00 paid for loss of life should be expanded to include the needs of those who might have lost a breadwinner as a result of human-wildlife conflict.
- 8.21 The MET confirmed that the 2009 policy was under review and the offset for loss of life in particular was earmarked to be raised to N\$ 100,000.00.
- 8.22 Grants could be established to continue supporting kids of the deceased in terms of tuition fees, hostel fees and this could go on until the child attained majority age.
- 8.23 The tusks (or ivory) of a problem elephant could be handed back to communities who would then sell it for compensation purposes.
- 8.24 Furthermore, the witnesses at all the regions visited felt that if a poached elephant could see the perpetrator stand the likelihood of being sentenced to a prison term of 25 years, or a fine of up to N\$25 million, it then made logical sense that life lost due to attacks by such animals was to be compensated proportionately.

- 8.25 In other words, if the maximum fine which one faced for poaching an elephant or a rhinoceros was N\$25 million, the compensation amount for loss of human life should as well be around the same range of N\$25 million.
- 8.26 It was still noted that foreigners in areas such as the Zambezi have also fallen victim to attacks by wild animals such as elephants, lions, hippopotamuses and crocodiles.
- 8.27 Many residents of the Zambezi have family genealogies that extended to neighboring countries such as Botswana and Zambia.
- 8.28 These relatives became part of the statistics as they visited their relatives in Namibia.
- 8.29 It was considered unfortunate that these people were not covered by the compensation that was meant to cover funeral expenses.
- 8.30 This sad situation remained the case even if these relatives had passports and used the recognised border crossings as they entered Namibia.

9. Compensation for Injuries Sustained

- 9.1 The current offset initiative, or so to say, compensation, scheme, did not include, in most cases, the injuries sustained by residents following an attack by a wild animal.
- 9.2 The injured persons would be left alone to fend for their medical expenses without any assistance from either the conservancy or the MET.
- 9.3 A situation in case were that of the two witnesses of Sangwali in the Zambezi and Ncara in Kavango West areas.
- 9.4 The Sangwali resident was attacked and injured by a crocodile, while the Ncara victim was attacked and maimed by a hippopotamus.
- 9.5 Both victims received no compensation despite a plethora of letters written to the MET to consider their predicament for compensation.
- 9.6 The Sangwali victim, in particular, even did letters to the office of the Honourable Governor of the Zambezi Region, but all what the communication won him was a call to the Honourable Governor's Office for interrogations on how it happened.
- 9.7 He specifically felt he needed compensation in monetary terms, as the injury he sustained was such that he could not do anything for himself and his family.
- 9.8 Some of the witnesses in the Zambezi, the Kunene, Erongo, Oshikoto and the two Kavango Regions who were attacked by elephants, lions and crocodiles were left disabled.

- 9.9 There were unfortunate incidents where limbs were hacked off by vicious animals like crocodiles, and the trauma associated with it all tormented victims with painful memories.
- 9.10 The lion attacked a person sleeping in his heart in the Omuntele's Epeke village and the victim was left to fend for his medical expenses up to the time he succumbed to the wounds sustained.
- 9.11 At certain times, witnesses did not sustain physical injuries but were left psychologically incapacitated and in need of counselling to cope with the resultant trauma.
- 9.12 Concerns of fears regarding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) were a worry at the public hearings of Sangwali in the Zambezi Region and Kahenge in the Kavango West Region.
- 9.13 In the same vein, Residents would be chased down by elephants, or elephants stormed their villages, leaving residents struggling to forego the image of the marauding huge herbivore.
- 9.14 There was no provision for compensation efforts made by the MET and the conservancies concerning the 'after effects' of human-wildlife conflict.
- 9.15 The residents who suffered PTSD needed counselling by professionals to help them come to terms with the 'after-effects' of their encounter with a wild animal.
- 9.16 A case in point is a Donga Linena mother who lost a child to a crocodile attack and the mother now feared going to the river.
- 9.17 Her fear of rivers was brought about by the fact that a glimpse of a river sees the demise of her daughter come rolling back to her memory, and this is the ghost that had haunted her for so many years.

10. Reactions to 'Compensation or Offset' Scheme

- 10.1 It was deduced that residents in the regions visited were not happy with the compensation, or offset, scheme that was currently pursued following loss of human life and damage to property.
- 10.2 In most cases, the compensation efforts were too low as the N\$ 5,000.00 could not even cover the funeral arrangements it was meant to cover.
- 10.3 Deliberations on whether or not the appropriate word was either 'compensation' or 'offset' took centre stage during the presentations of a number of witnesses, especially at the first hearing conducted in Bukalo, and the one conducted at Otjozongombe in the Opuwo Rural Constituency.

- 10.4 A perusal of the two words (compensation and offset) revealed that though they were synonymous (synonyms), offset was two barreled in its meaning, and it concurrently referred to ‘diminishing’ as well as ‘balancing’ the effect of an opposite one.
- 10.5 Compensation, on the other hand, merely referred to something given or received as an equivalent for loss, or injury, caused.
- 10.6 The monies paid to cover for losses suffered as wild animals swooped on crop fields could not help farmers recover the losses they incurred during ploughing.
- 10.7 On the other hand, the amounts paid to compensate for losses suffered in terms of attacks perpetrated on the livestock were not enough to help the farmer recover even the animal lost.
- 10.8 The MET vehemently indicated that the market value, as far compensation was concerned, was not a possibility due to huge financial resources government would require to live up to such an expectation.
- 10.9 The compensation in terms of attacks perpetrated on livestock and on crop fields also received opposition from the regions visited.
- 10.10 Only attacks carried out by lions were considered for compensation and those that were perpetrated by animals of prey such as hyenas, wild dogs, leopards, snakes, caracals, scorpions, baboons etc., were not considered for compensation at all.
- 10.11 A case that stood out here was that of Mr Ndango Shipapo’s uncle of the //Kharas area, who lost his life to a snake bite.
- 10.12 The victim’s family did not receive the N\$5, 000.00 compensation package as snake bites were not considered in the 2009 National Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management.
- 10.13 A grade 10 child was bitten by a snake at Kapako in 2014, and no compensation was entertained after the child’s death in hospital.
- 10.14 Gustav Tjiundukamba of the Opuwo Rural Constituency in the Otjozongombe area lost a sister to an attack by a zebra cobra, and she was the eleventh one of all those who had died from snake attacks in the area.
- 10.15 The case of Elizabeth of the Kapako settlement stands out too, as four of her cattle succumbed to snake attacks and she saw no compensation at all.
- 10.16 In the same vein, the case of Mr Adolf Muremi of the Ndonga Linena Conservancy in Kavango East Region still stood out here.
- 10.17 A bull was bought from the Grootfontein area at an amount of N\$ 30,000.00 and when this bull succumbed to a snake bite, his request for compensation could not

be entertained as snake bites were not provided for in terms any compensation on the current National Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management.

- 10.18 Furthermore, it was still observed that the livestock that were killed outside their enclosure were also not considered for compensation, as owners were blamed for being careless with their animals.
- 10.19 A case in point here is that of Abisai Petrus of the Omuntele's Omuther Ondjamba cattle post whose cattle and goats were attacked and killed in the pastures and could therefore not be compensated.
- 10.20 There was still no compensation in relation to livestock that wandered in the nearby national parks, as MET officials still considered it an element of negligence on the side of the farmer.
- 10.21 The compensation strategy was still frowned upon for the fact that animals that died of the wounds inflicted by predators were not compensated.
- 10.22 Mr Titus Thomas of the Okuma settlement was not compensated after one of his three oxen died of the wounds that were inflicted by lions, and the MET explained to him that his ox had to die in the grasp of a lion for him to be compensated.
- 10.23 The situation of the witnesses from Omunthele, Sesfontein, Otjozongombe, Kamanjab, Seringkop and Khorixas were exacerbated by the fact that the porous state of the Etosha National Park could not limit the activities of the predators within its confinements.
- 10.24 The situation was therefore sad for witnesses like Abisai Petrus of Omuthele's Omutheu Ondjamba cattle post situated just 15 KM away from the Etosha.
- 10.25 On the other hand, the compensation meant to cover for losses incurred during invasions on crop fields only included those carried out by elephants.
- 10.26 The invasions carried out by animals such as wildebeests, monkeys, baboons, warthogs, kudus, etc., were not included in the compensation package.
- 10.27 The MET also advised here that offset was only considered in relation to those wild animals against which residents had problems defending themselves.
- 10.28 Further opined that if every animal was considered for compensation or offset, it would mean that even mosquito bites that led to malaria would have to be considered and government could not afford such a far-fetched undertaking.

11. Extra Reactions to the Motion

- 11.1 The hearing sessions at the visited regions resulted into the gathering of conflicting ideas as far as the conservancy business was concerned.

- 11.2 For instance, some ideas harvested from the Mashi gathering were such that conservancies like Kwando, Mayuni, Sobbe and Mashi were not comprehensively a bad initiative.
- 11.3 The witnesses of Choi confirmed here that the proceeds from the Kwando Conservancy, for instance, had been used to buy transformers, and this had seen them electrify many centers in the vicinity of the conservancy.
- 11.4 The electrification undertaking was applauded by the MET and even suggested the same undertaking could be considered for Omatjete in the Dauress constituency where elephants had been causing mayhem especially during night.
- 11.5 The conservancies within Mashi had equally managed to make their contributions to compensation endeavours, as necessitated by the loss of human life due to human-wildlife conflict.
- 11.6 However, some of the Mashi and Ndiyona witnesses felt that the conservancy initiative suggested a complete change of mind in relation to the traditions to which Namibians were used.
- 11.7 The residents were expected to, all of a sudden, cohabit with animals. The Gciriku and Mashi Traditional Authorities in particular, expressed their dismay with the insinuation that their subjects in the conservancies within their charge were now expected to live with elephants.
- 11.8 It had never been a culture that elephants shared territories with human beings without the former causing damage to the crops, property and even causing loss of human life.
- 11.9 The traditional methods used to scare these monsters and see them on the run have ceased to work.
- 11.10 They boldly walk into settlements amid clamours set out by villagers and they leave devastating destruction in their path.
- 11.11 Crop farming in the current era of conservancies has resulted into extra burdensome activities for subsistence farmers, and harvesting in rural areas has become a daunting proposition.
- 11.12 Animals of the conservancies swarm fields and graze all plantations to the stalk, and many-a-times this would mean that such crop farmers would then have to wait for the next season for another 'go-at-it'.
- 11.13 The poor crop farmers in rural areas are forced to stay all night long in their endeavour to keep these plundering mammals at bay.

- 11.14 Some witnesses in visited regions indicated that they had failed to see any benefits from conservancies.
- 11.15 The public hearing at Bukalo suggested that conservancies saw many animals from neighboring countries such as Botswana flock into Namibia to cause mayhem.
- 11.16 The public hearings at places such as Ndiyona, Khorixas, Nchincimani, Otjozongombe, and Seringkop showed a strong conviction that these entities have made a great deal of contribution to the level of poverty experienced in some parts of Namibia.
- 11.17 The Mafwe Traditional Authority, the reverend witness at Kapako, the Khorixas public hearing, the Otjozongombe and Seringkop hearing felt that animals and human beings have swapped positions, and animals have become more important than the human race.
- 11.18 The conservancies have so far failed to live up to their expectations.
- 11.19 If people were to be shown how they could ‘eat’ from it all, the whole country would be surprised how the majority would buy into this whole conservancy undertaking.

12. The Benchmark/Comparative study

- 12.1 The Committee extended its investigations to the Parliaments of Tanzania and that of Zimbabwe to benchmark on the best practices of mitigating human-wildlife conflict, so as to enhance cohabitation between human beings and wild animals.
- 12.2 In the two countries, the Committee met delegates from the Ministry of Natural Resources, WWF (Tanzania), and in Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Environment, which included the PS, and Zimpark.

13. Human-Wildlife Conflict

- 13.1 The visit to Tanzania and Zimbabwe confirmed that the human-wildlife conflict phenomenon was not unique to Namibia.
- 13.2 Tanzania has game controlled areas (parks) and ‘open areas’ or communal areas, and Zimbabwe has game parks and “campfires”, an equivalence to conservancies in Namibia.
- 13.3 The different terminologies referred to exactly the same thing, which culminated to either areas designated for game (parks) or areas meant for communal purposes where animals and people cohabited.
- 13.4 Just like in Namibia, the conflict was a common phenomenon in the two countries and was perpetrated by animals such elephants, buffaloes, hippopotamuses, lions,

hyenas, leopards, snakes, baboons, etc, and the impact of the phenomenon was quite traumatic on farmers, and ordinary citizens in remote areas.

- 13.5 The causes for human-wildlife conflict emanated from competition for resources, and transformation for land uses, which resulted in the decrease in wildlife habitats due to population increase.
- 13.6 The causes still included natural factors such as drought, bushfires, climate change, seasonal modification, food preferences, migration patterns, predation and food palatability. In Zimbabwe, the number of animals in areas such as Luange, the Zambezi valley and the Limpopo had risen to above the normal carrying capacity.
- 13.7 This has in return been complemented by the number of human beings that has also risen leading to lack of space, and, therefore, make human-wildlife conflict an inevitable reality.
- 13.8 Just like in some parts of Namibia, parks in Zimbabwe are found in semi-arid regions where rainfall received was way too low. It was noted that since there was no supplementary food for animals, competition for resources between human beings and animals would then erupt.

14. Mitigating Efforts

- 14.1 Tanzania has made tremendous strides in its attempts to mitigate the scourge of human-wildlife conflict and different organisations (governmental and NGOs) were involved.
- 14.2 Though mitigation efforts were not a rarity in Zimbabwe, a great deal of it was carried out by different organisations (NGOs like Zimpark), while government assumed more of a supervisory role.
- 14.3 The mitigating efforts in Tanzania came in so many shapes and included traditional methods such as drum beating, lighting of fire, disturbance shooting by government officials and the destruction of problem animals also by government officials.
- 14.4 Furthermore, the mitigating efforts in Tanzania have embraced nonconventional methods that have equally received greater support from the government.
- 14.5 These methods include unmanned drones, buzzing bee sounds, chilli plantation, and collaring of “habitual riders”.
- 14.6 The unmanned drones were equipped with a ‘thermometer’ that would detect the presence of both human beings and animals. Information would be transmitted from these drones to the tower in real time, and then the Game Rangers would quickly respond appropriately.
- 14.7 The drone technology was also used to detect and deter poaching.

- 14.8 The collar around the necks of “habitual riders”, which were usually matriarchs or female elephants, helped to monitor elephant movement in areas where human-wildlife conflict rate was high and where UAVs (unmanned drones) were deployed.
- 14.9 The collars were attached to targeted matriarchs or known crop-raiders to ensure that the collar to represented the herd.
- 14.10 The collars were equipped with GPS and iridium satellite technology to collect hourly position fixes on the position of each collar, and receive them over the cloud to both analyse movement data and respond proactively to conflict situations.
- 14.11 Under trial in Tanzania, is the Remote Camera Sensor Data, which are cryptic camera traps.
- 14.12 These camera traps, also called TrailGuard, which would be placed along known wildlife routes outside the park to screen images for problem animals such as elephants, carnivores, and hippopotamuses. If the camera detects one of these species, the image will be sent via GSM to SGF and TAWA so that they may deploy rangers proactively.
- 14.13 The bee hives planted around a cultivated area would be inhabited with either stinging bees or stingless ones, and the buzzing sounds by the stingless bees were enough to set elephants on the run. Chilli plantations are planted around the farm, and government supports farmers to ensure that the chilli has a market.
- 14.14 Farmers have been provided with grinders to ensure that the chilli is harvested and sold mostly to restaurant owners and lodges around the country.
- 14.15 In Zimbabwe, the use of chilli guns as a mitigating mechanism has become a common phenomenon. Chilli guns are a local innovation that fires like a gun and sprays highly hot chilli.
- 14.16 Tanzania has established Community Based Organisations (CBO) which are trained to train community members in mitigating efforts.
- 14.17 Communities are advised to use “chain-ling” to construct enclosures to keep animals of prey at bay.
- 14.18 The communities are highly sensitised through relentless awareness programmes, especially in areas where human-wildlife conflicts are quite frequent.
- 14.20 Other mitigation efforts, include regular harvest of animals if cases of attacks on human beings increased as a result of an increase in animal population.

15. Compensation

- 15.1 The term used in Tanzania is “consolation” and not “compensation” as compensation was an unfathomable possibility, and it was handled by government exclusively.
- 15.2 The government of Tanzania handled consolation efforts on its own despite the fact that organisation such as the Gurumeti Fund made a lot of money. A specified amount of money maybe paid for a loss suffered or injury incurred as a result of human-wildlife conflict.
- 15.3 In Zimbabwe, compensation was not talked about and everything was left for local authorities to handle through campfire.
- 15.4 Compensation efforts in Zimbabwe were not at individual level, but in case of loss of human life, funeral would be covered by the campfire fund.
- 15.5 However, the absence of a national policy in the country has seen other victims of human wildlife conflict feel that animals do not belong to them but to the government.
- 15.6 The Government of Tanzania introduced a consolation scheme and spelt out animals that would be considered when the need for consolation became a reality.
- 15.7 The ability to deal with a given species by residents automatically removed such a species from the conflict list. Therefore, perpetrators such as monkeys, birds, bush pigs, monkeys, baboons, jackals, etc, were not considered in the consolation scheme, as they could easily be dealt with by residents themselves.
- 15.8 In relation to crops, only 1 to 5 acres was considered for consolation, and this implies that the destruction that does amount to 1 acre and that which amounts to more than 5 acres were not considered for consolation.

16. Key Findings

- 16.1 In the Zambezi and the two Kavango Regions, issues involving loss of human life were almost indistinguishable in terms of the contexts, the agents of violence and the fashion in which the violence on human beings took place.
- 16.2 Motives that put residents into harm’s way originated from the insufficiency of food sources and other services such as potable water. People descended on rivers to access water for consumption also for food sources such as fish and some consumable water lilies.
- 16.3 Again in the Zambezi and Kavango regions, lack of recreational facilities meant that people took chances and swam in crocodile-infested rivers.

- 16.4 Crocodiles and hippopotamuses attacks were quite frequent in the Zambezi and in the Kavango East regions.
- 16.5 Again in the Zambezi and Kavango regions, low-socio-economic situation of many rural women saw these people lose their lives as they frequented the riverside in search of reeds that grew by the riverside.
- 16.6 Some forms of losses to human life came about as a result of attacks human beings suffered from elephants that encroached upon villages especially during night.
- 16.7 Elephant attacks were so horrific that the Omatjete community was triggered into submitting a petition to the MET to have elephants removed from the Daures Constituency.
- 16.8 Wildlife management through conservancies should be shifted from committee action to community based conservation, as they are meant to add value to communities as a whole than to individuals.
- 16.9 The area of the Omatjete may need electrification, as it was badly lit during night and, therefore, nocturnal animals found it convenient to frequent communal water points under the cover of darkness.
- 16.10 The CBNRM was meant to enhance community livelihood, employment creation, poverty reduction, rural development and even the general empowerment of people in rural Namibia.
- 16.11 Dismantling of fences and water infrastructure reached its tipping point in the Omusati and the Kunene regions.
- 16.12 Losses to property resulted from invasions of crops fields by elephants, wildebeests, buffaloes, kudus, hippopotamuses, porcupines, baboons and monkeys.
- 16.13 In Khorixas, Otjozongombe and Oatjete elephants fed from the storage rooms where either livestock feed (Lucerne) or the harvested grains were kept.
- 16.14 The activities of commercial farmers at the upper parts of the //Huab River hindered the flow of water to the lower lying areas where the vegetation downstream relied on its provision of water.
- 16.15 The MET needed an instruction from parliament to formally launch investigation of the impact the dam constructed upstream might have caused to the flow of water downstream.
- 16.16 The Otjozongombe and Omatjete witnesses have had their freedom of movement restricted to their homesteads, and they disappeared into their houses just at dusk for fear of their new nemeses.

- 16.17 The 'night grazing' of livestock in some regions provided easy pickings for nocturnal animals of prey such as hyenas, leopards, jackals, caracals and lions.
- 16.18 The majority of the witnesses expressed dissatisfaction with the intervention efforts that were made by staff members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (hence force MET) in response to the concerns of human-wildlife conflict.
- 16.19 The quick response offered to wild animals, when compared to human beings, was vehemently ridiculed by all hearings held in the Zambezi, Kavango East and the Otjozongombe of the Kunene Region.
- 16.20 In the case of attacks perpetrated by hyenas, lions, leopards, caracal, etc., the delays by the MET officials meant that the evidence that could be provided by the presence of tracks, or paw prints, clearly distinguishable in the aftermath of the skirmishes, were lost.
- 16.21 The loss of tracks, or paw prints, meant that losses to such attacks could not trigger the offset amount payable to owners of destroyed livestock, as proving such eventualities became a daunting task.
- 16.22 The loss of tracks, or paw prints, meant that losses to attacks could not trigger the offset amount payable to owners of destroyed livestock, as proving such eventualities became a daunting task.
- 16.23 The sad situation emanating from the delays by the MET was still exacerbated by the fact that most of the rural subsistent farmers did not have guns to kill these predators.
- 16.24 It was also deduced that the postponements of responses by the MET were motivated by the perception that witnesses provoked these wild animals into attacking them.
- 16.25 Farmers, or those who suffered losses, especially in the Kunene, Zambezi and the two Kavango regions, were often told by MET officials that the decision to put down problem animals could only be taken by the Minister in Windhoek.
- 16.26 In the Ndiyona Constituency of the Kavango West Region, prides of lions wandered away from the fenceless Khaudom National Park to cause havoc in the settlements nearby.
- 16.27 It startled the residents in the areas such as Ndonga Linena, //Kara, Kashila Kampenje, Kashipo and the entire Ndiyona and Divundu areas in general, as to why the Khaudom National Park was not fenced like the Etosha National Park.
- 16.28 A multitude of the witnesses who came forward to share their experiences of wildlife conflict were not satisfied with the compensation scheme that was underway, as per the national Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management of

2009. (*see page 15*)

16.29 The current offset initiative, or so to say, compensation, scheme, did not include, in most cases, the injuries sustained by residents following an attack by a wild animal. (*see page 17*)

16.30 The residents who suffered PTSD needed counselling by professionals to help them come to terms with the ‘after-effects’ of their encounter with a wild animal.

17. Benchmark findings in Tanzania and Zimbabwe

17.1 The mitigation effort in Namibia were completely dwarfed by those of Tanzania where more conventional mechanisms such as drones, elephant collars, towers, chilli plantations, and good land management practices have been incorporated in the fight.

17.2 The unmanned drones were equipped with a ‘thermometer’ that would detect the presence of both human beings and animals. Information would be transmitted from these drones to the tower in real time, and then the Game Rangers would quickly respond appropriately.

17.3 The collar around the necks of “habitual riders”, which were usually matriarchs or female elephants, helped to monitor elephant movement in areas where human-wildlife conflict rate was high and where UAVs (unmanned drones) were deployed.

17.4 Camera traps, also called TrailGuard, were placed along known wildlife routes outside the park to screen images for problem animals such as elephants, carnivores, and hippopotamuses. If the camera detects one of these species, the image will be sent via GSM to SGF and TAWA so that they may deploy rangers proactively.

17.5 The bee hives planted around a cultivated area were inhabited with either stinging bees or stingless ones, and the buzzing sounds by the bees were enough to set elephants on the run. Chilli plantations were planted around the farm, and government supports farmers to ensure that the chilli has a market.

17.6 Farmers have been provided with grinders to ensure that the chilli is harvested and sold mostly to restaurant owners and lodges around the country.

17.7 In Zimbabwe, the use of chilli guns as a mitigating mechanism has become a common phenomenon. Chilli guns are a local innovation that fires like a gun and sprays highly hot chilli.

17.8 The communities are highly sensitised through relentless awareness programmes, especially in areas where human-wildlife conflicts are quite frequent.

- 17.9 The term used in Tanzania is “consolation” and not “compensation” as compensation was an unfathomable possibility, due to huge financial resources it would require.
- 17.10 The government of Tanzania handled consolation efforts on its own despite the fact that organisation such as the Gurumeti Fund made a lot of money. A specified amount of money maybe paid for a loss suffered or injury incurred as a result of human-wildlife conflict.
- 17.11 Compensation efforts in Zimbabwe were not at individual level, but in case of loss of human life, funeral would be covered by the campfire fund.
- 17.12 The Government of Tanzania introduced a consolation scheme and spelt out animals that would be considered when the need for consolation became a reality.
- 17.13 The ability to deal with a given species by residents automatically removed such a species from the conflict list. Therefore, perpetrators such as monkeys, birds, bush pigs, baboons, jackals, etc, were not considered in the consolation scheme, as they could easily be dealt with by residents themselves.
- 17.14 In relation to crops, only 1 to 5 acres were considered for consolation, and this implies that the destruction that does amount to 1 acre and that which amounts to more than 5 acres were not considered for consolation.

18. Conclusion

- 18.1 It was realised that cases of loss to human life were limited to certain localities where the big population of wildlife as a result of national parks, conservancies, and water sources such as rivers and dams were in abundance.
- 18.2 On the other hand, the loss to properties such as crop fields, water infrastructure, fences and houses almost covered all regions where hearings were conducted.
- 18.3 The current compensation scheme in relation to the current National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management of 2009 was overwhelmingly scoffed at by all witnesses in all the places where hearing sessions were run.
- 18.4 Compensation challenges were not a phenomenon unique to Namibia but even in other jurisdictions such as Tanzania and Zimbabwe;

- 18.5 Unconventional mitigating methods were not part of the traditional mitigating efforts used in Namibia.

19 Recommendations

Compensation in Relation to Livestock attacked

- 19.1 All compensation should encompass calves, heifers, cows, bulls and oxen, and the offset amounts were established as follows:

19.1.1 Cow (low quality breeds) = N\$8,000

19.1.2 Bulls (low quality breeds) = N\$10,000

19.1.3 Goat (high quality) = N\$ 2,000

19.1.4 Pig = N\$2,000

19.1.5 Donkey = N\$1,500

19.1.6 Calf (0-6 months) = N\$1,000

19.1.7 Calf (6-12 months) = N\$2,500

19.1.7 Cow (best breeds) = N\$15,000

19.1.8 Bull (best breeds) = N\$20, 000 to 25, 000

19.1.9 Sheep = N\$2,200

19.1.10 Goat (low quality breed) = N\$1,000

19.1.11 Horse = N\$5,000

- 19.2 The compensation value should be determined by the Meat Board of Namibia, and market value should be taken into consideration;

- 19.3 Compensation should be inclusive of all places where such cases occur, that is, either in the kraal or anywhere on the grazing areas;

- 19.4 Registered bulls' compensation should be different from that of the ordinary ones;

Compensation in Relation to Loss of Human Life and Injuries Sustained

- 19.5 Consider all age groups in all compensation efforts;

- 19.6 An amount of N\$10, 000.00 paid for funeral arrangements, and N\$500,000 for death compensation; N\$50,000 for injuries sustained;
- 19.7 Introduction of a Trust Fund that would take care of all losses incurred due to human-wildlife conflict;
- 19.8 Effect, therefore, allowances of N\$500 for kids and N\$1000 for school going ones per month;
- 19.9 The grant payments to continue up to the age of 21 years;

Compensation in Relation to Crops

- 19.10 An amount of more than N\$1, 500 per quarter of a hector;
- 19.11 An amount of N\$6,000 per hector;
- 19.12 An amount that would help with the recovery of all what had been spent on the endeavour;

Recommendations to MET to Mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict

- 19.13 Quicker response to human-wildlife conflict concerns;
- 19.14 Responses to loss of human life and injuries carried out on helicopters;
- 19.15 MET officers should link up with local structures like farmers' associations in all mitigation efforts;
- 19.16 The MET should spearhead relentless awareness campaigns regarding HWC;
- 19.17 Communal land should be demarcated into conservancies and grazing areas;
- 19.18 Definite areas be determined for conservancies and for residential purposes;
- 19.19 An assessment of the fence to be carried out at certain times of the year to ensure that the fences of national parks were not porous;
- 19.20 Fence off animal territories to separate them from human beings;
- 19.21 Electrify the Omatjete area to provide lighting to the residents;
- 19.22 Remove the blockade of the Huab River to allow the flow of water to the lower lying areas of Khorixas;
- 19.23 That Parliament establish a committee to investigate (in conjunction with the MET) the supposed blocking of the //Huab River.

- 19.24 Reduce the number of animals to a manageable level;
- 19.25 Adopt unconventional methods such as unmanned drones and elephant collars to alert farmers of the animals of prey that would have left a national park;
- 19.26 Train residents on the use of unconventional mitigating methods such as chili plantations, chili guns, stinging and stingless bees;
- 19.27 Build animal water infrastructure in drought prone areas to quell the conflict between people and animals;

This report was adopted by the Standing Committee on Habitat on 27 November 2017 at 16h09 at its meeting held in the Blue Room, National Council Building.

Hon. Sipapela C. Sipapela Chairperson	(Signed)
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Hon. Betty B. Kaula Vice-Chairperson	(Signed)
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Hon. Lukas Muha Member	(Signed)
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Hlon. Weich Mupya Member	(Signed)
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Hon. Laina Mekundi	(Signed)
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Hon. Simon Dukeleni	(Signed)
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