

REPORT OF THE



Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources on its oversight visits on Rural Water Supply, Community Based Conservancies and Open Mining Pits to the Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Regions

26 February 2022 – 26 March 2022



May 2022

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The objectives of the visit were threefold, first to afford Members of the Committee the opportunity to gain clear understanding on the operations, management and key challenges of the community-based conservancies projects as economic empowerment tool meant to create self -employment, alleviate poverty and promote self-sustainable economic development of local population. Secondly, was to seek clarity on the challenges encountered and successes achieved in providing portable water in remote areas. Lastly, assess impact on environmental health risks of open mining pits in Daures and Karibib constituencies respectively.

MEMBER DELEGATION

1. Hon Ndjago Melania – Chairperson of Committee
2. Hon Elder Filipe – Vice Chairperson
3. Hon !Haoseb J Kennedy - MP
4. Hon Gaoseb Richard - MP
5. Hon Mbangu Paulus - MP
6. Hon Motinga Nicodemus - MP

SECRETARIAT

1. Mr. Norbert Uuyuni – Senior Parliamentary Clerk
2. Mr. Immanuel Kooper – Chief Information Officer

ABBREVIATIONS

EIF	Environmental Investment Fund
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
EPL	Exclusive Prospecting License
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
NILALEG	Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihood and Environmental Governance

1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of Rule 159 (1) of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders (as amended), the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources is mandated “to deal with questions falling within the ambit of Offices, Ministries, Agencies and Public Enterprises dealing with agriculture, land, water, environment, forestry, tourism, mines, energy, and marine resources”

- (2) To promote adequate food security;
- (3) To inquire into matters that may affect the natural resources;
- (4) To promote sustainable utilization of natural resources;
- (5) To promote the protection and conservation of the environment;
- (6) To promote a fair distribution of farming land and productive utilization thereof;
- (7) To monitor budget implementation of Offices, Ministries and Agencies falling within the Standing Committee’s ambit;
- (8) To monitor the implementation of the decentralization process on matters falling within the ambit of the Standing Committee; and
- (9) To perform any other function as may be referred to it by the Council.

In line with the mandate of the National Council and its strategic vision and mission for the period 2017 to 2022, the National Council has identified Good Governance as one of its strategic themes upon which the strategic objective of “increased oversight role” is anchored. Through this strategic objective, the National Council is aiming toward overseeing more governmental programmes to determine their impact toward achieving prosperity for all.

The Committee held a briefing meeting on 25 February 2022 with technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform on the successes achieved and challenges encountered in providing portable water in remote areas. At the end of the oversight visits to selected regions, the Committee was further supposed to be briefed by the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources on the operations, management, and key challenges of the Community-Based Conservancies’ projects.

The Committee visited Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Oshana, and Oshikoto, Omusati and Kunene Regions for Community Based Conservancies and the provision of potable water in remote areas. The Committee further visited the Daures and Karibib constituencies in Erongo region to ascertain itself with any environmental health risks of open mining pits.

2. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

- Assess the operations, management and key challenges of the Community-Based Conservancies' projects as economic empowerment tool meant to create self - employment, alleviate poverty and promote self-sustainable economic development of the local population.
- Assess the successes and challenges encountered in the provision of potable water in remote areas.
- Assess the environmental health risks posed by open mining pits in Daures and Karibib constituencies respectively.
- Engage Officials from the Ministry Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and inspect selected water points.
- Engage Officials from the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources and inspect tourism joint venture agreement between private lodges and Community-Based Conservancies.

3. METHODOLOGY

The oversight visits began with courtesy calls on the Office of the Honourable Governors where possible, followed by an engagement with Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources and proceeded to selected Community-Based Conservancies. The radio and television media were used to alert communities of the purpose of the Committee's visit in each respective region. The Committee engaged Officials from Regional Councils, Directorate of Rural Water Supply and the process continued to the rest of the selected regions. Quick fire questions were used to trigger responses from participants, and a pencil and paper technique was used to record data.

4. ZAMBEZI REGION

The Honourable Governor informed the Parliamentarians that the region was blessed with adequate water resources, surrounded by rivers, but there was no single irrigation project. The Governor could only cite the Kalimbeza Rice Project that was poorly funded, and appealed for more budget allocation to agricultural activities in the region.

The Governor complained that it was hard to comprehend that people so close to the river had dry taps. People in the region competed with crocodiles over water resources, and the Governor called for more budget allocation for the supply of water. He further revealed that the Zambezi Regions had about sixteen (16) conservancies in proximity to the Victoria Falls and appealed to the Parliamentarians to put Namibia on the map.

4.1 VISIT TO THE SALAMBALA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY

The Committee visited Salambala conservancy and members were provided with the historical background. It was established in 1998 and was the first and biggest of all the conservancies in the Zambezi Region with the size of 930 hectares. It has a total population of eleven thousand (11000) registered members all benefiting from the conservancy. The economic activities of the conservancy boosted an annual turnover of N\$ 2.2 million, and half of the annual income covered operational costs.

The Committee was further provided with the list of wild animals to be found in the conservancy, and those ranged from elephants, buffalos, kudus, wild beast, giraffes, hippos, and zebras and the list ended with different types of birds.

INCOME GENERATION

The Salambala derives its main income from:

- Chobe River Lodge through joint ventures;
- Trophy hunting – allocation of quotas;
- Renting out its former community hostel to private lodgers;

ACHIEVEMENTS-CAPITAL PROJECTS

- The conservancy assisted Sub-head Kutas with construction of concrete houses and further bought furniture for them.
- Construction of Community hostel – decommissioned to guest house
- Construction of gravel roads to villages within the proximity of the conservancies.
- Construction of its modern office block.
- Bought bicycles for 22 game guards, riffles and protecting clothes for the rangers to patrol and safeguard the community conservancy.
- Assisting members to buy school stationaries.
- And assist their members financially in case of death and during serious illness.

CHALLENGES

Surrounding community members continued with the illegal construction of houses and farming in core- restricted areas, and the matter to evict illegal settlers from the core area was before the courts.

Other challenges include the following:

- Poaching remains a challenge – syndicate of local poachers conniving with foreign poachers.
- Water scarcity during the dry season remains a challenge in the core area – members are forced to draw water from traditional wells.
- Buying diesel for water pumping machines.
- Professional hunters not able to finish their allocated quotas due to covid-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strong call for Ministry of Environment and Tourism to review its Off-set Policy and improve the current processes of processing claims for affected community members.

4.2 VISIT TO THE MASHI COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY

The Committee met with Mashi conservancy members and was provided with the historical background. It was established in 2003 and was the sixteenth and the last of all the conservancies in the Zambezi region with the size of 93 km².

SOURCE OF INCOME

Mashi conservancy income is generated through trophy hunting and tourism joint venture agreement with the following stakeholders:

- Namushasha River Lodge
- Kazile Tent Lodge
- Camp Kwando
- Majuve Camp Site
- Kazondwe Camp

Meat from trophy hunting is shared with all registered members.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS ANNUALLY

- Funeral cover of N\$ 3000 to each registered member
- Cash incentives of N\$ 5000 to Chinchimane
- Cash incentives of N\$ 10 000 to four schools
- Cash incentives of N\$ 5000 to Village Development Committee
- Cash incentives of N\$ 15000 to Sub-Khutas
- Cash incentives of N\$ 4000 to local Churches
- Sponsorship of N\$ 25000 to the Youth
- Sponsorship of N\$ 100 000 to tertiary education students
- Sponsorship of N\$ 20 000 to four (4) kindergartens

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of cutline for wildlife monitoring through conducting patrols.
- Provision of potable water to wildlife and the community members.
- Rural electrification to Lubuta, Sachona and Lubata School Block.
- Mitigation of human wildlife conflict by erecting tin fence and crocodile fence.

CHALLENGES

- Less allocation of hunting quotas
- Less income from Tourism joint venture agreement due to covid-19.
- Emerging of new Sub-Khutas fighting for recognition, putting financial burden to the conservancy.

4.3 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION IN ZAMBEZI REGION

The presentation covers achievements and challenges for the period of April 2021 to date or at the time of the visit and further included past activities and future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Drilling of boreholes at different seven (7) locations.
- Rehabilitation of water points at fifteen (15) locations.
- Mechanical repairs carried out were twenty-two (22), civil repairs were twenty three (23)

CHALLENGES

- Aging fleet – vehicles are more in garages than at the office.
- Limited budget allocation for the Directorate.
- Lack of materials to maintain boreholes remains big challenge for the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Augmentation of Regional Budget allocation.
- The Annual Procurement Plan should be implemented at the beginning of the financial year for the Directorate to acquire materials for the maintenance of boreholes on time.

4.4 VISIT TO WATER POINTS IN SIBBINDA CONSTITUENCY

The Committee met with Sibbinda community members under the leadership of the Constituency Councilor. Honourable Lukaezi briefed the Committee on the water status quo in the Sibinda Constituency, which is a landlocked area and residents drew water from Namwater pipeline from Katima Mulilo. Some of the boreholes that were drilled and installed by government have dried up or broken, and Constituency Office was without water at the time of visit.



The picture above depicts vandalized and dilapidated water infrastructures in Sibbinda constituency, Zambezi region

5. KAVANGO EAST REGION

5.1 VISIT TO JOSEPH MBAMBANGANDU CONSERVANCY

The Committee met with Joseph Mbambangandu community members and was informed that the conservancy was established and gazetted in 2004, and was the first ever to be gazetted in Kavango Region then. Although Joseph Mbambangandu conservancy was gazetted as a conservancy and due to limited income generating activities it was integrated with a Fisheries Reserve to help conserve and boost the dwindling fish stock in terms of quantity and quality. The Committee's conclusion was that Joseph Mbambangandu was more of a Fisheries Reserve protected area and fell short off Committee Terms of Reference.

5.2 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF KAVANGO EAST REGION

The presentation covered achievements, recommendations, and challenges for the period of April 2021 to date or at time of the visit and further included past activities and future activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Thirty-five (35) boreholes have been drilled;
- Twenty-eight (28) boreholes were installed;
- Rehabilitated Thirty (35) water points/borehole;

- Constructed five (5) short pipelines;
- Responded to 141 water point repair requests during the current financial year;
- In total, the region had 277 active water points.

CHALLENGES

- Drying up some drilled boreholes;
- Drilled boreholes water not suitable for human and animal consumption
- Less funds allocated to the region;
- Aging fleet-hampering service delivery;
- Lack of new water tanker for the region;

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase regional budget for the installation of the remaining 15 boreholes;
- The Ministry should avail or purchase new fleet to replace the aging fleet;



The picture above depicts a recent drilled water borehole in Rundu Rural constituency, Kavango East region

6. KAVANGO WEST REGION

In her welcoming remarks, the Honourable Governor informed the Standing Committee that Kavango West region is a new region and was 99% percent rural. She further revealed that the means of livelihood in her region is rain fed subsistence farming, with two green schemes, namely Sikondo and Musese. Sikondo is made up of Small-Scale Farmers and Musese is

privately owned. Poverty remains high in the region, and was most predominant among the youth.

The Committee was informed that the provision of potable water remains a key challenge in Kavango West as communities that are highly depended on the river. The region consisted of 278 functional water points. She further called for the construction of national water pipeline along the main road to supply potable water to community members. She reminded the Committee that thirty years after independence, there were about forty (40) villages in the Mpungu Constituency without potable water and depended on traditional wells.

In her closing remarks, she revealed that Recon Africa, the oil drilling company in both regions, was called upon to assist with the drilling and installation of boreholes and the company responded positively. Several boreholes were drilled and handed over to communities and the process was still ongoing.

6.1 VISIT TO MAURUS NEKARO CONSERVANCY

The Committee was provided with the information that the conservancy was established in 2018 and gazetted in 2020 and was named after the late Honourable Governor Maurus Nekaro of the then Kavango Region. The conservancy covers about 108 hectares and is home to various species, elephants, hippos, crocodiles, and other small species.

INCOME GENERATION

- Trophy hunting – Agreement signed with professional hunters to hunt elephants, hippos, and crocodiles.
- Off-set payments of N\$ 60 000 received from MET

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of a small office block with assistance from Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and the American Embassy.
- Installation of electricity in the office block using own / conservancy funds.
- Installation of water- bought water pipes to supply water to surrounding villages
- Ring fence off four conservancy boreholes sponsored by the American Embassy

CHALLENGES

- Incident's investigation takes too long and the game guards were not trained to conduct investigation and officials from MET took too long to finalize cases.

- Human wildlife conflict remained a challenge within the region.



The picture above depicts the Maurus Nekaro conservancy office block in Kavango West region

6.2 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF KAVANGO WEST REGION

The Acting Head of Water Rural Supply for Kavango West Region provided the Committee with historical back ground of water provision in the region. Kavango West Region highly depended on the river for survival for both consumption and production, and that there are 278 functional water points. However, the Acting-Head could not provide statistics of private off-takes for the entire region at the time of the visit. He further informed the Committee that Recon Africa, the oil drilling company in both regions was called upon to assist with the drilling and installation of boreholes, company responded positively, and provided the Committee with the progress report on Recon Africa supported projects for Kavango West region:

a) Water provision – phase I:

- 2x boreholes were drilled in Ncuncuni constituency and were busy with installations;
- 2x boreholes were drilled in Ncamagoro constituency and were busy with installations;

b) Water provision – phase II

- 2x boreholes in Nkurenkuru constituency and the drilling scheduled for March 2022;
- 1x borehole in Musese constituency and the drilling scheduled for March 2022;

CHALLENGES

- Aging fleet – transport remains a challenge, only three vehicles were functional, the remainder were grounded waiting for auction.
- Lack of office space- no government building in Nkurenkuru, all government offices are renting.
- Workshop for Artisans not fit for mechanical operations.
- No water tank truck allocated to the region- to ferry water to rural communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Moratorium on procuring new vehicles be lifted without delay
2. Adequate budget allocation to the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination for the maintenance of aging water infrastructures

7. OHANGWENA REGION

7.1 VISIT TO OKONGO CONSERVANCY

The conservancy was established in 2008, gazetted in 2009 and has about 500 registered members. It covered about 134 009 hectares, and it is within two gazetted community forest and was home to various species that were introduced through (translocation) such as kudus, elands, giraffes, zebras, roan antelopes. Species that are natural found includes: Leopards, wild dogs, duikers, steenboks, and other small species. The Core area is jointly managed by conservancy members and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- An amount of N\$ 37 800 was generated from trophy hunting and through shoot and sell annually.
- Donated zebra meat to the San community members.
- Three conservancy members received small stock from Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance (NILALEG) project.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of constant income for the conservancy members to be self-reliant, and members are losing interest, and some have since left the conservancy.
- Lack of transport, leaving community members to walk long distances to carry out conservancy activities.
- Lack of quota allocation and no of office block to operate from.
- No salary increments for game guards since 2009 to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Call for more hunting quota allocation – for the conservancy to realize its objectives.
- The conservancy needs an office block to operate from
- Conservancy members are further requesting for training on the operations, management, and bookkeeping tourism related field to successfully manage the conservancy.

7.2 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF OHANGWENA REGION

The presentation covered achievements, recommendations, and challenges for the period of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to date or at time of the visit. In his introductory remarks, the Head of Ohangwena Water Rural Supply informed the Committee that the office has a staff compliment of 94 positions, of which 75 were filled and 19 remained vacant. The region has about 1086 Water Points of which 288 were boreholes, 828 points on pipeline network, while

8 073 were private off-takes for individuals' households and 11 earth dams. He further informed the Committee that the office had about a fleet of 19 vehicles, only six vehicles were fully functional, which translates into 32 % of vehicles operational / operating, posing serious threat in the provision of potable water to rural communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- One thousand and eight six (1086) water points were constructed in the region both on boreholes and pipeline water points.
- A bout 80% of the population in the region have access to clean drinking water.
- Water points Committee in the region are established, trained and fully functional.
- For the past three years, the region has started developing Ohangwena Aquifer II and nine deep boreholes were drilled tapping water from Aquifer II of which eight are fully installed.
- A bout forty-eight (48) water points in rural areas including schools water points are getting water from aquifer II boreholes.

CHALLENGES

- Limited budget allocation, which hampered service delivery to communities.
- Saline underground water in the eastern part of the region mostly in Epembe and Omundaungilo constituencies respectively remains a challenge, boreholes drilled and water not fit for human consumption.
- Aging water infrastructure, such as water pipes, water pumping machines.
- Aging fleet – the last time the Ministry acquired new vehicles was in 2013.
- Delegated functions of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination not fully devolved and negatively affects service delivery to affected rural communities.
- Vandalism of water infrastructure by the public (including theft).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate budget allocation to the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination for the maintenance of aging water infrastructures.
- Moratorium on procuring new vehicles be lifted without delay.

- Delegated functions of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination to Regional Councils be delegated with full resources for the Directorate to meaning fully respond to rural communities pressing needs.
- The strengthening of public education at all levels of society on preserving water is vital.



The picture above depicts the water tanks in Oshikunde constituency, Ohangwena region

8. OSHANA REGION

8.1 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF OSHANA REGION

The presentation covered achievements, planned projects, challenges and recommendations, for the period of 2021/2022 to date or at time of the visit. In his introductory remarks, the Head of Oshana Water Rural Supply informed the Committee that only one technology was applicable in Oshana, namely pipeline, and the region is covered by eight (8) schemes and seventy-eight (78) branch lines, from where communities have connected private off-takes to individuals' households. The region has about seven hundred and eight one (781) water points and 23 earth dams.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Short pipeline extensions rehabilitated – Okapya – Oshuuga extended to 5 kilometers

- Ekuku – Okaku extended to 2,5 kilometers
- Private off-takes connected (1800)

CHALLENGES

- Shortage of transport due to aging fleet – the directorate operating with two vehicles only at the time of the visit.
- Inadequate/limited budget allocation to meet communities’ expectations.
- Constant low water pressure experienced in some lines e.g. Elim south, Ondangwa-Omuntele and Oshakati- Ondangwa.
- Outstanding review of the Community Based Management System.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rehabilitation of aging water infrastructures
- Construction of Booster Sub-station at Elim South, Ondangwa – Omuntele and Ondangwa – Oshakati to ease water low pressure currently being experienced.
- Construction of water catchment facilities at Yinakulu yo Madhiya

8.2 IIPUMBU YA TSHILONGO CONSERVANCY

The Committee was provided with a background of the conservancy, which was gazetted in 2012 and has about 4000 registered members, with size of 154 800 hectares. The conservancy is home to Springboks, Duiker, Steenbok, Hyena, Jackal and Ostrich. While Elephants and lions frequently move in and out of Etosha National Park.

BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

The conservancy was allocated with hunting quota of one Elephant in 2020 by the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism, the meat was distributed to conservancy members. Fifteen percent (15%) of the money generated was given to Uukwambi Traditional Authority.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded a Traversing Concession right within Etosha National Park.
- The conservancy sign a Joint Venture Agreement to establish a Lodge.

- Environmental Clearance Certificate received for a Joint Venture lodge.
- The conservancy managed to introduce Devil’s Claws Pilot Project.

CHALLENGES

- Human Wildlife Conflict- Lions and Hyenas from Etosha roaming free.
- Prolonged application process with Oshana Communal Land Board to award a leasehold right to the conservancy.
- Lack of transport for game guards to conduct patrols and other related activities.
- Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected the conservancy income.

9. OSHIKOTO REGION

9.1 COURTESY CALL – Honourable Governor Office, Oshikoto region

Honorable Penda Ya Ndakolo and his regional leadership welcomed the delegation to the region and thanked the Committee for having taken time to visit Oshikoto region. Honourable Governor informed the Committee that Oshikoto region is not spared from the challenges experienced in providing potable water. The region does not have a single water reservoir and whenever, there is shortage supply of potable water in Omusati region, Oshikoto region water taps run dry for weeks or more due low water pressure. Many a times drilled boreholes water are not fit for human and animal consumption.

He also hinted out on limited funds allocation to the region for the provision of water as struggling block in service delivery. In his closing remarks, Honourable Governor requested the Committee to share its findings with his office.

9.2 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF OSHIKOTO REGION

In his introductory remarks, Head of Rural Water Supply informed the Committee that the presentation cover activities that were carried out from 2019/2020,2020/2021 financial year for drilling, installation, rehabilitation of boreholes and construction of water pipeline (Omuntele to Onadhi) in Oshikoto region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Fifteen (15) boreholes were drilled and installed in three constituencies: Nehale Lya Mpingana, Eengodi and Okankolo.
- Rehabilitation of boreholes in Nehale Lya Mpingana.

PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

- Ondangwa – Omuntele pipeline extension 98 % completed
- Amunime – Omwandi gwakuumbili – Work In Progress
- Okano kanitembu – Niita ya Katangolo - work in progress
- Water payments cards issued – 840

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

- Pipe breaks repairs were 814
- Boreholes pipe extraction were 84
- Engine repairs were 100

CHALLENGES

- Aging fleet – leading to shortage of transport which is hampering service delivery
- Limited budget allocations -versus high demand of potable water
- Lack of materials for repair and service parts
- Low water pressure experienced in the region
- Lack of review of the Water Resource Management Act (Act 11 of 2013)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The MAWLR should lift the moratorium of acquiring new vehicles to replace the aging fleet.
- The MAWLR to domesticate the allocation of operational budget to regions, the Ministry should consider each region by case, needs and geographical set ups and not blanket cover when allocating budget.
- The Water Resource Management Act (Act 11 of 2013) be reviewed to fit current realities.
- The Ministry should avail funds for the purchasing and installation of Booster Pumps at areas such as Onamulele, Oshipala, Omulingi and Okankolo.

- Pump station at Omuntele to operate to full capacity to increase water pressure in the area.

10. OMUSATI REGION

10.1 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF OMUSATI REGION

The presentation covered achievements, challenges and recommendations, for the period of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 financial years. The Head of Rural Water Supply gave a brief overview of the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination in Omusati. The directorate have a staff compliment of seventy eight (78) and sub offices in Otamanzi and Okahao. The directorate has about 28 vehicles and only 3 vehicles out of the 28 were operational, whereas 5 vehicles were in for repairs and the remainder were unrepairable and are waiting to be actioned.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The directorate provide water through pipelines, boreholes, earth dams and traditional wells.
- The region has 1561 total Water points, with 13 existing pipeline schemes.
- And with 774 private off-takes.
- With the assistance of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization, four (4) traditional wells were upgraded to solar pump system.

CHALLENGES

- Aging fleet – leading to shortage of transport - hampering service delivery.
- Limited budget allocations -versus high demand of potable water.
- Low water pressure from Namwater purification plant in Outapi
- The unavailability of Geo-Hydrologist in the region to assist with the rehabilitation of water infrastructures, most of the ministry Hydrologist are Windhoek based.
- Vandalism of water infrastructure by the public (including theft) and wild animals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The region is calling for auctioning the old fleet to fund /procure new vehicles.
- Acquire own drilling machines and train staff to drill boreholes by themselves.
- Namwater should upgrade water purification plant in Outapi.
- Allocation of adequate budget to rehabilitate aging water infrastructures.
- Create community awareness to safeguard water infrastructures.

10.2 SHEYA SHUUSHONA CONSERVANCY

The Committee was provided with a background of the conservancy, which was gazetted in 2005 and has about 20 436 registered members from all six centers of Ongandjera Traditional Authority, with size of 5066 hectares. The conservancy is home to Springboks, Duiker, Steenbok, Hyena, Jackal and Ostrich.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Construction of a Solar Plant project with a protection trench
- Hunting contract signed with a professional hunter
- Conservancy plots fenced off with potable water

CHALLENGES

- Non-compliance of joint venture partners
- Poor understanding of contracts agreements by the management of the conservancy
- Human Wildlife Conflict off set payment back log dating back to 2017
- Increase in illegal poaching
- Lack of income due to covid-19 pandemic- reduction in hunting quotas

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fast tracking of HWC off – set payment of (N\$ 60 000) should be released on time once the Ministry receive the conservancy report to avoid back log.
- Covid -19 fund should be re-introduced due to lack of income.



The picture above depicts the modernized traditional well in Otsandi constituency, Omusati region

10.3 UUKOLONKADHI CONSERVANCY

Uukolonkadhi conservancy community based organization situated in Ruacana and was registered and gazetted in 2005. The conservancy has about 3 700 registered members. Due to covid-19, the conservancy did not generate any income during the last two years (2020/2021).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ruacana water fall area is placed in the management of the conservancy and plans are underway to erect community camp site.
- The conservancy allocated /given Slate Plate harvest mining area in Otjovanatje.
- Through the Environment Investment Fund the conservancy managed to rehabilitate twenty four (24) boreholes.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of income due to covid-19 pandemic and no benefit distribution was done.
- Five boreholes within conservation (core area) not functioning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The conservancy is appealing for more funds to fence off the Core Area
- More funds to honor HWC claims – current back log is dating back to 2016 – 2019

11. KUNENE REGION

Honourable Hendrik Goabaeb accentuated that Community Based Conservancy play a critical role in improving the livelihood of rural communities and therefore should not be left out in developmental activities.

Honorable Goabaeb informed the Committee that Kunene is still recovering from the effects of covid-19, when the world went into lock down ,overnight tourisms stopped, and substantial amount of income were lost, thousands of people lost their job and thousands more jobs were at risk ,increasing their vulnerability to hunger and economic hardships. Hardest hit were the rural areas, where six year drought had already threatened many livelihoods.

In his closing remarks, he made special appeal to the Committee that central government should consider subsidizing conservancies, just as it is the case with local authorities.

11.1 PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTORATE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION OF KUNENE REGION

The presentation covered achievements, challenges and recommendations, for the period of 2020/2021 financial year. The Head of Rural Water Supply provided the Committee with a brief overview of water situation in the region. Twelve thousands (1200) water points in the region were operating on different technologies (Diesel, Windmill, Solar, Hand pump, electrical and earth dams). Funded project by the Office of the Prime Minister in effort to mitigate the effects of severe drought, aimed at developing water points in the region. Drought Intervention Projects were implemented through sourcing private contractors and in some cases in-house arrangements were made with local Water Supply officials.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Earth dam excavated; 1
- Rehabilitation of boreholes were; 24
- Installation of water points; 6
- Extension of short pipes; 7

KEY CHALLENGES

- Difficult terrain to operate from
- Aging fleet-lack of transport
- The effects of prolonged drought experienced in the region
- Inadequate budget allocation (80%) of the budget is consumed by utilities)
- Human Wildlife Conflicts- wildlife damaging water infrastructures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate funding is required to respond to pressing water need in the region
- Call for proper coordination of all key stakeholders in the development of water points e.g. Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and Conservancies.
- Annual tendering provision or authority to use emergency procurement method for materials.
- Mobilization of funds by the ministry to purchase new fleet.

11.2 VISIT TO THE EHI- ROVIPUKA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY

The Committee was provided with the historical background of Ehi-Rovipuka, that it was gazetted in 2001 and have a size of about 18000 square meters. The Chairperson of the conservancy informed the Committee that the conservancy was both a Community Forest and Community Based Conservancy and has about 1800 registered members. Animals that are found within conservancy range from Elephants, Lions, Rhinos, Kudus, Oryx, Duikers, Steenboks, Zebras, Elands, Leopards, Hyenas and other small species.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Income generation for the conservancy is through hunting and lodges, and harvesting of natural resources.
- Income generated are equally distributed to all members.
- Assisted members with scholarship.
- Implemented early morning systems and constructed Lions Kraal in Hot Spot areas.
- Maintain community water points and implement solar system for community water points.
- Constructed the Hobatere fence south of the conservancy.

- Constructed two anti-poaching camps.
- Constructed elephants water dam at Otjokavare.
- Hydroponic fodder system constructed.

CHALLENGES

- Prolonged drought for the region had negative impact on the conservancy
- Human Wildlife Conflict remains a key challenge for the conservancy
- Covid -19 pandemic – less income to the conservancy
- Illegal settlers in the Core Wildlife Area
- Unauthorized harvesting of natural resources in the Core Area
- Poaching – although sporadic still being experienced

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construction of more wildlife water points to supplements community water points.
- Fixing of Etosha National Park fence on the western and Hobatere on northern side.
- Establishment of more monitoring systems, early warning systems, and more game guards to beef up patrol within core area.
- Eviction of illegal settlers in the core wildlife area.

11.3 OTJINDJERESE CONSERVANCY

The Committee was provided with the brief overview of Otjindjerese conservancy, that it was newly established conservancy and was gazetted in 2018 with a size of about 731 hectares. The conservancy does not earn income since its inception and was still waiting to be granted a leasehold right by the traditional authority. The Committee visited various water points and proposed camp sites within the conservancy, the Committee concluded that although the conservancy exist on paper, it was still an idea that needs be hatched.

The Committee visited Rural Water Supply water points within Opuwo Rural Constituency was impressed with the conditions of water infrastructures, with exception of an old water pump machine observed in Otjindjerese conservancy.



The picture above depicts the Elephants water dam in Ehi-rovipuka conservancy in Kunene region

12. ERONGO REGION

12.1 MEETING WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND SMALL SCALE MINERS IN OKOMBAHE IN THE DAURES CONSTITUENCY- REPRESENTING SMALL SCALE MINERS FROM (SPITSKOPPE, TUBUSIS, DAURES AND UIS)

The Committee was provided with situation analysis /case study carried out by the Daures Constituency Councilors' office, with the assistance of the Okombahe Settlement Office to some of the affected miners, traditional and community leaders. Subsequently, the Committee was presented with the findings, key challenges and the recommendations thereof that emanated from the study conducted.

FINDINGS

Mining in Erongo region has been a major role player in the development of the nation. It is alleged that mining in Erongo contributes significantly to the country growth domestic product which in return boosts the economy at National level. However, this has been at the expense of the local communities. Daures being the largest part of Erongo's small mining community has not been spared from this incongruities.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY DAURES SMALL SCALE MINERS

- The Traditional Authorities have a challenge with the issuance of consent letters for the allocation and location of sites to prospecting EPL holders.
- There is a need for capacity building on applicable legal instruments and regulations endorsed /enforced by the Mines & Energy Ministry.
- Heritage sites and rock paintings have been damaged by mining activities in some parts of Klein Spitzkoppe and Erongo Mountain due to blasting.
- The Ministry of Mines & Energy does not consult the traditional authorities with regards to land and resource allocation and this causes conflicts.
- There is a mushrooming of prospecting and mining activities in the constituency and this has affected grazing area space.
- No rehabilitation is done to open mining pits which affects the environment negatively and open pits pose excessive danger to livestock due to possible drowning while searching for drinking water.

RECOMMENDATION

- The Mines & Energy Regional office needs to be more visible in the area, just like the Ministry of Lands.
- Marketing Expo to be organized for small miners to exhibit their products.
- Lawmakers should consult the local communities and revisit the laws governing EPL's

12.2 COMMITTEE MEETING WITH ZERAEUA TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY IN OMATJETE, DAURES CONSTITUENCY

Discussions involved the genesis of mining activities in the area followed by the process leading to the allocation of prospecting / mining rights, the impact of the mining operations on communities and the environment in general and social benefits accrued to the local communities.

The Daures Constituency in the Erongo region and specifically the Otjohorongo / Omatjete communal area has become the focal point of EPL exploration and mining activities. Huge granite are being excavated from this mountains around the said communal land and further sampling and exploration are ongoing. The activities by their very nature were to boost the

local economy and bring about changes and improve the livelihood of local communities, instead it is the opposite.

The process leading to allocation of prospecting / mining rights

- The process of mining rights allocation need be reviewed to favor and benefit local communities. There is no consultation with local communities.
- The conducting of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) appear to be very skewed and unreliable.
- At times the prospecting takes long before it translates into actual mining. Who makes sure the investors does not go into full mining operation unnoticed

The impact of the mining operations on communities and the environment in general

a) Grazing land

Most of the targeted mountains have been for years a source of grazing for livestock and especially in times of severe drought. Animals both domesticated and wild animals are constantly put under severe pressure due to heavy blasting taking place in the area.

b) Roads infrastructure

The roads between Omaruru, Omatjete, Ozondati and Okongue were constructed to serve a small number of vehicles. However, the road have to bear the brunt of more heavy duty vehicles on daily basis.

c) Environment and National Heritage

The Otjivaja Mountains which is home to the historical and unique Bushmen painting has already suffered some kind of destructions. These historical artefacts dating back hundreds of years maybe for ever gone, a lost to the young generation.

Social benefits accrued to the local community

By design in its current form and as contained within legal framework governing mining operations, social responsibility is not mandatory and left at the discretion of the investors, and in the process this creates room for dissipated investors to take advantage and exploit poor communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Government should consider revisiting existing mining legal instruments to the benefit of local communities, of course without contradicting the need to create a friendly investment environment.

12.3 COMMITTEE MEETING WITH KARIBIB & USAKOS COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND SMALL SCALE MINERS

The small scale miners informed the Committee that their livelihood depends on mining activities. A range of issues were discussed ranging from the inability to access private farms for prospecting purposes and lack of markets to sell their products.

CHALLENGES / GRIEVANCES

- Access to mining deposits denied by commercial farmers – demanding proof of fire insurance which is in the range of hundred thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 100 000) of which miners are not in a position to afford.
- The application processes to acquire environmental clearance from the Ministry of Mines and Energy takes too long to be approved. Consequently miners continue to operate without the required documents.
- Chinese companies mining at will and no consultations is done with traditional leaders and mining pits are left open with no rehabilitation exit plan in place.
- The plight of small scale miners has not received much attention from parliament;
- The inability to access the market, miners are deprived of their hard earned proceeds by the middle men.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Ministry of Mines and Energy should decentralized its offices to the regions, currently small scale miners are made to travel to Windhoek just to pay or renew their mining rights applications, which is putting a financial burden on the miners.
- The ministry should consider rehabilitation exit plan when granting mining licenses and the rehabilitation of mining pits should be mandatory.
- Mining license/rights should be extended from one year to two years to allow miners a leeway period before applying again.
- The ministry should supervisor the demarcation of mining area to small scale miners to avoid conflicts within the miners.

13. KEY FINDINGS

The following is a succinct representation of key findings as per the terms of reference in relation to the key themes:

1. Provision of water in remote areas

The Standing Committee visited eight regions and observed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, through the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination, besides being compounded by a number of challenges, was doing relatively well in the provision of potable water to remote areas. However, the Committee noted with concern that more than thirty years since independence, some community members were still without clean drinking water and depended solely on traditional wells and rain water for both human and livestock. It was realized that many in Kavango West, Mpungu constituency in particular, followed by Oshikunde constituency in Ohangwena Region still walked long distances to water points both for themselves and their livestock. Amongst key challenges observed, is the aging water infrastructures, aging fleet and inadequate allocations of funds to Regional Councils.

2. Community Based Conservancies

The Committee visited eight Community Based Natural Resources Management Conservancies / projects to ascertain itself with management, operations, achievements, and challenges being experienced by the conservancies. The Committee was overwhelmed with the level of economic activities taking place at the following conservancies; Ehi-Rovipuka, in Kunene region followed by Salambala and Mashi in Zambezi region, Maurus Nekaro in Kavango West and Okongo conservancy in Ohangwena region. However, the same cannot be said with Sheya Shuunona, Iipumbu Ya Shilongo and Uukolonkadhi conservancy in Omusati region. Joseph Mbambangandu is registered as a community based conservancy, there are no activities taking place and has since been abandoned. Otjindjere conservancy have not earned any income since it was gazetted and was still waiting to be granted a leasehold right by the traditional authority. Although the conservancy do exist on paper, it was still an idea that need be hatched.

The Committee observed the negative impact of the Covid -19 pandemic and, indeed, the malady largely contributed to the low level of economic activities experienced by communities

that operated conservancies. The Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) relies heavily on photographic and hunting tourists to support their operations and livelihoods, thousands of jobs created by conservancies and their Joint Venture Tourisms Partners were at risks. The introduction of Covid -19 Relief Fund by MET came at the right time as most of the conservancies would have been crippled to retain its staff or to cover basic operational costs for patrols, game counts, responding to Human Wildlife Conflict and preventing or reporting wildlife crimes.

3. Open mining pits in Daures and Karibib Constituencies

A range of issues were discussed, starting with the genesis of mining activities in the area followed by the process leading to the allocation of prospecting / mining rights, the impact of the mining operations on communities and the environment in general and social benefits accrued to the local communities.

14. CONCLUSION

The realization was made that the supply of potable water in remote areas hinged on resources such as cars and personnel. The inadequacy of vehicles was exacerbated by high salinity levels in regions such as Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati where residents resorted to using dirtied water as tankers that supplied water were always in disrepair. There were disparities when it came to the economic benefits drawn from conservancies, as those in the Zambezi, Kavango West, and the Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy in the Kunene were doing quite well.

15. KEY GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

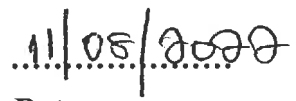
1. Delegated functions of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination to Regional Councils should comprise of full resources to cater for the maintenance of aging water infrastructure.
2. The moratorium on procuring new vehicles should be lifted, auction the old fleet to procure new vehicles.

3. The MAWLR should domesticate the allocation of operational budget to regions, taking cognizance of individual needs, topography, and all cases unique to each region rather than blanketing all regions with an identical budgetary allocation.
4. Conservancies be granted more hunting quotas to ensure the realization of set goals.
5. The payment for the Human Wildlife self-reliance scheme be decentralized.
6. Exit plan should be a prerequisite for issuing mining license and the Ministry of Mines and Energy to ensure that mining pits are rehabilitated.
7. The Ministry of Mines and Energy should decentralize its offices to the regions to curtail travel expenses incurred by small scale miners in their travels to Windhoek for the renewal of their mining licenses.
8. The prospecting mining licenses should be extended from one year to two years and monthly reports be abolished and replaced with annual reports.
9. The amendment of the minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act no. 33 of 1992 to regulate local beneficiations and increase the government ownership shares to more than 10%.
10. The MAWLR should consider putting price ceiling on the drilling and installation of boreholes to curb excessive expenditure.

SIGNATURE:



Hon. M. Ndjago
Committee Chairperson



Date