



Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Namibia



Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Directorate of Parks & Wildlife Management



Republic of Namibia

Namibia



Biodiversity mainstreaming a constitutional mandate

- Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia states that:
“the state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies aimed at: “maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians both present and future”.
- With this particular Article, Namibia is obliged to protect its environment and to promote sustainable use of its natural resources.



Country's Vision and NDPs

- **Vision 2030:** The integrity of Namibia's natural habitats and wildlife populations are maintained, while significantly supporting national socio-economic development through sustainable, low impact consumptive and non-consumptive tourism
- **NDP (5 year rolling plans):** Ensure the development of Namibia's natural capital and its sustainable utilisation for the benefit of the country's social, economic and ecological well-being.



Vision for Biodiversity mainstreaming (Draft)

Biodiversity issues and concerns are integrated in all sectoral planning and development activities both at national and grassroots level and adequate resources are provided to ensure conservation of biodiversity and benefits to indigenous communities



Progress made on mainstreaming (1)

- ✓ Biodiversity issues reflected in sectoral ministry five year Strat plans (MLR, MFMR, MET, MAWF)
- ✓ New legislation and policies (EMA, NHA, Tourism Policy, Mining in PAs Policy, Forest Act, Marine Resources Act, Draft CBNRM Policy, Concession Policy)
- ✓ Awareness raising campaigns (Celebration of National Days, Youth programmes, CBNRM)
- ✓ Valuation of natural resources and awareness raising has led to increased funding for biodiversity conservation and PA management. 25% of revenues generated from PAs now returned to MET for protected area management.

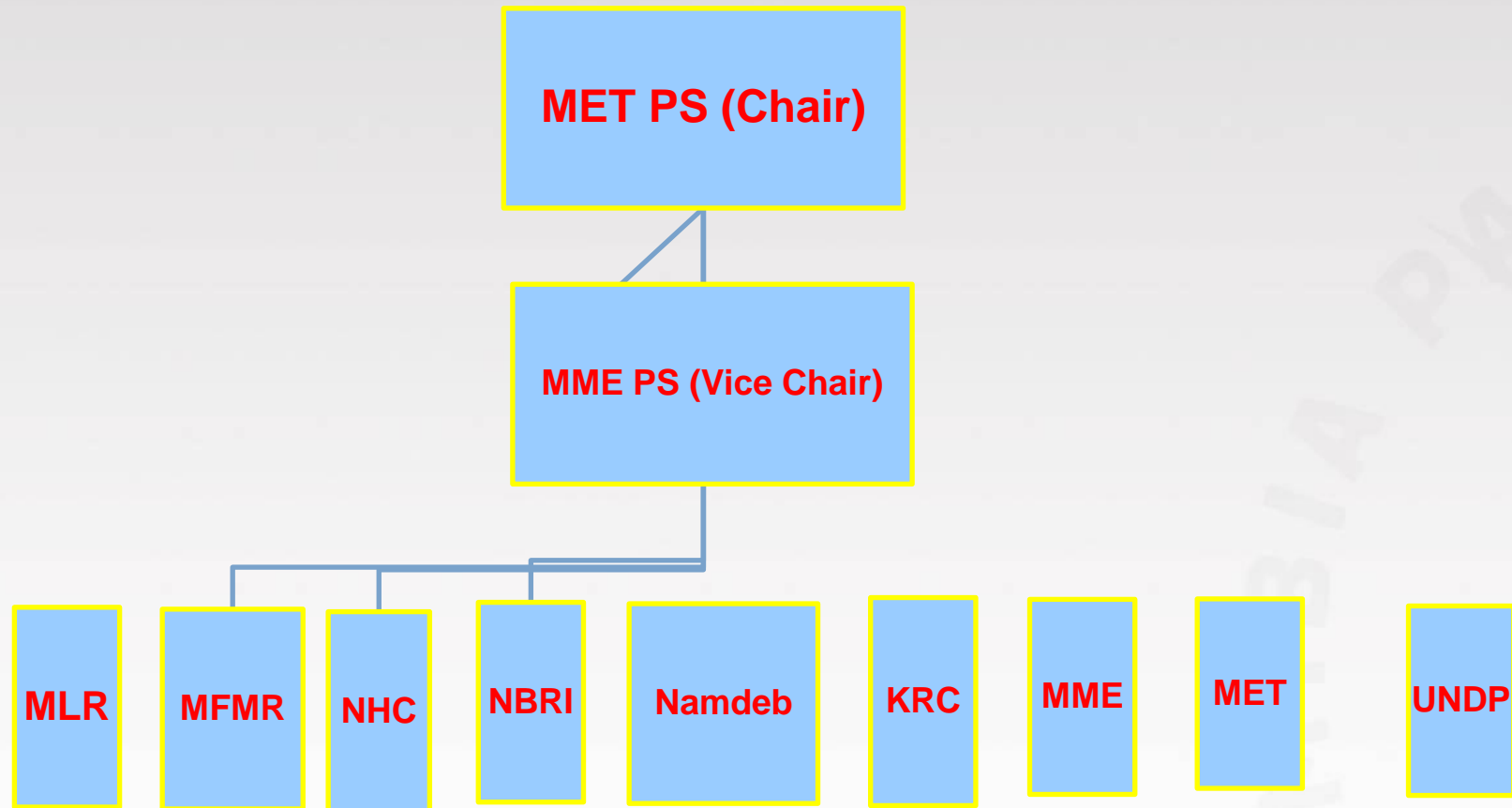


Progress made on mainstreaming (2)

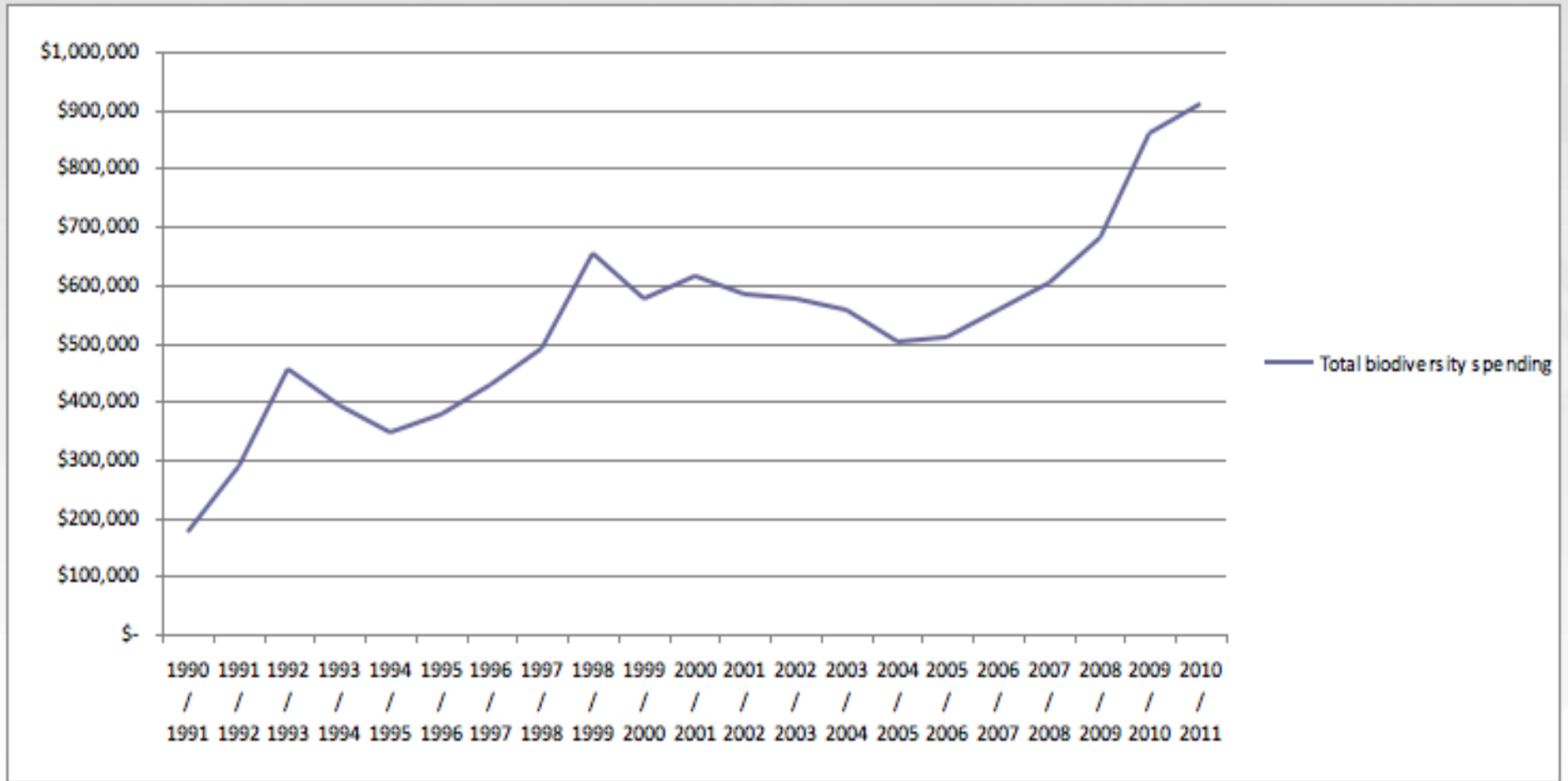
- ✓ Sound Eco-Tourism development
- ✓ Cross-sectoral development of the NBSAP
- ✓ Strong Community Based Natural Resource Management
- ✓ Development takes biodiversity into consideration (EIA, EMP, SEA)
- ✓ Cross-Sectoral development of Biodiversity Indicators
- ✓ Strengthened institutional framework (Environmental Commission in place, Sustainable Development Council, Different inter-sectoral technical Committees set-up)



SNP Advisory Committee



Government Expenditure on Biodiversity related activities

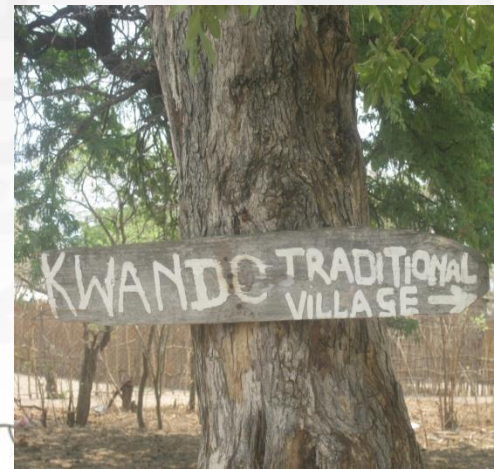
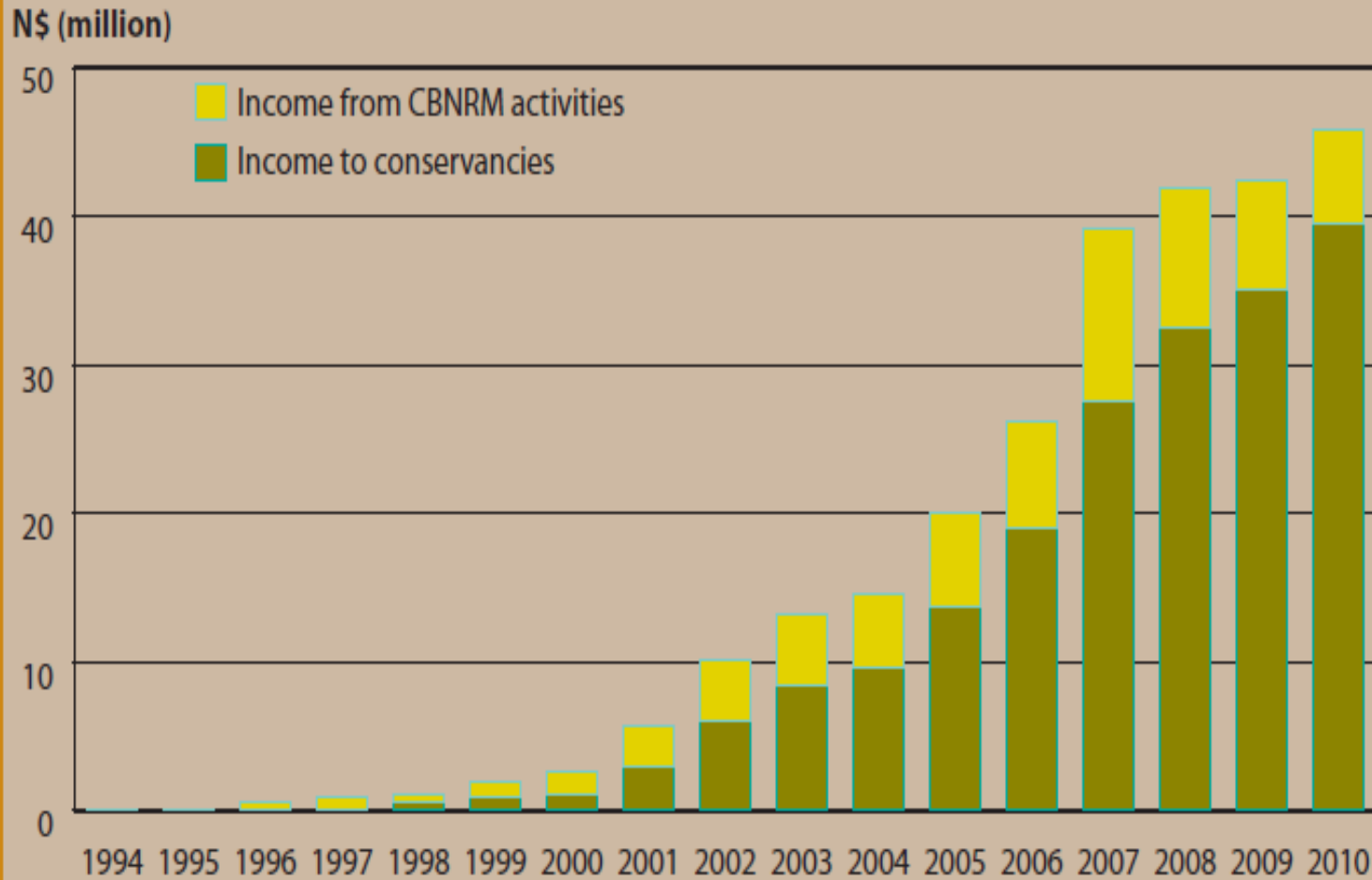


CBNRM and Poverty

- ✓ **Community Based Tourism Enterprises**
(community owned and JVs)
- ✓ **Concessions** (trophy hunting, lodges, campsites, activity concessions)
- ✓ **Bio-Trade**
- ✓ **Craft sales**



CBNRM and Poverty



MINING SECTOR

Namibian government directive:

“We will allow you to mine in this country if you pay taxes and if you implement sustainable development practices and if you support product stewardship policies”



Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Mining Sector (2)

- ✓ Environmental and biodiversity conscious legislation and Policy in place (Mineral Rights and Prospecting Act, Mining Act, EMA Act, Mining in PAs Policy)
- ✓ Ongoing research on rehabilitation and restoration techniques (funded by mining industry)
- ✓ Development of a Geo-Spatial Tool for decision making in issuing licenses (under way)- (inter-sectoral collaboration: MET, MME, NHC, NBRI)
- ✓ Inter-sectoral development of the SEA for the Uranium Province (Spearheaded by MME)
- ✓ Mines developed with rehabilitation and restoration in mind



Constraints/challenges

- ✓ Timely to lobby for biodiversity mainstreaming in different sectors
- ✓ Biodiversity conservation not always a priority in the world of competing priorities
- ✓ Synergies and complementarities between different sectors
- ✓ No framework for biodiversity offsets



Opportunities

- ✓ Integrated Land Use Planning
- ✓ Integration of lessons learnt and best practices into new NBSAP
- ✓ Constitutional mandate (Art 95)
- ✓ Good political support
- ✓ Good legislation in place already
- ✓ New SOE EIF (a green fund) right platform to influence fiscal policy change (rehabilitation fund, Biodiversity offsets)
- ✓ Awareness campaigns through media



Opportunities

- ✓ Eco-Tourism development
- ✓ Bio-Trade
- ✓ CBNRM and TFCA development
- ✓ Regional integration (SADC Protocols)



Importance of Diagnostic Tool

- ✓ Helps in taking stock of progress made in mainstreaming biodiversity
- ✓ Assessment of effectiveness of approaches used and adjustment of these where possible
- ✓ Helps in building lessons learnt and best practices in biodiversity mainstreaming



Thank You

