# **CF1 - Interview community forest-conservancy, Ozonahi - 31-1-2023**

# Transcript

I1

**So could you please start with a short introduction yourself and also of the community that we're here?**

P1

Yes, as I said earlier that [name], the chairperson of Organic Conservancy and Community Forest, this is a community based organization plus dealing with the natural resources and wildlife also.

P2

Yeah, I'm [name] secretary to the organic Conservancy community forest and also the local authority council for the karatal. We are under the Conservancy. We conserve the communal area.

I1

**And how many people live here in the communal area?**

P2

In the Wanehio district. 11,000.

P1

Plus minus, more than 10000.

I1

**And how big is the area?**

P1

The area covering the … more than 321 square hectares, which is equally or equivalent to 3204 square kilometers.

I1

**So you explain that it's a Conservancy and a communal forest. So how does that work? Like what is the difference between the two and how is it organized?**

P1

In Namiba we have legislation in place which have been passed. But our parliamentarians and ascended by the President to become laws of the Republic who he is under the supreme law, which is the Constitution so when you are dealing with wildlife, you have separate legislation from forest legislation, so there's the Conservancy, you know. It is more on wildlife, so that isn't dealing with different law or act and when you come to forest, it is also the same. But for us as a community. To manage and control these things. We need to bring them together, although each and everyone is being regulated by its own act and so on. But now we are like a referee on the pinch when he's handling too different things on the pitch during the match. So when we are dealing with the forest issues on behalf of the Community, then we have to follow certain rules and regulations according to that act and when we come to environment and also wildlife then it is also separate. But we are the people dealing with all two different legislation meaning that when you are looking after wildlife. They need to be fed and they need vegetations. They need whatever in the field, but if you cannot conserve those vegetation and whatever they have to eat. Then you won't have wildlife. That's why we brought this to different things together.

I1

**And you're organizing a committee or like, how are you organized?**

P1

Yeah, this is a community body. Let me say when you have a community Conservancy. It needs to be registered legally to become a legal entity. By the government or by the land ministry. So fortunately enough, we have the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. When you come to wildlife. The Department or Directorate of Environment Tourism, when you come to forestry then you have a directorate of forestry, but under the same ministry. So that's why maybe we have a certificate like that one as a community conservation, we will decided in 2003 and we were issued with letter certificate. It's a conservant, but as a community forest we were recently gazetted and also issued with another different certificate. You should go through different milestones if you need to be gazetted, supports Conservancy or as a community forest, there are certain requirements that you need to fulfill from your side or from our side as a community in order to be accepted as such entity.

I1

**And then do you have regular meetings together with people from the community to discuss things around conservancy?**

P2

Yeah, we do have committee members, community members. Because what happened with the conservancies community forest? It was for community to start owning resources. Then the government on its own, so the government could set up these structures so community can feel the ownership of the resources. So they know they need to conserve the resources. So when this setup have coming, we had the community meeting from all over so people come, they elect people that can present them on their behalf. And also having people also on their side, we call them gamegut. But also presenting us that are hidden administratively that are working with the deep in the gield to conserve the environment. So we normally have meeting quarterly. And we have an annual general meeting yearly. So every year the end of every year you have a general meeting and also having a committee meeting that is every quarterly an executive meeting that's monthly.

I1

**And what are things that you discuss then in those meetings?**

P2

Rather than the environment itself and wildlife, nothing else to talk about and talk about the environment. Talk about human wildlife conflict, which is one of the challenges that are having also in our area. And also this the Conservancy, when it come to the general meeting, we also involve the traditional authorities. Because traditional authority also they are also working in the same direction of the conservancy or new communal area base area. So the … also casted you? In our structure.

P1

And also the main issues that we need to. That we need to tackle with the Community members. Main aim of having such an organization or entities is to enhance the livelihood of our people at the grassroot level. That is the meaning, the big picture. And I think as a Conservancy or as an entity, we need three things to consider #1. Capacity development of the committees and also of the members. #2. To create enterprises for that to enable to create job opportunities. I think that one also includes business opportunities and so on. #3. To look after our people. How can they sustain themselves without depending on the government, that is the main aim of the main picture of social entities. Those are the things that we usually discuss with our people and as well, that's how we need people like you to have your input from your side or from people who have knowledge, how can we come up with those small scale businesses to our people like creating or set tapping the camping site, whatever.

I1

**Because what are the livelihoods of people now, where do most people live from in this community?**

P1

Yeah, as an area we are more on farming livestock farming. You are busy with gardening. But to gardening is, let's say when you talk in terms of percentage, you can say less than. 20% but 80% of the people depending on livestock farming of our animal husband.

I1

**And then do they also sell it commercial or is it for own consumption, the livestock farming?**

P1

Both. You know in this area is more dominated by hereros speaking ethnic group. So as a heroro people you know, we used to eat meat. We used to have big gathering, like when we have death in the family. We used to meet when we have other gathering like reunion. So, yeah, the family, we need to come together as a family and also extend it. And because our in, in our culture, we don't only concentrate or we don't use this family, what you call Father, mother and children when is now we have extended family. You will find maybe 200 people. Related to each other. Then we used to. Through this one. We have many things that is coming out of animals like milk and fat. Lot of things.

I2

**And what are the like challenges the farmers are having with their cattle?**

P1

Yeah, they're farmers. It is very unfortunate that you come this time around if you could have been here during last November, October, November, mid-december last year. Ah, you go to really think how do these people survive? There was nothing here. And it is due to bush encroachment. That is eventually we need to come up with strategies. How to overcome this bush encroachment? Yes, in the past we thought of bush encroachment as a problem. But no was this. I think there are techniques or strategies in place that we need to use to turn them into opportunities. But not only to chop them down and bend them and throw them away, but to turn into opportunities by creating in one or other way that will create job for our own people in order was to survive, but there are a lot of challenges around how to commit.

I2

**Because the difference between last year and this year, why is it better this year?**

P1

This year, you know we are in January now the rain has started to come now. You see now we have a green patches but when you were in December last year. We were like

P2

It was desserts. But when it comes to bush encroachment. It's throughout the year challenge so from last year to this year we have bush encroachment is a challenge. Where they were supposed to grow grass it’s bushes. So animals for grazing, there's no enough space. They are not running around, there's bush everywhere. Who is a challenge, but people are saying that the challenge sometimes, you know, become a benefit in another way if it's utilized in the right way, so these are mechanisms that were already in place with a bush feed. Also to animals feed with the bush. So we take those bushes the challenge into the benefit way now.

I1

**And you're doing that now?**

P1

Yeah, we do. We do have a program, a project called. Animal Bush feed. We can also show you the assembly when we go out to the other storage facility. But it was at to the we were at the. How do you call it pilot level? Now this year we should start going down into the project itself, yeah, we were busy installing the equipment on the other side where there were a lot of challenges in our I think we were on the process to sort them out so that we can start with a real project and bush thinning.

I1

**And how many people are working on this project?**

P1

So far 25 people from the community here. We got to four teams but is a working or placed at village located at very various sites in the field and we have all we're supposed to have one here. Another one now. Whether we will be producing the end the result or what we are getting in the field, so each team policies of five members so. We will bring them together they are supposed to be 25 but this team, who is supposed to produce it hasn't yet started because we were busy with a lot of we are having a lot of challenges to put up with the storage and everything together. Yeah, but there are 14 at least they have started because we cut to the branches of the Acacia marifera. Which is the main problem species in our area and they crush it or we have different smaller equipment that crushing those branches of that species until it becomes like fibers, so those fibers that are the one brought down here for the production and mixing it all so that's where we are stuck a bit. We need to install that equipment in order for that process to start up officially, but you can see we can show you out of there.

I2

Do they do the cutting manually of the branches manually or?

P1

You know this project is semi mechanized project. Some certain percentages are being they are using the machines or the equipment. But they are also using the manual like the punkers, eggs and so on. Yeah, so semi mechanized.

I1

**And then the feed that you produce, that's for the for your own cattle or how is this?**

P1

Yeah, the feed at the end of the day is for commercialization, we need to sell them to sell them out to the farmers but you see, as I said earlier that there are hiccups here and there. We need expertise in terms of mixing, we need lab result whether the ratio that we are using in terms of mixing with this feed is correct. Yeah, you need a lot of.

I2

**And do you only sell to the community members?**

P1

We haven't started, but that is the idea at the end of the day.

I1

**And what would you say are challenges here in the Community you mentioned to provide for livelihoods. What are other issues faced here?**

P2

When similar would conflict that emergence year before there was complete bush encroachment for the farmers.

P1

We started the major issues the problem a lot. The problem a lot, those are the major issues.

I2

**Have you seen that people have had to change their livelihoods? Because of the bush encroachment. Do farmers have to change how what they do like cattle farming because of the bush encroachment or look for other jobs?**

P1

I don't think so, but we have to come up with a mechanism in place how to reduce bush encroachment like we need to put program in place like charcoal production, that is one of the projects that we need to implement in order to reduce the bush encroachment problem. But according to our own government legislation and plan. It seems that cattle protection in communal area is a big problem because of the legislation. Because of the legislation in place we need to amend the legislation so that it can make a provision for such a project to be implemented in the communal areas.

I2

**And the Community forests help with that? The legislation, the Community forests?**

P1

The head of parliament? Yeah, that head of Parliament need to be amended so that it can make provision for that in the Community forest areas.

I2

**So you're not allowed to any charcoal production, even if you have a community forest?**

P1

For now. But for other program maybe for like by biochar, bush thinning, bush clearing. Yeah, those we can do. Yeah, but only bush charcoal production.

I1

**And do the houses here have access to electricity and water and those kind of services?**

P1

At a very, very low scale, you know we have this, what we call rural electrification. Rural electrification is rural community household to get electricity from the main grid but really, that is a very one of a very expensive project. Even I don't know, maybe my brother has records or not you can count in Unagi, we have more than 80 villages. We have to come one by one. This is or cut two or this is. This is whatever. Of those names, as you can see here, this is the allocation of the cluster villages to the game guts. When you see there, so. We have lot of villages. Yeah, but if you have to look at the villages that has that have electricity, maybe in our area we can counter them quickly. Less than 30%.

I2

**And you have, how do you access water here?**

P1

Here, at least what I hear. We can say more than 80% or close to 80% at least to water. All over because we have now water program and we have also rural program where people get water from boreholes where they use engines and so on. But at least not everyone is covered. The whole area is not covered with water, but at least we cannot say. We are behind with water but electricity.

I2

**And other projects for the future to improve that or is just a money issue?**

P1

It's a money issue and if maybe we can be assisted in terms of getting the project to that will look at solar. Energy project so maybe that one can also help. Just for the people to have lights. During the nights for the people, maybe to cook and so on. We are busy looking at those things but no money.

I1

**Because those villages that do have electricity like, is that provided by the government, or do they pay a company for that?**

P2

Like the government, the defer the area. So the consumers only just do the prepaid, the monthly purchase.

I4

So, in what way could the conservancy create benefits what source of income could you have.

P1

As I said earlier you know conservancy is the issue of scarcity of resources in this area is also another problem. Like wildlife, we do have those we are looking after those traditional earning … wild hogs

P1

Those are the few things that they were few species of animal that we are having here. But they are not in many numbers there are very few. Problem on it’s own when we are comparing us to maybe to Okunene there are not a lot of animals. When you are living it in our place, coming to the forest product and produces, maybe that's where our wealth is but as I said earlier, we were excited reasonably, now we are fighting. We have now to fight how to sustain our people through out of the field products.

I4

**Why are there less animals here than in the other conservancy. Why are there less animals here?**

P1

Because of the cow, because of the I don't know. Today I'm having 50 years old of this, but when I'm hearing from our parents. I understand. In those years maybe 1960 1950 something there. There were a lot of animals here. Like elands, ostriges and so on. But you understood that there were traditional Hondas. Those people who have riding horses and if you go in into the field, one person was in a was able to slaughter or kill 3 goodies a day. When he comes back home. He was giving price by these men without taking the issue of taking the issue into consideration of the younger generation like us today, now we're becoming their generation. But this is a problem that we are facing because of their behavior. We don't have animals. We should should start begging from our area or from the government.

P2

And also the element of the Conservancy on its own. We expect of the concerns these areas. So the Pune area has started long way before with the Conservancy, we start looking and taking care of resources that we are having compared to us. The time that we realize that we need to study and conserve our animals, they're all gone.

P1

But at least we are fighting.

I4

**Sorry, I just want to know. Are there some people still hunting the animals or is that now completely gone?**

P2

Hunting will never end where there is a woman wood. Even now, when they realized that, kudus are finished. We start hunting cattels now so the illegal element will be there will be just stop totally. So all the awareness needs to be created. Is only few people that understand the element of us taking care of start living with wild lights so. Their awareness so people start to understand so we can remain with them for the next generation.

I4

**So are there punishments for hunting?**

P2

Yeah, illegal handling is a fine.

P1

But when you do illegally without considering the warnings and so on you also be imprisoned.

P3

**But just if you pick one. Does the government also have, with this reintroduction or introducing like new animals in your area?**

P1

Yeah, we had one scenario in 20006-2007 around here if my memory I recall very well. Ah, but the programme was never planned too well. It was drink during drought by then. There was the whole country was really drought stricken? And now you brought to like the What is it? Was it speak like spring bock? A discussion I could not follow There are those two species of juice. I think we got around. But it is it was not for 1970. Only it was for the main conservancy because you are living all in the same constituency, like when you are seeing in Latmen. To work on my property. African Wild dog and then overnight. So those species were for the four conservancies where we got around 300 red hub beast. And more then 300 orreaches? It was during drought really those things died, suffered and died. Some of them managed to escape to the commercial farms. Neighboring our conservancies. So the program was never was not planned well, so I don't know whether really we can spin off of those species. Here in the area. I'm doubting.

P2

Although we're not dealing in a core area where we can see the world, this area, the wildlife, will be living so.

P1

Yeah, we were supposed to set up one last one last year. Yeah, well, maybe where they can be introduced to. But we haven't done yet. So we are we are sometimes we come with plans or documents.

P2

It will come to financial support as well. But those are when you look at the economy of the country is derived by tourism. The things that can stimulate the economy. We are we are still putting it aside our need. We are not investing more in those things. So you would have. A funding that we can identify core area. That could help us and assist us.

I1

**And you mentioned as a first goal of the conservancies like capacity building for the Community and for the organization. So what kind of things are needed in terms of capacity building? What are you working on?**

P1

Training is one of the major things that we need. You can run everything, but if you don't have knowhow to develop the project proposal. How to lobby a certain thing in order to secure funds? What will you do? What will you achieve, so training is one of the very crucial component that we need and then. To advocate for the program that will generate income for the entity to sustain itself. And also a lot of create job for our people, especially the young ones.

I1

And for this this project, the bush to feed project, does it also involve trainings?

P1

Yeah, you need to also involve training. The detailed one, the, the deeper training one. But those are that we are getting and now it's just like what is it what we call it the basic one. You shouldn't cut to get the three you should do AB CD but. When you after that, when you sit and look at what you have been told, how you say what, what did you, what did this will do in the future? Things that does not have records, things that does not have maybe booklets that you may perhaps refer someone to read it. What is that? We need the proper things.

P2

Lots of the helps people have already been trained that refresher training. Was also needed. Yeah, continuously. Yes, some people train them. Three months stop production when some people are not into production that forget some other things that need to be done. If you have that continuously refresher training to also have been split up the production also because I'm training the setup of the training itself. And my understanding is that you take the people for your training for a week. We go, we come back, we start. Not everybody can catch up within a week, so one or two things might lose there, but do you have an refresher training each and every year so the next five years you will see the productive. Now it's moving.

P1

In this program that you have mentioned, the biofuel project or program. As I have listened during your introduction, some of you are chemical engineers social looking at the aspect of social sciences and quantifications of the technology is also involved in this. So, such a program when you have to implement it. Our people need to tap skills and experience from people like you. You know, because like in our race, when we were doing the process of registration of registering, conservancy or community forest, we were required to do like the PRA participating rural appraiser. But you know that one was was carried on our behalf. Those are some of the experience. The problems that we have experienced and encountered in the previous or in the past. So if today perhaps we want to do such a similar program, you won't go to those people because the program were carried on our behalf. We did not have a chance to have our own people to do that so that they can remain with that skills and experience. So now, as they will think it will be better to have people like. Who have experience, who have expertise, but they can do it along with our own people whenever you go back. That experience would not also go away with you. It should remain here. This is how we think. From now onwards, yes.

I1

**And are people here open to new projects or changing their practices?**

P1

We are let me talk on behalf of my group. We are eager for any change. We are not. We are not persistent. It's only that we don't have. But for any help for any kind of assistance, we eager and we are ready for any cooperation. We are not here. We don't want to sit and to be fed. We want also to. You know, nowadays they say it's better to teach someone to catch a fish himself instead of catching fish for him and cooking it for him and then give him to eat and. If you are not, if you are sick, what can he do? It's better to teaching, yeah. So our people are so eager.

P2

People are eating.. You want change. Community believe that when they change, there is always progress if there is no change. We remain the same. There's no progress now, so. People are eager for the change.

I1

**We can show you the concept that we are working on. It's called the biohub. And the idea is that there are different communities or farmers that provide biomass. So in this case, the Bush to a larger factory. And we are investigating now a technology that can produce different things, but the main thing is the oil that can in the end be used in the shipping industry, but maybe also for cars or like other things but we are investing shipping. It also produces biochar that can be used again in the same area where the biomass is produced and some other streams that can be used in the factory. And what we want to understand here in our field visits like how would this concept work in the context of Namibia? So what would be challenges? But also what should be the benefits of such a system for the people producing the biomass? I would like to ask you how do you look at that concept and do you think that it could work here in this in this area?**

I1

So this area could be for example where we are now and that you provides the bush to a place somewhere else where it's processed.

P2

The concept is fine, it’s going to work and it is doable. The station's very pro. The thing will come so rather than taking the product here in a factory somewhere else in a long distance, not this or another area. Station can be there somewhere. Close to where the bushes are living. In which it close it also gives great job employment also development in that concerns the area.

P1

Yes, I think the idea is fine and is appropriate for our areas as our Nahi and also our whole area. It is appropriate maybe because of our resources. Maybe there will be no need for each and every constituency area to have such a plant, but perhaps we can have one main plant for the four areas. And we can get the biomes from all four conservancies. Because the biomass are different. Also they are not the same. Subtle percentage, where you can find this similar or the same product, but some of in some area like our Nahi perhaps you will find a certain biomass which you cannot find in Kamatabari. Or you can find some in Ramadbadi that you cannot find, maybe in Ogiduo. So it's better to have one big plant and you can collect different things from different area. In my view in my thoughts the plan is probably it can. Is it just a matter of us to organize ourselves with traditional authority, with local authorities, to see to it to whether this or such a plan will be located into the urban area like Orgagarara or in the rural area where we have our means of electricity like the rural electricity zone for the equipment and so on, but I think the plan can be situated anywhere as long as all the stakeholders came together or the key stakeholders. Yeah, we can have different stakeholders. Like churches or whatever but are those key?

I1

**And how are our decisions made in this community? Like who makes the decisions? How do you come to agreements together?**

P1

Like I said earlier, when we come to this thing, resources looking after the resources. That's why we have organizations like the conservancy and the Community forest. Those formations were meant for the decision to be for the people themselves. How do you call it? The approach is when we come to school, we say learner ascended approach when we come to education now, we when we come to the community maybe we can say community decision. Our center decision approach that we have here, so the people themselves decide what they do, but as they are representative. We decide we take things to them and we get their input on certain issues like this one, we get the input for them and then we compare and see what was the feeling of two third majority. Yeah, because if you can't do work with the two third majority then you may not come to a conclusion because at least we have to come together and conclude.

P2

In general the Conservancy in Community forest. They are one to make decision with a consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

I2

**And how do you think this could be designed that that all the communities benefit equally?**

P1

Yes, not equally in conservancies we talk about equitable. We don't talk about equality. We need to where the need is. We need to distribute the benefit equitably. Not equally. This is our approach.

I1

**And how did you do that, for example with the bush to feeds project? How do you distribute or plan to distribute those benefits in an equitable way?**

P1

For now, we are just getting things from them because we haven't started with yet the real project, but we were busy with piloting, so we are only getting now the fibers from them, but when we gave you the machinery the program is semi mechanized. When we look into. You know that we have been vendor. So you do not stand up and start guessing where to take the machinery. We know that we are talking about maragasi milifera, which is the main problem is the main bush encroachment. So now we're going to your inventory list and see where is the problem in our area and then it will give you at least direction where to locate teams whether there is many species that need to be trimmed and so on.

I1

**And what do you think could be challenges to implement this this system here?**

P1

For now, we cannot talk about challenges. Let's face the bull by its horn and see what will be the problem.

I2

**It just I was wondering about the schools because you said the capacity building is something we really need. Are there large schools around this area or is it like 1 big school?**

P1

We have three different ones here in Ohanahi we have two secondaries or one of our junior secondary here about 7 kilometer in the East waterbed that is a junior secondary and we have a secondary here. We have also 2 in watatugani conservancy area, we have one Union secondary African wild dogs. We have one union secondary. In fact, it is a combine school. We have a primary and junior secondary. Both of them are compliance only.

P2

And three primary schools in Ohanahi.

P1

But I think they have. They asked about secondary.

I2

**And what kind of training does the vocational training do what kind of courses do they have?**

P1

I am not from a teaching background.

I2

What kind of training figures is the vocational trainings?

P2

They give electrical engineering, Solar, Bridge lane, Office admin and economy and … . The realers called the VDC. The hearing office admin, bridge lane, carpentry. Motor machining, electricity. Hospitality and tourism.

I2

**And if people finish it, are they able to find a job here or are there's not enough jobs?**

P2

There's not enough job.

I2

So do they then go to Windhoek k to work or.

P2

You go to Windhoek and they start their own business because they usually they have been encourage by their study to start their own business. They are also doing welding at VDC yeah. Or some of them have started their own business. Which is also a challenge because you train someone to start a business but there is no starting capital, so some end up in the street. You're not doing business, not even getting any job. Yeah, that's the push and pull.

I2

**And do you have a hospital in this area?**

P2

Yes, you do have a hospital. We also having clinics in the area. We have one big hospital for the whole constituency.

I3

**Just one question because you used an interesting term you mentioned. If you believe in equitable distribution of benefits, right? Just thought of a question once again, I don't know whether it can be a sensitive question, so you can feel not to answered. This is a communal land right? So then how do you ensure the resources are harvested equally by all members and not just by some people who are able to get more? Let's say for example, there are five farmers. Instead of having 1/5 of the land for each of the resources to each of them, what if one person is really a young farmer? He has the energy to harvest more. Which means he will have more of the wood or whatever resources he is collecting than other people, then the resources. At first, it's not. Yeah, it's not equally harvested, but it's a communal land, right? So how do you make sure that? So indirectly you can also term it as an over exploitation of something. How do you make sure it's equally harvested by all the people? Because even if the same bush to feed, if you want to do it in a bigger scale, I'm just thinking the next step? If you want to do it just to feed in a bigger scale because pilot is success, how do you make sure that everybody is making big have the access to, you know, get equally. If I'm a younger farmer, I might work from early, yeah, 8 hours per day or 10 hours per day. If I am older farmer, I have other family commitments or something. Then I can only do 4 hours per day. In this case, benefits is equally shared, yes, because he is harvesting. Whatever amount benefit goes to them by then the resources was not harvested equally by all.**

P1

Yeah, that's why in our common understanding we are now on equitable because we know that other people do not have them. They are not at the same scale. If you are taking a man like me who is having 50 years today. I might have capital to buy my own equipment. For crushing the branches of the trees and so on, comparing to someone who is who have quitted the grade 10 now. Because of his marks were not qualifying to tertiary institutions and so on. He might have fungus to get to those with branches of the species. Comparing to someone who has already having the machines and so on. So the fibers that you are collecting from these two different people will not have the same amount. So that's why we need to ensure that for you, we have the machines you can you can bring them into bigger quantities and you can also take yours, but when we come to benefit build to the community. Now we'll perhaps consider you how to. How can we help you to come, at least to his or close to his level? That's where we are and we're also taking the issue of resources exploitation into account also we do have a certain limit because you have resources or you have capital. We cannot leave the door open for you. You have roofing. We will come to a certain. Then you for this year, you are no more longer logger.

I4

**But can you prevent them from keeping you harvesting. Can you prevent somebody from? How can you stop people?**

P1

You need a permit first you need permits. We are the one who issuing those permits. And before you come to us to take a permit of either harvesting. Bush clearing. Bush thinning. You need a consent from your own core resident. And if they refuse you to give or to have access to recommendation letter, you are also required to come to our office here and we need to have a meeting with those other resident , why they deny you? They must have substantive reasons why they don't want you to, yes. If there are no reasons that can convince us. We are entitled also to give you those. To give you overrule but we are also required to not to leave the door unopened for you we need because we need to checks and balances.

P2

That the roof is not just wide open. Like the other protection that we have that issuing by next week, like the wood protection like we give a limit, we said no on quarterly. You need to have 10 tons of wood. If you reach 10 then it's OK. But if this page did not reach 10 in in this quarter. So it's up to him. Then the limit is there to make sure that everybody's they're into the limit operation.

I3

**Now that you have actually a system and then you have to get permit and so on and so forth from the core residence, conservancy, forest management, so that we have only allocated number of hectares or whatever amount you can harvest or so on and so forth. Once again, I'm just going to ask, you can just not to answer. Then why do you think the communal lands are exempted from harvesting the wood? Because you already have a system in place where it is being equally harvested. You have a permit system in place, right? Which has, which is also right assumed its approved or mentioned or affiliated to forestry or agriculture or those kind of ministries. Then why do you think that you will existing still? Because you, yeah, whatever we heard was. Government was afraid of over exploitation that resources will be, you know, harvested unequally. Right? That's what we heard. Once again, I don't know the full picture. So pardon me if I'm wrong, but you have a place to mitigate that, then why? What's holding them to you know, allow communal lands to harvest for commercial purpose?**

I3

For any commercial stuff what's the difference?

P2

Not any commercial stuff we can arrest, except we do not do commercial production.

P1

We have a we have a Honda for we can harvest for commercialization and for own use. Yeah, that we can do. That is allowable. But only such a production for commercialization is. Prohibited for now in terms of the act, but we are busy fighting for the act to be amended so that we can make that provision also.

I3

**So you can make also wood chips commercial?**

P3

I think regarding the concept of communal area. There are some areas in communal areas who are not falling free on any conservancy. If you go to some communal areas there is nothing. Which means there are no system management system in place or such.

I1

**But then why is it for charcoal specifically that you cannot do it?**

P1

You know those eggs like this one, I think after independence, this is the First Amendment for Forest Act. So you know, you know. How many independents and ways are there. I'm 50 years old. Yeah, we were in former colonial distance. Many of the laws that we had were this denominator resolves, so once we have our own people that are making the laws in Parliament, they are not all of them are well convinced with the laws. When you look into this amendment, which also failed to make provision for charcoal production to be made in communal area, it's our own people because they were not as familiar to the ex. Yeah, they were just taking everything for granted. But after they have sealed it now they have also realized, oh, we made a big mistake. You are using. That's why they are now busy.

P2

And also because by that time the only thing that we think of. It was only animal husbandry and crop husbandry that they can they can get money. So you know that you can get something else from the firm. So you just stay like that and I'm not interested in charcoal production so what, for me, doesn't concern. But now at the end of the day it is not fitting us.

P3

It was only in 1996 when they made an amendment to the that Conservation Ordinance after that 1996 is when the rural communities. When given that the legal rights to utilize the wildlife. Time before that, no one was allowed. Community couldn't manage their own resources or their own wildlife in their own way. So still with the realization to me with this realization like the number of value chains like when the bushes and so forth so it's still causing problem. Need to change.

I4

**So but you expect that it will change?**

P1

we hope so

I3

**And also just on your understanding or your knowledge, do you? OK, let's say there is out of 100% communal lands in Namibia. How much lands do you say of those communal lands does not belong to a Conservancy?**

P3

It depends let me say in the north where I'm from. Natural wildlife doesn't exist. You know, we finished everything. There's nothing. There's nothing so there's not even a change like we can't even think of. No, let's conserve this area is let's create one concervancy what are we conserving? So it depends and also the nature of the fencing, right? In the north also it's hard to find a piece of land, which is not fenced off. Is compared to here. Here, I think the fences are bit minimum, right? The land is more open, so it belongs to everyone. It's compared to on our side, every portion of land is under fence.

P1

Because of the crop work.

P3

Yeah, crops and some, I don't know whether it's greedy or what. It's fenced off. So bringing the aspect of conservation, it's different. It needs a lot of changes to say it. So there are some areas where you. There are no conservatives. There are in there are areas where it exists.

P2

Like, even now Karagagow constituency before Conservancy. The four, not all of whom were registered as Community Forest. The converter party is not community forest, so they cannot even harvest. Understand where is the scenario. We can only conserve wildlife, but they cannot do anything with the forrest.

P1

Because they don't have management plan of the forest in place.

P2

So that's why some say no government does not allow us. Because of those management plan.

I4

**And they can copy yours, right?**

P2

Yeah, I'm saying that.

I3

That case, the people who are in that Conservancy, their livelihood is just cattles.

P1

No nothing else. They even cannot talk about this project that you are busy introducing for now until it is registered.

I3

**So did they refused it? Did they refuse to be part of the forest management or? Was it a voluntary decision they made or they were not aware of that in the 1st place. Those are two different things**.

P1

You see, that's how Namibia is as a country. Everything in this country is on voluntary baseis a voluntary based things you don't have address. No one will force you to do whatever you want, but once you have a real that realization that I want to be busy. If you did not plan already, they will get stuck. Because everything is there for you. If you want to go to enter the office you need to follow ABC. The procedures, but if you are so ignorant you will be there. But once you have got interest to enter the office. The office was already locked. You need to have master key to open that office. Yeah, well, that is up to them. And that's why we have now formed the conservancy Association, or Conservancy Community Forest Association maybe to advocate for them also. Because for us as a group, you know, Sorodubai which is looking after natural resources and for our sister to be left behind is not also for us. Now we are busy pushing for them to come.

I4

**So one other question, so are you also selling other products? Because I see devil claw there and other forest products. Is that also something that you try to develop?**

P1

There are people who are selling. Our Members, they come to our house. Get permit. But for now, the permit is not in our hand like this one of wood and so on. But we are busy in the process to pay it back. Because they just get the recommendations from them from the community themselves, they bring the recommendation here to our office and then we write another letter to the ministry that Mister ABC should be issued with the permit because we are satisfied with him and so on and so on and all conditions are attached followed. Yeah, but once you have failed to comply. With the condition attached to that permit, this year, you should remember that next year. For next this season you will suffer. That's where we are now.

I3

That’s a lot of information there.

I1

Is there anything you would still like to share or comments on these topics?

P1

So we do not have much to share with you. I think we had very fruitful discussions through your question and so on. But we want such a dream to be realized, and we are eager to be part and parcel of such a dream when it is realized. That is our flight that we have for now or not. Regard your leaders. We have the details of product details on this Andreas. I think it's not the end. We have a long way. To go, you have a lot of. You have long to do together. I think this was their first visit, so we are also expecting now follow-up on the project.

P3

You can just hop by

P1

And 1 of the good we need also to. Go there to see you. What you are doing there?