

EASTERN

OMBONDE-HOANIB

PEOPLE'S LANDSCAPE

a guidemap to visitor routes

Ombonde-Hoanib embraces a unique combination of environmental and cultural wealth; holistic management and use allows this wealth to be tapped for the benefit of local communities, visitors and the environment

WT1

- Rugged wild lands, accessible only by 4x4

WT2

- Seven great Wild-Tracks

WT3

- Amazing fauna and flora

WT4

- Diverse and spectacular scenery

WT5

- A wild and wonderful people's landscape

WT6

WT7

A/B

- A balance between human and environmental needs



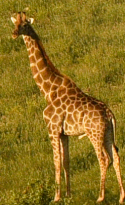
into the wild...

What is a people's landscape?

- draft Namibian legislation provides for formally proclaimed 'landscapes of special conservation importance', managed through agreements between landholders and government
- the Ombonde-Hoanib People's Landscape is working towards formal proclamation as such a landscape

NOTE:

**No accommodation or other facilities in Eastern Ombonde-Hoanib Core Area
Numerous accommodation options in wider landscape**



OMBONDE-HOANIB BRIEF

Eastern Ombonde-Hoanib is remote wilderness, accessible only by 4x4. Stunning, diverse landscapes create an ever-changing backdrop to adventurous Wild-Track routes through the core area. Wildlife encounters provide exciting highlights, though wildlife densities are low in arid lands and sightings of elephant, giraffe, black rhino, lion, zebra and various antelopes should be considered a bonus. This is a people's landscape that also includes livelihood activities. Ombonde-Hoanib People's Landscape is a vision for landscape-level conservation with the ultimate aim of being formally proclaimed as a landscape of special conservation importance under Namibian legislation.

The Eastern Ombonde-Hoanib Core Area covers ± 1,050 km² of the Ehi-Rovipuka and Omatendeka community conservancies.

Four adjacent conservancies seek to collaborate in Ombonde-Hoanib:

- **Ehi-Rovipuka** [size 1,980 km², registered 2001]
- **Omatendeka** [size 1,620 km², registered 2003]
- **Anabeb** [size 1,570 km², reg. 2003, Western Ombonde-Hoanib]
- **Sesfontein** [size 2,466 km², reg. 2003, Western Ombonde-Hoanib]

The people's landscape is named after the Ombonde-Hoanib River (Ombonde is the Otjiherero name for the camel-thorn)



Wild lands ...



... and wildlife ...



... in a people's landscape

FOUR GREAT PLACES

Ombonde-Hoanib River – meandering sand river lined by lush vegetation; originates near Kamanjab; initially called Honib along upper course; becomes Ombonde in middle section which cuts deeply into silt deposits of prehistoric waterflows; becomes Hoanib from passage through Khowarib Gorge to Atlantic

Palmfontein – dense stands of picturesque makalani palms line long stretch of permanent springs in Palm River, fringed by stunning rock walls of surrounding hills; oasis attracts diverse birdlife and wildlife (Palmfontein is Afrikaans for palm spring)

Klein Khowarib – (local name Epako-raTjomitjira) spectacular gorge in dolomite hills reminiscent of famous Khowarib Gorge; smaller gorge delineated by unnamed tributary of Ombonde River (in both Afrikaans & German, klein means small or little)

Klein Serengeti – (local name Orutjandja-ruaTjingambu) large flat plain devoid of trees, fringed by rocky hills; substrate consists of fine silts; in dry season becomes dust bowl; in rainy season supports metre high grass; first flush of green attracts springbok, zebra, gemsbok, ostrich, occasionally elephant (named after Serengeti Plains in east-central Africa; derived from Maasai, means endless plain)

THE VALUE OF OMBONDE-HOANIB

Ombonde-Hoanib is a people's landscape that strives to fulfil four fundamental objectives:

- **Landscape and biodiversity conservation ...** stunning and varied landscapes and a wealth of biodiversity are being conserved in Ombonde-Hoanib; the area also provides important landscape connectivity with adjacent conservation lands
- **Rare-species protection ...** is a central objective of modern conservation, as organised poaching threatens many vulnerable species; Ombonde-Hoanib protects elephant, black rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyaenas, Hartmann's mountain zebra, black-faced impala and other vulnerable biodiversity
- **Tangible community returns ...** tourism in Ombonde-Hoanib generates vital returns for the local communities who are the custodians of this land; the contributions of each visitor make an important difference
- **Valuable visitor experiences ...** the diverse topographical and biodiversity features of Ombonde-Hoanib, coupled with its unique status as a people's landscape, provide unforgettable visitor experiences



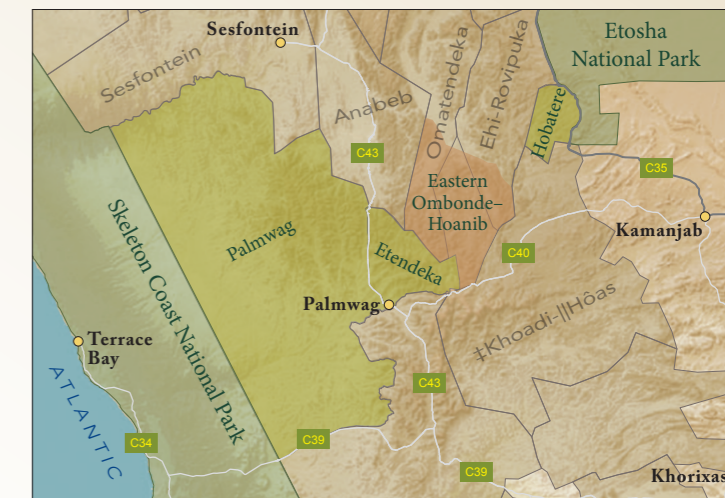
Natural wealth ...



... cultural wealth ...

CONNECTIVITY FOR LIONS

In dry lands like northwestern Namibia, wild animals need to have the freedom to roam to find enough to eat and drink, and to find a mate to procreate. Ombonde-Hoanib provides important habitat – and a vital link of genetic connectivity between the wildlife of Etosha, the Hobatere, Etendeka and Palmwag tourism concessions, and the Skeleton Coast. This is particularly important for Namibia's lions. Habitat fragmentation into small, genetically isolated subpopulations is a major threat for all of Africa's lions, and Namibia's small – but famous – desert lion population is at particular risk. The same holds true for other desert-adapted wildlife such as elephants and black rhinos. Connectivity barriers currently exist, but it is hoped that these can be removed by finding a healthy balance between the needs of people and the environment.



... and vital landscape connectivity

WILD-TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

Ombonde-Hoanib People's Landscape is a remote wilderness area without tourism infrastructure or facilities; all Wild-Tracks are single-track routes requiring 4x4 in places; mobile-phone reception is poor throughout; travel in two vehicles is advised; lions, elephants & other dangerous game occurs; take care at all times!

WT1

Kamdescha-Khowarib Gorge [can be travelled east-west or west-east]: begins at Kamdescha vet gate; follows well-used single track northwest via Arizona, Outokotorwa & Ombaikiha settlements; enters Khowarib Gorge at Ombaikiha, follows Hoanib River through gorge to Khowarib settlement along C43 main road; traverses scenic landscape of hills & valleys, broad Beesvlaktes & spectacular Khowarib Gorge; communal livestock-farming area; sightings of Hartmann's mountain zebra, springbok, giraffe & other wildlife possible

WT2

Palmfontein-Anabeb/C43 [can be travelled east-west or west-east]: begins at Palmfontein vet gate; follows well-used single track northwest through Ombonde-Hoanib Core Area; passes Palmfontein natural springs, Ounguindi Waterhole, Ombahe Valley & Khowarib Escarpment to C43 main road; traverses ever-changing scenic landscapes of rocky hills & valleys, ephemeral watercourses, grassy plains & mopane woodland; sightings of elephant, giraffe, Hartmann's mountain zebra, gemsbok, springbok & diverse other wildlife possible

WT3

Elephant Rocks-Palmfontein [can be travelled north-south or south-north]: begins at Outokotorwa settlement; follows well-used single track south via Elephant Rocks, across Ombonde River, through Klein Khowarib across Mopane Flats to Palmfontein; traverses ever-changing scenic landscapes of rocky hills & valleys, ephemeral watercourses, grassy plains & mopane scrubland; sightings of elephant, giraffe, Hartmann's mountain zebra, gemsbok, springbok & diverse other wildlife possible

WT4

Ombonde Koppies-Klein Serengeti [can be travelled north-south or south-north]: begins west of Outokotorwa settlement; follows well-used single track south via Ombonde Koppies (local name Oruhungu-roHandukaze), across Ombonde River & Klein Serengeti to Wild-Track 2; traverses vast open plains past scenic hills, crosses scenic Ombonde River & traverses Klein Serengeti; sightings of elephant, giraffe, Hartmann's mountain zebra, gemsbok, springbok & diverse other wildlife possible

WT5

Ombonde River [can be travelled east-west or west-east]: access to Ombonde River from Wild-Tracks 3 & 4; ±12 km of riverbed driving; very soft sand, with riverbed deeply incised into surrounding landscape creating sheer banks several metres high in places; fringed by dense vegetation including mopane, ana tree, leadwood & mustard bush; diverse birdlife; occasional sightings of wildlife possible

WT6

Collinson's Pass [can only be travelled east-west down the pass]: very scenic shorter route completing Wild-Track 2 or Wild-Track 4 across Khowarib Escarpment to C43 main road; spectacular views from top of pass; sightings of Hartmann's mountain zebra, gemsbok, springbok & diverse other wildlife possible; named after conservation legend Roger Collinson (the pass is locally known as Okomimunu)

WT7 A/B

Beesvlaktes-Ombonde [can be travelled north-south or south-north]: access tracks from D3710 (Warmquelle-Omuramba) across Beesvlaktes to Wild-Track 1 and other route options; shorter western (A) and longer eastern (B) options; communal livestock-farming area; sightings of Hartmann's mountain zebra, springbok & giraffe possible

CHECK LISTS

The lists are only indications of some of the interesting fauna and flora that may be found along the routes; many other species occur and can be identified with the aid of excellent guide books available in Windhoek and Swakopmund; scientific names are given for plants, as a number of common names tend to be in use for these

MAMMALS

NAMIBIAN NEAR-ENDEMIC
Hartmann's mountain zebra
Black-faced impala

COMMON
Giraffe
Steenbok
Springbok
Gemsbok
Spotted Hyaena
Black-backed jackal

WATCH OUT FOR
Elephant
Lion
Leopard
Brown hyaena
Aardwolf
Aardvark
Kudu
Duiker
Klipspringer

RARE IN THIS AREA
Black rhino
Cheetah
Eland
Warthog

BIRDS

NAMIBIAN NEAR-ENDEMIC
Monteiro's hornbill
Damara red-billed hornbill
Hartlaub's spurfowl
Kunene francolin
Rosy-faced lovebird
Bare-cheeked babbler
Rüppell's korhaan
Rüppell's parrot
Violet wood-hoopoe
White-tailed shrike
Benguela long-billed lark
Rockrunner

COMMON
Cape turtle dove
Namaqua sandgrouse
White-browed sparrow-weaver
Crowned lapwing
Pale chanting goshawk
Pearl-spotted owl
Spotted thick-knee
Ostrich

WATCH OUT FOR
Booted eagle
Lappet-faced vulture
Bokmakierie

PLANTS

NAMIBIAN NEAR-ENDEMIC TREES & SHRUBS
Bottle tree, *Pachypodium lealii*
Herero sesame-tree, *Sesamothamnus guerichii*
Bushman poison, *Adenium boehmianum*
Moringa, *Moringa ovalifolia*
Candelabra euphorbia, *Euphorbia virosa*
Purple-stem corkwood, *Commiphora multijuga*
Blue-leaved corkwood, *Commiphora glaucescens*

COMMON TREES & SHRUBS
Mopane, *Colophospermum mopane*
Purple-pod terminalia, *Terminalia prunoides*
Shepherd's trees, *Boscia spp.*
Ringwood, *Maerua schinzii*
Trumpet-thorn, *Catophractes alexandri*
Kudu-bush, *Combretum apiculatum*
Mustard bush, *Salvadora persica*

WATCH OUT FOR
Leadwood, *Combretum imberbe* [along riverbeds]
Ana tree, *Faidherbia albida* [along riverbeds]
Camel-thorn, *Vachellia erioloba*
Makalani palm, *Hyphaene petersiana* [along riverbeds]
Large-leaved sterculia, *Sterculia quinqueloba*
African star-chestnut, *Sterculia africana*
Resurrection bush, *Myrothamnus flabellifolius*
Whip-stick thorn, *Senegalia robynsiana*
Umbrella-thorn, *Vachellia tortilis*

into the wild ...

Conservancy Wild-Tracks are for discerning and adventurous travellers who

- respect local people and have a genuine interest in their cultures and livelihoods
- want to spend true quality time exploring conservancy wildlands
- have a genuine interest in the environment and the plants and animals that live there

This guide is intended to give travellers all the information needed to explore the Ombonde–Hoanib Wild-Tracks, which provide authentic wilderness experiences and an objective understanding of community conservation through responsible travel in a people's landscape.



EXPERIENCE
RESPONSIBILITY
UNDERSTANDING

finding the wild...

ELEVEN RULES OF THE ROAD:

1. Respect local people - this is their land.
2. No off-road driving.
3. No wild camping.
4. Don't gather firewood.
5. Don't drive faster than 40 km/h.
6. No village visits without a local guide.
7. Don't take photos of people without their permission.
8. Keep a safe distance from all wildlife.
9. Be particularly careful with elephants, rhinos and lions.
10. For safety, Wild-Tracks are best travelled with two vehicles.
11. Take only memories, leave only footprints.



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