

Defying Extinction Through Conservation: Benefits of Black Rhino Tracking in the #Khoadi//Hôas Conservancy, Namibia

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ABSTRACT Direct benefits of biodiversity conservation have been a subject of debate over the past two decades. Despite the accelerated growth of CBNRM initiatives meant to redress the neglected communities and bring socio-economic development to remote areas, the challenge is to develop innovative instruments for channeling conservation investments efforts directly for individual gain and collective wealth and well-being of communities. To appreciate the value of Black rhino tracking, a case study approach was used to measure the benefits accruing to local communities in the #Khoadi //Hoas conservancy. Data was collected through participant observations and in-depth interviews with 50 purposively selected key informants. Thematic analyses of local newspapers and NACSO reports were used to interrogate the subject. The findings revealed that black rhino tracking has led to improved stewardship, recovery of the rhino population and sustainable development in the conservancy. However, a more structured approach to benefits sharing and governance is recommended.