

By Muyoba Muyoba

WINDHOEK

CONSERVANCIES have this year alone netted NS6.1 million from wildlife and tourism compared to 2.4 million dollars in 1999 and a 3.4 million last year.

This was revealed by the Executive Director of the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) Dr Chris Brown, at the foundation's annual function held at the Windhoek Country Club and Resorts this week.

Dr Brown noted that a large number of animals have been counted in the conservancies, and so far, one of the largest ground based counts of wildlife has been carried out in Namibia.

The animal survey covered

5 million hectares, and the figures are follows - from the 1980's through 1990 to 2000, the number of Springboks increased from 2000, later 7,500, 26 000 to 74 000 presently.

The number of Oryx rose from 400, 1800 and 12 000 to the present number of 15 000. Zebras were 1000, 2200, 8,600 and are now over 12 000.

Brown noted that wildlife numbers have built up, so do those species that come into conflict with people such as elephants.

"NNF has teamed up with the Game Products Trust Fund established by the min-

istry of environment tourism from the sale of ivory under a special cites provision.

We have established a programme to protect people's water points, homes, gardens, while at the same time providing alternative watering points for elephants," said Brown.

NNF has shifted its focus considerably over the past years.

The focus is on the sustainable development linking sus-

tainable natural resource management with people's livelihood and welfare.

Dr Brown pointed out that less attention is given to biodiversity, landscapes and the ecosystems than before. Quoting a Herero saying, Brown said "farming begins with people", so be it with conservation, also should begin with people.

"We strongly emphasise this approach and also promote initiatives that democ-

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# Wildlife, Tourism Through People's Own Conservancies Net