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## **Research proposal**

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**1. Proposed Title**

Impact of the Nyae Nyae Conservancy programme on the livelihoods of the san community in Namibia.

**2. Primary and secondary objectives**

**2.1 Primary Objective**

The primary objective or purpose of the study is to provide an impact assessment of the selected case that will inform development policy and programme formulation.

**2.2 Secondary Research Objectives**

The secondary objectives of the study are as follows:

- 2.2.1 To describe the nature and scope of the current state of san livelihoods in the selected conservancy
- 2.2.2 To describe the positive impacts of the programme on the livelihoods on the san community.
- 2.2.3 To describe the negative impacts of the programme on the livelihoods of the san community
- 2.2.4 To explain the overall impact of the programme on the livelihoods of the san Community

### **3. Problem Statement**

The san people are among some of the minority groups in Southern Africa, scattered in countries like South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. As citizens in the countries they live, the san people have been distinctively poor, and it seems efforts to integrate them into mainstream social and economic activities have not been successful yet. The way of life of san people has been greatly disrupted by contact with other groups like Bantus and Europeans.

The conditions of san traditional social and economic lifestyles have not remained the same. Governments, as well as nongovernmental organizations have put up programmes and projects to integrate the san people, but the san remain some of the most marginalized as well as poor people in southern Africa in general(Legal Assistance Centre, 2006:1).

Namibia, as one of the countries with san communities, has had development policies, goals and programmes that generally aim to improve the welfare and wellbeing of its entire people, including minorities like the san. It seems, however, that none of the major policies and programmes is specifically meant for minority groups like the san people. The Namibian government, with the aim of improving community people's participation in the control and beneficial utilization of natural resources, embarked on a programme of establishing community conservancies as part of the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM).The Nyae Nyae conservancy was created by a group of commercial farmers in the Tsumeb area of Namibia, who formed the Ombili Foundation, specifically for a San community, most of whom were farm labourers. The main aim of the creation of the conservancy was to help the san, as "natives" of Namibia to settle down into contemporary life.

The traditional way of life for the san people has been hunting and gathering(Bentley,1985:81).Hitchcock and Osborne(2002:159) conclude that changing government policy on land use classification has threatened the survival of minority groups like the san.The Study by Hitchcock and Osborne (ibid) has also indicated that the integration efforts of minority people by many governments have failed because a shift into the market economy demands skills and knowledge that the minority people do not readily possess, leading to poverty. The establishment of the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, with its noble aim of improving the welfare of the san people through integration into modern ways of life is yet to be assessed, especially that it has been in existence for at least the past ten years.

There are several questions that arise when development programmes like the community conservancies, with a particular case of the Nyae Nyae conservancy are put under the search light of improvement of livelihoods of people, particularly minority and disadvantaged groups like the san people of Namibia. The main question is whether, after 10 years, the Nyaye Nyaye conservancy has bettered the welfare of the intended beneficiaries, the san people, through improved livelihoods. To what extent has the project, if any, impacted on the livelihoods of the san? What are the views of the san people themselves about the conservancy programme? Given the envisaged land reform programme of Namibia, can a conservancy like the Nyaye Nyaye be a model for san resettlement under the programme, as a way of catering for a particular minority group in Namibia? What are the sustainability challenges, if any, of the particular conservancy programme. These several questions sum up the problem that the proposed research seeks to solve.

The research, therefore, is justified in that it will generate knowledge from the case study that will encompass the many aspects and dimensions that influence development, and, in this particular regard, the specific conservancy programme. The interplay between san traditional ways of life and culture and modern economic activities like tourism, game farming as well as appropriateness of development programmes for minority indigenous groups like the san will be put in the spotlight by the research.

#### **4. Preliminary Literature Review**

The preliminary literature review casts a light on theoretical and practical aspects as well as research work and issues that are related to the proposed study. The section is divided into the following sub-sections: History and culture of san people; Poverty and san communities; Land Reform and minority groups; Community Based natural Resource Management (CBRM) programme; The sustainable livelihoods framework.

#### **4.1 History and culture of san people**

Historical research, through archaeology and other means has come up with theories on the life of San people particularly in Southern Africa. The general history of San people, covering their migrations patterns, social life, art, hunting and gathering has been documented in detail by researchers who include Deacon and Deacon (1999). Historians have agreed that the San are the aboriginal people of Southern Africa who can be traced back to late stone age or earlier (Deacon and Deacon, 1999:128). Guldermann (2006) has presented a detailed study into the languages of san people in southern Namibia. The study has indicated a wide variation in san languages and dialects.

Various studies and research have been conducted about minorities in general and the san communities in particular. Easthood (2003:14) has done a study to reflect san culture through their paintings. He goes on to state that san paintings reveal their early contact with other people groupings, particularly the Bantus. Findings on san culture as depicted in their paintings have also been presented by Hollman (2001:64-65), who singles out cultural aspects like medicine, dance, hunting beliefs and trances. Earlier researches by Marshall (1969), Biesel (1987) and Biesel (1993), cited in Holman (2001:63) confirm the cultural aspects mentioned. Bentley (1985:81) has gone further to study the reproductive health of san people vis-à-vis their occupation and activities that centred on hunting and gathering. Marshall (1999) has further narrowed down research into san culture by focusing on the beliefs and rites of a San people known as the Nyae Nyae !Kung. The recent research by Marshall has confirmed and complemented knowledge on san beliefs and culture which had been studied by Hollman (2001), who have presented detailed information regarding the link of san culture.

Studies have been conducted to find the change in land use patterns by the san people, gradually leading to their present landlessness. Yellen (1984) explains that san land use patterns started to change when they came into contact with Bantu groups like Tswana and Hereros. The san started working for these groups of people, mainly as cattle herders in exchange for food. Between 1975 and 1982, San communities like Zu/twasi and the !Kung had got into some small livestock keeping supplementing hunting and gathering (Yellen, 1984:54). Hitchcock and Osborne (2002:159-160) have obtained evidence through research that changing government policy on land use classification has threatened the survival of minority people in the Kavango region of Botswana and Namibia. The study has explained that the integration efforts of minority people by many governments have failed because a shift into the

market economy demands skills and knowledge that minority people do not readily possess, leading to poverty.

#### **4.2 San people and poverty**

Suzman (2004) has done a comprehensive study to narrate the eviction of the Hai//om san from the present day Etosha game reserve area of Namibia. The results of the eviction from the Etosha area are mainly in the form of landlessness and extreme poverty that has made most san people generational farm labourers (Suzman,2004:221).Good (1999:185) presents information through a detailed study that shows a case of extreme poverty for san communities in Botswana. The study reveals that while the population of Botswana has grown by 60 % in a period of 15 years, the number of destitute, especially among the san people, has increased by 300 %.

The poverty of san people due to deprivation of land for their own traditional land use of hunting and gathering has been shown by studies by Sylvain (2001),who points out that a particular san community in the Omaheke region of Namibia, the Ju/'hoansi,are in perpetual poverty as farm labourers or vagabonds. The San are also regarded as the underclass in the region, and are either working for the commercial white farmers or the Hereros and Tswanas in communal areas, virtually for meagre wages, if any at all (Sylvain, 2001:718).Smith (2002:214) supports the observations made about the san community in the Omaheke by describing another san community, the Hai//om, revealing that their residence is on privately owned farms that are not theirs.

A study on how national economic activities have affected the welfare of san people has been conducted in Botswana. Mokhawa and Taylor (2003:102) have investigated the implications of diamond mining in Botswana on san land ownership and rights. The report reveals that Botswana's diamond industry almost lost credibility after a campaign by an NGO alleged that san people were being forcibly removed from their lands to give way to diamond mining, resulting in extreme poverty for the san. The campaign sought to classify Botswana diamonds as "conflict diamonds", which the Botswana government strongly rejected, arguing that theirs were "diamonds for democracy". The study shows how main economic activities may be pursued without regard to the livelihoods of minority people.

Maitseo (2004) has studied the impact of the Botswana Game reserve policy on the Bushmen. The research was exploratory, and gives a discussion and description of the poverty that

resulted for the san people as well as restrictions that were imposed by the policy. A particular san community, the river Basarwa, was affected by the creation of the Moremi game reserve. More san communities can be studied to assess the impact of many government policies, including land reform.

The land claim of the san people themselves has been researched into. However, Robins (2001:834) points out that the land claims of san tribes have been dismissed on the grounds of being “timeless and primordialist”. Land loss by the san has been noted to have resulted in widespread fragmentation in their societies as well as homicide, suicide, alcohol abuse, AIDS among many other vices (Robins, 2001:834). The study by Robins further reveals that Non Governmental Organizations such as the South African San Institute have come up with programmes that aim to improve san welfare. Robins (2001:835), however, contends that there are “ambiguities and contradictions in san development discourse”. Among the main findings by Robins (2001) is the fact that san people were not even given reserves as other tribal people in South Africa. NGOs have been accused of being merely a “third party”, lambasted for promoting their self interest in the san development initiative. It has been recommended that social actors should specifically construct the san as a target population for development initiatives (Robins, 2001:835).

#### **4.3 Land Reform and minority groups**

Land reform has been a controversial issue. Several countries have land reform policies. These land reform policies tend not to have any particular focus on minority groups like the san, as revealed by studies and literature. Thomas (2003) has outlined the historical background of land reform in Zimbabwe. The study by Thomas (2003) shows that only the main black groups, actually elites, have mostly benefitted from the programme, and minority groups, who include the tiny san population, have been left out. Mabugu and Chitiga (2008:527) used the Walrasian CGE Micro simulation application model and concluded that had the land reform programme been properly implemented in Zimbabwe, it would have brought economic benefits to previously marginalised people.

Melber (2005) has indicated that land reform in Namibia is not about the land per se, but about poverty. Paradoxically, Sachikonye (2004:74) in Melber (2005) argues that Namibia does not view land redistribution as one of the major instruments to reduce poverty. Citing Daniels (2003:57-63) and Suzman (2002), Melber (2005) states that the Land initiative in Namibia has

ambiguity towards marginalised people like the san. This view by Melber has been affirmed by Alistair(2005) ,Fortini(2005) and Bush(2007). Generally, the studies have concluded that land rights of poor and minority groups have remained limited despite land reform initiatives. This suggests that land use policies and reform programmes have to be studied in light of specific marginalised minorities like the san.

#### **4.4 Community Based natural Resource Management (CBRM) programme**

The Namibian Government, in pursuit of sustainable development, introduced the Community Based natural Resources Management Programmes, which aimed at giving local community people some control of, and benefit from natural resources (NACSO, 2009). A legislation was introduced in 1996 gave conditional rights to communities over wildlife management through the formation of units called conservancies (ibid). The review of conservancies presented by NACSO (2009:10) reveals that the total income from conservancies increased from about N\$600 000 in 1998 to N\$41 million in 2008. This monetary benefit of the conservancy programmes can be assessed further, by research, to show financial performances of specific individual conservancies, as well as direct income benefits to households. Also, there is room to explore the non monetary benefits (and possibly costs) of the conservancy programme.

#### **4.5 Sustainable Livelihoods approach**

Carney (1998:4-5) outlines how the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and other stakeholders came up with a framework for analysing poverty, the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (SRL) approach. The framework analysis poverty in light of the vulnerability context, capital assets (natural, social, human, financial and physical) as well as structures and processes that transform societies' livelihood strategies leading to specific livelihood outcomes.

Citing Solesbury (2003) Bishop-Sambrook (2004) points out that the sustainable rural livelihood approach is usually used by multi-lateral, bi-lateral agencies and international Nongovernmental Organisations. Bishop-Sambrook (2004) presents a study that used the livelihoods approach to analyse farm power in small holder households in sub-Saharan Africa and found out that the asset bases of the studied households fell short of that of tractor owners.

Binns and Daskon (2009) have carried out studies into the role of culture in sustainable development by carrying out field based research in Central Sri Lanka. They have concluded

that culture is an important aspect in sustainable development but is not given prominence to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

The sustainable livelihoods approach has also been employed by Simpson(Date) in assessing the livelihood benefits to communities living adjacent to or within tourism destinations and found out that there were both negative and positive impacts, but that the positive impacts tended to outweigh the negative impacts.

## **5. Proposed Methodology**

### **5.1 Research design**

The study will be done using a mixed designs approach. It is to be an empirical research that will collect and use both primary and secondary data. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be employed. The main quantitative design will be in the form of a survey, which, according to Mouton (2001:152) is applicable for community based studies under the classification of empirical, primary and numeric data designs.

The study also will have an ethnographic research dimension, which is suitable for the proposed assessment, as case studies under ethnographic designs can be used for studies that focus on the family, households and small communities. The study aims to describe the nature and scope of livelihoods of the selected community, and hence families and households will be involved (Mouton, 2001).

An element of participatory research design is part of the overall design, as research participants will be involved, especially with regards to recommendations that are the main purpose of the study. Participatory research is a qualitative design method that, according to Mouton (2001:150) is used to gain insight into the lifeworlds of the research participants. In the particular case chosen the participatory research will give an insight into the life of the san community within the framework of the conservancy. Participatory research will therefore give an “insider perspective” and may also be useful in utilising indigenous knowledge for development programmes.

The mixed design approach also has an element of evaluation research, whose main aim is to determine whether an intervention, which could be a programme, has been successful or effective. This makes the study quasi experimental, where the programme becomes the treatment, where the study aims to find the effect of the treatment.

The mixed methods design has been selected due to the complementarities of the approaches. Each of the methods has some weaknesses (according to Johnson and Turner, 2003), and mixing the methods helps in addressing the weaknesses and build synergies on the strengths of the methods. The synergies derived from a mixed design can be seen with the comparison that Bryman (1999) gives on the two methods. For example, while quantitative methods give an outsider perspective, qualitative methods provide an insider perspective. Also, for example, quantitative methods give hard reliable data, while qualitative approaches give rich and deep data. The collection and analysis will therefore involve triangulation, where the final analysis is informed by both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the design (Maree, 2007).

## **5.2 Data Collection methods**

Due to the mixed nature of the design, there will also be a combination of the data collection methods, deriving from each of the two approaches, that is, the quantitative as well as the qualitative methods. Four methods of data collection have been chosen for the study, namely questionnaires (quan), interview of key informants, focus group discussions (qual) and observation (quan).

### **5.2.1 Questionnaires**

Questionnaires will be used in the study to obtain mainly quantitative data (especially through closed ended questions), while some textual and qualitative data will also be obtained through open ended questions. The questionnaires will mostly not be self administered, but will be administered with the help of research assistants. The help of research assistants will be needed because of the nature of the community. San communities have complicated languages, and most san people are still confined to their mother tongue. Trained research assistants will be used to help with translations. The researcher has successfully negotiated for help with research assistants from Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA), an NGO that is working with san communities in southern Africa and Namibia.

Questionnaires have been chosen as a data collection method for the study because of the many advantages that they offer in a research. Johnson and Turner (2006) point out that questionnaires are effective as a data collection method as they are good for measuring attitudes as well as provide other content from research content. There is a relatively high degree of measurement validity with well constructed and tested questionnaires. Also according to Johnson and Turner (2003), questionnaires have another advantage of being administered to

a group, and can also be administered to probability samples. This will be suitable for the study in question.

### **5.2.2 Interviews**

Interviews will also be used to supplement and complement the data collected by the questionnaires. Johnson and Turner (2003:309) list, among others, the following as being advantages of interviews, which advantages make interviews as a data collection method suitable for the proposed study: Suitable for measuring attitudes and provision of in depth information; allowance for probing and relatively high measurement validity.

The study will employ interviews of key informants, who will include the following: Programme personnel of NGOs working with san communities, conservancy committee leaders, community leaders, Ministry of Environment and Tourism Officials and other representatives of government, adjacent commercial farmers and heads of households among others. For the selected community people, the interviews will be face to face, while telephonic interviews will be employed for NGO and government personell. The telephonic interviews will be done so as to minimise costs, as some stakeholders are great distances apart.

### **5.2.3 Focus groups**

The researcher will also include focus group discussions under the qualitative research dimension. Since there is a need for an insider perspective and also the need to have recommendations that include the views of the participants, focus group discussions are also appropriate for the study ,as they are useful for exploring ideas, and can also allow probing. Since taping can be used, retention of collected data is guaranteed.

Focus groups have to be virtually homogeneous, the researcher targets the following for focus groups: A group of men and women, the conservancy committee and thirdly, a group of young people (13-19 years).

### **5.2.4 Observation**

The fourth method of data collection to be used in the proposed study is observation. This will be used simultaneously as the other methods are being employed. Observation will be good for the description of the community and the conservancy programme, and has an advantage of

bringing out contextual factors and does not limit collected data to what people say, for example, in questionnaires and interviews (Johnson and Turner,2003).

## **6. Sampling Design**

The Sampling design for the study will include both probability and non probability methods. This is due to the different methods of data collection that have been selected. It should be pointed out that one of the data collection methods, observation, will not involve any form of sampling. The rest of the data collection methods will involve sampling in the following ways:

### **6.1 Probability simple random sample**

The questionnaire as a data collection method will be directed to heads of households. The heads of households will be chosen by a simple random sample, where households will be allocated specific numbers. The numbers will be written on cards, which will be mixed in a container, and be picked up randomly. Nyae Nyae conservancy community has a population of about 2300 people (NACSO, 2009).The researcher, in his intended familiarisation tour, will determine the approximate number of households in the conservancy area, and decide on a number that can be representative of the households in the community .The specific characteristics of the population, and the intended statistical analysis will determine sample size. The community is however expected to be homogeneous, which will easily ensure a representative sample.

The main advantage of the simple random probability sample is that the results to be obtained can be generalised to the whole population, which generalisations cannot be done with the non probability sample.

### **6.2 Stratified sample**

The researcher intends to have two focus groups that will comprise adults (above 21 years) and children (13-20 years).This will be stratified sampling. There will be equal allocation to the strata. Each stratum will also have an equal allocation of male and female participants. The choice for participating in the focus groups involve simple random samples for each stratum. This means there may be generalisation for a stratum from the results that will be collected.

### **6.3 Purposive sample**

Purposive sampling will be done for the key informants' interviews. This means that the findings cannot be generalised for the whole community. The key informants will be drawn from programme officers of NGOs that work with san people, Ministry of Environment and Tourism Officials, community leaders as well as conservancy members.

## **7. Data analysis**

The first data analysis method that the study will employ is descriptive statistics, which is used to organise and summarise data in a meaningful way (Maree 2002).This will be useful for the

organisation of qualitative and quantitative data that will be collected by especially the questionnaire method. One of the objectives of the study is to describe the nature and scope of livelihoods in the conservancy. The descriptive method will utilise frequency tables, pie charts as well as bar graphs to present the data that would be collected. In correspondence with the objectives, the data will reflect on the nature of the livelihood activities, sex and age distribution as well as income levels.

Numerical methods will also be employed, especially with regards to the income levels of the households, were, for example, average income per household will have to be computed. Distributions with age will also be used for the quantitative data. The use of descriptive statistics will be useful when primary data has been collected, where the data is organised so as to get an understanding of the characteristics of the data (Maree, 2007).

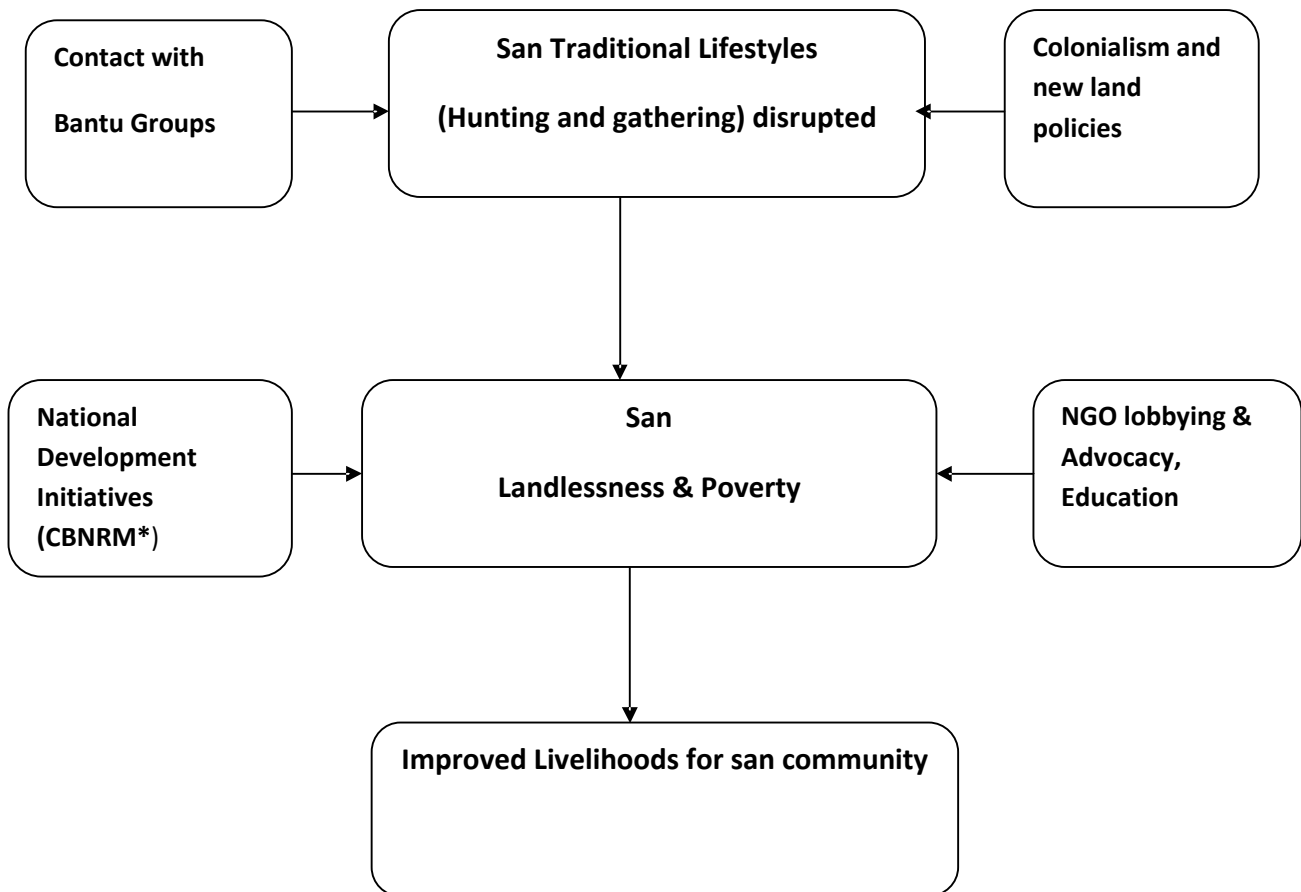
Inferential statistics will also be employed as a tool in analysing the collected data. This will be useful when the researcher wants to draw generalisations and conclusions on the chosen population. The main tool under inferential statistics will be normal distribution. The usefulness of normal distribution is that it is associated with real life phenomena (Maree, 2007). In explaining the data of the community therefore; normal distribution will help in describing the characteristics of the community.

## **8. Conceptual Framework**

### **8.1 Key issues**

San traditional livelihoods; Effect of contact with Bantu groups; Effect of colonialism and land use policies; Post independent community development initiatives; Marginalisation of san people and poverty; Land ownership; Establishment of community conservancies; The Nyae Nyae conservancy; Livelihoods approach; Livelihoods' assets; Improved livelihoods

**Fig 8.1 Schematic Outline of key constructs and Issues**



\*Community Based Natural Resources Management

Based on the literature review and the formulated research objectives, several issues and key constructs emerge. One of the issues concerns the san traditional life of hunting and gathering, which they have maintained over a long time to the present day Vis a Vis the new land policies of modern governance. The general poverty among the san people in Namibia and elsewhere in southern Africa can be juxtaposed with national development initiatives as well as specific efforts by the government and civil society to integrate the san into the modern socio-economic life. Land reform and tenure, livelihoods and Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) are linked issues for the proposed study.

The current general poverty of the san people as outlined in the literature review is linked to the changes brought about by modern national administration and governance. Before the advent of

colonialism, the current boundaries within southern Africa were not in existence. The boundaries that define modern countries can be traced to the Berlin Conference of 1884 which led to the partitioning of Africa and sharing of territories by mainly European countries.

Before the advent of colonialism, however, the San people had come into contact with the Bantu speaking people, who arrived in southern Africa after the San. The San people in present day Namibia are thought to have moved into this arid area as they moved away from the Bantu speaking people.

The new land tenure systems that were introduced automatically made the San people without territories that they could legally claim—that is, the new system made the San people landless. The territories that San people once used for their traditional lifestyle of hunting and gathering could be taken away for some other activities that were regarded as economically more viable, like their removal from the Etosha area for the establishment of a national wild life park or their removal from some areas for the establishment of commercial farms. These major changes in land use patterns occurred before independence in Namibia. The hunting of San people became illegal, as hunting became controlled by law, with a requirement for the acquisition of hunting concessions. The hunting of San people, their mainstay for livelihood, became poaching, an illegal activity.

The San people were left with an option of integrating into the main socio-economic sphere by means of either becoming communal farmers or working in commercial farms and other industries. Communal farming is done by recognised tribal groups who were assigned special areas called reserves. The San people had no area of their own to call a reserve, and there is no evidence that they were simply prepared to switch from their traditional life of hunting and gathering into farming or being employed elsewhere. And they did not have the skills that were needed for either livestock farming, like the Herero people, for example, who have been traditionally cattle herders. The conditions therefore condemned the San people to abject poverty, as they became landless, with an option, because of their lack of specialised skills, to become labourers in commercial farms as well as communal farms. The San people became associated with extreme poverty, landlessness, wandering and drunkenness. Their destitution has been classified as permanent as well as generational (Good, K. 1999).

The issue of rights of indigenous minorities, including land rights, gained momentum, with the involvement of civil society groups like the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia. Other

organisations, like WIMSA, rolled out programmes for raising awareness on the rights of san people, including the provision of education. The government of Namibia has come up with a development blueprint meant to benefit all in the form of vision 2030. The programmes and initiatives emanating from vision 2030 have noble aims, but most of them are not specific to minority groups like the san, who are in a particular predicament.

The community based natural resources management programme came with the aim of empowering communities through the control of natural resources, leading to the establishment of the community based conservancy (NACSO, 2009). The Nyaye Nyaye conservancy was created to improve the livelihoods of the san people who lived in the area adjacent commercial farms. The conservancy has been in existence for the past ten years. The activities that are done in the conservancy are justifiable if they have resulted in improvement in the livelihoods of the resident san community. The livelihoods approach can be used to determine the impact of the Nyae Nyae conservancy.

## **9. Ethical consideration**

Ethical issues that are to be dealt with in the study will cover the broad areas of professional ethic, relationship to society, relationship to subjects of science as well as relationship to the environment (Mouton, 2001:238). Each of the issues will be briefly discussed below:

### **9.1 Relationship to the practice of science (professional ethics)**

The researcher, in assessing the impact of the selected conservancy on the livelihoods of the resident san community will pursue objectivity, so that the ultimate findings and recommendations of the study are based on verifiable scientific evidence. The information collected will be original to the research, ie, there will be a recording of the researcher's own data, without any falsification or fabrication. There will be acknowledgement of sources and those who would contribute to the information contained in the study. This implies that, for the purpose of the integrity of the study, sources will be consulted and acknowledged, without any form of plagiarism. The study, as part of the MDS programme of the University of the Free State, will only be submitted to the Free State University in order to avoid simultaneous submissions of manuscripts (Mouton, 2001:241).

## **9.2 Relationship to society**

This study on the impact of the Nyae Nyae conservancy is meant to generate knowledge that can be used for the benefit of society. The findings and recommendations should reflect the researcher's accountability to society. The research will therefore follow procedures that are consistent with transparency-with no clandestine activities. Stakeholders like relevant government Ministries and civil society organisations will notified of the purpose and process of the study. In this particular research, there will be communication with the ministry of Environment and Tourism, Environmental Management NGOs under the auspices of NACSO, the Nyae Nyae Foundation and other like organisations.

The study will be part of public knowledge, and this has been confirmed by the availability of some studies done in the past in the same programme which have been electronically posted by the University.

## **9.3 Relationship to the subjects of science**

The conservancy under discussion is special is that the main subjects, the san people, are peculiar in language and culture, which the researcher has to be sensitive to and respectful of, so that the most can be obtained out of the study. The rights and dignity of the san as people will have to be respected. The researcher will engage people who are familiar with the language and culture of the particular san people so that translations can be made, with the right approach being employed.

Fortunately, the researcher has established contact with WIMSA, an organisation that has had considerable experience in working with the san people in advocacy for san rights as well as provision of Education. Some young san people have gone through the programme of WIMSA and a few have joined professions like teaching and are mainly working in schools that have been established particularly for the san people. The researcher will involve such san professionals to assist in the study. Through the right assistance from the san,that includes correct translation to communicate the aim, objectives and process of the study, so that the subjects are assured of their right to anonymity and confidentiality, informed consent as well as an assurance of protection from any form of harm by the study process.

The researcher will seek advice in order to ascertain the appropriate times to interact with the subjects, and also on the etiquette needed to communicate with different groups within the

community like women and old people, including the community leadership. The researcher will ensure that interviews will not be held during inappropriate times in light of the preferences of the community.

#### **9.4 Relationship to the environment**

The study under discussion is not a threat to the environment. In light of sustainable development, the research will likely bring recommendations that raise issues of environmental protection, if the assessment reveals that the conservancy is in any way threatening the sustainability of the environment.

#### **10. Possible limitations of the study**

Possible limitations to the study include language and cultural barriers, access to targeted participants, costs and time.

##### **10.1 Language and cultural barriers**

The san people have unique cultures and languages, to which the researcher has no prior exposure. Since the researcher is from a different cultural and language background, thorough assessment of the programme under studies may be compromised. The researcher intends to deal with this limitation by doing a background study on the culture of the targeted community through reading as well as discussions with young educated san people and personell of NGOs that work with san communities, particularly WIMSA. Two to three educated young san people are going to be included as research assistants, and will also help with translations and mobilising the community as well as advise the researcher on some specific cultural aspects.

##### **10.2 Access to targeted participants**

The main targeted participants of the study are the san community in the selected conservancy, government personnel and representatives of relevant Government Ministries. The community has to be mobilised appropriately so that they “buy into’ the study and give consent. The NGO personnel as well as government ministries have to also agree to participate in the research, especially given bureaucracy and possibly tight schedules for the later.

The researcher will arrange for the timely gaining of access to the targeted participants. For the san community, organisations that work with san communities like WIMSA and the Nyae Nyae

Foundation (which works directly with the selected conservancy) will be approached for assistance.

### **10.3 Costs**

The research will involve costs in the form of travelling long distances, meals and accommodation, stipends to research assistants, printing, and telephone communication among others. Failure to meet expected costs will be detrimental to the comprehensive execution and completion of the study.

The researcher will put aside a budget for the study, as well as seek more assistance for meeting the costs in cash and in kind. Negotiations will be done with the research assistants so that the stipends remain at a minimal.

### **10.4 Time**

The research has to be completed within a specific amount of time. Time is a possible limitation as the researcher is engaged in full time employment which often involves travelling. The possible time limitation will be dealt with by negotiating for time from employer in advance, and adjustments of the employment work plan of the researcher. The researcher will also utilise study and vacation leave available so as to conduct field work and complete the study within the proposed time.

**11. Proposed Timeline (2010)**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>
<b>1. Identification of data sources and gaining access</b>	<b>14</b>									
<b>2. In depth literature review</b>	<b>75</b>									
<b>3. Development of data collection instruments and piloting</b>	<b>45</b>									
<b>4. Data collection</b>	<b>21</b>									
<b>5. Data analysis</b>	<b>21</b>									
<b>6. Report Writing &amp; completion of draft</b>	<b>30</b>									
<b>7. Revision of draft and final submission</b>										

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