

Chapter 4 : Livelihoods and environmental pressures

Introduction

Information on land uses and ownership, household economies and structures, farming and pressures on natural resources is provided in this final chapter. Good recent information is available for some aspects but rather little appears known or available for others. The following sets of data provided most of the results presented here: the Lux-Development population survey done in 1999; Agricultural Surveys in 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99; and the 1994 Income and Expenditure Survey.

It is clear that many inland households were only established relatively recently, and agricultural practices and economic activities in rural households along the river and those in inland areas differ in a number of ways. Some analyses compare conditions in households along the river with those in inland areas, while other results compare riverine homes with those in three inland zones in the inland: western, central and eastern. This is because some data can only be grouped into riverine and inland areas, whereas other sets can be divided into the three inland areas.

The most important pressures on the environment reported here are the clearing of natural vegetation for crop cultivation and the widespread bush fires that are such a prominent feature of the winter months. Few data appear to be available on other pressures, such as the effects of fishing in the river, conflicts between people and wildlife, and the harvesting of selected trees for commercial timber production.

Land uses and ownership

The two maps provide information on the uses of land (Figure 32) and the people or organisations that own the land (Figure 33). In some circumstances, "ownership" reflects legal custody over land, while in others it refers to the people or bodies that have control over land. Areas used for different purposes and owned/controlled by different groups are shown in Tables 6 and 7 on the next pages.

The greatest part (about 74%) of the region is used for communal grazing, rural settlements and crop cultivation. Areas immediately in and around settlements are treated as a mix of settlements and small-scale farming in Figure 32. The area actually cleared for cultivation amounts to about 4% of the region (see Figure 48 on page 42).

A total of 15% of the region is used for nature conservation in the Khaudum, Mangetti, Popa Falls and Caprivi nature reserves, and those reserves are owned and controlled by the government through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

There are two kinds of large-scale farms. The first consist of surveyed farms used by the government or the Namibia Development Corporation (NDC), or which have been allocated by government to private individuals. Two large farms in the Mangetti area and one at Omega are used by the NDC, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development runs the quarantine farm at Mangetti. Other large government or NDC farms are along the river, at Musese,

Shadikongoro, Shitemo, Vungu Vungu and Mashare, and along the Mururani-Rundu road at Ncamagoro and north of Katjinakatji. The 44 Mangetti farms were established to promote commercial farming in the region, but apparently not all of them are currently allocated to farmers. Each of the 44 farms is about 500 hectares in size.

The other group of large-scale farms are those used by private individuals who have apparently either laid claim to the land or have been allocated large tracts of land by tribal authorities. Most of those farms are along the Mururani-Rundu road, but there are also several new farms that have been established to the west of Katjinakatji and east of Ncaute. The boundaries of these new farming ventures are not known, and the areas are thus roughly indicated in Figures 32 and 33. It is quite possible that many other farms are being claimed elsewhere in the inland areas.

Other than communal or tribal authorities that control about 74% of the region, the other major owners or controllers of land are the government (17%), NDC (5%) and large-scale private farmers (5%).

Table 6: Approximate areas and percentages of the region used for various purposes.

Use	Area (km ²)	% of total area
Rundu town	7	Less than 1
Quarantine	588	1.2
Large-scale farming	4 840	10.0
Nature conservation	7 319	15.1
Communal	35 703	73.7
Total	48 457	100.0

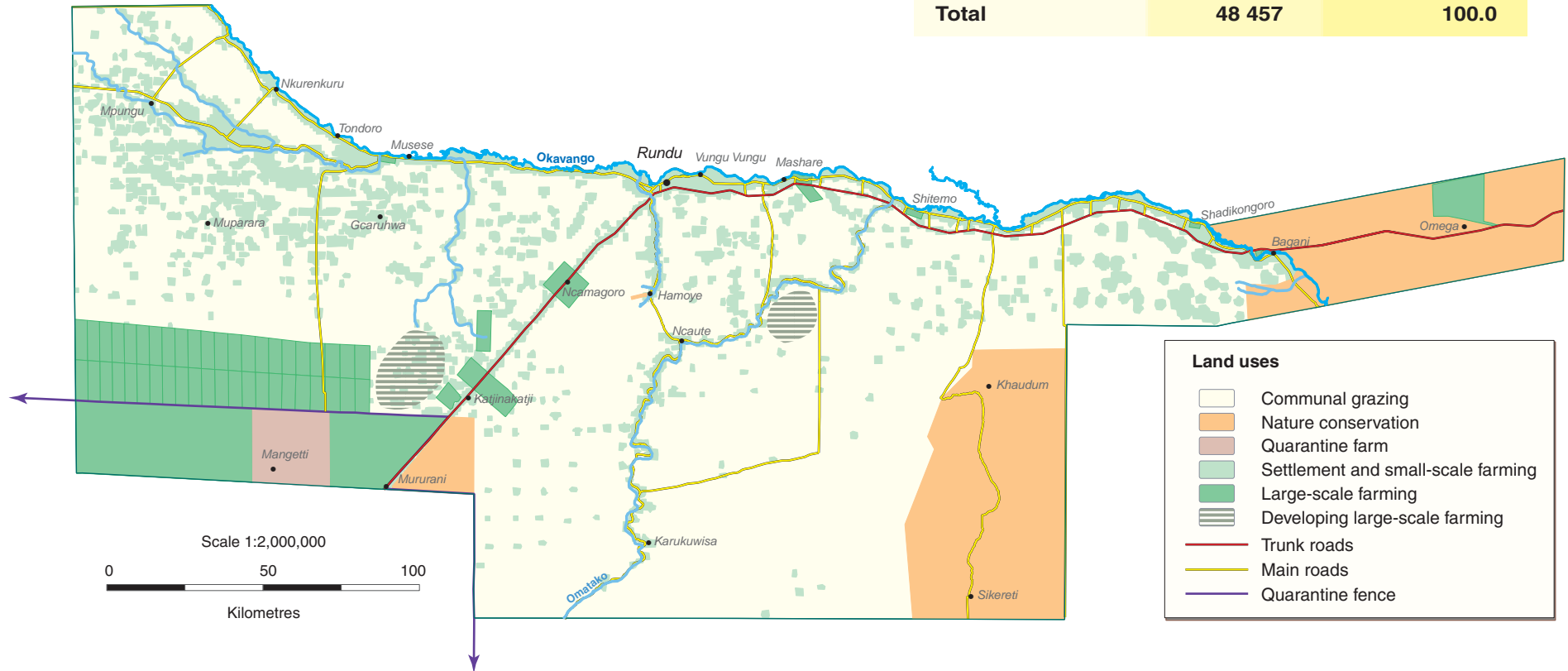


Figure 32 Areas used for different purposes.

Table 7: Approximate areas and percentages of the region owned or controlled by different groups.

"Owner"	Area (km ²)	% of total area
Local government (Rundu)	7	Less than 1
Namibia Development Corporation	2 222	4.6
Private farmers	2 401	5.0
Central government	8 124	16.8
Communal authority	35 703	73.7
Total	48 457	100.0

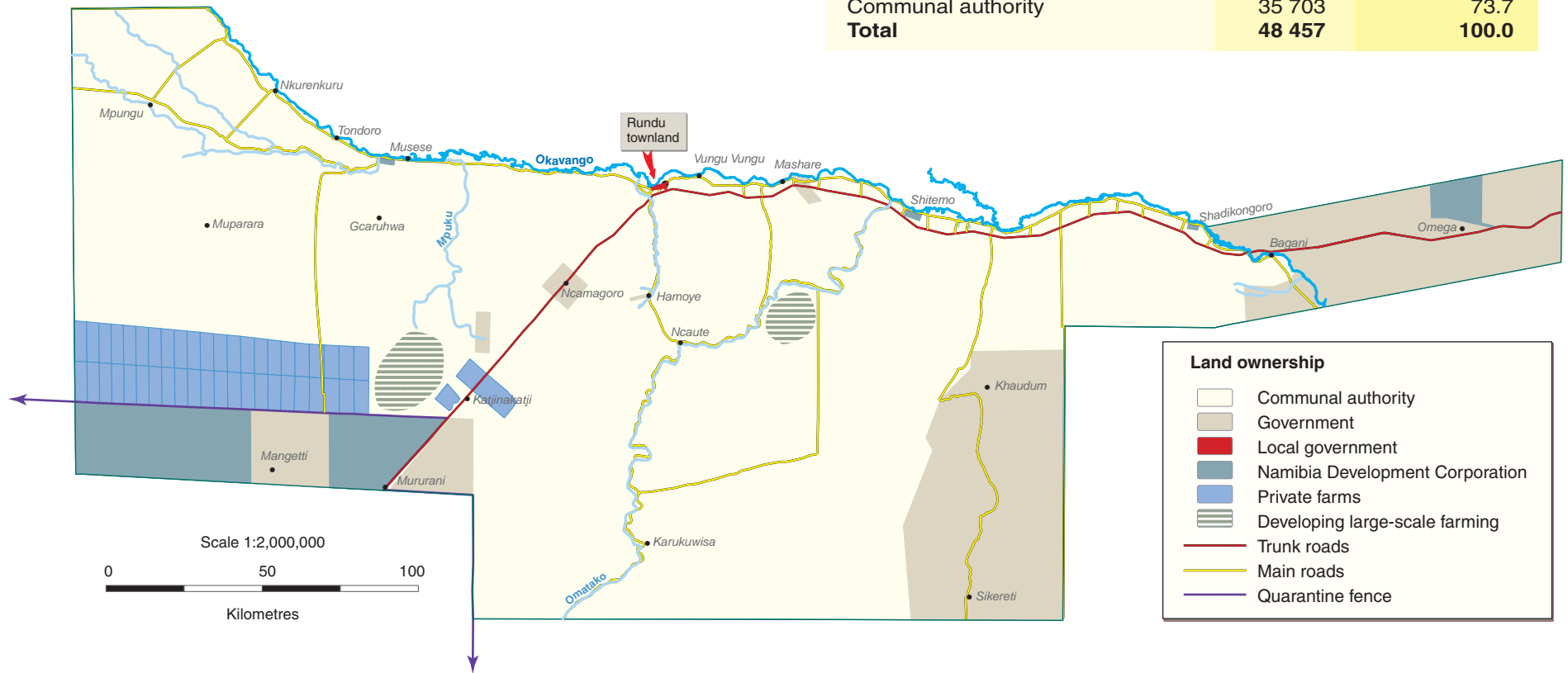


Figure 33 Areas owned or controlled by different people or organizations.