

A digest of information on key aspects of Otjozondjupa and Omaheke's geography

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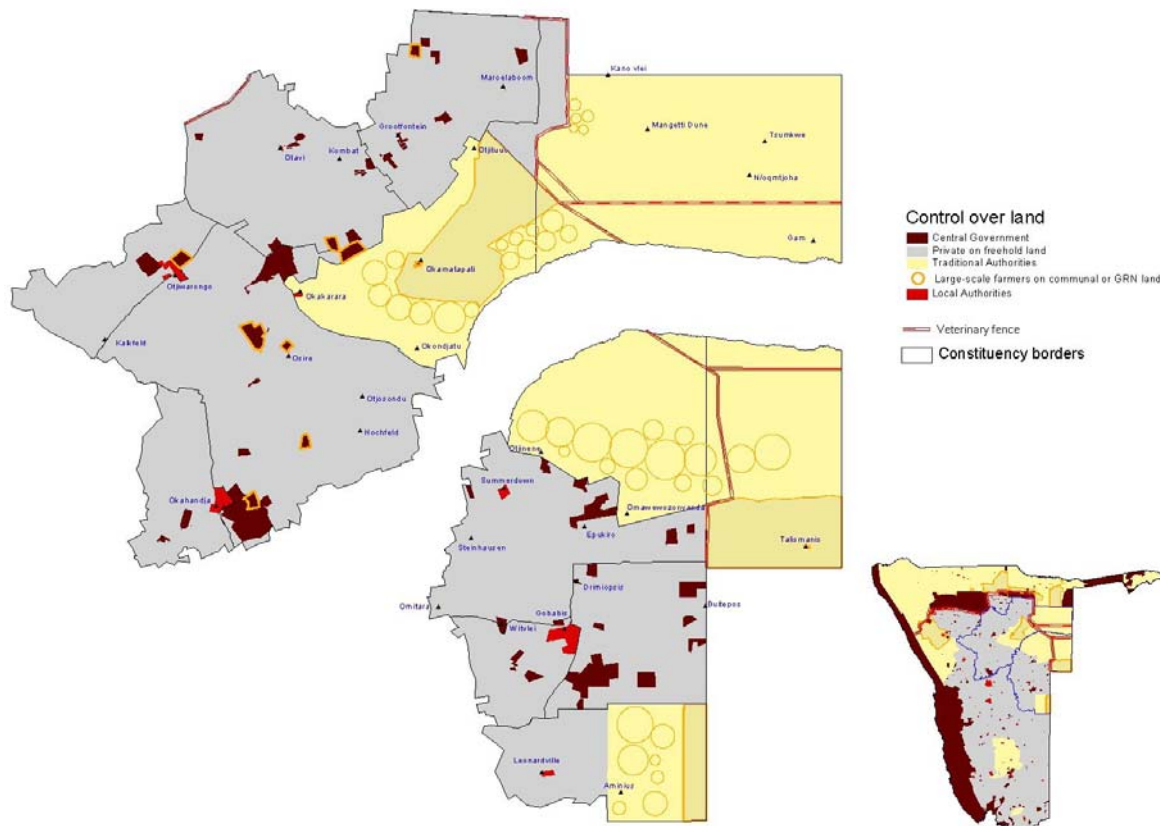
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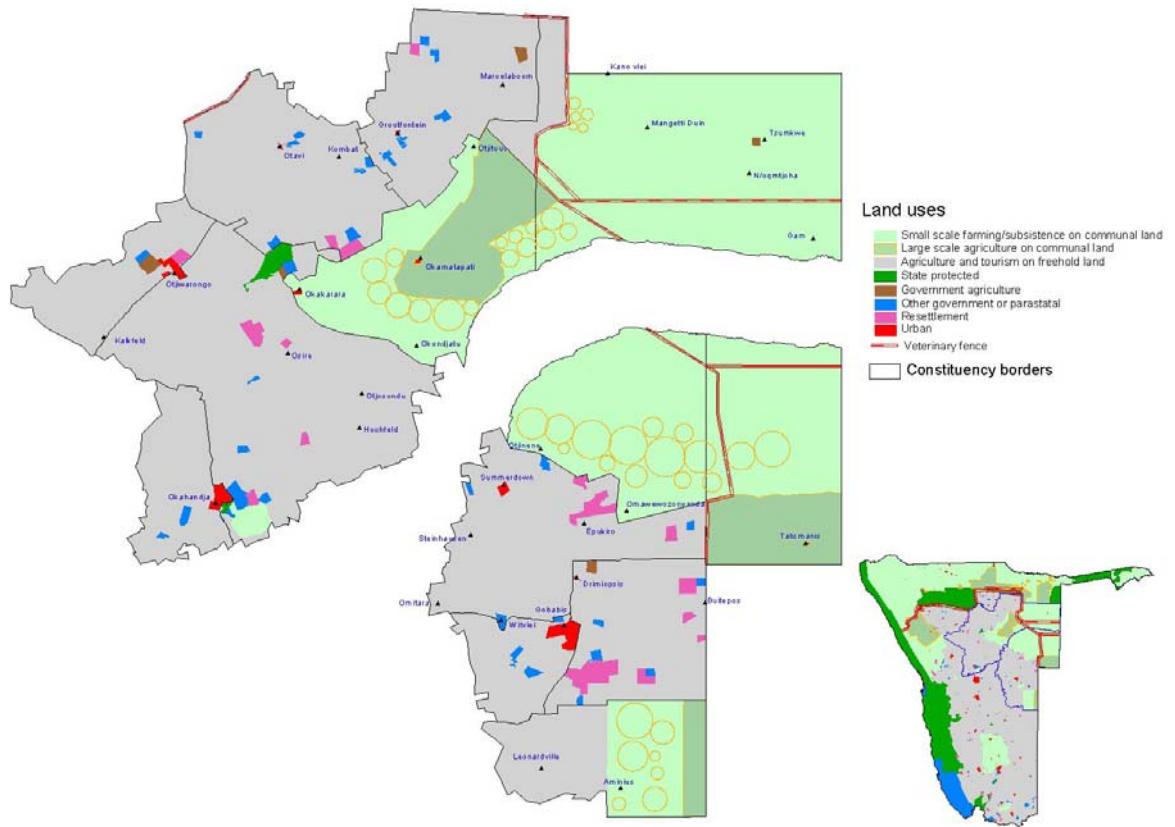
Research and Information Services of Namibia

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Land issues

The two regions embody all the complexities and dynamics of the 'land issue' in Namibia, and there is good scope for using this as a so-called case study. On the one hand, much of the land is freehold, largely and traditionally owned by whites and used for cattle farming. However, recent years have seen increasing numbers of the farms being owned by blacks, who mainly continue farming with livestock, while increasing numbers of farms owned by whites are used for tourism, trophy hunting and/or game production for live or meat sales. In addition, farms are being used for 'resettlement', some of them being used really for subsistence farming because many families are placed there, while others are being retained as larger economically productive units.

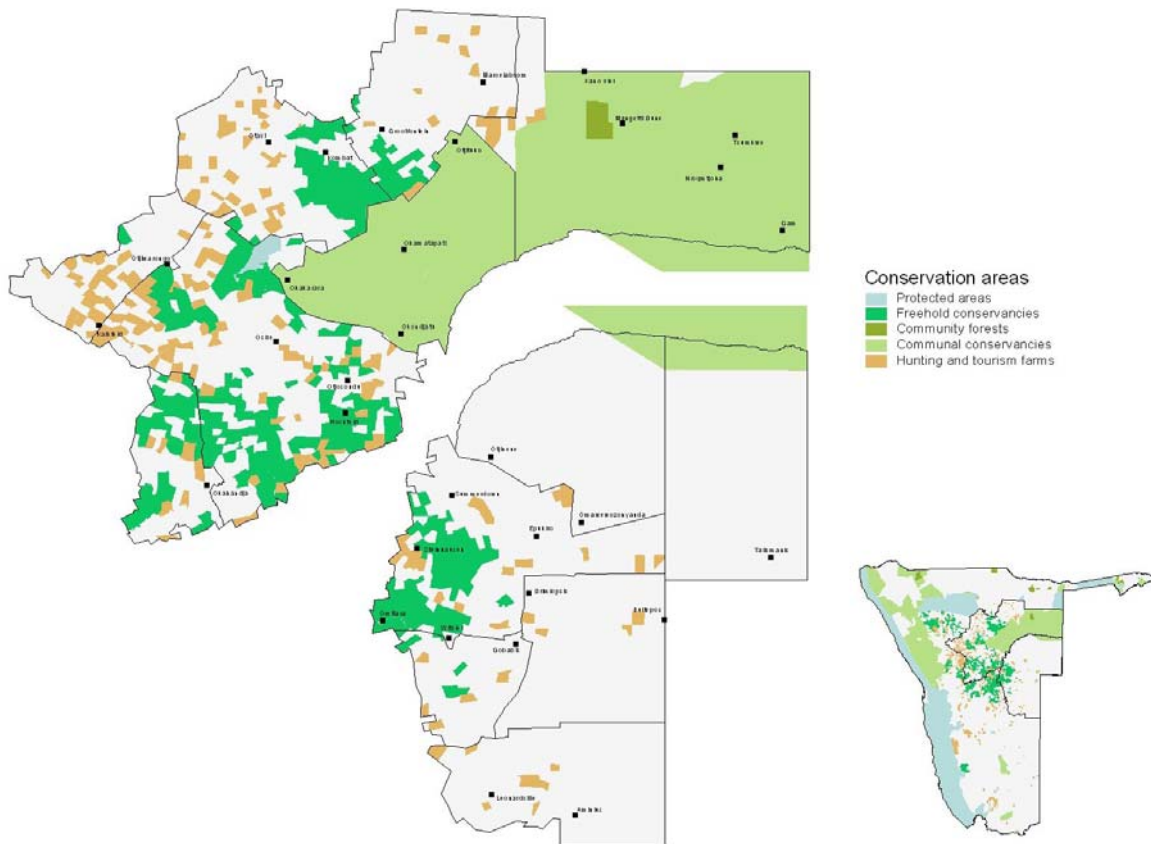
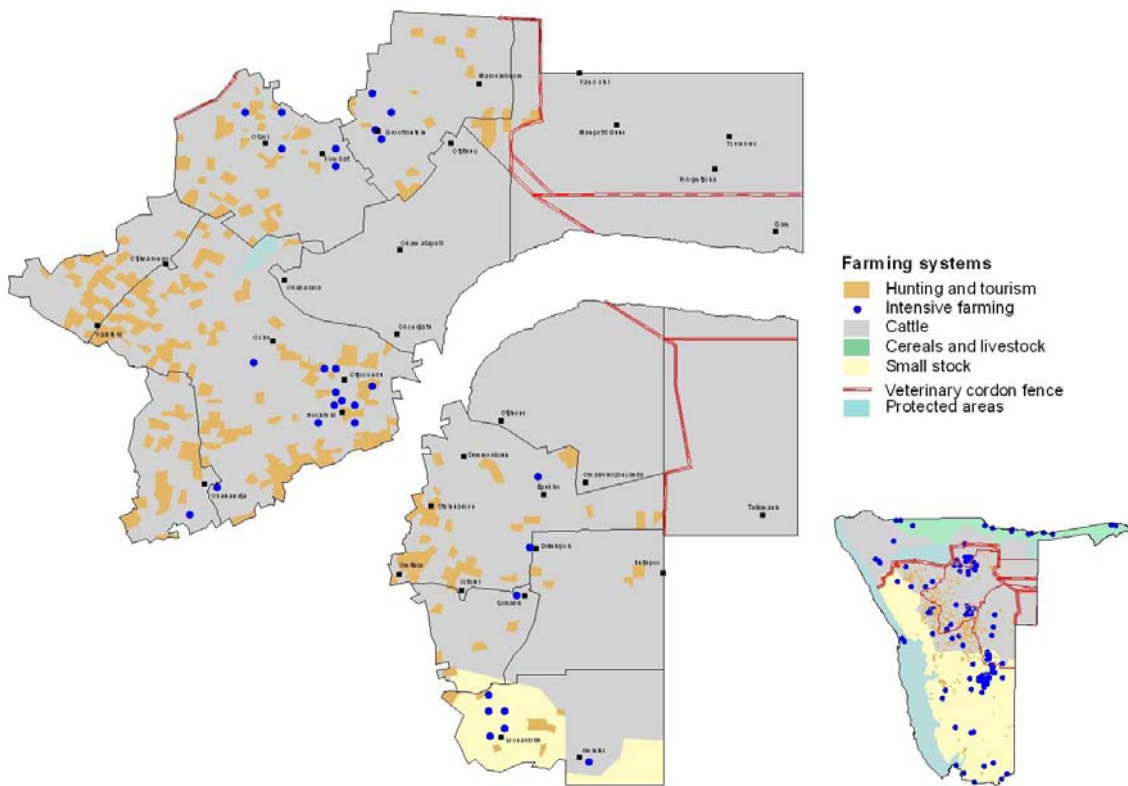




All of this begs the interesting question: what is more important: **land ownership or land use?**

And the same question can be applied to communal areas of both regions. Here, increasing farms are being fenced off, expropriated or allocated by influential people, and then farmed as economically productive cattle farms. Remaining areas are used for subsistence farming and/or the harvesting of natural resources. Poverty amongst subsistence farmers is prevalent because of the low productive potential of vegetation and soils of the Kalahari Sands.

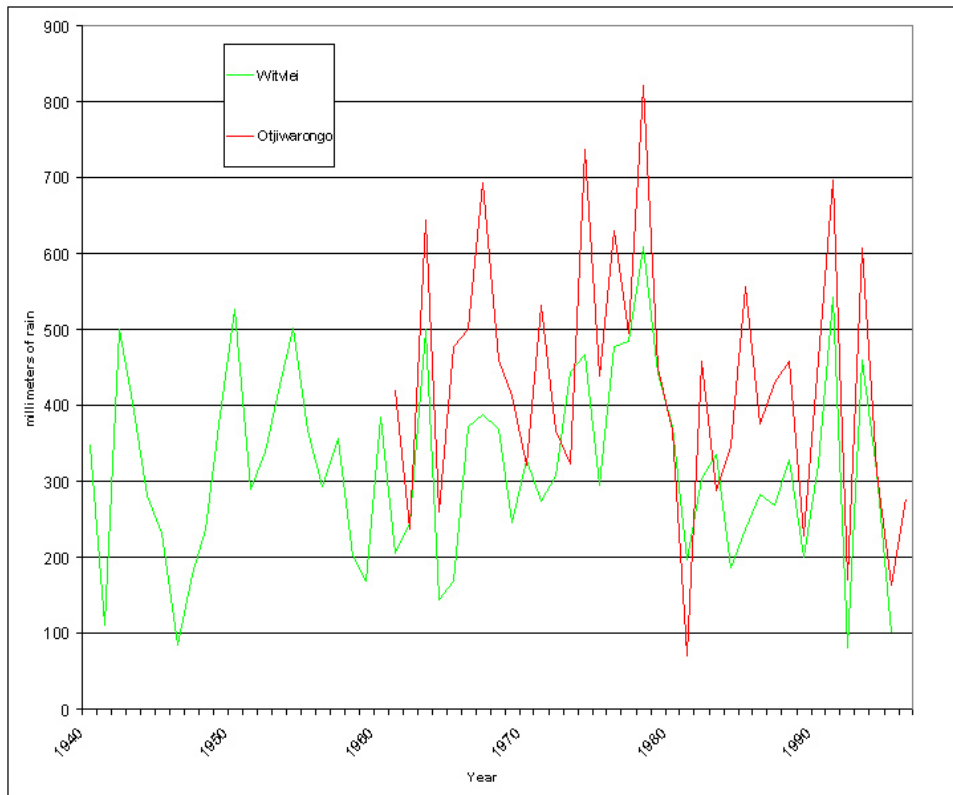
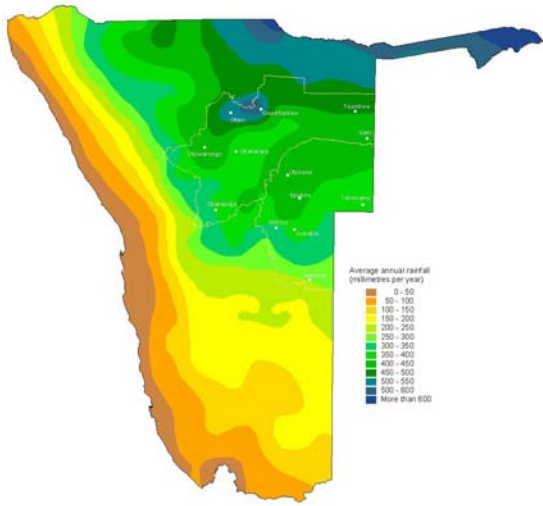
In the same way that freehold farmers are now making greater economic use of wildlife, efforts are being made for communal farmers to benefit from wildlife and woodlands through the establishment of conservancies and community forests.

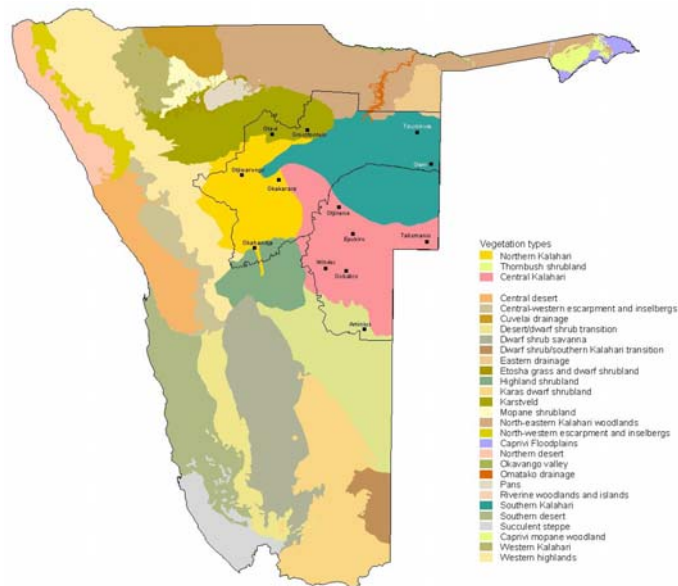
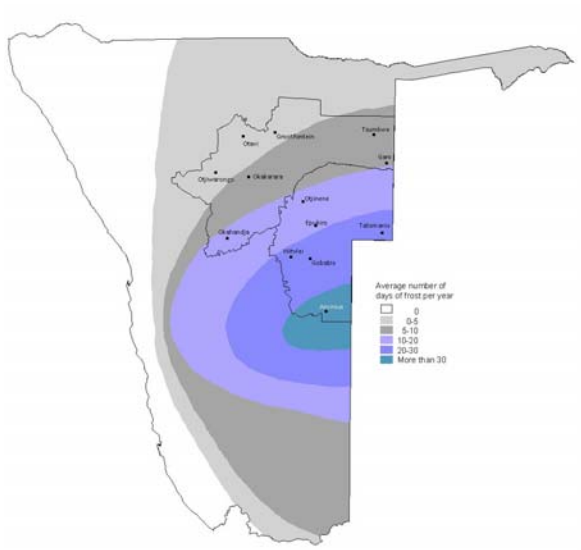


Climate

Rainfall generally increases from south to north, and there is also a zone of higher rainfall caused by orographic uplift over the Grootfontein-Otavi-Tsumeb hills. Rainfall also varies greatly from year to

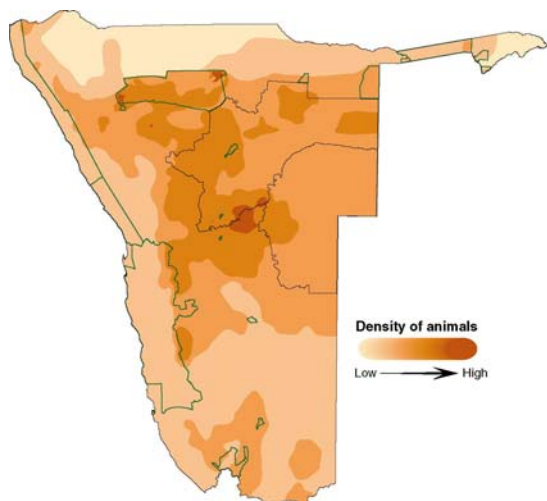
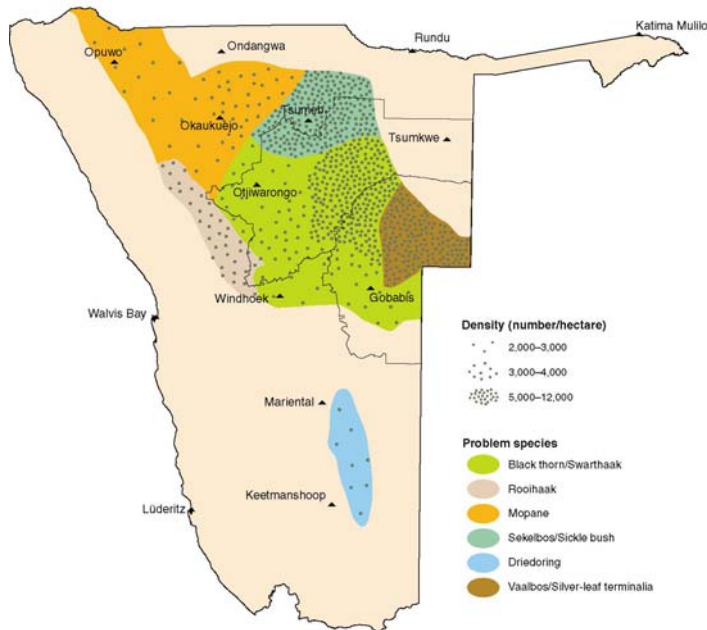
year, causing wide variation in pasture availability, carrying capacity, rates and kinds of livestock offtake, meat prices, and the economic viability of farms.





Vegetation

The eastern two-thirds of the region are dominated by savannas characteristic of Kalahari Sands, with more broad-leaf deciduous trees in the north and more thorny species in the south. The western parts are covered in thorny species growing on more rocky, shallow soils. These areas are the most degraded in the country as a result of bush encroachment. This problem is largely and directly due to a lack of fires in areas used for livestock farming; farmers prevent fires and there is little grass to burn anyway because of heavy grazing.

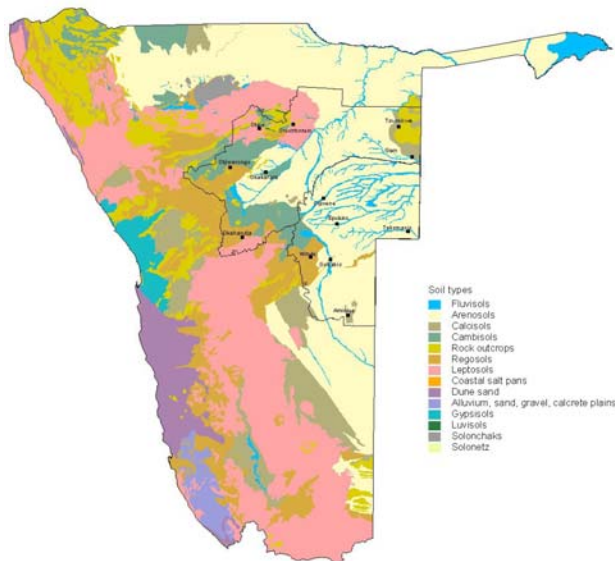
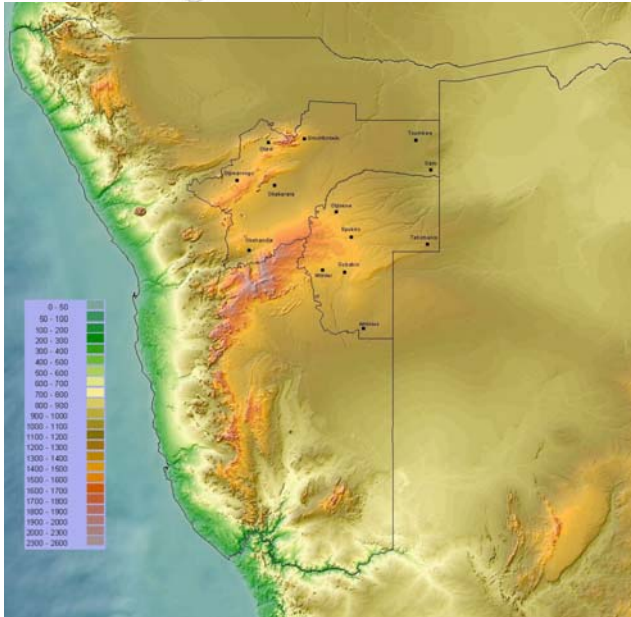
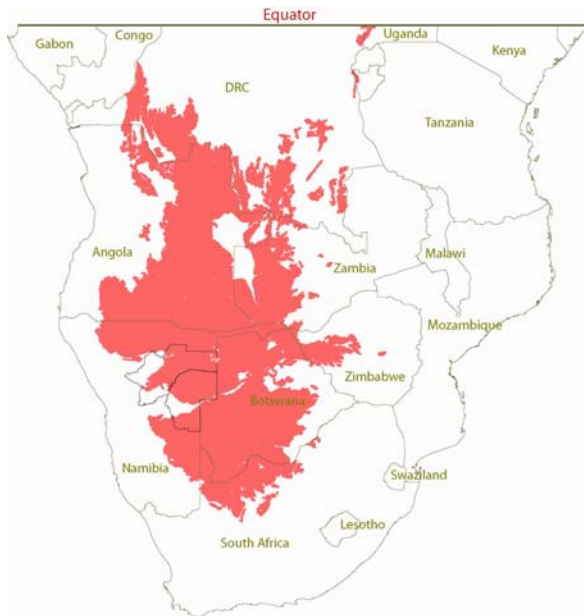


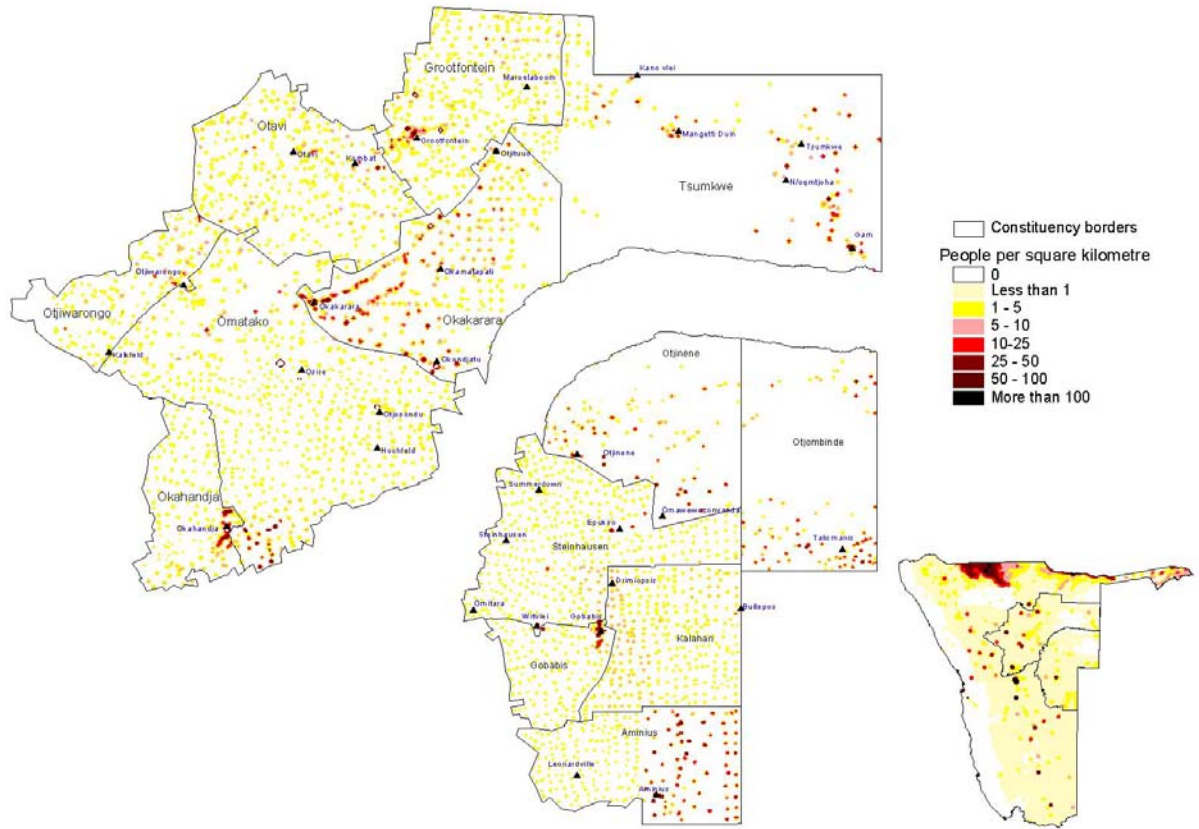
Wildlife

There is much more wildlife on freehold farms than in parks or any other areas of the country. This is largely due to the value and use of wildlife by freehold farmers. Low densities of wildlife in the eastern communal areas are the result of hunting, low levels of protection and the poor nutrient status of the Kalahari Sands that cover almost all the communal areas.

Topography, geology and soils

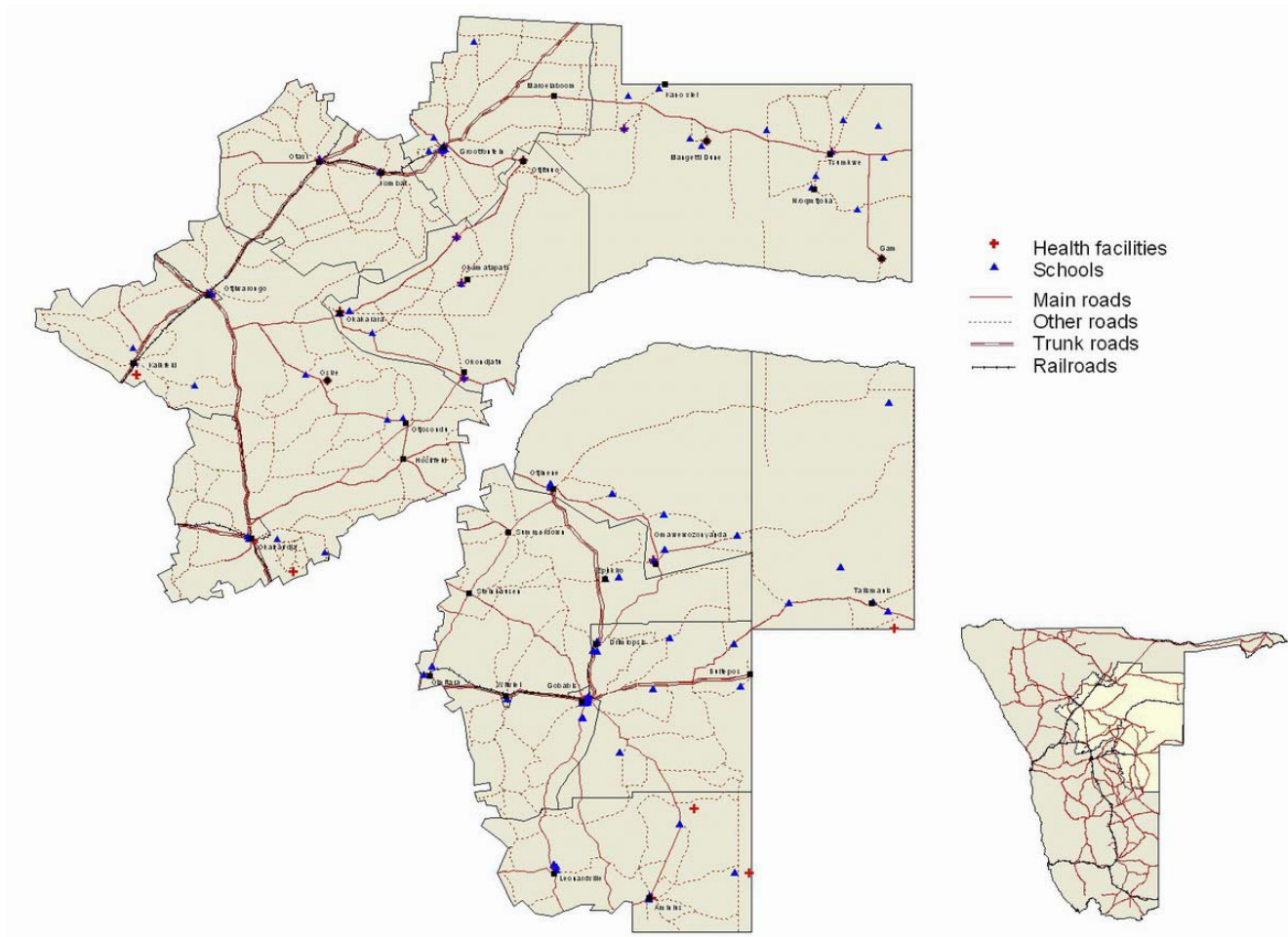
The two regions lie on the western edge of a vast basin of sand, and it is this sand that determines much about the vegetation, wildlife, farming and mineral potential of the region. Groundwater is generally available throughout both regions, and the quality of water is also generally good. Higher yielding aquifers are present in several areas: around Grootfontein, Leonardville, Hochfeld and in the Eiseb.





Population

Omaheke had a total population of 68,039 in 2001, this figure having grown by 27% from 53492 in 1991. Otjozondjupa had a total population of 135,384, this figure having grown by 32% from 102,397 in 1991. Omaheke's population made up 3.7% of Namibia's total population, while Otjozondjupa's population amounted to 7.3% of the country total.. Urban people make up 26% of Omaheke's population and 43% of Otjozondjupa.



RURAL Femals	17075	19291
RURAL Males	19049	24975
Urban females	8699	27950
Urban men	8669	30181

2001 Total Pop	67496	135723
2001 Females	32200	65487
2001 Males	35296	70236
2001 Sex Ratio*	109.6	107.3
% Of Total	3.7	7.4

Urban 1991	17368	58131
Urban 2001	13856	55011

1991 Total Pop	52735	102536
1991 Females	25423	47315
1991 Males	27312	55221
1991 Sex Ratio*	107.4	116.7
% Of Total	3.7	7.3

Rural 1991	36124	44266
Rural 2001	54183	80373

%1991/2001 Growth	27.99	32.37
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Total 1991	53492	102397
Total 2001	68039	135384
% growth	27%	32%

Table 2.13 Population of Omaheke, 2001 Census

Age Group	Total Female		Male
- 4	9 965	4 991	4 974
5 - 9	9 315	4 543	4 772
10 - 14	8 326	4 032	4 294
15 - 19	7 363	3 407	3 956
20 - 24	5 904	2 605	3 299
25 - 29	4 980	2 301	2 679
30 - 34	4 250	1 953	2 297
35 - 39	3 475	1 678	1 796
40 - 44	2 898	1 409	1 489
45 - 49	2 278	1 103	1 175
50 - 54	1 801	865	936
55 - 59	1 433	676	757
60 - 64	1 365	642	723
65 - 69	1 041	507	534
70 - 74	637	332	305
75 - 79	451	248	203
80 - 84	360	200	160
85 - 89	194	108	86
90 - 94	107	56	51
95 +	52	35	17
Unknown	1 844	793	1 051
Total	68 039	32 484	35 554

Table 2.17 Population of Otjozondjupa, 2001 Census

Age Group	Total Female		Male
- 4	19 178	9 614	9 564
5 - 9	16 797	8 437	8 360
10 - 14	15 143	7 627	7 516
15 - 19	13 854	6 785	7 069
20 - 24	12 784	6 086	6 698
25 - 29	11 749	5 456	6 293
30 - 34	9 549	4 608	4 941
35 - 39	8 431	4 012	4 419
40 - 44	7 088	3 255	3 833
45 - 49	5 228	2 310	2 918
50 - 54	3 828	1 702	2 126
55 - 59	2 432	1 110	1 322
60 - 64	2 300	1 099	1 201
65 - 69	1 682	875	807
70 - 74	1 284	632	652
75 - 79	771	411	360
80 - 84	597	311	286
85 - 89	372	212	160
90 - 94	200	116	84
95 +	119	50	69
Unknown	1 998	7 80	1 218
Total	135 384	65 488	69 896