



ORKCA
ORANGE RIVER-KAROO
CONSERVATION AREA



ORKCA

is a Namibian non-profit that acquires farmland and partners with local landowners to connect and form a large contiguous conservation area.

ORKCA

believes that a sustainably managed natural resource base has the potential for regional socio-economic development that can benefit communities, landowners and individuals. Enhanced biodiversity conservation can be achieved by supporting the diversification of traditional farming to include nature-based land use practices, rewilding the landscape and sustainably managing natural resources, while also generating benefits from innovative socio-economic enterprises.





I'm Andreia

founder and CEO of ORKCA

Together with a dynamic and diverse team, ORKCA is on its way to fostering one of the largest rewilding stories in Southern Africa, making an extraordinary impact on both people and nature.

There is a unique opportunity to restore historic migrations of millions of springbok and bring back locally extinct megafauna such as elephant, black rhino, Angolan giraffe, cheetah, spotted hyena, African wild dog and hippo to the ecologically critical Orange River landscape, eventually expanding into South Africa to create a transboundary reserve of one million hectares.

Given the ever-harshening impacts of climate change, traditional farming is unsustainable and land is quite affordable. We are actively seeking new partners to join us on this meaningful and exciting journey.

ORKCA supports socio-economic development for the region and its people, and the securing of important conservation areas to contribute to the landscape's ecological connectivity and sustainability.



ORKCA is in its inception phase and has built a strong foundation, with an 80% Namibian board and staff.





Orange River-Karoo Conservation Area (ORKCA) is a non-profit management organisation that supports a unique conservation area in southern Namibia comprised of an initial 160,000 hectares of stunning wilderness.

ORKCA's mission is to ecologically restore and rewild the broader Orange River-Karoo ecosystem. This is being achieved by scaling up landscape-level conservation and restoring ecological connectivity within the ecosystem, while also generating new livelihood opportunities for landowners and local communities.

ORKCA acts as a catalyst for change by creating a new, sustainable and resilient economic land-use model based on the wildlife economy, carbon restoration and local sustainable businesses.



ORKCA is located in a critically important ecological area.

The Succulent Karoo, one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots, the Nama Karoo and Desert biomes all meet on ORKCA, making the area an ecotone, the transitional area between three biomes, and a catalyst for evolution. Despite the importance of this landscape, ORKCA is the only privately protected area to host this particular ecotone, and less than 1% of the Nama Karoo is formally protected.

This landscape once hosted some of the most diverse wildlife spectacles on the planet, including the *trekbokken*, a migration of 20 million springbok reported by European settlers in the 1800s. Unfortunately, over the last century the wider Orange River-Karoo ecosystem has experienced land degradation and suffered huge losses of biodiversity as a result of fragmented habitats and unsustainable livestock farming. Overstocking and climate change has created a negative cycle of overgrazing, resulting in a reduction of grass seed banks. More frequent and increased duration of drought conditions affect communities, livestock and wildlife.

Local communities suffer from high food and water insecurity, failing livestock markets and widespread unemployment. Although several community conservancies exist in southern Namibia, the local economy is not geared towards conservation in a way that communities can really benefit from their natural resources.





ORKCA's VISION

is to restore the abundance and resilience of the Orange River-Karoo ecosystem through partnerships to create a vast, contiguous and economically viable conservation area.

THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES:

01

Landscape-Level Connectivity

Open, harmonious and interconnected conservation landscapes facilitate ecological unification, biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development. These result in a healthy and functioning ecosystem providing sanctuary for flora and fauna, facilitating seasonal wildlife migratory routes and promoting landscape connectivity for the mutual benefit of wildlife and all stakeholders involved. This will be achieved through the establishment of strong partnerships with neighbouring stakeholders, land acquisition, fence removal and active participation in regional management collaborations.

03

Socio-economic Development

Socio-economic development within ORKCA aims to establish sustainable, responsible and inclusive tourism and other community enterprises that prioritise the well-being of the region and the financial self-sufficiency of the landscape. Through community participation, environmental education and social welfare programs, ORKCA seeks to enhance livelihoods, empower vulnerable groups and contribute to the long-term conservation and socio-economic development of the region.

02

Restore, Rewild and Protect

Adaptive management is embraced by continuously monitoring, learning and adjusting strategies to restore, rewild and protect the vast and increasing Target Conservation Area. Scientific knowledge, community engagement and ecosystem resilience are integrated to ensure sustainable conservation outcomes.

04


Good Governance

ORKCA implements an adaptive governance framework that guarantees legitimacy and voice, is legally compliant and ethical. This framework achieves transparency and accountability and enables an adaptive response to meet governance and capacity needs.

05

Sustainable Finance

ORKCA aims to establish a diverse funding model incorporating tourism revenue earning, carbon credit sequestration and fundraising initiatives which emphasize the importance of multiple income streams, to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation and the Target Conservation Area.



ORKCA's SUCCESSES

Since its establishment in 2022, ORKCA has already achieved multiple successes:

Partnered with //Gamaseb Conservancy providing operational funding, construction of conservancy HQ, two exposure trips, training (leadership and management, financial, project development, anti-poaching), and gender, health and education needs assessments



Partnered with three landowners to consolidate an area of 160,000 ha

Acquired first property and negotiating to purchase another four properties (65,000 ha)

Partnered with the Namibian University of Science and Technology and Endangered Wildlife Trust to survey biodiversity

Partnered with Oak Foundation to restore land



Partnered with Natural State & Rolex Perpetual Planet to develop a biodiversity credit



Raised USD 175,000 for community projects

Secured USD 500,000 for a biodiversity credit product

Secured USD 1.5 million for land purchases



Secured and managed a 3-year USD 1.5 million operational grant



Grown ORKCA staff from two to thirteen

Partnered with Namibia Wildlife Protection and Wildlife Protection Services to install observation technology and locally based security

