

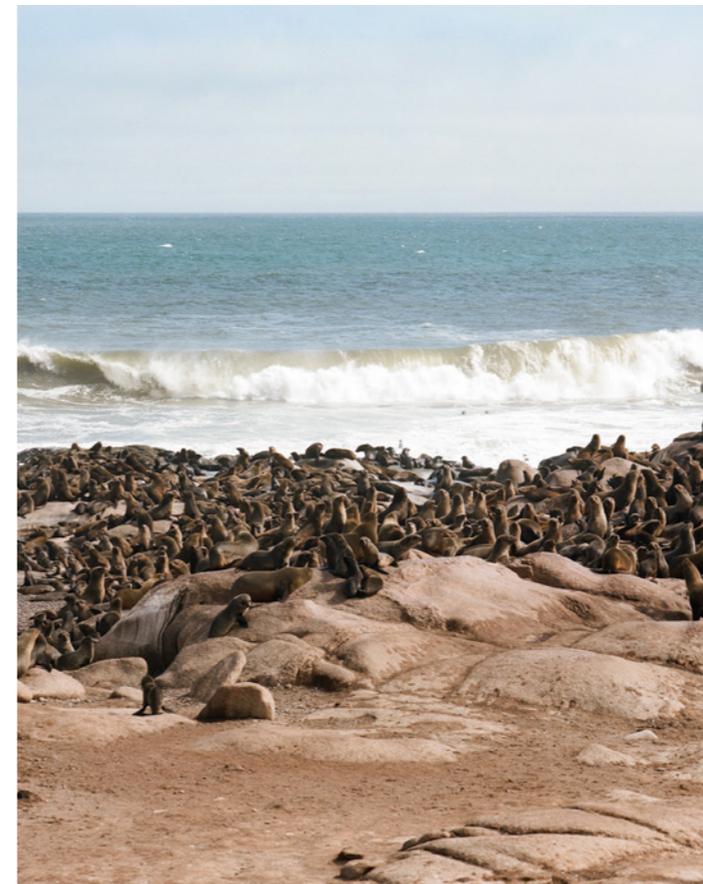
# GRANTING POWER TO THE PEOPLE ON THE LAND, THE COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES



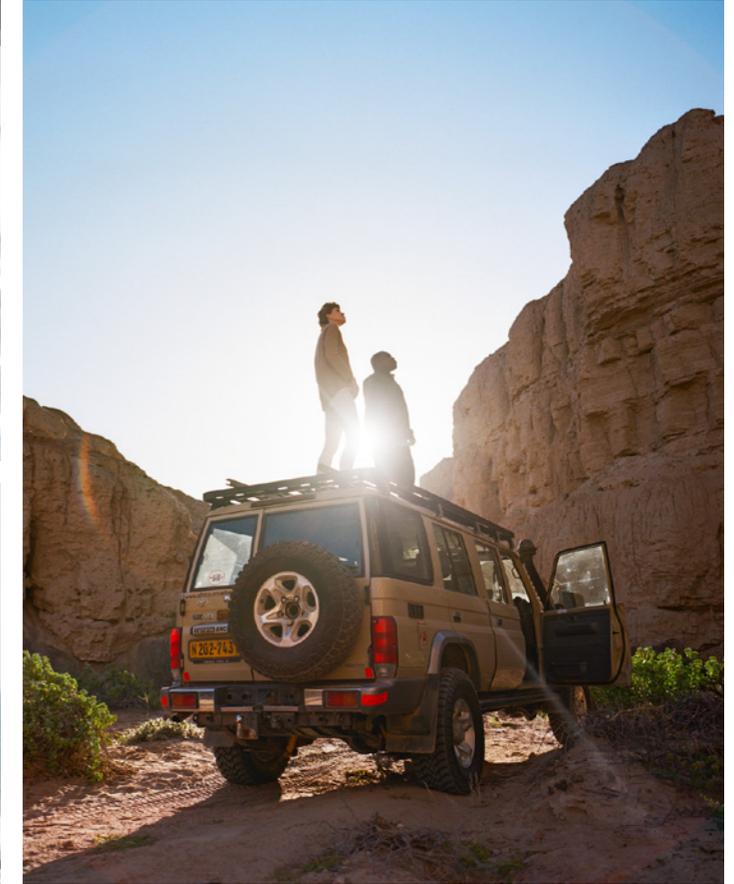
ARE SELF-GOVERNING ENTITIES RUN BY THEIR MEMBERS.

# SHIPWRECK LODGE

KUNENE, NAMIBIA 235



GUESTS AT SHIPWRECK LODGE CAN BOOK THEMSELVES ONTO VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, AMONG THEM A 4 × 4 EXCURSION TO THE HOARUSIB RIVER (ABOVE RIGHT), WHICH TAKES IN THE CLAY CASTLES—A NATURAL GEOLOGICAL FORMATION. BROWN HYENAS ARE FREQUENTLY SPOTTED THERE.



business's total turnover. Conservancies therefore have a vested interest in the overall success of the lodge and the support they provide to the tourism business. Granting power to the people on the land, these communal conservancies are self-governing, democratic entities run by their members. As such, this is a great example of smart, local governance that works towards a sustainable future for wildlife as well as local communities. In 1998, the first four communal conservancies were established in Namibia.

These pioneering conservancies established the model for economic survival and growth in harsh rural settings. Now there are 85 registered conservancies in Namibia. In some conservancies, tourism is becoming the key source of income, although farming is still the main source of livelihood for most conservancy members. However, with the growing effects of climate change, access to alternative income streams is becoming increasingly important.