

# BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## ...A CASE STUDY FROM THE ORANGE RIVER...

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Mining, conservation and tourism are currently at loggerheads in the Ai-Ais Hotsprings Game Park on the Orange River. Considering that the park is part of the trans-boundary Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park and in a biodiversity hotspot of international importance, something needs to be done to strike a balance.

### WHERE ?

Area of conflict: mining and proposed tourism developments clash at the Orange River

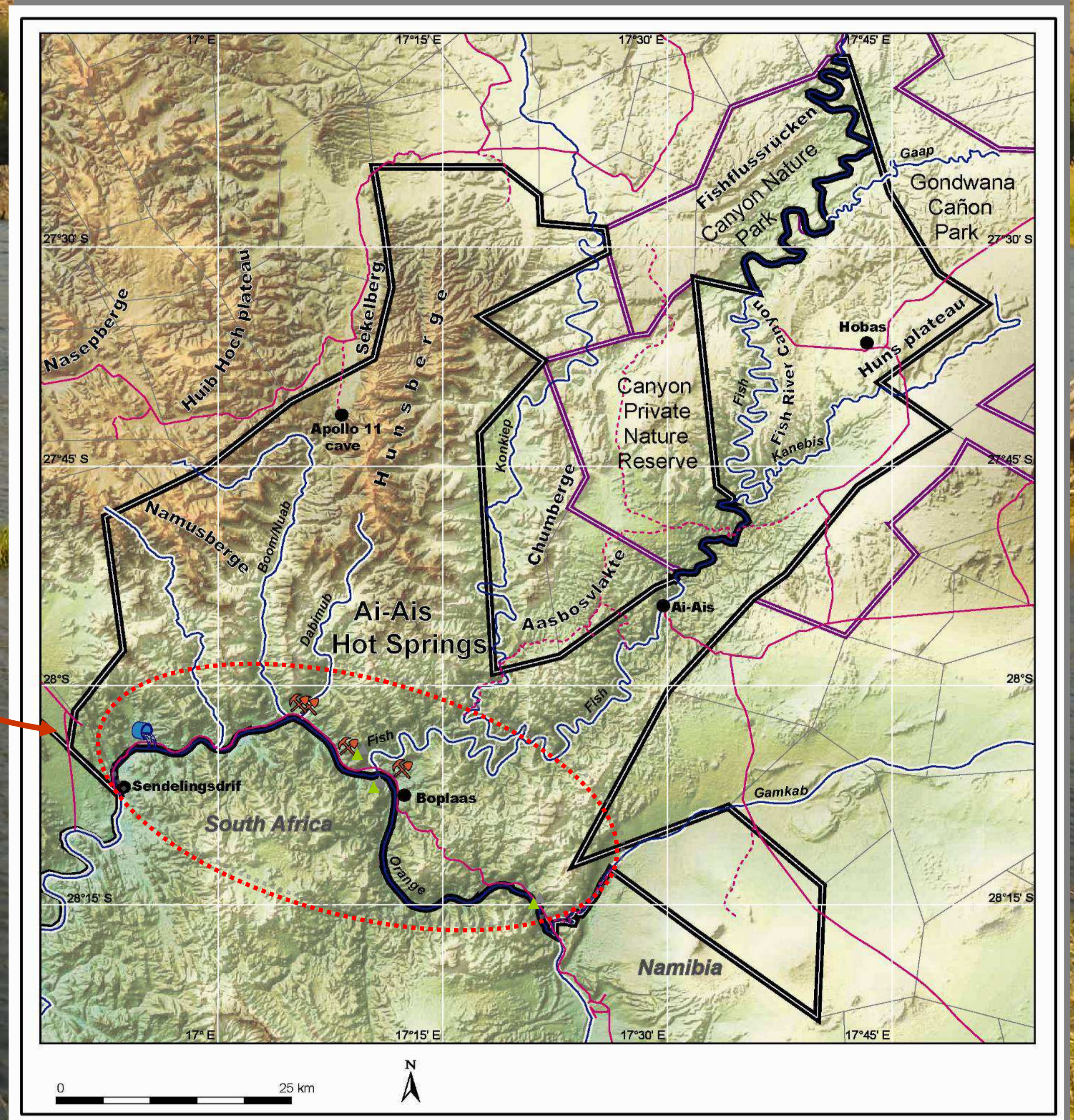
### WHAT ?

Small-scale prospecting and mining for diamonds has been taking place for many decades, but never with any economic success.

### HOW ?

The Environment Investment Fund of Namibia supported this project to

- propose areas to be set aside for conservation only
- determine rehabilitation requirements and
- provide information for decision-makers



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rehabilitation fund for new developments

Rehabilitation of conservation areas

Areas reserved for conservation

Implementation of Environmental Management Act

The project showed:

Rehabilitation, even if limited to priority areas only, requires millions N\$.

Removal of infrastructure, waste and pollution and smoothing some man-made landforms will be required to restore the disturbed areas.

Some diamond-bearing gravel terraces and the mountains should be reserved for conservation. We are still discovering new plant species here...

A lot still needs to be done make the Environmental Management Act effective, as implementation on the ground is presently lacking and information on environmental conditions for developments is difficult to access.

