Sesfontein Conservancy

a conservancy is:
- a legally constituted management body run by the community, for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and resources
- managed by a group elected to serve the interests of all the residents
- a place where residents can add income from wildlife and tourism through productive gain
- a place where wildlife populations increase as they can be managed for productive gain
- a place where the value of the natural resources is enhanced, increasing the value of the area
- a forum through which services and developments can be channelled and integrated
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milestones and successes
1996 – policy change allows communal area residents to benefit from wildlife and tourism by forming a conservancy
1998 – Sesfontein and Puros communities begin the process to register as one conservancy
2001 – Sesfontein Conservancy becomes part of the annual North-West Game Count
2003 – Sesfontein Conservancy is registered in June; three years after the establishment of the Puros Conservancy
2006 – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in Sesfontein Conservancy
2007 – implementation of the Human Animal Conflict Conservancy Self Insurance Scheme (HACCSIS)
2008 – development of the Sesfontein Fig Tree and Sesfontein Kanamub Mountain Campsites
2009 – Sesfontein Conservancy becomes financially independent and is able to cover own operating expenses
2011 – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in Sesfontein Conservancy
2012 – implementation of the Human Animal Conflict Conservancy Self Insurance Scheme (HACCSIS)

benefits from natural resources
- game counts: provides information on wildlife populations, assists in planning and implementing management strategies
- tourism: generates income and employment, supports local economies, promotes community development
- sustainable use of wildlife through trophy hunting, shoot-and-sell and own-use hunting creates significant cash awards to top performers
- creating employment and paying staff salaries
- distributing game meat to households
- covering conservancy running costs
- giving significant cash awards to the top three Grade 10 performers from schools in the conservancy each academic year
- supporting sports development through a quarterly conservancy tournament with significant prize money
- supporting pre-primary school teachers with a monthly cash allowance
- making an annual cash contribution to traditional authorities
- conservancy members receive a variety of other benefits, assistance, support for gardening projects and cultural festivals, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness programmes

natural resources
- birds: 139 species, including the endangered Rufous-tailed Sunbird
- mammals: 94 species, including the endangered desert-dwelling Arabian oryx, sleepy quagga, desert springbok, klipspringer, bushbuck, duiker, steenbok, gemsbok
- plants: Sesfontein is rich in plants that are valuable to both people and wildlife, 212 species, including 19 endemic species
- High endemism: 71 species, including rare and endangered species
- Low endemism: 141 species, including common species

Conservancy income is spent on:
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Conservancy activities include game counts and is managed using a mixture of modern methods & traditional knowledge & skills. Social dynamics are of great interest to tourists. Sustainable use of wildlife through trophy hunting, shoot-and-sell and own-use hunting creates significant cash awards to top performers. Creating employment and paying staff salaries, distributing game meat to households, covering conservancy running costs, giving significant cash awards to the top three Grade 10 performers from schools in the conservancy each academic year, supporting sports development through a quarterly conservancy tournament with significant prize money, supporting pre-primary school teachers with a monthly cash allowance, making an annual cash contribution to traditional authorities, conservancy members receive a variety of other benefits, assistance, support for gardening projects and cultural festivals, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness programmes.