

SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Towards sustainable wildlife management

An in-depth study for the promotion of community conservancies in Zambia and Zimbabwe

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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A. General context of the report

Millions of people depend on wild meat for food and livelihoods. Wild meat is an important source of protein, fat and micronutrients, particularly for Indigenous Peoples local communities in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. However, the demand for wild meat has continued to increase, especially in urban areas. If hunting to meet this demand is not reduced to a sustainable level, populations of targeted species will decline and food insecurity will increase in rural communities. Recent studies show that this hunting is excessive and already threatens hundreds of species with extinction.

In this context, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme was initiated in 2017 with the aim of improving the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. Specifically, the SWM Programme promotes wildlife management that empowers resident communities considered to have traditional rights in terms of access and use of wildlife resources and recognizes customary practices that can help ensure that these communities can continue to use these resources for their livelihoods in the long term, without depleting them.

To achieve this, the SWM Programme implements projects in 15 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Based on a community rights-based approach and the implementation of a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol, the Programme works with all stakeholders at the national level and at pilot field sites to create the conditions for sustainable community-based wildlife management, including:

- a collective understanding of and adherence to the principles of sustainability within rights-holding communities;
- the legal existence and/or proper application of participatory management regimes and hunting rules adapted to social, economic and ecological contexts;
- appropriate technical solutions and support to build community capacity for the adaptive management of wild meat offtake;
- appropriate support to limit the impact of other threats to wildlife, including hunting by non-rights holders and hunting for the supply of unsustainable urban wild meat chains; and
- measures to compensate communities and the other stakeholders of the wild meat value chains for reduced income and protein supply that may result from reduced sustainable hunting and urban demand for wild meat.

In the selected countries, eight different models of sustainable community-based wildlife management, adapted to the jurisdictional context of the pilot field sites, are being developed in an integrated landscape management approach.

This report is produced at the midterm of the implementation of the SWM Programme country projects. For further information: www.swm-programme.info

B. The SWM Programme in KaZa

B.1 Background and challenges

The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa-TFCA) area is a biodiversity-rich functioning ecosystem under the management of the Angolan, Botswanan, Namibian, Zambian and Zimbabwean governments and local communities.

The communities are largely rural and at the centre of communities' livelihoods are activities such as extensive agricultural production and natural resources exploitation (fishing, hunting). Erratic rainfall and frequent droughts make agriculture (including livestock) a risky undertaking. Although human activities are largely agriculture-based, KaZa also boasts a large population of wildlife with close to 371 394 km² under some form of wildlife management, leaving 148 520 km² for agricultural use including rangelands. This biologically rich area experiences large-scale annual migrations of megafauna. Communities living in rural areas in KaZa use wildlife both for food and as a source of income. The relationship between people and wildlife has been dominated by frequent cases of human-wildlife conflicts (HWC), but lately these have been somehow addressed by mitigation measures carried out by various actors. More importantly, it has been the flow of benefits from wildlife projects to the local communities which has been the huge catalyst for change. The SWM Programme implemented in Zambia and Zimbabwe, under KaZa, has the model: "Community Conservancy (CC) is the basis for a nested wild and domestic protein supply model promoted for protein and income". It aims to reduce the pressure of wildlife hunting by promoting, under the auspices of CC, sustainable use of wildlife and alternative sources of protein from livestock, forest foods and fish (including aquaculture).

B.2 Components of the SWM Programme in KaZa

The SWM Programme in KaZa aims to achieve the same six result areas (RAs) developed for the SWM Programme as a whole.



Results Objective 1

"The institutional and legal framework for the sustainable use of meat from wild species resilient to hunting or fishing is improved" by analysing in both countries the law through a legal matrix and identifying the gaps and impediments to the promotion of a CC model.



Results Objective 2

"Management of wild species resilient to hunting or fishing (WSRHF) is improved", by the implementation of innovative models for the sustainable uses of WSRHF and the safeguarding of protected and endangered species, while promoting innovative approaches addressing HWC.



Results Objective 3

"Supply of alternative protein is improved", by creating a favourable environment for the development and a better management of sustainable livestock, forest foods and aquaculture sectors as alternative sources of protein and income, with a particular focus on small-scale animal husbandry.



Results Objective 4

“Consumption of wild meat becomes sustainable”, by matching the consumption of wild meat with the sustainable production capacity of WSRHF, and compensating it by livestock farming, forestry and aquaculture products.



Results Objective 5

“Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning” by: (i) coordinating the development of programme-level and site-level theory of change; and (ii) identifying a set of transversal programme indicators and monitoring methods in collaboration with R areas.



Results Objective 6

“Knowledge is generated to support the development and adoption of public policies that reconcile conservation issues and food and nutrition security” by: (i) designing and implementing a knowledge management system (KMS) to use the information and knowledge generated by the SWM Programme; and (ii) assisting the Site team to design and implement site-level information systems.

The implementation of all activities contributing to the achievement of these six outcomes follows a community rights-based approach (CRBA), in the framework of relevant human rights, and uses an adapted model of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for safeguarding local communities’ rights.

B.3. Institutional framework

The Programme is a joint initiative of several institutions and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). It is funded and supported by the European Union (EU). Programme management in KaZa is being carried out by CIRAD, the Executing Agency, which regularly presents all the decisions taken for implementation of Programme activities, as well as its main results, to the Site Review Committee (SRC) constituted as follows: the Minister responsible for the national wildlife agencies (Department of National Parks and Wildlife – DNPW in Zambia, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority – ZPWMA in Zimbabwe), chair of the Committee alternatively; the site coordinator; the FAO focal points for the Programme in Zambia and Zimbabwe; the focal points of the EU Delegations for the Programme in Zambia and Zimbabwe; and a representative of the KaZa Secretariat.

All activities are coordinated and directed by the KaZa Management Unit (KMU), under the leadership of the site coordinator. A regional coordinator ensures good coordination and communication among the different project stakeholders. Implementation partners include local communities (and their community-based organizations) in Simalaha Community Conservancy (SCC, Zambia), Inyasemu Community Conservancy (ICC, Zambia) and Mucheni Community Conservancy (MCC, Zimbabwe).

B.4. Duration and amount

The SWM Programme in KaZa has a planned duration of five years, which started in July 2018, following the inception phase. The total amount committed to the SWM Programme in KaZa is ca USD 5 500 000.

B.5. Monitoring, evaluation and learning, and communication

The SWM Programme in KaZa monitoring, evaluation and learning system is based on a theory of change co-constructed with the different beneficiaries: it is on this basis that the programme has defined the monitoring indicators as well as the assumptions underlying the pathways towards impacts. In addition to monitoring the implementation of the programme, the purpose of this system is to evaluate the impacts of the programme and the paths that led to them. The local knowledge management system (KMS) of the site involves implementing and running an information system encompassing the meat food system of the CCs. The knowledge generated continuously by the programme is centralized and synthesized into a central and local database management system.

B.6. Rationale for the SWM Programme intervention

The SWM Programme in KaZa aims at contributing to the local, economic and social development of Zambia and Zimbabwe by promoting a sustainable use of natural resources, including wildlife and fisheries, through the establishment of CCs, and consequently improving the coexistence of humans with wildlife by reducing the costs of protecting their livestock and field crops. The SWM Programme in KaZa contributes to global environmental conservation by promoting, through the CCs, the conservation of protected and endangered species, and to the implementation of a number of regional and international treaties (e.g. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora – CITES, Lusaka Agreement, Bonn convention).

The SWM Programme in KaZa is innovative in that it quantifies the trade in wildlife and analyses its socioeconomic dimension, as well as promoting alternative sources of proteins (in particular non-timber forest products – NTFPs, livestock, aquaculture) to reduce the pressure on wildlife. The SWM Programme in KaZa is also demonstrative and replicable as it mainly focuses on wildlife, an essential component of all KaZa-TFCA landscapes, and it largely involves the local communities. The economic and financial sustainability of the SWM Programme in KaZa relies on the promotion of diversified and significant wildlife-based economic activities, such as hunting, tourism, food production and marketing. By aiming at a better management of populations of wild species and their habitats, the SWM Programme in KaZa is designed to contribute towards the sustainable exploitation, both economic and ecological, of wildlife by local communities. Civil society organizations have to be involved before the end of the programme.

The ecological and environmental feasibility is ensured through the production of CC management plans, the integration of various actors and capacity building for these actors. The communities are largely involved in the SWM Programme in KaZa, through their engagement with the implementation of an FPIC process. The coordination of the SWM Programme in KaZa ensures throughout its duration the involvement of the different stakeholders already involved or present in the programme sites in KaZa as well as the coherence of the actions implemented in a partnership-based manner.

B.7. Risks and supporting measures

Several risks, the likelihood of which varies between low and high, have been identified during the inception phase. At this time, the COVID-19 pandemic did not yet exist and, since its emergence, the difficulties of travelling in the field and between countries have made the implementation of the SWM Programme in KaZa more difficult. The risk with a high occurrence probability is Elite capture of CCs causing local communities not to benefit. This risk would have a medium impact on SWM Programme in KaZa implementation. The risks with a medium probability of occurrence are: political landscape deteriorates; relevant legislation or regulations are not implemented, creating unsustainable use of wildlife; poaching of wildlife is high. These three risks are judged as having a medium impact on the SWM Programme in KaZa. Finally, the risks with a low likelihood are: the tenure for securing CCs is weak; the SWM Programme in KaZa approval and the release of funds are delayed; Zambia's and Zimbabwe's macroeconomic conditions deteriorate; wildlife sources are exhausted; wildlife markets and protein value chains are poor; national disasters and contestation of the land identified for the CC occur. The first of these risks would have a low impact, the next four would have a medium impact, and the final one would have a high impact.

C. Context and objectives of the report

Following the principles that led to the choice of sites in both Zambia and Zimbabwe (see **Chapter II**), the social, economic and ecological environment of the programme's intervention areas was the subject of a series of numerous studies and field surveys in the first years of the programme's implementation. Together with the wildlife regulatory aspects in force in the two countries, these studies made it possible to draw up an in-depth diagnosis, which is essential to the objective of the SWM Programme in KaZa. This report synthesizes and analyses all the knowledge acquired and available at the end of year 2020 at the field site, based on the baseline surveys already carried out.

Who are the target groups? The actors involved in the SWM Programme in KaZa implementation and monitoring are the first ones concerned: donors, programme management units (PMUs), at institutional and local levels, and evaluators in particular. Among these targets, the role of government focal points is major, as they are the vectors of national policy and governance decisions. Finally, at the level of each site, traditional leaders and their representatives, as well as the programme's partners in the field, can gain information and knowledge in order to have a precise vision of the activities implemented in the SWM Programme in KaZa and the objectives pursued.

This report is divided into ten chapters. After a general introduction (this Chapter I), Chapters II to IX are largely based on original data acquired during the Programme. Chapters II and III present the SWM Programme in KaZa and the intervention site, respectively. **Chapter II** develops the national historical and political contexts and the governance and wildlife management model proposed by the programme, and presents the programme's approach in favour of local beneficiaries. It also exhibits the theory of change and the main working assumptions formulated at the beginning of the project.

Chapter III is mainly oriented towards describing the geographical, biophysical and human environments of the intervention site. **Chapter IV** consists of a legal assessment of the hunting

sector in both Zambia and Zimbabwe. This analysis considers gaps, inconsistencies and other obstacles within and between applicable policies, the institutional framework, sectoral laws and regulations and customary laws and practices in these countries.

Chapters V to IX concentrate on the results obtained since the beginning of the SWM Programme in KaZa and are displayed in three main parts: (i) methodology; (ii) results; and (iii) a final section summarizing the lessons learned and making recommendations for the continuation of the programme. **Chapters V, VI and VII** present the main sectors of hunting, fishing and livestock farming respectively, in their ecological and socioeconomic dimensions (state of the resource, harvesting levels, economic dependence on the resource, governance, etc.). **Chapter VIII** (Consumption patterns of meat and fish products) looks at the practices and standards that shape the consumption of meat products in general and wild meat in particular in both Zambia and Zimbabwe. **Chapter IX** (human–wildlife interactions, HWC) deals with the interactions between man and wildlife with a focus on the characterization of HWC and the health risks associated with hunting practices.

Chapter X presents the conclusions and recommendations at the midterm of the SWM Programme in KaZa, based on both the recommendations of the preceding chapters and on final discussions with the authors of the diagnostic studies, the local programme team and members of the SWM Programme management team. It leads to an adjustment of the initial theory of change, and presents some modifications linked to the observations of the last two years, and to the opportunities and challenges that these two years of existence have put forward for the benefit of the SWM Programme in KaZa.

The list of the species found in the CCs of the SWM Programme in KaZa and mentioned in the report is given in the **Appendix** section.

This synthesis was produced under the direct responsibility of the site coordinator, with the technical support of the staff, consultants and administrations involved in the SWM Programme in KaZa, the inter-R group and the Results teams. The Result 6 coordinator and his team ensured the overall coordination of the synthesis in collaboration with the Results coordinators and the Communication team. The contributors to each chapter are listed at the beginning of each.



