



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

newsletter

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WELCOME

We are now entering the final months of our third year of developing innovative approaches to achieving wildlife conservation and human development. Despite the many challenges posed by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the four SWM Programme partners are working together diligently to implement a wide range of field activities. This work now also addresses zoonotic risks "from the forest to the fork", especially by supporting "One Health" response efforts, ranging from risk assessments along wild meat value chains to behaviour change strategies to reduce wild meat consumption in urban areas.

In January 2021, we celebrated the expansion of the SWM Programme into two new African countries, Botswana and Namibia, with funding from the French Development Agency. This "SWM Community Conservancy Project" will address threats from unsustainable levels of wildlife hunting, habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict. The Project will strengthen the network of community conservancies in Southern Africa's Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa), and complements the SWM Programme work already underway in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of the SWM Newsletter, which has a special focus on our legal and institutional support to governments and the new activities in Botswana and Namibia. There is much to celebrate, and much to be done.

Keep safe, and please visit our [web portal](#) for featured stories and videos.

Hubert Boulet
SWM Programme Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS

Summarised below are the highlights from each SWM site for the period November 2020 to April 2021. They build on the highlights in the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#) and [sixth](#) SWM Newsletters.

Congo - Ouessou basin

A collaboration agreement has been signed with the Congolaise Industrielle des Bois logging company, as part of our cooperation with stakeholders at the project site. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the promotion of Indigenous Peoples took part in a field mission to learn about the roll-out of the FPIC process and to define monitoring modalities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

Two new local communities gave their consent – in line with the SWM FPIC protocol – to take part in the SWM Programme. Surveys to assess alternative income-generating economic activities were completed, as well as studies on customary law, knowledge and effective law enforcement.

Gabon - Mulundu Department

The participatory process of forming hunter committees began in five partner villages. The team produced a draft consolidated report with results from previous field studies and strategic directions for the future. The site coordinator, Philippe Vigneron, had to leave Gabon for health reasons. Hadrien Vanthomme joined the team as the new coordinator, as did an international volunteer in charge of data management.

Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

The implementation of the fisheries management plan continues with river patrols, monitoring and a first fish stock assessment for the high water season. In South Rupununi, wildlife use guidelines have been defined in eight pilot communities, and a safe zone for anteaters and a community conservation area have been delineated.

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

The Kwiop community finalised the first conservation deed in the Bismarck Forest Corridor. Once signed, this legally binding agreement among nine clans will give a legal status to the customary rules to sustainably manage the community conservation area. Organisational strengthening and gender equity training were carried out with one community-based organisation.

Madagascar - Makira landscape

The country legal profile was finalised, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the legal framework and identifying areas for improvement. Community members who had received poultry and fish farming training began community production. A study on the presence of plague in small mammals was launched.

Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project

Chad, Egypt, Mali, Senegal and Sudan

Winter waterbird monitoring campaigns took place at wetlands in four countries. Experimental cultivation and seed production of water lilies were carried out in [Senegal](#). Offtake surveys and assessment of waterbird harvest practices are ongoing. A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is being prepared to share the waterbird identification, census and wetlands management best practices and lessons learnt.

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area

An important SWM Programme livestock value chain development workshop was held in Zimbabwe to explore and encourage linkages and collaboration among farmers, researchers, extension agents and the private sector. Two new officers (communication, and monitoring and evaluation) and a legal consultant in Zambia joined the team.

SPECIAL FOCUS - INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL SUPPORT

A key strategy of the SWM Programme is on improving and strengthening policy and legal frameworks to achieve sustainable use of wildlife species. "Participatory and informed lawmaking processes can dramatically improve the governance of natural resources," explains Eugenio Sartoretto, the coordinator for the institutional and legal result.

To support such legal reform processes, the SWM Programme has developed a series of tools and methodologies to understand and assess the statutory and customary legal frameworks governing wildlife management. "Making this legal analysis accessible to a wide audience will be the next essential step," Eugenio Sartoretto explains. "Through our new [Legal Hub](#) we hope to facilitate broader and more informed stakeholders' participation in law reform processes."

On 15 April 2021 a [webinar](#) was held to present these tools, methodologies, a case study from Madagascar, and the new Legal Hub.



COUNTRY STORY - KAZA (BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA)

The new “SWM Community Conservancy Project” in Botswana and Namibia was officially launched on 3 February 2021. This four-year initiative will “strengthen innovative, community-led efforts to reconcile the conservation of wild species with food security, while at the same time improving local livelihoods,” explains Jean-Claude Urvoy, the SWM Programme Regional Coordinator. Working at field sites and the regional level, the Project will support a network of Community Conservancies (CCs) to improve ecological connectivity and socio-economic sustainability in the KaZa landscape.

Manon Mispiratcegy, the SWM Project field assistant coordinator in Gaborone, is excited by the new challenge, and says, “We will be working with a network of thirteen CCs in northeast Namibia and one CC in Botswana (Habu, western Ngamiland) to support community-led development opportunities that encourage sustainable land use and coexistence among people, livestock and wildlife.”

This Project “will complement and build on our community-based initiatives in Zambia and Zimbabwe,” Jean-Claude emphasises. This initiative is being led by FAO and funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) with co-funding from the European Union through the SWM Programme, and will be implemented with Wild Entrust Africa in Botswana and WWF in Namibia.



FACTS AND FIGURES

The “SWM Community Conservancy Project” received **EUR 3.5 million** in funding from the French Development Agency in January 2021

The SWM web portal has been visited by people from **111 distinct countries** in 2021

There are now **34 videos** on the SWM Programme English and French YouTube Playlists

EVENTS CORNER

World Wetlands Day

2 February 2021

A new SWM video “Preserving wetlands with white water lilies in Senegal” ([English](#) and [French](#)) was launched on social media, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) published an [article](#) on wetlands in crisis that focused on the RESSOURCE Project (SWM Sahelian Wetlands site).

World Wildlife Day (#WWD2021)

3 March 2021

SWM partners and donors celebrated the day with over 30 [tweets](#), events and news items at project sites (e.g. [Environews DRC](#)), the launch of the SWM [video](#) “Build back better in a post-COVID-19 world” and a high-level [written message](#) on the WWD website provided by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, focusing on the SWM Programme.

Webinar “How can the law support sustainable wildlife management?”

15 April 2021

This SWM Programme [webinar](#) presented the new online [Legal Hub](#) and the innovative ways in which the Programme is improving governance of natural resources by connecting different sources of legal (international law, national law, customary law) and scientific knowledge.

FROM THE FIELD



SWM Programme focus group with women in Eboyo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to evaluate alternative income-generating activities.

NEWSROOM

Recent SWM Programme news items include:

- FAO “New project to boost sustainable wildlife management and food security in southern Africa” ([click here](#))
- French Development Agency “FAO and AFD will support development of Community Conservancies in Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation area of Botswana and Namibia” ([click here](#))
- Tour du Valat “Appui à la conservation des oiseaux d’eau et de leurs habitats au Soudan – mission dans le cadre du Projet RESSOURCE” ([click here](#))
- GLF Landscape News “Preventing human-wildlife conflict is critical for people and the planet” ([click here](#))
- EU Capacity 4 Development “Improving wildlife conservation and food security with local communities” ([click here](#))

WHAT’S COMING UP?

- International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 “We’re part of the solution”
22 May 2021
<https://www.cbd.int>
- European Development Days
15–16 June 2021
<https://eudevdays.eu>
- International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
9 August 2021
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>
- IUCN World Conservation Congress
3–11 September 2021
<https://www.iucncongress2020.org>

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SWM TALKS

Cristelle Pratt, Assistant Secretary-General – Environment and Climate Action, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)



It is a pleasure to be contributing to this issue of the SWM Programme newsletter. Promoting the sustainable management and use of our natural capital while supporting biodiversity conservation is crucial and central to my current responsibilities in serving the 79 member states of the OACPS. This cannot be decoupled from

the climate crisis nor from our recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Soon after joining the OACPS Secretariat in September 2020, I participated in SWM’s “Tackling the risks of wildlife-borne disease pandemics – policy and investment priorities” session at the *Global Landscape Forum (GLF) Biodiversity Conference*. This lively and critical debate highlighted the importance of the OACPS-led SWM initiative, as it shone a spotlight on the role that wildlife and habitat degradation play in the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases. In turn, the need to strengthen the One Health Approach to avert future pandemics.

OACPS’ ongoing efforts to scale up the SWM Programme have been positive, with the recent signing of the new project agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD). Their support will expand the initiative into Botswana and Namibia, and bring the number of OACPS countries benefitting from the SWM Programme to 14. The SWM Programme’s lessons learned and recommendations should enable the wider OACPS to adapt and replicate some of the viable solutions.



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