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SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

MAKING MOVES FROM CONFLICT TO COEXISTENCE

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Scope and objectives

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme aims to reconcile the challenges of wildlife conservation with food security and rural socio-economic development. To meet this objective, an innovative behaviour change approach is being developed to address human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and create a more balanced coexistence between people and wild animals. This holistic SWM Programme approach is based on an HWC mitigation framework that:

- takes into account the strong temporal and spatial dynamics of HWC in a landscape;
- considers the needs and expectations of affected people as well as the wild species with which they share the habitat;
- adopts a decision support system to select a suite of both short- and long-term intervention measures; and
- provides guidance on practical solutions to avoid and minimize risk, while reducing and offsetting the cost of coexisting with wildlife.

The SWM Programme is working in 15 countries, namely Botswana, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This approach is currently being tested in Gabon, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Innovative approach - SWM Programme "HWC Platform"

A decision support system that:

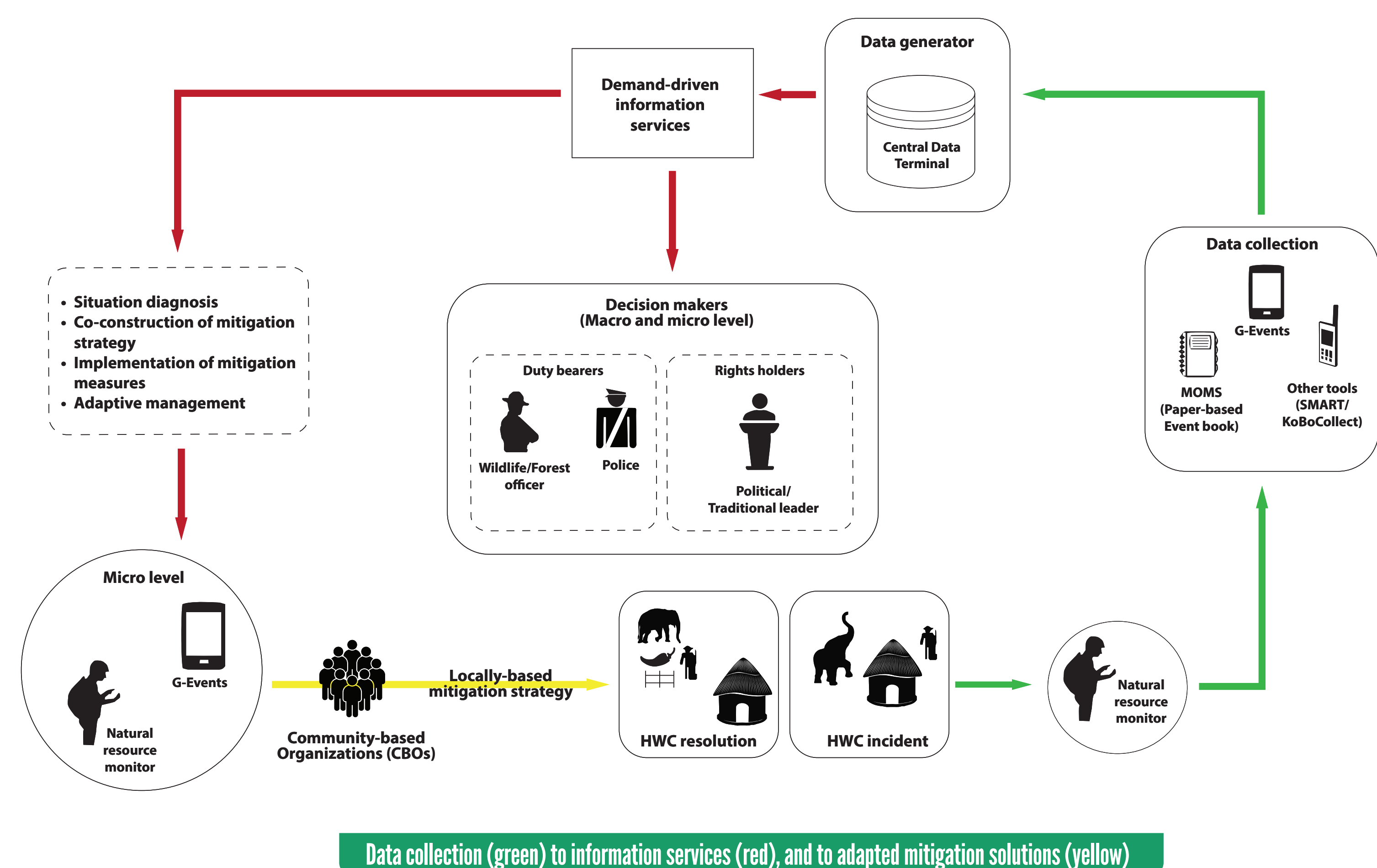
- ADDRESSES the needs of decision makers and of local communities which bear the cost of HWC; and
- INCORPORATES information from several conservation-related tools (e.g. MOMS, SMART, KoBoCollect) in a single platform.

An android-based mobile application (G-Events):

- UPLOADS, VIEWS and DIAGNOSES HWC events in a given territory by designated community members for monitoring natural resource and wildlife issues (e.g. natural resource monitors); and
- PROVIDES factsheets and video tutorials to communities to help them apply appropriate mitigation solutions.

Assigning roles and responsibilities to key territorial stakeholders:

- At the micro level, natural resource monitors, appointed by communities:
 - o DIAGNOSE the incidents and UPLOAD the relevant information;
 - o MONITOR the impact of the applied mitigation solutions; and
 - o DESIGN a mitigation strategy using the G-Events application.
- At the macro and micro levels, decision makers (rights holders and duty bearers):
 - o RECEIVE consolidated information from the HWC platform; and
 - o ADAPT governance policy based on the information produced by the HWC platform.



Recommendations

To improve the wildlife tolerance of local communities the SWM Programme is:

- BUILDING CAPACITY of local communities (e.g. natural resource monitors) to operate the G-Events android application for data collection, diagnosis of the incidents and application of mitigation solutions in a defined territory;
- INCREASING the decision-making capacity of rights holders and duty bearers at micro and macro levels of a given territory based on the information provided by the natural resource monitors; and
- ENABLING the decision makers to make informed decisions, take appropriate actions and revise governance in the light of real-time data provided by the local communities.

To assess the level of wildlife tolerance of local communities the SWM Programme is:

- CONDUCTING a baseline survey to identify each problematic species and measure the respective level of tolerance; and
- MONITORING the change in the level of tolerance for each identified conflict species and adapting the mitigation strategy accordingly.



Lion factsheet proposing a set of mitigation solutions

Chili pepper propellant, a tool to repel undesired elephants or hippopotamuses

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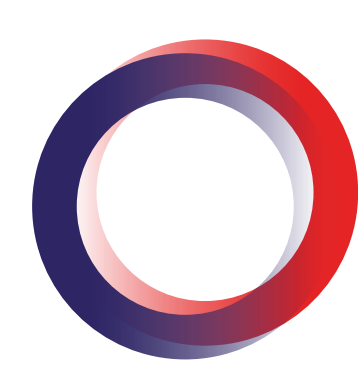
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