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## AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### SIXTEENTH SESSION

**KHARTOUM, REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN**

**18-21 February 2008**

### **THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Wildlife and protected areas have the potential to generate revenues and contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Many countries in Africa generate large incomes from activities such as eco-tourism and hunting tourism, and in most countries bushmeat contributes to food security. On the other hand, wildlife sometimes poses threats to farming systems.
2. Technical knowledge exists for wildlife conservation and valorisation through ecotourism and controlled hunting, as well as for addressing human-wildlife conflicts in numerous countries. However, implementation is hampered by weak institutional frameworks, out-of-date legislation, overly centralised authority and a lack of clear national policies and strategies aimed at tackling the issue. There is also a need for capacity building and awareness raising to enhance stakeholder participation in policy formulation and - most important - in its implementation.

## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS (HWC)

### *Wildlife being a pain*

3. Conflicts between humans and wildlife are occurring more frequently and becoming more severe. In order to alleviate problems between communities and wild animals, an institutional authority (district, province or national government) is required to set out clear policies that define

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problem animals and provide guiding principles to deal with conflicts. Some of the aspects to take into account are<sup>1</sup>:

- Who/which authority is responsible for managing the conflicts - farmers or agricultural institutions or wildlife authorities or specially created institutions?
- What will be done when a conflict occurs, and by whom – will the animal be relocated or eventually shot by wildlife officers, will the community be assisted by agricultural extension officers, will a farmer be compensated?
- Where and when do the conflicts occur – information on frequency and severity can lead to more effective land use planning and thus management of the problem.

4. Some of the pioneering systems and methods which are tried in the continent include elephant deterring methods based upon chili pepper; changing predator or prey behaviour; regulation of animal population densities; compensation schemes for loss of crops or livestock; human-animal conflict (self-) insurance schemes; benefit-sharing schemes between protected areas and surrounding communities; co-management of wildlife by communities; problem animal control units; and planning and zoning to set out wildlife areas and agricultural areas.

5. Strategies for HWC management should consider:

- *Protection* against problem animals, usually in the form of fences or other barriers between conservation areas and human conglomerates.
- *Mitigation* of the problem through techniques and schemes which will result in less damage by the animals or less resentment by people.
- *Prevention* of the conflict from occurring through large-scale land use planning.

6. Decentralized, farmer-based methods, which use features of all three approaches are usually an appropriate way of addressing the problem.

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF WILDLIFE TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

### ***Wildlife being a gain***

7. Conservation is often reliant upon external funding, which carries the risk that, once funding is discontinued, the conservation areas fall into trouble and wildlife and other natural resources are threatened. A general principle is that preservation of wild areas needs to bring tangible benefits and be able to (at least partly) fund itself.

8. Conventional mechanisms through which this can be accomplished are eco-tourism and trophy hunting. Payment schemes for ecosystem services such as maintaining hydrological functions and opportunities for carbon sequestration are another way of placing a value on ecosystems.

9. African countries are exploring other ways of making conservation pay for itself and thereby contributing to poverty alleviation, such as the sale of products made from animal hides and bones, 'shoot and sell' in game ranches where game meat is sold as consumption meat, and live animals are sold to other reserves.

10. Rearing of wildlife species on a farm or in semi-natural environments can be an alternative to unsustainable hunting practices, and could contribute to food security and poverty alleviation. Trials with the rearing of wildlife species on farms have had mixed results. In some

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<sup>1</sup> See WWF-SARPO, 2005 Human-Wildlife Conflict Manual ([http://assets.panda.org/downloads/human\\_wildlife\\_conflict.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/human_wildlife_conflict.pdf))

instances the practice is successful and farmers readily adopt the new practice, while in other situations wildlife rearing has faced technical challenges and economic failures. Some species, such as ostrich, have a longer history of being farmed and technical information can be provided, veterinary products are available and a market for the meat products has already been established. There is a huge potential for African countries and institutions to learn from each other with regard to wildlife rearing. Government institutions and extension organisations could greatly facilitate the introduction of these new practices to (former) hunters and agriculturists.

11. Operational aspects to promote the contribution of wildlife to income generation and poverty alleviation include private investment in the exploitation of wildlife areas for eco-tourism and hunting, the issuance of licenses for trophy hunting and the issuance of permits to open game farms. In order to overcome difficulties with regard to the protected status of certain species and associated limited quotas, countries should consider increasing their capacity for monitoring, form partnerships with each other, and make use of influential international institutions that can assist them in the use of global regulations for their benefit.

12. Wildlife in remote areas can be an incentive for private sector investors to establish eco-tourism and associated infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water and medical services. This would also contribute to local rural development. Support from authorities could facilitate such investments.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

### *Working together for wildlife*

13. Conservation activities beyond national boundaries can result in benefits of scale, and often aim at harmonizing efforts to conserve and sustainably use natural resources. Pragmatically this is done through the creation of international institutions or the establishment of transfrontier conservation areas. Important recent initiatives are for example the opening of border posts between the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe), the agreement on the establishment of Kaza Park (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe), increased collaboration through the Central African World Heritage Forestry Initiative, and the establishment of the Congo Basin Forest Sustainable Funding Mechanism, initiated within the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC).

14. In order to avoid duplicating efforts, and to share the lessons learned, many international knowledge organisations continue to collect and disseminate data. FAO (including through the *Nature & Faune* magazine, [www.fao.org/world/regional/raf/workprog/forestry/magazine\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/world/regional/raf/workprog/forestry/magazine_en.htm)) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) are involved in this task. Examples of new networks include the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force ([www.bushmeat.org](http://www.bushmeat.org)), Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration ([www.humanwildlifeconflict.org](http://www.humanwildlifeconflict.org)) and the Conservation Measures Partnership ([www.conservationmeasures.org/CMP/About.cfm](http://www.conservationmeasures.org/CMP/About.cfm)).

15. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) serve as a basis for international collaboration and joint objectives. Setting clear, quantifiable national goals, as well as ensuring a sustainable flow of funds to reach the objectives are important aspects in achieving international agreements. International institutions can facilitate the harmonisation of intentions and targets, and are able to serve as a platform for the verification of alleged achievements.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSION**

16. The delegates are invited to:
- discuss the ways of improving the existing domestic structures to better integrate wildlife, protected areas and food security issues; including ways to improve communication, information and funding; and
  - provide guidance, including identification of priority areas and recommendations, on the role of FAO in providing assistance to member countries on wildlife and protected area management issues.