



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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SWM
COMMUNITY
CONSERVANCY
PROJECT

Botswana and Namibia

Our project

The SWM Community Conservancy Project aims to strengthen innovative, community-led efforts to reconcile the conservation of wild species with food security, while at the same time improving local livelihoods. This four-year initiative began in 2021 and is being implemented in Botswana and Namibia in partnership with the respective national governments. The Project supports the development of a network of Community Conservancies (CCs) to improve ecological connectivity and socio-economic sustainability in the Kavango-Zambezi (KaZa) landscape, the world's largest transfrontier conservation area.

This Project is part of the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme and builds on similar SWM activities being developed with CCs in Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Botswana and Namibia, it is funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) with co-funding from the European Union through the SWM Programme.



The goals



Improve the institutional and legal framework for the sustainable use of meat from wild species resilient to hunting or fishing.



Improve the sustainable management of wildlife that is resilient to hunting or fishing.



Increase the supply of protein from domesticated animals so that the demand for wild meat is reduced to sustainable levels.



Understand the levels of wild meat consumption and identify ways to ensure its consumption becomes sustainable.



Undertake monitoring, evaluation and learning so that lessons and approaches can be replicated.



Generate and share knowledge to support public policies that reconcile conservation issues and food and nutrition security.

Working together

The SWM Community Conservancy Project is coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In Botswana, the Project is being implemented in the field with Wild Entrust Africa (WEA), which has strong relationships with stakeholders in the Habu Community Conservancy. In Namibia, where CCs are well-established using a community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) model, the implementing partner is WWF Namibia, which also has a long history of working hand-in-hand with local stakeholders.



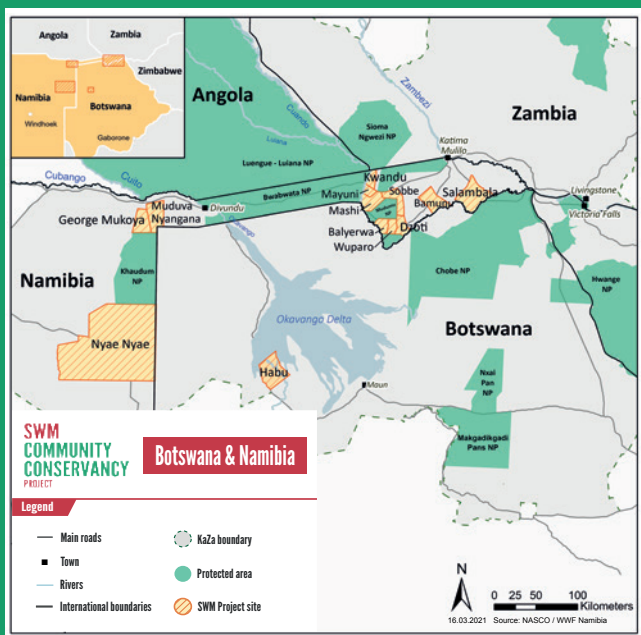
The SWM Programme follows a community rights-based approach, which puts people's rights at the centre of wildlife management. Local community participation and involvement are critically important and all SWM activities require the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the local population before activities begin.



Where we work

In Botswana, the SWM Community Conservancy Project is being implemented in the Habu Community Wildlife Conservancy, which is located in the communal livestock grazing areas of western Ngamiland. This area is also part of the KaZa Khaudum-Ngamiland Wildlife Dispersal Area (WDA), connecting northeast Namibia with northern Botswana.

In Namibia, the Project involves 13 community-based organizations, including 12 CCs and the Kyaramacan Association in Bwabwata National Park. The sites are found within key transboundary wildlife corridors in the KaZa landscape, which help protect the free movement of wildlife populations among the five countries (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola).



Source NASCO / WWF Namibia, modified to comply with United Nations map 4170 R19, October 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

SWM Programme

Around the world, overhunting for wild meat is threatening hundreds of wildlife species with extinction. As wildlife populations decline, many rural communities and Indigenous Peoples are being left without food and an income. This situation is becoming more critical as the demand for wild meat grows in towns and cities.

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme is developing innovative solutions based on field projects in 15 countries. It is a seven-year (2018–2024) Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) initiative, which is being funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). It is being implemented by a dynamic consortium of four partners with expertise in wildlife conservation and food security: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Find out more

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