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WELCOME

We are pleased to share this third issue of the Community Conservancy (CC) Project newsletter, which now features the four countries where we are promoting the CC model within the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) landscape!

This year we have made considerable progress. Interesting developments include the fruitful regional exchanges among the community representatives, SWM team representatives and partners from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. For example, representatives from our partners in Namibia presented a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) training session for community scouts in the Habu CC in Botswana; and twenty participants from the four countries met in Zimbabwe for a specialized SWM training event on human-wildlife conflict.

More events and field activities are planned in 2023, as we expand our contribution to technical and strategic regional coordination and continue to test and develop community-based SWM models in each country.

Many other highlights from the four countries are covered in this newsletter, including an article from the KAZA Secretariat in the regional news, and "SWM Talks" by Patrice Talla, the FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Country Representative in Zimbabwe.

There is much to celebrate, and much to be done.

Jean-Claude Urvoy
SWM Programme regional coordinator

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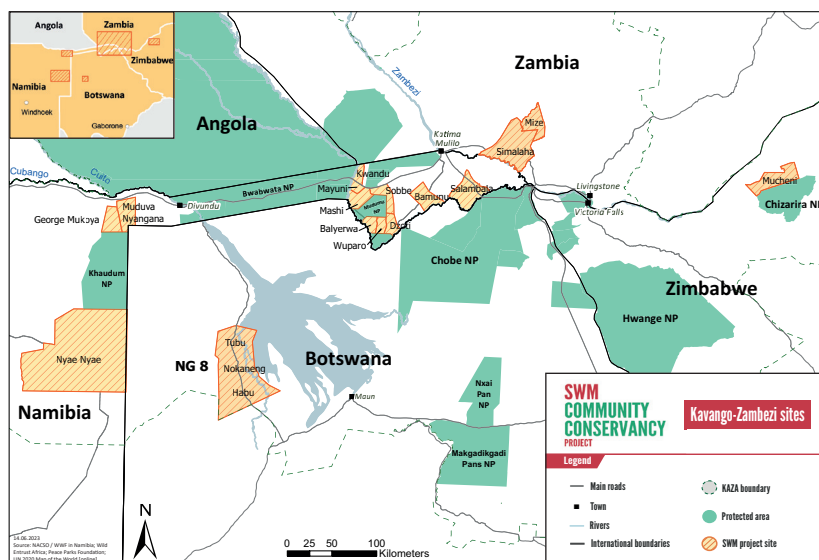


National partners



HIGHLIGHTS

Summarized below are the highlights from the CC Project sites for the period February to August 2023. They build on the highlights in the first and second newsletters.



Botswana - Habu



SMART field work experience by Community Scouts in Habu.

Most of the first half of 2023 has been building on the momentum of the communities of Habu, Tubu and Nokaneng to reaffirm their rights over the management of their customary lands (the controlled hunting area known as NG8), following a landmark agreement and letter of intent to regional authorities to request an official designation for this land. Based on this, the project has expanded its scope of interventions to include actors in Tubu and Nokaneng, from governance trainings to supporting enterprise development and expanding the ecological monitoring and assessments by community scouts.

Namibia - Northeast region



AgraProvision training of poultry producers in Katima Mulilo (February 2022).

After an initial training of 51 small-scale poultry producers from Zambezi CCs in 2022, the project worked with Lima Farms to provide further mentorship and support to the most promising training participants. Ten producers who showed the most potential from the first training (eight women, two men) were trained in basic chicken husbandry and care. Their flock sizes grew by 11 percent over a six-month period, thanks to better sanitation and access to vaccination. The beneficiaries also cooperated in the construction of chicken houses, using material provided by the project to make their own bricks and growing different components to make their own chicken feed.

Zambia - Mwandi and Kazungula districts



Sianyongo Fish Farming Cooperative members harvest fish from one of their ponds.

The MIZE Community Conservancy (MiCC) Board, which consists of ten members – seven men and three women – was formally introduced to the Nyawa Chiefdom Traditional Council and the Nyawa Community Development Trust. His Royal Highness Chief Nyawa presided at the MiCC Board's unveiling. A workshop on reviewing and validating of the legal texts and findings from Result 1 was held in Lusaka, Zambia. The findings of the workshop will serve as the foundation for the Zambian Legal Hub. Sianyongo Fish Farming Cooperative, a local community group in the MiCC, held a fish harvesting ceremony from the six ponds established in October 2022.

Zimbabwe - Binga district



Construction of a watchtower using locally available resources.

Nine-hundred farmers from the three implementing wards received training on how to construct a watchtower and use chili strings to deter elephants from entering their fields. The SWM Programme held a Legal Analysis Restitution Workshop on 21 April 2023 in Harare, attracting more than 50 attendees from various sectors. The workshop's major objectives were to officially present the results of the legal analysis produced by the SWM Programme and made available through the Legal Hub, as well as to launch the Legal Hub. Workshops on business and market development for livestock and non-timber forest product groups were held. The training included learning how to follow the market chain and transform the chosen value chains into viable business entities.

REGIONAL NEWS – AWARD-WINNING FILM ON KAZA TFCA



A short documentary film on the KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) won a silver award under the wildlife and conservation category at the 2023 International Tourism Film Festival Africa held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the GIZ Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management (C-NRM) project, the film tells the story of the KAZA TFCA – the world's largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area, established following the signing of the KAZA Treaty of 2011 by the Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The film highlights some of the unique features of the landscape, including its rivers, wetland ecosystems and biodiversity. Speaking at the event, Dr Nyambe Nyambe, KAZA Secretariat's Executive Director, said, "We are proud of this film, which has brought together compelling narratives informed by real-world experiences from across KAZA. The award is testament of the recognition of the efforts that have gone into the development of the TFCA so far."

The award-winning film was produced by Makhulu Media with additional footage support from the National Geographic Society. You can watch the film [here](#).

THE SWM PROGRAMME IS CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES BY:

1. Working with **governments** on devolving land and natural resources rights to communities.
2. Strengthening **community governance** and leadership.
3. Assisting communities in their **land-use planning**.
4. Supporting ecological **surveys**, monitoring **patrols**.
5. Increasing wildlife populations through **restocking** and **ecological restoration**.
6. Reducing **human-wildlife conflict** with better livestock enclosures and land-use planning.
7. Building viable **nature-based businesses**.
8. Providing separate, clean and reliable **water** for people and wildlife.
9. Improving **small-scale poultry, goat, cattle and fish** farming.
10. Organizing **exchange visits** to share experiences between countries.

EVENTS CORNER

Regional workshop on the construction of the EL@OUT (i.e. Elephants Out) Chili Pepper Dispenser 20–25 February 2023, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

The workshop's main goals were for participants to make the new version of the chili pepper dispenser, to share knowledge and ideas regarding human–wildlife conflict prevention, control (chasing away), and post-conflict measures. Click [here](#) to read the story about the event.



Participants making the new version of the chili pepper dispenser.

Exhibition at the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre 2–11 March 2023, Windhoek, Namibia

During the [exhibition](#), The newly-released video on community conservancies in KAZA (linked [here](#)), featuring the SWM CC Project, was screened on the opening night and played continuously for the duration of the exhibition.

Legal Analysis Restitution Workshop 21 April 2023, Harare, Zimbabwe

The primary objective of the workshop was to officially present the results of the legal analysis developed by the SWM Programme and available through the Legal Hub. Click [here](#) to access the Zimbabwe Legal Hub.



Nyasha Mutiyambizi, Director of Legal at ZimParks, responding to questions.

Visit to the Habu Community Conservancy 7 June 2023, Habu, Botswana

On 7 June 2023 a delegation, led by Honourable Sethomo Lelatisitswe, the Assistant Minister of Health, Petra Pereyra, the European Ambassador to Botswana and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Olivier Brochenin, the French Ambassador to Botswana, partners and other key stakeholders, visited the SWM project site in Habu Village to appreciate progress on activities.



Botswana Assistant Minister of Health, French Ambassador to Botswana Olivier Brochenin, FAO Rep in Botswana, Rene Czudek and the European Ambassador to Botswana and SADC, Petra Pereyra.

FROM THE FIELD



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI) visited SWM projects being implemented in Binga District, Zimbabwe.

NEWSROOM

- **Daily News**, "Habu Human Co-Existence Project ideal – Lelatisitswe" ([click here](#))
- **263 Times**, "Government charmed by the SWM Programme" ([click here](#))
- **The Herald**, "Boost for local goat production" ([click here](#))
- **New Ziana**, "Human, Wildlife Conflict threatens natural resources management" ([click here](#))
- **Sunday News**, "Binga applauded for reducing human–wildlife conflicts" ([click here](#))
- **The Chronicle**, "Wildlife management programme uplifts Binga" ([click here](#))
- **Spiked**, "Government spearheads Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme in Binga" ([click here](#))

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Training of Trainers workshop on human–wildlife conflicts (Regional SWM Programme initiative, October 2023)
- Community Conservancy game counts in Namibia (July to September 2023)

Technical partners



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SWM TALKS

Dr Patrice Talla Takoukam

Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa

FAO Representative for Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Eswatini



Southern Africa is rich in biodiversity and there is huge potential for successful community-based sustainable wildlife and natural resource management. This does not come without its difficulties, especially because the region is prone to recurrent natural disasters and the consequences of climate change. Other pressing daily challenges include the increasing demand for food, loss of forest cover, continuing land degradation, and scarcity of water resources for agriculture.

The depletion of natural resources has exacerbated human–wildlife conflict in many parts of Southern Africa. To reduce conflict and strengthen community management, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme is developing various solutions, particularly through community conservancies, which seek to improve food security and create new nature-based income-generating opportunities.

There is a need for intense collaboration among neighbouring countries to ensure the sustainability of policies and institutional frameworks for wildlife management, given the transboundary nature of animal migrations, plant pests and animal diseases. The SWM Programme embodies this collaborative approach, whether working with national governments, the KAZA TFCA Secretariat or organizing exchange visits for communities to encourage south-south cooperation.

The SWM Programme is also aligned to many key priorities of countries in Southern Africa, as reflected in the Country Programme Frameworks that are jointly formulated by FAO country offices and the technical ministries, and to the global FAO Strategic Framework and the Four Betters.



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