



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



**SWM
COMMUNITY
CONSERVANCY
PROJECT**

**KAZA SITES
(BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA,
ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE)**

newsletter

Issue 4 - September 2023 to February 2024

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WELCOME

A happy New Year to you all.

Much progress was made at our field sites in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe throughout 2023. The coming year will be critical for consolidating the Community Conservancy (CC) models, expanding the country Legal Hubs, finalizing ongoing studies, extracting lessons learned, publishing findings and scaling up effective practices.

In the spirit of collaboration, we will continue our commitment to strategic regional exchanges among the participating countries in the Kavango–Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA). As an example, in October 2023 we conducted a Training of Trainers in Maun, Botswana, focusing on human–wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation, involving 26 participants from the four countries. We also facilitated various high-level visits, including one by five European Union (EU) Heads of Missions and the representative from the French Development Agency to the project site in Namibia. We are currently planning follow-up regional exchanges and additional high-level visits for 2024.

We trust that you will enjoy this fourth issue of the KAZA Newsletter, which features highlights from each of the participating countries, regional news, events scheduled for 2024 and inspiring “SWM Talks” by Franck Porte, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation in Zimbabwe.

Jean-Claude Urvoy
SWM Programme regional coordinator

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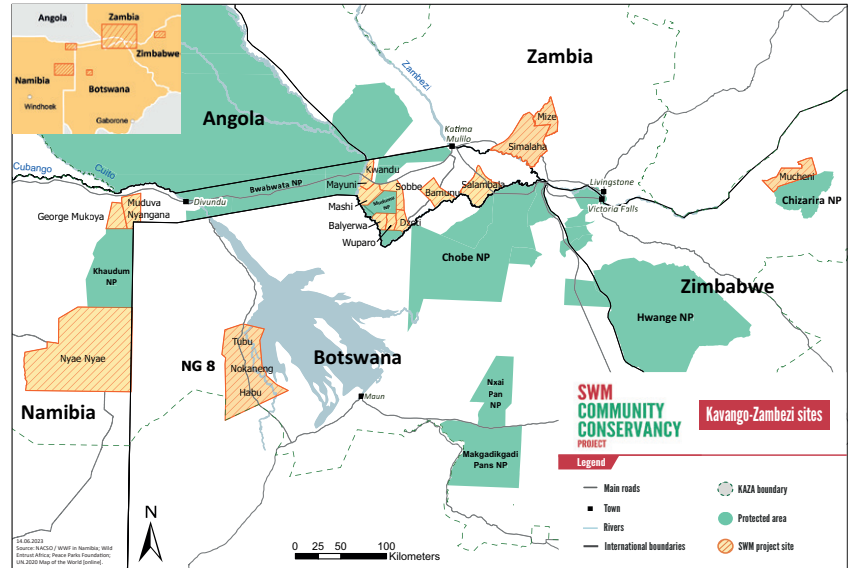
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HIGHLIGHTS

Summarized below are the highlights from the CC Project sites for the period September 2023 to February 2024. They build on the highlights in the [first](#), [second](#) and [third](#) newsletters.



Botswana - Habu, Tubu and Nokaneng villages



A learning exchange workshop at the Hammerkop Wildlife Monitoring Camp.

A participatory community map of cattle posts, natural resource use and traditional ecological knowledge was completed. An application was drafted for a management plan and a community-owned fenceless game ranch. Community wildlife scouts covered 11 600 kilometres during wildlife monitoring patrols. A strategic partnership was established with Technoserve. Three young people from Habu were enrolled on a ten-month youth enterprise development programme to develop sustainable business ideas. Two awareness-raising workshops were held in Habu with the District Council on commodity-based beef trade. A Training of Trainers workshop on HWC was held in Maun to provide trainers with the knowledge and skills to encourage coexistence between people and wildlife in KAZA.

Zambia - Mwandi and Kazungula Districts



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

New partnerships have been established. These include partnering with the Wildlife Producers Association of Zambia to train the Mize CC Management Unit (MMU) in how to effectively manage a game ranch. The team also partnered with UK universities and the Zambian Department of Veterinary Services to support the implementation of One Health activities. The major achievement was the signing of an agreement with the Peace Parks Foundation to support the MMU in the implementation of the Mize CC. Eight fish cooperatives were registered, and works were completed in three new fishponds in Sianyongo. A service provider was identified to develop a borehole to secure water supply throughout the year. Twenty-two community members from the Nyawa Chiefdom received training in HWC mitigation.

Namibia - Zambezi, Kavango East and Otjozondjupa



Annual fish stock survey being carried out on the Kwando River.

Two fish surveys on the Kwando River were completed. They confirmed that the Nakatwa protected area and the newly established Luhingi fisheries reserve have greater abundance and species diversity than the open access areas next to the fish reserves. Site consultations, planning, and zonation activities were supported to assist the Namibia Nature Foundation in establishing the Salambala CC Fish Reserve. In the spirit of strategic regional exchanges, the Namibia team visited the SWM Programme Habu site in Botswana to share experiences and best practices. The use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to record HWC incidents was evaluated in three CCs and training was provided in how to use the tool for wildlife monitoring in five CCs.

Zimbabwe - Binga District



A meat inspector assessing goat meat produced by livestock farmers from Binga District.

A wildlife corridor connectivity assessment was completed in the Mucheni CC to explore options to create and manage wildlife corridors. Stakeholders, including the Forestry Commission and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, were involved in ground truthing, mapping, assessment of water points and interviews with stakeholders to get their views on the corridors. Theatre performances were organized in communities to share ways to reduce HWC and encourage communities to better coexist with wildlife. The livestock-support initiative made further progress with goat farmers selling their goats to Acacia abattoirs in Bulawayo. This is gradually increasing household incomes and protein supply. Over 1 500 offsprings have been sired by the Boer and Kalahari goats initially provided by the SWM Programme.

REGIONAL NEWS



Members of the SWM Programme joined delegates at the SADC TFCA network meeting in Maputo.

The SWM Programme team actively took part in this year's Southern African Development Community (SADC) TFCA meeting in Maputo on 13–17 November 2023. The SADC TFCA Network meets annually and brings together professionals working on TFCA-related issues from government, conservation agencies, NGOs, donors and community-based organizations. The SWM Programme and the SADC TFCA Network share similar objectives, a key one being to enable communities living with wildlife to improve their lives while at the same time preserving the ecosystems and resources they depend on.

Steve Collins, the SADC TFCA Network Coordinator, explained that: *“the SWM Programme plays a key role in the KAZA TFCA landscape. In the last network meeting in Maputo the SWM colleagues helped shape the agenda and actively contributed to the session on HWC. They are a valuable part of the SADC TFCA Network”*. The event provided valuable opportunities to network and identify areas for potential collaboration and allowed the SWM Programme team to present the [Legal hub](#) tool and show how the findings from the legal analysis could be used to promote and strengthen the CC model in the region.

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** and 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

Human–Wildlife Conflict training workshop 16–20 October 2023, Maun, Botswana

This SWM Programme-organized Training of Trainers course brought together 26 participants from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to reduce HWC and foster coexistence. Click [here](#) to read the event coverage.



Trainers discussing lessons learned during a role-playing game on HWC.

Using theatre to inspire behaviour change 4–6 October 2023, Binga, Zimbabwe

Five theatre performances took place in Binga (Wards 3 and 4) to strengthen community understanding of the SWM Programme and provide the tools and understanding to reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife. Click [here](#) to read more about this event.



Intembawuzyo Arts Production Drama Performance shows a game ranger catching poachers during patrol. In Zimbabwe, wildlife poaching attracts a minimum nine-year jail term for protected animals such as rhino and elephant.

Planning for the future in Zimbabwe 10 October 2023, Binga, Zimbabwe

Key stakeholders participated in a review and planning meeting held by the SWM Programme in Zimbabwe to discuss priorities and areas for improvement during the second phase. Click [here](#) for more information.



SWM Programme key stakeholders engaged in Phase II discussions.

FROM THE FIELD



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Supporting Community Conservancy game counts in Namibia with local partners

SWM TALKS

Mr Franck Porte

Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Zimbabwe

The SWM Programme work in the KAZA landscape plays a crucial role in contributing to the international dimension of the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU NaturAfrica initiative. The overarching objective of the Biodiversity Strategy is to safeguard nature, reverse ecosystem degradation and promote sustainable green development for the benefit of local communities and partner countries.



To contribute to this goal, the SWM Programme focuses on establishing and strengthening a regional network of Community Conservancies (CCs). These CCs empower communities to manage and derive benefits from wildlife and natural resources, guided by principles of good governance. The Programme's field teams are actively engaged in capacity-building, promoting effective leadership and facilitating the exchange of best practices among different sites across the KAZA landscape. On a national level, the initiative is supporting the development of clear, legal and regulatory frameworks to guide and ensure that CCs operate in a transparent and participatory way.

Building scalable new models to conserve wildlife and improve food security takes time. For instance, in Zimbabwe, the European Union has provided additional funding to expand the work of the SWM Programme through to 2027. This funding will be utilized to further promote the CC model, disseminate and scale up the Programme's findings, results and approaches, aiming for more significant and lasting impacts. It aligns with the EU priorities in Zimbabwe and the selected landscapes of intervention, and therefore contributes to the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Green and Climate-Smart Agriculture.

NEWSROOM

- **The Herald**, "Promoting Peace Between Humans, Wildlife via Theatre" ([click here](#))
- **CIFOR-ICRAF Forest News**, "From hunting wild animals to fish farming: sustainable change in rural Zambia" ([click here](#))
- **FAO Regional Office for Africa**, "Participants hail SWM Programme Training of Trainers on Human-Wildlife Conflict in Southern Africa as a bridge to coexistence" ([click here](#))
- **FAO**, "Human-Wildlife Conflict role-playing game user guide" ([click here](#))

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **World Wildlife Day**
(3 March 2024)
<https://wildlifeday.org/en>
- **SWM Programme Legal Hub validation workshop in Botswana**
(March 2024)
- **International Day for Biological Diversity**
(22 May 2024)
<https://www.cbd.int/idb/default.shtml>



FIND OUT MORE

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