

**REPORT FROM WILD PROJECT AND KHAIBASEN
RESEARCH GROUP WORKSHOP, GROOTBERG TRAINING
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Wildlife Integration for Livelihood Diversification (WILD) Project
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C. Vaughan and J.B. Katjiua



DFID Department for
International
Development

Contact details:

Kit Vaughan

Senior Field Researcher, WILD Project
Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia Tel. +264 61 249015
email: kit@africaonline.com.na

John Bosco Katjiua

Field Researcher, WILD Project
Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia Tel. +264 61 249015
email: jbosco@africaonline.com.na

Edited by Tamsin Savage (tamsin@savagewords.com)

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Acronyms

#//C	#Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy
CBNRM	Community-based Natural Resource Management
CGG	Community Game Guard
DFID	Department for International Development
DRFN	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
HWC	human wildlife conflict
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
PRA	participatory research approach
RWS	Rural Water Supply
SARDEP	Southern African Rangelands Development Project
WILD	Wildlife Integration for Livelihood Diversification

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WILD Project is an applied, research initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), whose role is to provide research findings based on data, in order to strengthen decision-making about Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) at all levels. The WILD Project is funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID) and is co-ordinated from Windhoek, with field staff in the Caprivi and Kunene Regions. The information in this report will feed into the final WILD Project technical research report.

A mini workshop organised by WILD Project took place at Grootberg MET Training Centre on 19-22 of May 2002. Members of the Khaibasen Research Group attended and gave updates on CBNRM and livelihood issues in their areas.

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- *Explore and conceptualise the purpose of conservancies*
- *Explore the advantages and disadvantages of conservancies*
- *Document the factors critical to a conservancy's success*
- *Explore the types of benefits; the beneficiaries and the timing of the benefits (now or the future)*
- *Understand the factors which make people different and why*
- *To provide input into developing questions for three WILD Project research proposals: living with wildlife, elephant and human conflict; and wildlife utilisation*
- *Document other issues arising*
- *Document conservancy development options*

1. INTRODUCTION

A mini workshop organised by WILD Project took place at Grootberg MET Training Centre on 19-22 of May 2002. The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Explore and conceptualise the purpose of conservancies
- Explore the advantages and disadvantages of conservancies
- Document the factors critical to a conservancy's success
- Explore the types of benefits; the beneficiaries and the timing of the benefits (now or the future)
- Understand the factors which make people different and why
- To provide input into developing questions for three WILD Project research proposals: living with wildlife, elephant and human conflict; and wildlife utilisation
- Document other issues arising
- Document conservancy development options

Community members from the Khaibasen Group attended (Appendix 1) and gave updates of Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and livelihood issues from their areas.

1.1 Agenda

The workshop agenda was developed and reviewed with participants (Appendix 2). Activities included a number of PRA activities including focus group discussions around key issues and brainstorming key issues associated with the research topics.

2. ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES ARISING

2.1 Conceptualising conservancies

This session focused on understanding and clarifying the purpose of conservancies. Initially respondents felt that communities feel the primary purpose of conservancies was to:

- Protect wildlife for future generations and that the wildlife was under the control of the conservancies
- Get benefits from wildlife
- To increase cooperation between all stakeholders
- To get the rights to use wildlife

Only one respondent (a ≠Khoadi //Hôas (≠//C) staff member's son) stated that conservancies were there to protect wildlife and to utilise it to develop benefits for communities to help them bear the costs of living with wildlife and promote community investment in conserving wildlife. Participants felt that community members, whether registered or not, were unsure of the purpose of conservancies and the core activities of ≠//C staff and committee members.

People's expectations from the conservancy were highlighted as receiving jobs, obtaining help with marketing opportunities and promoting community development. However, some said that people often couldn't have expectations, as they were not aware of the conservancy

programme and its purpose. It was also said that their expectations had changed with time because they had started with high hopes but had now become disillusioned.

2.2 Advantages and disadvantages of conservancies

Some participants felt that it was too soon to see all of the advantages and disadvantages of conservancies and that they were only aware of the \neq/C activities. Nonetheless a brainstorm produced the following table:

Table 1: The advantages and disadvantages of conservancies

Advantages	Disadvantages
Can develop income from business operations e.g. lodges etc.	Restrict movement of community members in wildlife areas
Can provide jobs for some members of the community	Can lead to unfair distribution of jobs, meat and other benefits
Supports the protection of wildlife for the future	Can restrict people's use of wildlife for hunting, meat, skins and medicine
Is an institution that gives the community and conservancy the right to use wildlife	Increase in animal numbers can lead to more predators and problem elephants
Some community and cultural activities are sponsored by conservancies	Increase in wildlife numbers can lead to competition for grazing and water
	Rules for emergency grazing in restricted areas are unclear
	Restricts some cultural activities associated with wildlife

2.3 Factors critical to the success of a conservancy

- Elephant damage and solutions
- Predator attacks on livestock and solutions
- The use and restriction of exclusive wildlife areas
- The equity of community meat distribution
- Maintaining and supporting water points
- Lack of communication between \neq/C staff and committee and the community, including lack of telephones in the area to report issues to \neq/C
- The irregularity and low prices of auctions
- Restrictions and lack of grazing seasonally
- The lack of support for small business enterprise opportunities
- Ensuring the full cooperation and participation of the community
- Poaching and cooperation of the community on hunting etc.
- Clarity and transparency on money issues.

2.4 Types of benefits

Participants stated that a benefit was something advantageous or useful that you obtain from looking after something. For example, the conservancy manages its wildlife and then sells quotas to generate income, which can then be used for activities that will assist the broader community. However, benefits have different time frames – some are apparent now, whilst

others might be possible in the future. Also the types of benefits differ and the type of people benefiting from them varies, e.g. conservancy staff and community members.

The types of benefits in #//C included the following:

Table 2: Benefits from conservancies

Types of benefits	Who gets it	Now or future
Access to wildlife quotas that brings in money and meat	Conservancy Committee	Now
Cooperation of private sponsors	Farmers leagues and community	Now
Training and workshops	Cons. Comm. and staff	Now
Use of offices and staff positions	Cons. Comm. and staff	Now
Salaries	Cons. Comm. and staff	Now
Transport	Cons. Comm. and staff	Now
Campsites and lodges	Community	Future
Community wildlife meat	Cons. Comm., staff and community	Now
Jobs and employment	Cons. Comm., staff and community	Now
Bursaries	Community	Future
Soup kitchen	Community	Future
Elephant water points and dams	Community	Now
Electrical fences	Community	Now
Borehole and water point maintenance and development	Community	Future

Participants said that although there were a number of different benefits the distribution of them was not equal and that the conservancy needed to develop a strategy with clear policies to ensure the highest level of equality, especially for job distribution.

2.5 Good and bad things about #//C

An exercise to find out what the good and bad things about #//C produced the following table:

Table 3: Good and bad things about #//C

Good things	Bad things
Provides knowledge about wildlife	Increases tension between community and problem animals and the committee
Some elephant dams and electric fences were built	Restricts people's use of wildlife, especially for some groups who were more dependant on it in the past
Community meat distribution started	Community had high expectations but they were not fulfilled
Rights provided to use and benefit from wildlife	Exclusive wildlife area took over part of community's traditional and emergency grazing area
Support to alternative markets (Cape Town) for craft producers	
Develop and promote community activities	

2.6 How are people different and why?

In this exercise, participants brainstormed the reasons why and how people are different. The table below presents the results of the exercise:

Table 4: Why and how are people different?

Educated and some are not
Numbers of livestock, types and breeds
Employed and working or not
Access to transport or not
Physical or mental disabilities
Receive pension or not
Small families compared to extended ones
Ownership of small and big enterprises
Access to remittances (cash or in kind) or not
Some have access to and utilisation of bank accounts
Some male household heads, others female household heads
Exposure to wildlife problems or not
Access to water and grazing for livestock or not
Young or old
Different cultural or ethnic groups

2.7 Three research proposals and questions

The purpose of this PRA exercise was to use some of the outputs to help design the research proposals. The participants split into different subgroups and brainstormed the initial research proposals. The outputs are the following key research questions:

A. Wildlife utilisation: costs and benefits

- Do you have any wildlife in this area?
- What type?
- Any change in wildlife numbers?
- Why increase/decrease?
- Do you use wildlife (worms, birds, gum, small mammals etc) for consumption or any other purpose?
- What types, for what, when, how?
- What do you think; how can we use wildlife for ourselves?
- Is it good to have permission for own-use hunting?
- How should the hunting process be?
- What do you think is the best way to manage wildlife?
- How should meat be distributed equally?
- What do you know about trophy hunting?
- Is the idea of professional hunters a good one?
- Do you think we should save/protect wildlife?
- Do you think we should sell it (wildlife) alive?

- What do you think about community own-use hunting?
- What benefits should we get from use of wildlife?
- Do you think its good to hunt for private consumption?
- Is the increase in wildlife a good thing? Why?
- How can we change our attitude towards wildlife?
- What do you know about the hunting quotas MET allocate to conservancies?
- Is it a good idea?
- Do you need wildlife for tourism attraction?

B. The costs of living with wildlife

- Do you experience any wildlife problems in this area?
- Which ones?
- What are the costs?
- How do you cover those costs?
- Who do you report to? How often?
- What were the responds? Any solutions and options?
- Do you see any competition between livestock and wildlife?
- Any problem with predators?
- How do you control that cost?
- Do you have problems with elephants?
- Did you report it and to whom? Any solution?
- What were the costs of the damages?

C. Human and elephant conflict

- What do you know about the history of elephants?
- What do they do, are they problem animals to you?
- When does that happen?
- Why do you think they migrate?
- What do you think are the solutions or options to reduce elephant problems?
- Do you have any idea how elephants reproduce?
- What do you think would be the implications to the community, if the conservancy increased the number of elephants in your area?
- What should be done if an elephant kills somebody?
- Who experiences the most problems in your area?
- What are the main problems?
- Where are the problems?
- What types of problems do you experience?
- What times of (the year) do people experience these problems?
- Where do you go to report these problems?
- What are the responses you get?
- What is the future of elephants?

2.8 Other issues arising from the discussion and activities

Information management

Participants said that there was a lack of clear communication between the committee and community. Community members were informed of meetings at short notice and not given adequate time to arrange transportation. This resulted in poor attendance at meetings and a lack of participation by all community members.

Strategies for wildlife management

Members of the conservancy staff and community participants said that elephants and predators are causing damage especially to water points and loss to livestock. However, the conservancy does not have any clear strategies for minimising the cost of elephant and predator damage, or compensation for damages incurred or effective options for resolving the problems. Even if the problems are reported to the conservancy staff and shepherds little is done and rarely is any feedback given back to the community.

2.9 Conservancy development options

Participants felt that the issues below were potential options for the conservancy to consider:

1. **Promoting the conservancy concept by using the radio** and other media to fully explain the nature and purpose of the conservancy, plus a series of short presentations, e.g. what is the purpose of a conservancy, the process for the benefit distribution plan, game count and other conservancy and partner research and development activities. Develop a community question-and-answer session on key critical issues and make the community fully aware of the role and purpose of a conservancy and the extent and limits of people's rights to utilise wildlife. This could include some case-study discussions with community members.
2. **Develop a strategy for an outreach and extension programme** dealing with information management and increasing community and committee information flow and enhancing decision-making by the community. This should include the development of activities including regular meetings at a community level and means to increase community awareness and involvement. Develop a staff position explicitly for community liaison (i.e. the interface between the community and committee). The aim is to increase participation and transparency.
3. **To develop, implement and publicise a strategy for dealing with problem animal issues.** This would include options for mitigating elephant problems and means for dealing with predator issues. At present $\neq//C$ has no clear strategy or options for dealing with elephant or predator problems. There is a need for the conservancy to develop and review options for enhancing community conservation and for living with wildlife.
4. **Support for livestock auctions and access to veterinary services** was a key issue for participants, given that community members in $\neq//C$ are primarily dependant on livestock farming as their main source of livelihood. This is currently being explored by the Grootberg Farmers' Union/ $\neq//C$ and SARDEP with Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN).

2.10 The way forward

The issues arising from the workshop activities and discussion will be forwarded to the $\neq//C$ Committee and members of the farm initiative. Key findings have been incorporated into the main \neq Khoadi //Hôas and livelihoods research report (forthcoming) and the overall research report for the Kunene Region. Specific recommendations will be passed onto key stakeholders and incorporated into ongoing WILD Project research activities.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1.	Fabianus Tjizorundu	Dorsland Farm
2.	Otto Hamaseb	Quo Vadis
3.	Aneel Haraeb	Ortrek Post 2
4.	Otnieel //Areseb	Navatere
5.	Sebastiaan Narebeb	Anker
6.	John Bosco Katjiua	WILD Project
7.	Hansina Gases	Nugas - Pos
8.	Agnes Seibes	Drie Hoek
9.	Winsel Hoab	Atlanta Post
10.	Kit Vaughan	WILD Project

APPENDIX 2: WORKSHOP AGENDA

Monday 20th May 2002

- Prayer
- Catch up
- Logistics: food, time, money, housekeeping
- Introducing the workshop purpose and agenda
- Agenda (week)
- Purpose of Khaibasen
- Purpose of WILD Project
- Feedback from last workshop
- Survey
- Dates/activities/future.
- Introductions, clarifications and catch up of people's news and activities

Tuesday 21st May 2002

AM:

- Case studies selection (different types of people)
- Living with wildlife (cost and benefits)
- Elephants (opportunities/costs/options re. living with elephants)
- Game meat

Wednesday 22nd May 2002

- Recap of Mon/Tues activities
- Open discussions/AOB/proposals etc.
- Survey – Future Khaibasen activities

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17. **Vaughan, C., Katjiua, J.B. and Branston, N.** Talking with Torra. Proceedings of a Participatory Livelihoods Workshop with Torra Residents (forthcoming).
18. **Vaughan, C., Katjiua, J.B. and Branston, N. , and K. Bundra** May 2003. CBNRM in the Kunene Region Proceedings of a Workshop Held to Discuss WILD Project Key Findings and Build Stakeholder Consensus. Ombinda Lodge. May 2003.
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