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Geoffroy MAUVAIS
PAPACO coordinator

Room for improvement...

At the beginning of this year, ivory transformation and trading spots have been, officially at least, closed in China, which should in theory significantly decrease elephant poaching in Africa. Anyone in their right mind will be surprised that it took so long for such a simple solution to be set up. Nevertheless, the optimists among us will be grateful of the fact that this happens before the extinction of the pachyderms whose declining population trends, in particular in forests, are dramatic.

Unfortunately, this measure does not apply to Hong Kong, by far the main transit point, which was granted a further 5 years to close its "trade". Well, a simple solution is never easy to implement! Neither did Japan follow the Chinese trend.

One can foresee that elephant farms might be set up to generate a local and legal offer, akin to the way tigers farms now provide material for the skins and bones market in China; or to the farms where bears are bred to provide the bile used in traditional pharmacopoeia. And this will inevitably create a "grey market" in which poached products will be recycled, a phenomenon that occurs every time a partial authorization is given without the means to ensure total control of the sector. It is estimated that 90% of the ivory that was freely traded in China was of illegal origin. Therefore, the production necessary to "cover" the continuation of this activity is very thin.



So, has China become super green?

Not so fast. No need to dwell on the story of rhino horn, which is known to everyone, just as is known its medical uselessness, whilst it continues to be sold on the Chinese markets and keeps generating a blood spill in African savannahs. Is forbidding this powder in China for good so complicated? It is no secret by now that the four species of African pangolins are under huge pressure, since their scales are used to make different "potions" thousands of miles away from where they are slaughtered. Once again, is it so difficult to ban them for good from the stalls? The porcupine is also sought after and the chameleons, once dried, also take the road to the East in label-less boxes to accommodate Chinese cuisine, as do the turtles or snakes collected everywhere, almost raked systematically. Why do we let them be sold in China? No bird is safe and the worst is that people invent new recipes - or new virtues - almost every day, mortgaging the future of species spared so far. The rarer a species becomes, the higher its price and when it becomes really rare, some then speculate on its extinction and store what they can in order to answer the extravagant requests later. Can't we penalize this type of behavior?

As ultimate proof that there are no limits, the skin of donkeys is now sought after in the depths of Africa. It is used to make a syrup with multiple hypothetical virtues, against cough or anemia or the side effects of menopause. Too bad it doesn't cure ignorance! Since the Chinese donkey population has plummeted, traders are now turning to Africa where the rules to protect this species often remain unclear. Over 4 million skins are needed for domestic consumption, a market which sharpens

appetites. Some countries are therefore committed to the legalization of trade (like Kenya) while others like Burkina Faso or Botswana are still resisting ... But when the floodgates are open, how much time will remain for the donkeys of the continent?

Should we also protect African donkeys? Surrealist and yet relevant question! Yes indeed, in what world are we living? Donkeys play a fundamental role for many communities and their increased value due to this unquenchable demand now renders them inaccessible to the poorest. The threat does not weigh only on donkeys...

Therefore, congratulations for the late effort on the elephant trade but, dear Chinese friends please extend it right away to the other animal and vegetable species that you draw from Africa like a gaping black hole. There is urgency and no good reason not to do it immediately...

More on:

http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/03/28/pourquoi-les-chinois-veulent-la-peau-des-anes-africains_5101859_3212.html

<https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2016/09/wild-laws-china-role-wildlife-trafficking/>

<http://e360.yale.edu/features/the-dark-legacy-of-chinas-drive-for-global-resources>

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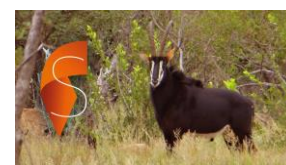
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After donkeys, will zebras be the next ingredient?

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Our MOOC are developed in cooperation with the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

A few testimonies from our MOOCs' students

My name is **Solange F.** and I am from **Argentina**. I have been working in climate change related topics for the last 7 years. I became interested in the conservation of Biodiversity about a year ago, so I began taking some online open courses in my free time. The first MOOC on Protected Areas I followed was the Protected Areas Management in Africa MOOC, on Coursera. I really enjoyed it, learned a lot, and ended up wanting to learn as much as I can about PAs.

So it was great news when I heard about these other MOOCs on PA held by the same team. So of course, I enrolled in this MOOC on Ecological Monitoring and I am enrolled in the one on Species Conservation, beginning in January 2018.

So far, this MOOC was particularly interesting, because it includes dealing with data which is what I usually do. I really appreciate the fact that, even though I know that the module on statistics is fairly basic, it is more formal and goes deeper than other modules on statistics that I have seen. When facing some struggles with the exams, I used the forums to better understand my mistakes, and the team has been GREAT in taking the time and explaining to me my errors and in allowing me to retake parts of the exam, once I understood things right.

I am not currently working in any PA related topic, but I expect to redirect my career to the conservation of biodiversity, and I know all the concepts I learned here and in other MOOCs will help me to do that. I truly believe that PAs are essential tools in nature conservation, not only as flora and fauna safe environments, but also as climate change mitigation areas, and as places where people can reconnect with nature. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team for creating this great MOOC and for making it available for all of us around the world. I hope it has been a great experience for you creating it as it is for me taking it.



My name is **Sanjo R.** I recently graduated with a Honours degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Cape Town, in **South Africa**.

Currently I am completing a NRF/DST research internship at the South African Bird Ringing Unit to gain work experience before embarking on a Masters' degree in conservation biology. My main interest in the biological sciences is that of conservation biology and landscape ecology, specifically human wildlife conflict which I believe is closely linked to protected area management and planning. Therefore, when I heard of this MOOC on PA management via a friend I was very keen to sign up!

I completed the course in the evenings and weekends, after work. I enjoyed all of the aspects of the course, but specifically the chapters on conventions as this was very much neglected in my undergraduate studies and I found this a manageable way to learn about these. It was also very helpful to study course material that was African, and not European or American, as in much of my B.Sc and Honours degrees. Going forward I think that this MOOC on PA management has helped shape my views and sensitivities, which I believe will help me in planning research projects and finding a meaningful vocation. I look forward to completing some more IUCN MOOCs in the future!

More information on the MOOCs: www.papaco.org – page: “training”

Community stewardship to conservation: an opportunity to support poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, as well as to enhance the adaptive capacities of rural communities to cope with climate changes?

By: Nicolas Drunet, former head of the climate and territory unit, expertise France. www.expertisefrance.fr

And: Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations:

- Maxi Louis, maxi@nacso.org.na, NACSO Director, Steve Felton, sfleton@wwf.na, Communications Officer and Siphwe Lutibezi, communications@wwf.na, Communications Officer

And: NRT team:

- Kadir Boru, Climate Change Officer, kadir.boru@nrt-kenya.org, Sophie Harrison, Communications Officer, sophie.harrison@nrt-kenya.org and Charity Mukono, former Communications Officer

Introduction

The loss of biodiversity and its related ecosystem-services, mainly due to commercial poaching, land degradation, land grabbing etc., are reported of in many papers, while ecosystem-based management is considered a key driver to overcome poverty, and an opportunity to improve the management of natural resources in a context of climate change.

Different models have been tested and implemented by a wide range of stakeholders to reverse the biodiversity trends and ensure the sustainability of resources. The NAPA has already showcased some options currently under implementation: number of them refer to state protected areas, others suggest that privatizing protected area management is one if not the only way to restore the trends, and others again express the need to involve community to protected area management.

Namibia in the 1990s, and Kenya more recently, have introduced an innovative community stewardship approach to conservation, also called **conservancy**¹. It is based on a multi-stakeholder

¹ Conservancy: Communal conservancies are self-governing, democratic entities, run by their members, with fixed boundaries that are agreed with adjacent conservancies, communities or land owners. Conservancies are recognized by the state through its Ministry of Environment. Freehold conservancy are a legally protected area made of a group of bona fide land-occupiers practicing co-operative management

strategy, whereby communities, traditional authorities, sub-national authorities (especially in Kenya), State and private sector work together to reduce biodiversity losses whilst also diversifying income generation based on an enhanced ecosystem community-led management approach.

The purpose of this NAPA is to share lessons learnt from Namibia and Kenya, with a focus on communal conservancies. We will identify shared features as well as differences between both examples, and explore potential conditions for their replication.

1 – Conservancies in Namibia

The creation of conservancies

In Namibia conservancies were formed to address rural poverty as much as to conserve wildlife and habitats. Their creation was pushed by special circumstances, namely the country's independence from South Africa as an occupying force after 20 years of liberation war.

Shortly after independence, in 1990, the SWAPO² led Namibian government commissioned a socio-economic survey of rural areas. This was a participatory exercise designed to gather opinions about ways to uplift livelihoods in communal areas, many of which were overgrazed and where wildlife was disappearing from because of poaching.

The survey did not take place in a vacuum. A proto-model of an alternative land use to agriculture, based on wildlife tourism, had already been prepared by conservationists Garth Owen-Smith and Chris Eyre, working with chiefs and headmen in the arid north-west of Namibia, now known as Kunene. This model was based on income derived from tourism flowing directly to communities in exchange for eco-system services, mainly the protection of wildlife from poaching. As a result of the survey, and with a conservation model available, the Namibian government chose to give the same rights over wildlife that commercial farmers were given in the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975, provided that they formed conservancies. This right was given in an amendment to the act in 1996.

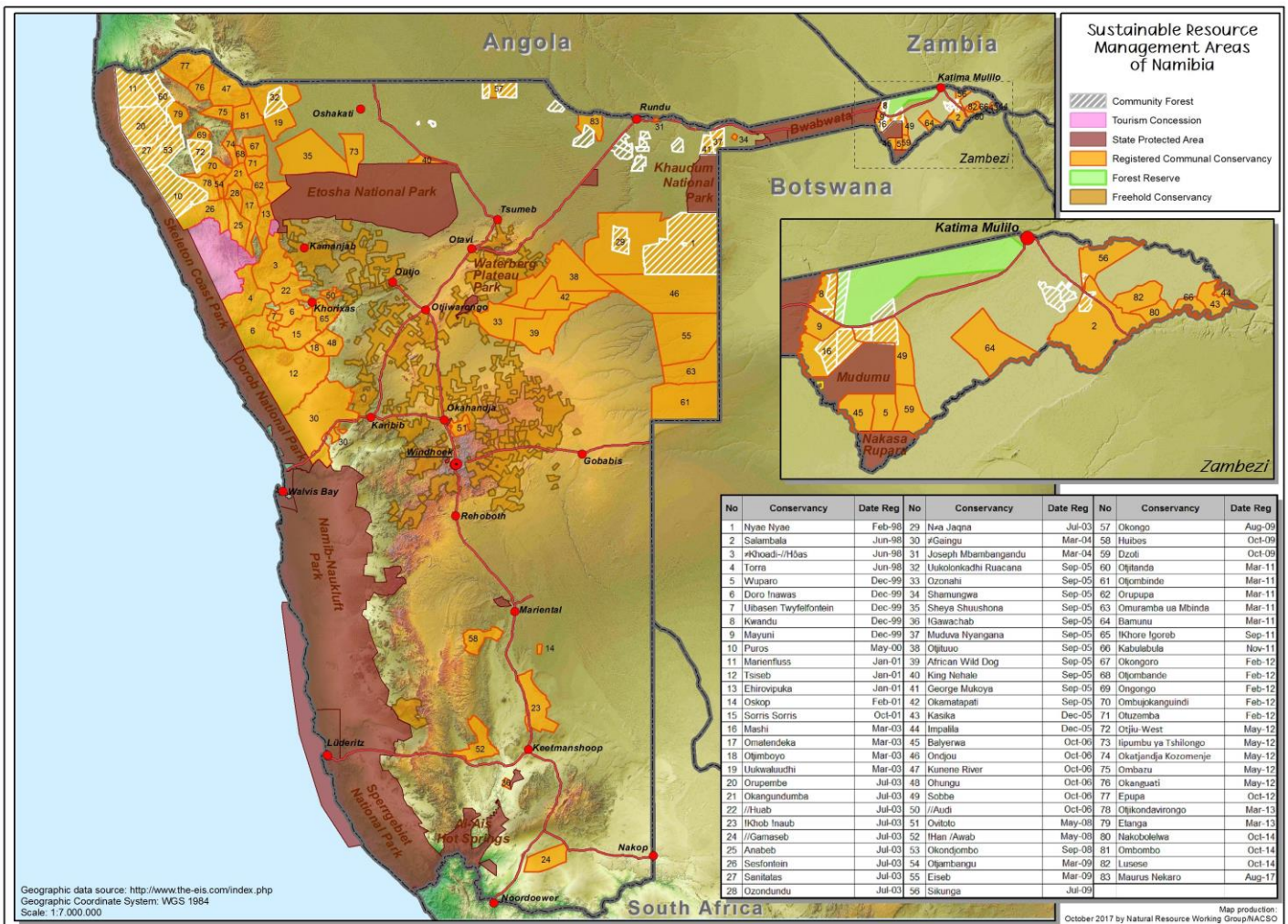
After a period of formation, with assistance from NGOs, the first four conservancies were gazetted in 1998. The first in Nyae Nyae, an exclusively San

based upon a sustainable utilization strategy and the promotion of conservation of natural resources and wildlife

²South West Africa People Organization

area in the east of Namibia which had already had considerable development assistance from the Nyae Nyae Development Foundation; Salambala in

the north-eastern Caprivi Region (now Zambezi); and two in Kunene in the arid north-west: Torra and #Khoadi-//Hôas.



How does it work?

A communal conservancy is an area of communal land with defined boundaries agreed with residents of the land and from outside. A conservancy is a self-governing body with a constitution, a management plan and, crucially, a game management plan. Once the conditions for a conservancy are met, it is gazetted by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and must adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures.

Zonation of the conservancy is an important management tool. A conservancy may also earn an income from tourism, through joint-venture partnerships with private sector operators; so a conservancy may be zoned by its management into separate areas for tourism, for hunting, and for farming.

The management of a conservancy is in accordance with its constitution, agreed with the

MET before the conservancy can be gazetted. There is a management committee, which is elected at an annual general meeting, which has a quorum set by the constitution. Annually, financial reports have to be submitted. The committee may employ officials, such as a manager, secretary and treasurer.

The key employees of a conservancy are its game rangers, who work to carry out the game management plan. Based upon the model developed prior to independence in Kunene, game rangers conduct anti-poaching patrols and report any suspicious movements or events to the MET, which has powers of arrest. Conservancy game guards do not have legal authority, and do not carry arms.

The game management plan assumes that wildlife will increase if there is sufficient rainfall and grazing, and if poaching is minimized or eliminated.

With sufficient numbers of wildlife, game may be utilized – for instance for hunting, both by trophy hunters who pay the conservancy fees, and by the conservancy itself for meat.



A strong support from both the state and NGOs

The state sets the conditions for the conservancy formation and can de-gazette a conservancy if it fails to act in accordance with state regulations, but the state does not govern conservancies. The Ministry of environment (MET) approves the game utilization plan. Game is monitored by annual counts, and quotas are set by the MET so that game is utilized sustainably. Furthermore, the MET has also been very pro-active in reintroducing high value wildlife species, throughout its national parks, in a number of conservancies in order to support income generation from the use of wildlife.

The role of NGOs has also been of critical importance. Several conservation NGOs under the umbrella of NACSO³, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations, have given and continue to give technical support and training to conservancies. The annual game counts are huge exercises conducted by the MET and by conservancies, with considerable logistical support from NACSO. Conservancy management has been improved by training from NACSO, which also conducts annual conservancy audits together with the MET, to ensure that conservancies are well managed and are in compliance with the government regulation.

Today's outcomes

There are now 83 communal conservancies covering 20% of Namibia. These conservancies have two guiding principles: to protect and conserve wildlife and its habitat, and to bring

income and development to their residents. So what are the outcomes today?

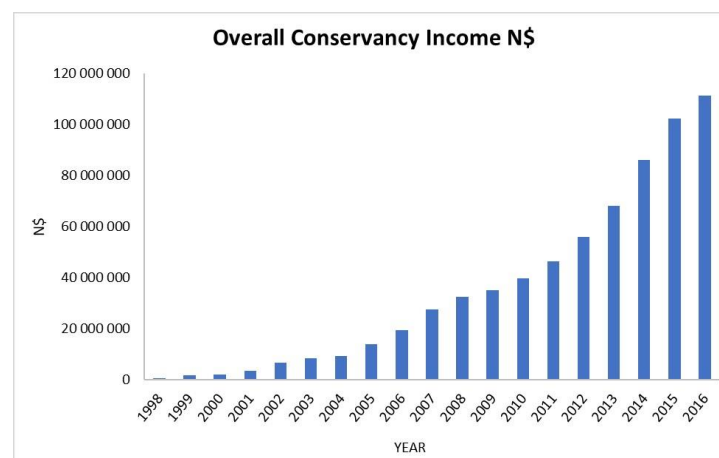
In terms of conservation

From a conservation point of view, the conservancy programme, as part of the overall Community Based Natural Resource Management programme of the government, has been a resounding success in two ways. First, wildlife populations have rebounded from historic lows due to the minimization of poaching. From a low of 1,000 in Kunene in 1990, springbok increased to 27,000 before the recent drought, which has reduced their number. The elephant population has grown from around 7,000 to over 22,000 in 20 years. Sustainable utilization of wildlife has made wildlife a valuable resource which communities have an interest to protect. It provides income to conservancies and individuals, and it provides meat, which is equitably distributed.

Secondly, the growth of conservancies and their physical relationship to state protected areas: national parks and tourism concessions, means that large interconnected conservation areas have been established. Including freehold conservancies on commercial farmland, at the end of 2016, land under structured natural resource management covered 43.7% of Namibia.

In terms of poverty alleviation

A few figures can illustrate the success of the conservancy programme: during 2016, conservancies generated over 8,2 million US\$ in returns for local communities, and over 5,000 jobs and 164 enterprises based upon natural resources, including highly profitable joint venture tourism lodges.



Employment and empowerment of rural people has not been restricted to men. Almost half of conservancy treasurers are women, and almost a

³NACSO : Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations

third of committee members and employees. Employment in lodges has brought considerable income to rural families. Meat to the value of over 700 000 US\$ was sustainably harvested and distributed to families.

Challenges

However, conservancy management is the greatest challenge to conservancy members, support NGOs and government. Rural communities have been ill equipped to run what are, in effect, businesses – some with incomes of millions of Namibia dollars. Conservancy committees tend to recycle themselves, so there is no fresh blood and a lack of new ideas. There has been financial mismanagement and a lack of willingness to report cases of fraud to the police. Financial reporting is not always accurate or timeous, and Annual General Meetings (AGMs) are not always well attended or run.

Future development of communal conservancies is unlikely to bring the rate of expansion seen in the past. The critical challenges are to improve and maintain the standard of governance, and as part of good governance to ensure that benefits flow equitably to the communities and that income is not used by the conservancy management to the detriment of members.

To date, 62 conservancies have a good income and are financially self-sustaining; however, this is not the case for the remaining 21. Not all conservancies have the wealth of wildlife required for a strong income from hunting, and fewer still have the natural attractions combined with wildlife that are required for the establishment of profitable lodges; this is especially the case for the southern and northern central conservancies. The conservation dividend to Namibia is not matched by individual dividends to members in those conservancies, which lack sufficient income to manage their affairs.

2 – In Kenya

Background

In Kenya, a community conservancy is a community-based organization, created to support the management of community-owned land, for the benefit of household livelihoods (improved governance and representation, reduced conflict, improved pasture management, improved livestock production, integrated development, enterprise development) and for the conservation and protection of natural resources (including

rangelands, forest, marine ecosystems and wildlife).

Ever since they were created in the 1990s, the scope of conservancies and their institutional complexity has grown far beyond just wildlife conservation and tourism. There are now over 140 private and community conservancies in Kenya, the majority of which have been established in the past 15 years. Conservancies are institutions for building peace, improving lives and conserving natural resources. They do not own or fence land, and unlike state-owned national parks, do not exclude grazing or other migrating pastoralists. Conservancy institutions work in support of landowners.

Conservancies are based on the following premise: if they are given the necessary support, incentives and policy framework, communities and landowners can be the stewards of wildlife conservation, working together with County and National Government to protect and benefit from a healthy and productive environment.

65% Kenya's wildlife is found outside the network of government-protected areas, on private or community land. This wildlife supports a vibrant tourism industry that brings in vital foreign income to the country (in 2015, tourism contributed 9.9% of the Country's total GDP), employs thousands of people and builds the local economy.

Wildlife is being lost at rates that are unsustainable, space is quickly vanishing and the time to act is running out faster than most of us realize. Kenya must act decisively to reverse this trend, or we risk witnessing the complete decimation of wildlife during our lifetime.

How does it work?

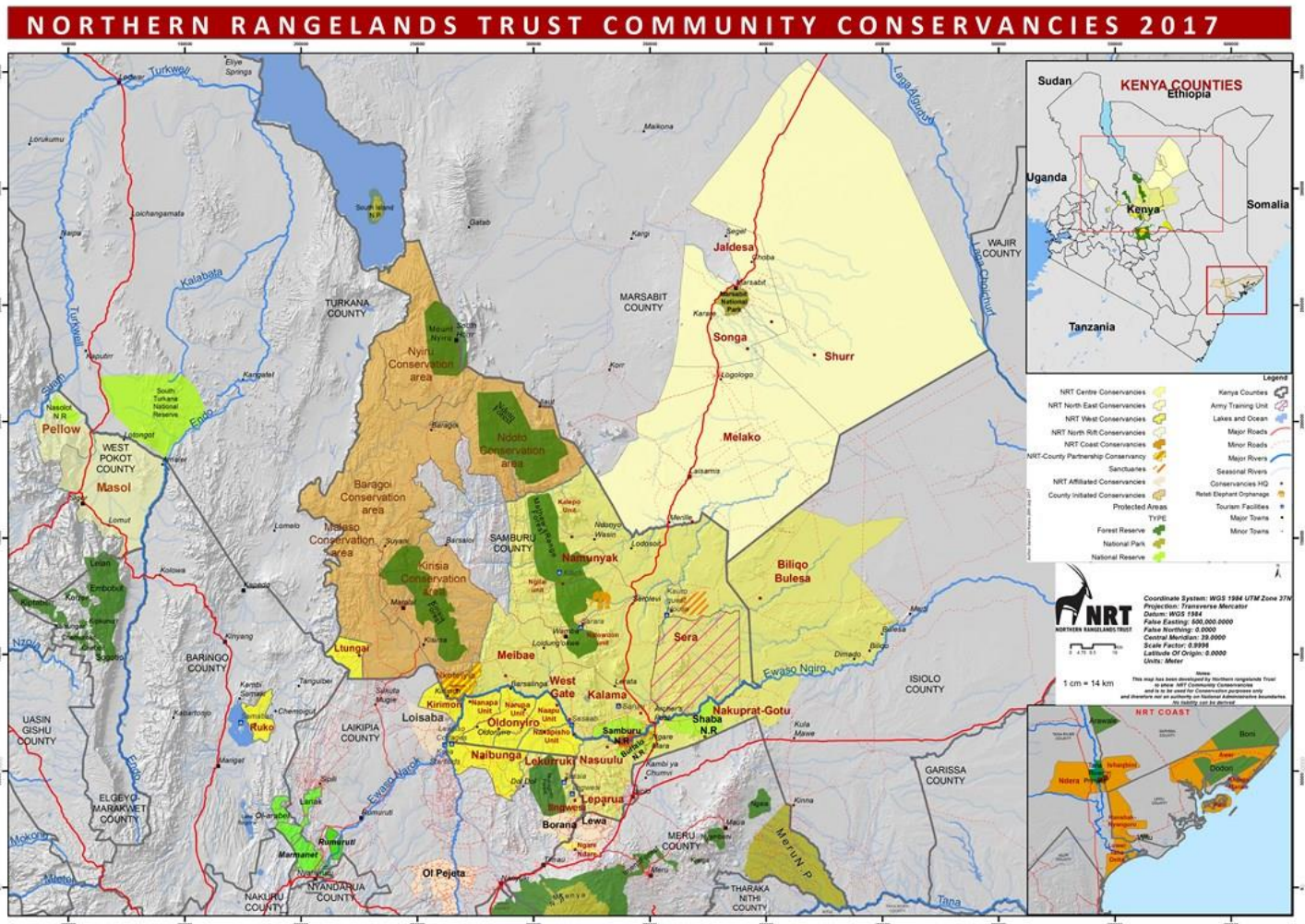
Each conservancy is governed by a Board of Directors or Trustees comprising community members elected for a three-year term of office from settlements across the agreed conservancy landscape. Locally elected boards govern each conservancy, where local government and other stakeholders are included as observers (*ex officio* members). The Board has ultimate control of all conservancy activities and budgets. It oversees operations and development activities within the conservancy, prioritizes various interventions including peace and security, rangeland management, alternative livelihoods, and enterprise development.

A strong support from both the state and NGOs
 The full potential of Conservancies in Kenya is yet to be realized. Private and community land-owners, supported by a growing number of highly motivated partners, have the potential to conserve 12% of Kenya’s land mass, to benefit over 5 million people and protect 65% of Kenya’s wildlife (from KWCA Conservancy Guide March 2016).

Community land tenure and ownership rights have recently been strengthened under the 2013 Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) and the 2016 Community Land Act (CLA). For the first time, the WCMA gave community conservancies

legal recognition, while the CLA addressed poor land tenure rights of local communities, and granted community land the same rights as privately owned land.

The Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) is a community led, non-governmental organization set up in 2004 in northern Kenya by a coalition of local leaders, politicians and conservationists. It was established specifically to support and develop the emerging model of community conservation in the region. Its mission is to develop resilient community conservancies, which transform people’s lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources.



NRT is a community conservancy membership organization. The 35 member conservancies work across 45,000 square kilometers of northern and coastal Kenya. With support from big donors such as USAID, The Nature Conservancy, DANIDA, and AFD, and many smaller donors, NRT is supporting and empowering communities to develop locally-led governance structures, run peace and security programs, take the lead in natural resource management, and manage sustainable businesses linked to conservation. Community conservancies

are starting to have a significant impact on improving lives and managing the rangelands, and their success has helped shape new government regulations on establishing, registering and managing community conservancies in Kenya.

Today’s outcomes (based on NRT reports)

Up to date, 35 community conservancies are registered and are home to more than 630,000 people across 15 ethnic communities.

In terms of conservation

Conservancies in Kenya have had a huge positive impact on biodiversity conservation. The number of elephants illegally killed has been reduced since 2012 although 2016 had shown a slight increase in elephant killing. Increase in human-elephant conflict in a number of conservancies can be associated with on-going droughts which has drawn elephant and livestock into forest area to survive.

Most of the predators' numbers are stable or slightly increasing except for African wild dogs. Grazing species such as buffalo or plain zebra have been suffering from the past and ongoing droughts with a decline in most of the conservancies where they have been present.

In terms of poverty alleviation

In 2016, the total conservancy commercial revenue was 640,000 US\$, a 13% increase from 2015. This was predominantly from tourism (504,000 US\$), which showed a 17% increase. For the first time, women beaders from BeadWORKS contributed Ksh 1.5 M from a 5% sales levy to their conservancies.

In terms of restoring peace among communities

Historically, Northern Kenya is marred with violent conflict. Neighboring communities engage in deadly clashes at the slightest provocation over scarce pasture and water, raids to restock livestock are commonly fueled by the proliferation of small firearms from Somalia and/or southern Ethiopia. The Rendile and Borana communities of Marsabit were once bitter enemies. Hundreds of people including women and children have lost their lives in protracted conflict, attacks and retaliation which trapped both communities in a blood-stained downward spiral.

Things have recently evolved thanks to the establishment of Songa and Jaldesa conservancies, which bridged the gap between the two communities and provided a forum where community dialogue can take place. Since the conservancies were created 3 years ago, guns have been put away. Now the two communities work together to find lost livestock for together, to do joint patrols, they marry from each other and are friends.

Communities will tell you, if the conservancy will do nothing more but maintain the already secured peace, they will be ever grateful.



Challenges

Drought and the depletion of pastures and water is the major challenge across the landscape. The drought has drastically reduced rangeland productivity and varieties of grass species. Communities tell stories of high quality grass disappearing from the range at an alarming rate, as it is being replaced by unpalatable shrubs and dominant species of *acacia reficiens*. This gives way to massive erosion and washes away fertile soils, leaving nothing but infertile bare ground. All this is complicating the implementation of grazing plans, and disrupts rehabilitation efforts. In the long run, the situation leads to the loss of livestock from starvation during severe droughts, and as a result increasing raids between neighboring communities in search for living livestock.

NRT and conservancy development intervention is donor driven, and although commercial income is growing steadily, mainly in tourism and livestock levies, the growth rate is still too low to sustain the conservancy development plan. Heavy dependence on tourism revenue and donor funding remains a challenge. Up to date, none of the conservancies are self-sustaining. Three conservancies namely: Ngare Ndare, Il Ngwesi and Sera, will wean off in the near future once revenues from tourism ventures stabilize.

3 – Conclusions and ideas to share

Conservancies were created, first in Namibia and then in Kenya, to diversify the sources of income in rural areas, through the sustainable utilization of wildlife and also to reduce biodiversity losses. Up to date, poaching has strongly declined, wildlife numbers have increased, high valued species have recolonized areas where they had previously disappeared from. Biodiversity has therefore been

enhanced which is a very positive indicator and demonstrates the added value of conservancies.

Nonetheless, as already stated in the previous sections, conservancies also have a bigger role to play. They are seen as a key driver to reduce poverty, increase income generation and are also a relevant tool to reduce human conflict over natural resources management like in the central and northern part of Kenya. Consequently, conservancies enable communities to be more adapted to climate change impacts as they rely on different means of livelihood, through a multi-use approach which also includes their own traditional activities (cattle farming, agriculture...).

In Namibia, some of the conservancies are now completely self-sustaining from a human and financial perspective. They have an improved institutional organization, they generate income, which to some extent, can cover their operational costs, and they are also able to plan and implement activities, deal with the private sector and government institutions.

This positive outcome is largely due to a combination of bottom-up and top-down policy approaches in which communities, national and local institutions, NGOs and private sector have, all together, an important complementary role to play.

It started with communities, with the support of NGOs, that started to work informally on setting-up anti-poaching activities to reduce biodiversity losses while restoring peace within their respective territories (especially in Kenya). This has paved the way for the establishment of community conservancies.

Central Government then recognized the role of conservancies in promoting a sustainable development path by creating an enabling framework (namely the Amendment on the Constitution to incorporate the rights of communities on wildlife and flora use, the preparation of a Bill generalizing conservancy activities within ministry and para-statal organizations in charge of wildlife etc.).

NGOs have been playing a key role to provide the necessary support to build the capacities of community in managing their conservancies. Private sector finally came on board as a service provider that is able to bring economic value to conservancies (tourism in both countries, trophy hunting or animal selling in Namibia). Nonetheless

the community remains the final decision maker and can accept or refuse a deal.

Finally, in the case of Namibia, a lot of donors (MCA, World Bank, GEF, FFEM etc.) have decided to join and support this national initiative at the beginning of the program. In Kenya, a wide range of donors have also been supporting conservancies (DFID, USAID, AFD, FFEM etc.).

Of course a lot of challenges remain to guarantee the durability of the conservancy network:

- the lack of economic opportunities in some of the conservancies, and in both countries, the distribution of generated income is heavily skewed,
- the need to improve fair distribution of benefits within a conservancy,
- the heavy reliance, especially in Kenya, on donor support,
- the need to improve governance and accountability in some conservancies where financial mismanagement has been reported,
- the heavy past and ongoing droughts, which already disrupt past and current efforts.

Despite the heavy challenges, Namibia and Kenya, have already shown how relevant it is to promote an adapted conservancy model within their own countries, to guarantee a long term sustainable and resilient development path.

Perspectives,

Sub-national authorities are now very much interested in supporting conservancies in Kenya. In a couple of counties, governors have decided to financially support conservancies (including running costs). This is a very positive sign, and it acknowledges the role of conservancies in natural resources management, and above all, in restoring peace within a territory. This is the basis for further development.

For example, in Kenya, to acknowledge the success of conservancies, the Samburu county government extended financial assistance to a conservancy that has been investing substantial resources within the county. And for the first time, NRT and the Samburu county government have developed a formal cost share model to support conservancy operations.

Another example is the Green Climate Fund (GCF) which has recognized the positive impact of conservancies to cope with climate change

forecasts. Ecosystem-based adaptation mechanisms through the conservancy model seems to be an asset to overcome the uncertainty of the future. A 10 million US\$ project grant has been given to Namibia through its designated national authority (Environment Investment Fund)⁴

What about other African countries?

Namibia in the 1990s, and more recently Kenya have proven the effectiveness of the conservancy policy with regards to improving natural resources management whilst supporting the overall development agenda.

In West and Central Africa, the decentralization process over natural resources management (wildlife and flora) barely exists. In most French-speaking countries, wildlife is owned by the state and managed at government level. To date, flora and fauna have almost disappeared from a lot of regions – it remains in National Parks and sometimes in the surrounding hunting areas.

In the communal land bordering parks, communities barely benefit from natural resources. Sometimes, national government through its ministry of environment allocates a hunting zone to a professional hunter, but there is little if not no return at all to the local communities. This model, which relies on a single-use approach, seems to economically collapse in a couple of countries as it was indicated in a recent study published in the NAPA⁵. Furthermore, conflicts between parks, hunting concessions, farmers, and herders have significantly increased over the past years. This indicates that the future in terms of biodiversity conservation, outside of parks, remains very uncertain if it relies on a single trophy hunting approach. Moreover, the expansion of human-wildlife conflict will also have an impact on community livelihoods.

Of course, the conservancy model cannot be duplicated as such everywhere. Each country has its own specific features. However, the question is to know if an adapted conservancy policy model, supported by all stakeholders including national government, would be an opportunity in rural areas to secure land access, improve wildlife management, and diversify income sources?

⁴ <http://www.greenclimate.fund/-/empower-to-adapt-creating-climate-change-resilient-livelihoods-through-community-based-natural-resource-management-in-namibia>

⁵ <http://papaco.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/lettreNAPA-109-0617-EN.pdf>

This might indeed be a good trade-off to enhance natural resources management as well as building the adaptive capacities of communities by developing a multi-use approach whereby communities' rights are fully recognized.

The « Africa4climate Project » (<http://africa4climate.expertisefrance.fr/>) funded by FFEM and AFD, and implemented by Expertise France, started in 2012 and ended in December 2017. Its main objectives was to support local and national implementing agencies of 4 beneficiary countries (Kenya, Uganda, Gabon and Benin) in mainstreaming climate change in their strategy, action plans and overall on their day to day activities. The project strived also to strengthen and scale-up climate change adaptation initiatives that have proven their efficiency. In Kenya, the Africa4climate project has been supporting the Kenyan Conservancy Policy in order to strengthen the resilience of ecosystem as well as to build the adaptive capacities of communities.

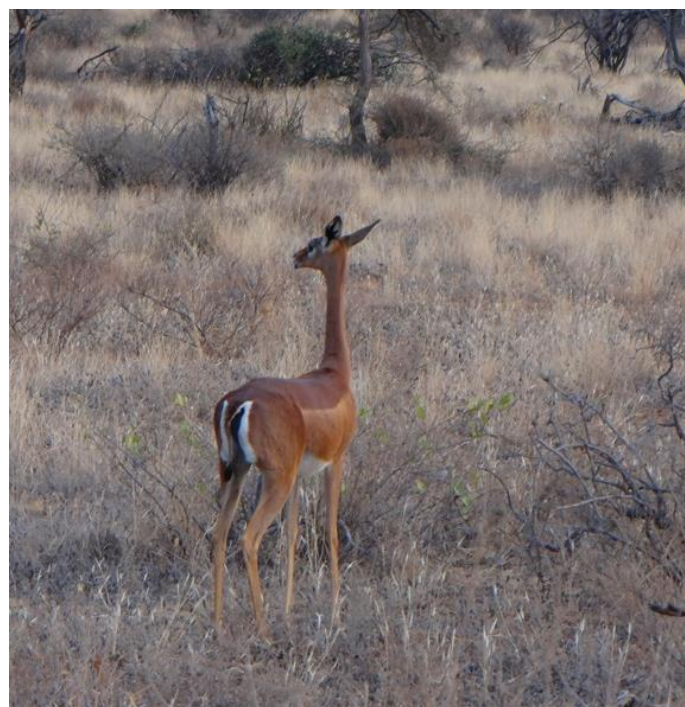
A specific collaboration has been established with NRT to support community conservancy in the Marsabit district, especially on:

1- Enhancing County Government and Conservancies collaboration in order to support the adaptive capacities of each conservancy's members.

The objective of this component was to support dialogue between Marsabit County and Conservancies in Marsabit County, to maximize synergies among county/conservancies given their role in planning and implementing local policy/projects.

2- Supporting resilient livelihoods funding opportunities implemented in Marsabit Conservancies through a specific small grant scheme

3- Improving climate change financing opportunities knowledge within NRT team



PANORAMA

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Community participation in PA management provides development benefits in Comoros

<http://panorama.solutions/en/solution/community-participation-pa-management-provides-development-benefits>

The Parc Marin Mohéli, Comoros, was established in 2001 through a negotiated process agreed by the ten main village centers around the area. However, during political instability, external support dried up in 2005, and pressures on coastal ecosystem resources vital to the local economy have increased. The solution has been to revive the village dynamics around the protection of the park, and since 2014 to develop income generating activities for both local communities and the park's management.



Beach, Mohéli Marine Park © Frida Lanshammar

Re-addressing the institutional and governance framework for the Mohéli Marine Park has resulted in a more productive arrangement between local villages and protection authorities. Dialogue concerning impacts on local resources and livelihoods has moved from one of costs and claims to one of action and benefits. Trade-offs between protection and exploitation have become possible, and resulted in reduced impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems. New 'no-take' zones have both increased 'spill-over' and recovery of key commercial species (octopus, holothurians) and provided strict biodiversity havens within the Mohéli island ecosystem. The active participation of villages in reducing watershed and coastal erosion are perceived as beneficial for their community, not just for the protected area.

More info on PANORAMA

Job or training Offers



Executive Director of the AWFH - Johannesburg, South Africa

The African World Heritage Fund is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and an inter-governmental organization based in South Africa with a specific mandate of implementing the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the protection and promotion of world cultural and natural places in Africa.

The organization seeks to appoint an Executive Director. Should you be interested in this position, you are kindly requested to complete your application and submit with your CV through the DBSA portal (Click on link to access DBSA Careers) [https://dbsa.internal.erecruit.co.za/candidateapp/Jobs/View/180118-3/Executive_Director_\(AWHF\)](https://dbsa.internal.erecruit.co.za/candidateapp/Jobs/View/180118-3/Executive_Director_(AWHF)).

Deadline for application: 15th February 2018

Regional technical assistant in Côte d'Ivoire

The GIZ is seeking a Regional Advisor for his projects in Comoé National Parks in Côte d'Ivoire. For more info, please consult the NAPA in FR.



2018 DICE MSc Scholarship

The **Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE)** at the University of Kent is pleased to announce its 2018 DICE MSc Scholarship scheme. The successful applicant will receive a fully funded studentship on one of the taught Master's in Durrell's Conservation Science and Management program. This is open to dynamic, early career conservationists.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be nationals of or have official refugee status in a country that is officially recognised as Lower to Upper-Middle Income.
- Have at least two years of work experience in the conservation sector.
- Be in possession of a good undergraduate degree, with a minimum of a UK 2:1 or equivalent.
- Meet the UK Visas and Immigration specifications and University of Kent English language requirements

Deadline: Sunday 25th February 2018.

More details are here:

https://www.kent.ac.uk/dice/alumni/DICE_Scholarship_2018.pdf



CAPACITY BUILDING OFFER

The Earth Skills Network: Training and mentoring to support management effectiveness. African protected areas are invited to apply to be part of an innovative skill-sharing programme that builds business and management capacity.

The Earth Skills Network (ESN) can help ensure effective operations at protected areas by training managers in essential business management skills. This will help protected areas make better use of available resources, identify and prepare responses to potential risks, develop the foundations for sustainable financing of activities, and much more.

The ESN training is an opportunity for your organisation to attend a funded ten-day training programme led by a team of learning and business professionals.

In 2018, six African protected areas will each nominate three representatives who will benefit from the input of business planning guidance, personal skills development, and support for the duration of one year. We welcome applications from Protected Areas, UNESCO World Heritage Sites (including sites on the tentative list), protected area agencies and management authorities. The closing date for applications is February 24, 2018.

Read on to find out more: <http://eu.earthwatch.org/corporate-partnerships/partnering-with-earthwatch/earth-skills-network-introduction> or contact Stacey Baggaley (sbaggaley@earthwatch.org.uk)

Mentee case study

Siyabonga Dlulisa, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa



Siyabonga is the Manager for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Marine Protected Species for the Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa. The creation of new MPAs and the expansion of existing MPAs is a key priority for the Department. Since his participation on the ESN programme, Siyabonga has been developing a new network of Marine Protected Areas.

The ESN programme has been instrumental in Siyabonga's professional development. Prior to attending the programme, important stakeholder engagements were handled by external providers. ESN equipped Siyabonga with the skills to manage stakeholders, and since returning to his role he has been leading these complex engagements. This includes working to secure buy-in from communities and companies operating in the areas, to ensure the successful creation or expansion of the MPA network. Siyabonga was able to utilise the expertise gained through ESN to achieve positive outcomes for the Department and for the protected area estate of SA.



Seminar on tourism and protected areas

Organized by the **Colorado State University's Center for Protected Area Management (CPAM)** and the Office of International Programs of the U.S. Forest Service. The target audience is mid-level professional and technical personnel who work for governmental or nongovernmental conservation and tourism organizations, in academia, in the private sector, and in community-based and indigenous tourism and conservation initiatives in or near protected areas.

Dates: September 2018 – deadline: 11th May 2018

Info and registration:

<https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpam/seminar-tourism-protected-areas/>

NAPA – CONTACTS

www.papaco.org and www.iucn.org

geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org
beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org
marion.langrand@papaco.org
youssouph.diedhiou@iucn.org
Coetzer.madeleine@gmail.com

Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation
PAPACO – Program Officer – Green List
PAPACO – Program Officer - MOOCs
PAPACO – Program Officer – Green List and World Heritage
PAPACO – Program Officer - MOOCs

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