



PROBLEM

ANIMAL

REPORTING

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SERIES



P R O B L E M

A N I M A L

R E P O R T I N G

These guideline booklets are based on field experience and original research reports which are available from the WWF Programme Office in Harare. WWF wishes to acknowledge the important contribution made by the Rural District Councils and their constituent communities in the development of the series.

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INTRODUCTION 5

 Problem animal management and CAMPFIRE.....

CHAPTER 1 9

 Problem animal reporting issues

CHAPTER 2 17

 Setting up a district problem animal reporting system

CHAPTER 3 23

 Using problem animal information:

 How it helped Gokwe.....



▼
Villagers discussing problem
animal issues.

Background to Problem Animal Management

Anyone who has attended a CAMPFIRE meeting knows that it isn't long before someone starts talking about problem animals. As a result of the CAMPFIRE programme, people now expect rural district councils (RDC's) to help them manage and benefit from wildlife. This includes making sure that no-one suffers severe crop or livestock losses as a result of communities deciding to manage wild animals in their district.

So RDC's, rather than the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management (DNPWM), are now expected to take measures to reduce or prevent damage caused by problem animals. Until recently though, rural district councils did not have enough information about problem animals on which to base their decisions.

In the past, shooting to scare away or kill was the only form of control. But this was often ineffective. Often the wrong animal was shot or the problem animal returned. And killing an animal meant a possible loss of earnings later through for example a safari hunt.

Problem animal management (PAM), or the measures which may be taken to reduce the disruption to daily living caused by animals, is not an instant cure. It can however lower the amount of crop raiding and bring higher revenue to a

community. But it requires rural district councils to make choices about how they deal with problem animals so that the costs are minimised while the benefits are maintained.

This booklet and others in the series aim to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge about managing problem animals. The information they contain is taken from the experiences of councils who are trying to cut crop and livestock losses by introducing problem animal management in their wards.

Developing a policy on problem animal management

Every rural district council should implement a problem animal management policy, monitored by a separate problem animal control (PAC) committee if necessary. This policy should come about after consultation and discussion with members of the community so that it is clearly understood and accepted by everyone.

The policy should explain the mix of measures which the district has introduced, the reasons for them and their hoped for effects. By monitoring the measures introduced for 1-2 years, it should be possible for rural district councils to quantify the benefits that have occurred.

If control shooting to scare or kill is a part of the measures introduced, RDC's should draw up a problem animal control

PROBLEM ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Sixteen different approaches to managing problem animals are outlined below. They are listed in a logical order in which a district may tackle problem animal management. Which approaches a district finally decides to use will depend on its own circumstances and may be different to those chosen by another district.

	Advantages	Disadvantages	Important points
1 Problem Animal Reporting (PAR) including training (subject of this booklet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple and cheap to run • provides information for effective management of problem animals • employs local people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses some wildlife revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essential in the long-term • RDC's operating PAR systems may find that the benefits outweigh the costs of its introduction
2 Establishing a PAC contract between the RDC and the hunters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets up specific guidelines about who authorises PAC operations and how they are carried out • can be used as the basis for explaining to the community about PAC activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides accountability for the use of the quota • the same contract can include wet season safari hunting of problem animals
2a Using professional guide trainees for control work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cheaper and more widely available source of manpower for PAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • constrained by hunter's license regulations • reaction time can be slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if outsiders brought in, it may lead to conflict with resident safari operator • not seen as developing local capacity
3 Dividing the PAC quota between the worst affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairer system for complainants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requires a Problem Animal Reporting (PAR) system to be in place 	
4 Restricting PAC activities for elephant to a particular season (wet season PAC during the crop growing season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDC's can plan where to place scouts and equipment in advance • evaluation of PAC cases is easier • gets rid of confusion between trophy and PAC animals • quota abuse more difficult, as monitoring of PAC easier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not deal with problem animals outside the period chosen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limiting PAC activities to a set period of time reduces costs • RDC's should be flexible about when this period ends, since it depends on when the rainy season finishes.
5 Marketing wet season hunts by safari operators (shooting problem elephants using hunting clients during the wet season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • since problem animals will also be 'safari animals' shooting them will earn the district more money. This revenue though, will be half or less than that from normal hunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • since PAC animals have a 'safari' value, the wrong animal may be shot, making it likely that the overall quota is exceeded or abused • safari operator uses a client to shoot the problem animal; the client pays less because he has no choice in what animal is shot, where and when. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • part of the quota must be allocated to the PAC season only • the quota should be distributed fairly as far as possible • safari operator has to market a wet season hunt which may be difficult therefore a legal contract should be drawn up to avoid conflict
6 Disturbance shooting (shooting to scare away)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not kill the animal and reduce the wildlife resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animals get used to it • requires trained people • costly and takes time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be dangerous • costly and inefficient • many elephants are no longer afraid of deterrents such as noise, fire or lights

7 Using non-fatal deterrents

- animal not killed
- require skilled operators as difficult to apply
- animals may get used to them

- technology still developing. May be useful in future

8 Immobilisation and translocation of the problem animal

- removes the problem and does not kill the animal
- very specific

- special skills required
- animal may become a problem at the new site
- animal may return to original area.

- appropriate for animals injured through snaring
- this is usually worthwhile only for a valuable carnivore

9 Destroying (shooting to kill)

- in the short term it partly satisfies the person or community whose crops have been damaged
- provides limited benefits eg meat to some people, but the overall value of the animal, especially elephant, is reduced.

- wrong animal often shot
 - quotas are usually for the whole district and not divided into areas
 - quotas are not restricted to a certain part of the year making them expensive to administer
 - not an appropriate long term measure as it does not solve the problem which may re-emerge elsewhere
- part of the overall quota must be allocated to PAC by shooting
 - strict control of the quota is needed
 - DNPWM guidelines state that animals shot through a PAC quota must be:
 - actually responsible for the problem
 - within 1000m of the fields if crop-raiding
 - authorised by RDC and reported on by the problem animal reporter

10 Pay out the PAC dividend promptly to those affected

- establishes a connection between the problem and the response

- bureaucratic delays in payments create ill feeling

11 Cash compensation payments

- communities link wildlife with the compensation which reduces grievances

- led to widespread cheating on claims
- expensive and slow to administer
- fair assessment of damage often impossible
- lack of funds at district to pay out
- does not attempt to solve the cause of the problem

- payments to individuals have been tried in some districts but have not worked
- may be applicable in isolated or special circumstances
- compensation is not advised, but if given should conform to CAMPFIRE principles

12 Settlement planning

- minimises long-term conflict
- can provide the basis for village community and development plans
- an ideal long-term solution which communities may wish to work toward.

- unless district willing to enforce the land-use plan particularly in relation to stopping the immigration of settlers into areas of wildlife, it may not work
- requires education and training in order for the community to understand and participate
- involves using PAR information and other economic and social data to develop planned land-use areas for settlement, agriculture and wildlife

13 Electric fencing

- very effective against larger animals such as elephant and buffalo
- visible barrier which community can see

- requires careful planning based on accurate information
 - long term commitment to maintenance needed
 - fencing should be introduced as a part of ward land use planning
- may be costly
 - requires regular maintenance,
 - not effective against carnivores or other small animals which may be 'unseen' but responsible for most damage to crops.

contract with the organisation(s) that will react to problem animal incidents when requested to do so by the responsible council wildlife official. The contract should state precisely the chain of responsibility and conditions governing problem animal control and be available for anyone in the district to see. A rural district council will need to establish similar procedures even if it decides to set up its own problem animal control unit.

There is no simple way of getting rid of problem animals such as elephant. If we did, we would be removing the animal which is a community's most valuable asset. Since 64% of all CAMPFIRE cash is earned from elephants, if there were no elephants in a ward, the potential earnings of the ward would be greatly reduced.

The problems caused by animals raiding crops and killing livestock can never be completely removed. What a council policy should aim for is to introduce measures which will reduce the problem to a level thought acceptable by the community. Before introducing any form of problem animal management, councils should bear in mind that the benefits brought to everyone from these measures should always outweigh the costs of introducing them.



▼
With wise management, problem animals can be turned into an asset for the community.

BACKGROUND TO PROBLEM ANIMAL REPORTING

About problem animal reporting

Problem animal reporting (PAR) is a very important part of problem animal management. An efficient reporting system can provide information about the animals and crops involved, where and when the damage occurs and how serious it is. Councils need this information in order to:

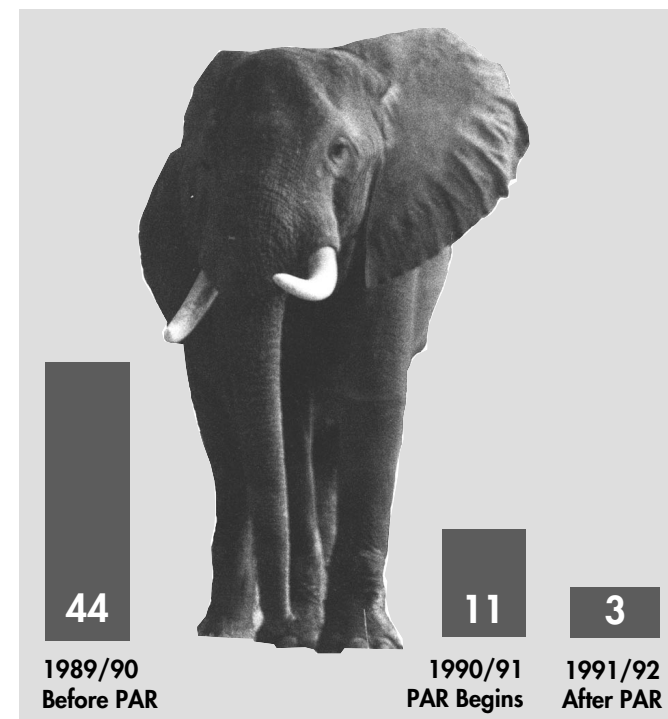
- develop a policy on problem animal management acceptable to people living in the district
- direct resources, including people and money, to where they are most needed
- develop a fair system in the form of meat or cash for any damage caused, if compensation is to be applied

PAR systems have both costs and benefits which councils need to consider. These include:

COSTS	BENEFITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• monthly payments to a part-time problem animal reporter in each ward• training of reporters• transport and equipment for reporters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• information allowing resources to be used efficiently• increased revenue animals responsible for serious damage only are killed

Most councils that have introduced problem animal reporting have found that the information is useful in allowing more of the quota to be shot by clients and less on problem animal control. Since quotas in a district are fixed, this has increased revenue as more elephant are available for safari hunting.

NUMBER OF PROBLEM ELEPHANTS KILLED IN GOKWE



Problem Animal Reporting issues

When setting up a district problem animal reporting system, the district CAMPFIRE or wildlife co-ordinator should arrange meetings so that members of the community can discuss and decide on the following six major issues.



ISSUE 1. How will the district identify "serious" problem animal incidents?

Although problem animal reporters should investigate all the incidents reported to them, not all these incidents will require follow-up action. Some will be more serious than others. To help a reporter decide which is a 'serious' and which is a 'minor' incident, guidance is required. Each district

should draw up a set of reporting guidelines and ensure that these are understood and agreed to by the community and made available to guide the reporters, council and safari operators.

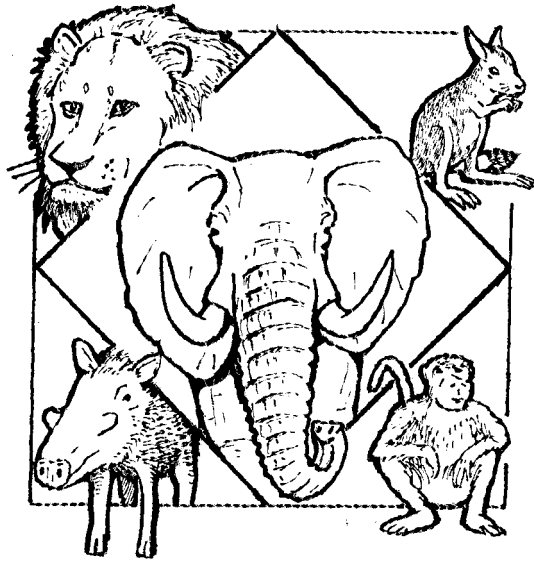
Experience in Gokwe has shown that 'serious' incidents requiring follow-up action may include:

- a person being killed
- a dangerous or wounded animal remaining close to where people live
- crop or stock raiding occurring at the same place every day
- an entire standing crop eaten in one household or village area
- any cattle killed, for example by a lion
- the destruction of fixed property such as a grain store

Districts may wish to include others and discuss and change their list from time to time.

'Serious' incidents should be quickly notified to the District Wildlife Management Authority or its appointee, who will then immediately request the current Safari Operator, PAC contractor, or National Parks to react.

Reports of problem animal activity investigated by the reporter and found not to require any further follow-up, may be called 'minor'. Reports of these 'minor' incidents should still be sent to the rural district council which will file them for reference.



ISSUE 2.
Which animals will be included in “serious and notifiable” incidents ?

Which of the animals shown here are a problem? Which animals should the district council take responsibility for managing and which animals should farmers try to control by themselves? These are important questions which need discussing so that the council can provide clear

guidelines for the community.

Many people believe that most of the wild animals in their area are a problem, but this is not really true. Some animals:

- do not cause damage to crops or threaten human life
- cause only minor damage
- cannot be easily controlled , so requesting a reaction will not solve the problem.

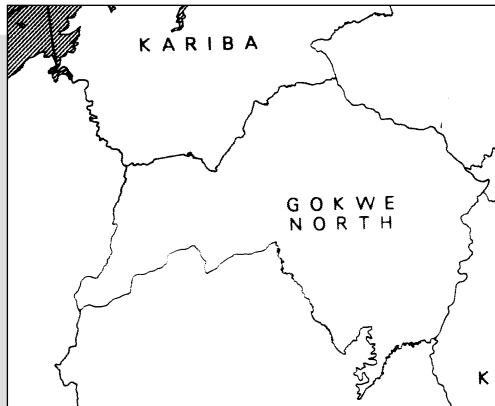
Extensive damage is sometimes caused by animals which are not easy to deal with. Baboons, for example get everywhere, while springhares are difficult to find. Rats, can be a problem because they need specialised methods of control. Other species such as mice and locusts may cause large crop losses

over a long period of time but are difficult to see. If such incidents are notified to the district as 'serious' by the reporter, then time and energy may be wasted investigating them. This may divert attention away from those incidents which are 'serious' **and** which can be dealt with.

Most 'serious' incidents are caused by elephant, with damage by lion and buffalo next in importance. If district council efforts in controlling the most serious crop or stock raiding are to be directed at the most affected farmers, then incidents involving elephant, lion or buffalo should be given the highest priority.

However a reporter should still record all the incidents in a district in order to build up a complete picture of the problem animal situation. After two or three seasons enough information will be available to help councils:

- plan settlement and wildlife areas
- decide if fences are needed and where they should go
- identify corridors of animal movement
- plan settlement expansion
- site artificial water points.



ISSUE 3.

Which areas in the District require 'priority' or special attention by the problem animal control team?

It is not possible for a problem animal control team to be everywhere at once. There are not enough people or vehicles to do this. So it is more effective to identify those areas where problem animal incidents are likely to occur and focus attention on these. Problem animal reporting provides this information.

Where and how often incidents with problem animals occur is influenced by three main factors:

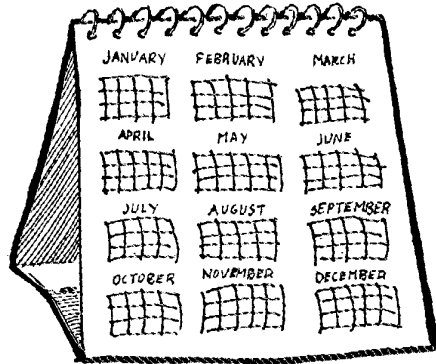
- the amount of wildland in a ward
- the closeness to or frontage with a National Park or Safari Area
- the amount of wildland in nearby districts

In addition other factors more difficult to estimate have an effect. These include:

- the favoured local wildlife habitats of certain animals
- the closeness of animal habitats to human settlements and cultivation

In general though two kinds of wards are most at risk.

- wards which front onto a National Park or Safari Area and have a large amount of cultivated land;
- wards which contain a high percentage of wildland within them.



ISSUE 4.
When do most problem animal incidents take place?

If we try and address problem animal activity throughout the year, it will not be cost-effective. Finding out when most of the incidents take place is better because it will help us to focus our efforts.

Crop raiding coincides with farming activities during the rains. Crop raiding outside this season is usually minor. While the overall season is from January to April/May it seems that serious incidents peak in February/March. This may be because as wild grasses dry out, elephant switch to eating crops. They also like crops because they are a concentrated source of food.

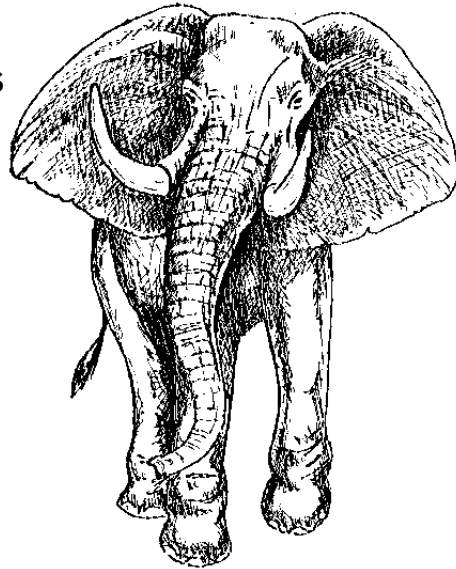
Generally, stock raiding is not seasonal and is difficult to predict where it may take place. It has not been a major problem and can be dealt with by the council provided it is within the hunting quota. If it does become a problem outside the normal hunting season it can be dealt with in the same way as crop raiding.



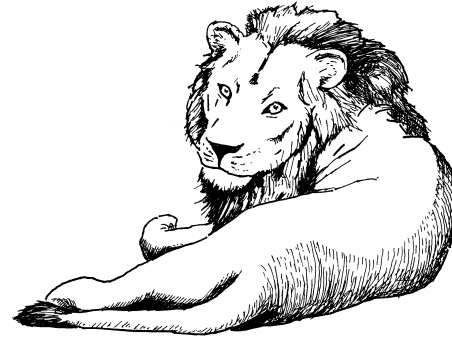
ISSUE 5.
Which crops will you give priority to when requesting a PAC reaction?

While it is likely that most districts will give priority to maize, establishing a priority list of crops will again help to focus reactions on those crops which the community decides are the most important.

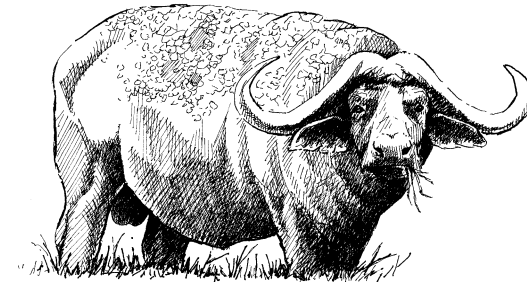
Trophy fee values in US \$



\$10 000



\$5 000



\$1 500

ISSUE 6.

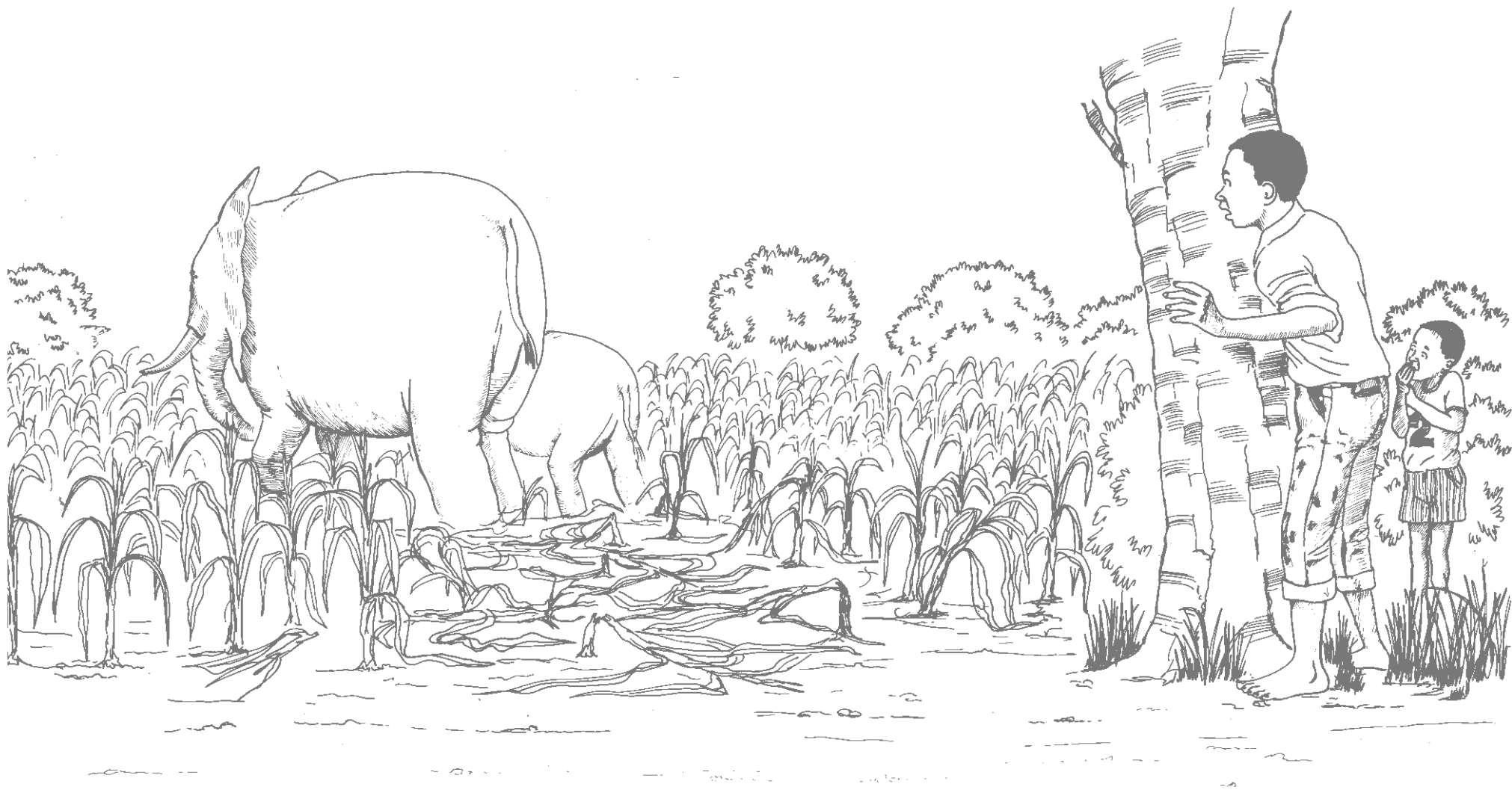
How can you promote within the community the idea that wildlife has a value and a place in local land use?

A process of community discussion about problem animals is very important in itself as a means of allowing people to express their frustrations and reduce the issue to a manageable level.

However without a community appreciation that wild animals are of value, it will be difficult to discriminate in favour of 'serious' incidents and focus problem animal management efforts effectively. All incidents will be seen as equally 'serious' and requiring a reaction to them.

For those districts undertaking CAMPFIRE projects, the community may already value wildlife. It may already be linked in their minds to the payment of individual cash dividends or to community development projects.

After all six issues have been discussed by interested parties including PAR candidates, councillors, chiefs, council administration officials, wildlife management committee members and concerned individuals, recommendations should be made. These can be passed through the CAMPFIRE or wildlife co-ordinator for the district board of management to incorporate into its standard operating procedures.



Hiring problem animal reporters

Problem animal reporting can begin by using villagers nominated by the Ward Wildlife Management Committee (WWMC). One or two people per ward may be needed depending on its size. Problem animal reporters may be paid an allowance for their services and should be responsible to the WWMC who recruits, supervises and employs them on a part-time basis. Reporters should perform the following tasks:

- investigate all problem animal incidents
- judge the seriousness of the damage
- report on crop/stock damage to the council

Although training will be given to reporters, it will help if they can already read and write simple English, use a map and possess a wrist watch. Reporters also need to be fit and able to work with local residents.

Stages in problem animal reporting

Problem animal reporting is most effective when everyone involved understands their role and responsibilities. The stages of reporting shown on the next page should be discussed first and then followed.

A request for a reaction does not always mean that the animal will be killed. It may turn out to be a false report or the problem animal control agent may be able to move the animal away without harming it.

Remember, responsibility for control of the overall district quota of which problem animals are a part, rests with the Rural District Council. That is why no reaction to reports should be made without district authority, unless of course it is an emergency where a person may have been killed or injured.


STAGES IN PROBLEM ANIMAL REPORTING

1 Complainant reports incident to the problem animal reporter or relevant person in the wildlife committee.




2 Reporter investigates and reports

The reporter must go to the place of the incident, investigate and accurately complete a report form (For a specimen copy of the PAR F1 form see Appendix 1).




3 Reporter decides to request or not to request action

If the incident is serious and requires a reaction then this report should immediately be sent to the CAMPFIRE /Wildlife co-ordinator or his representative at the District Council Office. If the incident is not severe, the reporter retains the report form and does not report the incident as one requiring action. These non-serious reports are collected later by the district CAMPFIRE or wildlife co-ordinator.




4 Serious report received by District and passed to problem animal control agent

At the District office, when a serious report is received from a reporter, a Problem Animal Reaction Request form PAC F1 (for a specimen form see Appendix 2) should be completed, attached to a duplicate of the original report and passed on to the problem animal control agent who will investigate the incident.



5 Problem animal control agent investigates

The control agent should investigate the incident as soon as possible and take the appropriate action. He should take a copy of the reaction request with him and be accompanied by the reporter. Together they should assess the incident and decide on a course of action. This will help to show the community that there is a direct link between the report and the reaction. The PAC agent should report back to the district council by completing the other side of the PAC F1 form (Appendix 3).



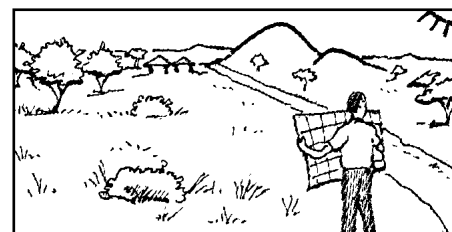
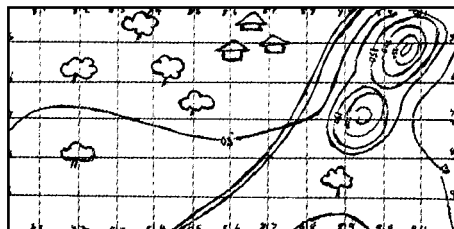
6 Analysis of reports

Reports about serious and minor incidents should be analysed and shared by the district with the ward wildlife committee and the communities it concerns.

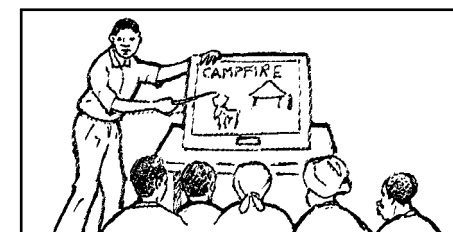


Animal damage assessment

Map reading



Navigation



Natural resource management

Training needs of Problem Animal Reporters

Before undertaking any investigations, reporters should undergo a training course in order to make sure they have the required knowledge and skills. The course should include:

- **training in animal damage assessment.** Every time an incident is investigated by a reporter, a report form should be completed. Every reporter needs to undergo a training course so that he or she will be able to accurately complete this form. To complete this form reporters must be able to read and understand it, and be able to write clearly. During this training they will require practice at measuring animal damage so that they can compare their damage estimate with that of an experienced reporter. Ideally this training should take place during the rains and be given by someone experienced in assessing problem animal damage.
- **training in map reading.** The best way to direct a control agent to an incident is to provide him with the name of the ward and village and the location of the incident on a map using a six-figure grid reference. This figure, when given accurately will take the agent close enough to the incident to be able to find it.

- **training in navigation.** To help reporters recognise where an incident is located on a map, they will need practice in navigating or getting to a location. This will involve them in estimating accurately the distance they have travelled, knowing the direction they have travelled in and being able to recognise features such as rivers, buildings and hills along the way. Many of these will be marked on the map and so by referring to it, the reporter will know where he is at any particular moment.
- **training in natural resource management.** All reporters need to be familiar with the idea of CAMPFIRE and how natural resources can be managed by a community. This may involve discussing issues such as:
 - what are natural resources?
 - introduction to wildlife management
 - what is conservation and utilisation?
 - introduction to CAMPFIRE
 - what is 'Appropriate Authority' ?
 - the value of wildlife; its trophy and non-hunting value.
 - the importance of setting a quota

Rural district councils can get more detailed information about the training needs of problem animal reporters by referring through the CAMPFIRE Association with the members of the CAMPFIRE Collaborative Group.

How effective should problem animal reporting be?

To be effective a problem animal report should be made quickly so that if the incident is serious it will still be possible for the control agent to locate the animal responsible for the damage. This means that the time taken from reporting the incident to its investigation by a control agent, should be as short as possible and ideally no more than 3-4 hours. Experience has shown that when control agents receive reports more than 12 hours after the incident, they are unable to deal with the problem effectively. This is because of the following problems:

- the control agent may be unable to find the animal responsible for the damage
- an animal found nearby which was not responsible for the damage may be killed instead
- if the culprit elephant is unclear, non-lethal deterrent methods such as flash bombs may have to be used. While at first these may work, elephant soon become accustomed to them, making them ineffective. These methods are also very costly.

Why it is important to decrease the number of animals killed in 'problem animal control'

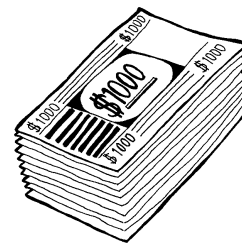
Of course, how a district uses its quota, is for its council to decide. However, the number of animals shot through problem animal control measures should be reduced as low

as possible. This will maximise the benefits to rural communities since:

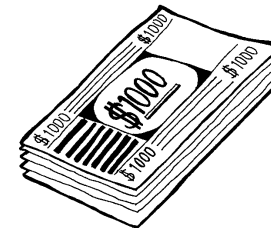
- shooting an animal for sport can earn a community more money. Usually the total quota in a district is fixed, so every animal killed through problem animal control means a reduction in revenue earned through hunting.
- shooting an animal without a client presently earns little money since it is difficult to sell hides and ivory because of international CITES regulations

Councils should avoid retaining money earned through problem animal control activities at the district level, by ensuring it is returned as soon as possible to the affected community.

THE VALUE OF AN ELEPHANT TO A COMMUNITY



US \$ 10 000
As a sport
hunting trophy

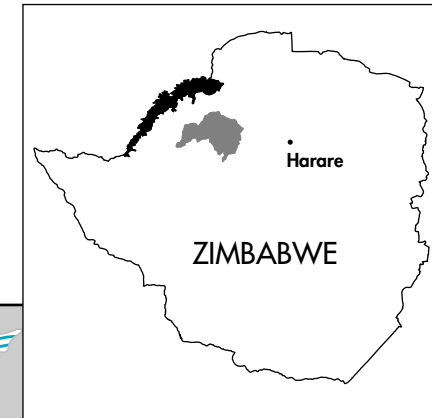
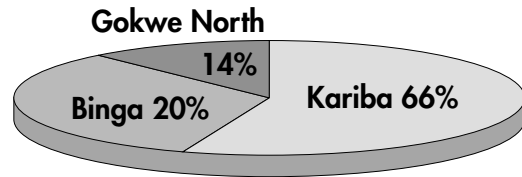


US \$ 5 000
As part of a
wet season safari



US \$ 1 500
As part of PAC

Distribution of elephant in communal areas



GOKWE FACTFILE

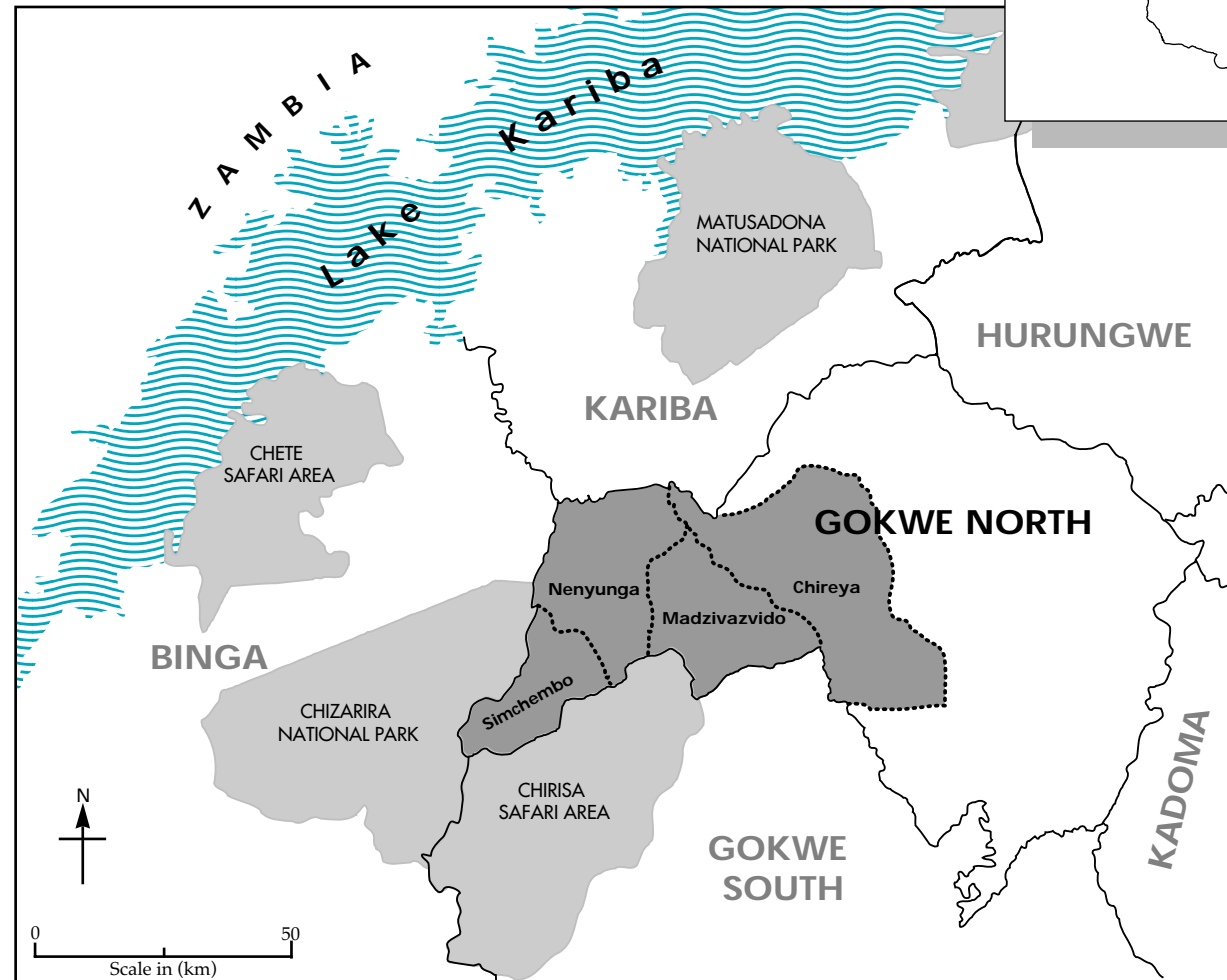
DISTRICT: Gokwe

SIZE: 1,36 million ha or 3% of Zimbabwe

POPULATION: 403 000 or 3.9% of Zimbabwe (1992), made up of Tonga and Shankwe people

Population density: 22.5/km²

CAMPFIRE WARDS:
 Gokwe North: 4
 Gokwe South: 6



KEY	
	District boundary
	Ward boundary
	Parks & Wildlife Estate
	Wards with elephants

USING PROBLEM ANIMAL INFORMATION: How it helped Gokwe

Why Gokwe needed problem animal reporting

In 1990/91 Gokwe North District Council introduced problem animal reporting in order to gather information about crop and livestock losses in the four western wards of the district.

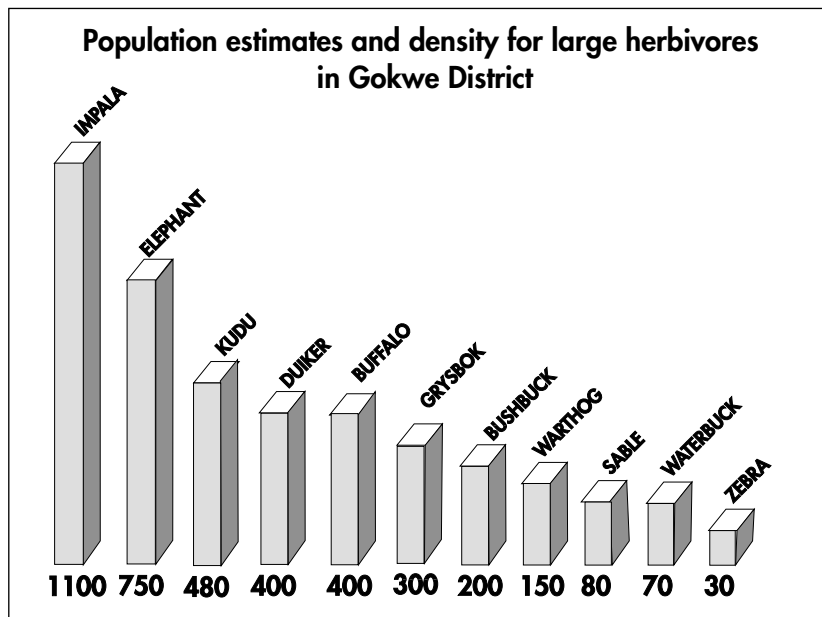
They did this:

- to try and minimise the disruption to people's lives caused by problem animals.
- to stem the loss of potential revenue from trophy elephant. Since 1983 an average of 30 'problem' elephant had been shot each year representing an offtake of 4% of today's population. In 1990/91 alone, 44 elephant or 12.6% of the population were killed. Since the sustainable offtake of trophy elephant is about 0.75%, problem animal control activities were increasing the offtake to unknown and unsustainable levels, reducing trophy quality and therefore the ability to make money from safari hunting.
- because other control options were not suitable. Fencing off all the people would have cost too much money and the DNPWM had no wish to fence in the wildlife on their estates. Trying to force elephant back into the National Parks wouldn't work since there were already too many elephant in the National Parks. In any case conflicts in the district would still continue as elephant continued to raid crops from the parks and wildlife estates. Moreover, elephant in the communal areas

belonged to the people there and should form part of their land use system.

Gokwe's crop raiding problems arose largely from the fact that between 5-800 elephant lived in the four western wards of Gokwe North where nearly 29 000 people had their homes. Partly as a result of the existence of unoccupied land that was previously tsetse infested, these wards were being rapidly settled by farmers immigrating from other districts bringing with them their livestock. While most people supported the establishment of a CAMPFIRE programme, some members of the community did not wish to retain wildlife areas especially since there was a great demand for agricultural land which was in short supply. This movement of people into wildlife areas was creating conflict, especially where settlements were scattered and unplanned.

Gokwe's problem was also its opportunity. It had carried out ground and aerial counts and found wildlife populations in nine wards. It could therefore introduce wildlife as a form of landuse knowing that commercial ranches had already found wildlife to be profitable, complementing and even replacing cattle in natural regions four and five. If people wished to use their wildlife though, effective problem animal management minimising any conflict was needed.



So in 1991 'Appropriate Authority' was granted to Cheziya-Gokwe District Council (now Gokwe North Rural District Council) and a Board of Management was established to govern policy on wildlife. A district wildlife co-ordinator was appointed, basic wildlife management programmes started and training for the implementation of a problem animal reporting system begun. Gokwe North then established a problem animal control strategy based on the steps of reporting shown in the diagram on page 18.

Making use of the information gathered through problem animal reports

What the Gokwe community needed to find out was:

- where most problem animal incidents occurred
- what type of damage was caused
- which animals most frequently caused the damage
- when most problem animal incidents took place

With this information Gokwe could begin to plan a strategy deciding:

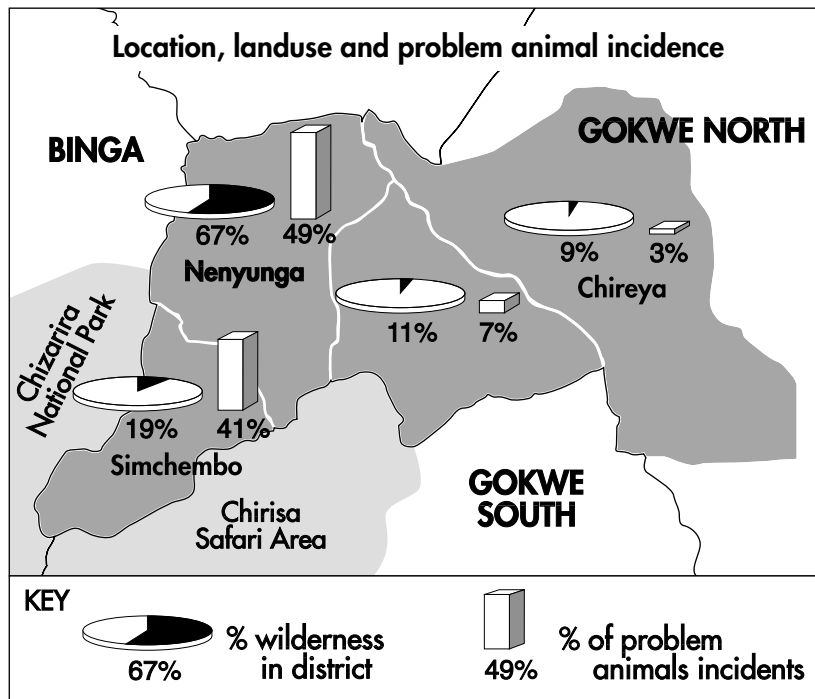
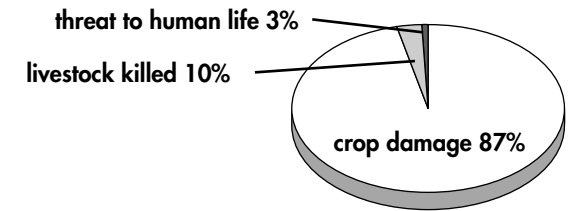
- where to place problem animal reporters
- when a problem animal control unit should be available 'on call'
- whether an electric fence would help in some areas and what animals this fence should be effective against

A great deal of information was collected during the 1991/2 season which the council went on to analyse and discuss.

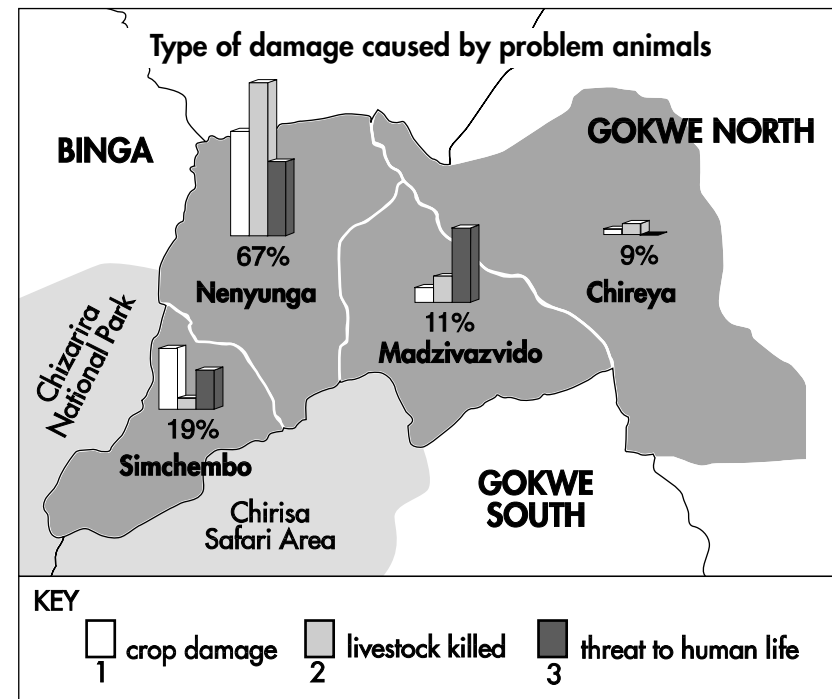
Identifying where most problem animal incidents occurred

Finding out which were the worst affected areas by problem animals enabled the council to make sure that these areas were adequately monitored in the future and that control agents were placed so that they could quickly reach them.

Type of incidents reported in the 4 wards



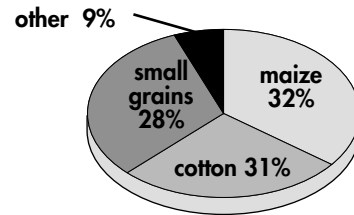
Two wards, Simchembo and Nenyunga accounted for 90% of all incidents. While Simchembo ward shared a large frontage with Chirisa and Chizarira Safari Areas, Nenyunga had the highest percentage of wildland in the district. Chireya and Madzivazvido wards had fewer problem animal incidents.



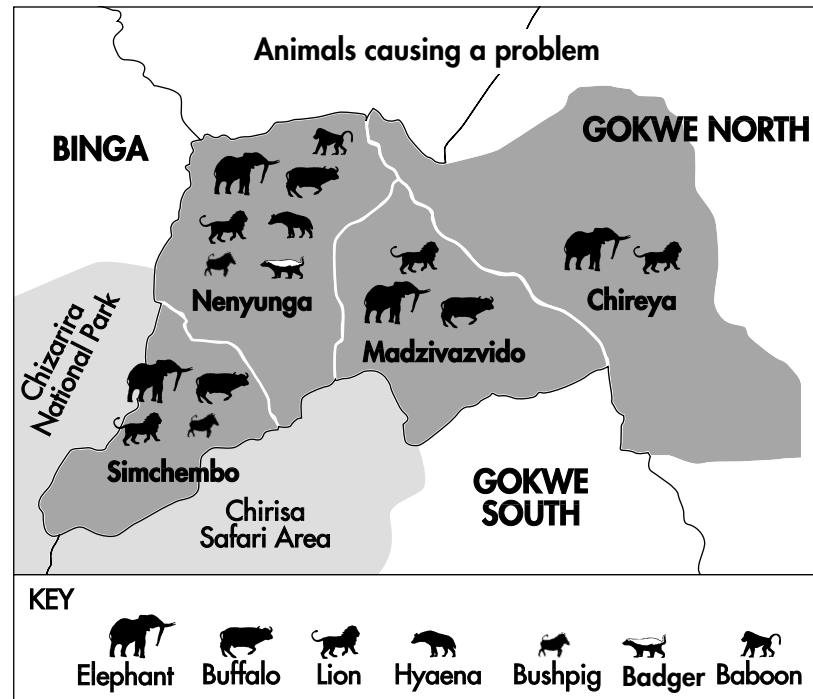
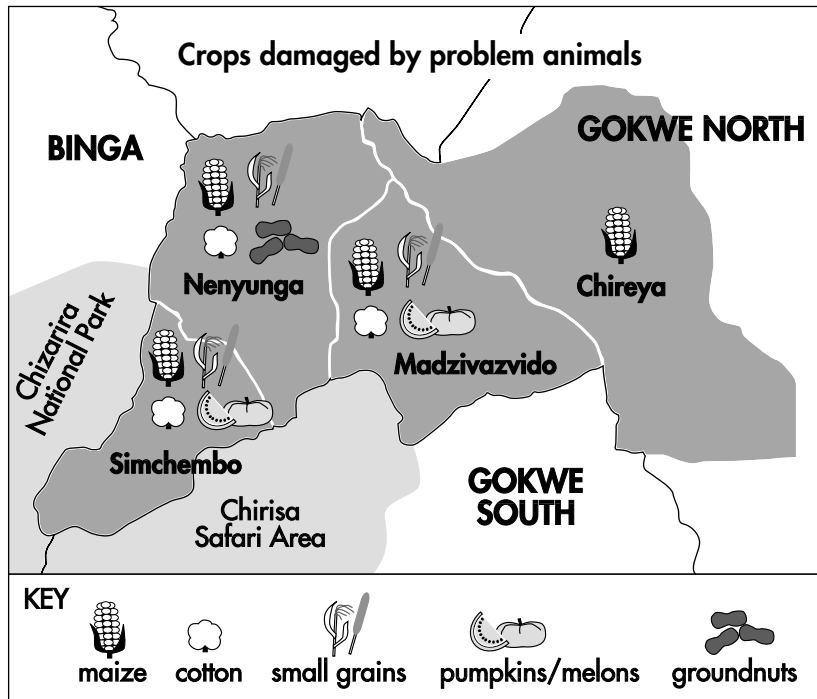
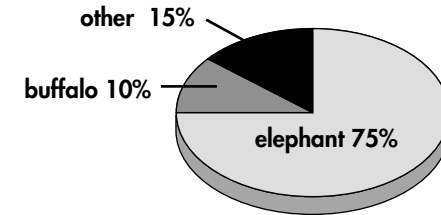
Identifying what type of damage was caused

Many different crops were affected. The crops affected within each ward was a reflection of the crops grown rather than the animals preferring to eat a particular crop. The following diagram on page 26 shows that maize, cotton and small grains were almost equally affected.

Crops affected by crop raiding

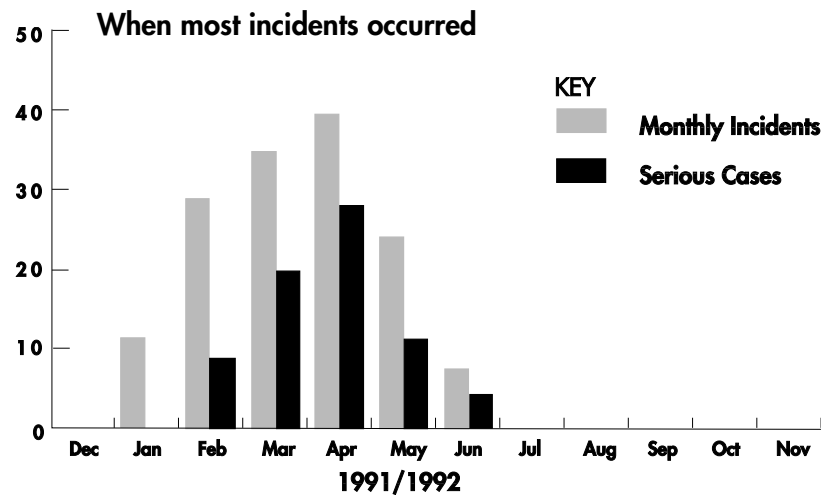


Animals responsible for damage



Identifying which animals caused the damage

Three quarters of all the reported incidents involved elephant. They damaged crops, threatened people and even caused several deaths.



Identifying when most incidents took place

In Gokwe North, most reports of a serious nature took place between February and June with the majority in March and April. Serious crop raiding seems to be related to the time of the year in which crops mature, which in turn depends on when rainfall is received in any one year.

The Gokwe experience provides us with useful information about problem animals. It is extremely important that rural district councils keep their problem animal reports up-to-date and evaluate them annually at the end of the crop raiding season. Advice on how to analyse the information can be provided by members of the CAMPFIRE Collaborative Group and will also form a part of the training programme linked to the booklets in this series.

Issues arising from the Gokwe experience

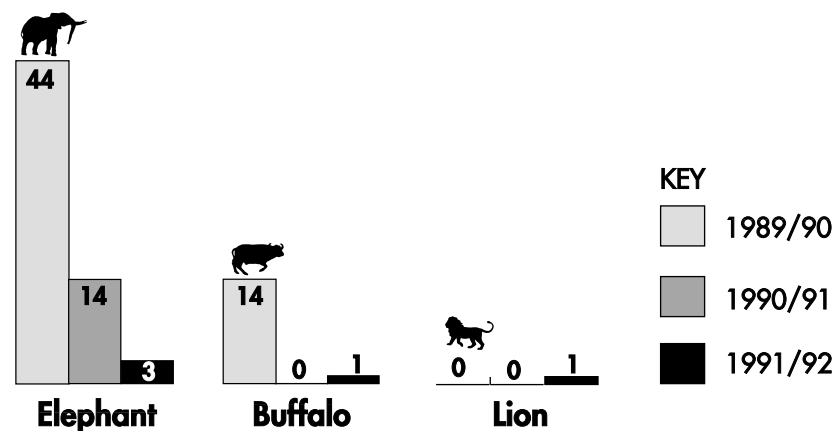
Through the problem animal reporting system it became clear that:

- many problems were caused by elephant
- most incidents occurred between March and May
- Simchembo and Nenyunga were the areas mainly affected
- a variety of crops were destroyed

It also led to a further discussion and evaluation of the usefulness of the reporting system as a tool for minimising crop damage while maximising the revenue to a community from trophy fees. Out of these discussions the following issues emerged.

Issue 1: Problem animal reporting can lead to fewer animals being killed as a part of problem animal control activities

Following the introduction of a reporting system in Gokwe North, the number of problem animals destroyed has declined. This may be due in part to the co-ordinated approach of problem animal reporting as well as a change in the attitude of the community and the people implementing problem animal control.



However, many incidents went unreported and some incidents which were reported as serious were not investigated. Several wards in Gokwe did not have a problem animal reporter in place and so were excluded from the exercise.

One problem though was the difference between the number of problem animal incidents and the numbers of animals that could be shot, owing to the limited quota. Whilst a number of deterrent actions were undertaken by the control agent, it was not possible to satisfy all the people suffering from crop and stock raiding animals. Nevertheless, an important benefit was that the system forced accountability for action.

Issue 2: A reduction of the PAC quota may increase community revenue

Introducing wet season hunting of PAC animals and a problem management agreement with a Safari Operator in 1992, provided a better way of dealing with problem animals and a reduction of the numbers of animals shot on PAC.

The effect of increasing community revenue through the reduction of the PAC quota in favour of a hunting quota still needs to be evaluated. The aim should be for revenues gained through this switch to be paid directly by the PAC agent to the VIDCO's suffering from the problem animal incidents, so that a direct link in the communities' minds is established between problem animals and the monies paid to them.

Issue 3 : Problem animal reporting data indicates that some crop damage may result from small animals which are difficult to control

Problem animal reports also indicated that some damage and disturbance did not result from elephant or buffalo. Problem animals such as bushpig, leopard, baboon and springhare may be responsible for high levels of damage but are very difficult to control since they are highly mobile, not easily found and can exist within small areas of fenced agricultural land.

Because these 'nuisance' animals cause less damage at any one time people are more tolerant towards them and don't blame

them as much as larger animals for the damage. As part of district policy, these animals could be addressed locally through ward wildlife committees, especially where it is felt that complaints about 'crop raiding' may be linked to the desire for wildmeat to supplement the diet. Species such as wildpig, porcupine, springhare and baboon could be utilised by the community to satisfy part of its need for meat, and take away some of the desire to have valuable species killed.

Issue 4: Problem animal reporting provides information which can help a community to decide whether an electric fence would be cost effective

The introduction of electric fencing does not reduce the need for reporting. Good electric fence projects depend initially upon information provided by reporting systems. Fencing though should be seen as part and parcel of land use planning and consolidating settlements. Because both fencing and land use planning are the best long term measures for districts in managing problem animals, they are dealt with in greater detail in other booklets of this series.

Overall, from the main use of problem animal reporting data should be to allow councils to design a strategy which makes the most effective use of its limited resources by, for example:

- hiring a PAC agent only at those times of the year when problems are likely to occur
- ensuring that this PAC agent is based near to the likely trouble spots
- placing more reporters in those areas most at risk
- marketing wet season PAC as part of the overall quota
- fencing only those areas which are most in danger

Through all these activities councils can aim to limit costs and maximise revenue, while increasing their PAC effectiveness.

Summary

Problem animals are a vital feature of daily life in CAMPFIRE areas. In order to minimise their negative impact, rural district councils must:

- consider the local background and basic issues relating to the problem carefully
- understand that a problem animal reporting system is essential, should be clearly understood by all before it is applied and finally, evaluated
- use the data from problem animal reporting as a basis for further action in both dealing with individual problems and supporting long-term planning in a rural district council
- establish training programmes for the community, reporters, and council officials especially in the analysis and presentation of problem animal reporting data
- realise that problem animal reporting is only one of a number of important building blocks that councils need to have in place in order to manage problem animals. These other building blocks are considered in later booklets in this series.

Appendix 1

GOKWE DISTRICT

PAR FI

NO:

PROBLEM ANIMAL REPORTWard

Date of complaint: Name of PAR:.....

Date of incident:..... Complainant:

Locality (village): Grid Ref. (6 figures).....

Nature of Problem (tick where appropriate):

- Crop Damage
- Livestock maimed or killed
- Damage to property, e.g. grain bins
- Threat to human life
- Other (Specify)

Wildlife responsible (tick): Numbers involved: Sex:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elephant | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baboons | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Type of crop
damaged (tick):

How good was the crop
before damage occurred (tick):

Age of Crop (tick S for Seedling, I for
intermediate or M for Mature):

	Good Medium Poor			S	I	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Maize	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Millet.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sorghum.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dimensions (paces) of total field where damage occurred:

Length:.....(paces)

Width:(paces)

Dimensions (paces) of actual damaged portion of field:

Length:.....(paces)

Width:(paces)

Other relevant details (e.g. movement or behaviour of problem animal, number of livestock killed, type of property damaged, numbers of previous reports in area etc.)

Copy to council: Yes/No

Date copy sent:

How was the copy sent?:

Appendix 2

PROBLEM ANIMAL REACTION REQUEST

PAC F1*

Date of request:

From: Cheziya Gokwe District Council

To: National Parks, Gokwe/National Parks, Chirisa/Safari Operator (delete inapplicable)

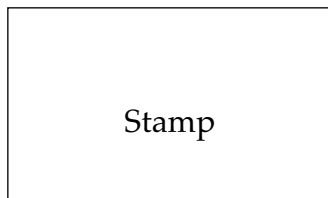
Request for the above mentioned to investigate a Problem Animal Incident

atWard/Vidco. Grid Reference

The Problem Animal is reported to be:

(state which animal is causing the problem and nature of problem)

This request does not necessarily require an animal to be destroyed.
Please return the PAC F1 with this request after reaction to the incident.



.....
Signature

(Tick where appropriate)

- The Problem Animal Report was made on the enclosed report
- The Problem Animal Report was made by telephone from
- The request for Problem Animal Reaction was made by this form.
- The request for Problem Animal Reaction was made by telephone by
(Name of officer making the request)

* PAC F1 and PAC F2 can be combined back to back.

Appendix 3

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

PAC F2*

Copy of PAR report received date:

Name of authorised control officer:.....

Position held:

Specify animal(s) against which action was taken:.....

Animal(s) harassed: YES\NO

Animal(s) destroyed: YES/NO If YES, how many?:.....

Total no. in herd (if applicable):

Locstat (6 figure grid reference if possible)

Sex(es) of animals destroyed

Was animal killed instantly?: YES/NO

Was animal harassed/destroyed at damage site?: YES/NO

Method of harassment (Brief details):

Was the PAC call out justified?: YES/NO

Distance travelled by vehicle (Km) Distance travelled on foot

No. of days and nights spent out

No. of rounds of ammunition expended:.....Rifle Calibre

Assistance received (Brief details if applicable):

Hide recovered: YES/NO

To which base?:No. of hides recovered

Has hide been properly cleaned, slated and stored? YES/NO

How were the tusks disposed of? CLIENT/COUNCIL

Serial no. of issue voucher if delivered to Council

Combined weight of tusks (Kg):

Any other remarks:

Signed: Date:

* PAC F1 and PAC F2 can be combined back to back.

This booklet is the second in a series of guides on Wildlife Management and examines in detail the advantages of setting up a Problem Animal Reporting (PAR) system. It provides background information and guidance to Rural District Councils who wish to do this and should be read along with the other booklets in this series. Together they provide information and guidance in turn, to members of villages, wards and rural districts involved in the management of Campfire projects. These booklets are linked to training programmes being undertaken by members of the CAMPFIRE Collaborative Group.

Booklets in the Wildlife Management series include:

- 1. Problem Animal Reporting**
- 2. Electric Fencing Projects**
- 3. Marketing Wildlife**
- 4. Safari Hunting**
- 5. Quota Setting Manual**

WWF is a member of the Collaborative Group supporting the CAMPFIRE programme in Zimbabwe and has provided support and training to communities in the establishment of wildlife management systems.