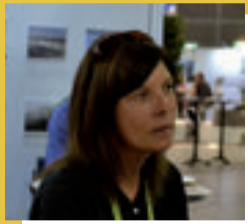


SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas at the IUCN World Parks Congress

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Southern Africa Ponders Ways To Solve Human - Animal Conflict

By Uusumuzi Sifile

As the IUCN World Parks Congress came to a close on Wednesday, southern African delegates called for sustainable approaches to overcome human and wildlife conflicts which have resulted in loss of crops, human life, and livestock on the continent.

Many communities in the region, living close to protected areas, are in conflict with predators like lions, which frequently terrorise them killing their livestock and elephants ravaging maize crops -- staple food in many countries.

In Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa, it is common during the farming seasons for rural communities to spend time in their gardens, where they sleep to guard their crops against wildlife.

Contributing to a discussion on human and wildlife conflict at the World Parks Congress, Lemson Maluleke, a member of the Makuleke Community on the outskirts of South Africa's Kruger National park, said his community lives in fear of lion and elephant attacks.

"Not only are people losing their crop, but there have also been losses of human life as a result of this conflict," said Maluleke.

"It is not only the elephants that give people problems, even lions. We have had a number of lions coming out of the Kruger national park and killing our livestock..I am one of the people who lost livestock to wildlife."

To address the challenge, governments and different commentators suggested an array of measures, most of them already being implemented with no results.

"Human and wildlife conflict will exist for as long as we have people and we have wildlife, because there is always competition for land and for resources that are found on land, such as water," said Geofreys Matipano, Director of Conservation in Zimbabwe.

He said different stakeholders should use various approaches to tackle the challenge. For good results, communities should always be at the forefront.

"We have to revive community based approaches, to let our communities benefit from the resources that are found on their land... this will enable local



Steven Johnson from SAREP: Different approaches should be used to address human-wildlife conflict
Credit: Marshall Patsanza/IPS

communities to turn wildlife from a liability to an asset. If community members are benefiting from wildlife, they are bound to support wildlife," said Matipano.

South Africa is one of the countries that have introduced compensation for those disturbed by wildlife.

But this is not a good approach, in the view of Holly Dublin from Kenya.

"Compensation is the least sustainable of solutions, creates a sense of dependency among community members," said Dublin during a discussion organised by the Southern African Regional Environment Programme (SAREP) on the last day of the World Parks Congress.

Steven Johnson from SAREP said in some parts of Zimbabwe and Botswana, community members have come up with a strategy of burning chilli pepper to scare away elephants and it has been effective.

"In Zimbabwe the use of chilli has been effective, we have seen many communities growing chilli now. We are using an array of solutions, we are working with communities."

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SADC Debates Ways to Solve the Human and Animal Conflicts in the Region

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Dublin, however, believes each situation requires its own solution, but proper planning is key.

“What works in one place may not work in another. Even in countries with less than 100 elephants, you still find that there is human-animal conflict. In my view, proper land-use planning is the best way to go. Do not try to make elephants and human beings live together,” Dublin said.

The Worldwide Fund for Nature says conflicts between humans and animals are a serious problem in many parts of the world, and are one of the main threats to the continued survival of many species.

The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, the once-in-a-decade global forum on protected areas, is expected to closed on Wednesday with the release of The Promise of Sydney.

The Promise sets out an ambitious agenda to safeguard the planet's natural assets, ranging from halting rainforest loss in the Asia-Pacific and tripling ocean protection off Africa's coasts to a business commitment to plant 1.3 billion trees along the historic Silk Road.

It includes pledges from governments, international organizations, the private sector, Indigenous leaders, community groups and individuals, with many more still being recorded.



SADC delegates listen in to the discussion on Human - Wildlife conflict
Credit: Marshall Patsanza/IPS

Knowledge Sharing at IUCN Congress



The IUCN World Parks Congress gave opportunities to many countries to discuss, consult and interact in the search for solutions to wildlife crimes and other common challenges.

In the picture, South African Minister for Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa meets her Namibian counterpart, Ushekua Herunga after the two held a private meeting on the sidelines of the congress. Both Namibia and South Africa presented to the congress successful initiatives that have worked and helped the two countries to reduce wildlife crimes in recent years.

Credit: Marshall Patsanza/IPS

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Encontrar Um Lugar Para as Comunidades no Turismo e Conservação

Por *Mabuto Banda*

Do Quênia chegam boas notícias sobre a forma como os Maasai, o governo, as ONGs e o sector privado estão a trabalhar em conjunto em prol da conservação da vida selvagem.

Os Maasai, cujos direitos não foram reconhecidos durante muitos anos, estão agora a assumir a liderança na conservação da vida selvagem num continente dotado de uma diversidade de recursos naturais.

Ao contrário do povo San no Botswana, que se defronta com a proibição de caçar no Parque Nacional do Kalahari Central, os Maasai beneficiam da vida selvagem.

O sucesso da Zona de Conservação Mara Naboisho, após anos de exploração, é um exemplo daquilo que acontece quando os direitos dos povos autóctones são reconhecidos e o seu modo de vida valorizado.

Localizada no Quênia e adjacente à famosa Reserva de Maasai Mara, a Zona de Conservação Mara Naboisho foi constituída pelos Maasai, pioneiros de uma nova abordagem que visa garantir que o ecoturismo seja fonte de rendimento.

Naboisho, que na língua Maasai significa "Juntemo-nos", foi criada em 2010 por sugestão dos chefes Maasai locais como projecto conjunto com a Fundação Basecamp, organização sem fins lucrativos norueguesa estabelecida em 1996.

Daniel Ole Sambu, coordenador de uma outra iniciativa bem sucedida que conta

com a participação dos Maasai designada Fundo de Compensação dos Predadores (FCP), disse que o projecto Naboisho era um sucesso porque os próprios Maasai estavam a auferir rendimentos por protegerem a vida selvagem e eram reconhecidos como povo.

"O que nós fazemos no FCP é envolver as comunidades Maasai de forma a podermos alcançar os mesmos resultados que a Zona de Conservação Naboisho, ou seja, fazer com que essas comunidades recebam um rendimento, salvaguardando simultaneamente a vida selvagem e a sua biodiversidade," afirmou Sambu.

O FCP, disse Sambu, foi o primeiro projecto a ser implementado no Trust de Preservação das Terras Maasai e tem tido um sucesso fenomenal porque reduziu o número de mortes de leões pelos Maasai como medida retaliatória com o objectivo de protegerem o seu gado.

"O FCP funciona com base num sistema dinâmico de sanções e incentivos e compensa a comunidade local pela perda de gado devido aos predadores não só em troca da suspensão das mortes de leões e outros predadores mas também assente num acordo que penaliza outros membros da comunidade quando é violado," explicou Sambu.

Entre 2003 e 2008, segundo Sambu, o FCP registou um sucesso sem precedentes após as mortes de leões por envenenamento ou lanças terem virtualmente parado na Exploração de Gado Grupo Mbirikani (FGM), que faz parte de uma comunidade Maasai

com 10.000 pessoas.

Alfred Chadeu e Thadeus Chadeu acreditam que os seus conhecimentos locais ajudam a gerir as áreas protegidas e asseguram que tanto os seres humanos como o meio ambiente disso retiram benefícios.

"Sabemos que os nossos conhecimentos têm ajudado a reduzir a caça furtiva e levado ao aumento da vida selvagem no nosso território, que neste momento tem mais de 6.000 elefantes, ultrapassando a população de 5.500 pessoas," disse Alfred no congresso da IUCN.

"Se for vendida carne de caça na reserva, concordámos partilhar as receitas daí resultantes com o governo em partes iguais," afirmou Alfred, acrescentando que essas iniciativas deixavam as comunidades satisfeitas felizes e desencorajavam a caça furtiva.

O Ministro do Turismo e Meio Ambiente do país, Ushekua Herunga, concordou: "O envolvimento das comunidades ao longo dos anos ajudou a Namíbia a aumentar o número de leões de 20 para 130, e os elefantes de 7.500 para 2.000".

Enquanto a Namíbia e o Quênia avançam no projecto de integração das suas comunidades autóctones no domínio da conservação da vida selvagem, o Botswana continua a tentar encontrar formas de colaboração com o povo San, cujos meios de subsistência estão muito dependentes do Parque Nacional do Kalahari Central.

A incessante perseguição dos San no parque lançou uma luz

"Os povos tribais são retratados como atrasados e primitivos simplesmente porque os seus costumes comunitários são diferentes. É uma forma de justificar o roubo da sua terra e dos seus recursos em nome do 'progresso' e da 'civilização'..." disse o Director da Survival International, Stephen Cory, num comunicado.

Tal como os San, no sudeste dos Camarões o povo Baka luta pela suas terras ancestrais que estão a ser transformadas em parques nacionais ou entregues a companhias de safáris de caça.

"Teoricamente os Baka são autorizados a entrar em determinadas áreas dos parques, mas na realidade os funcionários responsáveis pela vida selvagem ignoram isso," disse a Survival International no seu relatório.

O Director do Programa de Conservação e Qualidade da Vida Humana junto da Sociedade de Conservação Selvagem, Dr. Michael Painter, resumiu a importância da integração das comunidades quando disse que o reconhecimento dos seus direitos e da sua existência era essencial para a conservação da vida selvagem.

"Proibi-los de caçar e tentar tratá-los como caçadores furtivos não é a melhor forma de agir... o resultado é que muitas vezes os parques não são sustentáveis," afirmou o Dr Painter.

South Africa Signs MoU with China, Vietnam To Curb Illegal Wildlife Trade

By *Mabuto Banda*

The South African government, which has been taking a leading role against rhino poaching, is in discussions with Asian countries believed to be destination markets for illegally trafficked wildlife.

Edna Molewa, South Africa's minister of Environmental Affairs, told IPS in Sydney, Australia that her country has signed MOUs with China and Vietnam, while another one with Cambodia is in the pipeline.

"We are engaging with different stakeholders at differ-

ent levels to enhance the conservation of these species. Within the region, we are also working with a number of countries," she said.

In the region, South Africa already signed an MOU with Mozambique, a country which the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, says is used as a transit route to Asian markets by smugglers moving rhino horn poached from the region.

Last week, the economic grouping of the Asian Pacific

Economic Corporation (APEC) pledged to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products said to be driving the surge in poaching and trafficking of many endangered species across the globe.

The Joint Ministerial Statement from the 2014 APEC Ministerial Meeting in Beijing, China, included a commitment to strengthening efforts to combat wildlife trafficking in the APEC region and reduce the supply of and demand for illegally traded wildlife.

Maiombe Forest TFCA

Brief Profile

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PARK

The Maiombe TFCA encompasses the Maiombe Forest, stretching over four countries, including the south-west corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cabinda Enclave in Angola, the Republic of Congo and south-west Gabon. Here, core areas of protection rest within controlled utilization of various types and levels. Maiombe Forest forms the south-western part of the tropical rainforest in the Congo Basin and the southern margin of distribution for a large variety of species of flora and fauna in West Africa, including lowland gorillas and chimpanzees. Termed one of the world's richest "hot-spots" of biological diversity, it contains 70% of all terrestrial global biodiversity found in tropical forests. As a result, it has been awarded World Heritage status.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Angolan government considered the effects of the armed conflict in the country on biodiversity conservation efforts, acknowledging that during times of war and political instability, environmental issues and nature conservation are generally given low priority. They also acknowledged that the long-term welfare of its residents and national economic sustainability and stability relied on protecting its natural resources.

In 2002, the initiative was adopted by the Republic of Congo and an MOU was signed between Angola, Congo and the DRC in 2009, with Gabon joining the initiative in 2013. It is hoped that these efforts may also contribute to political and economic stability in the region. Currently several NGOs support local-level projects within the TFCA, and a number of United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), also support development.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The construction of an Integrated Development Plan is currently underway, with various joint projects aimed at improving natural resource management, land-use planning, tourism, infrastructure and alternative livelihood development, being investigated and informing the plan; a first step is the development of five separate IDPs to inform a master plan, and it will be the job of the TFCA to promote the fair and equitable distribution of benefits. Traditional leadership and resident communities in the TFCA countries have expressed a keen interest in developing this initiative, stressing the need to develop alternative livelihood opportunities in order to replace current hunting, poaching and logging activities. These may include employment opportunities within the TFCA initiative, support in developing subsistence agriculture and livestock husbandry and exploring other possibilities of sustainable use of resources. Long-term focus includes exploring the options to develop well managed community-based eco-tourism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Countries	Angola, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo
Area	-
Status	Category C: Conceptual TFCA