

A Perspective on Fencing: Enhancing Harmonisation Between Wildlife and Livestock Sectors to Secure Functional and Productive Rangelands in the KAZA TFCA

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Historical background

- Over 40 years ago EU treaties provided preferred market trade agreements to southern African countries, aimed at promoting economic development
- The commercial livestock sector, in particular, was a major benefactor of these agreements with participating countries receiving lucrative returns for exported livestock products to the recipient EU markets
- Agro-pastoral livestock producers however, have never been beneficiaries of these agreements

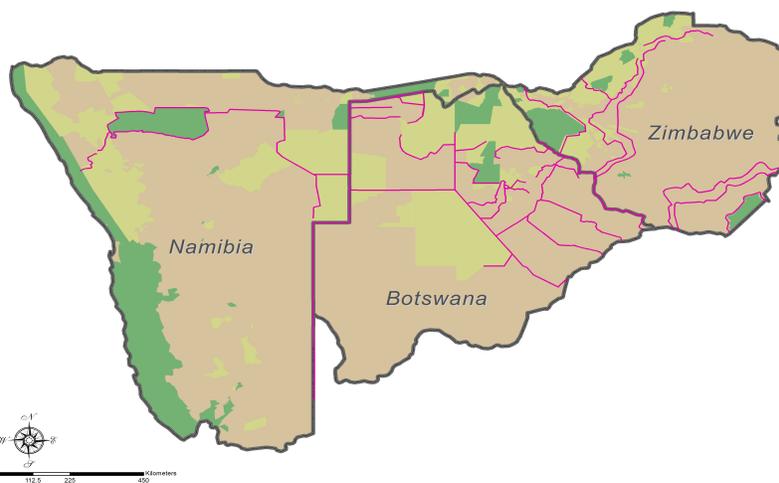


Compliance with veterinary health requirements

- Engagement of these trade agreements required participating countries to comply with stringent veterinary and animal health standards
- This resulted in significant negative consequences for wildlife populations and their associated dispersal or movement routes
- The eradication of targeted wildlife species was followed by the establishment of disease-free livestock export zones and adjacent disease surveillance areas through the construction of thousands of kilometres of wildlife-proof fencing aimed at separating wildlife from livestock



Veterinary Cordon Fences across three southern African countries



Veterinary Cordon Fences

- Established initially in some countries, to control tsetse fly, the vector of Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), and thereafter, Foot and Mouth Disease
- Both diseases strongly associated with wildlife and affecting livestock production and beef exports from southern Africa
- Around **10,000 km** of fences erected for control purposes, separating cattle and wildlife
- Led to the loss directly through shooting, and indirectly through restricting seasonal wildlife movement, of c. **1,4 million** large mammals since the 1930s to the present

Consequences of option foreclosures

- The introduction of veterinary fences has had devastating effects on wildlife populations given their need to move seasonally in response to rainfall and food production in the arid and semi-arid environments of the region
- These impacts either foreclosed or severely limited other economically competitive wildlife-based land use options, marking a signal failure to recognize southern Africa's comparative advantage



Livestock and wildlife production systems

- At the time of these early trade agreements, livestock production, promoted by EU agricultural subsidies was a viable land use option, at least in the short-term
- Increasing evidence to the contrary however, includes greater climatic variability, declining livestock productivity, market failures and social disruptions amongst the rural poor



Livestock and wildlife production systems

- Linked wildlife-cattle production complementing agro-pastoral systems allows improved range management, conservation agriculture and commodity based trade providing market access for beef based on non-geographic disease control
- A new rural development paradigm has the potential to drive sustainable use of natural resources and nature based tourism through a multi-species based land use economy



Innovation required

- Wildlife has been unable to achieve its full potential due to lack of investment in R&D, the limitations of disease-related constraints and in the face of conventional wisdom
- The advent of globalization has produced massive shifts in market demands. New opportunities such as nature-based tourism and TFCAs have emerged for wildlife to play its meaningful role
- The sector now needs to overcome these constraints
- **One innovation is Commodity Based Trade**



Advantages of CBT approach

- A modular, area unit based system with a considerably reduced capital and recurrent expenditure
- **Imminently suitable to communal agro-pastoralism & animal husbandry systems**
- Reduced risk to overall national FMD status:
- Minor outbreak has comparatively minimal impact; relatively easy to resume exports

Advantages of CBT approach

- Ability to imbed “CBT compartments” within other broader FMD control strategies
- **Non-prejudicial to livestock owners living adjacent to wildlife areas**
- Enables greater land use harmonisation
- Enables **risk diversification** in the face of climate change and wildlife-livestock interfacing



Risk diversification

- Management at scale at an ecosystem level across large landscapes reduces risk to natural systems, providing greater resilience to natural catastrophes, disease outbreaks and climatic variability
- Economic diversification spreads social-ecological risk and imparts resilience to local economies faced with various environmental, economic & socio-political challenges
- Provides for multispecies animal production systems and circumvents the “cattle versus wildlife” dichotomy, avoids option foreclosure and promotes a win-win situation for all