

# Coexistence with large carnivores Zambezi Region, Namibia

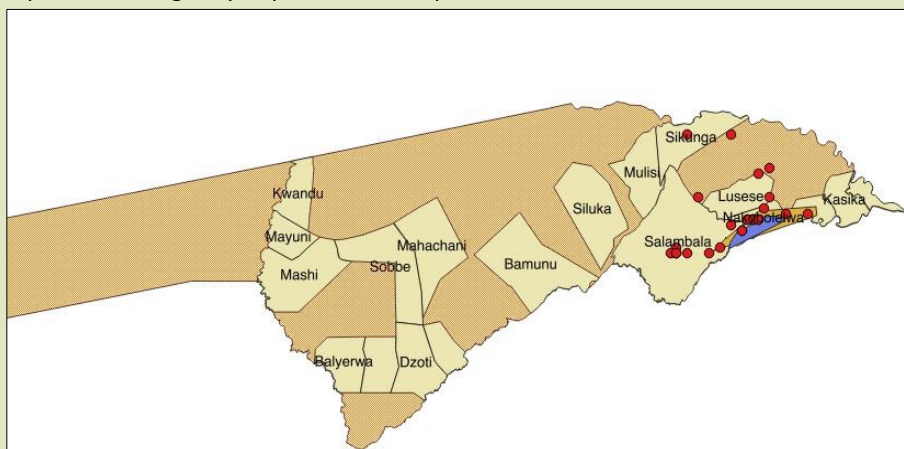


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## Chobe Transboundary Landscape

- International boundary
- Incompatible land-use (High value tourism vs communal land with cattle)
- Both impacting the other negatively (Botswana lions kill cattle in Namibia and Namibians kill lions)
- Floodplain is ecologically important to lion prides



Incompatible land-use along an international boundary has resulted in an “us and them” perception.



Photo: Simone Micheletti



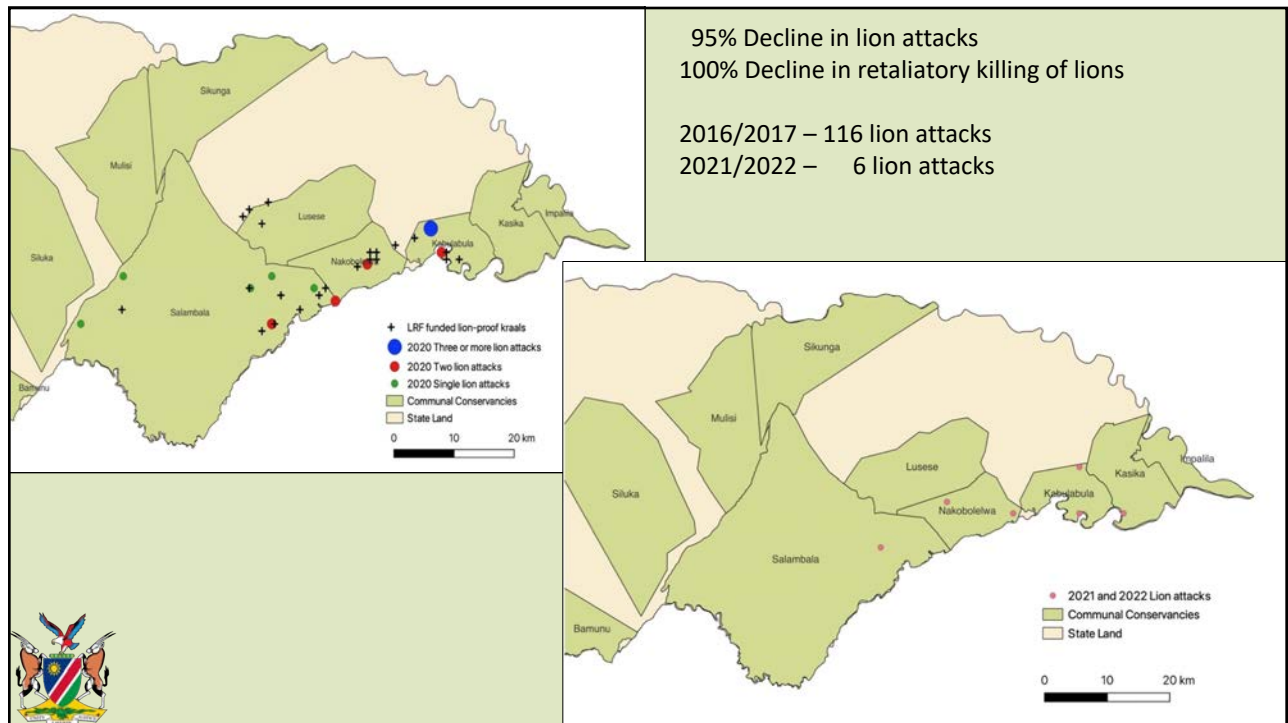
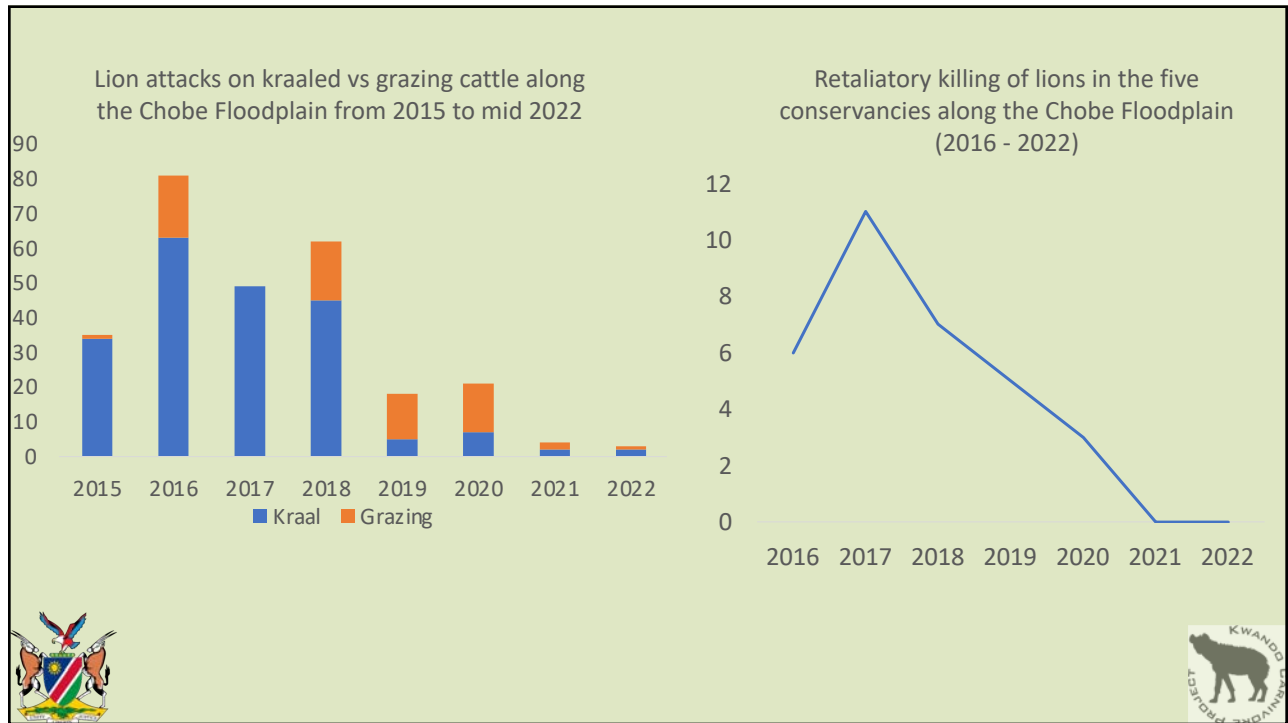
Photo: Simone Micheletti



Traditional cattle kraal on the Chobe Floodplain made out sticks. Structures are mostly temporary due to the lack of material for building kraals and the seasonal flooding of the system.

An upgraded lion-proof kraal with strong side poles preventing cattle breaking through the sides or damaging the chain link fencing.

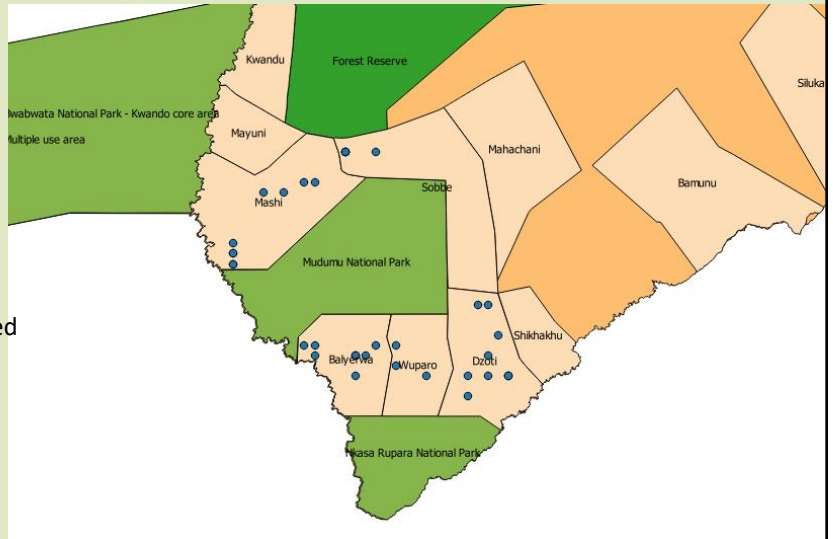






## Mudumu Landscape

- 11,000 people
- 30,000 cattle
- 7 prides of lions
- 80% decline in lion attacks in MSC
- 70% decline in lion attacks in MNC
- Lion dispersal and connectivity restored
- Zero lion mortality in six years



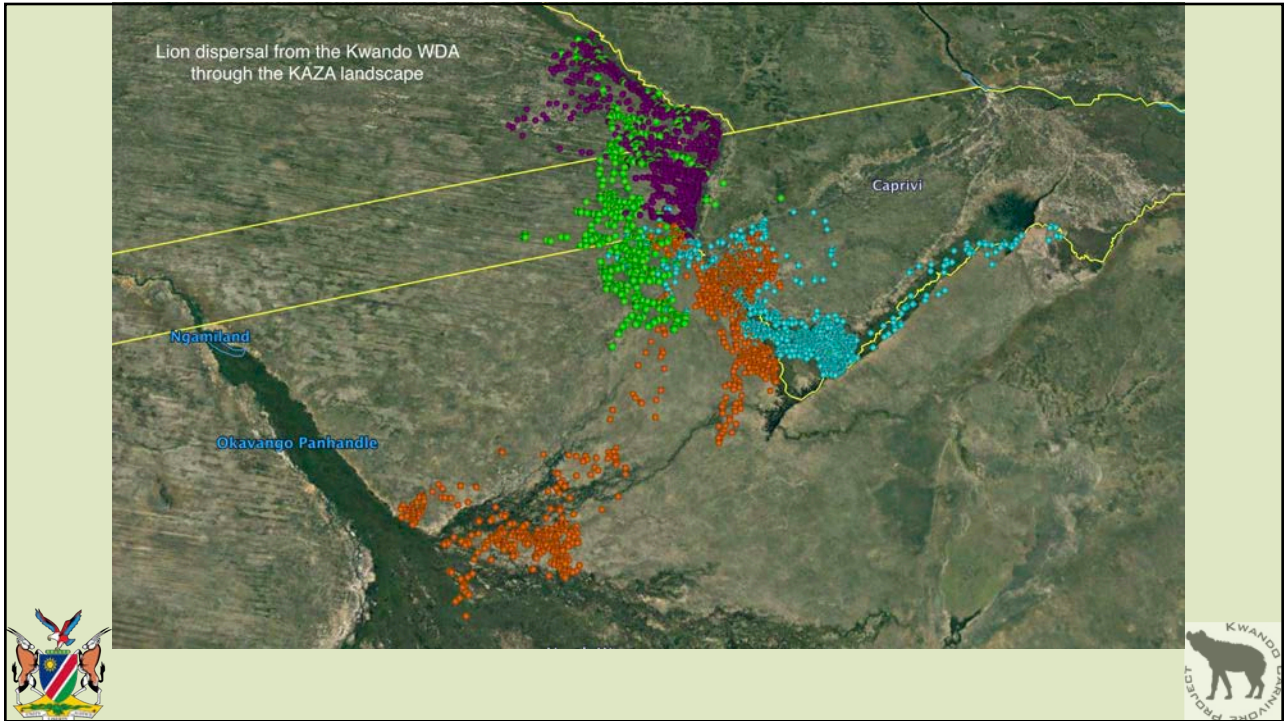


Mobile kraals

- Protect grazing cattle
- Emergency kraaling during floods/droughts
- Manure supply near CA sites
- Nutrify fields so reduce slash and burn
- Agricultural partners







### Factors contributing to human-lion conflict

- Human settlement in areas that are ecologically important for lions e.g Mbambazi in Balyerwa Conservancy
- Unguarded/unherded grazing cattle
- Agricultural practices such as leaving cattle on harvested fields to graze on left over chaff.
- Oxen left at distant fields during ploughing season.
- Cattle left outside kraals during the wet season due to the build up of dung causing health issues.
- Poorly constructed cattle kraals
- Dispersal of prey at the height of the wet season
- Floods and droughts
- Many lion cubs within a pride
- Dispersing young adult male lions
- Pride take overs by new male lions
- Road mortality killing adult females
- Killing of resident pride males
- Retaliatory killing of female adult lions



### Lessons and thoughts

- Solving Human-Lion/Carnivore conflict can be readily achieved with a 80% reduction in 3 to 5 years in focal areas.
- Vital to develop trust and relationships with communities.
- Compensation does not reduce rates of either livestock depredation or of carnivore killing – but there is lots of potential with insurance schemes (linked to small business opportunities) – promotes better animal husbandry.
- HWC mitigation presents an opportunity for the development of social enterprises.
- Quick fix / box ticking training programmes are a waste of time - programmes with long-term commitment are essential.
- Adherence to zonation and provision for wildlife corridors is essential and effective allowing a growing human population and wildlife to share a landscape.
- One size does not fit all. Different cultures and communities have different practices and different needs.
- The management of HWC mitigation is specific to a particular area or region - partnerships and collaborations.
- Behaviour and ecology of different species may require species specific approaches to HWC in a landscape.
- Programmes need to be data and impact driven – measurable results.
- Livestock and field owners are not necessarily farmers.
- Its imperative to include private sector to bring expertise and create market linkages.

**Acknowledgements**

**AHEAD**  
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