

An Historical Perspective on Fencing in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe: The Future of Wildlife, Livestock and TFCAs in SADC

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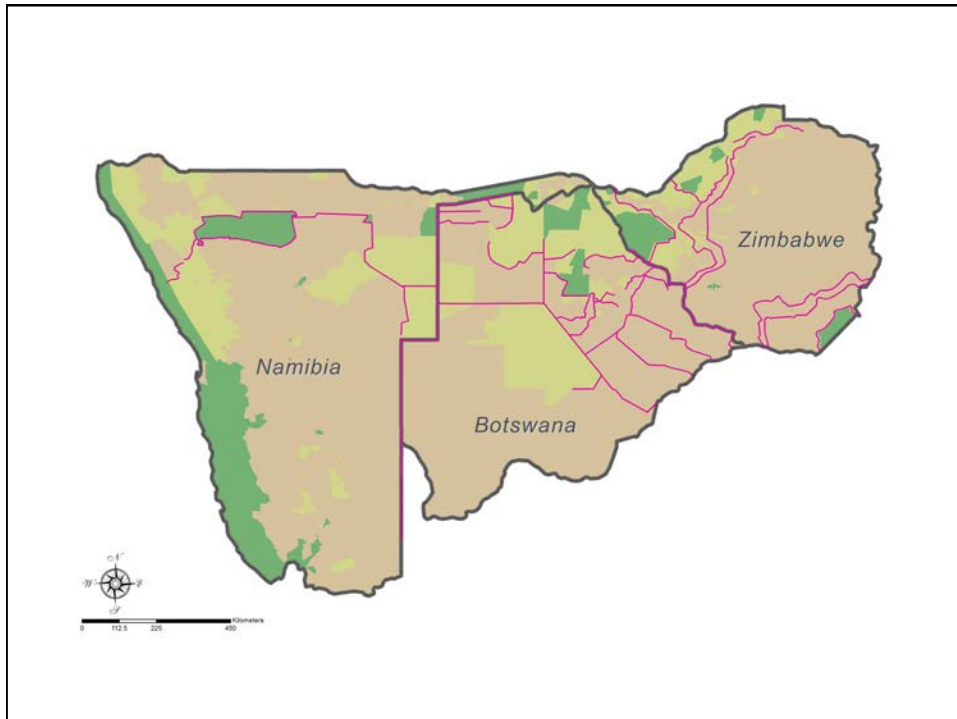
Historical background

- 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
- Communal agro-pastoral livestock producers however, have rarely, if ever been direct beneficiaries of these agreements



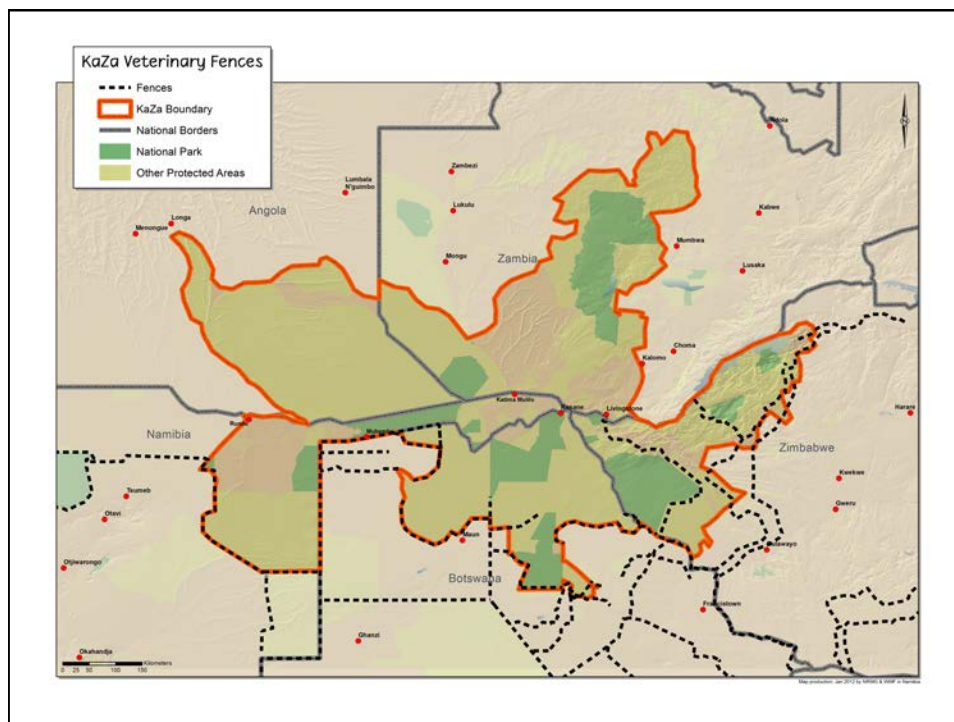
Compliance with veterinary health requirements

- 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

- 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, and associated declines of c. **1,4 million** large mammals since the 1930s to date



Consequences of option foreclosures

- The introduction of veterinary fences has had major impacts 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 initial trade agreements, livestock production, promoted by EU agricultural subsidies was viewed as 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
- Consequently, the emergence of wildlife production systems as a competitive land use is now challenging the conventional rangelands-livestock model
- The emergence of TFCAs present a development paradox



Innovative strategies are now 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, sustainable wildlife use and TFCAs have emerged for wildlife to play a more meaningful development role
- The sector now seeks to overcome these constraints but its future will remain limited until policies are unshackled from the past and able to embrace a “multispecies animal production systems” approach to the use of land
- **One innovative contribution is Commodity Based Trade**



Advantages of CBT (OIE Art. 8.5.25)

- Modular, area / epidemiological-unit based system
- Considerably reduced establishment outlay
- **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
 - No risk of FMD affecting replacement stock for vaccinated **CBT compartment**



Advantages of CBT

- 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, intimate wildlife-livestock interfacing & other challenges



Constraints to CBT

- Current Non-Geographic standards for FMD-control still entail considerable expense:
 - Blanket vaccination
 - Surveillance
 - Movement control
- For a source population of 50,000 cattle with slaughter off-take of 10,000 head / year
 - Additional cost/head = S\$ 1,000 / head (mainly vaccination, sample collection & analysis)
- **Which is nevertheless considerably less than subsidies required for the zonation-type approach**



Constraints to CBT con'td

- Market resistance to CBT
- Reluctance of veterinary authorities to trial CBT
- Need for possible simplification
- Lack of market acceptance – FMD a trade sensitive disease & proof of freedom is invariably needed
- Trade barriers – local and international
- Perverse incentives, e.g. subsidies for conventional controls
- Perception that the “Holy Grail” is an EU beef export quota



Opportunities

- Meet local and regional demands for meat
- Improve animal husbandry amongst communal producers
- Provides incentive for communal livestock producers
- Market “organic beef” e.g. NCAs in northern Namibia
- Market lower valued products to appropriate markets
- Processed meat products, e.g. canning, “smokies” – applies to both beef and game meat



Risk diversification

- Diverse ecosystems and greater biodiversity across large landscapes (management at scale) reduces risk to natural systems, providing greater resilience to natural catastrophes, disease outbreaks and climatic challenges
- Economic diversification spreads 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, and avoids option foreclosure



GLTP VETERINARY COMMITTEE POSITION STATEMENT Promotion of trade standards for commodities and products derived from animals that are compatible with biodiversity conservation

This is a position statement of the Committee aimed at informing the JMB and affected stakeholders on the direction it proposes to take with regard to some aspects of transboundary animal disease control, with specific emphasis on foot & mouth disease (FMD).

The Committee aims to facilitate and influence policy adjustments which will support biodiversity protection and disease risk management and thereby assist in ensuring that communities are able to derive benefit both from wildlife and livestock in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Area.

