

Chickens and wildlife: the Luangwa Valley story

- most common source of income but ranks only 34 out of 50 income sources for its relative contribution
- actual contribution to household income is only \$8 per year as compared to total annual income of only \$67 earned on average by household heads
- families own at any give time 10-20 chickens
- Newcastle's disease is endemic and infects annually 60% of the chicken population with death rates as high as 80 to 90%.
- mortality from predators and disease of young chickens often exceeds 50%.

8,300 chickens were vaccinated in 2003

Poultry producer groups shared the use of a 25 meter wire fence enclosures to safeguard young chickens from predation



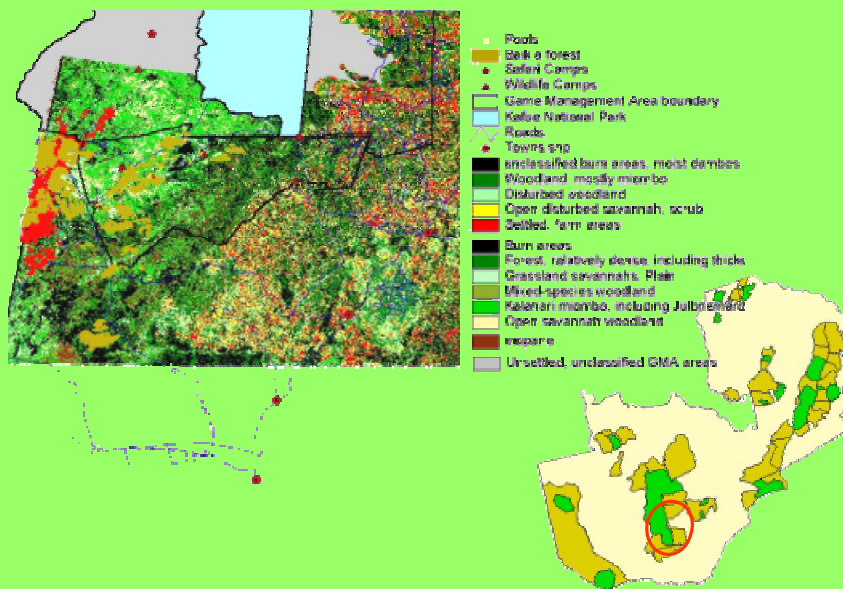
Producer groups assisted in bulking live chickens at local depots that offered a 20% increase in purchase price

Results

- Incidence of Newcastle's now negligible in most areas.
- Value of chickens has increased relative to illegal game meat (illegal game meat cannot be sold on the open market for its real market value).
- Increased value and supply of chickens is reducing local demand for game meat.
- Households help support the purchase and delivery costs of the vaccine by providing one chicken free to the supplier/trader for every 50 chickens vaccinated.
- Improved husbandry skills and increased market value has elevated household interest in poultry as a livelihood activity.



Cattle disease and poaching in Kafue National Park



During years of drought, cattle provide critically needed cash to sustain food and other domestic requirements and thus provide an important “safety net” against crop failure for rural communities in this region.

By 2000, an estimated 65% of the total cattle population in this region had succumbed to disease.

With annual household income averaging below \$100, many households had few livelihood options other than wildlife poaching in the adjacent wildlife protected areas.

Following 1990, policies regulating Government-supported veterinary services changed and households assumed responsibility for their own cattle.

The ensuing years chart a progressive decline in available veterinary inputs and an increase in disease-related mortality of livestock populations.

A growing number of households relied on poaching to cope with their problems. When returning from the bush with meat and animal skins, hunters also brought tsetse flies back to their area of residence, thus introducing tsetse flies to livestock areas.

