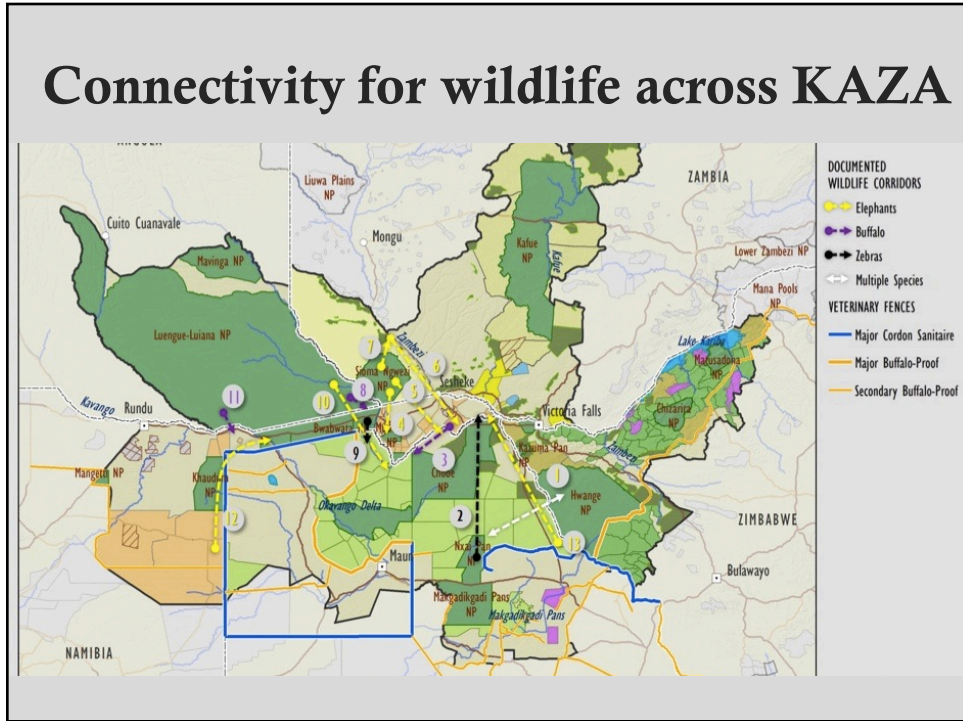




KAZA

Elephant Sub Working Group Update

KAZA Animal Health Sub Working Group Meeting
Diyundu, Namibia
13th-15th June 2023
Presented by
Dr. Nyambe Nyambe and Dr. Anna Songhurst



KAZA Elephant Sub Working Group (KESWG)

- ❖ In order to work towards the objectives and vision of the KAZA treaty and the Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of elephants in the KAZA TFCA, the KAZA Elephant Sub Working Group (KESWG) and forum was established and endorsed in 2022.
- ❖ The KESWG is a sub-working group of the KAZA Conservation Working Group comprising Partner State government and NGO conservation practitioners.
- ❖ KESWG works to facilitate the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of Elephants in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area.
- ❖ The aim of the planning framework is to secure KAZA as a focal landscape for elephants and other wildlife for the benefit of rural communities and society at large, in so doing meeting the vision and objectives of the KAZA Treaty as a nature-based driver of sustainable development, facilitating connectivity and promoting multi-disciplinary and collaborative research.

KESWG formation

- ❖ 2016-2021 stakeholder meetings to establish a KAZA elephant sub working group forum and sub working group
- ❖ 8th June 2022 - 1st official meeting of the KAZA Elephant Sub Working Group

Mission Statement

“To secure the Kavango Zambezi landscape for the largest contiguous population of elephants for the benefit of the associated communities and conservation at large”

KESWG Terms of Reference

❖ Primary Objective

Coordinate, promote and provide technical support for the implementation of the KAZA Strategic Planning Framework for the Conservation and Management of Elephants in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (2019).

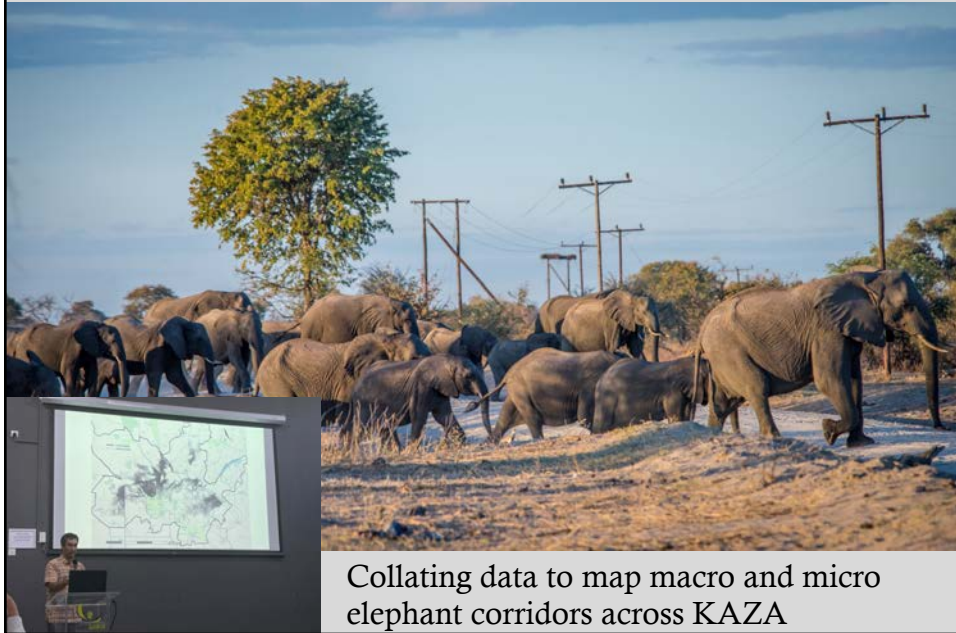
❖ Specific Objectives :

- Conducting monitoring and research of elephants within the KAZA landscape to improve our understanding of this contiguous population;
- Promote secure habitats and corridors for elephants within and between key elephant habitats across the KAZA landscape;
- Enabling and promoting community benefits through a number of revenue sharing and empowerment initiatives around key elephant habitats within the KAZA landscape;
- Contribute to elephant conservation and management policy and practice as required in respect of the KAZA strategic planning framework for the conservation and management of elephants.

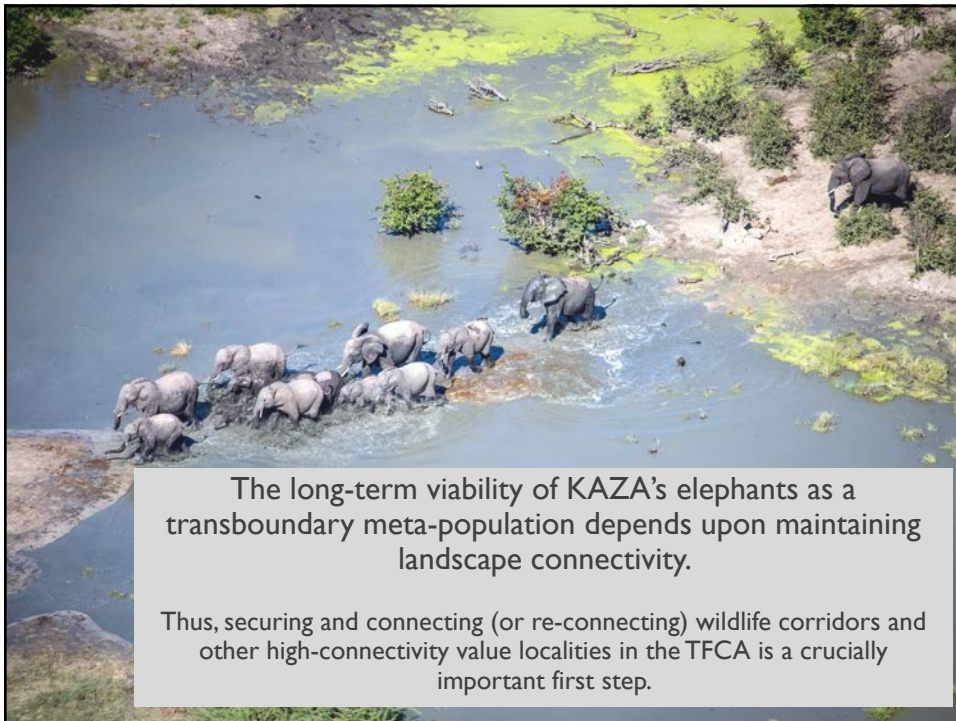
KESWG Data Sharing Protocol

- ❖ In 2021 partner countries agreed to share data on elephant movements and connectivity for the purpose of a policy brief
- ❖ In 2021 data sharing agreement was signed between NGOs to share data on elephant movements and connectivity for the purpose of a policy brief
- ❖ In 2022, a Data Sharing Protocol was developed and approved to facilitate the sharing of information and data amongst key organisations.
- ❖ The aim of this protocol is to provide a framework for the Partner Organisations and to establish and regulate working practices between Partner Organisations. The protocol also provides guidance to ensure the secure transfer and storage of information, and that information shared is for justifiable purposes.

KESWG Policy Brief



Collating data to map macro and micro elephant corridors across KAZA



The long-term viability of KAZA's elephants as a transboundary meta-population depends upon maintaining landscape connectivity.

Thus, securing and connecting (or re-connecting) wildlife corridors and other high-connectivity value localities in the TFCA is a crucially important first step.

Monitoring elephant movements



Our dataset includes > 3.9 million GPS observations from **291** collared elephants, of which 165 are females and 126 males, with the following collaring effort per country:

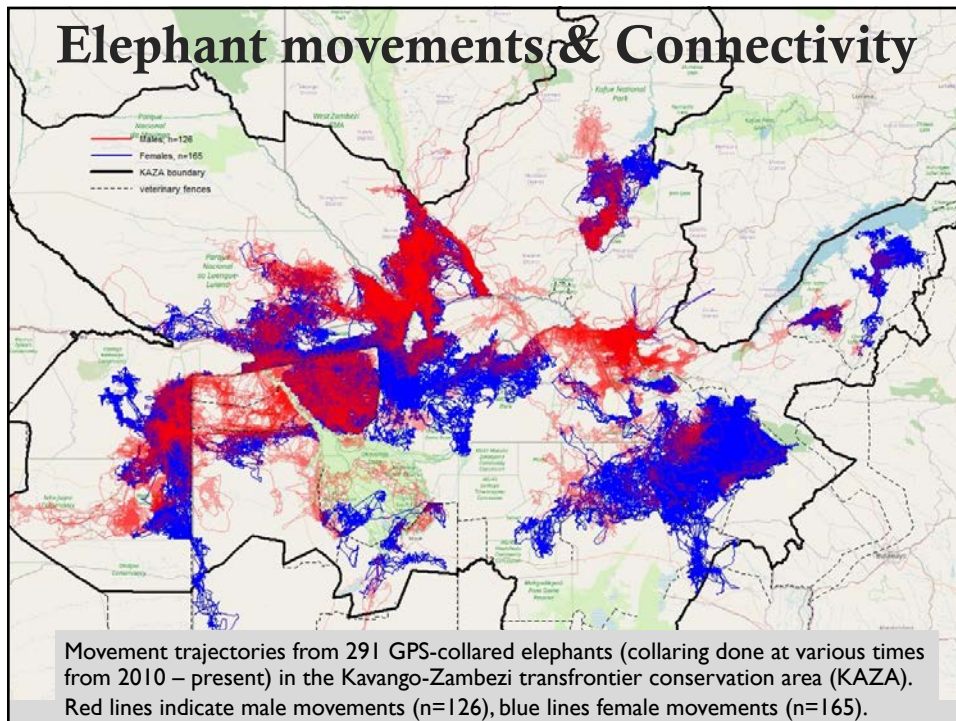
Angola – 19 individuals (8 males, 11 females)

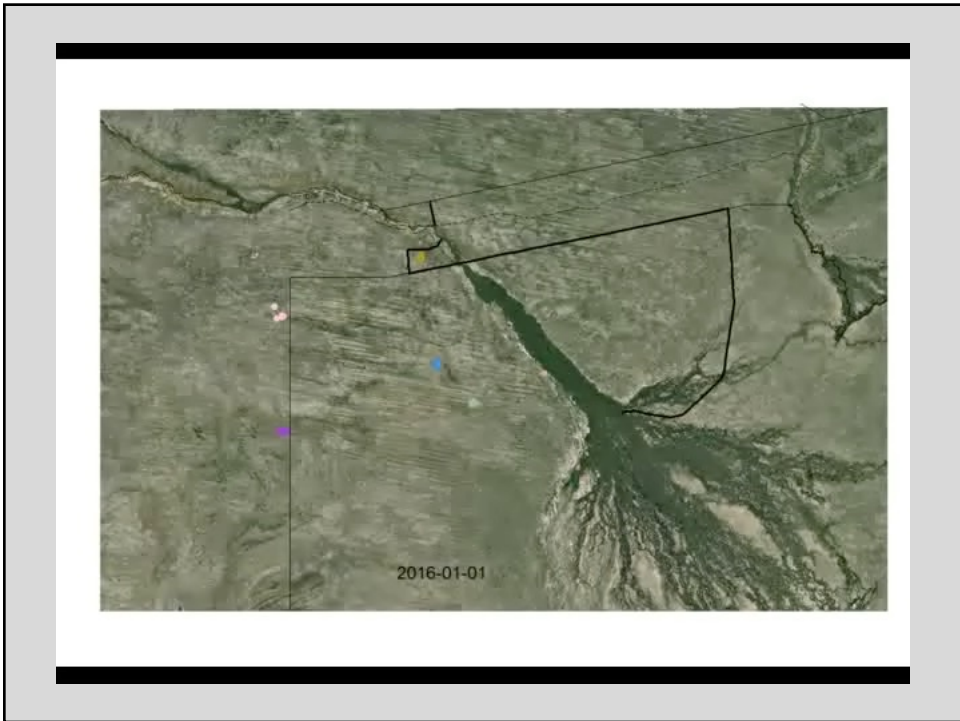
Botswana – 60 individuals (35 males, 25 females)

Namibia – 88 individuals (25 males, 63 females)

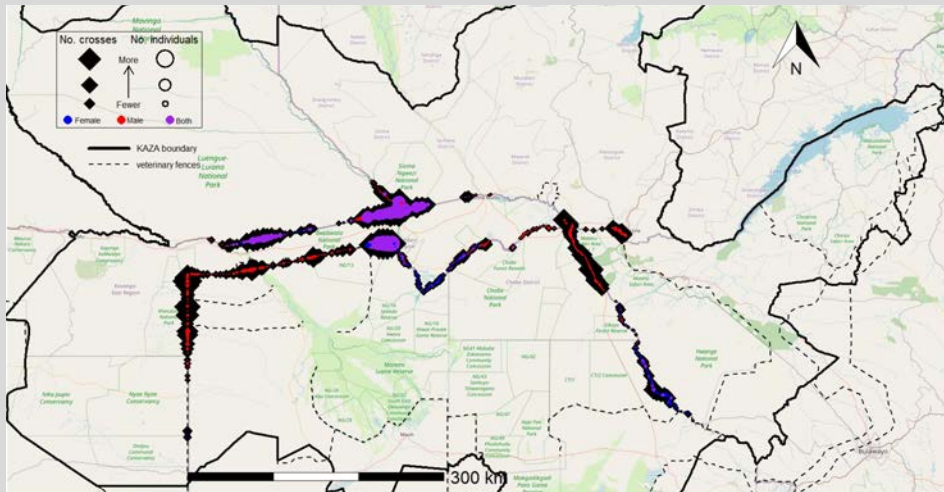
Zambia – 32 individuals (23 males, 9 females)

Zimbabwe – 92 individuals (35 males, 57 females)

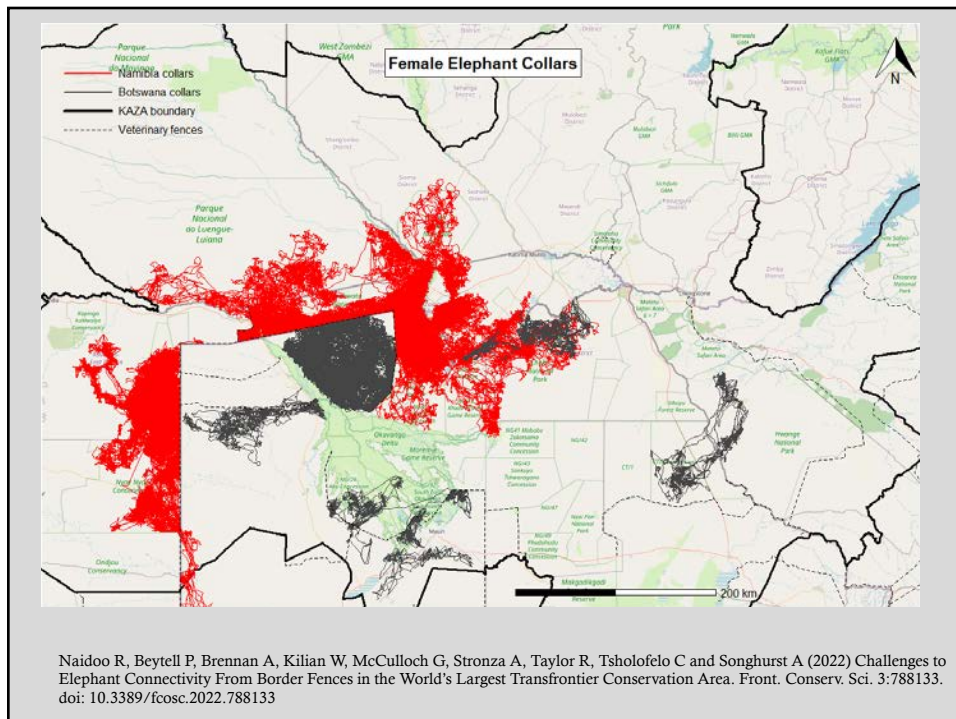
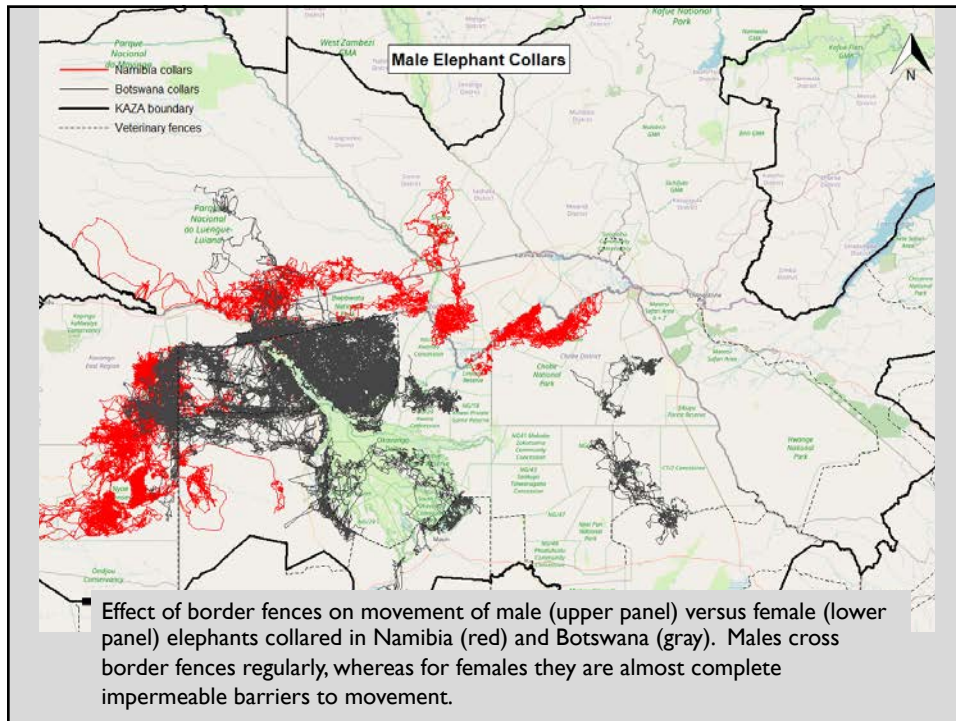


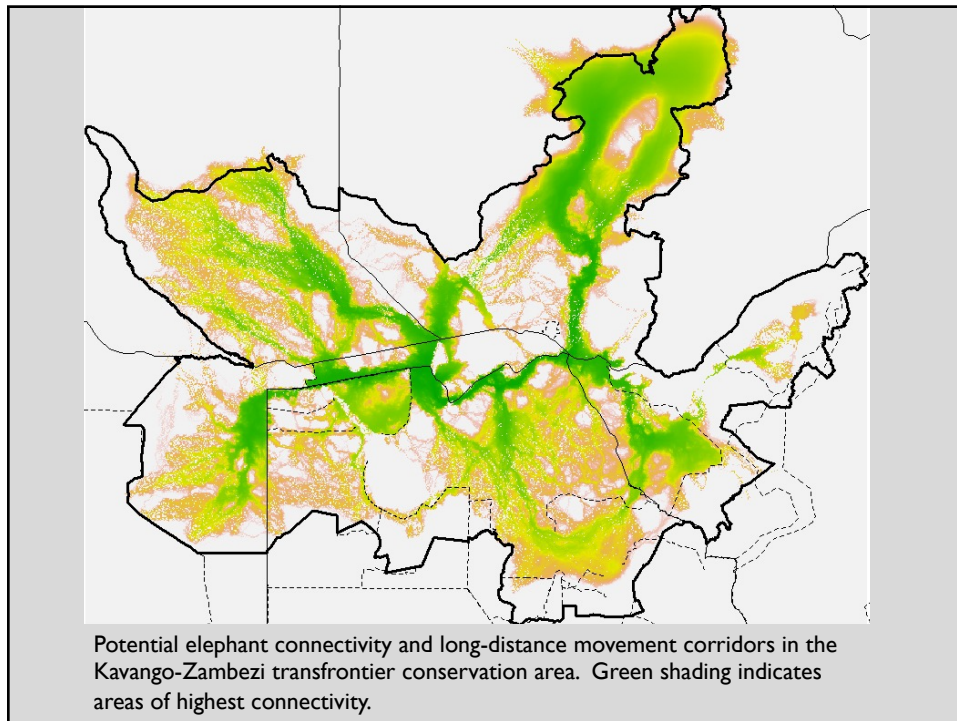


Of the 291 collared elephants, 127 (44%) crossed an international border at least once, including 67 males (53%) and 60 females (36%). Transboundary movements were particularly frequent across unfenced land border sections,



Border crossing events by 291 GPS-collared elephants in the Kavango-Zambezi transfrontier conservation area (KAZA). Sizes of black crosses and circles are scaled to represent number of crossing events, and number of individuals making a cross, respectively, with larger symbols indicating more of each. Colours indicate whether a border segment is crossed primarily by males (red) or females (blue), or whether both sexes cross (purple).





Threats to Connectivity across KAZA

It is recognised that there are some significant threats to habitat connectivity for elephants (and other wildlife) across the broader KAZA landscape.

- ❖ Agriculture and infrastructure developments (e.g. roads, rail) and Land use change (e.g. potential mining developments).
- ❖ Encroaching human settlements and human-elephant conflict (HEC)
- ❖ Poaching
- ❖ Livestock disease control measures (veterinary cordon fences)

Recommendations

Recommendations for actions needed to facilitate maintaining connectivity have been highlighted. It is important to consider the level of threats to connectivity on an ongoing basis so that a risk profile can be up-to-date and solutions for maintaining connectivity realistic.

- ❖ Remove or realign fences where needed to allow movement – particular consideration to the northern buffalo fence in Botswana, the Botswana – Namibia Zambezi border fence, and the Botswana-Namibia western border fence;
- ❖ Review proposals for artificial water provision and other developments carefully, with consideration for how these may affect and/or sustain transboundary and local elephant movements and maintain corridors;
- ❖ Policies and legislations are needed within KAZA to enable connectivity. Partner States have different management plans throughout the KAZA landscape and each needs to reinforce the need for policy and legislative responses to facilitate connectivity across the landscape.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the KAZA partner countries and organisations who contributed data for this policy brief.

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African Parks, Zimbabwe

Connected Conservation, Zimbabwe

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