

Integrating Livestock Production with Wildlife Management in Communal Conservancies in the Zambezi region: Dzoti Pilot Project

Since 2017, IRDNC has introduced a project aimed at improving sound rangeland management practices in Dzoti Conservancy. The project aims to combine commercially oriented livestock production with wildlife management. Rangeland management and wildlife integration plans are developed and implemented by the resource users themselves with guidance from experienced technical and institutional advisors. Important and valuable land uses like tourism, hunting and exclusive wildlife breeding zones are taken into consideration to ensure that conflict between them and livestock will be minimized. By creating a win-win situation for both livestock and wildlife in the conservancy, we believe that the livelihoods of the local people will be significantly enhanced.

What we have already done...

We conducted a socio-ecological and economic survey in the target area and have used the data and findings as a baseline for our planning.

Farmers are willing to seasonally move their livestock to grazing areas away from the rivers, thereby allowing for multiple land uses, including tourism and hunting. Together with our partner, the Kwando Carnivore Project (KPP), we encourage farmers to use mobile lion-proof kraals at designated spots, set up with infra-red cameras to monitor the kraals and red flickering lights to deter predators at night. We have agreed to offset the loss of cattle due to predators to farmers testing the use of the mobile bomas, provided farmers can demonstrate that they have done what is required to protect their livestock



Interested farmers from Dzoti conservancy putting up a mobile kraal under the guidance of KCP

Dzoti Conservancy has revised its land-use zonation plan to make way for good rangeland management. We hold regular meetings with the farmers and other stakeholders in Kakiramupepu and Silonga to raise awareness about the development of a rangeland management plan. A Grazing Committee has been established and a grazing plan is in the process of being implemented to reduce conflict between livestock and predators. A key aspect of the plan is to ensure that seasonal wildlife movement and wildlife corridors are considered during planning. The plan also ensures that farmers do not graze livestock in specified tourism zones.

A Livestock Committee trained in animal diseases, husbandry, breeding practices and rangeland management, and regular visits to Dzoti Conservancy ensure that the training is adapted to changing needs.

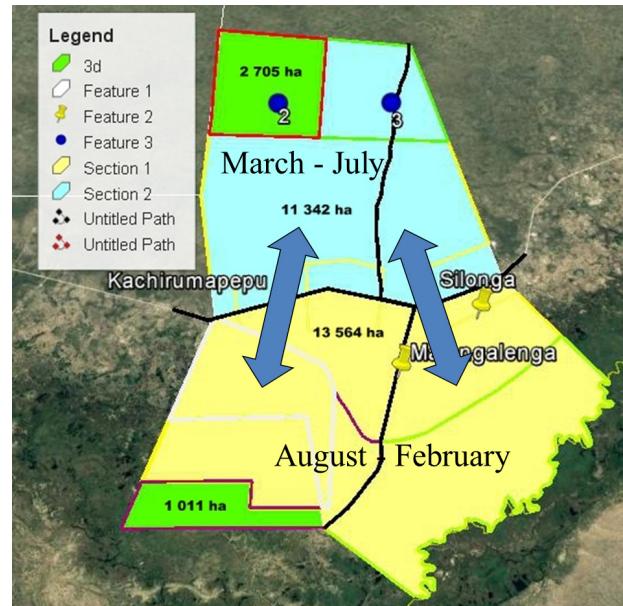
Neighbouring Balyerwa and Wuparo Conservancies have requested that IRDNC also assist them in

establishing a similar grazing plan.

Lessons learnt have been captured and was used to produce a Field Guide, which will be useful for establishing similar programmes in other areas.



Members of the Dzoti Livestock Committee and Conservancy Committee



Livestock movements in Dzoti Conservancy

Our plans are to...

- Work closely with farmers and conservancy to promote livestock protection methods to reduce human-wildlife conflict between predators and cattle
- Liaise closely with the Ministry of Environment (MET) to monitor the movement of predators and ensure that livestock farmers are informed of the movement of lions and hyenas in the Dzoti area
- Collaborate with MET's Scientific Service in collaring predators (lions and hyenas in and around Dzoti)
- Support the development of sustainable and appropriate markets for beef from the Zambezi Region
- Continue to conduct market research on beef amongst existing lodges
- Sign agreements with selected lodges for Dzoti beef
- Start with supply of Dzoti meat according to contracts through a planned abattoir and feedlot
- Collaborate with the Directorate of Veterinary Services to ensure that all livestock in Dzoti are inoculated against FMD and other diseases
- Facilitate the participation of Dzoti farmers in advocacy activities aimed at improving their level of security over natural resources and land-tenure
- Provide training, guidance & mentoring to local institutions to ensure sustainability
- Provide technical training to farmers and conservancy members



Participants at the Balyerwa meeting with a map outlining land use in their conservancy