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| Title Research project | Livestock production at the livestock-wildlife interface: A comprehensive assessment of Kavango-Zambezi transfrontier conservation Area |

Abstract

Livestock production is key agricultural activity supporting livelihoods in semi-arid Africa including Zimbabwe. Most often the productivity is very low owing to a number of factors ranging from environmental to socio-economic to political. Creation of Transfrontier conservation areas will exacerbate the problem by increasing livestock wildlife conflict at wildlife livestock interface. Farmers ask questions like how can they improve their livestock productivity especially under the changing environment? This calls need for scientific assessment and evaluation of the production system and its linkages to TFCA in order to formulate informed strategies and recommendations. The research will be done in Hwange and Tsholotsho district bordering Hwange national park/KAZA-TFCA and seek to answer four pertinent issues in generating prerequisite information in answering the farmer questions and improving livelihoods.

- How do land use spatio-temporal pattern vary in TFCA communities?
- How do available feed resources quantity and quality vary seasonally and annually?
- How do local communities perceive the effects of bio-physical and social-economic drivers on livestock feed production?
- What adaptation strategies can communities adopt for sustainable livestock feed and environmental management. What major drivers affect livestock production in TFCA from key stakeholders perceptions?
- What are the best possible scenarios for increased rural livelihoods at reduced environmental cost around the KAZA TFCA

A multidisciplinary approach will be employed in data collection ranging from questionnaires, interviews, focused discussions, rangeland condition surveys, livestock behaviours studies to remote sensing and GIS. In order to facilitate target specific intervention plans and resource allocation. Results will include temporal and spatial information on nature and behaviour of rangeland, drivers of change, typology of wildlife conflicts and stakeholders perceptions.