

**Charting Connections:**

# **The Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans Conservation Initiative**

**Workshop Summary**

**Camp Kalahari**

**September 3-5, 2018**

**Workshop Convenors**

Natural Selection Conservation Trust  
Round River Conservation Studies  
Botswana Predator Conservation Trust  
Okavango Research Institute

**Workshop Host**

Camp Kalahari, Uncharted Africa Safaris





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## Acronyms

AHEAD	Animal & Human Health for the Environment and Development
BPCT	Botswana Predator Conservation Trust
BDF	Botswana Defence Force
BTO	Botswana Tourism Organization
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CKGR	Central Kalahari Game Reserve
DWNP	Department of Wildlife and National Parks
DISS	Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services
EfA	Elephants for Africa
HWC	Human wildlife conflict
KAZA TFCA	Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
KRC	Kalahari Research and Conservation
KTP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
MOMS	Management Oriented Monitoring System
NGOs	Non-government organizations
ORI	Okavango Research Institute
NSCT	Natural Selection Conservation Trust
RRCS	Round River Conservation Studies
WMAs	Wildlife Management Areas

# Charting Connections: The Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans Conservation Initiative

## Workshop Summary

### 1. Introduction

This document summarizes the outcomes of a 3-day workshop, that brought together government agency representatives, scientists, outreach personnel, community leaders and tourism operators to explore how connectivity for the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans could be restored in cooperation with local communities. The workshop was jointly convened by Natural Selection Conservation Trust, Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, Round River Conservation Studies and the Okavango Research Institute.

This workshop summary is intended for circulation among workshop participants and other interested parties to catalyze and inform further discussion. However, this material represents preliminary and exploratory dialogue only and is not intended as a formal proposal, strategy, or plan.

The agenda for the 'Charting Connections' workshop is included as Appendix A.

In keeping with the modified 'Chatham House' rule adopted for the workshop—and with the exception of introductory comments and informational presentations during the early part of the event — this summary does not attribute comments offered at the workshop to any particular individual or organization.



### 2. Workshop Outcomes

#### 2.1 Opening: 'Why We Are Here?'

Following introductions, and on behalf of the Convenors, Dennis Sizemore and Cosmos Rathipana explained the rationale for the workshop:

- Over a period of several decades, visitors to Northern Botswana have observed that wildlife numbers in the region have been decreasing. In the Makgadikgadi National Park, the number and richness of wildlife herds were far superior in the past when compared to the present day, especially for zebra, wildebeest and springbok populations.

These declines represent not only a challenge for biodiversity, but also for the future of tourism and the economy of the country. In that context, this workshop represents an important opportunity to identify some of the factors that have led to this decline, and to identify potential solutions, focusing specifically on connectivity.

- There have been several multi-parties, collaborative initiatives tackling regional conservation challenges around the world that demonstrates what can be achieved by those who are willing to cooperate to achieve a shared vision.

## 2.2 Current Context: What are the Implications of Restoring Connectivity?

A series of speakers commented on the implications of restoring connectivity for the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans from the perspective of conservation science, local communities, government and the tourism industry. A summary of each of those presentations and the discussions that followed are presented in the sections below.

### 2.2.1 Historical and Current Wildlife Movement Patterns, Range Conditions

Emily Bennitt and Moses Selebatso summarized what is known about both historical and current wildlife movement patterns, focusing particularly on zebra and wildebeest. Key points highlighted in these two presentations included the following:

- There is considerable confusion over the nature and extent of wildlife migrations in the Northern Botswana area—an area that is relatively connected at the present time.
- In general, animals move from permanent water in the dry season to productive grazing areas in the wet season.
- Grazing areas need to be ‘rested’ so that forage can recover on a seasonal basis. When boreholes are located in wet season grazing areas, some wildlife do not migrate back to dry season range, remaining in wet season range and reducing the available forage and range conditions. At present, and likely as a result of water availability from boreholes, some 20% of wildebeest in Botswana are no longer migrating.
- In contrast, providing additional water in dry season areas can boost wildlife populations—a strategy highlighted in the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan (November, 2010)



- Several patterns of migration were highlighted, including the following seasonal movements:
  - from the wet season range in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) to the dry season range along the Boteti River;
  - from the Okavango Delta in the dry season to the Makgadikgadi in the wet season—a pattern that was restored following the removal of fences; and,
  - from more Northern areas (Chobe and further northward) to the Nxai Pan area in the wet season (but not extending into the Makgadikgadi).
- Based on recent limited research in the CKGR, there was some evidence of movement southward to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) in the late 90s and early 2000, but this pattern does not apply for all species, and not evidence of the KTP to CKGR movement.

- In the 1970's, thousands of wildebeest were observed trying to reach the Boteti River, a migration that was prevented by the CKGR fence. More recent studies have suggested however that wildebeest are no longer migrating along this route and are surviving without connectivity outside of the CKGR, likely as a result of water being available year-round at boreholes. It is also possible that the knowledge of the migration routes is no longer held within that population.

### Questions and Discussion

In the discussion that followed the presentations, additional comments included:

- Water in the Makgadikgadi can be very saline. Fresh water sits on top of saline water in the aquifer, but this can be a very thin lens. In the Western area of the park, the availability of fresh water becomes more limited farther away from the Boteti River.
- Restoring connectivity between the CKGR and the Makgadikgadi was considered as recently as the 1980's. However, the area to the west of the Boteti River is now dominated by cattle grazing (and is in the Green Zone).
- There are at least eleven boreholes in Makgadikgadi Park, just east of the Boteti River. These boreholes were intended to mitigate for the construction of the fence, which prevented wildlife population accessing river water. These boreholes provide an important water source but are never turned off, which is problematic.
- Evidence suggests that zebra are currently repopulating the Makgadikgadi better than wildebeest—perhaps because the latter are more sensitive to environmental conditions.
- There is no comprehensive summary available of historical wildlife movement patterns, although there is some early literature from which information or inferences might be derived.



- Migration pattern triggers are not fully understood, but may be related to animal numbers, the availability of forage, and/or the availability of water.
- Opinions vary on the potential utility of local/traditional knowledge held by local communities on the migration patterns for wildlife.
- There was broad agreement that migration patterns have been disrupted not only by fences, but also because of the availability of water from boreholes and changing land use patterns (e.g., settlement, grazing).

Workshop participants agreed that efforts are needed to compile an accurate and comprehensive picture of both historical and current wildlife movement patterns, linked to climatic conditions, the history of fences, waterholes and settlement. This information would provide an important baseline for efforts aimed at restoring connectivity.

### 2.2.2 Perspectives on Land Use, Human Wildlife Conflict, and Future Prospects

Kgosi Tholego Ngwengare, Walona Sehularo, and Jess Isden offered comments from the perspective of local communities around the Makgadikgadi.

#### Phuduhudu

- In general, the lifestyle of communities in Northern Botswana represents a dynamic balance between farm, cattle post and residences.
- For the community of Phuduhudu, cattle herding is less of a priority, in part because of the cultural history of the Basarwa (there are reportedly <200 cattle in this community). The community welcomed the opportunities offered by the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program, as it was complementary to the livelihood of the community.
- In the past, the community of Phuduhudu depended on the migration of wildlife because this represented a food source for the community. As a result, there was no perceived conflict with wildlife.
- Members of the community of Phuduhudu were conservative hunters; for example, they would avoid taking animals that were lactating. With the hunting ban now in place, the community has been struggling.
- It was suggested that the community of Phuduhudu would likely support proposals to restore wildlife migrations between the Chobe, Nxai Pans and the Makgadikgadi National Park.

#### Communities on the Boteti River

- According to the traditional livelihood model for farming, cattle posts and farms are often located in different places. Historically, younger family members would stay out at the cattle posts to tend to the herds. Some of these patterns have changed



in recent years, with younger family members attending school or being attracted to the modern amenities available in the local community. As a result, older farmers tend to be moving more than in the past.

- Human wildlife conflict (HWC) is a significant concern for communities along the Boteti River. Farmers are certainly interested in mitigation





strategies—such as the clustering of fields or relocating farms away from known travel routes for elephants—but these and other similar approaches processes require planning and implementation. Conflict with wildlife has also increased over the last two decades, which requires communities to adapt rapidly to changing circumstances. Some community members are also demoralized by



what they perceive to be lacklustre support from government (Government approval is needed for relocation in the area, or for the clustering of farms).

#### NGO Support for Local Communities

- NGOs such as Elephants for Africa (Efa) and WildCRU are providing support for local communities and are assisting with mitigation for HWC and other initiatives. Considerable efforts are made to enable community members to understand these initiatives, and to enable them to find and implement their own solutions.
- At the community level, there is considerable sensitivity about wildlife management, and particularly issues related to grazing and wildlife migration corridors. There is a common perception that community members have already been required to 'make way' for wildlife—in some cases being moved out of the Park. Despite this, predators are still a problem. With this in mind, community members feel that they should not be asked to make further efforts or change their ways to accommodate wildlife needs. In other words, some community members feel that 'it is not their job to co-exist.'
- Community members have come to view researchers as being primarily interested in wildlife, and fear that research efforts will result in land being taken away from farmers. The concept of wildlife 'corridors' is a key concern in this regard.
- For many community members, farming is not viewed primarily as a commercial enterprise, but instead provides for subsistence and serves other social and cultural needs. Furthermore, some cattle owners are not resident in the region, but instead relay on family members or others to tend to the herds. With this in mind, commercial incentives for changing livestock management practices—such as increasing market prices—may not be effective in all settings.

- There are approximately 2,000 people living in the community of Khumga, but the total number of cattle is not known with any accuracy.

- Grazing depletion from wildlife is also a concern for cattle herders along the Boteti.
- Wildlife management is viewed by some community members as a government responsibility. This may be in part because the community derives little or no benefit from wildlife, or wildlife-based tourism.

- Land Boards have a significant role to play with regard to the allocation of land at the community level.

#### Questions and Discussion

- Several workshop participants underlined the importance of working directly with communities to find appropriate solutions and avoiding 'top-down' approaches to planning and management. This was a recurring theme for the workshop as a whole.

- There is a concern in some quarters that research in the region tends to be focused on discrete local areas. It was suggested that regional scale research and assessment would be beneficial.

- Some community members perceive the tourism industry to be the domain of white individuals, with few examples of local communities owning or operating high-end tourism ventures. It was acknowledged that this is a sensitive issue, which can easily be framed—negatively and unhelpfully—as an 'us versus them' situation. This concern does however underline the importance of meaningful partnerships between commercial operations and local communities.

- It was suggested that the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) program—which provides benefits to local communities from hunting or tourism—may be one of the keys for effective community development.

### 2.2.3 Government Perspectives on Wildlife, Conflict and Parks Management

Obert Gwapela and Chief Tsholofelo offered comments from the government perspective.

- The Government of Botswana is the custodian of wildlife on behalf of the country. There is a suite of Acts, Policies, Plans and regulatory instruments that are used for management. However, the work of government is not intended to preclude or stifle partnerships at the local level.
- The management plan for Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan Parks was approved for implementation by the Director of Wildlife and National Parks of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism on April 25, 2008. According to current policy, these plans remain in effect until they are updated.
- Research Permits have been suspended, partly in an effort to encourage researchers to involve Botswana students in each project. Engaging Botswana would assist with the implementation of research products and other outputs, as well as retain knowledge in the country.
- The proposal to construct the fence on the western side of the Boteti River was not supported by all community members. This issue was addressed in court and the Government of Botswana won the case. As a result, construction of the fence will proceed, but has been temporarily delayed due to difficulties with contracting.
- There is a perception within government that much of the wildlife-related research in Northern Botswana has focused on larger animal species. As a result, there is a concern that some of the



populations or habitats of smaller species may not be well understood or safeguarded.

- Several tools are available to assist with wildlife monitoring:
  - The Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) is a paper-based tool for recording animal sightings and other environmental variables (e.g., rainfall, river levels).
  - The Botswana Wildlife Monitoring System is a web-based tool, developed for use by concessions in the Okavango Delta. This system is currently being refined to enable each concession to view data inputs from others.

### Questions and Discussion

- One participant asked whether the key information gaps needed for effective management have been identified by government. It was noted that a listing of research priorities has been established at the national level. There is also a role for government to work with the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) to identify research priorities at the regional level.

- It was suggested that communities should be more closely involved in the hands-on collection of monitoring data. This approach might expand both the scope and the quality of the data available for planning and management.
- It was noted the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan (2010) and the management plans for individual Parks are outdated and need to be updated. There are efforts underway to complete these updates as soon as possible.
- The Research Division of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) operates according to a strategic plan. However, there is little or no funding available for the Research Division to conduct its own research. It was suggested that this problem underlines the importance of non-governmental research efforts and the need for the appropriate permits to be available to support these activities.
- Some workshop participants expressed a concern that research information generated is not utilized effectively. It was therefore suggested that the linkages between research and planning or management decision making need to be stronger. It was also noted that established forums are bringing managers and researchers together, such as the Human Wildlife Coexistence Working Group.
- Several comments were offered related to the fence along the Boteti River:
  - Concerns were expressed that an appropriate budget be available for the maintenance of the fence.
  - It was suggested that boreholes need to be drilled to the west of the new fence line to provide water for cattle before the fence is actually constructed. The current plan for construction does address this concern, and also considers the timing of construction so as



to avoid stranding elephants or other wildlife outside of the park.

- It was suggested that in some parts of southern Africa, fencing is seen as the 'silver bullet' or panacea for all HWC issues. As a result, communities can be left disillusioned when fencing turns out to be less than 100% effective. Workshop participants urged government to avoid the Boteti fence being framed as a complete solution.

- Observations by researchers suggest that where the fence has been constructed on the western side of the Boteti River, zebra have rapidly changed their behavior and now access the river throughout the day. Zebra population numbers have also reportedly increased.

- It was noted that monitoring indicates that individual elephants may spend a limited amount of time in the Boteti area each year (40-50 days approximately) and it is unknown where they may be moving to in other times of the year. Additional studies are needed to develop a more complete picture of elephant movement in this region.

## 2.2.4 Community and Industry Perspectives on the Current and Potential Role of Tourism in the Improvement of Livelihoods and Conservation in the Makgadikgadi-Nxai Pan Region

Mphapis Dikaelo and Jennifer Lalley offered comments from the perspective of the tourism sector.

### Community Perspectives

- One of the most obvious areas of conflict between communities and the Makgadikgadi National Park is at the western boundary, along the length of the Boteti River.
- For Botswana as a whole, mining and wildlife-based tourism are key for the national economy. Agriculture is responsible for approximately 3% of GDP. For communities west of the Boteti, cattle farming provides the main source of income. Range conditions in this area are being impacted by extensive grazing, however.
- The Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan represents an effort to balance the needs and interests of wildlife management, tourism and agriculture. Continued efforts are therefore needed to implement this framework—and update it frequently as needed.
- Communities should be offered the opportunity to determine their own preferred future—they should be 'given the ball and allowed to play the game.' One of the keys is adequate education for community members. Meaningful partnerships between the community and the private sector are also needed. Communities may also benefit from opportunities to work collectively, for example through the establishment of farming association or similar institutional structures.

### Industry Perspectives

- Wildlife-based tourism and strategic partnerships can certainly be part of the long-term solution for communities in the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans region of Botswana, but the practical realities of the tourism industry need to be well understood:

- There are approximately 250,000 tourist visitors to Botswana each year, but this number has plateaued. Currently, 90% of tourism in Botswana goes to the northern Parks (Chobe, Moremi) and not to Makgadikgadi-Nxai Pans or CKGR. There are limited areas in the north for tourism expansion, so we have an opportunity in the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan area to expand tourism offerings in Botswana.

- For the longer-term, communities need to develop a diversified local economy—without sole reliance on tourism.

- To date, there has been an emphasis in Botswana on high-cost and low volume tourism development, but there are many different styles of tourism. Some lodges in the Okavango Delta are only accessible by air, for example, while operations in other areas can be reached





by road, making them suitable for mid-low-level tourism markets. A mix of offerings will be needed if tourism is to expand in the region. Increasing wildlife numbers for viewing by tourists will also be key.

– Marketing is critical for the success of any tourism venture, so having the right partnership is key. Competition for tourist visitors is fierce: only 2-3% of international tourists visit 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries and only a fraction of those come to Africa and are interested in outdoor or adventure tourism activities. Offering a unique tourism product is therefore essential. Given the challenges of convincing tourists to visit their lodges, Natural Selection has a team of no less than 9 people responsible for marketing, including staff in other countries.

– It often takes 5 or more years for tourism operations to generate profit, in part because of significant start-up capital investments required.

– There is a pervasive myth that there are no animals in the Makgadikgadi National Park. This needs to be addressed, by the Botswana Tourism Organization (BTO) as well as other organizations, if tourism is to expand in the area.

- Tourism can be an effective tool for promoting conservation, for example by offering incentives for wildlife-friendly land use practices. Natural Selection commits 1.5% of gross revenue to the Natural Selection Conservation Trust (NSCT), which last year represented more than 40% of annual profits.

#### Questions and Discussion

- Several workshop participants speculated as to the level of interest in tourism among the communities in the area to the west of the Boteti River, adjacent to the Makgadikgadi National Park.
- It was noted that there is no Wildlife Management Area to serve as a buffer along the western boundary of the Makgadikgadi Park.
- One tourism operator argued that the tourism industry needs to 'step up,' and should shoulder more responsibility for conservation and management in the area. For example, it was suggested that fence maintenance should be funded, in part or whole, by the tourism industry.
- It was noted that the Makgadikgadi Framework Management Plan included a Heritage Trail connecting monuments around the National Park but very few attendees had heard of this, showing a lack of advertising.
- One participant suggested that the narrow strip of land on the west bank of the Boteti River that will be incorporated within the newly fenced boundary should be made available for local community members who wish to develop tourism infrastructure, such as a campsite.
- Another participant reiterated that expanded tourism is not going to be feasible without increasing wildlife in the region—and that in turn will require improved connectivity.



### 2.3 Toward a Shared Vision

Workshop participants were invited to consider what success for the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan region might mean 10 years into the future, and to identify potential elements of their shared vision. The results of this exercise—including modifications made as a result of review and discussion by the entire group—are presented below.



# Potential Elements of a Vision of Success for the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative

*(Note that material below is presented verbatim and in no particular order of priority)*

## Communities

- CBNRM is functional and effective (sustainability is key) / a balance of consumptive and non-consumptive uses
- Meaningful role for communities in policies and management and equitable sharing of benefits
- Greater benefits to communities through increased involvement in resource management including tourism and economic diversification
- Improved community livelihoods (as a result of reduced HWC, improved crop yields)
- The community residents in the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan ecosystem have greater economic livelihood opportunities through direct and indirect integration in wildlife, wilderness, and cultural tourism ventures
- Diversified local economy (e.g. cooperatives, cottage industry, tourism)

## Education and Capacity Building

- Meaningful targeted education!
- Abundance of skilled Batswana to fill positions in tourism, research orgs. and govt.
- Incorporating conservation into formal education (especially primary, secondary and tertiary)

## Value of Wildlife

- Economic, cultural and spiritual value of wildlife by communities

## Wildlife Diversity and Abundance

- Increased diversity and abundance of wildlife (with the possible exception of elephants)
- Abundance not beyond carrying capacity [Not fully agreed, due to concerns over the definition of carrying capacity]
- Wildlife on a trajectory to achieve historical highs, within the context of a functioning ecosystem)

## Landscape Connectivity

- Functional landscape with resilient wildlife populations coexisting with people
- Makgadikgadi/Nxai National Park to CKGR ecological connectivity has been restored
- More permeable landscapes
- Maintain or improve connectivity within northern Botswana Conservation Zone
- The Makgadikgadi/Nxai National Park is ecologically and functionally integrated into the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) initiative and the identified Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
- Decommissioning of NG42 / Nxai Pan buffalo fence (restored migration)
- Continuous reflow of the Boteti river
- Fencing of Makgadikgadi National Park western boundary (to reduce HWC)

## Tourism

- Make the Makgadikgadi a destination of choice

## Potential Elements of a Vision of Success for the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative, *continued*

### Information and Research

- Full understanding + monitoring of biophysical systems, supported by local stakeholders (government, community, private sector)
- Increased uptake of research output by government

### Water Management

- Water management plan [including location, quantity and timing of artificial water supply]

### Hunting

- Hunting:
  - There is a legal way to provide game meat (providing there is a sustainable offtake)
  - Traditional hunting is permitted
- No consumptive use in core/corridors (which may be a problem for connectivity between Makgadikgadi/Nxai National Park - CKGR)

### Mining

- Mining—only low impact / no open-cast mining

### Designations

- Designation for Makgadikgadi (e.g. World Heritage / RAMSAR)
- Greater Makgadikgadi as a formally recognized protected area

### Wildlife Management Areas

- All WMAs around Makgadikgadi/Nxai National Park economically viable without agriculture





## 2.4 Working Groups: Strategies and Actions

Workshop participants explored potential strategies and actions to achieve the shared vision, in various loosely-defined different geographies surrounding the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan National Parks:

- Makgadikgadi-East: The area to the east of the current boundary of the National Parks, including the full extent of the pans;
- Makgadikgadi North: The area extending northward from Nxai Pan National Park, and NE toward Hwange/Zimbabwe;
- Makgadikgadi-Delta: The area extending from the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan National Parks northwest toward the Okavango Delta;
- Makgadikgadi-West: The area adjacent to the western boundary of the Makgadikgadi National Park, to the west of the Boteti River; and,
- Makgadikgadi-CKGR: The area between the southern boundary of the Makgadikgadi National Park and the NE boundary fence of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

The results of the group discussions for each area follows. Also included is a summary of discussions, from the final day of the workshop.

### 2.4.1 Makgadikgadi – East

#### Objective 1: Expand environmental education

- Strategy: Engagement with the community (schools)
- Actions: Tourism operators to partner with local schools and Wildlife Clubs with adults
- Funding / Responsibilities: Identify Operators and NGOs who can support this, secure funding (Fund from Tourism Levy)

#### Objective 2: Formal protection of Pans and Pan Basin (RAMSAR World Heritage)

- Strategy: Working group proposal to government then international;
- Strategy: Increase awareness of the fragility of the system
- Actions: Create awareness of how important the ecosystem is
- Funding / Responsibilities: BTO, DWNP, Department of Museums

#### Objective 3: Get Wildlife numbers to historic highs (particularly waterfowl, also land species)

- Strategy: Protection/ Anti-poaching, education
- Strategy: Real economic returns
- Strategy: Provisioning of water resources
- Strategy: Diversification of tourism
- Strategy: Market the Makgadikgadi
- Support: DWNP, DISS, BDF, NGOs, CBOs, Private Sector

#### Objective 4: Increase Tourism (in CT5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19) with communities at the forefront

- Strategy: Mobilize CBNRM, joint ventures with tourism companies, identify potential campsites, use the Heritage Trail, and id sites along the Heritage Trail

Additional comments from final workshop session:

- It was suggested that if resources for implementation are limited in this area, the priority should be placed on increasing wildlife numbers.
- One workshop participant highlighted the importance of environmental education through various CBOs.

### 2.4.2 Makgadikgadi – Delta

Objectives: All WMAs around Makgadikgadi/ Nxai Pan and Okavango Delta are sustained without agriculture (Community derive benefits from resource management, Improved livelihood, Partnership with Operators)

Strategies: Rejuvenate national CBNRM Forum (Champion); promote Sustainable tourism in these areas

Actions: Marketing of marginal areas internationally by BTO; Favourable lease grants for operators to sustain meaningful investment in these areas by land authorities (Land Board, Ministers); Facilitation of new tourism opportunities by operators and local communities as partners; Wildlife migratory routes remain ecologically managed and undisturbed (DWNP, Operators, NGOs, and communities); Continued community-based game monitoring and HWC assistance provided (ORI, RRCS); Improved monitoring of incoming transit and movement at Manana Gate (DWNP); Implement centralized and live monitoring of all protected areas entry points (DWNP)

Support: Capacitate DWNP to implement actions; Annual census during the dry season and analysis of the biomass; Support and encourage the use of already existing protocols (operators and local communities); Use of satellite monitoring technology.



Additional comments from final workshop session:

- It was suggested that the term of current leases for tourism operators are too short. As a result, operations are only just beginning to make a profit by the time that a lease expires.
- The DWNP must have greater capacity to monitor visitors entering the protected areas.
- One workshop participant suggested that even if hunting is one of the activities ultimately allowed in a given area, government must ensure that this activity can continue in a manner that is complementary to photographic tourism. (Some workshop attendees questioned whether this is in fact feasible in many situations).
- It was noted that two distinct connectivity routes should be considered— Makgadikgadi-Delta and Linyanti-Mababe.

- Several comments were offered related to CBNRM.

- It was noted that rejuvenating CBNRM requires senior political support and leadership. The CBNRM Forum is well placed to serve as a champion to do so and can help to highlight the potential benefits of this program.
- It was also noted that the Portfolio Committee on Climate, Environment and Wildlife is well positioned to promote the CBNRM program.
- The Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) is actively delivering training related to CBNRM—and has engaged with >500 communities so far. One participant suggested that while the initial training is valuable, communities struggle to get funding to start their own projects. Additional support might therefore be needed for implementation support.
- Limited support from Land Boards for projects outside of WMAs also represents a challenge. In this context, the Technical Advisory Committees may have a significant role to play. Some participants also highlighted the importance of alignment with Botswana Tourism Organization.
- Some workshop participants also suggested that the experience of CBNRM in Namibia could offer useful lessons. In particular, the critical role of NGOs in supporting CBNRM implementation was highlighted.

- It was agreed that KCS should be encouraged to develop a road map for advancing CBNRM, including guidelines to help avoid common challenges and pitfalls. (The CBNRM Vehicle document (2012) may provide additional information).



#### 2.4.3 Makgadikgadi – North

Objective 1: Connectivity between Nxai and Chobe be achieved by gazetting NG42 as National Park.

Actions: Connect tourism to Makgadikgadi/ Nxai from Chobe and Delta; circuit for mobile operators; community run camps mobile camps, domestic tourism.

Support: Phuduhudu, RRCS, BTO, NSCT.

Objective 2: Connectivity between Makgadikgadi/ Nxai and Hwange National Park.

Strategy: CT1 and CT2 to be managed for wildlife movement.

Action A: Access leases for CT1 and 2 and determine their obligations to communities and possibility of securing benefits from communities on eastern side of Makgadikgadi/ Nxai; determine water management proposed and need for study into strategic placement of waterholes in CT1 and 2.

Support A: NSCT, ORI.

Action B: Research on wildlife movement between Hwange and Makgadikgadi/Nxai (through CT1, 2, 3, 4)

Support B: ORI, KAZA.

Additional comments from final workshop session:

- It was suggested that any future benefits derived from tourism operations in the area between the Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan National Park and Hwange should be equitably distributed among communities to the south and east.
- It was suggested that efforts should be made to engage directly with lease holders in this area to determine the terms and conditions of management.
- In the event that implementation resources are limited, it was suggested that the priority should be placed on ensuring effective connectivity between Nxai Pan National Park and Chobe
- It was also noted that while proposals have been advanced to gazette NG42 as part of Nxai Pan National Park, this area has yet to be formally included. Developing a plan to do so with community support would add an important, additional voice in favor of such a designation.



#### 2.4.4 Makgadikgadi – West

Vision: Fence realistically will be established as currently identified

Objective 1: Waterholes west of Boteti sufficient for community

Action: Government

Support: Government

Objective 2: Livestock management and range management are done sustainably

Actions A: Develop Livestock management strategy; rangeland management community education program; Conservation Agreements

Support A: WildCRU, RRCS and other NGOs

Action B: Provide market to encourage commercialization: Commodity Based Trade Market.

Support B: BPCT, AHEAD Program, Department of Veterinary Services.

Objective 3: Reduce Human-elephant conflict

Actions: Cluster Farms process; continue the conflict mitigation work; continue conservation, mitigation and student education.

Support: Efa, RRCS and other NGOs.

Objective 4: Increase consumption of local meat and produce by lodges and communities in the area.

Action: Lodges agree to buy local.

Objective 5: Increase tourism camps in the Boteti to increase economy and enhance local employment and empowerment.

Actions: Empower community trusts with education and training; Co-ownership of

new lodges with community with eventual full ownership.

Support: Tourism operators

Additional comments from final workshop session:

- If resources are limited, the highest priority among the objectives outlined above is education for co-existence.
- It was noted that efforts to reduce HWC should focus not just on elephants but also predators.
- With regard to objective 2 outlined above, it was noted that much of the current work in other parts of northern Botswana focuses on issues within the Red Zone. This is because cattle herding and production faces considerably less constraints in the Green Zone, which in turn means that there is less leverage to utilize Conservation Agreements or other similar incentives. Despite this, the area to the west of the Boteti River is somewhat unique for a variety of reasons including the distance to a suitable abattoir and lower prices for beef. It was noted that the Ministry of Agriculture is already active in this area, nonetheless, many workshop participants argued that increased efforts are needed to engage with communities in this area.



## 2.4.5 Makgadikgadi – CKGR

**Objective:** Restore connectivity between Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pan National Park and CKGR through the Rakops and Mopipi region

Strategies: Develop community benefits with education (including capacity building), improved livestock grazing quality and increased employment opportunities; Highlight importance of hunting historically and need to have high wildlife numbers; stakeholder engagement at all stages.

Action A: Establish historical wildlife presence/movement (relate to climate and archaeology).

Support A: Uncharted Africa Safaris, NSCT, ORI, RRCS, use Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Action B: Establish current wildlife presence and movement plus human demographics and barriers including livestock.

Support B: ORI, RRCS, EfA, WildCRU, NSCT

Action C: Engage with communities and other stakeholders to develop a vision.

Support C: ORI, RRCS, EfA, NSCT, WildCRU, KCS, and government.

Action D: Educate community: share maps from actions 1 and 2, rangeland management, animal husbandry, coexist strategies, facilitate further education (e.g. tertiary school, graduate students)

Support D: ORI, EfA, WildCRU, KCS, RRCS, NSCT and government.

Action E: Facilitate the community in implementing the vision. Take into consideration: CBOs, Co-Ops, and Conservation Agreements.

Support E: ORI, EfA, WildCRU, KCS, RRCS, NSCT and government.

Resources: NEF, Green Climate Fund, NSCT and other local tourism operators, Botswana government, mining companies.

Expertise: Southern Africa Regional Environmental Program (facilitation and funding), ORI (social and wildlife science), Local representatives, (knowledge and community connections), Department of Environmental Affairs and other government agencies.  
Main support: Government (ownership, permits, researchers, funds).

Additional comments from final workshop session:

- Several participants highlighted the importance of meaningful engagement with local communities, to ensure that their own vision for the future is fully understood and acted upon.
- One participant noted that some of the communities in this area have a history of hunting. As a result, there may be value in highlighting the relevance and importance of increased wildlife abundance.
- There was considerable discussion about the extent of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in CT10 on the southern margin of the Makgadikgadi, and its management in the future, as follows:
  - Currently, the boundary of CT10 has been adjusted to exclude 3 cattle posts.
  - This area has significant tourism potential.
  - One option would be to encourage the cattle herders in this area to move out, allowing CT10 to be reconfigured as a more compete WMA buffer area. Alternatively, efforts could be made to manage activities in this part of the WMA in a more integrated fashion, allowing herding and wildlife to co-exist.
  - In any instance, there should be no additional cattle in the area.
  - Ideally, the fence along the southern margin

of the Makgadikgadi would be dropped, or moved to the southern margin of the WMA. (If this was to occur, the Boteti River fence along the western boundary of the Makgadikgadi National Park would also need to be extended, so that it continued to the southern margin of the WMA). Any wildlife fence (2.4m) along the southern margin of the WMA could also be replaced by a cattle fence (1.2m).

- In conclusion, it was suggested that a combined or integrated strategy is needed to address the future of CT10. This would include a baseline study to determine the current extent of cattle grazing into the Makgadikgadi from CT10. In addition, concerns related to poaching and overstocking would need to be addressed.

- Some workshop participants suggested that the connection between the Makgadikgadi and the CKGR should be spatially defined. Others suggested that the connectivity should be achieved through mixed use and a 'permeable landscape'.
- Efforts to achieve connectivity in this area also need to address the fence on the NE boundary of the CKGR.
- Any efforts to improve connectivity between the Makgadikgadi and the CKGR will need to address the question of Red/Green Zone designation. It was noted however, that the Department of Veterinary Services has recently indicated a willingness to consider strategies other than fences to delineate between these zones.
- Several workshop participants stressed the importance of community engagement as a key component of any effort to improve connectivity. Furthermore, the only feasible approach may be a gradual one, informed by data collection, assessment and modeling. The Land Use Conflict Identification System (LUCIS)—currently in use by Land Boards in other areas—may be a valuable tool.

#### 2.4.6 Additional Reflections

After review of potential strategies and actions for all of the landscapes around the Makgadikgadi, workshop participants offered a few additional comments and reflections:

- The link between CKGR to the KTP should be considered in any future discussions. This is a permeable area for wildlife movement at present, and that connectivity should be maintained.
- One participant suggested that many of the potential strategies and actions identified are dependent on a functional CBNRM program, noting that this should therefore be of the highest priority for the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative as a whole. It was also suggested that efforts are needed to revitalize the CBNRM program, and that the Government of Botswana is the key player in doing so.

### 2.5 Where to From Here?

At the conclusion of the event, the workshop convenors introduced a discussion of next steps, as outlined under the headings below. These next steps are also illustrated in diagrammatic form in Figure 1.

#### 2.5.1 Summary Report

The Workshop Summary Report may be shared with all other interested parties.

Workshop participants are also invited to identify key individuals who should be contacted as discussions related to the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative continue.

#### 2.5.2 Draft 'Concept Paper for the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative'

The workshop convenors will prepare a draft 'Concept Paper,' outlining potential approaches for advancing the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative. Such approaches are expected to include



extensive engagement with communities, and engagement at an appropriate juncture with formal bodies such as Land Boards. This Concept Paper will be developed over a period of months, with substantial input from a variety of stakeholders. (It was noted that this document should not be presented as a formal 'strategy' or 'plan,' but instead be used to engage with a broader array of stakeholders to solicit feedback and encourage support.)

The Concept Paper will also identify potential roles and responsibilities for different groups and organizations in the implementation of the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative.

Workshop participants will be provided with a draft of the Concept Paper before the document is made available to external parties.

The Concept Paper may also be used by individual organizations as they develop their own funding proposals.

#### 2.5.3 Funding Proposals

The convenors will prepare an 'omnibus' funding proposal for the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative to support the draft Concept Paper. There are a variety of deadlines over the coming months for submission of funding proposals.

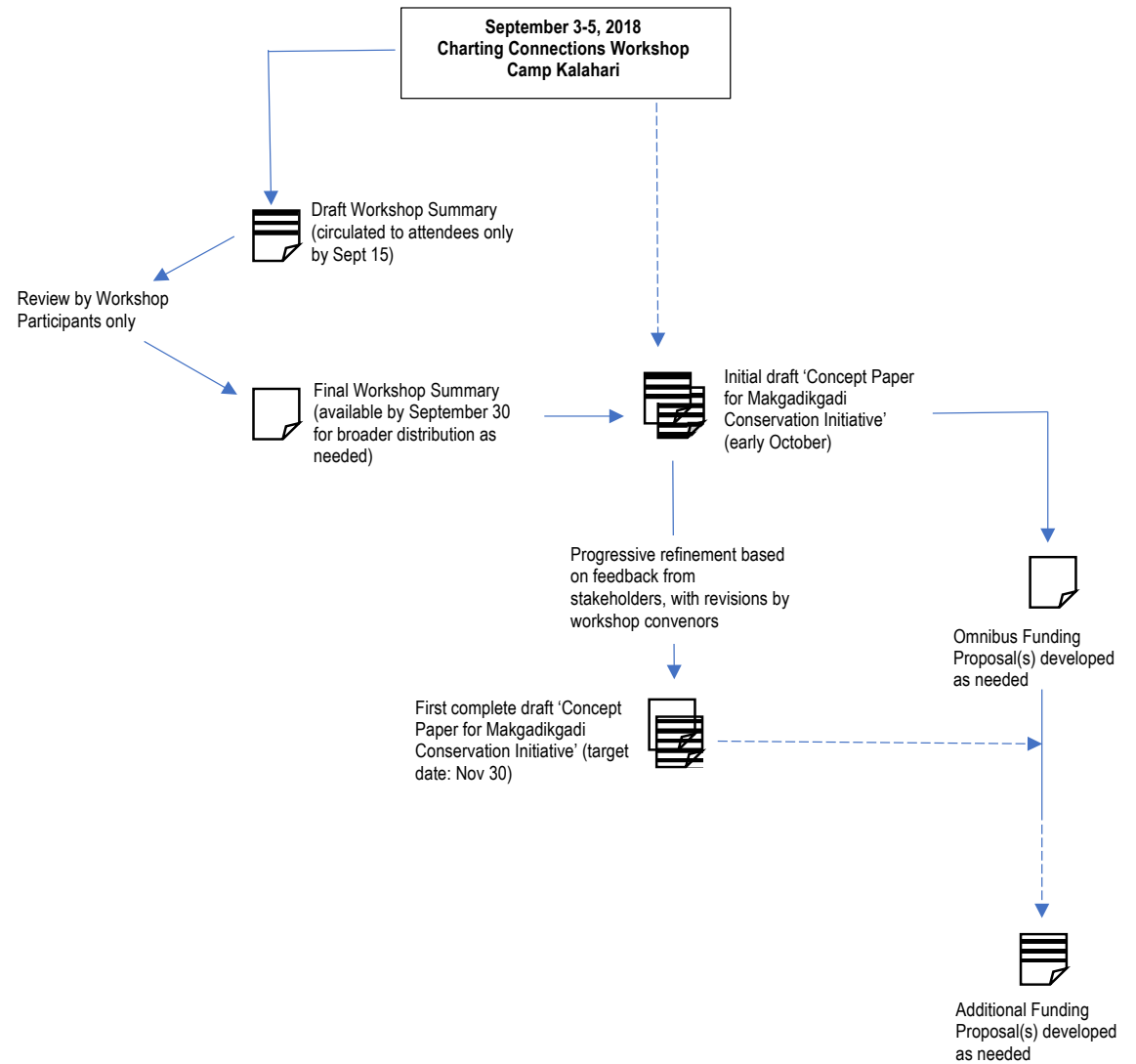
#### 2.5.4 On-going Coordination

It was noted that many workshop participants will continue to collaborate with each other through a variety of existing projects and initiatives. In light of this, no formal mechanism for coordination of discussions related to the Makgadikgadi Conservation Initiative is needed at this time.

#### 2.5.5 Baseline Information Gathering

As noted above, workshop participants agreed that further work is needed to compile an accurate and complete picture of historical and current wildlife movements. Such an assessment should also consider periods of drought, fences, waterholes and other relevant factors.

Figure 1. Where to From Here?



## Appendix: Workshop Agenda

**Monday, September 3, 2018**

Time	Agenda	Objective
15:00	Camp Orientation	
16:00	Afternoon Tea and Depart for Sundowner	
	Opening comments (Ralph Bousfield)	
19:30	Dinner	
19:45	<b>Welcome</b> Round of introductions (All)	Welcome and introduce all participants
20:00	<b>Background</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop Rationale: Why are we here? (Cosmos Rathipana, Dennis Sizemore)</li> <li>• Presentation: A historical perspective on research, planning and management in the Makgadikgadi (Ralph Bousfield)</li> <li>• Questions, discussion to follow</li> <li>• Facilitator's orientation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workshop objectives</li> <li>- Agenda</li> <li>- Format for discussion, including notetaking and recording of action items</li> <li>- Logistics, as needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Clarify the rationale for this workshop Ensure all participants are familiar with the history of the area Confirm the objectives and agenda for this event
21:30	Adjourn	

**Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
7:00	Breakfast	
8:30	<u>Opening</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening prayer (Kgosi Tholego Ngwengare)</li> <li>• Introductory comments for the day (Workshop Convenors)</li> <li>• Confirmation of agenda for the day (Facilitator)</li> </ul>	Confirm scope and agenda for today
9:00	<u>Current Context</u> Brief presentations/commentaries (~10 mins for each speaker) plus additional time for questions and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical and Current Wildlife Movement Patterns, Range Conditions (Emily Bennitt, Moses Selebatso)</li> <li>• Community perspectives on land use, human wildlife conflict, and future prospects (Kgosi Tholego Ngwengare, Walona Sehularo, and Jess Isden)</li> <li>• Questions, discussion to follow</li> </ul>	Clarify the current situation, including identification of key issues, challenges and opportunities
10:30	Refreshment Break	

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
10:50	<b><u>Current Context, continued</u></b> Brief presentations/commentaries (~10 mins each) plus additional time for questions and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government perspectives on wildlife, conflict and parks management (Phemelo Gadimang, Obert Gwapela)</li> <li>• Community and industry perspectives on the current and potential role of tourism in the improvement of livelihoods and conservation in the Makgadikgadi-Nxai Pan region (Mphapis Dikaelo, Jennifer Lalley)</li> <li>• Questions, discussion to follow</li> </ul>	Clarify the current situation, including identification of key issues, challenges and opportunities
12:00	Lunch Break	
13:00	<b><u>Toward a Shared Vision</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion in small groups or plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elements of a shared vision for success</li> <li>- Sorting by topic or theme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Identify potential elements of a shared vision for success
15:00	<b><u>Working Groups: Potential Strategies and Actions</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group discussion by topic or theme area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Objectives</u>: What are we trying to achieve and why? How will this support achievement of our shared vision?</li> <li>- <u>Strategies</u>: How can our objectives best be achieved?</li> <li>- <u>Actions</u>: What needs to be done? Who can do it by when?</li> <li>- <u>Support</u>: What resources are needed (funding, expertise, approvals/ permits, etc)?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
16:00	Afternoon Tea	
16:30	Reports from small groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where is there agreement/alignment? Where is there divergence?</li> <li>- What questions or issues remain outstanding?</li> </ul>	Identify potential strategies and actions needed to achieve shared objectives
17:30	Adjourn	
19:00	Dinner & Informal discussions	

### Wednesday, September 3, 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
7:00	Breakfast	
8:30	<b><u>Opening</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory comments for the day (TBD)</li> <li>• Confirmation of agenda for today (Facilitator)</li> <li>• Logistics, as needed</li> </ul>	Confirm agenda for today

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
9:00	<b><u>Strategies and Actions: Review and Refinement</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of outcomes from Day 1 (TBD)</li> <li>• Review and refinement of proposed strategies and actions, by topic area</li> <li>• Discussion: Keys to success? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the factors critical for our success?</li> <li>- What are the pitfalls we can anticipate, and how can they be overcome?</li> <li>- What is essential for effective implementation?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Review and refine a collective strategy for moving forward Identify and address key factors that will be critical to success
10:40	<b><u>Where to From Here?</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of outcomes from this meeting</li> <li>• Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who will do what by when?</li> <li>- Coordination of our collective efforts?</li> <li>- Further meetings?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final round of comments (All)</li> <li>• Closing comments (Workshop Convenors)</li> <li>• Closing prayer (Kgosi Tholego Ngwengare)</li> </ul>	Confirm next steps, including follow up actions and on-going coordination, as needed
12:00	Close and Lunch	



Digital copies of this Summary are available on request by email to: [slcoffice@roundriver.org](mailto:slcoffice@roundriver.org) or online at this [LINK](#).

Charting Connections:  
The Makgadikgadi/Nxai Pans  
Conservation Initiative Workshop  
Summary

Camp Kalahari  
September 3-5, 2018

