Introduction

- Outline the potential of ecotourism in the FR
- Concern about the congestion of tourists along the Chobe riverfront
- The following benefits would be realised if tourism was permitted in FR:
  - Reduce guest activities along the Chobe riverfront
  - FR can offer different activities
  - Increasing interest from tourism companies to conduct activities within FR
  - Revenue for government (employment, training, capacity building for communities)

- A number of studies about the feasibility of establishing tourism in the FR


Wildlife = Tourism = Revenue
Tourism

- Chobe District is the hub of tourism development in northern Botswana
- Tourist arrivals increased from 90,000 in 2003 to 140,000 in 2006 (Dept. of Tourism)
Tourism in Kasane

- Hotel accommodation in Kasane offers 453 rooms (1005 beds)
- Occupancies between April and October are 80 – 90%
- The value of this industry is estimated at 300 million/yr, approx. 60% of the gross tourism product in Botswana.
Tourism in Chobe NP

Visitors to CNP have increased by 17% p/yr, with overnight visitors up by 26%.

Entries and revenues for Chobe NP, 2003 - 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2003-05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private visitors</td>
<td>17629</td>
<td>16156</td>
<td>23790</td>
<td>25955</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>11621</td>
<td>9561</td>
<td>14077</td>
<td>15182</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>6008</td>
<td>6595</td>
<td>9703</td>
<td>10773</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile Tours</strong></td>
<td>36270</td>
<td>38936</td>
<td>39083</td>
<td>43771</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>31756</td>
<td>33541</td>
<td>33619</td>
<td>38004</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>4514</td>
<td>5395</td>
<td>5464</td>
<td>5767</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Camps</strong></td>
<td>35201</td>
<td>55615</td>
<td>64420</td>
<td>74270</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total visitors</strong></td>
<td>89100</td>
<td>110707</td>
<td>127283</td>
<td>143996</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>43377</td>
<td>43102</td>
<td>47696</td>
<td>53186</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>45723</td>
<td>67605</td>
<td>79587</td>
<td>90810</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues (P'000)</strong></td>
<td>9020</td>
<td>11213</td>
<td>13331</td>
<td>15533</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DoT, DWNP
### Tourism Impact Chobe NP

Based upon occupancy in facilities and visitor numbers to Chobe NP the following figures have been estimated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupancy</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Beds</th>
<th>Tourists</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>122</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Visitors/Yr</th>
<th>Visitors/Mon</th>
<th>Visitors/d</th>
<th>Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>140000</td>
<td>11667</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>250000</td>
<td>20833</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREST ACT - Chapter 38:04

- Part V - Control of Forest Produce, Section 12:
  
  (1) No person shall in a forest reserve,
  
  (a) fell, cut, take, cut, burn, injure or remove any forest produce;
  
  (b) squat, reside or build any hut or other living place or livestock enclosure, or construct or re-open any saw-pit or road;
  
  (c) set fire to any grass or undergrowth, or light or assist in lighting any fire, or leave unattended a fire which he has lit, or caused by negligence, before such fire has been thoroughly extinguished, or leave therein any object likely to cause fire;
  
  (d) graze livestock or allow livestock to trespass;
  
  (e) clear, cultivate or break up land for cultivation or other purpose; ...
  
  Unless he is the holder of a license to do so, issued under the provisions of this Act’

- Through the issuance of a license, the following activities are permitted:
  
  - Collection of natural resources (dead wood, thatching grass)
  - Bird hunting
  - Cattle grazing
  - No formal tourism within FR

- These activities are NOT well regulated
UNREGULATED ACTIVITIES

- Cattle posts within Kasane FR
- Camping, walking and bird hunting
- Road development and harvesting of sand
- Tour operators using FR
  - Kazuma FR (Lodges offer game drives, self drive camping along the old hunters Rd)
  - Kasane FR (Game drives by Elephant Valley Lodge, which is the only Lodge in a FR)
  - Chobe FR (Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust have hunting/traditional and tribal rights)
- Unregulated future development could compromise the attraction of FR as a safari destination
  - Four forest guards, two camps, poor policing, remote, difficult access during the wet season
- These activities are occurring without any benefit to Gov. and communities

‘The Camp Kuzuma concession is now closed to transit traffic and bush camping’...

‘All activities are land based and include drives (day and night), guided walks and other excursions ...with over 4000km² of private traversing concession...’

Attraction to FR for wildlife tourism

- Attract tourists to FR by:
  - Wilderness or adventure based tourism
  - Reduced entry fees

- Unique activities that could be offered and are in great demand:
  - Night drives (nocturnal species)
  - Bush dinners
  - Artificial waterholes
  - Walking trails
  - Horseback safaris
  - Natural history education centre
  - Adventure based tourism
  - Lodges along the Nata/Kasane Rd (Elephant Sands at Ngwasha)
  - Wilderness campsites (HATAB, BOGAA)

- The lower wildlife densities are being used as an opportunity to diversify the kinds of activities not currently available to tourists in Chobe District
Development
Illegal Homesteads
Illegal hunting / Bushmeat trade
Need to Resolve / Avoid Wildlife Conflict
What do we know about CH 5?

List of large and medium sized animals, their relative seasonal abundance and red data listing for CH 5 in Botswana. (EIA, Zambezi Agro-Dev. Project 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Relative abundance</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Red List</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wildebeest</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>Wet &amp; dry</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buffalo</td>
<td>uncommon</td>
<td>Wet</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zebra</td>
<td>very rare</td>
<td>Wet &amp; dry</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eland</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elephant</td>
<td>abundant</td>
<td>Wet &amp; dry</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giraffe</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sable</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tsessebe</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roan</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>BASIS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ‘The field survey revealed presence of developed properties within the project area, as follows: 1 poultry farm; 7 cattle posts and 4 small stock farms’ ... there are a total of 14 allocations of campsites plots within CH/5′ (ZADP EIA, 2009).
WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS – CH5 Seloko Plains

Legend
- Eland
- Giraffe
- Roan
- Sable
- Zebra

Principal wildlife seen on wet season aerial survey
CH5 spp and wet season estimates
- Eland = 477
- Roan = 218
- Zebra = 1407
- Giraffe = 377
- Sable = 50
- Tsbe = 127

Wildlife Observations Wet Season Aerial Survey
North East Chobe
CH5 Critical Wet Season Habitat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spp</th>
<th>Chobe District Est.</th>
<th>CH5-Wet Est.</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eland</td>
<td>1237</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>1483</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roan</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sable</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsbe</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebra</td>
<td>3874</td>
<td>1407</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9238</td>
<td>2856</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUMMARY – Threats & Recommendations

- Need an integrated development plan for CH5
- New draft FR Ecotourism guidelines
- Management plans will have to be Reserve specific
  - Allow for multi-purpose zoning/multi-use zones in the forest reserves
  - Tourism rights and access to land by communities should not conflict
  - Exclusive leases awarded to tourism companies, CBO’s
  - Remote reserves could be integrated into Chobe NP
CONCLUSION

• Tourism development in the FR is timely
• Offer unique activities, may reduce congestion, increase employment
• Limited management of FR, requires collaboration with:
  – Gov. Departments (DWNP, BDF, DoT, BTO)
  – Involvement of communities
  – Private sector tour operators
  – NGOs
• Research and inventory monitoring (Norwegian Forestry Society 1993)