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WILDLIFE POLICY

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND TOURISM

PRICE:

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMNS

NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CKGR	Central Kalahari Game Reserve
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
DWNP	Department of Wildlife and National Parks
IBA	Important Bird Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KTP	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
LACOM	Local Advisory Committee
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NP	National Park
PA	Protected Area
PAC	Problem Animal Control
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
WCNP Act	Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are adopted for the purpose of this Policy:

Act means the "wildlife legislation" in force at that point in time.

Aquaculture means all activities aimed at producing in restricted areas, processing and marketing of aquatic animals and plants from fresh, brackish or salt water.

Biodiversity means the degree of variation of life forms in a given ecosystem or the diversity of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.

Co-management means the sharing or authority, responsibility and benefits between the government, private sector and communities in the management of resources.

Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) means a development approach that incorporates natural resources conservation, the ultimate aim of which is to manage and protect the natural resource base and includes the management of cultural resources.

Conservancy means a fenced amalgamation of two or more game ranches with the intent to manage the joint areas as one inseparable entity for wildlife utilisation.

Exotic species means species that are not indigenous to a specified area.

Fish means any aquatic vertebrate animal, and includes eggs, larvae and all juvenile stages (adapted from SADC Protocol in Fisheries).

Game-proof fence means a fence which complies with the standards prescribed in the Game Ranching Regulations (to be published) for that species of game, but does not include any such fence in which a game trap has been constructed or of which any portion has been removed, damaged, cut, flattened, or raised or is in such a bad state of repair that the efficacy of such fence is impaired.

Game farming means the managed, intensive production of semi or totally domesticated animals species in a small fenced camp or farm under controlled conditions.

Game ranching means managed, extensive production of free-living wildlife on land fenced in accordance with the fence specification in respect of a given species.

Habitat means the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Hunt means and includes to (a) kill, injure, shoot at or follow, (b) wilfully disturb or molest by any method, and (c) lie in wait for, or search for, with intent to kill, injure or shoot at (adopted from Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act No.28 of 1992).

In-situ conservation means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

Migratory species means species that move from place to place on a seasonal basis.

Protected area means a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific wildlife conservation objectives.

Subsistence use means the use of natural resource for own consumption or needs of the individual or household.

Threatened species means any species of fauna and flora which is considered critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable, for which definitions are provided for by the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act in terms of IUCN Red Data criteria and for which criteria may be adopted and from time to time reviewed by IUCN and the Minister responsible for the wildlife sector.

Transfrontier Conservation Area means a Conservation Area that straddles two or more countries and is managed as one unit.

Wildlife means flora and fauna occurring within natural and artificial ecosystems and habitats and this includes fish.

Wildlife management means the protection, maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife and includes the management of the use of wildlife to ensure the sustainability of such use.

Wildlife conservation means the proper care, protection, management and utilisation of wildlife resources.

Wildlife management areas means an area of land declared to be a wildlife management area under Section 15 and specified in the Third Schedule of the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The wildlife resource is a valuable development asset which needs to be conserved and carefully utilised and managed. In the past, wildlife was primarily important for subsistence activities. At present, wildlife forms the foundation for the tourism sector, which has grown rapidly over the last decade. Wildlife is furthermore instrumental in promoting economic diversification and in reducing the country's dependency on non-renewable resources. It is for this reason that, wise management and sustainable utilisation of the wildlife resource are fundamental for the long term development of the country.

1.2 The Wildlife Conservation Policy of 1986 established the wildlife governance structure, including Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), which formed the basis for wildlife conservation and utilisation interventions for over two decades. Given the time lapse, the 1986 Policy has been overtaken by events hence the need for its review.

1.3 This Wildlife Policy is intended to guide and facilitate the strengthening of, and support to existing and future wildlife conservation and utilisation activities. The Policy is needed to safeguard the continued sustenance of the wildlife resources and the involvement of stakeholders in the management of the resource.

1.4 This Wildlife Policy is a resource *and* development policy and therefore needs to be consistent with policies and principles regarding environmental management, sustainable development and poverty eradication. In addition, it will address issues of decentralisation of development efforts, Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), co-management of wildlife resources with stakeholders and privatisation. The Policy will furthermore establish an institutional, regulatory and participatory framework for wildlife conservation and utilisation.

2.0. BACKGROUND

2.1   Over the last two centuries, the focus has been on large herbivore and carnivore populations, which have been affected by habitat destruction and fragmentation as well as excessive hunting. Demand for additional land for pastoral and arable agriculture is continuously exerting pressure on wildlife areas with calls to have the areas reduced. This has contributed towards the decision to create a system of National Parks (NPs) and Game Reserves (GRs) with the main aim of conserving wildlife and biological diversity.

2.2   Status of Wildlife

2.2.1   According to the revised 2007 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Botswana has approximately 150 mammal, 570 bird, 82 fish and 131 reptile species forming a rich diversity of animal species. There are six large predator species in Botswana and most of these predators are associated with human-wildlife conflicts, especially predation upon livestock.

2.2.2   Twenty six (26) mammal species are protected under the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act of 1992 of which five are considered threatened. Botswana supports a significant diversity of birdlife although at the moment the population dynamics, spatial and temporal distribution of birds is difficult to ascertain due to lack of comprehensive inventories. There are twelve (12) known Important Bird Areas (IBA) and only six of these are protected as they are located in Protected Areas.

2.2.3   Fish resources are concentrated in northern Botswana in and around the Okavango delta, Kwando-Linyanti and the Chobe River systems while some species are found in dams. Information about fish resources and trends in their numbers, distribution and utilisation levels is limited.

2.2.4   Although Botswana has made impressive strides in wildlife conservation, there are a number of wildlife species whose population status is of concern. The decline in the population of these species such as Chobe bushbuck and springbok requires special attention and conservation status; the recovery of these species needs concerted effort from all stakeholders.

2.2.5 The long term trends in wildlife numbers and composition and the overall resource status are uncertain. Over the last two centuries, large herbivore and carnivore populations have been affected by habitat destruction and excessive hunting. Demand for additional land for pastoral and arable agriculture saw domestic animals and crop fields replacing the diverse indigenous communities of wild herbivores over large areas. These factors contributed towards the decision to create a system of National Parks and Game Reserves with the main aim of preserving wildlife and biological diversity.

2.3 Value of Wildlife Resources to Botswana's Economy

2.3.1 The Government of Botswana is committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the wildlife resources. Underpinning this commitment is the need to ensure that these resources are adequately managed. The commercial value of the wildlife resources provides an opportunity for the sector to contribute to the national development goals such as tourism development, economic diversification, poverty eradication, employment creation and improvement of rural livelihoods.

2.3.2 The wildlife sector is diverse and generates products such as game viewing, hunting, sale of wildlife products and meat. The sector is important for subsistence and commercial uses, but subsistence use has declined over the years while the commercial wildlife sector has grown significantly over the last thirty years. While hunting is recognised as a management tool, the future thinking is to move towards photographic tourism which provides more long term benefits for the local economy.

2.4 Protection Status of Habitats

2.4.1 Botswana continues to manage wildlife under free range condition. Most of the country's land area is accessible to wildlife. Habitats have been divided by developments especially fences into North and South. Approximately 17% (98 600 km^2) of Botswana's land area is designated as parks and reserves, and is fully protected against any consumptive use. In addition, approximately 20 % (116 000 km^2) of land is reserved as wildlife management areas (WMAs), whose primary purpose is wildlife use and only activities that are compatible with wildlife are permitted. WMAs form a buffer between parks and reserves, and agricultural areas. They also form corridors that connect parks and reserves. These are located mostly on tribal land while

parks and reserves are all on state land with the exception of Moremi Game Reserve.

2.4.2 Private game reserves, ranches and sanctuaries provide additional habitat for wildlife and in the case of game ranches the fencing has to be game proof. The wildlife is free-ranging and some species may be able to pass through the fences. Ranches in particular are increasingly becoming important for propagating wildlife for trade and for the conservation of rare and threatened species.

2.4.3 Priority areas for wildlife include a number of protected areas, namely Chobe National Park and Moremi Game Reserve in the north, Makgadikgadi & Nxai Pans National Park in the north-central, Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) and Khutse Game Reserve in central Botswana and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) in the southwest.

2.4.4 The species diversity and associated threats occur beyond the boundaries of the protected areas, emphasising the importance of equally protecting and maintaining WMAs and other wildlife areas and categories. Government has taken a decision to create a 25 km non-hunting buffer zone around national parks and reserves. This move is intended to enhance the conservation objective and biodiversity protection for which these protected areas were created for. It is only logical that the land use in a protected area and the area in its immediate vicinity are compatible.

2.4.5 Forest Reserves in the north are also priority areas, which support indigenous hardwood forests together with a range of wildlife populations. These Forest Reserves offer considerable potential for wildlife utilisation and biodiversity conservation and are important to maintain resource connectivity. Future uses of Forest Reserves need to be compatible with wildlife utilisation and biodiversity conservation.

2.4.6 Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) initiatives which involve co-management of conservation areas straddling two or more countries have become an important strategy to increase the area available to wildlife resources between countries. TFCAs offer an opportunity to support growth of wildlife-based sectors and need to be formally recognised in land use planning.

2.4.7 The Policy advocates for the following land uses and categories to be distinguished, defined and gazetted:

(a)   *National Parks* where wildlife and all other natural resources are preserved;

(b)   *Game Reserves* where stated wildlife resources are conserved and hunting may be permitted under special conditions;

(c)   *Wildlife Management Areas* where wildlife conservation and utilisation are balanced and other land uses maybe permitted;

(d)   *Sanctuaries, game ranches and farms* where the economic and ecological objectives are set by the owner;

(e)   *Important Bird Areas* being key habitats for birds that require protection and management;

(f)   *Important Fish Areas* being key habitats for fish that require protection and management;

(g)   *Transfrontier Conservation Areas* for management of natural resources that straddle across international boundaries; and

(h)   *Wetland ecosystems* with potential for aquatic species conservation, fishing/aquaculture and recreation.

2.5 The Policy and Legislative Environment

2.5.1 Over the years, the scope and complexity of wildlife conservation has developed beyond the guidance of the Wildlife Conservation Policy of 1986 hence the need for a new Policy that lays emphasis on the devolution of wildlife management to landowners and communities to instil greater accountability for the resource.This Wildlife Policy is aligned to recent policy guidance in conservation, economic and socio-cultural development and governance.

2.5.2 This Policy furthermore allows for compliance with multi-lateral agreements, international protocols and conventions related to the fish and wildlife sector. In furthering this spirit, the Policy is alive to the commitments of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, SADC Protocol on Fisheries, United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought amongst others.

2.5.3 The Policy will be the basis for the formulation of the legal framework within which minimum standards are prescribed to govern specific themes. It is necessary therefore that this Policy informs future policy direction and accommodates future relevant policies which will influence its implementation.

3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 The Wildlife Policy is a resource *and* development policy and therefore needs to be consistent with policies and principles regarding environmental management, development and poverty eradication, decentralisation of development efforts, as well as community based natural resource management. The following principles will be adhered to in implementing the Policy:

(a) The user-pays/polluter-pays principle;
(b) Decentralised and participatory wildlife management with greater involvement of communities, the private sector and non-Governmental organisations;
(c) The wildlife resource is held in public trust for the people;
(d) Equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of wildlife management and utilisation;
(e) Promotion of community wellbeing, empowerment and poverty eradication;
(f) Sustainable development based on nature and wildlife resources; and
(g) Ecosystem approach to conservation and development.

3.2 The following considerations underpin the Policy objectives and actions:

(i) Adopting a responsive wildlife policy and law in which wildlife is appropriately treated as a renewable natural resource and as a valuable land use option;
(ii) Providing for better protection of biodiversity through clearer consideration of the inter-dependence between species and areas;
(iii) Optimising the potential of photographic safaris in PAs and adjacent wildlife areas;
(iv) Minimising conflicts between wildlife management and other sectors and promoting compatible land use activities;
(v) Ensuring that animal welfare is guaranteed and that no cruelty to wildlife will be tolerated;
(vi) Devoting greater attention to management planning and the need for wildlife management to be linked to applied and scientific research;
(vii) Considering economic, social and cultural dimensions of wildlife management;

(viii) Providing incentives for sustainable wildlife utilisation and conservation of biodiversity;

(ix) Providing guidance for community-based and transboundary natural resource management; and

(x) Opening up of opportunities for co-management of the wildlife resource with stakeholders.

4.0   GOAL

4.1   The overall goal of the Policy is to create an enabling environment for the conservation, sustainable use and management of wildlife and biodiversity resources in order to generate development benefits for current and future generations of Batswana.

5.0   OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

5.1   Rural development and poverty eradication are key development concerns and the development of the wildlife sector could facilitate the achievement of the goals of Vision 2016, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and various local policies related to rural development and poverty eradication. Hence, it is crucial that the wildlife policy informs future rural development and poverty eradication programmes in relevant areas of concern.

5.2   There is a wide variety of interests to be balanced in wildlife management and conservation in Botswana. This has therefore resulted in a number of key challenges that need to be recognised and addressed. In order to drive the vision and overall objective of this Policy, the following specific objectives and strategies need to be implemented.

5.3   Biodiversity Maintenance and Protection

5.3.1 Protected areas and wildlife management areas need adequate funding to conserve wildlife resources and to realise benefits. There is need to develop and improve infrastructure in National Parks, Game Reserves and WMAs. Government needs to designate adequate funding for wildlife conservation and management, but there is also need to mobilise private and community funding. There is need for greater cost recovery on the part of Government.

5.3.2 Biodiversity conservation and utilisation is coordinated through the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The

Policy will contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP as far as wildlife is concerned. There is general concern that the biodiversity of the country is under threat from both human and natural causes such as habitat loss and climate change.

5.3.3 Objective

5.3.3.1 To maintain wildlife resources and a diverse system of protected areas in order to conserve biodiversity.

5.3.4 Strategies

5.3.4.1   Develop and periodically review management plans, strategies and policies to guide the management, conservation and utilization of wildlife resources and protected areas.

5.3.4.2   Adopt a multi-sector land use planning approach.

5.3.4.3   Conduct regular monitoring and periodic comprehensive wildlife resource inventories.

5.3.4.4   Develop and implement a Threatened Species Strategy to ensure that no species will be lost.

5.3.4.5   Develop a protocol for identifying and addressing eminent or emerging threats to wildlife species.

5.3.4.6   Develop a regulatory framework for the importation of wildlife species of foreign origin and movement within the country.

5.3.4.7   Identify, map and maintain the major wildlife migration routes and to protect these through appropriate land use planning and zoning.

5.4   Wildlife Mobility and Habitat Connectivity

5.4.1   Wildlife mobility has decreased significantly due to physical barriers and the general expansion of human activities. In addition, Botswana shares natural resources with neighbouring countries and some of the identified eco-regions, vegetation types and habitats for wildlife extend across national boundaries. Regional collaboration and common management standards are therefore important for the long-term success of conservation programmes.

5.4.2 Objective

5.4.2.1   To facilitate the development of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) and other Transboundary management initiatives to promote regional integration in conservation and economic benefits.

5.4.3 Strategies

5.4.3.1   Set up contact/liaison officers for Transfrontier conservation initiatives.

5.4.3.2   Actively engage with neighbouring states to engage in Transfrontier conservation initiatives for enhanced wildlife management.

5.4.3.3   Map potential TFCAs based on existing PAs.

5.4.3.4   Promote Non-Government PAs in areas adjoining PAs in neighbouring countries.

5.5   Co-management

5.5.1   Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) has developed rapidly since the 1990s due to the new opportunities and benefits to communities as well as strong Government and donor support. The early projects depended on wildlife resources, but CBNRM projects now cover a broader range of resources such as veldt products. Support will be provided to the implementation of the 2007 CBNRM Policy, particularly with respect to wildlife management and the use of the National Environmental Fund (NEF) as one of the tools for poverty eradication. The NEF needs to provide incentives for CBOs to work efficiently, effectively and in a transparent manner.

5.5.2   The growth in benefits of the wildlife sector over the last few decades needs to be maintained in future to eradicate poverty and contribute to development. There is need to share the benefits, costs and risks of the wildlife sector more evenly between the private sector, Government and communities and between different parts of the country. This Policy recognises the importance of the social and cultural context of communities in wildlife management.

Local conservation and management strategies are historically and traditionally key factors in the utilisation of wildlife and other natural resources. It is therefore imperative that strategies and plans for conserving and managing wildlife resources are enriched with socio-cultural and indigenous knowledge.

5.5.2 Objective

5.5.3.1 To promote partnerships in wildlife management through participation of communities, the private sector and civil society organisations in wildlife conservation, management and utilisation.

5.5.3 Strategies

5.5.3.1 Facilitate establishment of community based natural resources management projects and programmes through Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

5.5.3.2 Adopt co-management of Protected Areas with the private sector and communities and ensure that local communities derive benefits from PAs.

5.5.4.3 Develop benefit-sharing models which are sensitive to the needs of the different sectors of the community and based on accountability.

5.5.4.4 Facilitate private investments through outsourcing of non-core activities through partnerships with the private sector.

5.5.4.5 Solicit funding from stakeholders for biodiversity maintenance.

5.5.4.6 Promote the use of economic instruments for nature based tourism and wildlife sector.

5.6 Education and Public Awareness

5.6.1 Knowledge of wildlife population dynamics and the main wildlife uses are a vital prerequisite to effective wildlife management, utilisation and conservation. Efforts will be made to raise awareness about the Policy and its implementation instruments as well as the roles of the various stakeholders. This will empower communities in terms of project implementation and sustainable resource utilisation.

5.6.2   Objective

5.6.2.1   To promote education and awareness about the importance and value of wildlife resources and consideration of wildlife resources as an integral part of the national heritage.

5.6.3 Strategies

5.6.3.1 Facilitate capacity building for Environmental Education stakeholders.

5.6.3.2 Promote public awareness regarding the importance and wise use of wildlife resources.

5.7   Human-Wildlife Conflict

5.7.1   Human-wildlife conflicts have increased in time despite efforts to minimise the conflicts. The conflicts are caused by conflicting land uses located adjacent to each other, uncontrolled wildlife and livestock movements, competition for natural resources and expansion and development of new settlements. This Policy is meant to promote comprehensive participatory land use planning at appropriate levels, allowing people to continue co-existing with wildlife where possible.

5.7.2 Objective

5.7.2.1 To minimise conflicts between wildlife and human activities.

5.7.3 Strategies

5.7.3.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive human-wildlife conflict management strategy.

5.7.3.2 Provide incentives to increase tolerance of wildlife by encouraging sustainable utilisation of the resource while ensuring benefits return to affected communities.

5.7.3.3 Strengthen and empower Problem Animal Control (PAC) Unit to promptly respond to problem animal related issues.

5.7.3.4 Train and educate the communities on wildlife conservation and capacitate them to undertake problem animal control on their own.

5.7.3.5 Devolution of problem animal control responsibility to entities using WMAs according to user-rights.

5.7.3.6 Encourage, promote and facilitate establishment of problem animal sanctuaries by the private sector.

5.8 Illegal Wildlife Utilisation

5.8.1 DWNP is the primary agency responsible for the wildlife resource protection and law enforcement. This portfolio responsibility is executed with support from critical stakeholders such as the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and the Botswana Police Services (BPS). Effective protection of wildlife depends on the legal ability to impose criminal sanctions provided for by the *Wildlife Act*, and by involving local communities and other stakeholders.

5.82 Objective

5.8.2.1 To stop illegal wildlife off-take.

5.8.2 Strategies

5.8.3.1 Train and maintain sufficient, well-trained and well-equipped staff in strategic locations throughout the country to provide adequate protection of the wildlife resources.

5.8.3.2 Develop and maintain specialist investigators and intelligence networks to alert authority of any possible threat to wildlife.

5.8.3.3 Collaborate with communities in recruiting Honorary Wildlife Officers and informers to complement the Department.

5.8.3.4 Collaborate with other law enforcement agencies within and outside the country to develop and implement anti-poaching and anti-trade strategies.

5.8.3.5 Maintain proper records of all law enforcement and illegal activities.

5.8.3.6 Support institutionalisation of law enforcement at community and private concessionaire level.

5.9 Sustainable Utilisation

5.9.1 Although Botswana has made impressive strides in wildlife conservation, there are a number of wildlife species the population status of which is of concern. The decline in the population of some species requires special attention and conservation status. The recovery of these species needs concerted effort from all stakeholders. In some instances, some species such as elephants have become over abundant and there is need to pro-actively manage such species for ecological and socio-economic purposes. Botswana is also grappling with the issue of exotic species and there is concern about their long-term impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.

5.9.2 Objective

5.9.2.1 To promote sustainable utilisation of wildlife resources.

5.9.3 Strategies

5.9.3.1 Facilitate a restricted and regulated wildlife-based industry that is premised on the principle of sustainable off-take, science-based quota setting, and efficient utilisation of the resource.

5.9.3.2 Levy fees for utilisation of the wildlife resources based on differentiated user-rights.

5.9.3.3 Encourage wildlife-based enterprises by providing opportunities for communities, individuals and the private sector to participate in sustainable utilisation of the wildlife resources including game ranching.

5.10 Research and Monitoring

5.10.1 Wildlife research and monitoring will be strengthened and given more emphasis in wildlife management. Research is a key component of sustainable utilisation and management of wildlife resources. The results of research and monitoring need to be incorporated into decision-making processes for wildlife management and shared with all stakeholders. Current research and resource monitoring activities such as aerial surveys (DWNP), ground counts, specific research projects (e.g. predator research)

and private initiatives (e.g. bird inventories and monitoring) will be enhanced.

5.10.2 Objective

5.10.2.1 To undertake research on wildlife species, habitat, ecosystems and the value of wildlife resources

5.10.3   Strategies

5.10.3.1 Macro and micro level policy analyses and economic research and analyses related to land-use systems, conflicts between wildlife and other sectors, wildlife utilisation and management, economic contributions of the wildlife sector to the national economy, local level returns and financial benefits at household levels.

5.10.3.2 Socio-economic research and monitoring of and research into human-wildlife conflict.

5.10.3.3 Ecological, habitat and biological research and monitoring of wildlife including wildlife population species trends.

5.10.3.4 Conduct research and monitoring of the wildlife resources to support adaptive wildlife management.

5.10.3.5 Collaborate with independent researchers as well as credible research institutions and organisations on wildlife research.

5.10.3.6 Undertake a comprehensive review of the strategic plan for wildlife research in Botswana.

5.11 Conservation and Management of Aquatic Resources

5.11.1   Botswana has limited inland fish resources, mostly concentrated in the Okavango River and Delta and in the Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe River systems. Fish resources are also found in surface water dams. Aquaculture has not been developed to its full capacity. Three forms of fishing are practised: subsistence fishing, recreational fishing and commercial fishing. The fisheries sector needs further development and guidance to ensure greater development and livelihood benefits and to avoid future depletion of fish stocks.   Government will seek guidance from the SADC Fisheries Protocol and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible

Fishing in the implementation of this Policy. The CBNRM Policy includes fish as a resource which may be managed by communities.

5.11.2   Objective

5.11.2.1 To assess and further develop the potential of fish resources and aquaculture.

5.11.3   Strategies

5.11.3.1 Fish stock assessment and monitoring of fish landing and trends.

5.11.3.2 Participatory and decentralised quota setting for commercial, recreational and subsistence use based on stock assessments, local knowledge and the pre-cautionary principle.

5.11.3.3 Limited recreational and subsistence fishing in protected areas and banning of destructive fishing methods such as use of dynamite and poisoning.

5.11.3.4 The licenses will prescribe the required fishing methods and quotas, and fishing charges based on the user-pays-principle.

5.11.3.5 Community-based fisheries management and fisheries based on sustainable harvesting methods.

5.11.3.6 Banning exotics from shared aqua-systems, GMO and prohibit genetic manipulation.

5.11.3.7 Joint management plans for shared fish resources and aquatic systems and harmonised legislation.

6.0   INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

6.1   The Policy will be implemented through a participatory, decentralised institutional framework with more responsibilities for the private sector and communities.

6.2   Role of Government

6.2.1 The Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT) shall be the government agency responsible for coordinating and overseeing

the implementation of this Policy. MEWT shall also ensure that this Policy shall be regularly reviewed, adapted and modified as necessary to meet emerging wildlife conservation and utilisation challenges.

6.2.2 The use, interpretation or application of this Policy shall take cognisance of the goals, objectives and intentions of any related policies, strategies and pieces of legislation and recognise any wildlife-related international treaties or conventions Botswana has acceded to or ratified. Where necessary existing legislation will be amended.

6.2.3 Innovative and effective partnerships are needed to mobilise more financial and human resources and skills as well as to achieve the required mutual understanding and trust between stakeholders. Partnerships will be built based on shared responsibilities, risks and benefits and costs and on equality of stakeholders. They may take different forms, including joint venture agreements, shared ownership of an enterprise and clearly defined outsourcing agreements. Private individuals will have an opportunity to contribute to wildlife management through funding conservation initiatives either in monetary terms or in kind.

6.2.4 Notwithstanding the foregoing, Government will pursue a gradual increase in the funding and resource allocation for the effective and efficient management of the wildlife resources.

6.2.5 Government will facilitate wildlife conservation, utilisation and management through the provision of an enabling environment. Government will decentralise its responsibilities to District level and to the level of individual protected areas. The government will set standards and guidelines for wildlife and protected area management in order for the industry to produce desirable economic outputs.

6.3 Role of Private Sector

6.3.1 The private sector needs to play a more active role in wildlife conservation, utilisation and management. The sector will be encouraged to contribute through development of infrastructure, management of specific zones in PAs and joint programmes such as fire management, water development as well as research and monitoring amongst others. Its role should transcend that of the private game reserves and ranches and tourism operations. This is in line with Government's privatisation policy and its intention to become less involved in implementation.

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6.3.2 To benefit from strengths of various institutions, partnerships will be encouraged between the private sector and Government, between the private sector and communities and tripartite partnerships between the private sector, communities and Government. Communities will be assisted to ensure that they negotiate a transparent and effective partnership with the private sector.

6.4 Role of Communities and the General Public

6.4.1. The role of communities in wildlife management has increased in WMAs through community based natural resource management. There is need for further community participation in the management of PAs through the establishment of stakeholder management committees for PAs, potential outsourcing of management tasks to communities (e.g. camp sites and lodges), and community activities such as craft sales and cultural performances. Communities will play an important role in monitoring and law enforcement, thus reducing the burden on Government. The community should further invest back into the environment through sponsoring initiatives on fire control and management, research and monitoring as well as problem animal control.

6.5 Role of Non-Governmental Organisations

6.5.1 The role of NGOs is to support Government and communities in wildlife conservation and utilisation through technical and financial support and transfer of skills. The reach of NGOs from the international to the grassroots level makes them particularly suitable for community support.

7.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

7.1 The implementation of the Wildlife Policy will be monitored and evaluated with respect to all wildlife areas, uses and species, and with respect to contribution to rural development, poverty eradication and advancement of vulnerable groups. Formal external reviews will be carried out as and when necessary based on trends and developments with respect to wildlife management, utilisation and conservation.

8.0   CONCLUSION

8.1   Botswana is fortunate in possessing an enormous wealth of wildlife resources that offers an opportunity to contribute to socio-economic development of the country. There is need to ensure sustainable utilisation of the wildlife resources. The Policy provides for a fully integrated approach towards conservation and development.

8.2   Local ownership and capacity building must be emphasised throughout the wildlife industry, so that local people have a stake in using the resources in a sustainable way. It is therefore important to recognise the role that the wildlife sector can play in supporting the country's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the aspirations of National Vision 2016 and beyond.