

Mobile Kraals and Other Management Approaches to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation



Dr Jess Isden
Coexistence Coordinator,
Botswana
JessTKPP@gmail.com
+267 7577 5316

Member of the Botswana Human
Wildlife Coexistence Working Group



Trans Kalahari Predator Programme

- Implementing CBT with input from NGOs may enhance the win-win strategy.
- Achieving **practical solutions** to conservation problems through original scientific research.
- Human-lion conflict is a major challenge in Botswana.



Potential



- How can conservation projects aimed at protecting wildlife and livestock become an integral part of a wildlife-friendly beef trade scheme?



Potential



- **Proactive** approach that is reward-driven **based on coexistence** with wildlife, not the exclusion of it.
 - "Wildlife-friendly"
- **New starting points for best-practice recognition**, with scope to move up the ladder with additional actions.



Potential

- Herding and kraaling livestock is one of the most effective ways to prevent contact with unwanted species (e.g. lions, buffalo)



Lion-proof kraals



The Long Shields Lion Guardian Project



- **An example from Zimbabwe**
- **Community Guardians** drive coexistence in rural, subsistence farms at the grassroots level.
- CGs monitor and record incidences of conflict, track predator movements, advise farmers on kraal construction and maintenance, complete herd and grassland assessments and have basic veterinary training.
 - DVS
 - MOMs
 - PAC
 - SLMs



Mobile communal kraals



- Breaking the visual barrier between lion and prey

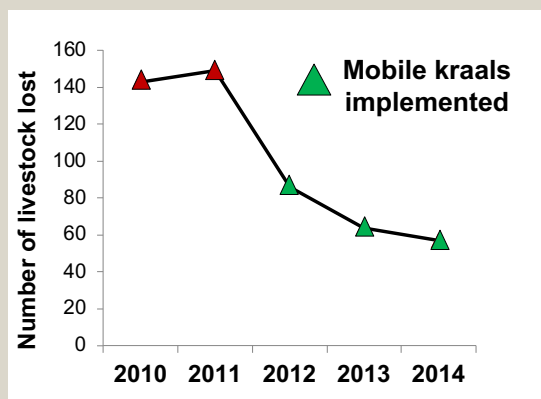
Mobile communal kraals

- Communal kraaling reduces the burden on the individual



Mobile communal kraals: Benefits

- Reduction in cattle losses to predators



- More than **1000 cows permanently kraaled** in mobile kraals
- **No cow** has been lost to predation within these kraals

Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



- Reduction in cattle losses to predators

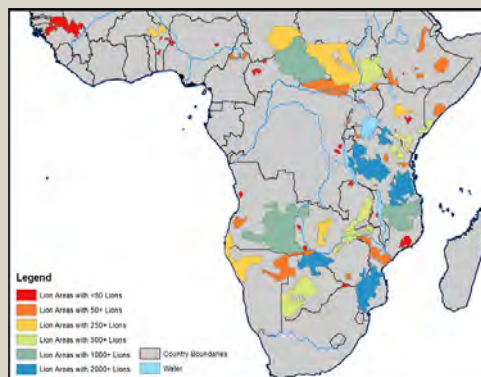


- Reduce retaliation killings and lethal control

Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



- Reduction in cattle losses to predators



- Reduce retaliation killings and lethal control

- Maintain areas of safe habitat and movement for lions in a human-dominated landscape

Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



- Fertilised soil in which to grow crops (or improved grazing)

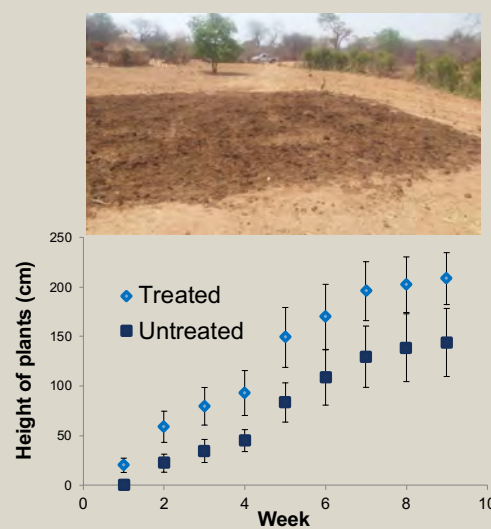


Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



From the crop perspective:

- Fertilised soil in which to grow crops (or grazing)



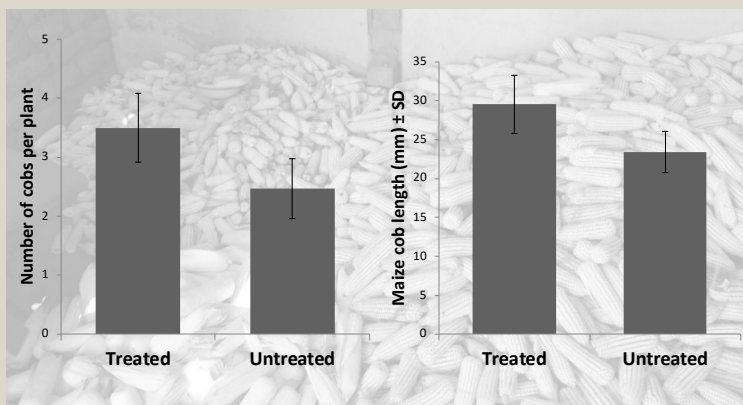
Mobile communal kraals: Benefits

- Increased crop yield (quantity and health) from field



Mobile communal kraals: Benefits

- Increased crop yield (quantity and health) from field



Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



- Veterinary benefits:
 - Access to herds in more accessible places
 - Veterinary assistance from Community Guardians
 - Reduced foot-rot in kraals
- Potential for mobile kraal concept to be useful for other aspects of veterinary work?
 - Mobile quarantines?
 - ??



Mobile communal kraals: Benefits



- Conservation Agreements based on tangible commitments and benefits:

Commitments	Benefits
• No poaching/illegal wildlife activities	• Receive mobile kraal
• Accountability for livestock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical whereabouts • Veterinary access 	• Disease management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination access • Reduced manure build-up in kraal • Health monitoring
• Kraal livestock nightly	• Protection from predators at night
• Reduce retaliation wildlife killings	• Community Guardians employed
• Planned grazing regimes (herding)	• Better crop yields
• Participation and cooperation	• Rangeland improvement
• Reporting conflicts	• Reduced livestock theft

Mobile communal kraals: Benefits

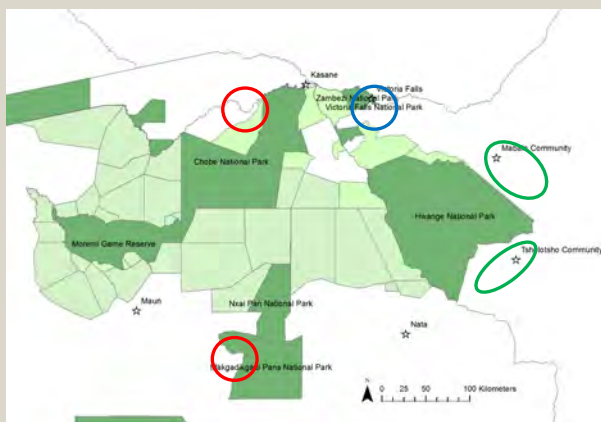


Raising the profile of herding and the status of herders:

- Make our herders a valued member of the community, who have wider training and knowledge regarding multiple aspects of cattle farming
- accredited training, employment opportunities, etc



Where are we at in Botswana?



- One additional community in Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust)

- Two new communities in Botswana:

- Chobe Enclave
- Boteti District

Where are we at in Botswana?



Consultation and trialling stage

→ Four mobile kraals active in Botswana, although there are challenges to overcome regarding their implementation!



Challenges to implementation



- Communal kraaling and herding is a culturally and practically challenging concept to accept in Botswana
 - A significant change in mindset may be required!
- Potential cattle-cattle disease transmission risk
 - Can this be offset by reduced contact with wildlife and better vaccination levels?



Conclusion



Win-win-win-win strategy
(cattle, crops, coexistence, conservation)



Wildlife Conservation Research Unit
University of Oxford, UK



Thank you

