

## Commodity-based Trade Beef Market Assessment

### Ngamiland Farmers' Survey

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## Introduction

- Purpose: To identify markets for western Ngamiland beef in the middle of the ENDEMIC FMD region
- Why: Lack of reliable sales threatens livelihoods/food security. Ngamiland residents are now the 2<sup>nd</sup> poorest in the country.
- Environmental degradation due to over-population and exceeded carrying capacity.
- Increased human wildlife conflict, threat to the tourism industry, poaching, mistrust between farmers & tourism operators, antagonism between farmers and government agencies (DVS and DWNP)

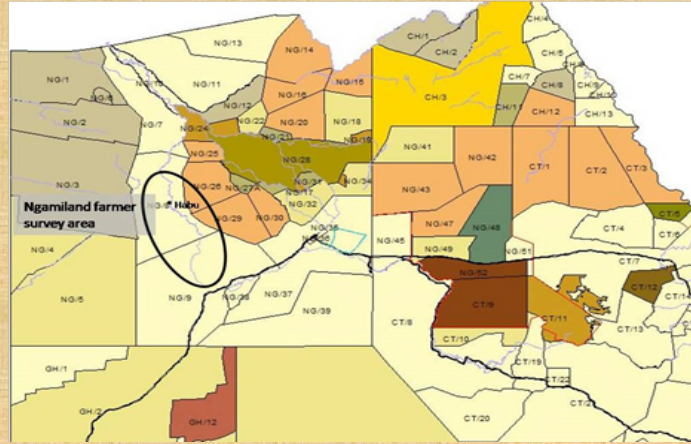
## Context of research

- We are failing to develop our beef industry. Meanwhile Cara beef (Indian (Red-Zone) beef exports have penetrated international markets? Zim, Angola, Vietnam, Indonesia, etc.
- CBT offers opportunities to leverage into both reliable farming as a livelihood/business and wildlife and wilderness based businesses.
- CBT as a beef production process involves: vaccination, quarantines, animal husbandry and range management .
- Cooperation between stake holders.
- **CBT : Non-geographical approach to FMD management that will eliminate the automatic shut down of the regional beef industry as it operates today**

## Survey Methodology

- 27 questions, 100 respondents fell into 4 categories:
  1. Provision of water supply
  2. Animal husbandry practices
  3. Perceptions of current market prices for cattle
  4. Value of an integrated abattoir with full services
- The area covered Habu, Nokaneng, Tsau and Gumare
- The respondents were randomly selected

## Survey Area



## Survey Results

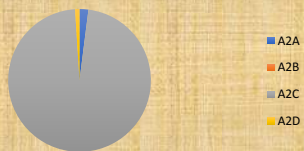
Communication method



Farmer's Association

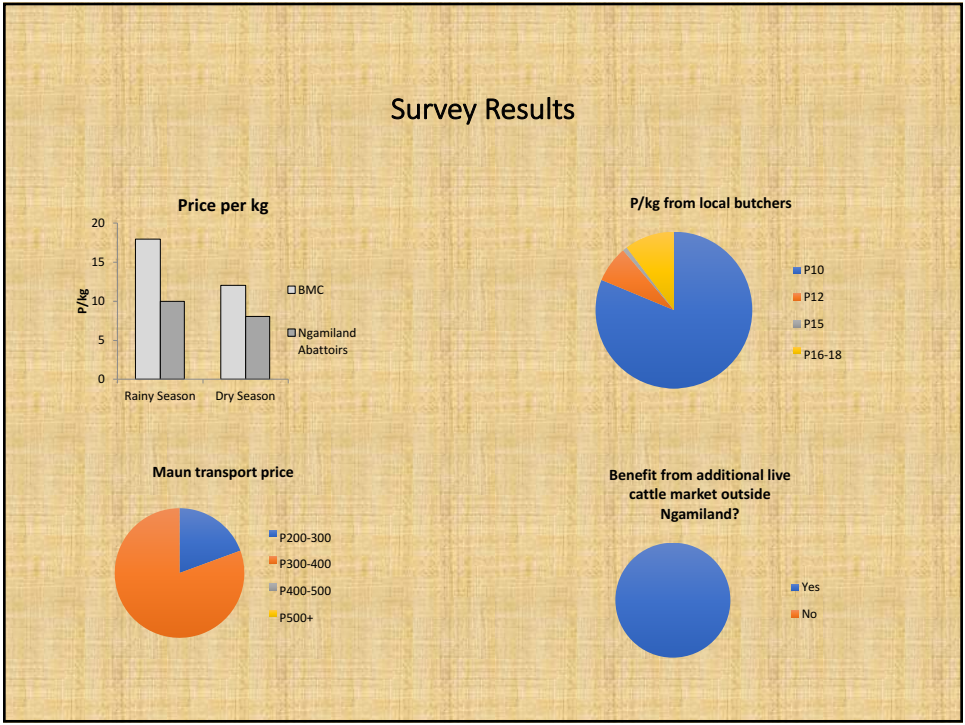
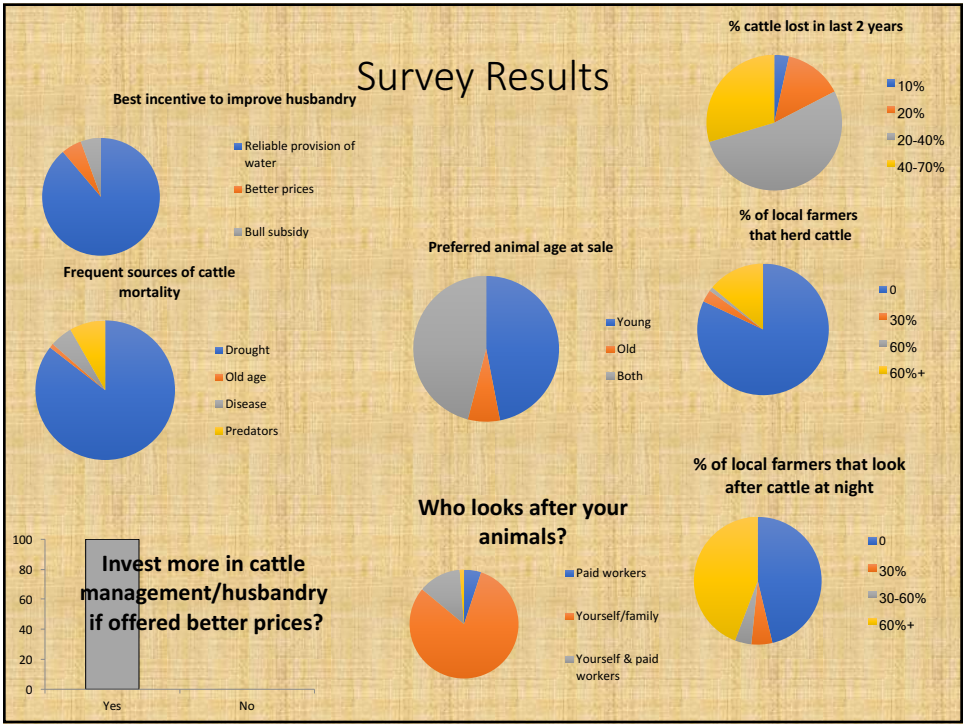


FMD Zone



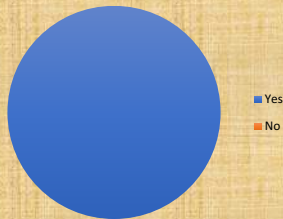
Avg. farmer age



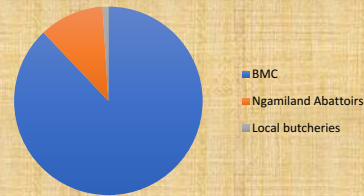


## Survey Results

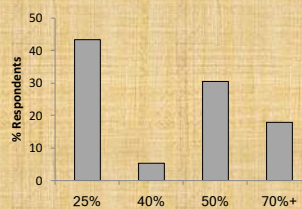
Additional privately-operated abattoir in your zone be beneficial?



Most important slaughter facility



Grade given for effectiveness of DVS in Disease control



## Conclusions

**Results of surveys conducted here enable the following general characterizations of Ngamiland farmers, all of which need to be interpreted in the context of the history of the beef industry failing to service the Ngamiland cattle farmers:**

- Unreliable sales has undermined incentives for farmers to invest in their cattle.
- Investment and Husbandry are almost nonexistent (Cattle are typically unattended)
- Unattended, unkraaled, animals grow increasingly feral and unmanageable and are exposed to increased risk of predation
- Cattle are infrequently vaccinated or treated for parasites
- Surface water availability is a primary determinant of cattle distributions and seasonal water availability accounts for convergence on Okavango flood waters including inside Wildlife Management Areas & Lake Ngami
- Large percentages of the regional herd are lost or die before ever making it to market



## Conclusions (continued)

- **BMC structures do not provide price incentives that match farmers' interest to sell young animals**
- **The DVS mission to engage with farmers as equal partners has failed in Ngamiland and is considered a myth among Ngamiland farmers. Fencing projects that continue to reinforce the old, unworkable model to separate wildlife from cattle are commissioned and initiated without any input from stakeholders including other government departments (for example, Environmental Impact Assessments)**
- **The increase in the region's cattle population has increased environmental degradation, bush encroachment and lower productivity. Land previously available for grazing has been damaged by growth of unpalatable grasses and woody (bush) to such an extent that it no longer supports high grazing carrying capacity.**
- **Conflict with wildlife has increased to the point that the local people of Ngamiland no longer view wildlife as an important resource that they should value. Most are not directly engaged in the tourism industry and experience only conflict with the wildlife that the government says they must protect. Failure by DVS to engage in the particular conditions of Ngamiland farming and the conditions imposed to service a wider international export market have resulted in a lack of economic incentives for cattle farmers to participate in disease control directives and an overall decline in the regional viability of the beef cattle business.**

## Recommendations

- Farmers in western Ngamiland experience frequent incidents of human wildlife conflict and live in a landscape where wildlife is promoted to protect the region's important wildlife tourism industry. There must be tangible benefits to farmers and communities more broadly of coexisting with wildlife.
- Lack of water both for the animals and for the people of the region that has resulted in the poor animal husbandry practices and increased exposure to risks of FMD and predators/animal loss must be addressed. The result is a disgruntled community with little motivation to protect any wildlife, especially predators.
- The outbreaks of FMD even in commercial farms; (Kuke, Kareng) provide sufficient evidence to demand investigating alternative and additional ways of managing cattle in Ngamiland.
- Reducing the regional herd to more suitable carrying capacity and more sustainable rangeland management can result in diversified rural economic development that includes wildlife based tourism.
- It is recommended that a functional abattoir with processing facilities and other value-added enterprises (such as pet food production, canning of cooked beef, leather works, soap industry, bone meal, fertilizers etc) be developed to service the traditional cattle farmers of western Ngamiland. In addition to servicing the Ngamiland cattle farmers, this would create jobs and help to alleviate poverty in the region.
- Addressing the socioeconomic issue of a failed beef industry in Ngamiland is possible by improving rangeland management, livestock improvement and husbandry and creating reliable market access for local cattle farmers through CBT Beef production.



As a commitment to implementing conditions compatible with CBT Beef production, the HABU Community is starting A HERDING PROGRAMME, HWC MITIGATION STRATEGIES, WATER PROVISION, INTEGRATED LAND USE PLANING and NATURAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION.

*Funding has been provided by DEA, through the National Environment Fund, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Management & Tourism*

COMMODITY BASED TRADE PROVIDES A SOLUTION FOR THE LIVESTOCK FARMERS OF NGAMILAND AND OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL RED ZONE / FMD ENDEMIC AREAS. -

**THANK YOU**