

KAZA Technical Advisory Groups

Linkages between AHSWG and ESWG

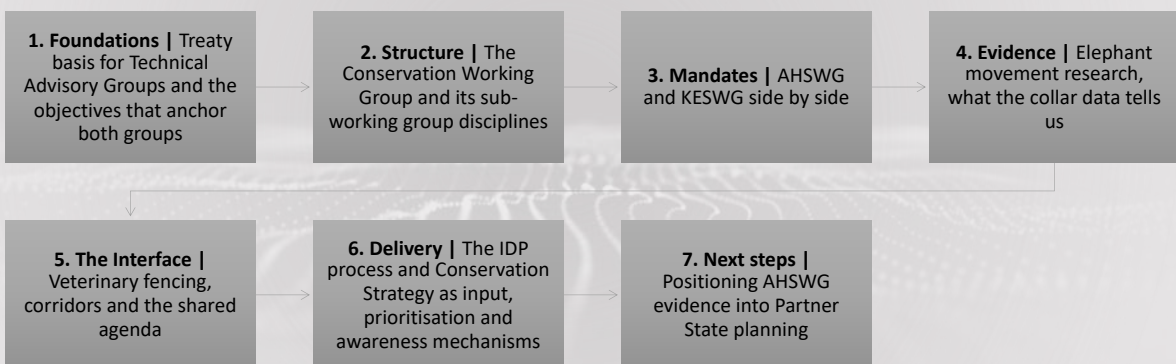
Presentation delivered by:
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Roadmap for this Session



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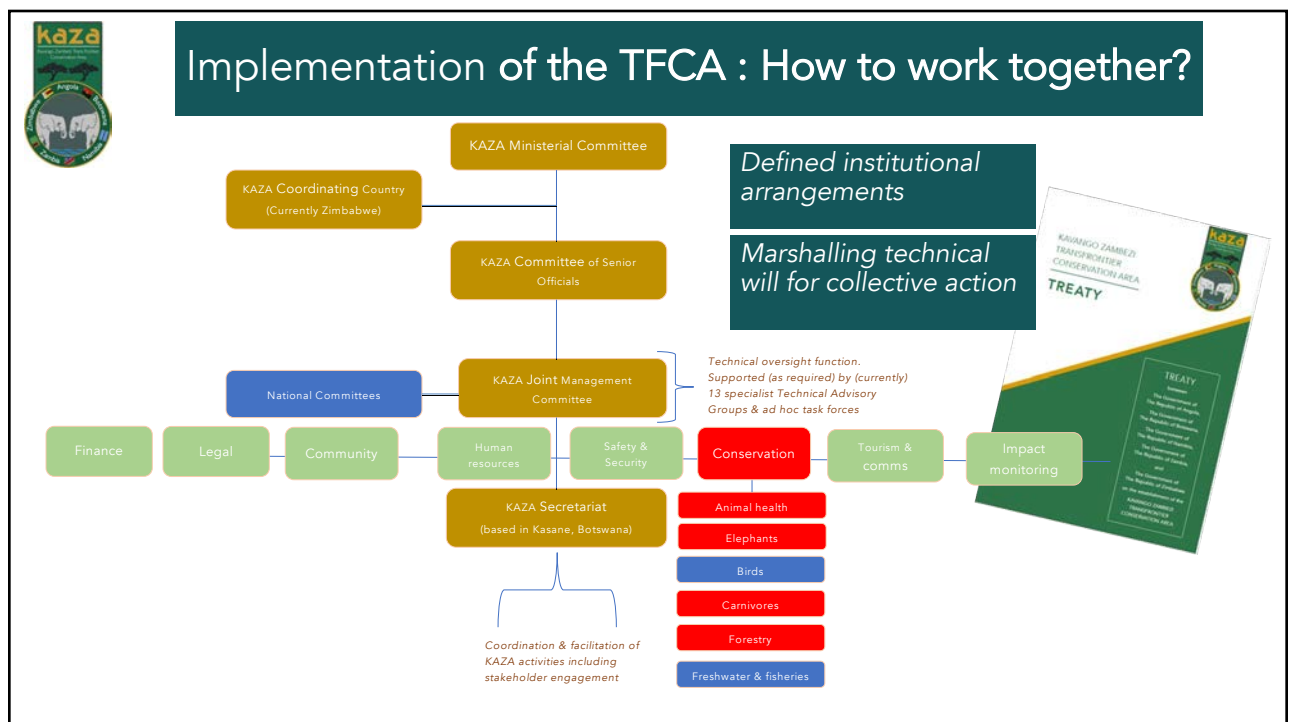
Vision: Establish a world-class trans frontier conservation area and tourism destination in the Okavango and Zambezi river basin regions within the context of **sustainable development**.

Mission: To Sustainably manage the Kavango Zambezi ecosystem, its heritage and cultural resources based on best conservation & tourism models for the socio-economic well-being of the communities and other stakeholders in and around the eco-region through **harmonisation of policies, strategies & practices**.

Objectives

1. Conservation
2. **Promoting connectivity**
3. Infrastructure development
4. Transboundary tourism
5. Sustainable use
6. Partnerships, investments & regional economic integration
7. **Harmonisation of policies, legislation & approaches**
8. Capacity building
9. **Transboundary animal disease prevention, surveillance and control**
10. Research – fundamental, applied and multi-disciplinary
11. Mainstreaming environmental and social issues including climate change

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Treaty Basis for the Technical Advisory Groups

- **Article 10 – Institutional Framework:** Partner States establish the structures for administration, management and development of the TFCA, and set up working groups of discipline practitioners and stakeholder representatives.
- **Article 13(3)(f) – Specialist Advisory Groups:** the JMC establishes and oversees ad hoc specialist groups, with TORs determined by the JMC, to:
 - Advise the JMC on issues within their areas of specialisation
 - Represent the interests of different sections of society in each Partner State
 - Collect information and prepare specialist reports
 - Facilitate exchange of information among the Partner States
- **The objectives anchoring today's discussion:**
 - Art. 6(1)(b) – a complementary network of Protected Areas linked through corridors safeguarding migratory wildlife (KESWG)
 - Art. 6(1)(j) – harmonisation of legislation, policies and approaches in transboundary animal disease prevention, surveillance and control (AHSWG)

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The Conservation Working Group and its Sub-Working Groups

- **The CWG** is an advisory body to the JMC on conservation of shared natural resources. "Conservation" spans disciplines too diverse for one body, hence sub-working groups:
 - Protected Area planning and management • Research and monitoring • **Animal health, disease surveillance and management** • Fisheries resources management • Specific species management • Forestry and habitat conservation
- **Operating conventions:**
 - Members appointed through National Coordinating Agencies; mandated to consult counterparts across borders within their specialisation
 - Sub-working groups operate under TORs and (should) report through the CWG; meetings loosely aligned with Structure Meeting cycles
- **Keep the roles distinct:** governance structures decide (Ministerial Committee, COSO, JMC); technical structures coordinate, prepare and review (WGs and Sub-WGs); the Secretariat and consultants facilitate.

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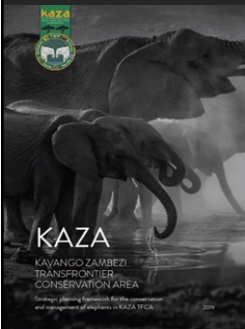
Two Mandates, One Landscape

- **AHSWG** (TORs revised by consensus; revival noted by JMC)
 - Aim: improve animal health and mitigate disease and related conflicts within the KAZA TFCA (considered as a single epidemiological unit)
 - Core problem: TAD control by movement restriction (veterinary fencing) is structurally incompatible with the TFCA vision of free-ranging wildlife
 - Objectives: multi-sectoral dialogue; disease risk mitigation; harmonisation of policy and practices; One Health alignment; CBT and improved livestock production; resolving trade barriers
- **KESWG** (TORs; sub-working group of the CWG)
 - Mission: secure the KAZA landscape for the largest contiguous elephant population, for the benefit of communities and conservation
 - Primary objective: coordinate, promote and technically support implementation of the KAZA Elephant Strategic Planning Framework
 - Pillars: monitoring and research; secure habitats and corridors; community benefits; policy contribution. Focus areas: the WDAs per the Master IDP

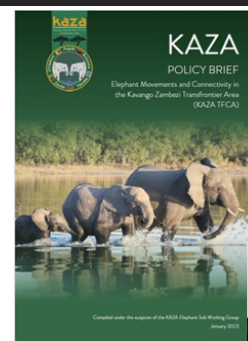
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Guiding frameworks for conservation & management of KAZA's elephants



- **Approved Strategic Planning Framework** – objective: manage KAZA's elephants as one contiguous population
- **Policy Brief on Elephant Movements and Connectivity** (approved in June 2022) - compiled from the collated KESWG collar dataset
- **First KAZA-wide synchronised aerial survey** – prioritised under the Framework & undertaken in the 2022 dry season
- **Elephant Action Plan**



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Guiding frameworks for the AHSWG

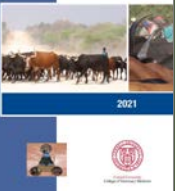


KAZA
Animal Health Sub Working Group

Workplan
(rev. 2024)



Guidelines on Commodity-Based Trade Approaches for Managing Foot and Mouth Disease Risk in Beef in the SADC Region
4th Edition



- **TORs** developed & noted by the KAZA Structures
- **Work plan** developed, monitored & reported on yearly
- **CBT guidelines** approved at SADC level guiding implementation in MS
- **First two phases of the vet fences assessment** – guiding informed decision making & transboundary dialogue



Veterinary Fences in the KAZA TFCA:
Assessment of Existing Status and Requests on Wildlife Services, with an Emphasis on the Transhumance Routes

Final Report – July 2024



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The AHSWG–KESWG Interface: Fencing and Connectivity

- **The two mandates mirror each other** at the fence line:
 - KESWG Policy Brief: veterinary cordon fences listed among principal threats of permanent corridor closure; three fences named for review
 - AHSWG TORs: “participate in assessment of existing and/or proposed fences to control transboundary animal diseases... while considering needs related to corridors/wildlife dispersal areas”
 - AHSWG Workplan WP 6.1–6.5: cross-sectoral cost/benefit mechanisms for fencing decisions; assessment of current and planned veterinary fences affecting WDAs; a holistic KAZA-wide fencing strategy
- **Beyond fencing, the shared agenda runs through:**
 - Commodity-based trade; the non-geographic alternative to fence-based FMD control (SADC-adopted guidelines, 2019; pilots in WDAs in three countries)
 - Cross-border movement of samples, collars and data – parallel SOP needs
 - Shared geography (the WDAs) and shared communities at the wildlife–livestock interface

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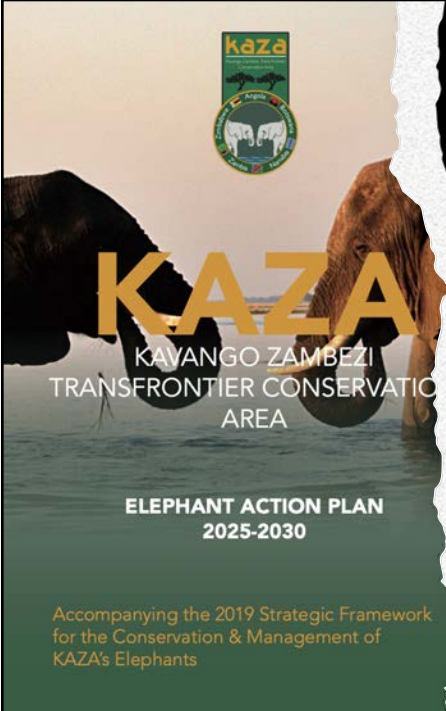


The work of both groups - informed by science, with policy implications & land use/management applications

- **The elephant collar dataset:** > 4 million GPS observations from 298 collared elephants (130 female, 97 male), collared from 2010 onwards
- **Three corridor types observed**
 - Directed movements to and from water
 - Directed movements along fences
 - Pinchpoints through human-modified landscapes
- **Phase I Vet Fences Assessment** – impact on wildlife movement incl. elephant
 - Used elephant collar data + aerial surveys of fencelines + ground surveys
- **Prioritised fence sections** for further assessment → connectivity & conflict implications
- **Corridor designation:** micro-corridors feed directly into land-use planning (LUCIS) & formal corridor protection with community participation



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KAZA
KAVANGO ZAMBEZI
TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION
AREA

**ELEPHANT ACTION PLAN
2025-2030**

Accompanying the 2019 Strategic Framework
for the Conservation & Management of
KAZA's Elephants

- KESWG are the primary custodians
- Delivery of actions extends to other role players beyond PA managers & conservation scientists
- Demonstrates the inter-linkages between the component parts of the system e.g.
 - Forests comprise elephant habitat – FSWG
 - Poaching for ivory – S&SWG
 - Fence erection for disease management that inhibit movement – AHSWG
 - Unlocking opportunities in wildlife (elephant) economy – community WG, NGO partners
 - Land allocation in known corridors → increased conflict levels – land use planners

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Strategic Objectives	SO1: Secure long term ecosystem integrity & connectivity for KAZA's elephant population	SO2: Maintain & manage KAZA's elephants as one contiguous population	SO3: Promote & support coexistence of humans & elephants for ecological, social & economic benefits	SO4: Reduce the illegal killing of elephants & trade in elephant products	SO5: Establish a high-level decision-making process on which to build the planning framework for conserving KAZA's elephants
	Create & support platforms & mechanisms for cross-sectoral engagement in the planning & implementation process of land use	Gather, analyse and share knowledge & data which contributes to a better understanding of elephant demographics, resource use and habitat dynamics across the TFCA and in the context of WDAs	Strengthen the enabling environment for communities to meaningfully participate in sustainable management & utilization of natural resources, including elephants	Support implementation of the SADC & KAZA LEAP Strategies	Make knowledge based decisions informed by inter-disciplinary research & traditional knowledge
	Support informed decision making on issues of land use through a sound knowledge base using the best available information, technology & methodology	Improve capacity to better prevent, predict & respond to mass mortality events	Identify & unlock financial and economic opportunities for communities living alongside elephants in wildlife-based economies	Support capacity development of different role players to enhance the efficacy of Law Enforcement & CWC efforts	Create mechanisms (in-country & transboundary) that facilitate effective participation of KAZA stakeholders, & enhance collaboration & coordination
	Integrate elephant corridors into land use management plans &/or the policy and legal frameworks at TFCA, national &/or local level by-laws	Implement climate change adaptation measures that safeguard elephant populations	Build capacity at various levels to effectively manage HEC	Actively engage communities as the First Line of Defence in combating wildlife crime efforts	Periodically review, assess & adapt the planning framework for the management & conservation of KAZA's elephants
	Promote land use options & management which retain or restore habitat integrity for elephants	Harmonise the approach to elephant management across the KAZA TFCA country borders		Harmonise policies, practices and instruments in support of enhanced cross-border collaboration	

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1.2.5	Undertake holistic assessments of impacts of fences on movement & WDA functionality to inform decision making	This can include past, present & future fencing arrangements, e.g. the Schwelle migrations in Botswana were severely disrupted by the Kuke Fence constructed in 1958	WDA specific	KAZA Sec AHSWG KESWG Mins of Agric, Envt, Lands NGOs Academia			X		X	X		
• Not meant to be seen as duplication of activities but as a guide for collaboration & complementarity between the WGs • Demonstrates the multi-faceted relevance of these activities • Elephant Action Plan was informed by experts beyond the ESWG – including some in this room												
3.2.4	Expedite CBT of beef & expand strategic & active herding models (inclusive of kraaling) across KAZA to increase income generation to communities	Improved husbandry practices in the field generally result in improve animal health & condition	KAZA	Mins of Agric Communities NGOs Academia					X	X	X	

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Improve capacity to better prevent, predict & respond to mass mortality events	2.2.1	Set up KAZA emergency fund for use during mass mortality events	Suitable funding source would be required	KAZA	AHSWG	X	X			X	X	
	2.2.2	Strengthen information sharing mechanisms	e.g. central KAZA epidemiological database; use of WhatsApp Group of Government & NGO field wildlife ecologists & veterinarians	KAZA	AHSWG Epi Dept of vet services Epis PS Private Sector	X	X			X	X	
	2.2.3	Develop & implement SOPs on communication during mass mortality events		KAZA In-Country	Dept of vet services Dept of Wildlife Forestry NGOs	X	X				X	
	2.2.4	Improve awareness of zoonotic diseases amongst communities, parks, police etc.		KAZA In-Country	Dept of vet services Ext. Officers Wildlife Vets Ecologists	X	X	X		X		
	2.2.5	Establish & implement disease protocols at local level		In-Country	AHSWG Dept of vet services Ext. Officers Wildlife Vets	X	X				X	

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Make knowledge-based decisions informed by inter-disciplinary research & traditional knowledge	5.1.1	Review & support implementation of science-based recommendations emanating from the KAZA Policy Brief on Elephant Movements and Connectivity (2023)		In-Country	PS Ministries	X	X	X	X			
	5.1.2	Advocate for other in-country ministries to use evidence-based outputs for infrastructure development decision making, particularly highlighting the importance of connectivity	Coordinating ministries use KESWG scientific and technical outputs for cross-sectoral engagement	KAZA In-Country	KAZA Sec PS Ministries Academia NGOs		X		X	X	X	
	5.1.3	Review & support implementation of recommendations for the realignment &/or removal of veterinary & wildlife fences based on science & stakeholder engagement.		KAZA	PS KAZA Structures AHSWG		X		X	X	X	
Create mechanisms (in-country & transboundary) that facilitate effective participation of KAZA stakeholders, & enhance collaboration & coordination	5.2.1	Strengthen platforms for cross-sectoral collaboration & problem solving (using KAZA structures such as the Working Groups & National Committees)		KAZA	Mins of Land/Land Boards Mins of Env't, Forestry, Agric NGOs Academia FSWG	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	5.2.2	Enhance collaboration on resolving conflicts between animal health regulatory needs & KAZA conservation objectives		KAZA	AHSWG KESWG Comm WG KAZA Sec Mins of Agric, Env't FAO		X		X	X	X	

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The AHSWG's Contribution to the Elephant Action Plan

- **1. Fence assessment:** bring veterinary disease-risk analysis into the cost/benefit review of the priority fences – so realignment decisions are defensible to both sectors (livestock & wildlife)
- **2. CBT as the enabling condition:** progress CBT of beef so FMD management no longer depends on fences that close corridors & improved livelihood security for farmers
- **3. Harmonised disease control:** joint cross-border & inter-agency protocols, & coordinated emergency response, improving preparedness for mass mortality events
- **4. Sample, collar and data movement:** extend the sample-transfer and CITES CoP18 Doc. 56 workstream to cover research logistics re KESWG needs
- **5. Joint WDA-level planning:** surveillance design, fence-line monitoring and corridor management on the same ground, with the same communities

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Delivery Mechanism: The IDP Process and Conservation Strategy

- **Input:** national IDPs must align with regional (in-country) priorities and corridors and cohere with the KAZA Conservation Strategy; Working Groups sit on the IDP Steering Committee and at the Technical and Planning Level – sub-working group evidence (collar data, fence assessments, disease risk, CBT feasibility) is the 'shared analytical product' the process is built on
- **Prioritisation:** corridor protection and land-use trade-offs are named pressure points for thematic integration sessions and facilitated negotiation; four formal decision gates with political-level validation; mandatory multi-ministry participation puts veterinary services and wildlife authorities in the same room – the standing venue the fence-vs-corridor question has lacked
- **Awareness:** decision-gate briefings carry the agenda to planning and finance ministries; community and rights-holder engagement carries corridor designation, HEC mitigation and CBT-linked livelihoods to the landscape level; everything routed through established KAZA structures with the Secretariat as coordinating node

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Positioning the AHSWG: Next Steps

- **Feed the evidence in now** – the national IDP processes are underway, and the decision gates are still ahead; fence assessments, strategic herding and CBT evidence should enter through the Technical and Planning Level, not after plans are drafted
- **Nominate AHSWG representation** into the national IDP engagement structures and, where appropriate, the Master IDP Steering Committee
- **Prioritise WP 6.1–6.5** (fencing cost/benefit and KAZA-wide fencing strategy) so outputs land within the IDP trade-off analysis window
- **Advance the CBT and sample-movement workstreams** jointly with the KESWG – one cross-border protocol agenda, two mandates served
- **Report through the CWG** so that governance structures (JMC, COSO, Ministerial Committee) decide on a single, cross-sectoral evidence base