Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

From the People of Japan

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT AND APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AMONG VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN ZIMBABWE

Human–wildlife conflict (HWC) arises from the competition between growing populations of humans and wildlife for the same declining resources. Such conflict has proved a major issue in northern Zimbabwe. In Hurungwe District in the province of Mashonaland West, common examples of HWC include livestock predation, crop destruction, human attacks and conflict between farmers and protected area management. The resulting damage can impact food security, livelihoods and health.

This project aimed to reduce HWC in target areas of Hurungwe by supporting local communities to implement sustainable methods of deterring wildlife and protecting livestock. At the same time, it sought to increase agricultural production and strengthen resilience by managing disease in livestock and promoting alternative livelihood options based on the sustainable, community-based management of natural resources.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Through the project, nearly 170 community leaders were trained on HWC awareness and management techniques, including the use of chilli to repel elephants and wild cats.

A 'chilli fence' was introduced to protect farming communities' land, while a cattle boma was built to help secure livestock against attacks by predators. The use of bees as both a biological repellent and an alternative source of income was also piloted, with six apiaries set up across the district and local communities trained in apiculture. Having identified rabies as a priority disease threat to both domestic animals and humans, the project vaccinated almost 20 000 dogs against the virus.

In addition, 300 farmers were trained on disease surveillance and awareness, while 50 veterinary officers and extension staff completed training on the control of transboundary animal diseases and real-time disease reporting.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
300 000 USD

Duration
March 2019 – July 2021

Resource Partners
Government of Japan

Partners
Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry; Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement

Beneficiaries
Vulnerable smallholder farmers and their communities in Hurungwe District, Zimbabwe

IMPACT

The project's awareness-raising activities enhanced knowledge of prevention and mitigation strategies for HWC, as well as encouraging community participation in their implementation. Reporting of cases of HWC to authorities via the proper channels has increased, facilitating a more effective response. Communities are also equipped to pursue beekeeping as an alternative livelihood and sustainable wild animal deterrent. In addition, 99 percent of the local dog population is now immunized against rabies, reducing the threat to animal and human health. Both farmers and local government staff have increased understanding of how to monitor and report disease in livestock, key for effective outbreak control.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted five awareness meetings on HWC management, attended by 168 community leaders.
- Led broader HWC awareness campaigns via local media, posters, pamphlets and other promotional material.
- Procured 240 top-bar hives, which were distributed to six apiaries set up across Hurungwe District.
- Trained extension officers and community members on beekeeping and related skills.
- Constructed one cattle boma to protect livestock from predators.
- Vaccinated 19 876 dogs against rabies.
- Prepared extension officers to train farmers on disease surveillance and awareness, with 300 farmers subsequently trained.
- Trained 50 extension officers and veterinary staff on transboundary animal disease control and reporting using FAO's Event Mobile Application (EMA-i) tool.

Project Title
Sustainable management of human–wildlife conflict and promotion of appropriate agricultural practices among vulnerable, food- and nutrition-insecure communities

Project Code
FAO: GCP/ZIM/032/JPN

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Partnerships and Outreach
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