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KALAHARI
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

December 2008 | Issue No. 86



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December 2008 – Issue No. 86

Contents

Dear Member	5
Largest Environmental Meeting	7
KCS Survey Form	8
Botswana Delegation at African-Eurasian	9
Mainstream Adaptation Strategies	11
Overcoming the Natural Resource Curse	12
KCS Dinner Dance 2008	14
Dinner Dance Acknowledgements	16
Dinner Dance Keynote Address	17
Botswana Proves a Point	18
KCS Successfully Completes the HOORC Equipment	19



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Join the KCS and learn more about environmental issues and enjoy many other benefits as well. For more details and membership application form turn to [page 6](#)

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Dear Member

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2008. The newsletter serves as a communication tool between Kalahari Conservation Society and its members.

In this issue of Kalahari newsletter, we bring you a number of exciting events that have been held at different places locally and around the world. The following are covered in this issue:

- ◆ The Government of Botswana successfully sold all its 43.6 tonnes of ivory through auction raising US\$7.1 million, an equivalent of about P57 million. The sale was approved by the Convention that regulates trade in endangered plant and animal species (CITES) at its 12th and 14th Conference of Parties.
- ◆ At the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, the OECD DAC Network on Environment and Development Cooperation (ENVIRONET) hosted an event on overcoming the Natural Resource Curse – Achieving Pro-Poor Growth.
- ◆ The Annual Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) fundraising Dinner Dance was held on the 31 October 2008 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC). This year's theme was "Meeting Environmental and Development Challenges" and it was delivered by His Excellency the President of Republic of Botswana who is also the KCS Patron.
- ◆ The Kalahari Conservation Society CEO, Mr. Felix Monggae, recently attended a Regional Seminar, from 26 to 29 August 2008, in Entebbe, Uganda on mainstreaming adaptation strategies to climate change in managing African Transboundary Rivers. This article brings the lessons from the experts to Botswana and leaves it to the readers to assess our capacity to adapt, including the role of civil society in these processes.
- ◆ October 21st 2008 marked the arrival at the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC) of state of the art scientific research equipment that will support creation of new knowledge about natural resources management in northern Botswana.

I would like thank you all for continuing to support the Society every year. We hope you are still going to be members for more years to come.

The Public Relations Unit would also like comments and critiques about the newsletter to help them to come up with a better product. Also, you are encouraged to submit articles to be published in the newsletter. Please forward your comments or articles to publicrelations@kcs.org.bw.

KCS Board and Staff wish all members a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Thank you



Felix Monggae
KCS Chief Executive Officer

KCS would like to express its appreciation to all its Corporate Members

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Largest Environmental Meeting sends wake-up call to the world



More than 8,000 specialists from the conservation community, government, NGOs, academia, private sector, women and indigenous groups gathered in Barcelona to discuss the most pressing issues of our time.

While climate change was on everybody's mind and was addressed in many reports and presentations, the scope of the topics examined during the meeting is indicative of the challenges the world is facing. From threatened species to forest management, from the impact of climate change on infectious diseases to the need for private sector involvement, or from indigenous rights to fisheries governance, participants were exposed to a great deal of new research, new approaches and new partnerships.

Concrete announcements were made regarding species and habitat protection. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List showed that we are facing an extinction crisis, but that properly funded and well planned conservation measures can be successful-with close to 40 species of mammals now showing signs of recovery.

Announcements of millions of dollars dedicated to species conservation made by the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, by the GEF and by the Living Oceans Foundation have shown that more and more people understand the need to invest in conservation.

Important initiatives such as the work with Google Earth, will also help raise awareness for the general public and give new tools for conservation experts around the world. The MacArthur Foundation announced a US\$50 million commitment for climate change adaptation measures. Three scientific marine expeditions were announced, with the goal of increasing our knowledge about the state of our oceans.

Far reaching agreements were concluded. Agreement on key principles on high-seas governance were achieved, new networking relationships with fishermen's associations and conservation groups were established; an historical agreement on principles guiding forest management to face climate change was announced by a group including business, indigenous and conservation groups, international financial institutions and trade unions.

While the world seems to be entangled in the turmoil of a financial crisis, civil society, environmentalists, governments and businesses were busy defining a different way to do things. With initiatives such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), or Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), collaboration between the conservation and business world is taking on a new and promising meaning.

"What we have seen is a defining moment in bringing different perspectives together and, in some cases developing consensus that will have an important and long-lasting impact," said Bill Jackson, Deputy Director General of IUCN. "We heard about new facts - mostly negative and about new science and solutions. I think we are setting a different and much more productive way to deal with fundamental conservation issues."

The World Conservation Congress allowed NGOs to have direct access to decision makers - governmental or from the private sector. A session with ten African Ministers, allowed participants to raise their concerns, their ideas directly; and panel discussions allowed spiritual leaders, philanthropists or climate change specialists to share their thoughts to a wide and varied audience.

Members of IUCN celebrated the announcement of their new President, Ashok Khosla from India. He was running against Purificacio Canals and Carlos Manuel Rodriguez in the presidential run-off.

Ashok Khosla took over the position from outgoing President Valli Moosa, who took up the post four years ago at IUCN's previous World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ref: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



KALAHARI CONSERVATION SOCIETY

ORGANIZATION AWARENESS SURVEY 2008

SURVEY LOCATION : _____

DATE : _____

1. What is your Status & Gender?

Citizen Resident International Visitor Male Female

2. What is your age group?

18-28 29-39 40-50 Over 50

3. Are you aware of local NGO, the Kalahari Conservation Society?

Yes, I am a member Yes, but I am not a member No

3A. Are issues of rural water supply and crop protection of interest or concern to you?

Yes No

3B. Are national environmental & wildlife conservation issues of interest or concern to you?

Yes No

3C. Would you be interested in finding out more about the activities of KCS?

Yes No

3D. Would you be willing to show your support by becoming a member of KCS?

Yes No

If you are interested in receiving more information about the work of KCS, please complete the details below.

Name : _____

Postal Address : _____

Cell No: _____ e-mail: _____

Botswana delegation at African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds conference in Antananarivo, Madagascar



Morning discussions took place in plenary.

The fourth meeting of parties (MOP4) for the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEMA) took place in Antananarivo in Madagascar from the 15th to the 19th September 2008. Over 150 representatives of government and non-governmental organizations as well as Waterbirds experts from 80 countries met in Madagascar to discuss urgent conservation responses necessary to reverse the declines of many migratory Waterbirds species along the African-Eurasian Flyways. The meeting also highlighted most recent findings showing continuing declines of many Waterbirds species in Africa and Eurasia and delegates were discussing how best to restore the status of these species to meet the target of halting the decline of global biodiversity by 2010.

In a video statement the Executive Director of UNEP (Mr. Achim Steiner) indicated that MOP4 was not only important for AEMA but also for a wider global discussions on how we could conserve biodiversity, especially migratory species, which in many ways served as early warning for the state of the environment. He expressed that there is a need to maintain flyways and conditions around them to allow migratory species to survive.

Two awards were presented from the individual and institutional category. From the individual category Mark Anderson from South Africa won the award for his outstanding and continuous efforts to the conservation of waterbirds especially on lesser flamingos.



John O'Sullivan, making contributions to the Conference on behalf of BirdLife International.

During his presentation he noted that in Southern Africa there is only one site where flamingos successfully breed i.e Sua pan in Botswana. From the institutional category Oiseaux Migrateurs du Parlearctique Occidental (OMPO) from France represented by Guy-Noel Olivier won the award for its role in increasing the AEMA membership, assistance in scientific research and support of the Agreement implementation.

International Reviews included the following; Conservation status of waterbirds, hunting and trade legislation, re-establishments of projects, single Species Action Plans and Non-native Species. The hottest debate revolved around 'phasing out lead shot for hunting in wetlands'. Some argued that it is easy to regulate a ban on lead shot for hunting while others said the developing countries it is not easy as lead shots are cheap and readily available. And yet others pointed out that developed countries should



Participants posing for a group photograph outside Carlton Hotel in Antananarivo where the conference took place.



AEWA Executive Secretary Bert Lenten (left) and Harison Edmond Randriarimanana (right), Minister for the Environment, Forests and Tourism, Madagascar (right) who opened the conference with a keynote address

stop manufacturing lead shots if the 2012 target is to be met.

On the World Migratory Bird Day Mr Florian Keil from the AEWA secretariat presented that the celebration is an AEWA initiative since 2006 and its subsequent annual celebration.

From Botswana the delegation included Dr Lucas Rutina from the Department of Wildlife and National Park, Mr. Sekgowa Motsumi from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Mr Motshereganyi Virat Kootsositse from BirdLife Botswana as a technical advisor. The head of delegation Dr. Lucas Rutina presented the Botswana's position to the AEWA noting that Botswana is not yet party to the AEWA agreement and by participating in MOP4 it is a way of identifying issues of concern as shared by other African countries and areas of collaborations should the country decide to join. Prior to the MOP4, the UNEP through AEWA secretariat arranged a two-day workshop for Anglophone African range states on diplomatic negotiation skills and procedures on the effective national preparation and participation in meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the AEWA MOP4.

The AEWA covers 235 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many species of divers, grebes, pelicans, cormorants, herons, storks, rails, ibises, spoonbills, flamingos, ducks, swans, geese, cranes, waders, gulls, terns and even the South African penguin. The agreement covers 118 countries and the European Community (EC) from Europe, parts of Asia and Canada, the Middle East and Africa. In fact, the geographical area covered by the AEWA stretches from the northern reaches of Canada and the Russian Federation to the southernmost tip of Africa.

The Agreement provides for coordinated and concerted action to be taken by the Range States throughout the migration system of waterbirds to which it applies. Of the 118 Range States and EC currently 61 countries (as of 1 September 2008) have become Contracting Parties to the AEWA. Of particular notice the Slaty egret was among other species identified as highly threatened. For Botswana, there

are some of the remaining world populations of the Slaty egret in the Okavango Delta. An update of current findings of avian flu was presented in relation to migratory birds. And a conclusion is that continued surveillance of disease geographical distribution still needs to be undertaken.

Although the Agreement only entered into force a few years ago, its implementation is well underway. The European Union, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland and United Kingdom increasingly support the implementation of AEWA. In addition to this support the GEF council approved the African-Eurasian Flyways Project in November 2003 and its implementation started in July 2006. This project, known as wings over wetlands and executed by Wetlands International in close cooperation with BirdLife International will especially focusing on: capacity building, cooperative research and monitoring and communication activities. The next meeting of parties will be in France in 2012.



Dr Lucas Rutina (Head of delegation), in front of a laptop, from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks giving position statement for Botswana

Mainstream adaptation strategies to climate change in managing botswana's natural resources - is botswana ready?

The Kalahari Conservation Society CEO, Mr. Felix Monggae recently attended a Regional Seminar, from 26 to 29 August 2008 in Entebbe, Uganda on mainstreaming adaptation strategies to climate change in managing African Transboundary Rivers. This article brings the lessons from the experts to Botswana and leaves it to the readers to assess our capacity to adapt, including the role of civil society in these processes. Climate change is threatening the world's poor. According to the 4th Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), developing countries are expected to suffer the most from the negative impacts of climate change. Poor people and poor countries have less adaptive capacity and a higher vulnerability to changes in the climatic system due to limited human, institutional, and financial capacity to anticipate and respond to the direct and indirect effects.

The countries with the fewest resources are likely to bear the greatest burden of climate change in terms of loss of life and relative effect on investment and the economy. With a global average increase of 20° C by 2100 (the end of the century), it is estimated that an additional 25 million people will be affected by flooding of the coasts, between 180 and 250 million people will be exposed to malaria and 200 to 300 million people will be affected by severe water scarcity.

A consensus is thus emerging that dealing with climate change needs to be incorporated deeply in development thinking. Poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are seriously at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change. Even with intensified efforts to mitigate climate change, adaptation is nevertheless necessary. There is a strong need to integrate responses to climate change adaptation measures into strategies for poverty reduction to ensure sustainable development. Adaptation needs to be strengthened to build the resilience of countries, communities, and households to all types of shocks, including climate change. The mainstreaming of adaptation into sustainable development is thus paramount. All policies and operational approaches in national, sub-national, and sectoral planning processes need to be screened for their contribution to reduce climate change risks, vulnerability and opportunities for increasing the adaptive capacity.

Adaptation to climate variability is not new, but climate change is expected to present heightened risk, new combinations of risks and potentially grave consequences. This is particularly true in Africa where direct dependence on the natural environment for livelihood support combines with a lack of infrastructure and high levels of poverty to



'Veld fires' – an example of human induced climatic changes

create vulnerability in the face of all types of environmental change. Accordingly there is a growing focus on the need for "anticipatory adaptation" (UNDP, 2007), that is the proactive rather than the reactive management of climate change risk.

Changes in climate and the resultant impacts on the biophysical and human systems, require us to respond, or adapt accordingly. Adaptation is an ongoing process inherent in natural and social systems. When faced by changing circumstances, particularly when they become uncomfortable or undesirable, people, like plants and other animals, tend to change the way they are and/or do things so as to survive or benefit from the new conditions. In this sense adaptation is often reactive i.e. in response to a stimulus, which in turn has knock on and feedback effects throughout the system.

The process of adaptation needs to be encouraged, enabled, supported and facilitated by those individuals and organizations in positions to do so, particularly as people recognize the value of proactive (as opposed to reactive) adaptation, taking action now to avoid unnecessary losses and expenses in the future. In addition to this we recognize that capacity to adapt is not equal among all groups (and neither are the contributions to causing these human induced climate changes) and therefore targeted support is necessary. An adequate response to climate change and climate variability requires focussing on two aspects:

a) increasing and improving people's ability to prepare for, and respond to, extreme weather



Frequent flooding

events (such as more frequent flooding) and increasing climate variability; and b) investing in mechanisms and systems for adapting to gradual climate change (for example, where overall rainfall patterns in a region change and a particular crop is no longer viable).

Many systems and actors are able to adapt properly and have the means to do so. It is likely that they are less vulnerable to climate change impacts. However, many systems and actors are likely to be vulnerable to certain climate impacts and not able to adapt adequately or rapidly enough themselves. It is therefore important to identify who and what is most vulnerable to climate change impacts so that adaptation support can be appropriately targeted to reach the most vulnerable groups. Africa is vulnerable to climate change and we cannot afford to be complacent. There is serious danger of conflicts and we know droughts shall always pose problems to downstream countries on the mouths of rivers. The developed countries will experience less impact than developing countries. For instance the poor depend heavily on the natural resources and during drought periods, they basically have nothing to feed on and as such they need to be assisted to adapt. Therefore responsible institutions and other relevant stakeholders in each country have to facilitate adaptation processes:

- a) Ability to prepare for the extreme weather events. E.g. Agricultural management (appropriate seed varieties / mulching)

continues to page 13

Overcoming the natural resource curse – achieving pro-poor growth

On the occasion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, the OECD DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET) hosted an event on overcoming the Natural Resource Curse – Achieving Pro-Poor Growth.

The event presented the recently published OECD DAC Report on Natural Resources and Pro-Poor Growth – the politics and economics which highlight that sustainable natural resource management can underpin long-term pro-poor economic growth in developing countries. The side event focused on the case of Botswana – a country which has successfully applied many of the policy and natural resource management approaches recommended in the OECD study to achieve pro-poor growth and broader development goals.

The event was moderated by Steve Bass of the International Institute for Environment and Development who strongly advocated the merits of the OECD DAC Report on Natural Resources and Pro-Poor Growth.

The first speaker, Alexandra Trzeciak-Duval, Head of the Policy Coordination Division of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, provided a broad introduction to the potential benefits of natural resources for pro-poor growth and elaborated on the associated management and governance challenges. She noted that natural capital constitutes a quarter of total wealth in low-income countries, while accounting for only 2% of wealth in OECD countries.

As goods produced from natural resources form the basis of the economy in many developing countries, she argued that natural resources can have huge benefits in terms of production, incomes, employment creation, export revenues and fiscal resources. She underscored the resulting potential benefits of natural resources for poverty reduction and the achievement of broader development objectives including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

She added that the poorest people in developing countries rely most heavily on environmental resources, and that "common property" natural resources (e.g. fallow fields, forests, fishing grounds, pastureland) are important sources of sustenance or income for many landless poor. In general, she noted, the poorer the household, the more important the income contribution through common property resources.

She underscored that countries should in general aim for efficient, equitable and sustainable use of natural resources, to ensure that (i) these resources do not only support, but also sustain growth, and (ii) the poorest



Mr. Felix Monggae and Ruud Jansen at the Overcoming the Natural Resource Curse – achieving pro-poor growth event.

benefit from their country's natural resource abundance. She listed a number of concrete policy responses that can help countries to achieve these objectives, including:

- ◆ setting up stabilisation funds;
- ◆ using windfall revenues to fund public investments to promote diversification;
- ◆ supporting export diversification;
- ◆ keeping external debt at a sustainable level;
- ◆ maximising the commercial value of natural resources through increased quality or processing;
- ◆ securing access for poor people to natural resources;
- ◆ channelling fiscal revenues towards pro-poor investments like education, health or infrastructure.

Ruud Jansen of the Government of Botswana-UNDP Environment Support Programme subsequently presented the case of Botswana and outlined how the country has managed to turn its mineral wealth into poverty reduction by applying many of the policy responses recommended in the OECD DAC Report. He provided the audience with some essential background on Botswana and illustrated the economic importance of the country's mineral wealth (mainly diamonds): Between 1980 and 2005, minerals constituted on average 38% of

GDP, 82% of exports and 50% of government revenues. He explained that the government's 50% share in Debswana (a Joint Venture between the Government of Botswana and the South African diamond company De Beers) guarantees that a part of the profit from the country's natural resource wealth directly accrues to the treasury.

Jansen also noted that the country is seeking to develop its diamond processing industry and enhancing economic diversification through the provision of low interest investment packages. He observed that Botswana exhibits a high level of transparency in public revenue and low levels of corruption; the country ranked 24th on the International Corruption Perception Index 2002, higher than some western European countries and highest of all African countries. He also acknowledged efforts by the Government of Botswana to harness the rich natural resource base and to re-invest fiscal revenue from the natural resource sector for the achievement of broader development goals. For example, 20% of government spending is on education. For many years free education was offered to all from primary school through to university, resulting in a literacy rate of over 80%. Another 10% of government revenues are spent on the health sector (which is a 200% increase from 2003). Other attempts by the Government of Botswana to achieve pro-poor development include agricultural subsidies, free access to water in rural areas, and investment in physical infrastructure.

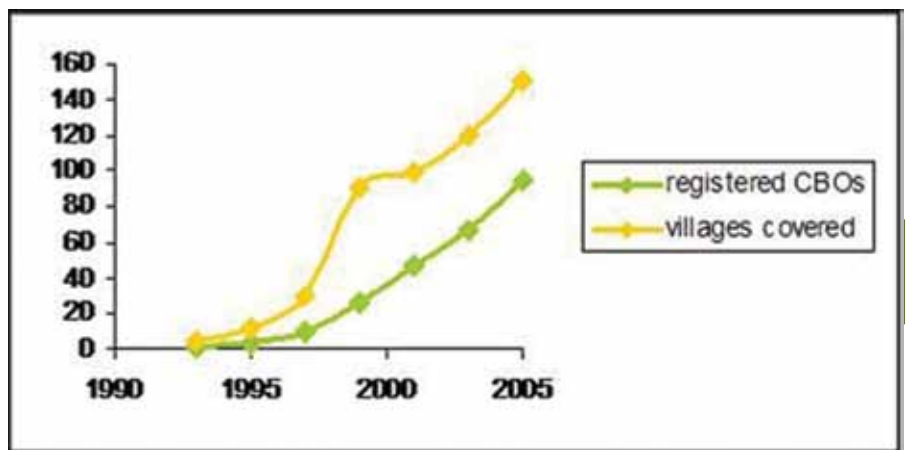
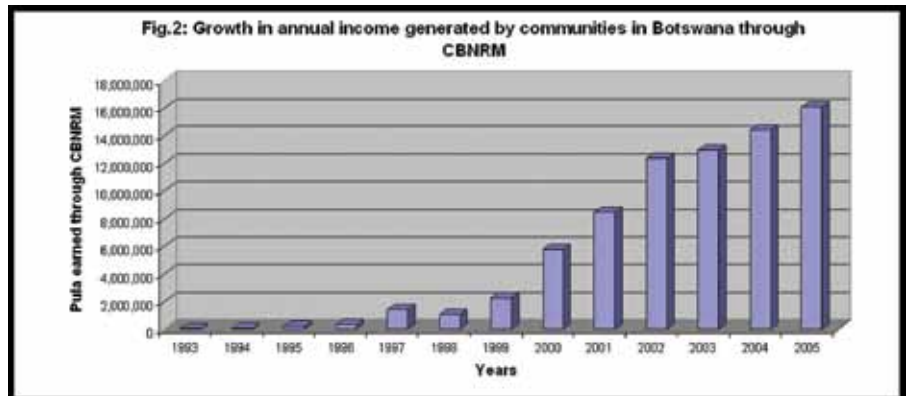
Felix Monggae, CEO of the Kalahari Conservation Society (which is the Secretariat of the National Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum), addressed the question whether the country has managed to translate its micro-economic success into economic and social benefits at the local level in his presentation on Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) in Botswana. He defined CBNRM as a development approach that fosters the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources and promotes rural development through community participation and creation of economic incentives.

Botswana's long-term strategy for socio-economic and political development "Vision 2016" sets out the objective "to enhance local ownership and capacity building throughout the eco-tourism industry, so that local people have a stake in using its resources in a sustainable way". The Vision 2016 further states that "the Botswana of the future will be a community oriented democracy, with strong decentralized institutions", thereby providing a strong mandate for CBNRM development.

Botswana adopted CBNRM in the early 1990s with support from USAID. CBNRM activities comprise wildlife-based activities including tourism, manufacturing of veld and forest products, fisheries, rangeland management and transboundary water resources management. Monggae explained that communities may obtain a 15-year Community Natural Resource Management Lease for the commercial use of natural resources in a specified area, on condition that: annual land rental is paid to the Land Authority; an annual resource royalty is paid to the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT); the community establishes a representative and accountable legal entity; and develops and implements a land use plan. A recent innovation of the CBNRM policy prescribes that 65% of the profits from the management of the wildlife resources (e.g. through photo safaris or hunting quotas for particular species) have to be paid to a National Environmental Fund for financing community projects nationwide (for environmental management and eco-tourism). The remaining 35% of revenues flow directly to the CBO; they are expected to support operations, allow reinvestment in the resource base and tourism infrastructure, and provide direct benefits for members.

Monggae reported that in 2005, 94 CBOs were registered, covering over 150 villages and a population of 135,000. Wildlife-based tourism has expanded dramatically in regions with CBNRM in Botswana, contributing substantially to local employment and incomes.

Monggae listed various other benefits of CBNRM in Botswana, including improved natural resources management, the development of village institutions, local empowerment, as well as social impacts like the strengthening of village identity and culture, as well as pride and self confidence of CSO Members through reduced dependency on government support. He particularly emphasised the contribution



of CBNRM to capacity development through the exposure to private sector and business thinking and management requirements. Monggae also identified some key problems arising in relation to CBNRM: Primarily, many communities are not happy with the prescribed 35/65% distribution of profits, as there is uncertainty about the purposes of the proposed National Environmental Fund. In addition, the fact that not all community members in a locality participate in the CBO can give rise to tensions. Moreover, the profitable and sustainable management of the wildlife resources poses a significant challenge to CBOs that in some cases exceeds local capacities.

Monggae concluded that CBNRM in Botswana leads to increased value and sustainable use of natural resources, that it enhances rural development in economic and social terms and that it strengthens democratic principles. He acknowledged that CBNRM in Botswana still has some challenges to tackle, and that its development must be seen as a slow and evolutionary process. He called for long-term facilitation and investment to yield optimum results.

Ref: OECD DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET)

continues from page 11

- b) Efficient water use (taps / toilets in good order)
- c) Water resources management (rain water harvesting)
- d) Opportunity for stakeholder engagement
- e) Education and awareness
- f) Ensuring balance of resources use by all sectors
- g) Forecasting needs of future generations
- h) Establishing the carrying capacity and maintaining the balance

As it is the case with most of the African countries, in Botswana the climate change convention is housed at the Department of Meteorological Services and one wonders if other ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector have any role to play? The adaptation activities singled out above seem to be cutting across and probably we need to come together as a country and decide on the importance of this convention and be prepared. However, it is up to readers to make conclusions as to whether Botswana is ready to adapt or not.

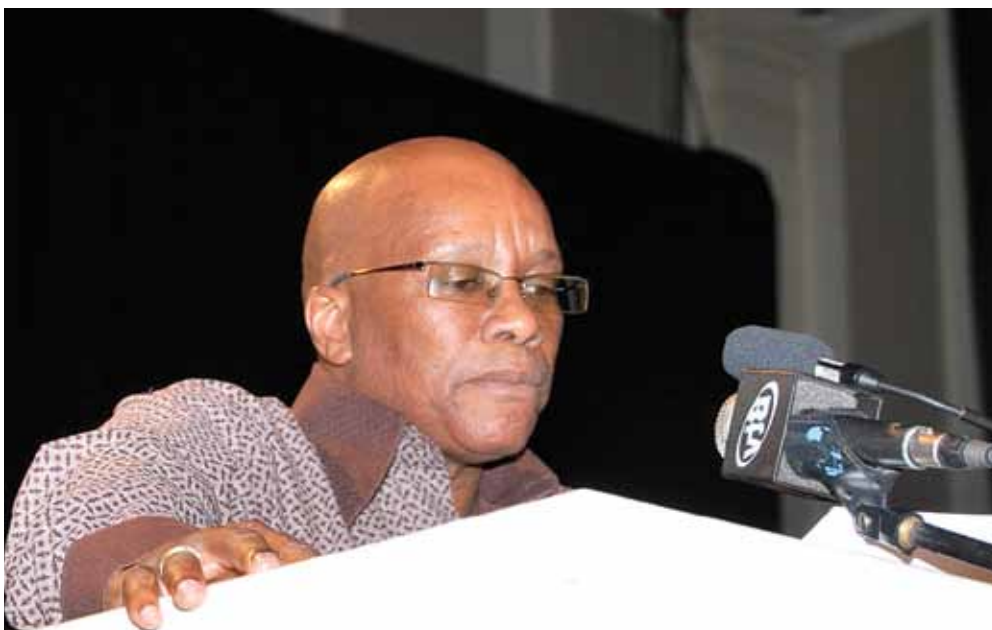
The writer would like to acknowledge all presenters at the above mentioned workshop for the information presented above.

Glitter and Dance at the KCS Dinner Dance 2008

The Annual Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) fundraising Dinner Dance was held on 31st October 2008 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC). This year's theme was "Meeting Environmental and Development Challenges" and it was delivered by His Excellency the President of Republic of Botswana who is also the KCS Patron. The event was also graced by KCS stalwarts being the Founding Chairman, Mr. Louis Nchindo and the KCS Honorary President Dr. G.K.T. Chiepe. (Please find the speech of the His Excellency on the next page)



The President Lt. Gen. S.K.I. Ian Khama giving keynote address



Mr. J. Matome giving the welcoming address



KCS Dinner Dance in Pictures

KCS 2008 Dinner Dance Acknowledgments

Tables were sponsored by:

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The Raffle Prizes were:

- ◆ 1st Prize Weekend for two at Mowana Safari Lodge and transport by Air Botswana
- ◆ 2nd Prize 32" LG Plasma Screen donated by Game Discount World
- ◆ 3rd Weekend for two at Chobe Marina Lodge
- ◆ 4th Chalet accommodation and Game Drive by Mokolodi Nature Reserve
- ◆ 5th Gaborone City and Bahurutshe Cultural Village Tour + Dinner for two at the Village by Isago Tours & Safaris
- ◆ 6th Cellphone: Nokia 5070 donated by Cell City

Door Prizes were:

- ◆ 2 x P500 Grocery Vouchers donated by Choppies
- ◆ P 350 meal voucher at the Beef Baron donated by The Grand Palm

Decoration and Entertainment Sponsored by Orange Botswana

Plant décor - courtesy of Sanitas Nurseries & Garden Centre

Music

Courtesy of Botswana Defence Force

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World Group donated P25 000
Fleming Asset Management P25 000

Keynote address by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana - Lt. Gen. S.K.I. Khama on the 31st of October 2008 at GICC, Gaborone

It is my pleasure tonight to address the Kalahari Conservation Society's 2008 Dinner Dance on the theme 'Meeting environmental and development challenges in Botswana'.

Botswana is endowed with the rich and unique natural heritage which is still remarkably intact. Conservation of flora and fauna goes back in our history through a variety of means of protection, including our traditions which we are celebrating through our dress code tonight. Our natural renewable assets have thus been protected and nurtured over the years through various initiatives such as community and state controlled protected areas of various types like game reserves, parks, forestry reserves etc, and the privately owned nature reserves and sanctuaries.

Botswana have lived in the country for a long time exploiting the land, the wildlife, the water and the minerals and this is continuing at an accelerated pace. So the challenge of how Botswana can continue to benefit today's inhabitants while not diminishing the benefits of its natural resources for future generations, is all important. The economy of Botswana is heavily dependent on the natural resources base, particularly in mining, tourism and agriculture. This in turn can have significant negative impacts on natural habitats and biodiversity.

There are indications that investors are interested in our country and there are deliberate efforts by my government to liberalize our laws to facilitate investment. However, there is a fear amongst our people that these interventions to facilitate development may compromise sustainable social and moral development and pay little respect to environmental consequences in the broadest possible definition encompassing social and natural environments. We could be tempted, therefore, to cast aside our national environmental beliefs, policies and regulations for short-term economic development. This is not acceptable. We must allow Botswana to benefit from its rich natural capital, without undermining the future existence of that capital.



An effective safeguard against this is to integrate conservation and development processes from the initial planning stage through to implementation and for the Government to accept conservation as not being the separate and individual consideration of wildlife, soil or water but to integrate it as a major component of development initiatives, policies and laws. The protected areas in Botswana are also facing unrelenting and ever increasing pressures, population growth and growing demands upon natural resources that represent an overarching threat to these areas. Wildlife mobility has been curtailed over the last decades by fences, settlements and roads. Loss of connectivity has led to the separation of the northern and southwestern wildlife system. As a result some of the traditional wildlife migration routes are no longer in use. The protected area system is a critical instrument for biodiversity conservation in Botswana.

The need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) cannot be over-emphasized. The current outcry of developers that EIAs are expensive is a challenge to all stakeholders to evaluate their commitment to safeguard Botswana's environment. The EIA practitioners need to note that their actions could be detrimental to the very environment they help to protect if they don't accommodate developers' concerns. For its part Government intends to have an independent EIA Commissioner who will ensure that all stakeholders comply with the EIA policy and as such address the environmental challenges posed by the inevitable infrastructural developments our country is facing. I believe a transition to sustainability (balance between environmental and developmental changes) will not happen without social and political leadership. Politicians, Dikgosi and Society Leaders must lead this transition.

continues to page 18

Botswana proves a point in sustainable utilisation of Natural Resources

continues from page 17

Botswana has done well in developing a conducive policy environment for effective natural resources management, but we still experience challenges as far as biodiversity conservation and sustainable development is concerned. In the coming years, biodiversity declines could take place and our environment will be increasingly disrupted and less able to provide for our people's needs. The world is facing and indeed suffering already from the worsening impacts of climate change. Government will tackle the issue of climate change vigorously for the mutual sustainable benefit of our country and our planet. To this end we will continue to support national and international efforts to monitor and reduce the causes of negative climate change. Such complexities, and challenges in sustainable development are at the core of my Government's implementation of development hubs. It is my hope that these hubs cut across ministries and integrate all stakeholders in their deliberations and in this regard it should be recognized that the environment itself, in turn, cuts across all hubs.

We do have important platforms like the High Level Consultative Council (HLCC), which serves a critical role in bringing together different stakeholders to address issues raised by this KCS dinner dance's theme. HLCC is itself an arrangement requiring evolution and change, and we hope it will continue to develop unified approaches, partnerships and forums for collective action for development and to providing a platform for policy engagement amongst all concerned. HLCC will evolve to meet today's challenges and the environment in its own right, through organizations like the KCS as the only National Environmental NGO, will have a place at that table.

All these efforts geared towards creating a balance between environment and development cannot be achieved without cooperation. There is a need to develop a dream package that both promotes environmental integrity and reduces poverty. There is a common belief that raising living standards will automatically reduce pressure on natural resources. However this is only possible if the corporate world can provide economic incentives to the communities and also plough back into environmental conservation initiatives. With all that, the dream package would be realized – a balance between environment and development.



On Friday, 31st of October 2008, the Government of Botswana successfully sold all its 43.6 tonnes of ivory through auction - raising US\$7.1 million, an equivalent of about P57 million. The sale was approved by the Convention that regulates trade in endangered plant and animal species (CITES) at its 12th and 14th Conference of Parties. Three other Southern African countries; Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were granted permission to dispose of their ivory stocks as well, as their elephant populations are listed under Appendix II, signifying that the population of elephants in these countries is healthy. Botswana's elephant population is currently estimated at over 150,000.

Japan and China were certified and designated as ivory importing countries at the 54th and 57th CITES Standing Committee Meetings, respectively. Therefore only twenty (20) ivory trading companies from Japan and three (3) associations representing Crafts and Carving factories from China were allowed to participate in the auction. The auction was witnessed by the Secretary General of CITES who is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The proceeds from this sale will be deposited in a Trust Account, 70% of which will be ploughed back into elephant conservation initiatives while 30% is earmarked to finance community development projects for the communities that live in the elephant range. This is in line with the CBNRM Policy that embraces addressing rural poverty through community conservation efforts.

The ivory sold was only from government stock piles that were registered on or before January 31st 2007, and excluded seized ivory and ivory of unknown origin.

Botswana is committed to elephant conservation and issues a sustainable annual hunting quota for elephants to ensure maintenance of biodiversity and firmly believes that attaching value to wildlife and their products is the key to their long-term conservation.

Ref: PRESS RELEASE – Department of Wildlife and National Parks

KCS successfully completes the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre equipment purchasing project sponsored by the European Union



The Assistant Minister of Education Hon. L.T. Mokalake and the KCS retired Treasurer and Board Member Mr. R.N. Matthews being demonstrated on the use of the new equipment

October 21st 2008 marked the arrival at the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC) of state of the art scientific research equipment that will support creation of new knowledge about natural resources management in northern Botswana. A unique cross sectoral partnership has enabled the European Commission donation of Euro 1,509,600 (Pula 7, 080, 24 million) while the European Union (EU) provided the funding, Kalahari Conservation Society facilitated procurement, and the University of Botswana (UB) in Maun-HOORC identified the needs.

The HOORC is an academic unit of the University of Botswana, situated in Botswana's north-western village of Maun on the fringes of the Okavango Delta. The Okavango Delta is a fan shaped delta in the Kalahari Basin fed by the Okavango River from Angola. The Okavango River Basin, including the Delta itself,

the surrounding woodlands and the Kalahari rangelands, form a major focus of research work at the Centre.

In his equipment presentation Mr. Paul Malin (Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Botswana) said it was an opportunity to reflect on the fact that protecting the environment is essential for the quality of life of current and future generations. The EU seeks to be in the forefront of efforts to protect the planet, said Mr Malin.

He added that the EU has long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change, but in recent times has taken a lead in promoting strong global action, adopting ambitious targets for 2020 to go beyond those agreed as part of the Kyoto Protocol and challenging others to join the EU as negotiations start on an international climate regime for the post 2012 period.

He concluded by paying tribute to the Kalahari Conservation Society's tenacity in seeing the project through and hoped that the EU can contribute to a greater understanding of the functioning of the ecosystems in northern Botswana, to encourage the growing international interest in the Centre and to assist the Centre in its work.

On accepting the equipment on behalf of the Government, Honourable Lebonaamang T. Mokalake (Assistant Minister for Education and Skills Development) said it was a special pleasure, as the Minister responsible for Education and Skills Development, to see how an effective partnership of scientific expertise, environmental advocacy and development policy have come together to enhance Botswana's learning environment.

He pointed out that people form part of the whole ecosystem and are often the ones upsetting the eco-balance. Therefore, individuals and communities have absolute responsibility of being well informed and promoting sustainable methods of environmental use through education.

"The EU recognised the need for such tools to enhance the learning environment for researchers, students and members of the Okavango community. Its partnership with HOORC and the Kalahari Conservation Society has made it possible", said Hon Mokalake.

He concluded by thanking Mr. Malin and the EU for the partnership with Botswana on commitment to learning and development. The KCS former Treasurer, Mr. Robert Matthews also thanked the EU for the support, particularly the staff diligence and the needed guidance for the Society to execute the tenders meticulously. The end-of-project technical and financial audit reports have been approved.



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