

**HOW DOES GOVERNMENT  
REGULATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL  
DECISIONS AFFECT OUR WILDLIFE,  
COMMUNITIES & GREEN  
ECONOMY?**

**INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANCHING SYMPOSIUM,  
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

**Adri Kitshoff-Botha,  
Wildlife Ranching South Africa**

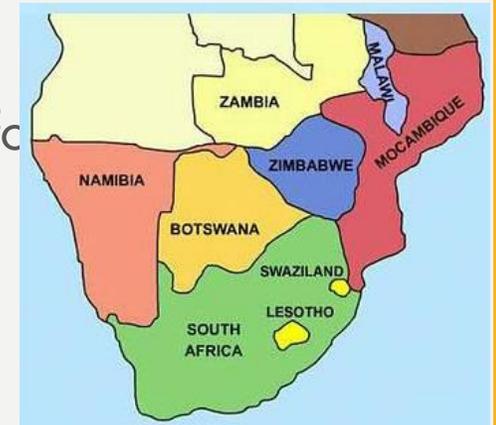
# INTRODUCTION

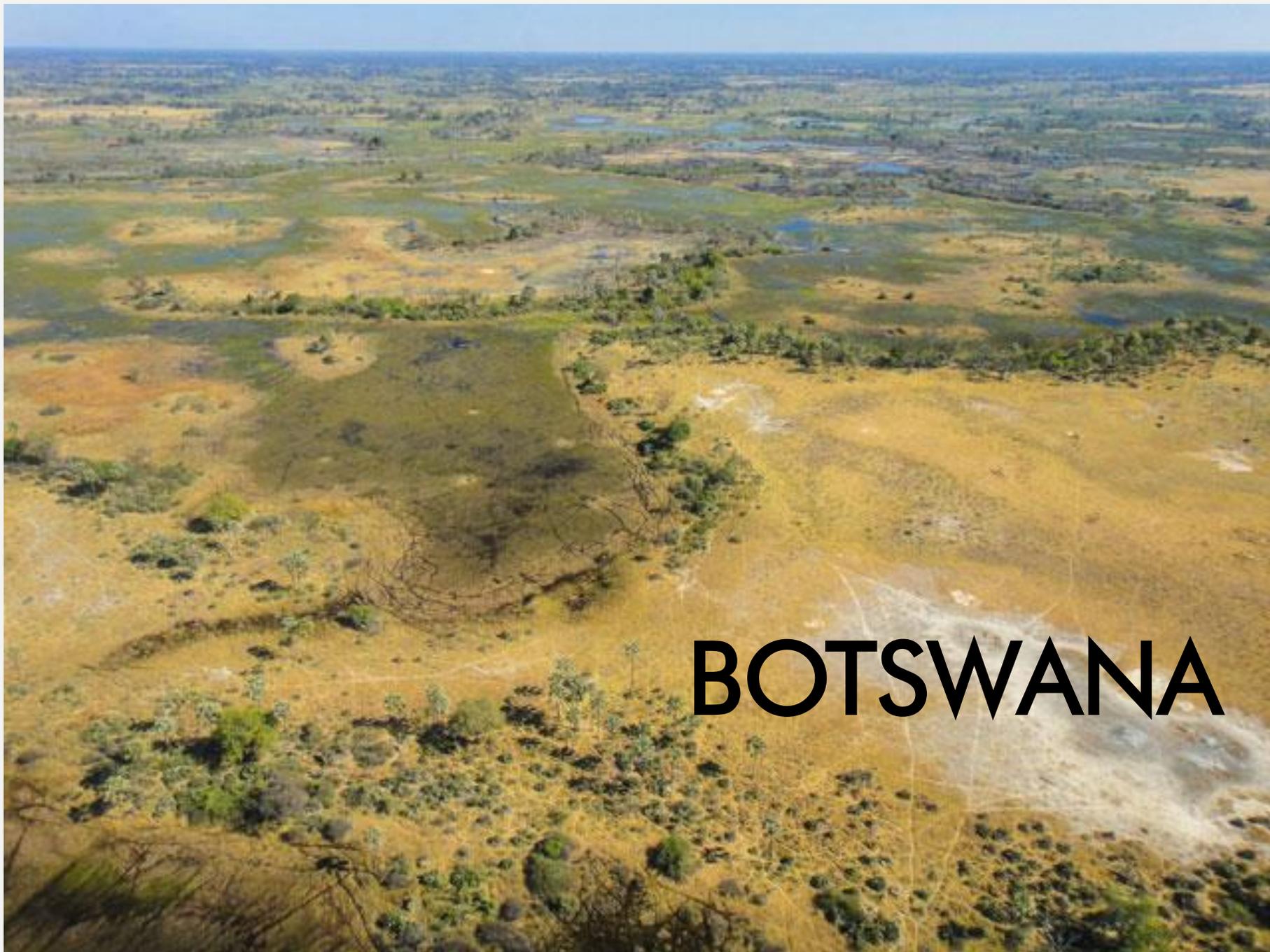
Representing WRSA  
(Wildlife Ranching South Africa)

with 15 years experience in the  
local and international hunting  
sectors in South Africa



- Purpose of presentation **NOT** focussing on legislation specifically, but rather on **some** unilateral decision, statements, policies, etc., affecting communities, wildlife and green economies of some Southern African countries
- NOT all negative, but also sharing ideas on taking this wonderful industry forward
- Information provided by various representatives from the wildlife industries of Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.





**BOTSWANA**

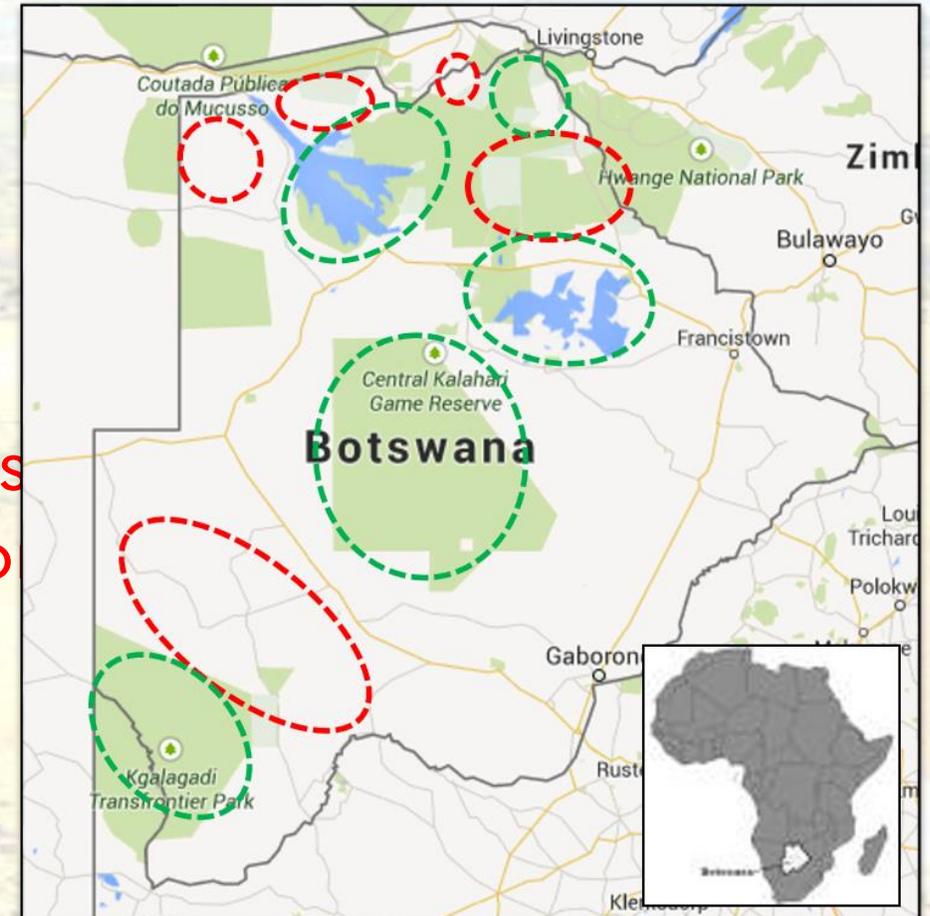
# BOTSWANA TOURISM POTENTIAL

Non-consumptive:  
(Photographic)

Consumptive:  
Potential dangerous game  
Unsuitable for photographic tourism  
Investment from Hunting Operators

Plains Game hunting  
On lease- and free hold land

Benefits to communities



Source: Mr Rudie De Wet, BWPA

# BOTSWANA (EFFECTS OF DECISIONS, ETC)



## Unilateral Decision: 2013

Ban on hunting in all controlled hunting areas & hunting management areas

Negative  
impact on  
Communitie  
s

Rise in  
Human /  
Wildlife  
Conflict

Farmers  
killing huge  
number of  
predators

NO BENEFIT TO COMMUNITIES

Effect: POACHING (illegal trade)

## COLLABORATION:

Discussions between Government and Industry.

Ban on translocation of wildlife – Agreement reached – 20% donation to Government

Source: Mr Rudie De Wet, BWPA

# **SOUTH AFRICA**



# SOUTH AFRICA - EXAMPLES



2015: Airline Ban on Transport of Hunting Trophies  
No consultation with department and/or industry



2015: Australia ban on import of legally hunted lion trophies.  
No communication with SA Govt. and/or industry  
2015: USFWS announcement regarding enhancement.  
No consultation with industry



2009: Moratorium on domestic trade in rhino horn. 7 Years later?



2015: USFWS Enhancement Policy  
Without any consultation with SANBI



Differences WITHIN Industry creating CONFUSION  
NOT TO BENEFIT OF OUR INDUSTRY



Occasional lack of consultation between government departments....., eg:  
2015: Announcement regarding visa's and unabridged certificates.  
No consultation between Home Affairs & Department of Tourism beforehand  
2016: Agriculture / Environmental Affairs - CAUSING CONFUSION

# SOUTH AFRICA - COLLABORATION

- SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT:

- Policy of public consultation
- Wildlife Forums (national, provincial)



NGO's  
Scientific  
Authorities,  
etc.

**HAWASA**

HUNTING AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS SOUTH AFRICA

- BIODIVERSITY LAB:

- Wildlife economy growth
- Sustainability
- Transformation

- LEOPARD ZERO – QUOTA:

- 2016: Industry , SANBI , Government working together – research, etc.



- CAPE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA – Potential CITES I to CITES II

- Industry & Government taking hands – working together



# SOUTH AFRICA COLLABORATION EXAMPLE

- North West Province introduced Annual Provincial biodiversity conference as a vehicle towards development of:

Practical solutions to growing the economy through existing entities and new entrants,

Stimulate investment on the province's local products, and

Establish a wildlife transformation fund.



## TANZANIA

- Hunting concessions making substantial contribution to economy:
- Recent unilateral decisions impacting the industry included:
  - \*\* Concession fees which increased drastically during 2013.
  - \*\* Introduction of VAT (also on photographic)
- Effecting in hunts sold year or two before, being cancelled, which not only negatively effect the hunting operations, but tourism in general
- **Collaboration – no information**

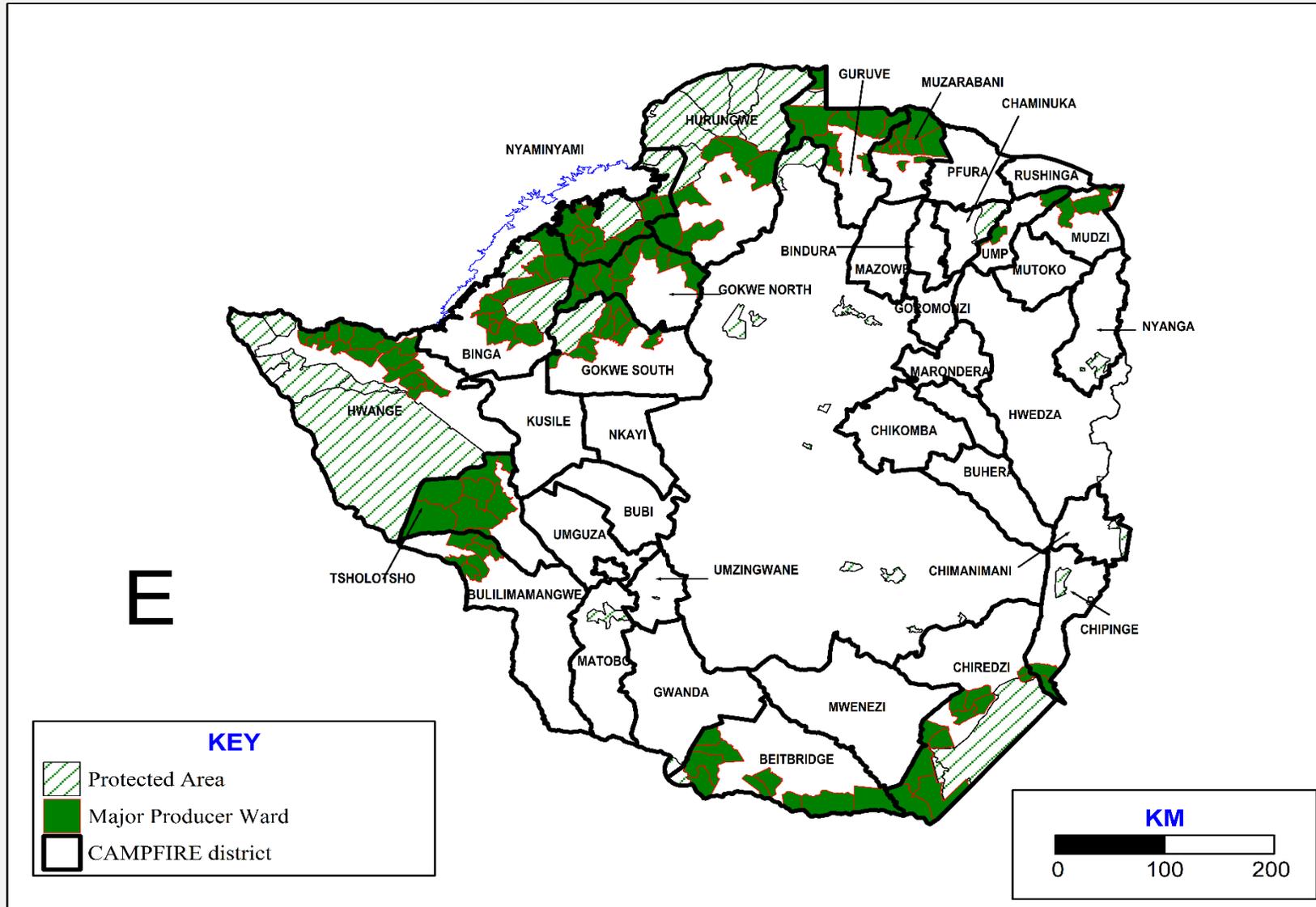
## ZAMBIA

- Unilateral ban on hunting in Government Areas: 2013 – 2015 (Safaris continued in land leased private game ranching areas whose leases were renewed)
- Impact on government, economy, difficult to quantify
- Impact on communities:
  - No income from hunting concessions – zero!
  - Who would donate with no possible future opportunities?
- Impact on wildlife:  
Poaching levels went through the roof. Human/wildlife conflict – no value

### COLLABORATION ...

- Wildlife industry never gave up with discussions  
New Hope:
  - New Minister; ZAWA;
  - Bans lifted, Lease areas re-allocated
  - All working together to ensure Zambian industry get back on its feet again to become recognised as a role-player in safari industry [Source: Mr Roland Norton]

# ZIMBABWE



Source: Mr Alistair Pole, Mr Nick Le

# ZIMBABWE

## USFWS **SUSPENSION** OF ELEPHANT TROPHY IMPORTS – APRIL 2014

### USFWS REASONS

- Questionable management practices;
- Lack of effective law enforcement and weak governance which resulted in uncontrolled poaching;
- Limited data available, indicating a significant decline in the elephant population; and
- Anecdotal evidence, such as poisoning of elephants in Hwange National Park, suggesting that Zimbabwe's elephants are also under siege.

### BENEFITS FROM ELEPHANT HUNTING TO CAMPFIRE AREAS

- 700,000+ households benefit from CAMPFIRE
- Subsistence farming of drought resistant crops.
- Environmental changes negatively impacting on negatively on food security.
- Livelihoods complemented by revenue generated from sustainable utilization of natural resources, especially trophy hunting of elephant.
- Abundant and thriving population of elephants contributed to poor agricultural output with fields totally destroyed every cropping season.

# INCIDENCES OF HUMAN AND ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN SELECTED DISTRICTS IN 2012

District	Incidences of Human and Elephant Conflict
Mudzi	14 Families in 3 wards affected, 10 hectares of crops destroyed
Tsholotsho	45 families affected in 11 wards, 40 hectares of crops destroyed
Hwange	19 wards affected, especially Chidobe, Kacheti, Chikandakubi, Silewu, Makwandara and Mabale Wards
Bulilima	13 wards affected, especially Makhulela and Madlambudzi Wards, over 50 hectares destroyed
Nyaminyami	13 families lost family members, 10 families lost property, crop loss in 9 wards
Chipinge	Crop loss in 2 wards
Vungu	1300 households in 3 wards lost crops
Matobo	3 wards, 22 hectares destroyed
Mbire	0.4 hectares per household lost annually to wildlife

Source: RDC CAMPFIRE Annual Reports October 2013

# USFWS enhancement policy - Lions

Parks imposed policy

Rangers to be present (no support/value) on DG hunts **outside** Parks areas

\$50-85 – adding 8% to costs

After attempted sable smuggling - - Translocation banned for 7 months

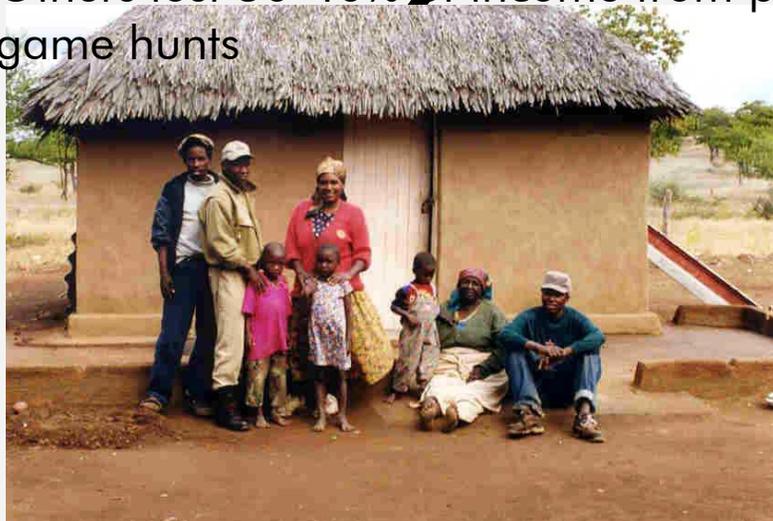




Households Affected:

CAMPFIRE communities – lost >50% income

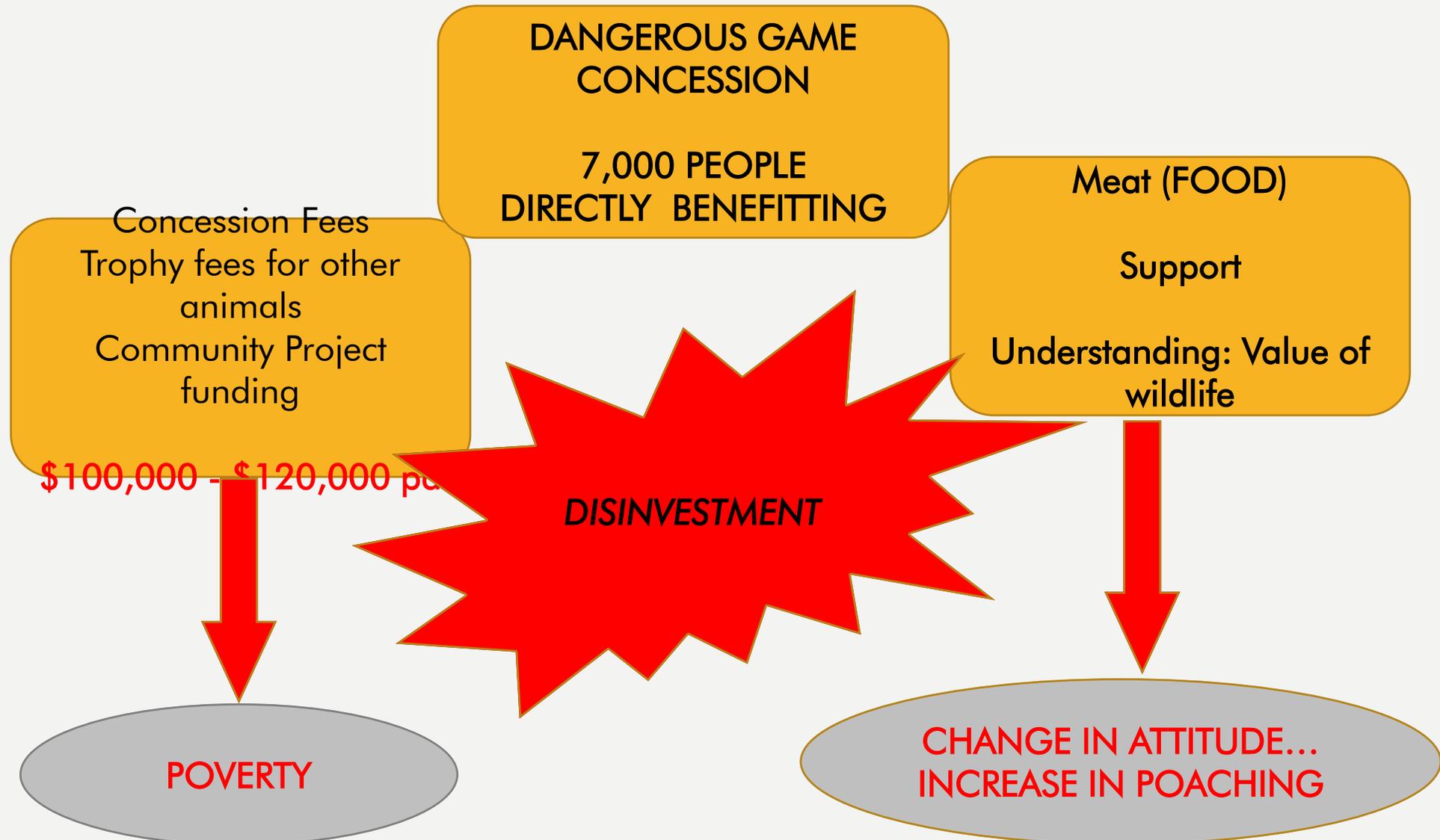
Others lost 30-40% of income from plains game hunts



Disgruntled communities easily become willing tools for sophisticated wildlife poaching syndicates.



# EXAMPLE:: MAHENYE COMMUNITY



# ZIMBABWE: COLLABORATION

- April 2015: Workshop, hosted by Parks
- Strong recommendations made to strengthen the industry and Parks to become more transparent (sharing of information)
- Active Ministry, with goal to assist wildlife industry (including the conservancies)  
Ranching – predominantly represented by conservancies, still functioning and providing significant contribution from a conservation perspective.  
(Game farming in Zimbabwe - destroyed during land reform area).

95% of Zimbabwe's Black Rhino population – on private conservancies

50% of Zimbabwe's Lion population – on private conservancies

- Industry and government engaged to find long term sustainable solutions  
(Implementation slow, due to nature of political situation in Zimbabwe)
- HOPEFUL for recommendations to be implemented in future

# WAY FORWARD



I'VE DECIDED THERE WILL BE NO  
MORE UNILATERAL DECISION-MAKING.



THANK YOU!

Contributions:

Botswana: Mr Rudie De Wet

Zimbabwe:

Mr Alistair Pole & Mr Nick Le Grange

Zambia: Mr Roland Norton

## WAY FORWARD

Communication

Open Channels

Networking

Create understanding

Research (to rule out perceptions,  
opinions, fiction)

INTENT TO GROW WILDLIFE,  
ECONOMIES & SUSTAINABLE  
LIVELIHOODS