

Community Based Natural Resources Management: Implementation Strategy

Final Report

Submitted to:

Department of Wildlife and National Parks, MCI, Government of Botswana
United States Agency for International Development, RCSEA
BIOFOR Task Order 802

Submitted by:

Chemonics International Inc.

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ACRONYMS

ARB	Agricultural Resources Board
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CHA	Controlled Hunting Area
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
DWNP	Department of Wildlife and National Parks
MCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NRURC	Natural Resource Use Review Committee
RALE	Representative and Accountable Legal Entity
WCNP	Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act

Executive Summary

From September 1996 to May 2000, the Government of Botswana engaged in a broad-based consultative process to develop a draft unified CBNRM policy document covering all natural resources on all land-use designations. The policy received widespread national input and has been discussed in a variety of forums, including village meetings, national and regional workshops and conventions, agency meetings, and NGO forums.

This report highlights the areas of implementation spelled out in the comprehensive policy document, which was presented and discussed in depth in a previous report. It eliminates from the CBNRM policy document all background information and history and focuses instead on the directives for implementation.

The policy describes CBNRM-specific issues and creates a regulatory base to support the conservation of natural resources on which CBNRM relies. The final draft policy covers new and complex natural resource management issues, and details precedent-setting bridges between the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI). The unified draft policy is expected to be sent to Parliament for adoption by mid-2000.

CBNRM Draft Policy

The CBNRM policy for Botswana provides a solid platform for the continuation and expansion of CBNRM as a conservation-based development program as it was begun some 10 years ago. Although nearly 30 communities now enjoy natural resource rights and generate substantial benefits from natural resource use, there is no official Government policy to legitimize and guide these activities. If CBNRM is to successfully support community development and resource conservation, the Government must provide standards for its implementation. To this end, the draft CBNRM policy includes definitions of key terms and describes the policy objectives.

It further details the general principles underlying natural resource rights; defines the shift to community-managed access regimes; allows for continuation of the quota system for wildlife resources; addresses deforestation by establishing community-managed forest reserves; establishes management priorities for fisheries; proposes creation of a new technical body to help the Agricultural Resources Board manage veld resources; describes initiatives to strengthen the relationship between national parks and game reserves with adjacent communities; provides guidance for the safeguarding of intellectual property rights and equitable sharing of revenues; dedicates the Government to capacity-building efforts such as training in NRM, community development, and business; and seeks to ensure the requisite institutional support by validating current responsible institutions and proposing specific CBNRM coordinating institutions.