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***A REPORT ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF  
THE KHWAI AND MABABE AREAS,  
INCLUDING THE KHWAI PHOTOGRAPHIC AREA, NG 19.***

**A report to the DWNP**

**By**

**The Natural Resources Management Project**

**(Project no: 690-0251.33)**

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## **1. Introduction.**

For the purpose of this review we have included both the designated community wildlife areas NG 18; 1,815 sq Km and NG 41; 2,000 sq Km and the designated Photographic area NG 19 - 180 sq Km, in our survey of natural resources, wildlife and economic activity.

The Khwai community and photographic areas (NG 18 and NG 19) are situated to the north of Moremi Game Reserve, and due west of the south western boundary of Chobe National Park. The western boundary of NG 18 runs in a straight line north from Khwai River through trig station BPS 257, thence in a straight line north to the Seronga-Savuti road which forms the northern boundary of NG 18. The Photographic area, NG 19, is contained in the extreme south east section of these common boundaries. Both areas form a part of the existing CHA 7 concession.

Access to the Khwai areas is provided by the Maun to Savuti/Kasane road through Moremi Reserve North Gate, and by four wheel drive track from Seronga, via Betsha. Two airstrips are located in the south east section of the general area, the most utilised being 2.5 Km due east of Khwai village and the other, known as old Khwai airstrip, some 25Km north of the river, is used only during times of flood.

The Mababe area NG 41, within the current CHA 8, is bounded on the north and west by the southern boundary of Chobe National Park, by NG 43 to the south and to the east by NG 47.

Mababe village is situated on the more direct Maun to Savuti/Kasane road which is seldom used by tourists, who prefer to travel via Khwai and Moremi Game Reserve.

## **2. Background**

Since the early 1960s both areas have been hunting concessions operated by Ker Downey Selby (KDS), now amalgamated with Safari South. In recent years there has been a decline in safari hunting activity in CHA 7, due to disturbance from the increased mobility and number of citizen hunters, commercial hunters using local RADs' Special Game Licences (SGL) and, until recently, BDF and DWNP ration hunting activities. The Mababe concession, CHA 8, has been little used in the last few years due to below average rainfall and shortages of surface water.

The existing CHAs have been leased out to safari companies as hunting concessions for many years, with few of the benefits from their operations being made available to local people. In addition, citizens from other parts of Botswana have access to the areas' wildlife resource, which has increased hunting pressure and caused the migration of a number of species to more inaccessible parts of the district.

Both the proposed communal areas and the proposed photographic area boundaries are expected to come into effect when this years hunting season ends on September 17th. After which rural communities are expected to assume responsibility for the management of wildlife and other

natural resources occurring in their areas.

The local people, most of whom are of Basarwa origin, have hunted in the area for generations, but over the last decade or so their activities have become more restricted, under the controlled hunting regulations and the Special Game Licencing system.

Khwai village was established in 1963 when a band of about 30 people moved out of the newly created Moremi Reserve and settled at North Gate. These original settlers were hunter/gathering Baqanikhwe Basarwa people, who to this day spend much of their time hunting, fishing and harvesting veld products, particularly thatching grass. They keep no domestic stock other than dogs and chickens - although donkeys have recently been introduced as draught animals.

Since 1963 the local population has expanded, and other people, mostly of Bayei origin, have moved into the area, to find work in the tourist industry. Khwai is an extended community, and local people include the 'Lodge Villages', built by or for the employees of Tsaro and Khwai River Lodges as part of the main village.

No-one is quite sure when Mababe village was first established, the people are of a different Basarwa group to the residents of Khwai and rumour has it that they belonged to an abortive hunting party in the early 1900's, and have remained ever since.

The Khwai and Mababe communal areas have long been suggested as having potential for conservation based rural development, through the utilisation of local natural resources. The Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP) team and counterparts from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) recently visited both areas to profile the natural resources and to suggest potential options for their use.

### **3. Wildlife utilisation**

#### **3.1. Background**

The scenario with wildlife numbers in the Khwai area is similar to that of the Chobe Enclave. A recent history of hunting pressures from various sources e.g. BDF and DWNP ration hunting (since stopped), citizen hunters and SGL holders exploiting their licences for commercial gains has had the effect of a decrease in animal numbers and the dispersal of certain species e.g. buffalo and lechwe from the immediate area of Khwai, to the west of the present CHA 7.

Sources within the Safari industry have verbally confirmed the situation, and point out that the movement of safari hunting camps, over the years, from Khwai to some 80 kms to the west, reflect the dispersal of the major trophy species from the vicinity of Khwai.

Mababe presents a different scenario with lack of game during the present time of the year attributable to the lack of water in the area. Whilst there are annual migrations of both zebra and wildebeest from the Mababe Depression to Savuti during the dry season, other species have

also moved into Chobe NP and Moremi Wildlife Reserve to find water. This leaves a few impala, who are not dependent upon water, occurring near Mababe settlement.

The data appended below in Table I is the average of aerial surveys results undertaken by DWNP over 2 dry seasons (Sep 1989, September 1990) and 2 wet seasons (Apr 1990, Mar 1991).

It should be noted however that the areas surveyed were NG41, which remains unchanged from the original CH8, whereas both Area 18 and Area 20 were counted. Of the areas surveyed:

- (1) NG 41 - approximates the original CH8, but in the Cummings and Taylor (1989) report the "Mababe CHA" of approximately 5,000 sq km was reviewed. The present NG41 is only 2079 sq km of the original area under review.
- (2) The counts for NG18, reflect populations in both NG18 and NG20 (these in turn approximate the original CHA7). The new community area under review, NG18, is only half the size, 1815 sq km, of areas NG18 and NG20.

Since, as far as can be determined, the bulk of the animal populations occur in NG20, the data must be treated with caution. It is thought, for example, that the buffalo recorded, were in fact in NG20 not NG18.

**TABLE I      DWNP AERIEL SURVEY RESULTS**  
**COMBINED ESTIMATES - 1989 - 1991**

	Khwai 3620 sq km (NG 18 + NG20)	Mababe 2079 sq km (NG41)
Elephant	7897	1577
Zebra	352	1920
Warthog	182	36
Giraffe	582	278
Roan	40	19
Tsessebe	265	14
Impala	1560	71
Buffalo	4269	-
Hippo	45	-
Kudu	96	49
Sable	66	-
Lechwe	1414	-
Reedbuck	70	-
Gemsbok	-	56
Wildebeest	-	50
Ostrich	13	43
Eland	42	174

\*Area 18 - half of 18 + 20 (1815 sq k)

Without a more in-depth seasonal survey of the respective areas it would appear that:

## **Mababe**

The Cummings and Taylor (1989) report on Mababe notes, inter alia;

"Very low stocking rates in CHA's 8 and 3". (more than double the size of the present NG41). "The presently low wildlife densities in Mababe will not permit full realisation of the area for some time to come".

Personal observations made during an 80k drive in the area complement these reports.

Attempts will be made to ascertain whether the purported influx of game in the rainy season, in particular zebra and wildebeest, occurs in the newly proclaimed NG41, or outside its boundaries.

In terms of the viability of wildlife utilisation/game harvesting by the community, the following investigations will have to be undertaken before this form of utilisation could be considered or proposed:

- (a) Seasonal ground counts to establish the numbers of impala in the area, and the logistical validity of a game harvesting scheme.
- (b) The migratory route of zebra and wildebeest in relation to NG41, and the logistical validity of a harvesting scheme

It is felt that the utilisation option with the greatest chance of success would be for the community to consider entering into a lease agreement with a Safari Company, who might consider zoning the area for photographic safaris, hunting (the emphasis on game birds, with limited game hunting) and cropping on behalf of the community, should this be required or feasible. The provision of boreholes, and active management of the area, by the Safari Company, could lead to increased game populations.

## **Khwai**

The newly designated community managed wildlife utilisation area NG18 is 1815 sq km in extent. During the dry season, some 80-85 percent of the area, mopane woodland, is not utilised by game. The southern boundary of the area, the Khwai River frontage, and NG19 (photographic concession) also fronting the river, are utilised by wildlife during this period.

The disturbance caused by a past history of hunting in NG18 has tended to cause a movement of larger ungulates westwards into NG20, 21 and 22.

Hunting parties from Khwai village, and citizen hunters hunt in NG18 at present, where impala

are their main target animal.

As with the Mababe community the utilisation option that would benefit the Khwai community most, would be to enter into a lease agreement with a Safari Company. There are approx 20 kms of river frontage in NG18 allowing a large enough area for a photographic lodge to be established, as well as a hunting lodge, should the latter be desired. Hunting opportunities would however be limited, until effective management resulted in a return of the larger ungulates to the area.

But a Safari Company could, if the community wishes, crop impala for community subsistence purposes, or mutual agreement could lead to continued community hunting on a regulated basis, in a "hunting zone" within NG18.

Issues that will have to be addressed before any greater involvement by NRMP in the communities are those effecting the DWNP relationship with the communities, these are:

- (a) The cancellation of certain species from the SGL licences in both communities (Buffalo, Ostrich, Tsessebe, Eland)
- (b) The area restriction applied to SGL licences. This is particularly sensitive in the Mababe area, where animals are scarce due to climatic conditions. In the past villagers were allowed to hunt in Area 7 and 24 if game was absent from their own area
- (c) The lack of PAC protection offered to the communities by DWNP in years when crops are able to be grown.

Until these problems are discussed and resolved by DWNP and local communities they will remain sceptical and hostile to suggestions on community projects.

It is imperative that the confidence of the communities in Government agencies be restored before any meaningful discussions take place on community related projects.

Both communities experience crop damage by elephant during the growing season. We were advised by the Mababe community that they had elicited assistance from DWNP in the past but were told that there was a shortage of DWNP manpower and to take care of the problem themselves. This is impractical as no-one in the community seems to own a firearm. We were told however, of one incident in the past where a resident had wounded a crop raiding elephant and DWNP had despatched it at a later date. There is no potential problem from crop raiding elephants in Mababe at the moment as there are no crops, however once favourable rains return the problem may well reappear.

The residents of Khwai also experience problems with crop raiding elephants and have been assisted on occasion in the past by DWNP from Moremi North Gate who attempt to drive

elephant out of crop land with their vehicles, this is not a satisfactory solution to the problem.

#### **4. Survey of Economic Activity**

##### **4.1. Introduction.**

The original residents of both the villages at Khwai and Mababe are Basarwa people who lived as semi-nomadic hunter gathering clans or family groups. More recently they have established permanent settlements in order to be more easily accessible to the services offered by government. They have taken to cultivating such crops as sorghum, maize, beans and melons with only moderate success, and now keep some livestock. Neither village places much importance on arable agriculture, due mainly to unreliable rainfall and wildlife damage. The people of Mababe say they have not had a good crop since 1973.

The people of Khwai keep chickens, dogs and a few donkeys, which they use as draught animals on their small fields. Mababe people keep similar stock but also have quite a number of goats and it is reported that most households own a few animals.

Both villages have Kgotla's and VDC compounds with the usual offices, and both have 'schools'. The Mababe school was built by the community, whereas the one at Khwai was built with the assistance of the drought relief programme. Only the Mababe school is in operation, as no teachers have been supplied to Khwai. The only government service provided to the villages is the mobile clinic which visits the settlements twice a month.

Neither Khwai or Mababe have a piped water supply, the people of Khwai collect water from the river and those in Mababe have a hand pumped well, which during the dry season produces insufficient water for villagers needs. MLGL&H have provided the SRADO with funds for providing a borehole at Mababe and it is expected that a drilling company may begin work there shortly.

##### **4.2. Formal and Informal Employment**

The three tourist Lodges at Khwai employ 67 full time staff, of which 44 are considered permanent residents of Khwai village. In addition, 6 to 8 casuals are hired on an almost permanent basis by the Lodges and the DWNP. Outside Khwai, 7 members of the community work in lodges within Moremi and in photographic and hunting camps to the west of CHA 7, and a further 10+ residents work away from the area for Maun based safari companies. One of the shop owners works on a self employed basis as a thatcher in the village, for tourist lodges and in Maun. Two other men worked for Tsaro Lodge collecting firewood (P 60 per load) but this agreement was terminated in February as was considered too expensive.

Informal employment at Khwai includes the brewing of khadi, handicraft production, the cutting and selling of thatching grass, subsistence fishing and hunting. Many of these activities are undertaken by women although most men fish and almost all men are involved in hunting

expeditions at some time.

Women are the main income earners from employment in Lodges, where 32 work full time, and from the sale of crafts and thatching grass in which we estimate some 60 women are involved. Between six and 10 women regularly brew khadi for sale to men. In addition to these income earning activities, women build houses, tend crops, fish and collect veld foods for subsistence.

The Mababe settlement is very different from that of Khwai, the people keep goats, and have been small stock owners for many years. The people are sober and unemployed. Those seven that are employed work far from home in Lodges and Safari camps. Three resident villagers receive salaries, the two teachers (1 from Khwai and 1 from Sankuyo) and the village headman. A further five men worked seasonally for Hunters Africa but due to changes in the ownership of the company their services have not been contracted this season.

In Mababe, informal employment involves subsistence agriculture, handicraft production by both men and women, the gathering of veld foods and the hunting activities of village men.

#### 4.3. Tourism

Both villages benefit from the tourist activities in Moremi Game Reserve and Chobe National Park, particularly Khwai village, which is strategically placed at Moremi North Gate. Many Khwai residents are employed in the tourist industry and their informal employment activities are aimed at supplying Lodges with thatching grass and the sale of handicrafts to passing tourists and Lodge gift shops.

Craft workers in Mababe have some difficulty in marketing handicrafts as little tourist traffic passes the village on the more direct route to and from Maun and Chobe, by-passing Moremi and Khwai. They are however active in producing a wider range of handicrafts than Khwai producers, which they display on the roadside.

The three Lodges at Khwai have a total of 54 tourist beds, of which 24 are available year round (Khwai River Lodge), the remaining 30 beds at Tsaro Lodge and Machaba Camp are presently available for 10 months and 8.5 months of the year respectively. In total, this represents 17,130 available bed nights p.a., of which we estimate between 6,000 and 7,000 p.a. are currently occupied. In addition, occupancy of the DWNP North Gate Campsite is estimated at 6,000 camping nights p.a., and visiting mobile safari operators, with permission from the concession holders (Safari South) to use CHA 7, are estimated to provide a further 600 camping nights p.a. in the Khwai area. Citizen hunters visiting the area either stay in Khwai village or camp in the CHA, we estimate they spend some 350 nights in or around Khwai on these excursions.

Apart from employment in lodges and sales of thatching grass and handicrafts, local people secure inadequate benefit from tourist activities in their area. None of the lodge operators have a close working relationship with the community and this has led to a number of misunderstandings, particularly over hunting in the vicinity of lodges and the current unsightly,

rubbish strewn, state of Khwai village.

#### 4.4. Retail Outlets

The first store in the area was opened in Khwai village in 1976, to serve an expanding population, and those drawn to the employment opportunities offered by the growing tourist industry. There are now six stores in Khwai village, of which five are fully operational. Mababe has one store. All these outlets sell very much the same produce - basic foodstuffs, canned drinks and household requisites. The Mababe store does not sell canned drinks, which are considered luxuries in the cash poor village.

After staple foodstuffs, the most important commodity on sale in all stores is sugar, which is used for brewing khadi, known locally as 'rasta wine'.

#### 4.5. Thatching Grass

The Mababe residents say that there is no quality thatching grass in their area and this is due to being unable to legally burn the veld for many years. When they were able to burn the veld, as they had traditionally done for many years, they say that the grasses were better and hunting was easier. The veld was more open, which enabled them to hunt more successfully as game was attracted to the flush of new grass after burning, at the same time fire controlled the less desirable grass and shrub species that now dominate the range.

Khwai people cut thatching grass to the west of the village, and claim that this is their main source of income after employment in the tourist industry. Thatching grass is cut between July and the end of September and it is reported that the activity is undertaken by the older women of Khwai village.

#### 4.6. Reeds

There are few reeds, *Cymbopogon excavatus* and *Hypharrenia hirta*, found in either communal area as these species require perennial water/swamp to become properly established. The Khwai river is not recognised as having the permanent flow or storage capacity after flood to allow the establishment of viable reed beds. Indeed, it has only been in recent years that there has been a regular flood reaching beyond Machaba and, until 1983, when the Khwai bridge at North Gate was built, the river was easily fordable at all times of the year (P. Smith, pers. com.).

#### 4.7. Palms

Within the designated NG 18 and NG 19 there are very few palms that might be utilised by basket makers. No Mokola palms exist in the Mababe communal area. A few young Mokola palms can be seen at North Gate and there are six mature Mokola palms at Khwai River Lodge. Otherwise the nearest palms seen on our survey are at Four Rivers, some 80 Km by track west of Khwai settlement, and well outside the designated communal area.

Local people have recognised the tourist demand for basket work and Khwai and Mababe women now buy the necessary raw materials from Maun. The Mokola palm leaves they purchase are already bleached and dyed and are ready to be worked. Women pay two pula in Maun for a small bundle of these prepared palm leaves. It is interesting to note that those craft workers that do use locally collected palm leaves for basket weaving produce inferior work to those who purchase ready bleached and dyed leaves from Maun.

## **5. Village Development Committees**

### **5.1 Background**

One of the objectives of NRMP is to "establish institutions and decision-making procedures for sustainable resource management and distribution of economic benefits, and to strengthen institutions at the village, ward, and district levels on communal lands" (USAID 1989:15).

These objectives also feature in the policies of many ministries and development agencies. Assessing the vitality and capacities of existing local institutions is an important first step in determining their utility for resource decision-making and in reaching a decision about their prospective role(s) in project areas. Development is in large part the interplay of institutions in the community, in the region, in the state and in the market place. An assessment of the present level of institutional development provides a basis for determining the roles local institutions can effectively play in a proposed project or program and how they might be effectively linked with or enhanced by outside agencies or organizations.

During the 1970s, the Remote Area Dweller Program promoted the establishment of local institutions in remote areas. Subsequently, various agencies and organizations have sought to strengthen and to develop local institutions. During the 1980s, the Applied Research Unit (ARU) of the Ministry of Local Government and Lands (MLGL) studied local institutions throughout rural Botswana (Fortmann 1983) identifying their potential and such problems as leadership and institutional development.

The Ministry of Local Government, Lands and Housing (MLGL&H) has published "Guidelines for Village Development Committees." This pamphlet gives details for officially recognizing villages and defining appropriate VDCs, their duties, memberships and elections. This source book provides the reference details for many of the conversations with VDC members in Khwai and Mababe.

### **5.2. The Village Development Committee Structure**

The VDC is the main development committee at the village level. As the Guidelines state (p.2) "The VDC is the main village institution responsible for all development matters and coordinates all village institution's activities e.g. Village Health Committee, Farmers Committee, PTA, Women's organizations and other voluntary organizations." The committee is responsible to the kgotla in all matters related to development.

According to the guidelines (p. 3), the VDC should do the following:

- a) meet regularly to identify the needs and problems of the village, through consultation with villagers at the Kgotla.
- b) select the most urgent problems/projects and decide what is needed to meet these problems
- c) request and organize self-help assistance from the villagers through the Chief or Headman and if need be, assistance from the District Council
- d) organise, implement and maintain projects, the committees finances, and support other village organisations to develop the village

The VDC should consist of ten (10) members who are elected democratically at a Kgotla meeting. An Executive Committee, chosen from these elected members, consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Vice Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the VDC may include Ex-Officio members (Chief, Headman, Councillor, etc) and various co-opted members.

The guidelines suggest that a VDC members term of service should normally be two years, that they qualify for sitting allowances, and that for guidance and training the members should be supported by the Village Extension Team in Council.

The exact standing of the VDCs at Khwai and Mababe within the District Council structure is difficult to determine. Both committees meet in response to official visits. Members of both VDCs complain of not receiving sitting allowances; yet the Social Welfare Officer said that he had filled out sitting allowance forms for both villages on a recent trip. He was chided for filling out forms for Khwai, claimed they were not paid but those forms for Mababe were the basis for that VDC receiving payment.

### 5.3. Orientation of Questions relative to VDCs

In addition to focusing on the organizational capacities of VDCs, the rural sociologist sought to understand the policy environment within which the VDC operated at the District level. Through questions posed to officials in Maun and VDC members in Khwai and Mababe, he sought answers to the following questions:

1. Is the district receptive to VDC development in Khwai and Mababe ?
2. What have been the major recent decisions and discussions in the VDCs?
3. What are the main constraints/opportunities of the VDCs in their present forms?

#### 5.4. Assessment of Current Environment for VDC Development at Khwai and Mababe

The VDCs in both Khwai and Mababe have been in place for a number of years. Their beginning could not be determined, either from interviews with residents or with officials in Maun. DWNP staff in Maun said that their contacts with residents in these rural sites were "haphazard", brief, and usually involved issues of special game licences, problem animal control and family welfare. They had never addressed kgotlas and were not involved with either VDC. A local game scout, resident at Khwai for six years, claimed more involvement in attending VDC meetings and making suggestions to them. The Social Welfare Officer (SWO) and Community Development Officer (CDO) responsible for both settlements lived in Sankuyo and rarely visit the settlements. The attitudes among civil servants contacted was that the VDCs in both places were "dormant," the problem was basically illiteracy, and that the issues of importance to the VDCs were at variance with those government wished to promote.

According to these sources, many RADs do not speak Setswana and prefer to conduct meetings in Sesarwa, also, attendance levels at these meetings are usually low.

Little or no formal training had been invested in the current group of VDC members, most of whom were women (The two men- the chairmen and treasurers of both committees were away at the time of our visit).

Last year the North-west District Council amalgamated the offices of the RADO and the Community Development Officer under the same District department. This change was to avoid duplication of efforts and payments to the same individuals. Whether this change will result in the provisioning of the training and development of skills among VDC members is too early to know. Our assessment is that in the short-term such assistance is unlikely.

In the recent past, the relationship between RAD communities and development officers has been a personal rather than a functional one. The current state of underdeveloped skills among VDC members may be the result of indecision on the part of District Council, pressure from safari lodges and photographic operators not to develop Khwai (as opposed to Mababe which is slated for some structures under the current development plan), or some other unknown reason.

#### 5.5. Assessment of recent decisions and discussions in the VDCs.

No question addressed to a VDC member about recent decisions and discussions mentioned any of the items listed in the Guidelines (above) that should be on the agenda of such committees. There were no VDC projects, except those promoted by outside interests. Concerns of outsiders included keeping the village clean, the building of toilets, and local assistance in defining (for the Social Welfare Officer) who was "destitute". Sanctions had never been applied. The resolution to conflicts was to gazette the settlement and hire a kgotla policeman. One woman, who said that she had removed herself from the VDC because some things (construction of toilets) had been decided without consultation, said she felt no remorse or peer pressure for leaving the committee.

Although the committee meets occasionally together with its "parent organizations" in Sankuyu or Shorobe and convenes when the Community Development Officer comes four times a year, the Khwai VDC has met at times on its own. An example is the meeting held in early April during which a letter was written to the District Commissioner requesting an audience with her about the status of the village ( a copy of this letter was shown to us by the DC who said she planned to attend a kgotla there soon). Another decision reached in Khwai was to break up into small family groups (lesika) to diminish the amount of squabbles and fights. Then, they hoped to reorganize the VDC so that it represented the main groups. The major concern of VDC members in both settlements, one repeatedly expressed, was the lack of "sitting fees."

#### 5.6. Assessment of Institutional Capacity

According to the guidelines, each VDC should have 10 members. The most we could obtain in each settlement was seven names. Five women members were present (and interviewed), the men were away either in Maun, Kasane, or in the bush hunting. Most of these women said that they had been members of the committee since its beginning. According to them, men tended to travel around and their presence could not be counted on when needed. Although we asked for records of VDC meetings (as stipulated in the guidelines), none was ever produced, nor were records of any finances.

From these descriptions, provided both by insiders and outsiders, the VDCs have inadequate ability to make decisions or rules, to enforce them, resolve conflicts, or to manage cash flows. Lack of education and experience of the outside world, especially about how it works (at least in a business sense) will be the development problems encountered in RAD settlements elsewhere. Therefore, identifying suitable candidates for management positions and for training in desired skills, and subsequently providing these individuals with the incentives to stay in their communities and to contribute to community development, will be a continual challenge.

### 6. Issues

#### 6.1. Special Game Licences

The list of Special Game Licence holders kept in the Maun DWNP office shows that there were 370 SGL issued in the district during 1992. Thirty one of these were issued in Khwai and fourteen in Mababe. We interviewed two men and seven women holders of SGL in Khwai and five men and two women in Mababe.

Over half (17) of those SGLs issued in Khwai were determined to belong to older women. These women most often live surrounded by female relatives, and claim to have been deserted by their "husbands" (nyatsi). They have been left to support their children as best they can. They complain of slim returns from the arrangements they make with "strangers" to hunt for them. These strangers often remove the larger "commercial" species (ie ostrich, buffalo, eland) from these licences, take most of the meat to town for selling and leave the licence holder with little compensation. As a result of this abuse, DWNP had removed these three important species from

the SGL. Locals were adamant that they were not consulted about this removal; DWNP staff said they had been consulted. Either way, women said that they had lost one of the prime incentives to get others to hunt and supply them meat.

Apparently, the SGL was conceived with the idea of a stable family unit, with the man provisioning meat to his kin. With the break-down of such a stable unit among FADS in settlements, this concept has lost its utility. Such a change must be added to growing list of reasons why the SGL must be revised and changed.

In the case of Mababe the DWNP has restricted SGL holders to hunting in their own CHA. As there are few animals in the Mababe area during the dry season, this limits their ability to hunt game in other areas (Khwai), as they have done in the past.

## **6.2. Local Institutions and Their Management Capacity.**

Basarwa people do not have a tradition of formal organisation nor, until recently, have they been used to leading a sedentary lifestyle. In the past their decisions were governed by the availability of rainfall, veld foods and animal movements, and these natural aspects dominated their nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle. Their situation is further complicated by the greater number of people living in each settlement, the breakdown in discussion and communication within and between family groups and bands living in settlements, and the expectations of well meaning, but often misguided, outsiders.

Under these circumstances it is obvious that the development of effective institutions in these communal areas will require considerable time and lasting support.

However, it may be possible to develop simple resource user groups, that might contribute to the overall management of the community areas. These groups might consist of hunters, fishermen, handicraft producers and thatching grass cutters; each group having a specific interest in improving revenues and managing the resources they utilise. These resource user groups might then be represented on a community resource committee, to discuss overall resource management decisions and their community's development priorities.

## **6.3. Confidence in National and Local Government**

Both communities are suspicious of Government and its functions, and with good reason, as neither community has been provided with the most basic Government support. Local people complain of numerous broken promises, a lack of consultation and the loss of privileges, especially concerning the more valuable species on special game licences.

Neither community has an understanding of the status of their villages, whether they are 'recognised' by council or not, and neither community participates in, or is informed of, council discussions regarding their situation.

#### 6.4. Sustainability of Resources

The resources available to both communities are to some extent limited to the utilisation of wildlife which is of value for both consumptive and non-consumptive use. Wildlife in the Mababe area is seasonal, and mainly encountered during the rainy season, moving out of the area when pans dry out. In the Khwai area wildlife is less seasonally dependent on rainfall, as the communal area borders the extreme north east section of the Okavango swamps and offers a wider range of habitat, with the added advantage of bordering Moremi Game Reserve.

In both communal areas there has been a history of over hunting and wildlife disturbance which have caused game to move into the protected areas or to less accessible parts of the region. If wildlife in these areas is to play a role in providing the communities with income and employment benefits it will require effective protection and management.

Without effective management it is unlikely that wildlife resources will be maintained at current levels. This will have unfortunate consequences for both communities as they are directly and indirectly dependent on the wildlife resource for their livelihoods, through hunting and photographic tourism.

Effective management will also be required for the collection, marketing and sale of thatching grass if local people are to profit from sustainable use of the resource.

#### 6.5. The Photographic Area, NG 19

The activity that may provide the greatest benefits to Khwai community will undoubtedly be tourism and its associated enterprises. Unfortunately, the area where most tourist activities are carried out, and where the village is sited, fall within NG 19, which is designated as a photographic area in new CIA alignments. Unless a change of use (from photographic to community area) or amendments to existing lease agreements are promptly made for NG 19, there will be little or no benefit to the community from the existing tourist units. (Appendix 2)

### 7. Options

There are a number of options for community involvement in natural resource utilisation, that might raise local living standard and increase local peoples awareness of sustainable resource management concepts.

A safari company has submitted proposals to the NRMP for the management and development of these areas and the authors believe that, in the absence an NGO partner, these suggestions should be supported and developed in consultation with communities and district authorities, subject to DWNP's provision of appropriate guidelines.

The proposal is based on a safari operator becoming an 'area manager', for and on behalf of the community, with the responsibility for developing the area for tourism and promoting local crafts

and veld products. We believe that this type of management structure will support the development of local management capabilities. The following options are presented on the assumption that such management is in place and that the proposed structure is acceptable to, and approved by the local communities, district authorities and the DWNP.

## 7.1. The NRMP Team's Suggested Project Options

The authors have identified a number of potential project options which could be of benefit to local communities, by providing income and employment. A number of them will also provide indirect benefits to the community, through increased commercial activity, and the development of subsidiary industries usually associated with tourism.

### 7.1.a. Joint Ventures with Photographic Safari Operators

Both communal areas offer potential for photographic safari operators who offer game viewing, bird watching, fishing and boating safaris to their clients. In addition, safari operators could include walking or portered safaris, visits to villages, local cultural activities that may be of interest to tourists. Trophy hunting and bird shooting safaris have been successfully conducted in these areas for many years. In all cases the communities would benefit from employment, daily rate payments per tourist and/or by maintaining an equity interest in tourist operations situated in their areas.

There are a number of different options for joint ventures that could be discussed by local authorities, the Khwai and Mababe communities and potential safari operator partners. A joint venture is an activity, or venture, undertaken by one or more partners for their mutual benefit. Thus, the communities on the one hand know that their natural resources appeal to photo tourists and non-resident hunters, but they have no experience of the tourist market or the management of tourist enterprises. On the other hand established tourist companies know the areas potential for profitable tourist business but will no longer have the rights of access to the area or its resources unless they develop sound business agreements with local people.

Joint venture agreements may embrace the following suggested community objectives:

- a. To maximise medium and long term benefits to rural communities and their joint venture partners.
- b. To provide incentives for improved resource management.
- c. To increase employment opportunities for the local population and develop markets for local products.
- d. To provide education and training in sustainable natural resource use, wildlife management and the tourist industry, and so develop local capacities for managing natural resources and tourist enterprises.

Therefore, local communities and their potential partners must explore the best possible means by which they can fulfill these objectives. Some guidelines to aid the selection of joint venture options are as follows;

**7.1.a.i. Option 1. Joint Venture Agreements**

These are agreements between the communities and safari companies that do not involve the merging of either partners assets.

a. The communities lease the land and the resources contained therein to a safari company, who pay an annual rental fee. The communities benefit solely from rental income but may potentially benefit from employment opportunities and the development of associated enterprises or services.

The main constraints to this option are that there is no commitment by the company to employ or train local people. There is no guarantee that the resources will be utilised sustainably or that local people will participate in resource management.

b. The communities lease specific areas to the safari operator for the development of tourist infrastructure. The communities manage the natural resources of the remaining area and benefit from the income derived from hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other activities, while the safari operator aims to profit from lodge and camp income. The operator has security of tenure on lodge and camp sites and the communities are involved but not in charge.

This option is complicated to set up and terminate, if either partner is dissatisfied with progress. It is also difficult to value either partners contribution.

c. The safari company provide their services at an agreed daily rate cost per tourist, the remainder of the daily rate income (gross profit) is then equally divided between the partners. In this case there is no merging of assets and the agreement is easy to set up and to terminate.

This option may be difficult for the communities to understand or keep track of and the safari company may be unwilling to assume the risk.

**7.1.a.ii. Option 2. Joint Venture Partnerships**

Joint venture partnerships involve the merging of portions of both parties assets.

a. The communities become safari operators, develop the areas for tourism and hire the services, or offers equity to a skilled management company who market and run the enterprise. The communities provides most of the labour and all tourist facilities and the managing company the expertise, in exchange for a fee (normally 20% of turnover). This is not a true joint venture as the communities are essentially in control, but it is worthy

of consideration as it guarantees employment and directly involves local people in the day to day management, so broadening their experience.

The disadvantages to such an arrangement are that the communities are inexperienced in business and may make costly mistakes, also, income from such enterprises may be discouragingly low for a number of years.

**b.** A joint venture partnership is formed between the safari company (providing expertise, infrastructure and equipment) and the communities (providing the land, natural resources and labour) and this entity effectively becomes the a tourism management group, receiving all revenues and responsible for all costs. Communities learn about the business aspects of the tourist industry and have a say in day to day resource management decisions. The communities and the safari company share all profits from the enterprise.

The option may not be workable if profits are unable to meet each partners desired return. The communities may not have the business or resource management experience to manage their side of the partnership.

**c.** The safari company and communities develop the areas tourist potential as joint venture partners, the communities holding equity in the safari company's operations (say 35%) and in addition paid a daily rate or bed night fee (say P 10 per day visitor and P 20 per bed night). The safari company have a lease agreement for a number of years but pay no rental fee and supply all facilities, marketing and management, and agree to employ local people and support local enterprises that may complement their activities. The communities supply local building materials, guide services etc., and are actively involved in managing the resources and able to learn about the tourist industry.

Constraints to this option are that the communities may not have enough business experience to keep track of safari company performance and the system may be too complicated to set up and run efficiently. The safari company may be unable to meet its commitments to communities if tourist business is inadequate.

#### **7.1.b. Community Managed Public Campsites**

Both the Khwai and Mababe communities should consider providing public campsite facilities near their villages or at selected sites in their communal areas. Khwai has much greater potential for developing community managed sites as the riverine area is more attractive and water can easily be provided.(appendix 2)

The Mababe area will present a number of problems as there is very little water available from the village well, the area has little wildlife in the dry season and the countryside is generally unattractive. However, if the borehole promised to the community materialises there is potential for developing a campsite close to the village which may be of interest to tourists who wish to

experience village life. Mababe village is an attractive example of a rural Botswana settlement as there is less rubbish than that found in most villages.

#### 7.1.c. Research Group Facilities

Universities and museum groups in Europe and North America and organisations such as Earthwatch, are constantly looking for new areas in which students and researchers can carry out field work or savor new experiences. The facilities they require are basic - camp sites, water and local foods, which could easily be provided by the community. Either of the above mentioned campsites could be exclusively booked by such groups which tend to be less seasonally dependent than the average tourist. Groups such as these are true 'eco-tourists' and pay prices comparable to mobile camping safari clients.

#### 7.1.d. Trophy Hunting

In the past both communal areas have been popular and productive trophy hunting concessions, both in terms of income to safari companies and hunter satisfaction. However, more recently there has been a decline in their reputation as trophy hunting concessions, due to over hunting and disturbance. In the case of Mababe the situation has been further complicated by shortages of surface water, due to inadequate rainfall over the last decade. There is however no reason why these areas cannot return to being the important trophy hunting areas they once were, if local communities understand the value trophy animals represent, especially if they are able to secure tangible benefits from this type of activity. We believe that a reversal of the present situation, where most of the valuable species have moved out of the area, could be achieved within 3-5 seasons of stable community wildlife management and community supervised hunting.

The first step required to achieve this is for the DWNP to issue the hunting quota to the people of Khwai and Mababe for the 1993 season, to advise them of the value of the quota (in monetary terms) and support them in negotiating the on-sale of trophy animals to safari hunting companies. We believe the monetary and employment benefits accruing to communities will convince local people of the need to conserve and manage the wildlife resource.

The suggestion has also been made that safari hunting companies, in new concession areas adjoining the community areas, might exchange commercial species on their quotas for trophy animals, such as lion and leopard, on community quotas.

In addition to non-resident hunters and their professional guides paying high fees to the communities, there may be opportunities to market hunts to Botswana citizens and residents based on market values, camping and escort fees.

#### 7.1.e. Game harvesting

Local people have always hunted for subsistence, indeed they claim they cannot live without eating game meat. With the communities expected to be issued the wildlife quotas for their areas in 1993, the present special licence system for individuals will be discarded. Therefore, the

community must either establish a game harvesting group to supply villagers with meat or come to some arrangement with safari operators to cull game on their behalf. In both cases meat would have to be equitably distributed to villagers and any surplus sold to defray game harvesting costs. Safari operators consulted during the course of our survey have suggested that they may be prepared to enter into agreements whereby they harvest game in exchange for a portion of the trophy animals on the community quota.

#### 7.1.f. Development of markets for thatching grass

Thatching grass in Khwai communal area is of good quality, and local women are reported to earn a substantial portion of their income from cutting and selling grass to outsiders, and tourist lodges in the district.

There is potential to further develop these existing markets by improving the collection, storage and quality of thatching grass for sale. We believe that if the women involved in this activity were to pool their resources by forming a co-operative group or guild they would not only be able to increase production and quality but improve marketing channels. At present individual women or family groups of women cut grass and store it in their house compounds until a buyer is found. The grass is not combed. If grass was combed it would considerably improve its marketability, especially to buyers from outside the area.

If women who are involved in the collection and sale of thatching grass were to establish a central collection, combing and marketing point they would maximise the thatching grass potential of the area. It may also be possible to come to some arrangement with lodge operators and safari companies for help in transporting grass to Maun.

#### 7.1.g. Improving handicraft skills and developing markets

Khwai people make baskets and necklaces from woven beads and seeds which they sell by the roadside to tourists entering and leaving Moremi Reserve, each producer or group of producers displaying their crafts from trees or fences. Mababe producers display their wares in a similar manner, although their range of products is wider than those of Khwai.

We would suggest that both villages construct handicraft 'markets' in which craft producers work and display their products. Tourists are interested in seeing the techniques used in producing traditional crafts and a craft market would induce them to stop for longer and purchase more from local women.

#### 7.1.h. Use of Mopane

The Mopane found in both communal areas is presently used for building purposes and sometimes for firewood, but there are a number of other uses that could be explored by local people.

Mopane 'dead-wood' has been suggested as being valuable to florists and interior decorators for its gnarled shapes which can enhance floral displays etc.. It is reported that pieces of Mopane 'dead-wood' may fetch between P 2 and P 5 per piece in Johannesburg.

Mopane resin has also been used in Angola for the collection and preparation of Copal which is used in varnishes.

With the increased elephant population in the area, a large number of trees have been felled or permanently damaged and these might be used by the communities to make charcoal for use locally and sale outside the area.

#### 7.1.i. Traditional Tanning

In the past hunters from both communities sold raw game skins to the Botswana Game Industries (BGI) depot in Maun, but over the last two years the company has purchased fewer skins and considerably reduced the prices they pay. Khwai hunters now throw away the skins of animals hunted on SGLs as they say they are worthless. In Mababe, a number of older men still tan hides, using traditional methods, to make mats and karosses for sale to passing tourists.

We would suggest that these skills be preserved by supporting individuals with raw materials and by strengthening their marketing outlets. Hunters in Khwai should be discouraged from discarding skins, but should sell them to Mababe tanners for processing.

#### 7.1.j. Fuel Stations

Both Khwai and Mababe are on major tourist routes between the Okavango and Chobe National Park, but there are no services available to tourist traffic between Maun and Kasane. A number of people, including local villagers, have suggested that fuel stations would be a very useful means of earning a considerable income from tourist traffic. At present, mobile safari companies and self drive tourists have to limit their time or mileage in Moremi and Chobe due to difficulties in obtaining fuel.(appendix 2)

### 8. Conclusions

VDCs in both Khwai and Mababe have struggled to adopt an alien structure for community development, without comprehending its significance or purpose. They have not had the support or training required to make them effective. In many ways it seems that VDCs in the two settlements continue only in the hope that members may at some time benefit from the sitting allowances they have been promised but never receive.

Neither community has been provided with the basic amenities found in most of Botswana's rural settlements. On the one hand this has allowed them some degree of self determination and a community spirit seldom found in RAD settlements. On the other hand, NWDC's indecision as to each settlements' status, and the unfulfilled promises made by different agencies, have

retarded community initiatives. The communities would greatly benefit from the implementation of an NRM supported project, which would provide them with the motivation to do things for themselves again. The project would also allow some degree of independence from a system that they see as providing nothing more than troublesome promises.

With the new CHA alignments rural communities will have responsibility for managing local resources as community assets. They will be expected to make the day to day decisions on the use or sale of the hunting quota, business decisions regarding tourism and the sale of veld products and crafts. On a practical level this may seem premature, as communities have little experience of resource management in the modern sense, which involves more than simple resource use.

The people of both communal areas have, in varying degrees, been influenced by tourist activities for a number of years. Were it not for tourism, their lives would have changed little from their hunting and gathering ways of the past. However, they have had only superficial involvement in the industry through employment in lodges and with safari companies and to some extent through the sale of handicrafts to visitors. With the new CHA alignments and the creation of community managed areas, both communities should experience positive changes in the attitude of safari operators who will solicit their agreement on rights to use communal areas.

A number of safari companies have expressed an interest in establishing their operations in these areas, and in forming long term associations with local communities. If these associations are properly established under DWNP guidelines for community partnerships, we believe local people will benefit through equity involvement in safari enterprises, employment, daily rate payments and tourism related benefits, whilst gaining valuable management experience.

## **9. Recommendations.**

1. The authors believe that both areas have the potential to be managed as successful project sites. We also believe that the Sankuyo community area, to the east of Moremi Game Reserve, should be included in these development plans to form a single community project management area.
2. In the absence of immediately accessible NGO partners, it is recommended that a private enterprise/community joint venture relationship is potentially the most viable alternative for the management of these communal areas.
3. We recommend that DWNP guidelines to facilitate the process for community partnerships should be established, before encouraging further planning/implementation steps by the private sector. Potential joint venture partnership applicants would be requested to follow these guidelines for the preparation of sound community joint venture project proposals. They would equally provide a sound basis from which local officials and community representatives could enter these negotiations.

4. Applications by the private sector to enter joint ventures with communities would have to be structured in the format set out in these guidelines. This should reflect the applicants knowledge and ability to implement their proposed management plans; the financial benefits to the community in terms of equity, fees and employment; planned investment in terms of infrastructure and community development, the structure of community representation on project committees and wildlife management. Joint venture partners will also be expected to convince DWNP that they will be able to manage the quota on the communities behalf.
5. NRMP/DWNP should act as brokers on the communities behalf to ensure that their interests are protected and that the best proposals from potential partners, in financial and ecological terms, are selected.
6. An immediate resolution to start projects in the Khwai, Mababe and Sankuyo communal areas, must be made by NRMP/DWNP, in consultation with NWDC. These decisions should primarily be based on providing the communities with management of the whole hunting quotas for each area in the 1993 season. Providing communities with the quota should alleviate much of the hardship encountered by the people of Mababe and the less fortunate members of Khwai community.
7. NRMP/DWNP should renegotiate the status of NG 19 and the NG 33 photographic areas with MLGL&H, NWDC, the DO.L, Tawana Land Board and holders of lodge leases in these areas; in order that a substantial proportion of the fees charged by the land board, for tourist concessions, are made available for community development. Alternatively the designated photographic areas might be merged with the communal areas, while preserving stringent planning regulations.
8. NRMP/DWNP in consultation with the Tawana Land Board, should consider sharing Moremi Reserve's revenues with surrounding communities, in due recognition of their initiative to form the Reserve 30 years ago.
9. On acceptance of this report by DWNP, negotiations for project implementation should begin with the District Council. Also, the contents of this report with the suggested project options and possible management alternatives should be discussed with the communities.

## ***APPENDICIES***

## Appendix 1.

### Checklist of Forest, Veld and Fish Resources and some Uses, Khwai NG18 & NG19.

#### Trees, Shrubs and Vines.

Combretum imberbe	Motswiri	Fencing/Firewood
Vernonia glabra	Kwena	Aphrodisiac
Lonchocarpus capassa	Mopororo	Mortars
Ziziphus mucronata	Mokgalo	Cure for boils
Acacia hebeclada	Seche	Cure for coughs
Croton megalobotrys	Motsebe	Spoons/Handles
Pulchea leubnitzii	Mukudi	Fishbaskets
Acacia nigrescens	Mokoba	Tanning/Twine
Colophospermum mopane	Mopane	Pestles/Building
Acacia erioloba	Mogato	Coffee substitute
Acacia tortilis	Mosu	
Albizzia harveyi		
Combretum hereroense	Mokabi	Handles/Yokes/Chairs
Markhania accuminata	Mosetsanateng	Spear shafts/Chairs
Terminalia sericea	Mokonono	Tanning
Diospyros lycioides	Motaja	Toothbrushes/Ulcer cure
Achyranthus aspera	Motswarakgano	Soap/Snuff preparation
Maytenus senegalensis	Mutono	Relieves muscle pains
Rhus tenuinervis	Moropapiri	Musical instruments
Combretum mossambicensis	Motsoketsan	Painkiller
Nymphaea caerulea	Tswei	Eat Flowers and Roots
Sclerocarya caffra	Morula	Eat Fruits, Alcohol, Oil
Capparis tormentosa	Motsoketsane	Roots as Twine
Plumbago zeylanica	Masokomabe	Scarification/Kidney Cure
Abrus precatorius	Mopiti	Seeds used as Beads
Berchemia discolor	Motsentsila	Dye/Fruit eaten
Euclea divinorum	Mothakola	
Amaranthus hybridus		Relish
Ricinus communis		Green Bandages/Castor Oil
Asclepias fruticosa		Wart treatment
Cucumis metuliferus/C. anguira		Fruits/Leaves as Spinach
Momordica balsamina		Spinach/Fruit
Asparagus africanus		Edible shoots

Hibiscus cannabinus	Flowers and Leaves Eaten
Dicerocaryum zanguibarium	Soap
Solanum panduriforme	Medicines
Solanum nigrum	Pot Herb/Relish
Ocimum canum	Herb/Medicine/Tea

#### Reeds and Grasses

Cymbopogon excavatus	Mokamakama	Thatching grass
Hypharrena hirta	"	"
Miscanthus juncaius	Molemogale	Reeds for Lelwapa
Phragmites communis	Lethlaka	"
Heteropogon contortus		
Setaria verticilata		
Setaria sphacelata		
Cynodon dactylon		
Panicum maximum		
Cenchrus ciliaris		
Cenchrus erethrina		
Digitaria spp		
Chloris virgata		
Eragrostis superba		
Eragrostis rigidior		
Eragrostis lapula		
Eragrostis imaena		
Rhynchelytrum repens		
Aristida meridionalis		
Aristida congesta		
Stipagrostis uniplumis		
Dactyloctenium aegyptium		
Pogonathria squarrosa		

## Fish Species

Tigerfish  
African Pike  
Bream  
Barbel  
Bottlenose

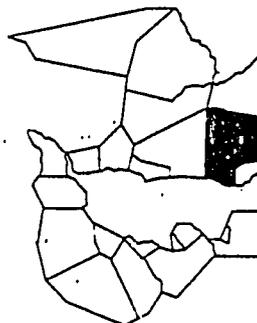
Ngweshe  
Nyeru  
Tapi  
Toni  
Nkungu

Part B

2.5 C.H.A. NG/18

Area: 1815 km<sup>2</sup>

Mapsheets: 1823 D  
1923 A1 1923B2



2.5.1 Brief area description

The area is situated north of Moremi Game Reserve and west of Chobe National Park, and stretches north to to the Seronga-Savuti road. Most of the area is characterised by mixed terminalia and mopane savannas (Colophospermum mopane, Terminalia sericea and Lonchocarpus nelsii), with no surface water except some rain pans, which fill during the rainy season.

The south western part consists of floodplain systems of the Khwai river, with seasonally inundated grasslands. Some riverine woodland can be found on the edge of the floodplains, but the vegetation direct north of the floodplains is predominantly Aciacia erioloba and tall cathedral mopane.

Most of the wildlife resource in this area can be found in the south western part of the area, where there is large interaction between the seasonally flooded grasslands and the woodlands of the dryland. The area has a large elephant population. Reportedly the wildlife resource has declined or moved away from this area due to hunting pressure.

2.5.2 Boundary description

Commencing at a point marked NG/15/16/18/20 (app. coord. 34E763489N7934129), being trig station BPS 288, the boundary runs south eastwards and eastwards along the Seronga-Savuti road to a point marked NG/15/18/CH3 (app.coord. 34E804700N7926300), being the point of intersect of the said road with the Chobe National Park boundary; thence following the park boundary due south to a point marked NG/18/19/40 (app. coord. 34E803400N7892900); thence in a straight line due west to a point marked NG/16/19/C (app. coord. 34E798900N7892900), being a point at the top end of the Khwai north airstrip; thence following the airstrip in a southwesterly direction to a point marked NG/18/19/B (app. coord. 34E797900N7892400), being a point just south of the airstrip at the road from the airstrip to beacon BPS 256. Thence following the said

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road in a west south westerly direction to a point marked NG/18/19/A (app. coord. 34E785500N7888200); thence in a straight line due south to a point marked NG/18/19/28 (app. coord. 34E785500N7878900) on the northern bank of the Khwai river; thence following the Moremi Game Reserve boundary in a southwesterly direction to a point marked NG/18/20/28 (app. coord. 34E763500N7883000); thence in a straight line due north to a point marked NG/18/20 (app. coord. 34E763585N7885868), being trig station BPS 257; thence in a straight line due north to the point of commencement.

### 2.5.3 Present land use

All of the area of NG/18 falls within the old area 7 concession, operated by Safari South, but is at presently hardly used for non-resident trophy hunting, since the Company uses the western part of the area 7 concession most. There used to be a hunting camp, at the Khwai river, called Khwai, but it has long been closed. The next hunting camp of Safari South is 'Splash', in area NG/20, from which hunters might come to the western part of area NG/18 occasionally.

One of the reasons why this area is not longer used for non-resident trophy hunting is the pressure from extensive citizen-hunting, which led to conflicts with safari-hunting and reportedly to the decline of wildlife populations in this area. Due to its relatively easy access area 7, and more especially the Khwai area, became a very popular area for citizen hunting, the more so since one of the preferred species for meat animals, buffalo, could be found in large numbers here.

Quite extensive subsistence hunting takes place as well, mostly by people from Khwai village, who use special game licenses issued to RADs, and to a small extent by people from Mababe (Kudumane) village. The people from Khwai also gather veld products in this area, most notably thatching grass (moxaa), for which commodity Khwai has become the major regional production centre.

### 2.5.4 Proposed land use

#### General

The area is zoned as a communal wildlife utilisation area. It is proposed that the community of Khwai village will be made

## Part B

responsible for the management of the wildlife resource in this area. With assistance from a Botswana Government (through DWNP) natural resources utilisation project (sponsored by USAID) an attempt will be made to develop sustainable wildlife utilisation at community level. By gaining direct benefits from the wildlife resource the community will have an interest in managing the resource properly, which should lead to sustainable development.

A very careful approach has to be adopted to prevent misuse or exploitation, and the village community needs unbiased support and guidance, which hopefully will become available through the USAID project.

Hunting quota for certain species will be set by DWNP initially, but if and how the quota will be decided by the community. All options are possible in this sense, ranging from using the quota by themselves, selling the quota to either citizens or safari companies, starting a company themselves with employing one or more professional hunters to starting photographic safaris themselves, or any other option which may be viable,

A detailed plan for development and management of this area has to be drawn up by the project personnel after extensive consultation and in close cooperation with the Khwai village community.

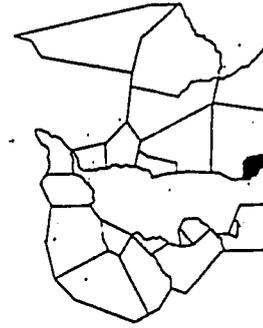
In order not to pre-empt any discussion on this plan no further details are submitted here on developments and management.

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2.6. C.H.A. NG/19

Area: 180 km<sup>2</sup>

Mapsheets: 1923 B1 1923 B2



2.6.1 Brief area description

This relatively small area is situated on the northern bank of the Khwai river, north of Moremi Game Reserve, and west of the Chobe National Park. The Khwai river is here at its distal end. Although in former days it might have flowed as far the Mababe depression, in recent years it does not flow much beyond the stateland boundary. With the river coming to its lower reaches, the floodplain system becomes narrower: in the south western part of the area the floodplains are up to a kilometer wide while in the south eastern part the river flows in a confined channel of not more than 100 meters wide.

The southern part of the area is characterised by Acacia erioloba and Acacia Nigrescens savannas and tree savannas changing into mixed terminalia and mopane savannas (Colophospermum mopane, Terminalia sericea and Lonchocarpus nelsii) towards the north.

The area has considerable wildlife populations, which are fairly resident and tend to migrate daily between the Khwai river to drink and the woodlands. Large numbers of elephants do occur in this area.

2.6.2 Boundary description

Commencing at a point marked NG/18/19/28 (app. coord. 34E785500N7878900) at the northern bank of the Khwai river, the boundary runs in a straight line due north to a point marked NG/18/19/A (app. coord. 34E785500N7888200) on the road from trig station BPS 256 to the old Khwai north airstrip; thence following the said road in an eastnortheasterly direction to a point marked NG/18/19/B (app. coord. 34E797900N78924000), being a point just south of the airstrip. Thence following the airstrip in a northeasterly direction to a point marked NG/18/19/C (app. coord. 34E798900N7892900) at the end of that airstrip. Thence in a straight line due east to a point marked NG/18/19/40 (app. coord. 34E803400N7392900), being a point on the Ngamiland statelands

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boundary. Thence due south along the said boundary to a point marked NG/19/28/40 (app. coord. 34E803400N7882700), being the point of intersect with the Khwai river. Thence following the Khwai river in a westerly direction to the point of commencement.

### 2.6.3 Present land use

Although the area is part of the old area 7 concession, operated by Safari South and presently covered under a one year lease extension, it is not used for non-resident trophy hunting. More than the pressure from citizen-hunting this is caused by the presence of individual tourists and, especially, the three photographic camps/lodges in the area, whose activities would conflict with safari-hunting.

The first lodge in this area, Khwai River Lodge, is one of the oldest tourist outfits in the country, and was started by Ker, Downey and Selby (KDS), a daughter company to the concessionaire, but now has a separate lease and is run by Gametrackers. Tsaro Lodge, is part of Okavango Explorations and is situated west of Khwai village. It started in 1983 and has been granted a separate lease by the Tawana Land Board. The third photographic camp in the area, Machaba, is an old hunting camp of Safari South, transferred into a photographic camp and run by KDS. It has no specific lease, but it is covered under the lease for area 7.

All three Lodges/Camps use the airstrip at Khwai River Lodge. There is also an old tse-tse fly control airstrip at the northern boundary of the area, which is sometimes used when the airstrip at Khwai River Lodge, which is situated in a floodplain, gets inundated by rain or by unusual high floods.

Safari South started with declaring a non-hunting area with a five km. radius around Khwai River Lodge and later decided not to hunt in this area at all anymore. This can, however, only be enforced upon their own professional hunters, since it has no legal power and any citizen hunter can hunt right up to the doorstep of each camp.

The main activity of all of the three camps is game viewing, by walks, but mostly by game drives. Since the area is a Safari South concession, only Machaba camp can do game drives in the area itself, while the other two camps have to do their games drives in Moremi Game Reserve.

In the centre of the area lies Khwai village, right at the North Gate entrance of Moremi Game Reserve. It used to be a small RAD settlement, but is rapidly growing into a full size settlement, due

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to the employment opportunities with the three Lodges and the DWNP. The people have a few fields in the village, but crop damage by wild animals is a common phenomena, and they have a few donkeys and goats. They use the area for subsistence hunting and gathering of veldproducts, most notably thatching grass (moxaa), for which commodity Khwai has become the major regional production centre.

Individual tourists have always camped in the area, mostly on the banks of the Khwai river in the east of the area, since it was a nice and convenient stop-over between Moremi Game Reserve and Savuti in Chobe National Park. This occasional camping in the area has increased dramatically after the increase in the Park Fees, since it saves tourists one day entrance and camping fees, by not spending the night in the park, and still being on their 'normal' route.

### 2.6.4 Proposed land use

#### General

This area is zoned as a photographic zone, which means that the area will not be leased as a concession to one company. Hunting will not be allowed in the area. Three sites will be leased out in the area as photographic camps, but the area will not be subdivided. The companies operating these camps will have exclusive rights over the zone: no other tourist company will be allowed to utilise the area for photographic or hunting safaris or any other activity. Management and utilisation of the area has to be carried out in mutual agreement and cooperation between the three companies and the village community of Khwai, which has the management responsibility for the surrounding area NG/18, and in accordance with this plan and the approval and permission of district authorities. No sub-letting or ceding of rights should be permitted since it would complicate the already demanding cooperation between the companies. In case district or central government authorities consider different or additional developments and/or conditions for the utilisation of this area the companies operating in the area should be consulted.

Special attention has to be paid to the relationship with the Moremi Game Reserve management plan, since many of the activities of the three photographic lodges in this area will actually take place within the Moremi Game Reserve.

It is proposed that Khwai village will be upgraded to become a regional nucleus for tourism development. In conjunction with the

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forthcoming proposals in the Moremi Game Reserve management plan it is proposed that the physical planners in Maun will prepare a village development plan for Khwai village.

It is proposed that, dependent on the proposals in the Moremi Game Reserve management plan at least one or two sites for tourism related services (Camping site, filling station, etc.) will be allocated in Khwai village.

No sub-letting or ceding of rights should be permitted since it would complicate the already demanding cooperation between the companies. In case district or central government authorities consider different or additional developments and/or conditions for the utilisation of this area the companies operating in the area should be consulted.

### 2.6.4.1 Developments

#### - Facilities

It is proposed that the present three sites of Khwai River Lodge, Tsaro Lodge and Machaba Camp will be leased out as semi-permanent tourist camps under a standard lease. Tsaro Lodge and Khwai River Lodge both have long term lease with a number of years to go. It is proposed that they hand in the lease in return for a standard lease, or alternatively are offered an extension period to their present lease to concur with the lease periods of other camps.

The camps should not exceed a capacity of 20 guests. In the case of Khwai River Lodge this means a small reduction in capacity, while in the other two camps this allows for a small expansion. The buildings, accommodation facilities, and other structures should be of the standard as outlined in chapter 4.1.1 of Part A of this report.

#### - Transport

It is proposed that, in line with the proposals in chapter 4.1.2 of part B of this report, and consistent with the current practise, only one airstrip will be used, viz. the current Khwai River airstrip. It is proposed that this airstrip will be upgraded and turned into a regional centre. It is proposed that the old Khwai airstrip in the northern part of area NG/19 should be maintained and kept in reserve as a temporary strip in case the existing airstrip gets flooded due to unusual high floods.

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Supplies can be brought in by air or by road. In conjunction with the Moremi Game Reserve management plan it is proposed that the South gate - North gate road will not function as the main supply route to this area in future when the main access will come as a branch of the improved Maun - Kasane road. In the first phase it is proposed to upgrade the Statelands boundary road.

Although it is proposed that most game viewing activities by vehicle will take place within the Reserve, a limited expansion of the game viewing track is proposed in area NG/19 itself. A loop through the molapo, generally known as 'sable alley', and back to the Khwai river front is an obvious example.

Power boats will not be allowed on the Khwai river.

It should be noted that three 'main' roads run through area NG/19: from Khwai village westwards towards the Xugana area, from Khwai village eastwards towards Savuti, and a turn off from this road, just east of Machaba camp, northwards towards the Linyanti area. These roads should be regarded as public roads and notwithstanding the exclusivity granted to the Companies will anybody be allowed to travel on these roads. The road from the old Khwai airstrip towards beacon BPS 256, which forms the boundary between NG/18 and NG/19 is not such a public road and use of this road should be discussed between the three Companies and the Khwai village. At present it is used as a supply route to the Xugana area, but as a boundary it should be properly maintained if the road is not longer used for that purpose.

### - Activities

As an area zoned for photographic tourism no hunting will be allowed in this area, and the main activities in this area will be game viewing. Most of the game viewing activities by vehicle will take place in Moremi Game Reserve, although a loop in the area itself is foreseen, the possibility of developing a loop around the Khwai river front (with another entrance into the Reserve, possibly only for the three Companies, around the Stateland boundary) will be considered in the second phase of the management plan for the Reserve.

Area NG/19 itself is well suited for game walks, which can take place along the Khwai river front, the acacia woodland, and the molapo area known as 'sable alley'.

No camping by independent travellers or mobile safari companies will be allowed in the area, apart from the

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designated camp sites at Khwai village, nor will overnight bush camping by the three Companies be allowed.

Night game drives will be allowed, but they should be carried out with the utmost care and caution. No intervention of animal activities should take place.

### 2.6.4.2 Management

Management of the area will be carried out by the three Companies, in close cooperation with the Khwai community, which has the management responsibility for the neighbouring area NG/18, and the appropriate authorities, most notably the DWNP and the Tawana Land Board, and in accordance with the Laws and Acts of Botswana, including the bye-laws of the North West District Council (NWDC). This joint management requires a high degree of mutual agreement and cooperation. In cases of dispute arbitration will be set by the Tawana Land Board in consultation with DWNP. General regulations as mentioned in chapter 4.2 of part A shall apply unless otherwise stated.

#### - Specific regulations

The capacity of the camps should not exceed 20 guests.

No camping will be allowed in the area, apart from designated camp sites.

#### - Interventions/Controls

It is proposed that the western boundary of the area, being a cutline from NG/18/19/28 to the road towards the old Khwai airstrip will be demarcated by means of a cutline. This should be done in a joint effort between the three Companies.