Khetha Program:
Benefitting Communities, Conserving Wildlife

January 2021
This document was prepared by WWF-South Africa for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Southern Africa, as part of USAID Cooperative Agreement AID 674-A-17-00004.
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# ACRONYMS

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAC</td>
<td>National Administration of Conservation Areas - Mozambique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species</td>
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<td>CLO</td>
<td>Community Liaison Officer</td>
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<td>CLC</td>
<td>Community Liaison Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Coronavirus disease of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFF</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Forest and Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMF</td>
<td>Elephant Management Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESSF</td>
<td>Environmental and social safeguards framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>EWT</td>
<td>Endangered Wildlife Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE</td>
<td>Framework of Interventions for Effective Rhino Protection Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>German Society for International Cooperation</td>
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<td>GKEPF</td>
<td>Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation</td>
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<td>GKSDP</td>
<td>Greater Kruger Strategic Development Program</td>
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<td>GLC</td>
<td>Greater Lebombo Conservancy</td>
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<td>GLTFCA</td>
<td>Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area</td>
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<td>GLTP</td>
<td>Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park</td>
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<td>HWC</td>
<td>Human-wildlife conflict</td>
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<td>IPZ</td>
<td>Intensive Protection Zone</td>
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<td>IWT</td>
<td>Illegal wildlife trade</td>
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<td>K2C</td>
<td>Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region</td>
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<td>KNP</td>
<td>Kruger National Park</td>
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<td>LACE</td>
<td>Law, Authority, Compliance and Enforcement</td>
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<td>LNP</td>
<td>Limpopo National Park</td>
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<td>MELCOM</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation and Communications</td>
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<td>MTPA</td>
<td>Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency</td>
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<td>MSC</td>
<td>Most significant change</td>
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<td>NBIF</td>
<td>National Biodiversity Investigators Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-government organization</td>
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<td>NPA</td>
<td>National Prosecuting Authority</td>
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<td>SANBI</td>
<td>South African National Biodiversity Institute</td>
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<td>SANParks</td>
<td>South African National Parks</td>
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<td>SAPS</td>
<td>South African Police Service</td>
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<td>SARS</td>
<td>South African Revenue Service</td>
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<td>SAWC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Wildlife College</td>
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<td>SMART</td>
<td>Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool</td>
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<td>SPARCC</td>
<td>Special Platforms for Action, Reflection and Collaboration</td>
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<td>Acronyms</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFCA</td>
<td>Transfrontier Conservation Area</td>
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<td>TWIX</td>
<td>Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange</td>
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<td>VBR</td>
<td>Vhembe Biosphere Reserve</td>
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<td>WiTIS</td>
<td>Wildlife Trade Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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As we reached the end of 2020, a year proven to be like no other where a global pandemic impacted every corner of the world, we find ourselves in the past, present and future. We reflect on our experiences of the past year, what we have achieved, how we navigated the challenges, and what we have learned. We pause in the present in sympathy to those affected by the pandemic and in gratitude to our health workers and others working tirelessly on the frontline to buffer the worst impact of the coronavirus. We look towards the future, with a renewed appreciation for the landscape and its people, and with open minds for fresh and innovative ideas to support conservation areas and neighboring communities.

The past quarter was a time of small wins for the Khetha program.

We successfully hosted our annual community practitioners conference online, a platform for sharing and learning about the context in which community practitioners work, their challenges and their successes. We had exciting speakers, Dr Jacob Dlamini, author of Safari Nation, and Gareth Coleman, Managing Executive of Kruger National Park (KNP), sharing their insight on the past and the future of conservation areas, communities, and the relationship between the two. But it was the Greater Kruger community practitioners who were the stars of the show. We served behind the scenes, convening the platform, while the community practitioners controlled the narrative. Community practitioners are the bridges between conservation area managers and authorities and their community neighbors. However, we need to ensure the bridges are strong, robust and resilient to weather occasional floods. We must attend to the needs of our community practitioners, where the elements slowly chip away at the bricks over time. The conference highlighted community practitioners’ needs and concerns, which will inform our capacity building and training of community practitioners this year.

In Mozambique, members of the Magude, Massingir, Mabalane and Moamba communities were the stars of their own show. With their help, WWF Mozambique scripted a radio drama on illegal wildlife trade. The radio drama will launch on World Wildlife Day (March 3rd, 2021), and feature on one state and ten community radio stations. After each episode broadcast, a dialogue will follow with listeners on issues highlighted in the episode. We trained the radio managers and presenters in dialogue facilitation on complex issues that affect the relationship between people and conservation authorities and managers, including illegal wildlife trade.

In partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), we are making great strides towards the first-ever application of restorative justice approaches to wildlife crime cases in South Africa. All the intensive consultations with a variety of relevant stakeholders in the previous quarter resulted in a first draft of the guidelines for the implementation of restorative justice, which is being presented to the Restorative Justice Steering Committee in January 2021. Together with the South African National Parks (SANParks), we identified a focus area in the Sabie River node to pilot the implementation of the guidelines. We then achieved a major milestone by securing the buy-in from the traditional councils in the pilot project area. SANParks and our seconded community liaison
coordinator (CLC) was critical in making the introductions and facilitating the meeting with the traditional councils.

Our community liaison officers (CLOs) and coordinator to SANParks continue their important work strengthening the relationship between the KNP and its neighboring communities. A highlight this quarter was the community consultations the CLOs and CLC facilitated for input to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) High-Level Panel on wildlife management and resource use, especially concerning priority species, rhinos, elephants, lions and leopards. It was a critical opportunity for communities to voice their concerns, their needs, opportunities and solutions. Communities highlighted the issue of damage-causing animals, poor fencing, a lack of or inadequate compensation, and called for community rangers, better fencing, and the development of legislation on compensation. The outcome of the High-Level Panel is of particular relevance to our work assessing the policies and legislation in South Africa that influence the relationship between communities and conservation areas, as it will provide further guidance on the policy changes needed.

Other smalls wins are a result of consistent, continuous engagement and support to key stakeholders in the landscape.

WWF Mozambique continued training district and provincial prosecutors and judges in Mozambique on wildlife investigations and new legislation relating to criminal procedures for wildlife crime.

We handed over 15 wildlife crime scene investigation kits to SANParks and the South African Police Service (SAPS). Proper evidence collection is critical for investigations and the prosecution of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) offences. The kits provide investigators with all the tools necessary to investigate a crime scene and collect evidence effectively. The procurement of similar kits for the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), Mozambique is underway.

We completed our support to the Southern Africa Wildlife College (SAWC) in the establishment of a mobile K9 unit in the intensive protection zone in the KNP, an area severely affected by rhino poaching. The mobile K9 unit is set to be operational as of February 2021. Apart from the infrastructure, the kennel hand and dog handler, which Khetha supported, is now fully integrated as part of the SAWC. The SAWC reports a success rate of 66% in the apprehension of suspected poachers where a dog unit was deployed, up from a three to five percent success rate without a K9 asset. The mobile K9 unit will contribute significantly to the KNP’s anti-poaching efforts.

Through WWF Mozambique, continuous engagement with district natural resource management committees (DNRMCs) in Mozambique, moves us forward in improving community involvement in decisions that affect them. DNRMC are the structures in Mozambique through which the co-management of wildlife and the sharing of resources between communities and protected areas are planned, implemented, and governed.
DNRMCs aims to increase community benefits from protected areas, improve livelihoods, and address any negative conservation impacts that might arise from conservation efforts, for example, human-wildlife conflict. Through several meetings and workshops, we are improving these structures' functionality and supporting the establishment of new committees.

IWT requires a transboundary, multi-agency and multi-sectoral response. Wildlife crime investigations, while only one element of the response to IWT, requires the same type of response. In South Africa, the seconded Biodiversity Enforcement Analyst and Enforcement Coordination and Liaison to DEFF continue to support the department’s investigations into wildlife crime, and its ability to coordinate with other agencies and sectors in South Africa and across borders. During this quarter, we undertook a most significant change evaluation to understand the impact of the secondments. The information is being analyzed, and the outcomes will be available next quarter. In the meantime, the analyst participated in various platforms and structures to share information and trends on wildlife crime, input seizure data to the SADC Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX) database, and meet the country’s international obligations of Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Our liaison also participated in several information sharing and collaboration platforms and structures such as the rhino anti-poaching committee, Environmental Enforcement Fusion Centre meetings and the C-More Technical Committee. The liaison also provided support in the planning and implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 6 program.

Finally, WWF upholds itself to the highest environmental and social safeguards as we engage local communities to plan and manage our work to improve and protect their lives, rights and livelihoods while conserving nature and wildlife. At the Khetha program, it is no different. During this quarter, we undertook a risk analysis of our program’s activities to ensure that we follow the standards, policies, planning and implementation mechanisms and compliance systems as set out in WWF’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework.

Although 2021 will prove challenging due to the continuing impacts of the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the show must go on. We look forward to tackling the challenges by harnessing what we have learned and experienced in 2020.
1. INTRODUCTION

“Khetha” is a word associated with the Nguni languages of southern African spoken by Zulu and Shangaan people commonly located in eastern and north eastern South Africa and western Mozambique. The word “Khetha”, meaning “choose” or “choice”, reflects the program goal to offer communities surrounding protected areas an opportunity to choose to conserve wildlife whilst making informed choices to improve their livelihoods.

The program aims to halt the impacts of wildlife trafficking on key populations of flagship species and communities around protected areas in the South African and Mozambican landscape of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). The goal of the program is to contribute to positive growth rates in black and white rhino populations and maintain positive growth rates for elephants in the focal area by 2022.

We will achieve our goal through collaboration between WWF South Africa and partners towards the following objectives:

1. Support innovative partnerships and novel approaches within civil society, communities, private sector and government in at least four innovation nodes in GLTFCA to improve relationships between people and wildlife, by July 2022.
2. Support the implementation of critical wildlife trafficking policy frameworks for South Africa and Mozambique to increase crime prevention, detection, prosecution and collaboration, by July 2022.
3. Learn, collaborate and coordinate with influential institutions in the GLTFCA landscape to strengthen the collective response to wildlife trafficking, by July 2022.

The project objectives contribute to the implementation of the United States National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking and complement regional and bilateral programs managed by USAID and other United States Government agencies in southern Africa. The program also aligns to ongoing responses by donors, governments, private sector and other organizations as well as to relevant national strategies and approaches in Mozambique and South Africa.
2. BACKGROUND

The GLTFCA is one of the biggest networks of conservation areas in Africa and home to a spectacular array of species, including key populations of African elephants and white and black rhinos. IWT in ivory and rhino horn is one of the major threats facing these species. In the KNP, hundreds of rhinos are illegally killed every year at the hand of criminal syndicates.

As ecosystem engineers, elephants and rhinos play important roles for shaping and maintaining the environment. Apart from their key role in natural systems, they are also valued economically, socially, culturally and/or aesthetically by different sectors of society - albeit in different ways. In some areas wildlife, and in particular elephants, cause harm to people and their livelihoods, contributing to an already complex relationship between people, wildlife and wildlife conservation agencies.

The history of the landscape is important in understanding the drivers of wildlife trafficking and the conditions that create an enabling environment for IWT to flourish. In South Africa, the iconic KNP was formed as a much-needed wildlife sanctuary after uncontrolled hunting, disease and agricultural expansion decimated rangelands and wildlife numbers in the early 20th century. Communities who lived in the park and adjacent areas – and lived off the land for centuries – were evicted and deprived of their livelihoods. Under colonial rule, and later the apartheid regime, black communities were excluded from formal decision-making, policy formulation and management processes of national parks. Since the end of the apartheid in 1994, several institutional and regulatory changes were introduced to build a mutually beneficial relationship between local people and protected areas. However, although there have been small wins – such as the restitution of land or pay-outs to some communities, the establishment of community-run reserves and lodges, the creation of community-park forums to improve relations between peoples and parks, the appointment of CLOs and dedicated community programming – the relationship between communities and protected areas remains tense in some areas. Integration of local communities into the biodiversity economy is slow and happening at too small a scale to achieve the level of change needed. Progressive ideas about community management, co-management and ownership of protected areas and wildlife abound, but more is needed to implement these initiatives at scale.

Similarly, in Mozambique, the creation of the Limpopo National Park (LNP) in 2001 and its integration into the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) in 2002, relocated about seven thousand (7000) people from rural communities out of the park. The relocation has increased pressures on neighboring rural communities and their abilities to occupy space and access resources, including labor opportunities. Such conditions continue to create an enabling environment for criminal syndicates to take advantage of local people and to establish themselves in communities adjacent to protected areas with high-value wildlife.

Thus, wildlife trafficking is not only a conservation issue but also a social, economic and safety issue, affecting local communities and protected areas. The safety and security and continued conservation of wildlife, such as elephants and rhinos, depends on the safety and security and socio-economic wellbeing of the people who live with wildlife.
Figure 1: The GLTP links the LNP in Mozambique, KNP in South Africa, and Gonarezhou National Park, Manjinji Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe, as well as two community owned areas, the Makuleke Area in South Africa and the Sengwe communal land in Zimbabwe. The GLTFCA includes the Banhine and Zinave National Parks, the Massingir and Corumana areas and interlinking regions in Mozambique, as well as various private, communal and state-owned conservation areas in South Africa and Zimbabwe bordering on the transfrontier park.
2.1 WHERE WE WORK

Fundamentally, the Khetha program is grounded within the Mozambican and South African constituents of the GLTFCA - the LNP and the KNP. The program’s work under Objective One focuses on innovation nodes located around the protected areas as detailed below (Figure 2). We recognize that IWT is driven by transnational organized syndicates and that products should be followed from the source to the market. Thus, under Objective Two, our work extends from the key nodes within the GLTFCA to identified ports of entry and exit in both Mozambique and South Africa. Under Objective Three, we work with various stakeholders across the GLTFCA, as well as the national governments of Mozambique and South Africa to strengthen the collective response to wildlife trafficking.
2.2 INNOVATION NODES

Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC), Moamba district, Maputo Province, Mozambique

GLC, Magude District, Maputo Province and Massingir District, Gaza Province, Mozambique

Pafuri Node, Chicualacuala District, Gaza Province, Mozambique

Makuya Node, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Gidjana-Bevhula, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Sabie River Node, Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga Province, bordering the Sabie River, South Africa

Matsulu Corridor Node, Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Figure 2: Khetha program nodes
3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS QUARTER

Successfully hosted our annual community practitioners conference online where community practitioners shared their experiences, challenges and lessons learned in implementing community-based conservation initiatives in the Greater Kruger.

With SANParks’ support, we hosted a workshop with the traditional councils from the Sabie node to introduce the restorative justice pilot project and secure their buy-in and support for the project.

Interviewed candidates for a CLO postition in the Matsulu region to bolster the efforts to improve communication and cooperation between the park and communities in that node.

Supported and facilitated the selection process of three DNRMCs in Mangalane, Kaptine, and Cumana, Mozambique, and started the process of legalizing a committee in Magude, Mozambique (WWF Mozambique).

Handed over 15 wildlife crime scene investigation kits to SANParks on behalf of SAPS.

Completion and handover of K9 mobile unit in the intensive protection zone (IPZ) of the KNP with the SAWC to SANParks

Trained provincial prosecutors and judges on wildlife crime investigations and new legislation relating to criminal procedures for wildlife crime (WWF Mozambique).

Developed a radio drama on IWT through a collaborative approach with community members in Mozambique (WWF Mozambique).

Trained 15 radio managers and 25 radio presenters and reporters in our Mozambique landscape on IWT and dialogue facilitation in preparation for airing a radio drama on IWT (WWF Mozambique)
3.1 TIMELINE

Over the past quarter, Khetha staff, our consultants, subawardees and seconded positions, participated in various meetings and field events with stakeholders and beneficiaries. These engagements help us collaborate, plan, review progress and host/participate in multi-partner platform.

The illustration below is an overview of such events and their relevance is described in more detail in the report. The meetings and events Khetha initiated or hosted are indicated in green, and we indicated in brackets where these were led by our consultants, secondee or subawardees.
Highlights of this quarter

1. Introductory meeting with Gareth Coleman, the new Managing Executive of the KNP.

2. Restorative justice meeting with the SAWC, EWT, and SANParks stakeholders to select a pilot site (EWT).

3. Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) workshop with the WWF Network. We will facilitate the necessary support to WWF Mozambique in determining if SMART is the appropriate tool for use in the Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC).

4. Training for radio managers and reporters of community and state radio stations on in Magude, Mozambique on IWT and dialogue facilitation in preparation for airing a radio drama on IWT (WWF Mozambique).

5. Meeting with the GEF 6 project implementers to discuss the methodology of a situational analysis for three of the six GEF clusters, which overlap with three Khetha nodes in South Africa.

6. DEFF analyst presentation at the South African Scientific Authority meeting on the state of populations of threatened species heavily impacted by poaching (DEFF Secondee).

7. Training for radio managers and reporters of community and state radio stations in Massingir, Mozambique on IWT and dialogue facilitation in preparation for airing a radio drama on IWT.

8. WWF Mozambique conducted an assessment of the functionality and capacity of DNRMCs and the status of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the Magude and Moamba districts (WWF Mozambique).

9. Internal review of the Khetha theory of change through reflection and testing of assumptions based on experiences of the project implementation thus far.

10. National Biodiversity Investigator's Forum Meeting where the issues relating to the investigation of wildlife crime involving rhino and other priority species are discussed (DEFF secondee).

11. Field visit to assess the functionality of the Magude and Moamba DNRMCs and meet with directors of Economic Activities Services (WWF Mozambique).

12. Meeting with GLTFCA partners to discuss synergies around developing youth sports and IWT programs.

13. Workshop in Gaza, Mozambique, on developing DNRMCs and community beneficiation schemes from wildlife resource use (WWF Mozambique).

14. Introductory meeting with the SAWC Applied Learning Unit to explore linkages with developing a data management tool for protected area managers and rangers in the GLC.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environmental Enforcement Fusion Centre meeting (DEFF secondees).</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>November: Meeting with local authorities in Moamba, Mozambique to discuss the process of revitalizing the DNRMC in Moamba (WWF Mozambique).</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Internal review of the Khetha Year 4 Work Plan and Budget.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Learning exchange between Bevhula community traditional council and the Makuya traditional council to learn from the Makuya Nature Reserve and related community projects (CLO, CLC).</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mangalane community committee general meeting (WWF Mozambique).</td>
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<td>9-11</td>
<td>Greater Kruger Strategic Development Program (GKSDP) partners strategic planning session with KNP and other landscape-partners.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>SANParks, Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and DEFF high-level stakeholder consultation with the Maphophe community on wildlife management and use.</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Scientific Authority CITES Non-Detrimant Findings expert workshop (DEFF secondees).</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>DEFF high-level panel consultation with communities on wildlife use and management policies, legislation and practices (CLC, CLO).</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>WWF Environmental and social safeguards framework workshop.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Meeting with the GLTFCA International Coordinator and Conservation Outcomes on the first draft GLTFCA Wildlife Translocation Policy.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Launch of a heritage site inside the KNP (CLOs, CLC).</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>USAID YukaNow’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Communications (MELCOM) meeting where USAID presented on Data Quality Assessment concepts and procedures and the use of the USAID Development Information System.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>GEF 6 site visit to Sabi Sand Wildtuin and the surrounding villages in the Sabie River node.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Interviews for a Matsulu node CLO.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Field visit together with the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) and meeting with the Tshumisano Agricultural project in Bende Mutale to explore areas of collaboration (CLO).</td>
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Highlights of this quarter

22
Interview with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SANParks for a video on the rhino and elephant census supported by Khetha.

23
Training on TWIX, a platform for trade in wildlife information exchange (DEFF secondee).

23
Meeting with the Gidjana traditional council, SANParks, LEDET, and DEFF (CLO).

24 - 25
Community meetings in Kaptine and Cumane, Magude district to revitalize the district natural resource committee and support the ongoing legalization process for the committee (WWF Mozambique).

24 - 26
Virtual Khetha Community Practitioners Conference.

24 - 26
Field visit to Makuya node together with GEF 6 collaborators.

25 Nov - 1 Dec
Field surveys in the Limpopo province, South Africa to assess species impacted by illegal harvest (DEFF secondee).

26 - 30
Most significant change interviews with DEFF.

27
Report writing workshop with the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C).

30
Field visit to the K9 mobile unit in Skukuza.

DECEMBER 2020

1
Presentation of results of our analysis of HWC in the Khetha landscape at the GLTFCA Working Group Meetings on HWC.

1 - 2
USAID VukaNow Special Platforms for Action, Reflection and Collaboration (SPARCC) 6 on technological tools and systems to address IWT.

2
Update on the Khetha program relating to our transboundary work at the GLTFCA Partners Forum Meeting.

2
Workshop on wildlife crime in the Maputo province, Mozambique with community leaders, police and conservation agencies.

1 - 6
Field trip to Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park in KwaZulu Natal to understand shared challenges and possible solutions relating to ranger wellness across landscapes.

9
Introductory meeting with the new CEO of the Sabi Sand Wildtuin in the Sable River node.
Highlights of this quarter

- **10**
  Handover of Khetha-donated wildlife crime scene kits to SANParks and SAPS.

- **10**
  Greater Kruger Land Matters and Stewardship Workshop on the various institutional arrangements in the Greater Kruger and processes to establish these, as well as a Greater Kruger Community Engagement Guideline.

- **10**
  Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF) dehorning data analysis workshop.

- **14 - 18**
  SANParks distribution of old linen to community neighboring the park in the Sabie node (CLO).

- **16 - 17**
  Communications Workshop with Khetha stakeholder to revisit and revise the Khetha communication strategy for Mozambique (WWF Mozambique).

- **29**
  SANParks distribution of Pepperbark trees to traditional healers in Hamakuya (CLO).
4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRESS

The external audit of the Khetha program commenced during the quarter. We are expecting the audit fieldwork to be concluded in January 2021.

Our Office Manager and Finance Manager attended online training sessions for USAID’s implementing partners, which covered audit queries, ineligible cost, fraud awareness, vouchers and liquidation.

Our staff continued their training in the use of Trello (www.trello.com), a project management platform and tool which the Khetha Program plans to start using in February 2021.
5. PROGRAM & TECHNICAL PROGRESS

This section reports on progress made in terms of the high-level work plan objectives and the more granular-level program themes.

5.1 Zooming out: High-level achievements

**OBJECTIVE**

1. Support innovative partnerships and novel approaches within civil society, communities, private sector and government in at least four priority nodes in GLTFCA to improve relationships between people and wildlife, by July 2022.

**HIGH-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT**

We secured community-support for the restorative justice pilot project through the buy-in of relevant traditional councils in the pilot project area. We are recognized and valued in Mozambique for our support setting up and strengthening DNRMCs in Mozambique. We allow our stakeholders to control the narrative with regards to community-protected area relations and the issues that influence this relationship. We did this through convening the Khetta Community Practitioners Conference and the co-development of the radio drama on IWT with community members in Mozambique.

**OBJECTIVE**

2. Support the implementation of critical wildlife trafficking policy frameworks for South Africa and Mozambique to increase crime prevention, detection, prosecution and collaboration, by July 2022.

**HIGH-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT**

We are improving the capacity of law enforcement in Mozambique and South Africa at all levels and within different agencies and departments to address IWT. We are improving detection and apprehension through our support towards a mobile K9 unit and providing rangers with continued legal support. We are improving investigations and prosecutions through our donation of wildlife crime scene investigation kits, the work of the seconded analyst and liaison to DEFF, and the training of prosecutors and judges in Mozambique on IWT.

**OBJECTIVE**

3. Learn, collaborate and coordinate with influential institutions in the GLTFCA landscape to strengthen the collective response to wildlife trafficking, by July 2022.

**HIGH-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT**

We continuously explore and learn about the perspectives of others on IWT and related issues to inform our approaches and initiatives. Our stakeholders are key in realizing the objectives of the Khetta program so we consult and work closely with them. For example, we co-developed a radio drama on IWT with communities for communities, and we reviewed and revised our communications strategy in Mozambique together with representatives of our key audiences in Mozambique.
5.2 ZOOMING IN: MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AS PER WORK PLAN PROGRAM THEMES

Objective 1

OBJECTIVE 1: INNOVATION NODES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE

Upholding our community engagement and community conservation initiatives to the highest ethical and environmental standards

The WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework guides the organization in how we engage local communities to plan and manage our work to improve and protect their lives, rights and livelihoods while conserving nature and wildlife. The safeguards are designed to manage risks, uphold human rights, and ensure conservation projects deliver better outcomes for communities and nature. We use these safeguards to identify, avoid and mitigate any negative social and environmental impacts within the work of WWF. At the Khetha program it is no different. During this quarter, we undertook a risk analysis of our program’s activities to ensure that we follow the standards, policies, planning and implementation mechanisms and compliance systems as set out in the framework. The ESSF is available here.

Strengthening the connection and communication between people and protected areas in Mozambique

Partnerships and building trust between communities, civil society, business, and law enforcement are critical for developing and implementing effective community-oriented crime prevention approaches. Khetha convenes such stakeholders to build and strengthen these partnerships.

In Mozambique, District Natural Resource Committees (DNRMC) are the structures used to improve the co-management of wildlife and the sharing of resources between communities and protected areas. Functioning DNRMCs are critical in ensuring that livelihood projects are identified and designed with stakeholders and beneficiaries, not for beneficiaries. Thus, we support DNRMCs to ensure improved access to livelihood opportunities for local community members, increased benefits for communities from protected areas through beneficiation schemes, and better, transparent communication between involved parties. The establishment of such structures requires a legal process and an election to select the committee members.

In October and November, through WWF Mozambique, we had several field visits, workshops, and meetings to establish new DNRMCs or assess existing committees’ status and functionality and identify areas of support. We established the DNRMC with relevant parties in the Mapai district. We assessed the functionality and effectiveness of two
DNRMCs in Magude and Moamba, particularly their capacity to address HWC issues and their eligibility to access benefit schemes from wildlife resource use with nearby wildlife reserves. We also started the process of formalizing the committee in Magude. Finally, we supported and facilitated the selection process of a further three DNRMCs in Mangalane, Kaptine, and Cumana.

**Strengthening the connection and communication between people and protected areas in South Africa**

We are seconding two CLOs and one community liaison coordinator (CLC) to SANParks to strengthen the relationship between the park and its neighboring communities. The relationship between the park and its neighboring communities is facilitated through community structures such as tribal authorities or forums. Thus, the CLC and CLOs support the functioning of these forums and other mechanisms through which conservation agencies and communities communicate and cooperate. They serve as a bridge to connect the park and its community neighbors. They facilitate introductions and meetings, plan and support the roll-out of community conservation and development initiatives and park-benefit programs, and stay close to the burning issues on the ground that influence the relationship between people and protected areas.

During this quarter, the CLOs and CLC supported SANParks in preparing and facilitating various initiatives and outreach efforts with communities. The CLOs and CLC participated in the launch of a heritage site inside the KNP with the unveiling of the Chief Nyongane Makhubela monument and mass cattle grave heritage site. In 1930, Chief Makhubela and his family were forcefully removed from what is now known as Pretoriuskop in the KNP and his cattle killed. These activities recognize the role local people played in the park’s history and help foster a “Greater Kruger” identity where the park’s community neighbors feel valued by protected areas.

The community liaisons assisted the SANParks with distributing 108 kilograms of wildlife meat to schools in Makuya and Hlanganani area and Pepperbark trees to traditional healers in Hamakuya. As part of SANParks’ COVID-19 relief program, our CLOs and CLC also helped distribute goods to the most vulnerable in communities through donations to orphanages, care centres, churches, creches, child-headed households. Such initiatives form part of the KNP’s efforts to share benefits from the park with neighboring communities by supporting school feeding schemes.

CLOs and CLC supported and facilitated SANParks’ consultation with several community structures on wildlife management and resource use for the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries High Level Panel, especially concerning priority species, rhinos, elephants, lions and leopards. Communities highlighted the issue of damage-causing animals, poor fencing, a lack of or inadequate compensation, and called for community rangers, better fencing, and the development of legislation on compensation. They also identified corruption and unemployment as barriers to development and called for more community conservation areas and better environmental education.
Our CLO covering the northern boundary of the KNP supported a key stakeholder in the landscape, the VBR by arranging and facilitating meetings with the relevant traditional authorities and community members to discuss the VBR’s Tshumisano Women’s Agricultural Project. This project aims to improve women's livelihoods in Bende Mutale and reduce human-elephant conflict through growing chilis for the market and as a deterrent to elephants.

Our CLOs are instrumental in brokering relationships and access for the Khetha program in the Greater Kruger communities. The CLOs and CLC supported EWT and the SANParks Department of Socio-Economic Transformation to identify a potential project site and approach for the pilot of the restorative justice guidelines. The CLOs and CLC also helped facilitate meetings with traditional councils in the project area to solicit their buy-in for the project. As a result, seven traditional councils pledged their support for the project.

The CLOs and CLC validated and updated the SANParks stakeholder communication database with all the key persons of community structures and forums to ensure all relevant stakeholders receive important information such as recruitment announcements, events etc.

During this quarter, we interviewed candidates for a CLO in the Makuya region.

Supporting and participating in the implementation of landscape-level programs

We took part in a GEF 6 field visits to the Makuya and Sabie nodes to identify areas where we can combine forces. The GEF 6 Biodiversity Strategy Program aims to reduce the impacts to known threatened species from poaching and IWT, improve community governance, support environmental monitors and community liaison programs, train youth champions, and create livelihood opportunities and awareness of conservation issues in three geographical areas: the Greater Kruger. These areas overlap with three Khetha nodes - the Matsulu, Sabie River, and Makuya nodes. The Khetha program is currently part of the GEF 6 steering committee and provides technical Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning support to the GEF 6 partners.

Shining a light on the work of community practitioners

The work of community practitioners, those who work in the interface between protected areas and neighboring communities, is critically important to build and strengthen relationships between people and protected areas. However, their work and related challenges often go unrecognized. In response, the Khetha program hosts an annual conference where community practitioners can share their experiences and learn from one another, where we can celebrate their small and big wins, and where we can identify areas where community practitioners require support.

In response to COVID-19, we hosted the annual conference online in November 2020, themed Small Wins, Big Ideas. Over the three half-day sessions we heard from
community practitioners in conservation share their work, experiences, lessons and small wins. We also appreciated the big ideas and thinking of subject experts on the trends we see in Kruger’s community relations; the future of conservation areas; the role communities could play in the future of conservation areas; and how conservation should be contributing to the development of communities. Furthermore, we learned from community practitioners from other sectors beyond conservation, for example, research and small fisheries, on the challenges and successes in working in the interface between their subject area and communities.

We also took the opportunity to capture participants’ thoughts and suggestions on how best to support community liaison work and the type of skills and knowledge such practitioners require to do their work. These suggestions will inform our initiatives to support our planned professional development of community-engagement practitioners. A detailed conference report with the outcomes, lessons and recommendations from the conference is under preparation.

Testing restorative justice as an approach to improve community-conservation authority relations

In partnership with EWT, we are developing guidelines for applying restorative justice to wildlife crimes in the Greater Kruger. Over the quarter, EWT had several engagements with stakeholder groups to get buy-in to pilot the restorative justice approach and their input for the draft guidelines. A first draft of the guideline was completed and will be presented to the Restorative Justice Steering Committee in January 2021 for their comment. Together with representatives of the SANParks Department of Socio-Economic Transformation and the community liaisons, we identified a focus area in the Greater Kruger to pilot the guidelines’ implementation. We met with and secured the buy-in from the community leaders of the project area and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

EWT received a grant from the Criminal Institute at the Leuven University in Belgium to support the restorative justice project in close collaboration with Dr Pali, a senior researcher on environmental justice at the Leuven University. The grant will produce research outputs to contribute to international knowledge on restorative justice and its application to environmental harms and conflicts. In preparation for the pilot of the restorative justice guidelines, Dr. Pali will assist EWT with awareness-raising events planned for the judiciary, communities and other stakeholders affected by wildlife crime and the training of restorative justice.

Furthermore, EWT submitted an article to the International Journal of Restorative Justice, titled “Focus on victims and the community: Applying restorative justice principles to wildlife crime offences in South Africa.”

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1 GEF is the largest independent financial organization in the environment sector that provides assistance or grants to both government and non-government entities for the implementation of projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.
OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRITICAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO INCREASE CRIME PREVENTION, DETECTION, PROSECUTION AND COLLABORATION

Understanding the dynamics of the illegal wildlife trade in South Africa

In partnership with EWT, we are researching the dynamics of IWT in South Africa. We are collecting and analyzing information from open-source media records, court records, CITES and other trade databases, muthi markets, sales from e-commerce and social media network platforms, and meetings and consultations with key informants such as journalists, researchers, freight agents, hunting associations and game ranch associations, post offices etc. Following some delays last quarter as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and a slow process to attain approvals from government agencies, we managed to secure detailed seizure and arrest data from DEFF. The department collects and collates this information from other law enforcement agencies involved in addressing wildlife crime such as the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and relevant agencies in the provinces. SAPS gave permission to interview appropriate SAPS personnel working in wildlife crime related fields in Limpopo and Mpumalanga. TRAFFIC International provided data on elephant and rhino product seizures from TRAFFIC’s Wildlife Trade Information System (WiTIS) database.

Supporting the assessment of anti-poaching interventions

The Framework of Interventions for Effective Rhino Protection Evaluation (Project FIRE) will evaluate the effectiveness of the different anti-poaching interventions implemented across the Associated Private Nature Reserves and KNP. In November, GKEPF hosted a workshop regarding data analysis on dehorning used as an anti-poaching method. We are assisting in the design of the analysis. The outcomes of the evaluation will inform anti-poaching efforts in the Greater Kruger as well as other rhino landscapes.

Supporting South Africa’s investigations of illegal wildlife trade

The Biodiversity Enforcement Analyst and Enforcement Coordination and Liaison seconded to DEFF provide specialized skills to the department’s Law, Authority, Compliance and Enforcement (LACE) program. IWT requires a transboundary, multi-agency and multi-sectoral response. Wildlife crime investigations, while only one element of the response to IWT, requires the same type of response. The Enforcement Coordination and Liaison is critical in ensuring that DEFF LACE works closely with all the parties needed to disrupt criminal networks in South Africa and abroad. During this quarter the liaison participated several platforms and structures where information is shared relating to challenges to, opportunities for responses to IWT, such as the rhino anti-poaching committee meeting with provincial departments provincial park boards, private rhino owners and SANParks, and monthly Environmental Enforcement Fusion Centre meetings.
The liaison also supports and provides input in the design of program aimed at addressing IWT, such as the GEF 6 program, and provide technical guidance and support in other structures such as the C-More Technical Committee. C-More is an application used by law enforcement to live-track poaching incidents in protected areas.

The analyst supports DEFF’s IWT investigations as well as the department’s mandate to meet the country’s wildlife trade-related transboundary obligations such non-detriment findings for CITES and data inputs for the SADC TWIX database. The SADC TWIX database collects seizures data from several African countries and is only accessible by participating enforcement agency personnel. The analyst also contributes to and participate in the multi-agency, transboundary platforms to share information and insight into the wildlife crime trends in South Africa.

The analyst attended the National Biodiversity Investigators Forum (NBIF) meeting in October together with 28 other members of DEFF, the SAPS Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit, the NPA, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), and environmental monitoring inspectorates from various provincial conservation authorities. The NBIF is a multi-party forum established by DEFF as a platform for discussion and information sharing on biodiversity-related law enforcement issues, including rhino poaching. The Forum received feedback on IWT in high priority species such as rhino, abalone, reptiles, pangolin, ivory, succulent flora, etc. The meeting also included presentations and discussion on CITES registrations, particularly regarding lion bones, C-More, and updates from relevant projects aimed at supporting law enforcement efforts to address IWT.

During this quarter, the analyst supported the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), with field surveys in South Africa’s Limpopo province to assess populations of species heavily impacted by illegal harvest for the international horticultural market, as well as local traditional medicine use.

**Wildlife crime scene kits handed over to assist in poaching investigations**

Following delays due to COVID-19 regulations and lengthy approval processes at the SAPS, we managed to handover the 15 wildlife crime scene kits procured in Year Two. These kits include all the tools needed to process and gather information from a wildlife crime scene, from GPS, to a headlamp, tweezers and even a metal detector. The content of the kits were informed by the SAPS following years of experience managing crime scenes.

Wildlife crime scenes, in particular poaching scenes, are often in remote, difficult to reach areas. The kits are designed in such a way to lessen the burden on the investigators, and increase their effectiveness investigating a scene and collecting evidence. Proper evidence collection is critical for wildlife crime investigations as well as the prosecution of the suspected offender. During the Khetha-supported 2019-colloquium on IWT with the South African and Mozambican judiciary, the magistrates highlighted a common issue poorly
collected and presented evidence in court that is often declared inadmissible in court. This greatly affects bail hearings, convictions and sentencing. The wildlife crime scene kits will greatly improve the effectiveness of wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions.

Training investigators and prosecutors in Mozambique on wildlife crime

In December, through WWF Mozambique, we supported the Maputo Provincial Prosecutor’s Office with the training of district and provincial prosecutors and judges on wildlife crime investigations and new legislation relating to criminal procedures for wildlife crime. We also used the opportunity to assess the level of coordination between ANAC’s wildlife crime investigators, the police and prosecutors. The trainees called for continued meetings, engagement and collaboration between the stakeholder groups, and expanding the training of prosecutors and judges.

Exploring data management tools to prevent illegal wildlife trade

In the GLC, Mozambique, we will be piloting the use of a data management tool for protected area managers and rangers in the GLC to improve the effectiveness of rangers to prevent and respond to IWT. In October, the WWF IWT Hub for Southern Africa attended a WWF Network meeting on the use of the SMART. SMART is a tool used to measure, evaluate, and improve law enforcement patrols’ effectiveness in protected areas and site-based conservation activities. WWF is a SMART partnership member, and the Hub is the contact point for SMART in southern Africa. The Hub will facilitate the necessary support
to WWF Mozambique in determining if SMART is the appropriate tool and arrange the necessary support for setup, implementation and ongoing support as may be required. SMART is currently supported and used in LNP by PPF, is an open-source tool and widely supported in the WWF network. We also met with the SAWC’s Learning Unit to explore opportunities to develop or adapt an appropriate data management tool for the GLC context. Discussions with WWF Mozambique and relevant authorities will continue to determine the best approach for selecting the most appropriate tools in the GLC.

**Installation of K9 mobile unit finalized in the Kruger National Park**

In December, we completed our support to the SAWC and SANParks in the establishment of a K9 unit with a dog handler and kennel hand in the IPZ of the KNP, an area heavily affected by rhino poaching. The K9 mobile unit and staff have been fully integrated in the K9 operations of the SAWC. Containers were converted to accommodation and fencing was erected to create a safe base in the KNP for the K9 unit. The base requires a few final touches, such as the connection of water and electricity and the paving of the kennels, funded by the SANParks Honorary Rangers. The base will be operational as of February 2021. Over the quarter the dog handler and kennel hand continued their training, training of dogs, and participation in anti-poaching operations. The K9 Unit Dog Master is pleased with their progress and integration into the SAWC K9 team. The use of K9 units significantly increases the chances of apprehending suspected poachers or illegal trespassers in the KNP. The SAWC reports that the success rates of anti-poaching operations go up from a 3-5% success rate without a K9 asset, to a 66% success rate where a dog unit was deployed. K9 base in the IPZ and a well-trained K9 team will allow for quicker and more effective deployment of dog units as part of the SANParks anti-poaching operations.
OBJECTIVE 3: LEARN, COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH INFLUENTIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE GLTFCA LANDSCAPE TO STRENGTHEN THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Developing a radio drama on IWT for the community with the community

During the quarter, through WWF Mozambique, we developed a radio drama on IWT. Radio is the most common and most effective medium to reach large numbers of people in a rural landscape where literacy is low and little to no other print publications like community newspapers exist.
The radio drama will feature on nine community radio stations in Magude and Massingir and Radio Mozambique (state radio), based in Maputo, Mozambique. After each broadcast, the radio host will facilitate a discussion with listeners on IWT.

We took a collaborative approach in designing the radio drama and developing the story. We undertook an extensive field study, visiting radio stations to understand their capacity, interests, and audiences. We also had group and individual interviews with community members from Magude, Massingir, Mabalane and Moamba. Through these interviews, we gained a better understanding of people’s perceptions of IWT, protected species, conservation areas, the police and judiciary, the government, and the media. The consultations revealed several issues which we will build into the radio drama and which the radio hosts will address: 1) there is a lack of knowledge about the legal framework relating to IWT; 2) there is poor trust between conservation area managers, authorities and communities, and 3) there is the perception that there is little community engagement in conservation efforts by the government or the protected areas.

Figure 5: Community radio in Mozambique is the most effective way to reach large numbers of people in rural Mozambique. Here we are outside the Magude Community Radio Station.
Figure 6: We spoke with several community members in Magude, Massingir, Mabalane and Moamba, Mozambique to understand their perceptions of IWT, protected species, conservation areas, the police and judiciary, government, and the media. We used this information to inform the design and the story of the radio drama on IWT for the Mozambican audience.

The field visit also highlighted the need for media training on IWT and the facilitation of debates and discussions, especially on complex topics such as IWT. Thus, in October, we provided such training to 15 radio managers and 25 radio presenters in Massingir and Magude.

In December, we visited communities in the Khetha to test the radio drama content to ensure that our content is culturally sensitive and respectful, engaging and informative. We also tested the model and guidance for the radio hosts to use for the discussions and debates. Finally, we involved community members in developing the radio drama jingle and the drafting of the story’s opening and closing. We received positive feedback, and the radio drama is ready for release on World Wildlife Day, March 3rd, 2021.
Figure 7: We trained 15 radio managers and 25 radio presenters in Mozambique on IWT and the facilitation of discussions on complex topics in preparation of the launch of a radio drama on IWT in March 2021.

*Revising the Khetha Communication Strategy in Mozambique*

In December, through WWF Mozambique, we hosted an intensive five-day workshop with about 30 stakeholders ranging from government to community representatives. The workshop assessed the effectiveness of our communication strategy in Mozambique to date, created a shared understanding of our audiences’ perspectives, practices, and behaviors in Mozambique relating to IWT, and highlighted new challenges and opportunities for behavioral communications campaigns. These outcomes informed the revision of the communications strategy with refreshed key messages and approaches that consider the current challenges and context of our audiences in Mozambique. We are in the process of finalizing the revised strategy document.
Figure 8: We hosted a workshop with 30 representatives from government, communities and other stakeholders in our Mozambique landscape to revisit and update our community strategy.
Participating in learning events and platforms

Over the quarter, we participated in several platforms and opportunities to share with and learn from others in and beyond the Khetha landscape about IWT, its drivers and potential solutions. Such learning experiences contribute to strengthening the collective response to IWT.

We presented the findings of our assessment of HWC in the Khetha landscape to the GLTFCA Working Group on HWC. We also gave an update on our transboundary work at the GLTFCA Partners Forum meeting. The meetings were attended by representatives from the governments of the three countries, non-government organizations (NGOs) and others supporting the GLTFCA. Furthermore, we attended the USAID VukaNow SPARCC 6 on technology to learn about different tools and systems available to address IWT. These included law enforcement monitoring systems, sensors, communication technology, domain awareness systems, intelligence databases, and social network analysis. We also attended the USAID VukaNow MELCOM meeting where a USAID monitoring and evaluation specialist presented on USAID’s Data Quality Assessment and procedures and the use of the USAID Development Information System.

Khetha staff and CLO and CLC secondees also attended various learning events during this quarter. These included webinars and online workshops on:

- South African Protected Area Resilience
- People beyond Poaching, TRAFFIC Report
- Community-based conservation in Africa: insights and lessons from African leaders
- Greater Kruger Land Reform Matters and Biodiversity Stewardship
5.3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We continue to engage key government, NGOs, private sector and community stakeholders in the pursuit of our program objectives.

This quarter, we worked closely with ANAC, PGR, the police and the Maputo Provincial Prosecutor’s Office in Mozambique to provide training to prosecutors and judges on IWT. At the district level, we engaged with various government departments to support the establishment or revitalizing of DNRMCs.

In South Africa, we met with the new Managing Executive of KNP, consulted the SANParks Department for Socio-Economic Transformation on selecting a pilot site for the restorative justice project, and facilitated introductions with the relevant traditional councils. SANParks received the wildlife crime kits on behalf of the SAPS Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit responsible for investigating wildlife crime scenes in national parks. We also included SANParks and DEFF in our interviews as part of our evaluation of the impact of our seconded CLOs and CLC to SANParks and seconded analyst and enforcement coordinator and liaison to DEFF.

We continue to use transboundary platforms to engage state entities, such as the GLTFCA Joint Management Board meetings regarding the development of the GLTFCA Elephant Management Framework (EMF) and wildlife translocation policy or giving general program updates or sharing research outcomes the GLTFCA Working Group Meetings and Partners Forum.

In South Arica, we have several NGO-partners or stakeholders. This quarter, we worked closely with EWT to select a pilot site to test the restorative justice guidelines and Conservation Outcomes on the drafting and reviewing the GLTFCA wildlife translocation policy. We also joined GEF 6 collaborators, including the SAWC and PPF, on several sites visits to inform the GEF 6 work plan.

This quarter, our CLOs and CLC again proved to be valuable hands, eyes and feet on the ground, engaging with several traditional councils and community structures in the Greater Kruger area in Khetha and SANParks initiatives that strengthens the relationship between people and protected areas. Our CLOs and CLC were active in Gidjana Bevhula, Hamakuya, Hlanganani, Makuya, Maphophe and villages in the Sabie node, such as Cork and Lilydale. Through WWF Mozambique, we also engaged closely with communities in Mozambique as part of the process to establish DNRMCs, in particular the Mangalane community. We also tested the radio drama on IWT written for Mozambique community and state radios, in several communities in the Moamba, Magude, Massingir, Mabalane and Mapai.
We regularly engage other conservation agencies or entities outside the Khetha landscape but with similar interests to that of the Khetha program to exchange learning. For example engage with other USAID-funded landscape partners to address IWT in southern Africa, mainly through VukaNow program activities such as SPARCC and MELCOM meetings.
8. UP COMING ACTIVITIES

- Support the training of CLOs, together with SANParks Environmental Monitors, as part of the SANParks Youth Champions Program.

- Appoint an Innovative Finance and Livelihoods Consultant.

- Develop and implement a youth sports program in Matsulu and Sabie River nodes as a mitigation strategy to IWT.

- Support the professional development of community-engagement practitioners, and/or facilitate research about CLO work.

- Document and evaluate the learning needs and learning journey of CLOs.

- Host a workshop in Mozambique on HWC.

- Meet with DNRMC in Mangalane, Kaptine and Cumana, Mozambique.

- Continue support to DNRMCs through capacity building initiatives.

- Support ranger leadership training in South Africa.

- Conduct a literature review and expert assessment outlining types of corruption and evidence-based approaches to address corruption.

- Commence with the development of a training curriculum on IWT for the South African judiciary.

- Finalize the establishment of an Anti-poaching Coordination and Operations Centre; to support law enforcement in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime and apprehension of offenders.

- Finalize procurement of wildlife crime scene investigation kits for ANAC and investigation police in Mozambique.

- Provide technical communications support to the GKSDP.

- Plan research symposiums in each Khetha node in South Africa.

- Review and update of the Khetha communication strategies in South Africa and Mozambique.

- Create environmental clubs at schools in the Mozambique-landscape.

- Develop a GTLFCA Elephant Management Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Strategy.
• Commence with the planning of journalism training on IWT in the Greater Kruger.
• Launch the radio drama on IWT in Mozambique on World Wildlife Day.
• Host a world Wildlife Day Webinar.
UPDATE ON CONSULTANCIES

OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORT INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND NOVEL WILDLIFE CRIME PREVENTION APPROACHES AMONG CIVIL SOCIETY, COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT.

Consultancy title: Investigate policies which influence relationships between people and protected areas/wildlife.

Program reference number: ZA5570.O

Purpose: To create a positive policy environment that enables communities to benefit from wildlife and encourages the protection of wildlife through an enhanced understanding of the range of policies from local to an international scale. Through a review of the legislation and implementation of policies in both South Africa and Mozambique, we will determine which policies and legislation are directly or indirectly relevant and identify any disjunctions that influence people’s attitudes towards protected areas and wildlife (e.g. access to resources, beneficiation from trophy hunting).

Progress: We completed the review of South African policies and legislation, and the final report is being finalized for broader distribution. In Mozambique, we drafted a register or relevant legislation and policies which is currently under review. In the next quarter, we are hosting a series of workshops with subject experts to analyze the Mozambique policies and legislation to inform our understanding of the policies and legislation that have a bearing on people’s relationship with conservation areas and wildlife. The outcomes of the workshops will also inform recommendations to promote or influence policy changes that will improve the relationship between people, protected areas and wildlife.

Consultancy title: Baseline and follow-up research on community attitudes and perspective.

Program reference number: ZA5570.P

Purpose: To enhance our understanding of dynamics in program nodes between people and protected areas in South Africa and Mozambique. This is done through sites specific baseline research with the view of tracking sentiments and perceptions over time through annual field-based research. Additionally, research will be done to improve our understanding of how wildlife security and community-based crime impact local wildlife trafficking.

Progress: The internal review of the report was concluded, and a report with findings and recommendations is ready for distribution. Next quarter, we will present the research findings to the involved traditional authorities and community members, COVID-19 restrictions and regulations permitted.
Consultancy title: Response to human-wildlife conflict in Khetha landscape: effectiveness and recommendations

Program reference number: ZA5570.AO

Purpose: To assess the intensity of HWC in the Khetha landscape and the effectiveness of mitigation strategies, and to provide an in-depth safety-risk assessment and attitudes towards wildlife and an understanding of the influencer dynamics. The consultancy will make practical recommendations and produce implementation guidelines to address HWC in the landscape.

Progress: A full report, detailing the methodology, research process, findings and recommendations, is available. We are in the process of repackaging the full report into a guidance document that summarises the findings and recommendations. The guidance document will be available for distribution in the next quarter.

Consultancy title: Developing human-wildlife conflict monitoring and response strategies for communities

Program reference number: ZA5570.AZ

Purpose: To develop and pilot a standard HWC monitoring tool in partnership with the provincial institutions, LEDET, and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) mandated to address HWC, as well as the KNP; to identify and map communities in the Khetha landscape vulnerable to HWC and the livelihood practices under threat by HWC; to identify common damage-causing species as suggested by the communities; and to document social and cultural influences that drive retaliation to HWC.

Progress: We received a letter of support from MTPA. We are awaiting the letter of support from the MTPA. We conducted a situational analysis and developed an incident register which was reviewed by Khetha staff. A final report will be made available in the next quarter.

Consultancy title: Greater Kruger Wildlife Economy

Program reference number: ZA5570.AD

Purpose: To improve security and political support for the Greater Kruger Area through the implementation of integrated land-use models and the alleviation of pressure associated with poverty and other social development challenges in the region. Establish practical examples of the value of the Greater Kruger Area and the associated Wildlife Economy, which show how it can be developed to drive the socio-economic transformation of South Africa’s wildlife and tourism industries.

Progress: We are currently still negotiating contract and project details with USAID.
**Consultancy title: Conducting a livelihoods study in the South African landscape of the GLTFCA**

*Program reference number: ZA5570.BJ*

**Purpose:** To evaluate the potential of the licit and illicit biodiversity economies to unlocking benefits and enhancing the livelihoods of indigenous communities around the GLTFCA. The study will provide an in-depth understanding of the drivers of rural and peri-urban communities in the GLTFCA and identify potential livelihood activities that can be amplified by Khetha and its partners working on the landscape in order to improve the welfare of households and communities in the area.

**Progress:** Following a research design workshop in February 2020, the research instruments for the livelihoods study was finalized through a comprehensive peer review process. The fieldwork was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A contingent plan was put in place which involves engaging one of WWF South Africa/Khetha partners working on the GLTFCA landscape to assist with data collection. The VBR was chosen since it has the necessary connections on the ground, already works in the Khetha nodes targeted for enumeration, and they have experience in data collection for research institutions. We await USAID approval of the fieldwork budget before contracting and field work can commence.

**Consultancy title: Khetha Community Practitioners Conference 2020**

*Program reference number: ZA5570.BL*

**Purpose:** To support the professional development of community-engagement practitioners by convening an annual gathering of community engagement practitioners in Greater Kruger and Mozambique to share learning and to build social networks between individuals and organizations.

**Progress:** We successfully hosted the conference online in November 2020, themed Small Wins, Big Ideas. The conference was a platform for lessons sharing and discussion of issues that affect the work of community practitioners in and beyond conservation. Subject experts shared their thinking on the trends in Kruger’s community relations; the future of conservation areas; the role communities could play in the future of conservation areas; and how conservation should be contributing to the development of communities. The outcomes of the conference will inform our efforts to build the capacity of community practitioners. A detailed report is under review.
OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INCREASE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION, DETECTION, AND PROSECUTION, AND REDUCE WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING-RELATED CORRUPTION.

**Consultancy title: Supporting ranger training, conditions and wellness**

*Program reference number: ZA5570.BM*

**Purpose:** Using the ranger leadership training curriculum we developed in Year Three with the SAWC, increase rangers’ leadership skills, including community engagement, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills. The training will also focus on themes of human resources management, law enforcement and conservation ethics, human rights, advanced technology, and corruption.

**Progress:** The project awaits USAID approval.

**Consultancy title: Legal support and training for SANParks Kruger National Parks Rangers**

*Program reference number: ZA5570.AT*

**Purpose:** Provide legal support and training to SANParks-KNP Ranger Services engaged in anti-poaching operations to ensure rangers adhere to best-practice law enforcement ethics and standards. The training will ensure rangers can identify and mitigate the risks involved in anti-poaching operations. The consultancy will provide legal support and guidance in all law enforcement-related incidents. The consultancy will also build the capacity of the SANParks legal support.

**Progress:** The consultancy continues to provide support and training to SANParks rangers. The contract was renewed until February 2021.

**Consultancy title: Identify evidence-based approaches to build integrity and mitigate the impacts of corruption in the GLTFCA landscape**

*Project reference number: ZA5570. U*

**Purpose:** Corruption is widely recognized as being a key enabler of wildlife trafficking, but the majority of response efforts to IWT to date has focused on wildlife and anti-poaching issues rather than addressing the corruption aspects. It is recognized that corruption is widely associated with activities of transnational organized crime syndicates and that a wealth of expertise exists from spheres other than wildlife conservation. Various types of corruption are exhibited within different sectors and at different levels that enable different forms of wildlife crime. These differ between contexts. It is important to ensure the correct provisions and methodologies are used. The purpose of this assignment is to
undertake a comprehensive review of the entry points of corruption in wildlife trafficking in GLTFCA, lessons from other sectors in addressing these and make recommendations for activities to address corruption.

**Progress:** The activity and consultancy were approved by USAID in December 2020. Conservation Synergies was appointed and contracted for the consultancy. We have commenced with a literature review and expert assessment outlining types of corruption and evidence-based approaches to address corruption.

**OBJECTIVE 3: OBJECTIVE 3: LEARN, COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH INFLUENTIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE GLTFCA LANDSCAPE TO STRENGTHEN THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING, BY JULY 2022.**

**Consultancy title: Developing a GLTFCA Elephant Management Framework**

**Program reference number:** ZA5570.AJ

**Purpose:** The Framework will guide a collaborative and coordinated approach to manage and conserve the elephant populations in the GLTFCA. The process in developing the framework will also build a common understanding and vision for elephant conservation and management amongst the key stakeholders involved. The framework will align the current and proposed elephant management practices in GLTFCA and its implementation will strengthen coordination and cooperation amongst key stakeholders and interest groups. The framework will include various elements of elephant conservation and management, including elephant habitat maintenance and connectivity; elephant translocation between the three countries; elephant security and prevention of illegal trade in elephant products; elephant-human conflict mitigation; community engagement and the creation of equitable benefits for living with wildlife; and the development of an integrated research program relating to elephant conservation and management.

**Progress:** Conservation Outcomes developed a first draft of a GLTFCA Wildlife Translocation Policy. The policy underwent an internal review by the project partners. The revised version is currently under review by the task team appointed by the GLTFCA Joint Management Board to review and guide the process of developing the EMF and Wildlife Translocation Policy.

The German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) is funding the Zimbabwe-portion of the project. We had a meeting with project partners to discuss the administration of the GIZ-funding for work in or relating to Zimbabwe. We are also receiving support from the USAID VukaNow program with landscape change maps. Conservation Outcomes continues with a situational analysis and stakeholder engagement and communications strategy, due end of January 2021, to inform and guide the upcoming stakeholder consultations for the EMF.
**Consultancy title: Rhino and Elephant Aerial Census of the KNP**

**Program reference number:** ZA5570.BH

**Purpose:** To provide optimized robust estimates of elephants and rhinos complimented by demographic variables to help evaluate changes. Furthermore the census will 1) establish a sample-based population estimate for black rhino, white rhino and elephants for different regions and in KNP as a whole; establish the distribution of elephants and rhino populations in the KNP; 3) determine a estimate of density for each of the areas of special concern where elephants play a role in influencing various conservation values; 4) establish a demographic profile for white rhinos extracted from a representative age and sex structure sample for white rhino; and 5) establish a demographic profile for black rhinos extracted from an inclusive age and sex structure assignment for all black rhino encountered.

**Progress:** The aerial census was completed. The data is being analyzed with results expected in February 2021. We documented the process and a short video will be available next quarter.

**Consultancy title: Responding to the communication needs in the Greater Kruger Protected Area Network concerning COVID-19.**

**Program reference number:** ZA5570.BI

**Purpose:** To support the communication needs for the protected area network in the Greater Kruger. This includes improving communication relating to the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 impacts in the Greater Kruger; understanding and communicating the impact of COVID-19 on conservation areas and neighboring communities; strengthening the network of communicators in the Greater Kruger; and providing key learnings from behavioral change campaigns to the Khetha program, and other stakeholders.

**Progress:** The consultancy is awaiting USAID approval.