

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT & OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER COMMENTS

Review of the Land Use and Management Plan for Concession Area- CT 1

Introduction

Botswana Tourism Organization (BTO) is a parastatal set up through an Act of Parliament with the mandate to market and promote Botswana as a tourist destination of choice; promote investment in the tourism sector; as well as to grade and classify tourism facilities. BTO is mandated to develop and improve existing tourism opportunities and diversify the sector into other forms of tourism.

BTO on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Conservation and Tourism (MENT) is desirous of reviewing the Land Use and Management Plan on behalf of the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services (MLMWSS), for Controlled Hunting Area (CHA) CT1. Ecosurv has been engaged in this undertaking.

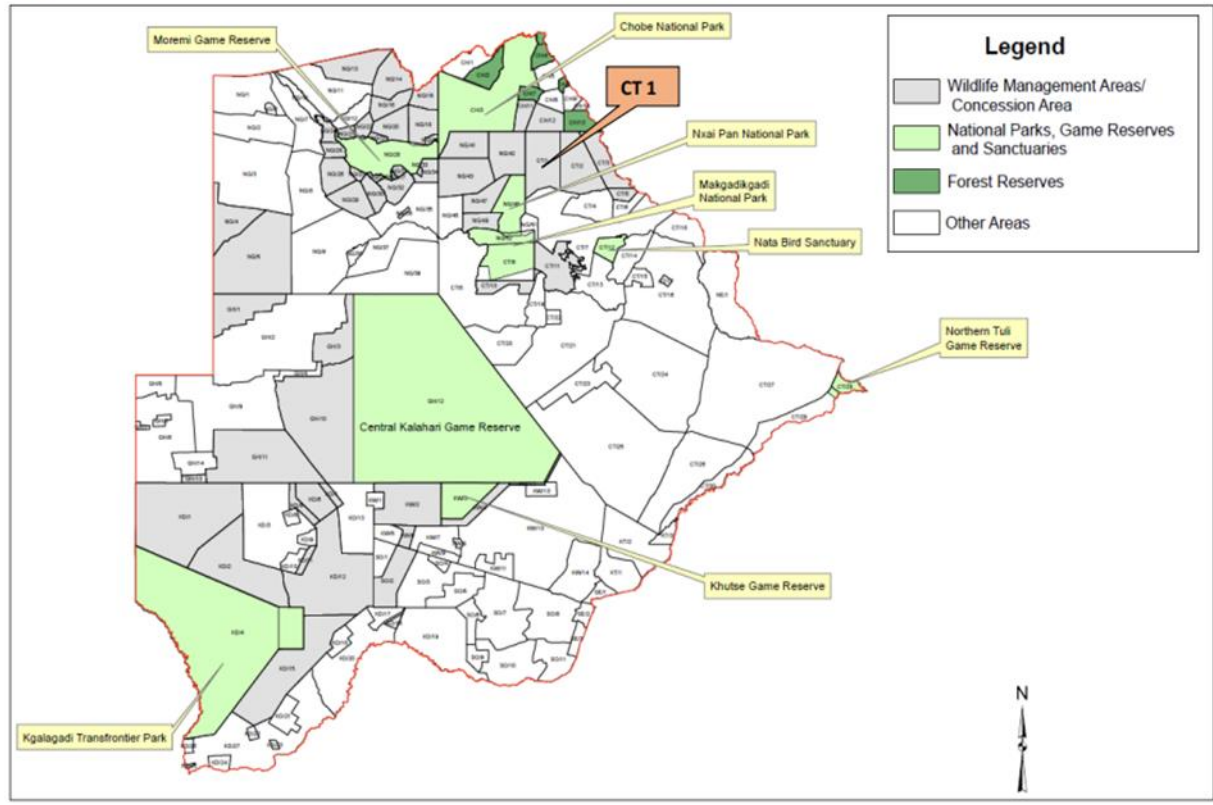
Project background

A management plan was undertaken by Ecosurv for CT 1 in 2011. The objective was to develop a management plan towards sustainable tourism development in line with conservation, and sustainable development for ecological and economic benefit.

The large area of wildlife estate that lies between the three national parks (Chobe, Nxai Pan and Hwange) and Moremi Game Reserve has historically been an important wet season distribution area for animal populations thus relieving the pressure on perennial water resources of the Okavango Delta, Chobe and Boteti rivers and the boreholes of Hwange. At the beginning of the three five-year lease terms (1996), leaseholders began to establish wildlife watering points; this process resulted in two additional perennial water resources being created in the dry season range. The controlled hunting area (CHA) operated under the wildlife management policy as hunting areas in which clients are accompanied by professional hunters and escorted by a wildlife officer to shoot trophy animals. Although the leaseholder in CT/1 attempted to develop the up-market end of photographic tourism using the existing camps, they were largely unsuccessful in developing their client base or attracting large photographic tourism operators into their areas.

Project location

CT/1 is located within the Nata State land Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the North-Eastern part of Botswana and lies adjacent to Nxai Pan National Park, NG/42, CT/2, CT/7 and CH/12.



Objectives of the study

- To Review the existing Land Use and Management Plan for CHA CT 1;
- To collate and update existing documentation on CT 1, identify existing gaps and align with any other policy updates;
- To re-affirm through field surveys the identified biological, hydrological, archaeological, historical, natural, and cultural resources that exist in CT 1 and identify all gaps and new opportunities;
- To develop an updated Land Use and Management Plan (LUMP) that addresses the identified gaps and opportunities; the updated LUMP must observe conservation and sustainable resource use for ecological, and economic benefit and guides development parameters in the concession;
- To provide an updated site map of CT 1, detailing all the existing developments and key physical features (including water holes, etc.) using appropriate GIS applications;

- To document the biodiversity status of the concession, assess and identify threats and /or possibilities of negative environmental impact arising from the exploitation of land and or range resources to the area and recommend appropriate mitigation measures to enhance biodiversity conservation;
- To suggest the level of tourism developments and ways in which these developments will enhance the conservation and protection of the area;
- To review the proposed zonation system for the concession area to ensure effective resource management while optimizing economic returns and reducing land use conflicts. The revised zonation system should take into consideration the recommencement of hunting within the CHA. The consultancy should advise on Limits of Acceptable Change (LACs) and /or Carrying Capacities, for each zone specific to tourism infrastructure and ancillary activities i.e., number of commercial beds, and number of vehicles, etc;
- To review and assess recommendations made for new potential lodges/camps and or campgrounds and activities within the concession and assess the suitability of same. In addition, an assessment of the identified lodges /camps and or campgrounds, their suitability (from an economic and biodiversity perspective) and the possibility for expansion should be conducted;
- To review the infrastructural development guidelines for the different proposed zones. These should include but not be limited to; the type of infrastructure to be developed and /or upgraded in the zone, the type of facility to be put up whether permanent, semi-permanent or temporary and explicitly indicate non-acceptable activities, level, and quality of operation etc.;
- To identify non-compliant structures in the tourism zones and propose decommissioning plans for same;
- To review Recommended measures of improving access and safety of tourists visiting the areas and in line with international tourism best practices with due regard but not limited to hygiene, safety, security etc.;
- To identify existing and possible land use conflicts between settlements and concessions and come up with possible mitigations;
- To review the recommended appropriate concession management structures and if necessary, develop management guidelines for the Area;
- To review the recommended differentiation of sites according to the type of tourism-related activity/activities or product/s that the site can offer taking into consideration the recommencement of hunting, optimum land use and maximum return on investment; and
- Map (with GIS and GPS) the identified tourism zones/sites within the Concession Area and provide a full design brief and a land use disposition table for each zone and coordinates for the boundaries.

Deliverables

- Inception Report
- Gap Analysis
- Options Report
- Draft revised LUMP and Executive Summary
- Final Revised LUMP

Invitation to participate

Anyone interested in or affected by the project has the right to participate in the review process. Please make use of the following opportunities:

- ❖ Study the information made available in this Background Information Document.
- ❖ Contact the consultations team to obtain further project information, and/or raise issues and concerns (contact details are provided on the attached comments sheet).
- ❖ Register as an Interested and Affected Party to receive future project information and/or formally record issues and concerns.
- ❖ Complete the Comment Sheet (attached) and return it by hand, mail, fax or e-mail.

Parties Involved in the Process

The parties involved in the process include the following:

Table1-1: Preliminary stakeholder list

Stakeholder list*	Proposed Mode of Engagement
Nata village	Focus Group Meeting with village leadership
Gweta village	Focus Group Meeting with village leadership
Tshokatshaa village	Focus Group Meeting with village leadership
Zoroga village	Focus Group Meeting with the village leadership
Tutume District Development Committee	Consultative meeting /virtual meeting
The Department of Forestry	Survey instrument
Department of Wildlife and National Parks	Survey instrument
Department of Lands	Survey instrument
Tenants	Consultative meeting/ Survey instrument
Gweta Community Trust (GWEZOTSHAA)	Focus Group Meeting
RAMSAR secretariat	Survey instrument
Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)	Survey instrument
Hunting Association of Botswana	Survey instrument

Participation in the Review Process

Your issues, concerns and comments will demonstrate your participation in the proposed development. It will also help to focus the review process and enhance the quality of the decisions taken by the authorities. Please participate.

Review of the Land Use and Management Plan for Concession Area- CT 1

COMMENT SHEET

Please complete and return to **Carol S. Pansiri**

Postal address:	P. O. Box 201306 Gaborone
Telephone number:	3161533
Fax number:	3161878
E-mail:	carol@ecosurv.com

Please fill in your details below:

TITLE		NAME	
ORGANISATION			
DESIGNATION			
ADDRESS			
DATE			
TEL NO		FAX NO	
CELL NO		E-MAIL	

COMMENTS (Please use additional sheets if you wish)

1. State any issues that you feel should be considered as part of the review of the Land Use and Management Plan for Concession Area- CT 1.

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2. Any other comments:

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3. Please reflect interested and affected parties you feel should be consulted for this project (if any):

We thank you for your participation.

Kindly return inputs by the 3rd of March 2023