

Sustainability of Wildlife Community Based Natural Resource Management under Benefit Sharing Mechanism in Game Management Areas in Zambia

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Abstract : In Zambia, wildlife is co-managed by Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and the local communities by sharing management responsibilities and benefits derived from harvesting wildlife resources under a benefit sharing mechanism. Although the benefit sharing mechanism has been formulated under good principles, it is still facing numerous challenges. In response to these challenges, a study on the sustainability of ZAWA benefit sharing mechanism was carried out in order to assess its potential and continuity in line with community empowerment and wildlife resources management. Systematic sampling was used with a sampling intensity of 4% to administer three types of questionnaires to community members in Mumbwa Game Management Area (GMA), ZAWA officers, and to the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR) staffs. The collected data was then analysed using SPSS version 16.5. The findings indicated that many people in the GMA do not participate fully because of lacking satisfactory benefits. However, the mechanism contribute to the community well-being and can still remain sustainable especially if measures to address the current challenges are put in place.

Keywords : benefit sharing, concessions, licenses, poaching, local communities, sustainability

Conference Title : ICWERC 2015 : International Conference on Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation

Conference Location : Istanbul, Türkiye

Conference Dates : February 16-17, 2015