

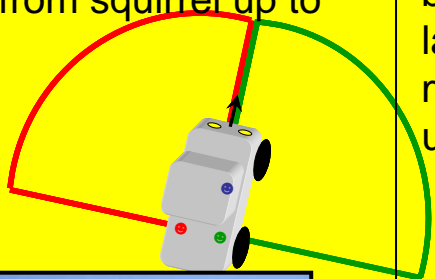
Background



As for most of Africa, Botswana's rich wildlife fauna of larger herbivores and predators are in decline. Wildlife is distributed depending on ability to cope with the four (main) land use types: Community Grazing Area, Fenced Ranch, National Park and Wild Management Area (see front page).

Method

In dry season, during both day and night, road counting of mammals (incl. ostrich) was done in the four land use types. Two observers stood in the back of the car each responsible for one 90° segment, driver detected animals on the road. The size of the mammals ranged from squirrel up to elephant.

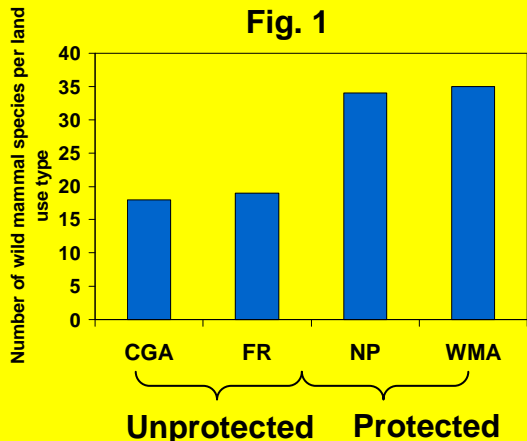


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Result

Number of wild mammal species was higher in protected land use (Figure 1).



Evaluation of observed mammals in the four land use types showed that some wild species are often or only seen in protected land (Figure 2). Wild mammals in unprotected land is mainly browsers and cope well with pastoral land use change (Figure 3). Domestic mammals were only seen in unprotected land (Figure 4).

Fig. 2



Lion, buffalo, impala, cheetah, wildebeest, leopard, zebra, elephant

Fig. 3



Steenbok, ostrich, kudu, common duiker

Fig. 4



Cattle, goat, donkey, horse

Conclusion & Implication

Protected land has higher numbers of: species, large predators and large herd living herbivores. To ease conservation efforts one step could be to show Botswana's people that rich wildlife and especially species, mainly present in protected land, is a valuable resource. If successful, this might even be a tool to reduce poverty. In Botswana, veterinary cordon fences keep domestic and wild animals separated and they hinder the large herbivores important migration routes and should therefore be reduced. To limit over grazing in unprotected land the numbers of cattle should also be reduced.