



Land use-wise use -future of wildlife in Botswana-



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Background

As for most of Africa, Botswanas 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

Wild Management Area



CGA



FR



NP



WMA

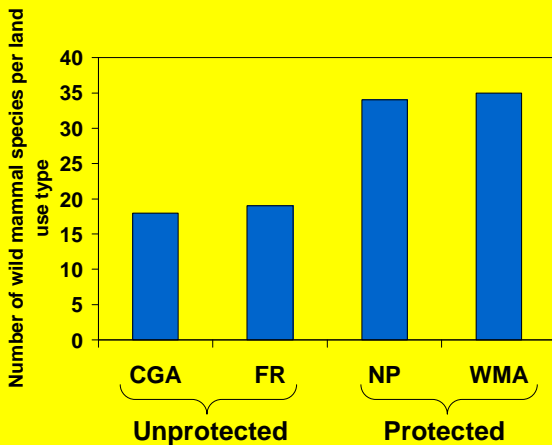
Method

Mammals (including ostrich) were counted along road transects in the four land use types in northern Botswana (dry season), both day- and night-time.

Results

Data treated in **multivariate analysis** (DCA) showed that:

Number of wild mammal **species** per land use type. Highest numbers in **protected** land use.



- In **protected** land use, wild large heard living herbivores (Af. buffalo, blue wildebeest, impala, Burchell's zebra, savannah elephant) and top predators (cheetah, leopard, lion) were grouped.



- Wild mammals that coped well with **unprotected** land use were: steenbok, ostrich, kudu and common duiker.



- **Domestic** mammals, such as cattle, goat, donkey and horse, were only recorded in unprotected land use.



Conclusion

Most large mammals, especially heard living ungulates and top predators, seems to prefer protected land use types. Status quo i.e. keeping cordon fences, increased live stocking, inefficient WMA (buffer-zones) might lead to further wildlife losses, especially larger heard living ungulates and top predators.

Implication for conservation:

Reduction of cordon fences to improve large herbivore migration routes. Unprotected land should practice rotational grazing & reduce cattle number. Make wildlife valuable and important to all citizens.