

The Khetha Newsletter

Year One (August 2017 – September 2018)



Khetha is a WWF South Africa and USAID Program. It aims to reduce the impact of the illegal wildlife trade on elephants and rhinos in the South African and Mozambican parts of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA).

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Highlights:

- Developed 2-year work plan, selected nodes for community-based projects
- Signed MoUs with South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the South African National Parks (SANParks)
- Received endorsement from the Mozambique Attorney General's Office (PGR) and the Mozambican National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC)
- Supported the amendment of the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) policy in Mozambique to increase payments to communities from 10% to >20%
- Researched wildlife poisoning in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP)
- Assessed applicability of restorative justice as an approach to prevent wildlife trafficking
- Assessing the applicability of anti-corruption approaches in curbing wildlife trafficking
- Conducted law enforcement information and capacity needs assessment in South Africa and Mozambique. Developed a research plan and activities accordingly
- Developed communication strategies for Khetha in Mozambique and South Africa
- Presented Khetha, its approach and stories from the region on various platforms and events

Khetha secures institutional relationships

Signs MoU with DEA & SANParks, receives endorsement from ANAC & PGR

Khetha committed to support SANParks with the implementation of the Kruger Management Plan, further strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, communications and technical advice with a focus on wildlife security and community livelihoods themes. Khetha has agreed to second three Community Liaisons, one Community Liaison Coordinator, and one Green Economy Business Development Manager positions to SANParks to promote wildlife security and community livelihoods in high-risk poaching areas.

Khetha and DEA agreed to co-operate on activities that improves the relationship between people and wildlife in the Khetha innovation nodes in the GLTFCA; implements critical wildlife trafficking policy frameworks in South Africa to increase wildlife crime prevention, detection, prosecution and collaboration; and strengthen the collective response to wildlife trafficking through learning and collaboration with influential institutions in the GLTFCA.

Khetha selects six geographical nodes to test community-based approaches to improve the relationship between people and wildlife

Baseline research will commence along the Sabi River and the Matsulu Corridor in January 2019. Using SenseMaker®, a cutting-edge qualitative



Image provided by PGR

WWF South Africa Wildlife Program Senior Manager, Dr. Jo Shaw and Khetha Program Manager, Michael Murphree presenting Khetha to the Mozambique Attorney General's Office.



The Khetha Innovation Nodes where the program will implement community-based approaches. (1a) Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC), Moamba District, Maputo Province, MZ; (1b) Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC), Magude District, Maputo Province & Massingir District, Gaza Province, MZ; (2) Pafuri Node, Chicualacuala District, Gaza Province, MZ; (3) Makuya Node, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, SA; (4) Sabie River Node, Mopani District, Limpopo Province, SA; (5) Matsulu Corridor Node, Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga Province, SA.

data collection and program design tool, the research will provide a better understanding of the sentiments and perceptions that drive illegal wildlife trade and the dynamics that underpin the relationship between communities and protected areas.

Protected Area stakeholders affirm need for guidance on community engagement

Parks and reserves around the GLTFCA want to work more closely with their neighbouring communities to collectively address the IWT. However, the conditions for effective community engagement in different contexts remain poorly understood. In Year Two, Khetha will conduct baseline research in all innovation nodes to better understand the complexities regarding the relationship between protected areas and the adjacent communities and how community-based projects can produce meaningful results.



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Policy changes to increase payments to communities to >20%

Khetha participated in the amendment of the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) policy of Mozambique's National Conservation Areas Act. The amendment includes an increase in payments to communities from 10% to >20%. This means that communities will experience greater benefits from wildlife where they often bear the cost of living with wildlife.

Restorative justice as a potential approach to prevent wildlife crime (re) offences

In partnership with EWT, Khetha assessed the applicability of restorative justice in addressing wildlife offences. Restorative justice is an approach that aims to involve all parties to a dispute (such as the victim, the offender, and the community) to collectively identify the harm, the needs for restitution and reconciliation, and the preventative measures for re-offending. The power of restorative justice lies in the empowerment of victims, the prevention of re-offending, the alleviation of the burden on the criminal justice system, and the enhancement of community involvement. In Year 2, Khetha, through EWT, will develop the guidelines for the application of restorative justice to wildlife crimes in South Africa.

Addressing law enforcement research and information needs

In collaboration with TRAFFIC and EWT, Khetha assessed and identified the information and research needs of law enforcement agencies dealing with IWT in South Africa and Mozambique and developed a research plan for Year 2 accordingly. The research will provide information such as the species being traded, the origin of the product, trafficking methods and profile of traffickers. To support this, Khetha will place a research position within WWF Mozambique to undertake the work in Mozambique.

Taking a closer look at wildlife poisoning in the GLTP



©EWT

Multiple dead vultures from a poisoning incident in 2015 associated with ivory poaching in the Kruger National Park.

Assessing the applicability of anti-corruption approaches in curbing wildlife trafficking

Khetha, through EWT, assessed the strengths and weaknesses of anti-corruption strategies currently used internationally, regionally, and locally within current law enforcement agencies and protected areas. These include telephone hotlines, online reporting sites, social media, and integrity testing. The assessment recommends a baseline assessment on the levels of corruption relating to the IWT in the GLTFCA; corruption awareness campaigns at ports of entry and exit; training programs for custom officials to become whistle blowers; the integration of wildlife crime into existing government anti-corruption strategies and the identification and implementation of high-tech pilot projects. In Year 2, Khetha will further investigate the appropriateness and effectiveness of different anti-corruption strategies for the GLTFCA.

Khetha in collaboration with the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) and the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) conducted a literature review and field research into wildlife poisoning in the GLTFP. Motivations for wildlife poisoning appears to be retaliatory poisoning (occurs in response to predators perceived as dangerous and harmful to rural dwellers); means of hunting or capturing wildlife for subsistence, illegal wildlife trade and traditional medicine markets; ignorance (for example where the wider impact of pesticides are not known to the user); and the killing of wildlife sentinels (for example vultures that might give away a poaching site).

The study will continue in Year 2 to determine the specific outlets and nodes of the poisoning supply chain. The study will include local and national muthi markets and interviews with traditional healers to determine whether poisoned carcasses have appeared in the traditional healthcare system.

Rhinos aren't the only victims of poaching

Over the past year Khetha's communication efforts focussed on raising awareness about the human cost of the illegal wildlife trade and the complex relationships between people and protected areas in the GLTFCA. On World Rhino Day, 22 September, Khetha featured stories by community voices in various media publications and platforms (e.g. Sunday Times, Cape Times, Saturday Star, eNCA, SABC etc.). Khetha also presented at on various other platforms such as the Nature, Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers Congress, the Savanna Science Network, the Insaka Symposium and the 9th Rural Development Policy Conference.

Look out for our next Quarterly Newsletter in Feb. 2019

