

CAMPFIRE REPORT TO SOAZ AGM 2016

Introduction

CAMPFIRE has a combined 2.4 million beneficiaries, made up of 200,000 households that actively participate in the program, and another 600,000 households that benefit indirectly from social services and infrastructure supported by CAMPFIRE income within districts. There are in excess of 120 elected and constituted Village and Ward CAMPFIRE Committees that operate through specific Traditional Leaders in their areas. **The major source of income at present is safari hunting from which communities and Rural District Councils benefit from the lease of sport hunting rights by Safari Operators in 30 hunting concessions of various sizes on communal land.** According to CAMPFIRE Revenue Sharing Guidelines, 55% of income is allocated to communities, 26% to the RDC to support costs attributable to CAMPFIRE activities, 15% for general RDC administration, and 4% as a levy to the Association. 55% of income to communities is the minimum limit, which has been exceeded to 60% in Tsholotsho, as an example.

Variation of CAMPFIRE Districts and level of poaching

The performance of CAMPFIRE across districts varies, as benefits, especially from wildlife, are determined by the size of land that is free from human settlement for agriculture and livestock rearing, or other economic activities such gold panning and mining, that do not negatively impact on wildlife management, and on which CAMPFIRE related income generating activities such as safari hunting can be administered. **Most Safari Operators under CAMPFIRE have made significant contributions to the protection of over two million hectares of land on which wildlife is found. The human population density in most districts today is more than 20 people per square kilometer, compared to 10 people per square kilometer when CAMPFIRE was started, resulting in considerable pressure on wildlife populations.**

Illegal killing of elephant in typical CAMPFIRE areas is relatively low and averages only 25% of annual national statistics. In some CAMPFIRE areas, safari operators have developed partnerships for anti-poaching and problem animal control, e.g. Mbire district, with considerable success. CAMPFIRE Association is pleased that the scale and magnitude of the 2013 cyanide poisoning of elephant in Hwange National Park has not recurred, largely due to added support services towards anti-poaching by Safari Operators. As shown in Table 2, up to 40 elephants were poached in 2010, but only 5 in 2015 as a result of improved law enforcement at local level, although the poaching pressure remains high.

Table 2: Results of the Dande Anti-Poaching Effort

Year	Number of Elephant
2010	40

2011	36
2012	16
2013	4
2014	9
2015	5

In other cases (Table 3), districts relying on CAMPFIRE hunting income alone are unable to manage problem animals and control poaching, e.g. Hwange, where communities do not have a buffer area from which to effectively benefit. Wildlife species migrate from the Hwange National Park throughout most of the 18 wards of the communal area, causing serious conflict with people in the form of crop damage, livestock losses, damage to infrastructure, injuries to people, and even loss of human lives. The majority of the wards receive very little benefits mainly from wildlife, especially elephant that are hunted as trophies only after crossing the main road northwards to raid crops. Most of the income generated through safari hunting in the district is therefore mostly from Sidinda ward, which has significant wild land. Consequently, benefits from this ward are diluted when shared by another 17 wards of the district that also suffer from problem animals, leaving very little income for wildlife management. This has created negative perceptions of CAMPFIRE in the district, as people currently suffer more than they benefit from wildlife. **Instructively, photographic safari operations, especially those in and around Hwange National Park do not contribute to the wildlife monitoring efforts by communities bordering the national park.**

Table 3: Income generation: Hwange District

YEAR	GROSS INCOME	COMMUNITY 55%	CAMPFIRE MGT 26%	COUNCIL LEVY 15%	CAMPFIRE ASS 4%
2009	32,500	17,874	8,450	4,875	1,300
2010	41,725	22,948	10,848	6,258	1,669
2011	63,070	34,648	16,398	9,460	2,522
2012	74,408	40,924	19,346	11,161	2,976
2013	65,300	35,915	16,978	9,795	2,612
2014	85,777	47,177	22,302	12,866	3,431
2015	49,350	27,142	12,831	7,402	1,974

CAMPFIRE income

Only 15 districts involved in CAMPFIRE have sufficient wildlife resources to generate some financial benefit to communities. In such cases, the consumptive use of wildlife resources has provided a supplementary form of income to subsistence farming for communities, and this has proved sustainable. These benefits are associated with communities in the wards shown in Table 4, and are not district wide.

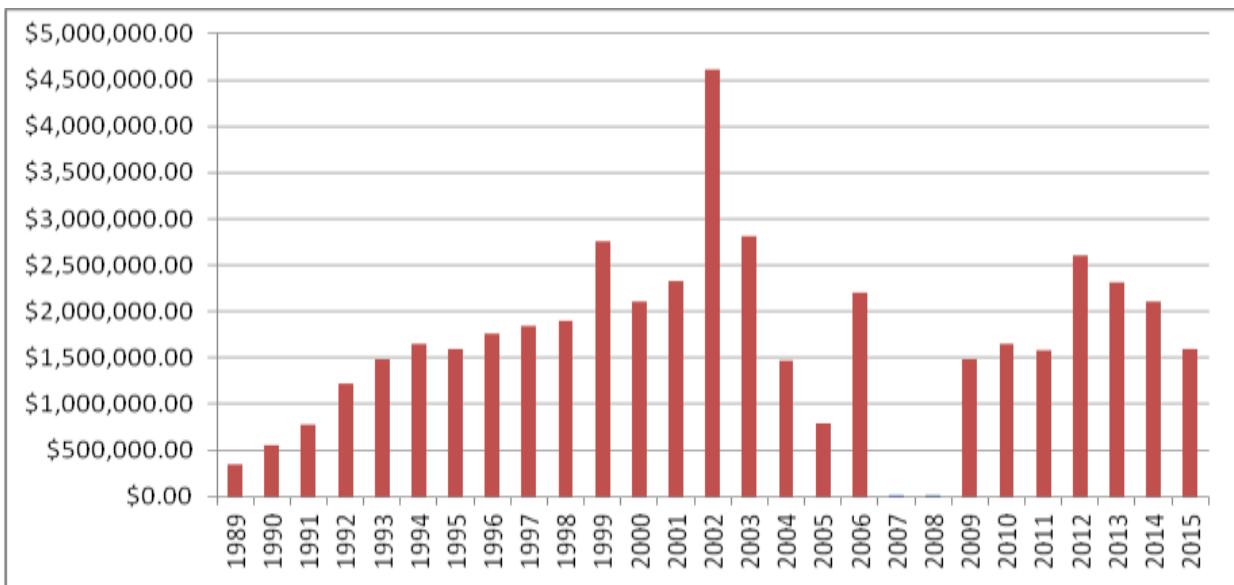
Table 4: Example of District wards and CAMPFIRE Wards

DISTRICT	DISTRICT WARDS	CAMPFIRE WARDS
BEITBRIDGE	15	7
BUBI	23	2
BINGA	25	14
BULILIMA	22	13
HURUNGWE	26	7
HWANGE	20	18
CHIPINGE	30	2
CHIREDZI	32	9
GOKWE NORTH	36	10
MATOBO	24	6
MBIRE	17	8
NYAMINYAMI	12	6
TSHOLOTSHO	22	11
UMGUZA	19	19

On average CAMPFIRE generates nearly US\$2million per year. This means that communities in major CAMPFIRE areas receive about US\$1million every year in total. **Since 2007, these communities have been opening their own bank accounts to receive cash from Safari Operators under a Direct Payment System. This system eliminates previous delays in money reaching the communities and ensures that communities see the value of wildlife.**

As shown in Table 5, CAMPFIRE income is often understated as it is largely recorded based on income receipts from safari hunting only. Economic multipliers like taxidermy, travel, extended tourism activities, food and others, are not captured as part of CAMPFIRE income. The proportion of safari operating expenses paid locally in the form of wages and salaries, and purchase of materials is also not recorded. Income from tourism ventures under CAMPFIRE is also mostly unrecorded, as a result of low investment and returns due to the current downturn in tourism receipts for the country.

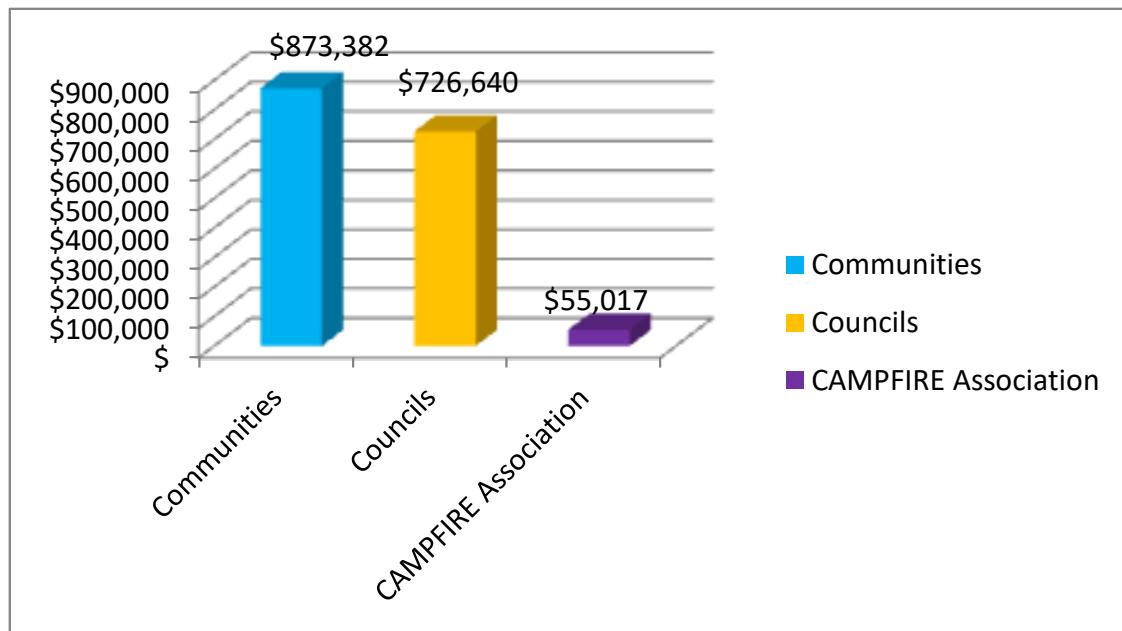
Table 5: CAMPFIRE Income: 1989-2015



Compiled by WWF SARPO, Harare 2006. 2009-2015 data based on CAMPFIRE District Annual Reports. Data for the period 2007-8 not available due hyper-inflation

Data from 13 RDCs (Table 6), shows that on average, 52% (instead of the prescribed 55%) of income went to communities. Councils generated a significant percent of 44% (more than the prescribed 41%), for administration, field patrols, monitoring of hunts, problem animal control, water, and fire management. This also represents significant income for rural development in districts that have a limited financial base such as Mbire, Nyaminyami, and Tsholotsho. **There are also districts where quota utilization has gone down as numbers of key species has declined over time due to various factors, as well as the ban on ivory imports into America.** In such cases, benefits to communities have been reduced.

Table 6: Income Allocation in 2015



American clients generally constitute 76% of hunters in CAMPFIRE areas for all animals hunted each year.

During CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg in September/October 2016, a side meeting of senior officials of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) and the Honourable Minister O.C.Z. Muchinguri (MP) was convened, with CAMPFIRE participation. USFWS was impressed by the work being undertaken by CAMPFIRE Association in demonstrating the contribution of American hunters to community incomes and conservation in Zimbabwe, and indicated willingness to resume imports of ivory from some areas on a pilot basis in the near future. A roadmap on further engagement and timelines was agreed upon. Specifically, CAMPFIRE Association has just completed and submitted a report on the audit of elephant trophy hunting income at community level. **SCIF granted support for a comprehensive evaluation of the benefits of wildlife and hunting under CAMPFIRE, taking into account not just the success stories, but also costs to communities and their peculiarities. This has been accomplished through field visits to assess the flow of income from safari hunting and to evaluate the benefits of rural communities. Data collected has been subjected to independent analysis, consolidation. CAMPFIRE Association hopes that the information will help result in a favourable enhancement finding by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to allow for resumption of elephant trophy hunting by American citizens in 2017.**

Use of Income

Revenue received by communities (about USD1 million annually) helps directly offset the costs of living with wildlife. Most communities have voluntarily invested in infrastructure which has long term benefits such as clinics, schools, and grinding mills, and this continued to this day.

Other communities have drilled boreholes, constructed seasonal roads, erecting of fencing to keep out wildlife, purchase of tractors, and direct purchase of drought relief food. Children benefit from reduced walking distances through the construction of schools, procurement of learning materials, and payment of school fees from CAMPFIRE proceeds. Communities also benefit from meat in excess of the requirements of safari hunting operations, and from problem animal control.

Other projects - HSBCP

CA is working with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Environmental Management Agency, and the Forestry Commission in implementing the five year Hwange Sanyati Biodiversity Corridor Project (HSBCP) with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank. The project started in January 2015, and will be entering its second Phase in 2017, covering Hwange and Tsholotsho districts. CAMPFIRE is supporting the restocking of wildlife in Sidinda Ward (Hwange); piloting mitigating human and wildlife conflict measures in Wards 1, 3, 4 and 7 (Tsholotsho); providing appropriate training to the respective Rural District Councils, environment sub-committees and communities; and conducting research on human and wildlife conflict mitigation. There have been unforeseen delays with permits for the acquisition of wildlife from government, but all other aspects of the projects are being implemented according to the work plan.