

## Enhanced and Updated Planning Framework for Park Management

Planning is a vital tool that, if successfully implemented, ensures that wildlife areas are effectively managed, protected and utilised.

Many of the wildlife areas in the Project area do not have formal Management Plans, with the only approved management plans presently in place being those for Parks such as Matobo, Hwange and Gona Re Zhou.

The Tashinga Initiative sets in place a unified management planning process by defining four broad management categories or programmes under which planning and implementation can occur. This Project does not wish to usurp the existing PWMA planning function: these Project categories define how the Project will fit into the overall Zambezi Valley Parks framework, and indeed, hopefully throughout Zimbabwe.

The following management programmes, each with a brief outline, have been defined after an analysis of the existing PWMA structure and Park planning was carried out.

Programme	Brief Outline
Ecological Management	Deals with both aquatic and terrestrial ecology. Monitoring is an ongoing part of this programme and this includes monitoring of ecological processes, use by visitors and success and effort of wildlife protection activities. Research is also a major component but has less urgency than the day-to-day monitoring. Usually a monitoring programme is defined in response to the problems and issues that are outlined.
Utilisation & Visitor Management	For National Parks this defines tourism use zones, location, design and sizes of lodges, camps, campsites for tourism. Also can define limits of use with respect to boats, vehicles and people. In countries where the management authority runs its own tourism infrastructure (such as Zimbabwe) there will be an administration, maintenance and development component.  For Safari Areas this defines quotas, hunting infrastructure and policing of the hunting activities. Data collected from hunting is passed to the ecological programme for collation and inclusion into the necessary databases.
Park Operations	Park Operations is a large programme which is the nuts-and-bolts of managing a protected area. It is also the one on which this project will primarily focus (at least in the initial stages). It has been broken down into four main components: Administration and Management: Liaison with HQ and Provincial HQ, staff morale, housing, vehicles and plant, water and power provision etc. pay issues etc Development: Roads, airstrips etc. New alignments, reopening. Staffing increases Wildlife Protection: Basic wildlife protection and patrolling activities. If important enough this could become a programme of its own. Maintenance: Could also be combined with Administration and Management
Extension and Outreach	This programme focuses on the wider conservation picture within the area. One of its major functions will be liaison with stakeholders, including relevant Appropriate Authorities such as District Councils for the CAMPFIRE programme, Forestry Commission for Forestry areas, liaison with other management authorities (in Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique, in this case) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Namibia, Caprivi).

### Geographical Information System

A vital tool for effective management of any protected area is a comprehensive and accurate geographical information system. The Tashinga Initiative has established a baseline GIS while compiling this Project Proposal. Satellite images, a digital elevation model and a set of scanned 1:50,000 maps were used to create the base. This will be augmented throughout the project with data on the ecology, water abundance, fires, vegetation and wildlife on the one hand, and infrastructural data (roads, bridges, buildings etc) on the other hand. This baseline geographical information system, into which will be incorporated existing PWMA data, will be enhanced through the collection and synthesis of relevant information on Safari and Forestry Areas within each Project Conservation Area.

Apart from its value in planning the GIS provides an excellent framework for monitoring and for presentation of data and ideas. Monitoring of patrol effort and success data will be a key focus of the database so that wildlife protection efforts can be efficiently directed and respond to changing circumstances. These records will also allow donors to see the progress of the project easily.

### Baseline Electronic Bibliography

Facilitation of further planning (ecology, tourism and community outreach programmes) will be enhanced with the creation of an electronic bibliography for each Conservation Area. The project will collect all relevant papers and information and scan them into pdf format. This information will be the property of PWMA.

### Video/DVD Library and Marketing Tools

Today, the world's primary education tool is the use of the media and video documentaries. To this end, this Project will set up a PWMA documentary video/dvd database, as well as facilitate the making of dvd's for use on channels such as Planet Earth, ESPN, Discovery, NatGeo and for use in Zimbabwean schools.