



SPECIAL COLLECTION
LIBRARY

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

**AN EVALUATION OF CAMPFIRE PERFORMANCE IN BEITBRIDGE
DISTRICT.**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the MSc degree in Ecotourism and
Biodiversity Conservation.

Compiled and submitted by

ORATILE MAKWAIBA (N01521271X)

SUPERVISED BY

DR A SEBATA

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

SUBMITTED JULY 2017

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY P.O. BOX 346 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No.
25/08/19	SC 19/1096	



NUST Library

ABSTRACT

Beitbridge district falls under agro-ecological region 5. Farming is based on grazing of natural pasture. Cattle and game ranching are the activities suitable for the area. The district has abundant wildlife resources and as such is home to two Transfrontier conservation areas, namely the Mapungubwe to the west and the Great Limpopo to the east. Campfire was introduced in the year 1990 and managed to generate substantial revenue which was channelled towards various community infrastructure developments. In the past five years inappreciable benefits from the project were realised as compared to the income generated. This led to this research which seeks to establish whether the project is generating sustainable income, sources of this income and how the income is distributed. The study also intends to get the local people's perception of the project and determine the costs of living with wildlife. Review of information obtained from the Rural District Council (RDC), distribution of questionnaires and key informant interviews were used to collect data from three wards in Beitbridge district. Data collected were presented in the form of tables, graphs and given as narratives. Data were analysed using the SPSS version 19. Findings revealed that the elephant is the most valuable animal generating the most revenue for the district from its trophy. The main market for sport hunting is North America. The local people received meat, money, employment and infrastructural development as benefit in the past five years. However, the costs of the project have been in the form of fatalities, livestock and crop losses. These affect the sources of income as the individuals rely on sale of livestock and the little grain they receive from cropping. There is no compensation for any losses suffered by the people in the study. Measures in place to mitigate against human-wildlife conflict have been deemed ineffective by the local people. In conclusion it has been shown that campfire is generating a substantial income for Beitbridge district. Both communities involved in Campfire and those not part of the project are suffering from human-wildlife conflict and mitigation is minimal. It is therefore recommended that the programme makes use of the direct payment system so that the local community who bear the cost of living with wildlife receive more proceeds from the programme. And there is need for gradual devolution of authority over the natural resources to the local people so that they have ownership of the programme.