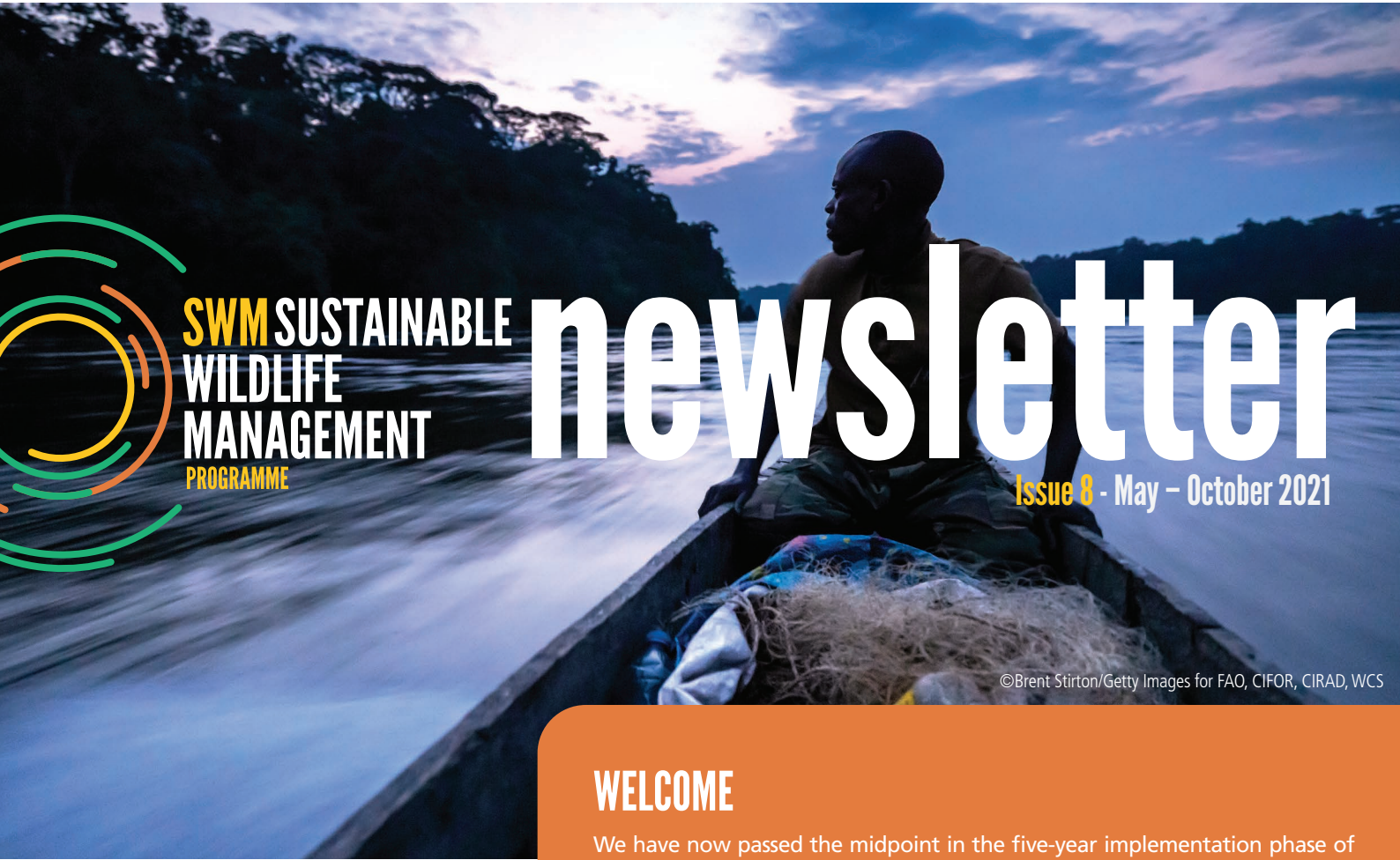




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

newsletter

Issue 8 - May - October 2021

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WELCOME

We have now passed the midpoint in the five-year implementation phase of the SWM Programme. This is a time to consolidate our achievements, re-align strategies due to the COVID-19 crisis and plan for Year 4. Much progress has been made at the 15 field sites in each of our six result areas, but it is the coming year that will be critical to complete studies, draw lessons learned, publish findings, and scale up effective practices.

The effective dissemination of our knowledge products continues to be a priority. During the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in September, we successfully launched our latest publication, "What do we mean by community-based sustainable wildlife management?". This technical brief, the result of a truly collaborative effort by the four SWM Programme partners, presents six key conditions to achieve robust community-based sustainable wildlife management.

We hope you enjoy this eighth issue of the SWM Newsletter, which includes highlights from the sites and a focus on our gender equality approach. It features the field activities in Gabon and an inspiring "SWM Talks". Keep safe, and please visit our [latest news](#).

Hubert Boulet
SWM Programme Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS

Summarised below are the highlights from each SWM site for the period May to October 2021. They build on the highlights in the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#) and [seventh](#) SWM Newsletters.

Congo - Ouesso basin

The Congo Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process was the first to be officially validated. The legal analysis was validated in two workshops, which brought together representatives of local communities, state actors, the private sector, civil society and conservation NGOs operating in the Ouesso Basin.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

Surveys began to monitor the hunting harvest and price of animal protein, and will continue for a period of 12 months. An agreement was signed with a technical institute in Epulu to support the training of poultry farmers in order to diversify the protein supply.

Gabon - Mulundu Department

An annual workshop in Lastoursville brought together the ten partner village groups involved in monitoring hunting and sustainable wildlife management. The Mulundu state representative officially announced the first three hunting committees. The consolidated mid-term report was finalized. Ingrid Kindzi joined the team in July to study duiker productivity.

Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

We supplied 17 000 chicks and 48 000 kg of chicken feed to farmers. Thirty cows were fitted with GPS collars, and 147 interviews were carried out to understand human wildlife coexistence with carnivores. Our arapaima fish assessment shows a decrease in population size. Also, 483 river turtles have been released to the Rupununi River.

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

Eight clans from Kwiop in Jiwaka province signed the first conservation deed in the PNG Highlands, which legally protects 3 500 ha of rainforest. Conservation work began in Kwiop with 50 camera traps to monitor wildlife, train 15 community rangers, and expand tree nurseries for reforestation.

Madagascar - Makira landscape

The first Poultry and Fish Farmer Field Schools were established, involving over 170 farmers. A study on the presence of plague in Makira was finalized, showing a low prevalence (less than 2 percent) in small mammals. An inventory of lemurs using camera traps was started.

Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project Chad, Egypt, Mali, Senegal and Sudan

Technical teams are now focused on reviewing and analysing the data acquired between 2017 and 2021. A Massive Open On-line Course (MOOC) on waterbirds and wetlands is being developed. In addition, a "pause and reflect" process is being used to evaluate the work completed during the last five years and to draft a theory of change model for a potential second phase.

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area

FPIC processes were discussed in four meetings attended by 160 people, including 56 women. The SWM FPIC animation was shown in the local Tonga language. To genetically improve local breeds and to increase income and protein supply in three wards, lead farmers received 36 goat bucks (15 Boer and 21 Kalahari).

Botswana and Namibia - Community Conservancy project

In Habu, Botswana, a new village steering committee was elected, including representatives from each sub-village cluster. The site team has started mapping the rangelands in the proposed conservancy to update the management and grazing plans. New community scouts were recruited to reinforce wildlife monitoring patrols and human-wildlife conflict mitigation efforts.

SPECIAL FOCUS - GENDER EQUALITY

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is an integral part of the SWM Programme community rights-based approach. "Both women and men have important and distinct roles in resource management both within households and along wild meat value chains. However, women's roles often remain invisible," explains Mauro Bottaro, the SWM Programme gender focal point.

"We are conducting gender analyses, collecting sex-disaggregated data, organizing training on gender, developing specific activities to empower women, and using gender-sensitive indicators, and will document and disseminate good practices," says Mauro. The aim is to reduce the gender gap between women and men, where necessary, because this will improve sustainable wildlife management and food security for all.



COUNTRY STORY - GABON

In Gabon, the SWM Programme is working in the Mulundu department to support the establishment of a legal wild meat sector that is sustainable and healthy. "This model is locally appropriate because of the low human density and the low level of ecosystem degradation," explains Hadrien Vanthomme, the SWM Programme site coordinator. The initiative will strengthen community rights over their wildlife resources, highlighting the importance of these resources for food security, income generation and cultural identity. "By focusing on biodiversity conservation, alternative protein supply and income generation, this option has the potential to be replicated in other similar rural provinces in Africa and beyond," says Yves-Eric Moubagou, the SWM Programme national technical assistant.

The SWM Programme is supporting the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forests to strengthen the legal framework and create a national game hunting and marketing strategy. It is also working in the field with the ten partner villages to develop community-based hunting management plans. Hadrien Vanthomme explains: "There is a lot to do. We are collaborating with stakeholders to formalize the wild meat sector, developing a fish farm concession with a logging company (Precious Woods) and planning behaviour change campaigns to stimulate the consumption of sustainably-sourced wild meat. We are also working with two Gabonese research institutes, Centre national de la recherche scientifique et technologique (CENAREST) and Centre International de Recherches Medicales de Franceville (CIRMF) to develop a 'One Health' approach to manage the zoonotic risks."



EVENTS CORNER

European Development Days

15–16 June

The SWM Programme participated in the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) virtual stand at the European Development Days (EDD) 'The Green Deal for a Sustainable Future', where David Wilkie, Executive Director at Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), gave an engaging presentation on the initiative.

IUCN World Conservation Congress

3–11 September

The SWM Programme hosted a well-attended session, [Sustainable Wildlife Management: The food, biodiversity and health nexus](#). The session panel included Ms Cristelle Pratt (OACPS), Philippe Mayaux (EU, Directorate-General for International Partnerships), Alain Billand (CIRAD), Sandra Ratiarison (FAO), Nathalie van Vliet (Center for International Forestry Research, CIFOR) and Arnaud Goessens (WCS), and was facilitated by Cindy Côté-Andreotti (FAO).



International Day of Rural Women

15 October

The European Union Capacity4dev team published a multimedia article, "[Empowering rural women to achieve sustainable wildlife management](#)", on the SWM Programme gender approach. The partners and donors actively disseminated the article via Twitter (124 535 impressions and 60 362 link clicks), Facebook and LinkedIn.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2021, the [SWM Programme web portal](#) received visitors from **166 distinct countries**.

Comprehensive country reports, synthesizing all studies undertaken since 2018, were prepared by **eight sites**.

An [SWM Programme training video](#) was launched on **nine top tips** to take better photos and videos in the field.

FROM THE FIELD



Sing-sing display in Kwiop, Papua New Guinea on 31 August 2021 during the ceremony where eight clans formally agreed to create a community conservation area by signing a conservation deed.

NEWSROOM

Recent SWM Programme news items include:

- EU Capacity4development, “Empowering rural women to achieve sustainable wildlife management” ([click here](#))
- WCS, “The first Conservation Deed signing in the highlands paves way to Community-led protection of high-value intact forest” ([click here](#))
- European Commission, “In Madagascar wildlife conservation and food security go hand in hand” ([click here](#))
- The Voice (Botswana), “P26 Million Donated For Community Development” ([click here](#))
- NGO News Digest (Zimbabwe), “Sustainable Wildlife Management project breathes life into Kanimbwa Community & School” ([click here](#))
- Namibia Economist, “New project seeks to support development of local community conservancies” ([click here](#)).

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) 12–16 December 2021 <https://conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2021>
- World Wetlands Day 2 February 2022 <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org>
- World Wildlife Day 3 March 2022 <https://wildlifeday.org>
- World Forestry Congress 2-6 May 2022 <https://wfc2021korea.org>

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SWM TALKS

Donata Rugarabamu, Legal Counsel, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



To create sustainable agri-food systems, there is an urgent need to strengthen institutions, governance processes and legal frameworks at all levels. Building efficient, inclusive and resilient institutions is a cornerstone of FAO's work and is at the heart of the new [FAO Strategic Framework](#)

(2022–2031).

The SWM Programme, particularly through its legal and governance work, contributes to the “Four Betters”: **better production** through its One Health approach and promotion of small-scale producers' equitable access to wildlife resources; **better nutrition** through the promotion of safe food in wild and domestic meat value chains; **better environment** through the conservation of wild animals and the protection of ecosystems; and **better life** through the SWM Programme's Social Safeguards and goal to progressively replace urban demand for wild meat, with small livestock production.

These “Four Betters” reflect the interconnected economic, social and environmental dimensions of agri-food systems; the legal and institutional actions play a key role in addressing these dimensions. In this regard, the [SWM Programme's Legal Hub](#) is highly valuable for providing cross-sectoral legal analysis relating to multiple agri-food systems, particularly given the future coverage of customary law aspects. This work requires long-term commitment. The SWM Programme has a critical role to play in this respect, as we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and FAO's vision to leave no one behind.



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