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Organization of the
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**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

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Human-wildlife conflict: A summary of rules and guidelines

Botswana

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Background

This document provides a comprehensive summary of the guidelines for dealing with human–wildlife conflict (HWC) in Botswana, including how to reduce it, as well as information on compensation eligibility and processes when HWC does occur. This pamphlet is aimed primarily at local community members, but it could also be useful to law enforcement officers and community leaders. It is a practical resource meant to answer some of the most basic questions that community members might have. These questions were produced by experts who have lived and worked in Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme communities in Botswana. The answers come from an analysis of the policy and legal framework in Botswana for HWC using the SWM Programme’s legal diagnostic tools.



Key topics



Preventing HWC: effective measures include herding and securing livestock, employing barriers and using deterrents against problem wildlife.



Compensation eligibility: individuals may receive compensation for losses related to livestock, crops, property and even human life due to damage caused by wildlife, though compensation rates vary by species and type of loss.



Compensation process: to claim compensation, one must register a complaint with the Problem Animal Control (PAC) unit, which assesses the damage and processes payments based on their evaluation.



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Key question | What does the law say?

What can I do to protect my property/assets/livestock from HWC?

- herd livestock during the day;
- enclose livestock in a secure kraal at night;
- take other preventative measures such as using barriers, early-warning systems, deterrents and guard dogs for small stock; and
- as a last resort, use lethal force against the animal that has caused, is causing or threatens to cause damage to any livestock, crop, water installation or fence, and to defend human life that is under imminent danger.

Which weapons or methods are prohibited when killing an animal in defence of property?

- The use of poisoned weapons, pitfalls or snares to kill any animal is not allowed.

What steps should I take if a wild animal has caused damage to property or harmed a person?

- report the incident to the nearest wildlife office, Kgotla or police station within the earliest possible time.
- if the animal was killed or wounded in the process of defending a life or property, this must be reported.

For what can I receive compensation?

Monetary compensation may be received for loss of livestock, horticultural crops, commercial and subsistence crops, property and loss of human life.

Livestock – bull, ox/tolly, cow, heifer, mule, calf, foal, goat, sheep, horse, pig and donkey.

Horticultural crops – cabbage, kale and rape, tomato, green pepper, onions, potato, beetroots, Swiss chard, sweet potato, pumpkin, squashes and watermelon, green beans, oranges, mangoes, banana and carrot.

Crops (commercial and subsistence) – sorghum, maize, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts, sunflower, sweet reed and juko beans.

Other property includes borehole engine, water pipes and reservoirs, fences including *mapako*, but excluding *matlhaku*, and any other form of immovable property.

Loss of human life – *ex gratia* payment of BWP 70 000 (BWP 20 000 is for funeral expenses while BWP 50 000 is a benefit to the family).

How do I get my compensation?

Register the complaint with the Problem Animal Control (PAC) unit in the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), the nearest Botswana Police Station, or at a *Kgotla*.

A wildlife officer will visit the site to assess the damage.

If the damages are deemed compensable, the officers will calculate the costs, request your banking details and process the compensation payment.

Will I get compensation for damages from all species of wildlife?

Compensation is only for damage caused by elephant, lion, leopard, rhino, hippo, buffalo, crocodile, wild dog and cheetah.

How much compensation will I be offered for damage to my crops, livestock or property?

The compensation rates for destroyed property including crops are determined by the Minister. Compensation applies only whereby damage is caused by compensatory species.

The following rates apply when damage is caused by elephant and lion only:



| Livestock | Compensation amount (BWP) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Bull | 5 500.00 |
| Cow, heifer and mule | 1 000.00 |
| Donkey | 200.00 |
| Goat/sheep | 450.00 |
| Horse | 2 500.00 |
| Ox/tolly | 3 000.00 |
| Pig | 1 100.00 |



| Horticultural crops (pula/hectare) | Compensation amount (BWP) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Banana | 60 000.00 |
| Beetroot | 25 000.00 |
| Cabbage | 51 600.00 |
| Carrot | 37 500.00 |
| Green beans | 22 500.00 |
| Green pepper | 40 000.00 |
| Kale and rape | 35 000.00 |
| Mangoes | 28 500.00 |
| Onions | 72 000.00 |
| Oranges | 60 000.00 |
| Potato | 33 000.00 |
| Pumpkin, squashes and watermelon | 16 500.00 |
| Sweet potato | 32 000.00 |
| Swiss chard | 20 000.00 |
| Tomato | 100 000.00 |

**Commercial arable
(pula/hectare)****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Cowpeas | 6 200.00 |
| Groundnuts | 5 600.00 |
| Jugo beans | 7 000.00 |
| Maize | 3 600.00 |
| Millet | 1 800.00 |
| Sorghum | 4 625.00 |
| Sunflower | 3 770.00 |
| Sweet reed | 4 000.00 |

**Subsistence arable
(pula/hectare)****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Cowpeas | 2 500.00 |
| Groundnuts | 2 100.00 |
| Jugo beans | 4 500.00 |
| Maize | 900.00 |
| Sorghum | 870.00 |
| Sunflower | 1 300.00 |
| Sweet reed | 2 000.00 |

The following rates apply when damage is caused by leopard, cheetah, wild dog, crocodile, buffalo, rhino and hippo.

**Livestock****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Bull | 1 925.00 |
| Cow, heifer and mule | 1 050.00 |
| Donkey | 70.00 |
| Goat/sheep | 157.50 |
| Horse | 875.00 |
| Ox/tolly | 1 050.00 |

**Horticultural crops
(pula/hectare)****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Banana | 21 000.00 |
| Beetroots | 8 750.00 |
| Cabbage | 18 060.00 |
| Carrot | 13 125.00 |
| Green beans | 7 875.00 |
| Green pepper | 36 750.00 |
| Kale and rape | 32 812.50 |
| Mangoes | 10 000.00 |
| Onion | 25 200.00 |
| Oranges | 21 000.00 |
| Potato | 11 550.00 |
| Pumpkin, squashes and watermelon | 5 775.00 |
| Swiss chard | 7 000.00 |
| Sweet potato | 11 200.00 |
| Tomato | 59 062.50 |

**Commercial arable
(pula/hectare)****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Cowpeas | 2 170.00 |
| Groundnuts | 1 960.00 |
| Jugo beans | 2 450.00 |
| Maize | 1 260.00 |
| Millet | 630.00 |
| Sorghum | 1 618.75 |
| Sunflower | 1 319.50 |
| Sweet reed | 1 400.00 |

**Subsistence arable
(pula/hectare)****Compensation amount (BWP)**

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Cowpeas | 875.00 |
| Groundnuts | 735.00 |
| Jugo Beans | 1 575.00 |
| Maize | 315.00 |
| Millet | 245.00 |
| Sorghum | 305.00 |
| Sunflower | 455.00 |
| Sweet reed | 1 400.00 |

Compensation for other property includes

- A. Borehole engine, water pipes and reservoirs
- B. Fences (excluding matlhaku)
- C. And any other form of immovable property

**Where can I learn more
about HWC?**

The PAC unit in the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) found in each district can provide more information.

DWNP Headquarters

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This pamphlet has been produced by the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, as part of the Community Conservancy Project in the Kavango–Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area. The SWM Programme is a major international initiative that aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. It is being funded by the European Union, as part of the NaturAfrica initiative, with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Projects are being piloted and tested with governments and communities in 16 participating countries. The initiative is coordinated by a dynamic consortium of four partners, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



FIND OUT MORE

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