

Supporting local communities around protected areas with a One Health approach

Actions of VSF International to integrate sustainable livelihoods and conservation goals

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CHALLENGES FACED BY POOR COMMUNITIES SURROUNDING PROTECTED AREAS AND OTHER BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS:

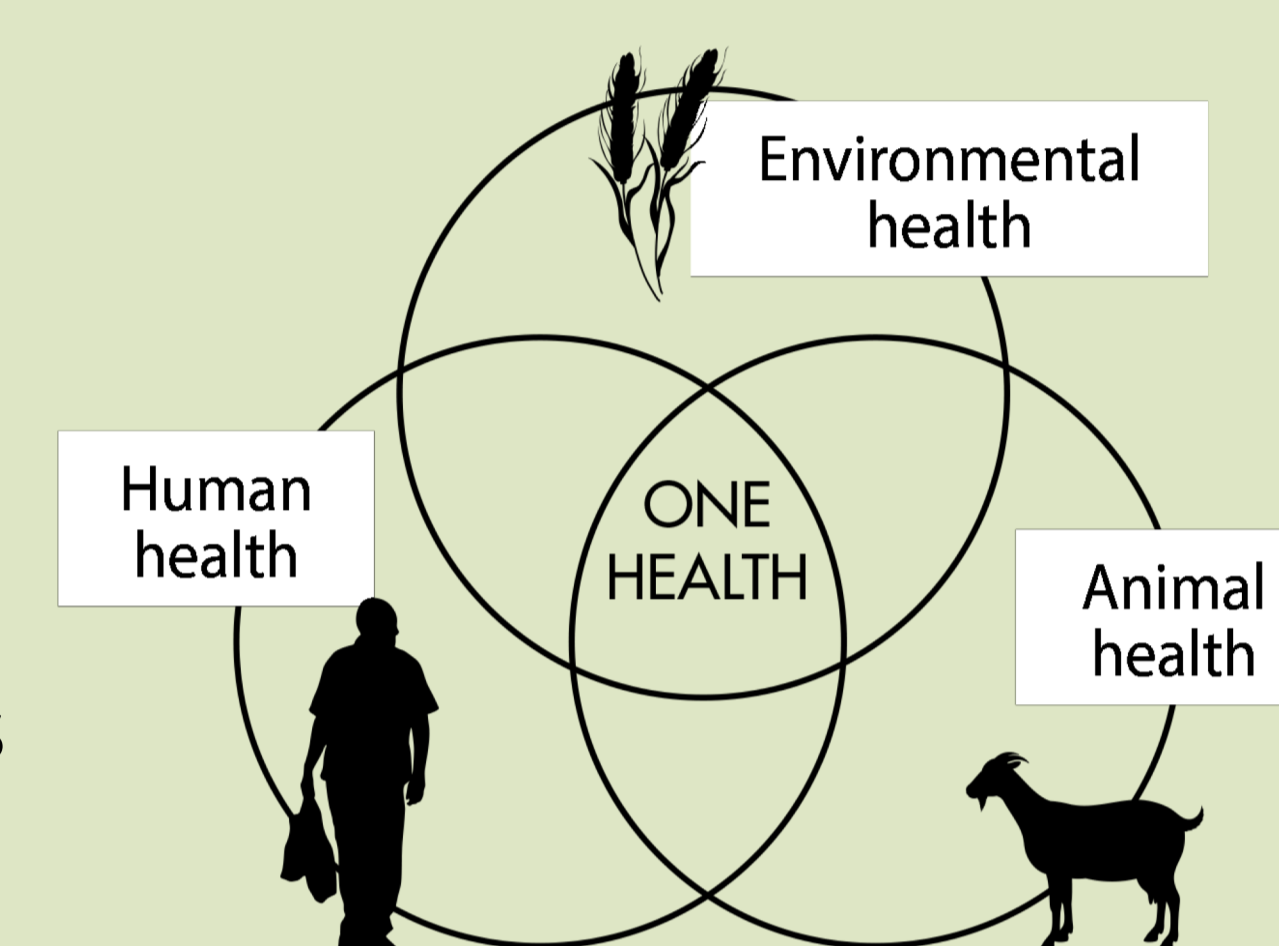
- ▶ Lack of income, food insecurity, lack of access to services, leading to negative coping strategies:
 - ▶ Hunting and bushmeat consumption and sales
 - ▶ Clearing of forests for crop/livestock production and/or sales of wood
 - ▶ Charcoal production
 - ▶ Poaching
 - ▶ Expropriation of land for conservation purposes, conflictual relationships with local authorities
 - ▶ Wildlife/Human conflict (competition for fodder and habitat)
- Human, agricultural and animal pressure on a limited territory leading to **habitat fragmentation and loss**
- ↓
- Loss of biodiversity and **risk of spillover of zoonotic diseases**

HOW TO FACE THESE CHALLENGES ? Need for a holistic One Health Approach

VSF International members and their partners implement **bottom-up strategies** to develop sustainable livelihoods opportunities for local communities, reconciling biodiversity conservation goals with social and economic goals.

Through **multisectorial interventions and partnerships**, we tackle:

- Economic factors: income generation and diversification to avoid negative coping strategies
- Food security: promoting sustainable livestock and crop production to access nutritious and diversified diets
- Health: integrated animal/human health services delivery
- Land access: securing land tenure and governance for the direct benefit of local populations
- Awareness raising on natural resource and biodiversity conservation



TOGO: Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, Abdoulaye Forest and other community forests. **Small-scale farmers and pastoralists** [Projects MiKaGo and APFA - VSF Suisse]

Strengthening the value chain of non-wood forest products (shea butter and honey):

- Infrastructure and equipment
- Training
- Strengthening grassroots cooperative groups

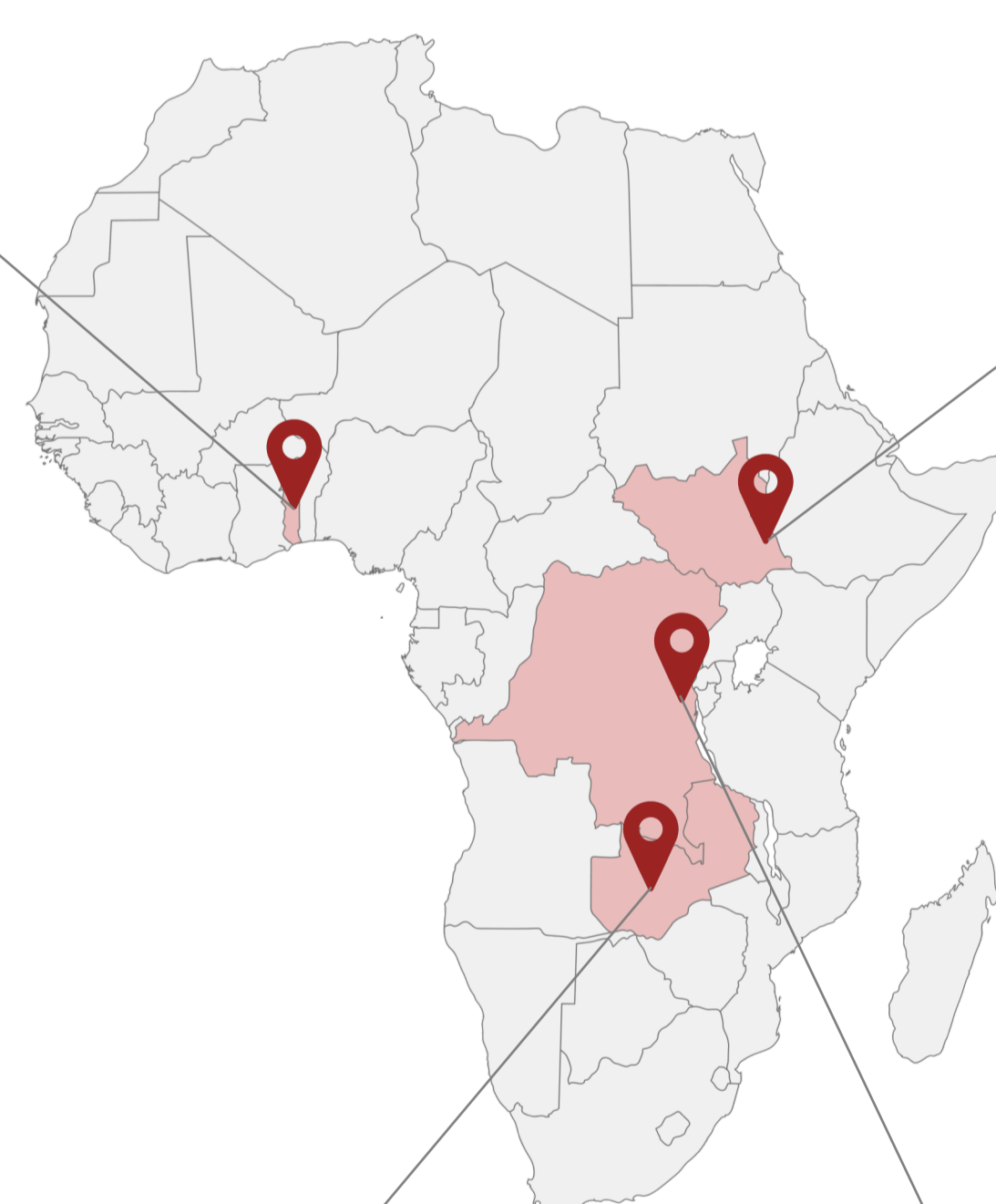
Improving governance of protected areas:

- Inclusion of communities

Management of pastoral areas around community forests to reduce conflicts



- ★ Income, food security
- ★ Reduction of conflicts
- ★ Biodiversity conservation
- ★ **Sustainable livelihoods and better management of protected areas**



SOUTH SUDAN: Boma National Park and Badingilo wildlife migration corridor. **Pastoralist communities** [Projects SERACAF, EKITS, ELVETS & CCLERP, VSF Suisse]

Support to livestock farming:

- Animal health service delivery
- Restocking of small ruminants and poultry

Support to alternative livelihoods:

- Crops & vegetables
- Fishing
- Beekeeping (→ positive biodiversity contributions; climate sensitive honey harvesting approaches)



- ★ Access to immediate food sources (meat, milk, blood, crops, vegetables, fish, chicken)
- ★ Income generation
- ★ **Mitigating further potential for communities to target game meat as negative coping strategies**

ZAMBIA: Kafue National Park. **Crop farmers, small-scale livestock keepers** [Project "Semer la coexistence" - AVSF & Melindika]

Mitigation of Elephant/Human conflicts:

- Beehive fences (bees as bio-acoustic deterrent for elephants)
- Buffer zone with a deterrent culture around crops to avoid crop-raiding from elephants
- Establishment of ecological corridor to secure wildlife movements

Local veterinary services for livestock (to limit bushmeat consumption and poaching, and as an alternative livelihood strategy to crop production).



- ★ **Integrated wildlife conservation and rural development**

DRC: Kahuzi Biega National Park. **Small-scale farmers and livestock keepers** [Project PNKB-OH, VSF Belgium & Médecins du Monde]

Strengthening of animal, human and environmental health services

- Support and training of vets, community-based animal health workers (CAHWs), doctors
- Development of disease information systems

Capacity building of communities in the prevention/management of health and environmental risks

Transdisciplinary collaboration of government actors, scientific sector and local communities to foster sustainable behavioral changes



- ★ **Improved prevention, detection and response to diseases**
- ★ **Sustainable, healthy and productive use of natural resources**