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)

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 multisectoral 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

- 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

ZAMBIA: Kafue National Park: Crop farmers, small-scale livestock keepers

- 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

DRC: Kahuzi-Biega National Park. Small-scale farmers and livestock keepers

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SOUTH SUDAN: Boma National Park and Badingilo wildlife migration corridor. Pastoralist communities

- 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

VSF International is a network of 13 non-profit organisations working in the field of agriculture and livestock production, animal health and animal welfare, to support small-scale farmers and pastoralists. The members of VSF International are active in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Americas and the Pacifics.

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