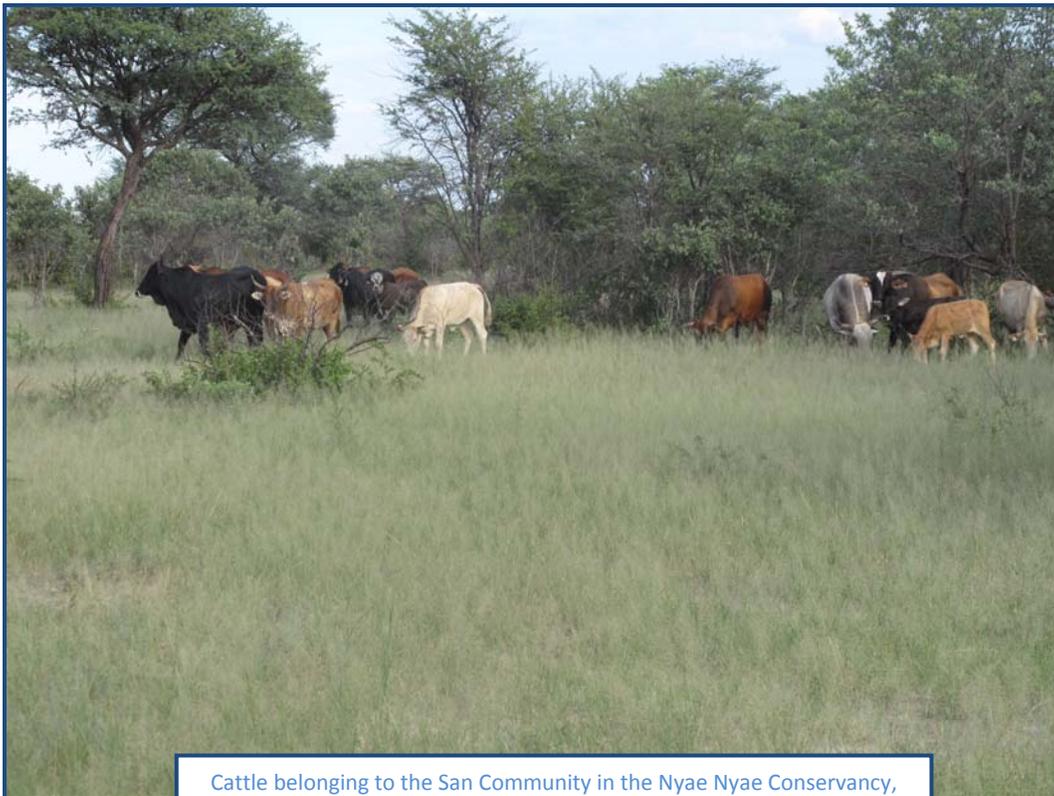


CLOSEOUT REPORT

EVALUATION OF MCA-N'S LIVESTOCK SUPPORT ACTIVITY

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Cattle belonging to the San Community in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, whose members benefitted from one of the LMEF grants



COMPILED BY:
Indongo Indongo, Manager: M&E

1. Introduction and Background

The Livestock Support activity under MCA-N's Agriculture Project sought to bring the marketing opportunities for farmers who live north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence closer to the opportunities enjoyed by farmers south of the Fence. The evaluation of this activity, commissioned by the M&E directorate, covered the following sub-activities:

- The Livestock Market Efficiency Fund (LMEF) - The LMEF supports demand-driven actions aimed at improving the performance of the livestock sector in the NCAs. The objective of the LMEF was to increase incomes to livestock producers and ensure the continued growth of the livestock sector;
- The construction of five State Veterinary Offices (SVOs) - Three new SVOs were constructed in high volume livestock areas (Eenhana, Outapi and Omuthiya), which were identified as optimal geographic sites for veterinary offices and clinics through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry's (MAWF). These offices are intended to improve the delivery of veterinary services to the NCAs which have been historically underserved. An additional two SVOs were constructed at two underserved sites south of the existing Veterinary Cordon Fence, Okakarara and Epukiro, to support improved livestock production in those areas;
- Rehabilitation of two quarantine camps - Because of the continued presence of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Caprivi, the two quarantine camps that provide throughput to the only operating meat processing plant located in the region were rehabilitated to improve livestock productivity and marketing; and
- Support to the livestock traceability system - The main aim of the traceability system is to provide livestock owners and the government with timely and quality information on livestock numbers, their location, animal health status and other key attributes associated with livestock.

The evaluation methodology followed the assessment of the five main criteria defined by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC): relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. For each of these criteria, research questions were defined. Some of these questions were taken from the ToR and contract amendment, others were added to allow sufficient analysis of the evaluation criteria. Subsequently, data requirements and sources of information were indicated.

2. Process

On 1 September 2011, the Request for Consultant's Qualifications (RCQ) was published for a consultancy with the following main objective:

- assess the impact of the Livestock Support Activity on the intended beneficiaries mainly in terms of income or other quantifiable benefits.

The closing date for submissions in response to the RCQ was 16 September 2011 and the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) met on 3 October 2011 to consider the applications received. Mr Paul Sijssens was selected.

After submission of his financial proposal and the conclusion of successful contract negotiations, the contract was signed on 6 February 2012 in the amount of US\$269,940.

3. Outcomes

The evaluation findings show that there was a good mix of different types of implementers of MCA-N's Livestock Support Activity: Government, NGOs and Private Sector. Synergy was observed in the sense that some actions reinforced the effect of other actions. Most actions were relevant, efficient and effective. Sustainability remains a question for some of the 11 actions; likewise for impact, as some were very local with no indication of scaling-up. Other actions will have less impact as they were routine activities. The impact of studies will depend on their application and follow up.

Main findings of the evaluated actions are as follows:

1. Unleashing the potential of livestock sector in Oshana and Ohangwena Regions:

- Selecting 12 villages in the NCAs as case study villages
- Relevant capacity building (improved livestock farming practices, infrastructure management, breeding, marketing and record keeping) in livestock management and marketing
- Effective and efficient implementation
- Impact limited to small number of trained farmers; 1,250 individuals have attended at least one training, but less than 5 farmers per village attended the full programme
- Sustainability uncertain after departure of Komeho



Farmers being trained in livestock management

2. Development of export opportunities for beef products from the Zambezi Region:
 - Testing and evaluating HACCP and CBT
 - Very relevant for regional livestock marketing
 - Implementation affected by FMD outbreaks, not all planned outputs were achieved
 - Impact depends on acceptance of HACCP/CBT by policy makers, decision takers and buyers
 - Sustainability of the investment in testing depends on the interest of MEATCO and MAWF to adopt the recommended approach
3. Sero-epidemiological and parasite survey in the NCAs:
 - Collection of baseline epidemiological data, development of protocols and procedures for DVS
 - Findings relevant for disease control
 - Some delays, but all planned outputs achieved and of good quality
 - Data base and samples handed over to MAWF; impact/sustainability depends if and how MAWF will use the information
4. Baseline survey of animal nutrition in the Northern Communal Areas of Namibia:
 - Sampling of soil, water, forage and animals; lick supplementation trial; information events
 - Relevant for livestock management
 - Implemented as scheduled, good quality output
 - Impact depends on follow-up on recommendations by MAWF and other stakeholders
5. Developing the livestock sector and income to livestock producers in the San conservancies of Tsumkwe Constituency:
 - Development of the livestock management capacity in the community
 - Relevant for animal productivity and marketing
 - Slow progress, limited impact due to small number of beneficiaries (eight pilot villages, with only few cattle owner per village)
 - Little indication that cattle owners will continue herding without project support
6. Development of strategies, road map and plan of action and preparation of supporting documents to declare the NCAs free of FMD and CBPP:
 - Highly relevant for cattle and beef marketing in NCAs
 - Many delays



- Not all outputs achieved, strategy too late to get OIE backing
 - Impact and sustainability depends on approval and implementation by GoN
7. Creation of fire breaks around and inside Kopano and Katima Mulilo quarantine farms
 - Less relevant as it is a routine maintenance activity
 - Many delays, costs increased, poor coordination with communities
 - Not all results achieved
 - Impact will be small as communities showed little interest
 - Sustainability is questioned as this was a routine activity from the start
 8. Study on informal trade of beef/cattle in the Northern Communal Areas
 - Relevant objective: to clearly understand the informal trade of cattle and beef in the NCAs
 - Reporting often late, some problems with field staff
 - All outputs achieved, good insight in informal trade, questions about variance of data
 - Impact is indirect, depending its use(rs)
 9. Rehabilitation of quarantine camps at Katima Mulilo and Kopano
 - Construction of new holding areas and crush pens, renovation of the staff houses
 - Less relevant as regular maintenance task (apart from the electricity supply to Kopano)
 - Action completed with minor delay and good quality
 - Impact will be limited, as the camps were already operational
 - Sustainability is questioned as this was a routine activity from the start
 10. Construction of five State Veterinary Offices
 - Relevant objective to increase access to veterinary services
 - Efficient and effective implementation
 - Impact expected on disease control
 - Sustainability related to staffing and maintenance
 11. Traceability system
 - To have a system (NamLITS) in place to manage movement and monitor health status of animals
 - Relevant: essential for disease control
 - Some delays, but objective achieved
 - Impact is potentially high
 - Sustainability is expected as the system is owned and integrated in MAWF

For the total of the 11 actions of the MCA-N Livestock Support Activity described above it can be concluded that they consist of a good balance of actions:

- Livestock management (Komeho, AGRA studies, NNDFN)
- Disease control (FMD-free, SVOs, traceability)
- Marketing (MBN, informal trade study, Q-camps)

4. Conclusion

Most actions were relevant, efficient and effective. Sustainability not always guaranteed. Likewise for impact. Some impact was very local with no indication of upscaling. Other actions will have less impact as they were routine activities. The impact of studies will depend on their application and follow up. The below table summarizes the evaluation findings along the dimensions of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability (1 = lowest, 2 = low, 3 = medium, 4 = high and 5 = very high).

No.	Grant project / sub-activity	Relevance	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
1	Unleashing the potential of livestock sector in Oshana and Ohangwena Regions	4	4	3	2	2
2	Development of export opportunities for beef products from Zambezi Region	5	2	2	3	3
3	Sero-epidemiological and parasite survey in the NCAs	4	3	4	3	3
4	Baseline survey of animal nutrition in the NCAs	4	5	4	3	3
5	Developing the livestock sector and income to livestock producers in the San conservancies of Tsumkwe Constituency	4	4	3	2	2
6	Development of strategies, road map and plan of action and preparation of supporting documents to declare the NCAs free of FMD and CBPP	5	3	3	5?	4
7	Creation of fire breaks around and inside quarantine farms	2	1	2	1	1
8	Study on informal trade of beef/cattle in the NCAs	5	2	4	3	3
9	Rehabilitation of two quarantine camps	2	5	5	2	1
10	Construction of five SVOs	5	4	4	4	4
11	Development of a livestock traceability system in the NCAs	5	4	4	4	4

Evaluations such as these should be used to help inform the Namibian government's and its donor partners' future actions in the livestock sector.

Reports related to this consultancy are available on the MCA-N website at www.mcanamibia.org.