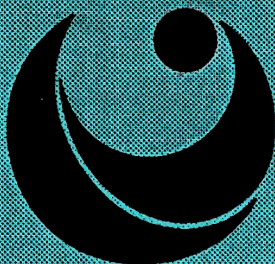


179

# oppdragsmelding

Report from a trip to promote  
collaboration with institutions  
in Botswana and Zimbabwe

Karl Baadsvik  
Eivin Røskaft



NINA

NORSK INSTITUTT FOR NATURFORSKNING

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Karl Baadsvik  
Eivin Røskoft

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# 1 Introduktion

In the fall 1990, a group of researchers from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) and the University of Trondheim (UNIT) developed a proposal for the NAVF-programme 'Ecology and Economy'. The proposal was called 'Sustainable Wildlife Management in Africa'. During the process of evolving this proposal a growing interest in developing a wildlife project in Africa became apparent among both biologists and social scientists in Trondheim. However, the contact net in Africa was limited.

The proposal was not approved by NAVF, however, a grant was delivered to further proceed the involvement by the Trondheim group. After the foundation of the Centre for Environment and Development (SMU) at the University of Trondheim in the autumn of 1991, a project on 'Resource Management' in the SADCC region in Africa was given priority. During a travel to eastern and southern Africa in May 1992, Røskaft and Skarstein from SMU, discussed with African research authorities, any possibilities for collaboration between African institutions and UNIT/NINA on environmental projects.

In Botswana, authorities from both the University and the Wildlife Department, stressed the importance of elephant research. This was due to the fact that the elephant populations in southern Africa, in contrast to those of eastern Africa, are growing and at present seems to be too large. The large elephant population causes conflicts both with local human populations and with overexploitation of habitats. In order to evolve a sustainable management plan of the elephant populations in Botswana, research is needed. The needs of highest priority are; population ecology, migration routes and habitat impact. An important method to solve these problems is radio/ satellite telemetry.

After returning to Trondheim, the former project proposal was changed to fit these priorities, and the proposal was renamed to 'the role of elephants in sustainable resource management, the case of southern Africa'.

Professor Sæther at NINA reviewed with the elephant literature, and made further contacts towards international well reputed elephant researchers. The elephant project plan was welcomed among many researchers leading to an optimism in Trondheim. The proposal draft was submitted to potential partners in Botswana for comments. Additionally a new trip to Botswana and Zimbabwe was planned to take place in mid November by Karl Baadsvik (the director of NINA), Eivin Røskaft (the director of SMU) and Bernt-Erik Sæther (senior researcher at NINA and professor at UNIT). The participation of these three persons underlines the high priority of the involvement in southern Africa by both NINA and UNIT-SMU. It should also be underlined that both NINA and UNIT-SMU wishes collaborating projects with African colleagues on equal base.

The aim of this trip was in more detail to discuss the plans of an elephant project with Botswanian authorities. Furthermore, we wanted to discuss these plans with the local NORAD authorities,

also with respect to an eventually economical support. Finally, we wanted to discuss the possibilities for further involvement by NINA and UNIT-SMU in resource management projects in southern Africa with other authorities in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

## 2 Time table

Participants:

**Karl Baadsvik** (director of NINA),

**Eivin Røskoft** (director of SMU),

**Bernt Erik Sæther** (senior researcher NINA and professor UNIT).

- Tuesday November 10, 1992 14.00 p.m.; Left Trondheim
- Wednesday Nov 11, 08.00 a.m.; Arrived Johannesburg
- Wednesday Nov 11. 13.30 a.m.; Arrived Gaborone
- Wednesday Nov 11. 14.30 a.m.; Short meeting with Terje Vigtel, The NORAD representative in Botswana.
- Thursday Nov 12, 09.00 a.m.; Meeting with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Botswana.
- Thursday Nov 12, 13.00 p.m.; Meeting with the NORAD office in Gaborone.
- Friday Nov 13. 09.10 a.m.; Left Gaborone for Victoria Falls.
- Saturday Nov 14. 09.00 a.m.; Left Victoria Falls with a rented car for Chobe National Park.
- Sunday Nov 15. 11.00 a.m.; Left Chobe National Park for Victoria Falls.
- Sunday Nov 15. 15.30 p.m.; Sæther left Victoria Falls for Trondheim.
- Monday Nov 16. 19.30 p.m.; Meeting with African Elephant Specialist Group, Victoria Falls.
- Tuesday Nov 17. 09.00 a.m.; Left Victoria Falls for Harare.
- Wednesday Nov 18. 09.00 a.m.; Meeting with director India Musokwotane, IUCN-ROSA, Harare.
- Wednesday Nov 18. 13.00 p.m.; Meeting with the NORAD office, Harare.
- Thursday Nov 19. 11.00 a.m.; Meeting with ZimbabweTrust, Harare.
- Thursday Nov 19. 14.00 p.m.; Meeting with dr. Johan T. du Toit, University of Zimbabwe.
- Thursday Nov 19. 22.00 p.m.; Left Harare for Trondheim.
- Friday Nov. 20. 13.00 p.m.; Arrived Trondheim.

### 3 Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Botswana

**Date:** 12 November  
**Place:** Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Gaborone  
**Present:** Deputy director Mushanana L. Nchunga, Department of Wildlife  
 Dr. Rapelang Masogo, Department of Wildlife  
 Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
 Eivin Røsklaft, SMU  
 Bernt-Erik Sæther, NINA

- Baadsvik and Røsklaft gave brief orientations of the NINA and SMU activities and presented the background for the visit
- Sæther presented the scientific background for the NINA interest in large mammals ecology in Southern Africa
- Dr. Masogo outlined the priorities regarding elephant management and research in Botswana
- Both parts were positive to future collaboration in the field of wildlife management, and the collaboration should be formalized in the form of bilateral agreement between NINA and Department of Wildlife and National Parks
- The agreement should cover the whole field of sustainable wildlife management. Baadsvik is responsible for a draft agreement which in turn will be submitted to Botswana for comments
- Elephant research has high priority in Botswana, and the themes of highest priority are
  - migration and dispersion (involving telemetry studies)
  - population dynamics
  - habitat impact
- These should be the items of highest priority in a Botswanian-Norwegian project, and the project should be located to northern Botswana (the Okavango/Chobe districts)
- The parts aim at a joint project organisation. In the initial phase of the project, Norway will provide a qualified project leader. MS and PhD students should be involved from both sides
- NINA/SMU will invite a Botswanian group to discuss a revised project draft proposal which will be submitted to Botswana in due time. The invitation will be submitted to the director of the Wildlife Department, who in turn will appoint members of the Botswanian delegation
- When the final version of the project description is completed, the documents will be submitted to the President's Office for approval
- The Wildlife Department was informed that there are signs that NORAD intend to give higher priorities to nature management projects in the future

### 4 NORAD, Botswana

**Date:** 12 November  
**Place:** NORAD, Gaborone  
**Present:** Resident representative Terje Vigtel, NORAD  
 Svein Damsgaard, NORAD  
 Åshild Strand, NORAD  
 Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
 Eivin Røsklaft, SMU  
 Bernt-Erik Sæther, NINA

- Baadsvik and Røsklaft gave a brief orientation of the NINA respective SMU activities, with particular emphasis on project development in the SADCC Region. They also gave summary of the previous discussions with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks concerning plans for an elephant project. Elephant management problems are given high priority by the Department.
- NINA and SMU strongly underlined that the institutions aims to develop relevant competence within the whole field of nature management and that they will be able to provide expertise within ecological, technological and social sciences. Any project collaboration with African institution will be on equal terms and involve training and building-up of knowledge.
- Sæther presented the scientific background for a possible Norwegian involvement in research on elephant management problems in Botswana.
- Vigtel presented some important perspectives on NORADs future involvement in Botswana, stressing particularly the following points:
  - Botswana has a relatively good economy, and one primary need is to build up competence and knowledge.
  - Norwegian aid will be more directed towards environmental problems in the future, and Norway will recommend to give nature management high priority in the Land Programme, including also economic and social aspects. However, Botswanas own priorities will be decisive.
  - Institutional collaboration between Botswana and Norway is regarded as important, taken into account that a long term perspective is necessary. Further collaboration on equal terms is very important. Bilateral frame agreements between institutions may be useful tools.
  - It has so far been difficult for NORAD, Botswana, to find Norwegian institutions with a potential and interest for work in Botswana on resource management problems. On this background, NORAD appreciates the contact that has now been established with NINA-SMU.
  - NORAD will take the responsibility to follow up the contract, i.a. with more concrete proposals to how NINA/SMU could be involved in projects

- The meeting agreed that NINA should be the addressee in Trondheim, with respect to future contact. The discussions of the Land Programme on the national level does not exclude a parallel, concrete planning of an elephant project in collaboration between NINA/SMU and Dept. of Wildlife.

## 5 Chobe National Park, Botswana

**Date:** 14 - 15 November  
**Place:** Areas near the Chobe Game Lodge in Northern Botswana.  
**Present:** Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
Eivin Røskaft, NINA  
Bernt-Erik Sæther, NINA

- Chobe National Park is situated in northern parts of Botswana, near the borders of Zimbabwe and Namibia. In west it borders the Okavango delta. The size of the national park is approximately 7000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Chobe National Park is part of a selected area of the future of the elephant project.
- The elephant population in Chobe is large. However, in contrast to many other African populations there is a potential for migration over large areas. During the dry season the elephants concentrate to some very restricted areas where they can find water. Such an area is the Chobe River at the border of Namibia, that was visited by us.
- Due to the heavy drought in southern Africa during the recent years, the elephants have been concentrated in the visited area. We observed a strong impact on the vegetation. The vegetation composition over large areas were severely influenced by the presence of elephants. This may also affect other herbivores. Herbivores observed by us were; Elephants, Hippos, Impalas, Buffaloes, Warthogs, Waterbuchs, Kudus. But there are also many other herbivore species in these areas.
- Cities near and around Chobe National Park are; Kasane, Maun and Moremi. Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is also reachable.
- The infrastructure in the area and access seems to be reasonably good, with airports both in Victoria Falls and Maun.

## 6 The African Elephant Research Specialist Group (AERSC) meeting in Victoria Falls

**Date:** 16 November

**Place:** A Zambesi River Lodge, Victoria Falls

**Present:** Dr. Holly T. Dublin, WWF, Kenya  
Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
Eivin Røskaft, SMU

- Dr. Dublin informed us that we were unable to participate in the meeting taking place during 17 -22 November, due to restrictive invitations to participants. Many potential participants were rejected, and there were no way to allow us.
- Baadsvik and Røskaft gave brief orientations about the background for our invitation from the IUCN- office in Harare. A presentation of the planed project on elephants in Botswana was also given. dr. Dublin gave a brief orientation of the African Elephant Specialist Group. AFEF was founded in February 1992 with the mission to promote long-term conservation of Africa's elephants and rhinos, and, where necessary, the recovery of their populations to viable levels.
- We thereafter discussed the different elephant research progress in Africa.
- A Program of the present meeting was given to Baadsvik/Røskaft, and important names and contact persons a were underlined.
- The Wildlife Department in Tanzania is under reorganization, and it is difficult to find the right contacts at the moment. However, the structure in Tanzania is normally well performed.
- One important contact for us, stressed by Dr. Dublin is, Professor Stephen Nguguna, IUCN Nairobi

## 7 IUCN-ROSA

**Date:** 18 November

**Place:** IUCN Office, Harare

**Present:** Director India Musokotwane, IUCN-ROSA  
Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
Eivin Røskaft, SMU

- Baadsvik gave a brief orientation of the background for NINAs intentions towards an increasing engagement on environmental problems in Southern Africa, with particular emphasis on nature management. The importance of collaboration with IUCN-ROSA was strongly underlined.
- Røskaft gave a similar description of SMUs activities in the SADCC Region, emphasizing that SMU at present is concentrating it's work in Tanzania, but intend to extend activities to other countries in Southern Africa. SMU is a.o. able to provide expertise in technical and social sciences.
- Baadsvik/Røskaft gave a summary of the discussions with the Department of Wildlife in Botswana and NORAD, Botswana, with particular emphasis on the elephant project plan.
- The meeting concluded that an elephant project should be arranged as a bilateral Botswanian-Norwegian project and not be hosted by IUCN. However, this will not exclude IUCN support.
- Dir. Musokotwane presented the program priorities of IUCN-ROSA.
- Water problems are given highest priority, and IUCN now extend their wetland program to cover water management in a broad sense.
- IUCN will contribute to solve conflicts concerning the use and management of the Zambesi river system. IUCN plan to arrange a meeting in short time, with all six involved states invited. This meeting aim to discuss how to manage the systems, how water monitoring may be improved, how to evaluate possible effects of different project plans and how agreements might be achieved.
- Second highest priority is given to a programme on the human aspects of conservation, with emphasis on social problems. There is a lack of tools for linking wildlife with people. The training in this programme is coordinated with the University of Zimbabwe.
- Regarding the NINA-IUCN cooperation, it is essential to identify experts in NINA. As soon as the register and CV-system is operative in NINA, information should be sent to IUCN-ROSA.
- The parts aim to establish bilateral agreement between NINA and IUCN-ROSA. This agreement should have a relative short perspective, e.g. 2 years, whereafter the necessary modifications should be made, based on the experience gained.



- Dr. Musokotwane will set up a draft for the main points in this agreement before his visit to Trondheim in February 1993.
- Both parts emphasized the importance to have a Norwegian in the still vacant position as leader of the IUCN office in Botswana.
- Dr. Musokotwane was informed that two NINA research ecologists will visit the Lake Kariba Research Station in the beginning of 1993.

## 8. NORAD, Zimbabwe

**Date:** 18 November  
**Place:** NORAD Office, Harare  
**Present:** Resident representative Agneta Eriksen  
 Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
 Eivin Røskaft, SMU

- Baadsvik and Røskaft gave a brief orientation of the NINA respective SMU activities on project development in the SADCC Region. They also gave a summary of the previous discussions with IUCN-ROSA and with the institutions visited in Botswana.
- NINA and SMU strongly underlined their aims to develop competence within the whole field of nature management and that they will be able to provide expertise within ecological, technological and social sciences. Any project collaboration with African institutions will be on equal terms and involve training and building-up of knowledge.
- Eriksen informed that NORAD, Zimbabwe gave some financial support to Zimbabwe Environmental Research Organisation.
- NORAD does not fund IUCN at present, but dr. Musokotwane has recently been in contact, and NORAD has asked for concrete proposals.
- Eriksen emphasized water resource planning as a crucial problem in the region, i.a. all adjacent countries have plans to exploit the Zambezi water system in some way. Many initiatives have been taken (IUCN, World Bank, SADCC, UNEP).
- NORAD intend to support the SADCC secretariate in Lesotho (the SAC Plan), may be also other projects, but only after an initial clarification and solution of the legal questions involved.
- In the Land Programme NORAD support a small "Community"-based CAMPFIRE-project. So far NORAD, Zimbabwe has small funds for environmental projects.
- Eriksen informed that there exist plans to establish a University in Bulawayo, with a focus on environmental and technological issues. In this city, there is also a Museum of Natural History (under Ministry of Interior) with comprehensive collections, but with a desperate small staff and no research budget.
- NORAD has received an application for funding from the Museum. It was agreed that Eriksen should refer to NINA-SMU when the application was submitted to Norway.

## 9 Campfire Trust Zimbabwe

**Date:** 19 November

**Place:** ZimTrust, Harare

**Present:** General Secretary Robert Monro  
Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
Eivin Røskaft, SMU

- A short presentation of NINA and SMU was given by Baadsvik and Røskaft
- The Campfire programme which is funded by Zimtrust evolved in the 1970ties as a multidisiplinary programme for management and wildlife and other natural resources, regarding that sustainable management must be based on local participation and responsibility.
- In 1975 an act was given that landowners had the authority over wildlife. And in 1982 the act was associated so that the property of wildlife was provided to local authorities. A campfire of management principles was therefore developed by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. And in 1986-87 a new discussion evolved because of human-wildlife conflicts in some areas.
- The Campfire programme is running by three collaborating organizations;
  - Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS), University of Zimbabwe
  - World Wide Fond for Nature, multispecies project (in Zimbabwe)
  - Zimbabwe Trust
- The WWF- multispecies project is in many respect similar to our proposal on sustainable elephant management in Botswana
- The Campfire programme do some research on social organization in different areas of Zimbabwe.
- With regards to Elephants is research on migration needed. Dr. Mike Jones at Department of National Parks in Bullawayo is an important contact for a project on elephants by USAID. This project is part of a regional project between Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. However, there is lack of research capacity in the Department of National Parks in Bulawayo. But there is a collaboration going on between the Dept. Nat. Parks. and Univ. Zimbabwe, which also includes training of students in collaboration.
- There is a high level of competence on wildlife management also in private sector in Zimbabwe. And there is a strong requirement that research should have a training componet for local people.
- NORAD do partly provide some campfire projects in Zimbabwe.
- A workshop in review of the sustainable use of natural resources in Africa was recently held in London. The workshop was convicted by the Africa Resources Trust.

- It is important to stress that NGO and UN-institutions apparently want a more strictly scientific base for wildlife management priorities and decitions in Southern Africa. However, Africa must do their own priorities.
- The international Association for the Study of Common Property, is an important association with yearly meetings.
- Important persons with respect to future contacts or collaborations are Director William Nduku and Ass. director Rowan Martin, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, Professor Murphree, CASS, and Dr. David Cumming, WWF.

## 10 University of Zimbabwe, Department of Biological Sciences

**Date:** 19 November  
**Place:** University of Zimbabwe, Harare  
**Present:** Dr. Johan T. du Toit, Dept. of Biological Sciences,  
 University of Zimbabwe  
 Karl Baadsvik, NINA  
 Eivin Røskraft, SMU

- Røskraft gave a brief overview of the activities of SMU, with particular emphasis on projects in Africa.
- Dr. du Toit gave a short presentation of his own research on elephants, and informed that he has a PhD-student on elephant ecology, funded by NORAD.
- Du Toit also presented what he considered to be the most important problems with respect to elephant ecology and management in Zimbabwe.
- Despite the fact that many scientists have been working with elephant problems for many years, very few results have so far been published in international scientific journals
- Rowan Martin, Dept. of National parks, is working on elephants. At present he is developing a new high-tech satellite telemetry system in collaboration with SONY Cooperation
- One major problem in elephant research is the lack of long term studies, taken into account the elephant life history. Long term perspective is necessary
- Rowan Martin has launched the idea of establishing a Hwange Elephant Research Group, with the aim to coordinate research in the Chobe/Hwange regions of Botswana resp. Zimbabwe
- du Toit expressed it would be an excellent idea to arrange a workshop involving all scientists who work in this region, and that the NINA/SMU-Botswana project should be a part of the discussion in this workshop
- It was concluded that NINA/SMU should take the initiative to contact Wildlife Dep., Botswana and Dep. of National Parks, Zimbabwe and also try to raise funding for such a workshop. The workshop should be arranged as soon as possible and within 6 months
- du Toit gave a brief description of Course in Tropical Resource Ecology, a joint, interdisciplinary course between the Dept. of Biol. Sciences and CASS. The aim is to train ecologists in resource management and social science problems. Foreign students may attend the course
- PhD-students have no theoretical part of their study in Zimbabwe. As part of a collaboration, they might attend shorter courses in Trondheim.

## 11 Concluding remarks

- The NINA-SMU system is able to provide relevant expertise for cooperation with institutions in the SADCC Region, particularly in Botswana and Zimbabwe. This is based on talks with the different institutions visited where i.a. the problems of nature management in the Region, particularly with respect to wildlife, were discussed.
  - An elephant project in collaboration between NINA/UNIT-SMU and The Wildlife Dept./University of Botswana seems relevant. The project should be on equal terms and involve an education programme. The study area should primarily be in Northern Botswana, including also adjacent parts of Zimbabwe (Hwange). Scientists from Zimbabwe should be linked to the project. A workshop to coordinate research in the Chobe/Hwange regions should be arranged within 6 months. NINA/SMU will take an initiative to raise funding for such a workshop.
  - NINA/SMU will invite a Botswanian group to Trondheim to discuss a revised draft proposal in early 1993. The project start should be in 1993, and it should last for at least five years. NORAD is one potential source for funding.
  - Collaboration with Botswana is best formalized in the form of a bilateral agreement between NINA and Dept. of Wildlife and National Parks, the agreement covering the whole field of sustainable wildlife management.
  - There seems to be a good potential for NORAD, Botswana to draw on NINA-SMU expertise with respect to competence and knowledge transfer and building in Botswana, in the field of nature management.
  - IUCN-ROSA and NINA are positive with respect to future cooperation, and two steps are essential in this context: to send information to IUCN on the individual experts in NINA, and to establish as soon as possible a bilateral agreement between the parts.
- IUCN will set up proposal for the main points in such an agreement.

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