Local communities’ perception of protected area management: the case of Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria

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USAID Project Tanzania: “Malaria no More!”
The challenge for conservation

HOW to ensure that ideologies of conservation success are shared among key stakeholders
The human conditions around parks have changed since they were gazetted.
CONSERVATION CHALLENGES

Management of the reserve has been neglected and under-funded since 2006 when Bauchi State Government took over responsibility for the management of Yankari Game Reserve. As a result, levels of poaching have increased, with emboldened poachers operating even near the tourist camp situated in the centre of the reserve. Unconfirmed reports suggest that large numbers of elephants have been killed in recent years to supply Nigeria’s illegal trade in ivory. In addition, conflict between elephants and local communities living near the boundaries of the reserve as a result of crop damage has reduced levels of community support for the game reserve and encourages local communities to support elephant poachers from outside the region. Poaching of other large mammals to supply the lucrative bushmeat trade also threatens to undermine the potential of Yankari by further reducing opportunities for game-viewing by tourists.
Unshared understanding of the key issues contributing to the status quo

- Poor Infrastructure
- Unemployment
- Crop Raiding
- Poor GR Management
- Low Community Involvement
- Poaching & Grazing

Legend: Community, Govt Staff & Board, GR Staff
GyaraYankari Project
We need to **AMPLIFY** who provides information, who develops strategies, who makes and implements decisions.
WE NEED: Co-production of knowledge
WE NEED: Common understanding of the problems and shared visions
WE NEED: Dialogue and participatory planning
WE NEED: Collaboration between public, private and science sectors
Gradients of participation:
Not all participation is equal!

Low (token) participation

High-level participation
Participation + POWER

• More trust
• Decreased hostility
• Improved adherence to rules & regulations
• Increased community pride
• Increased investment in natural resources
• Improved long-term CONSERVATION
Thank you!

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