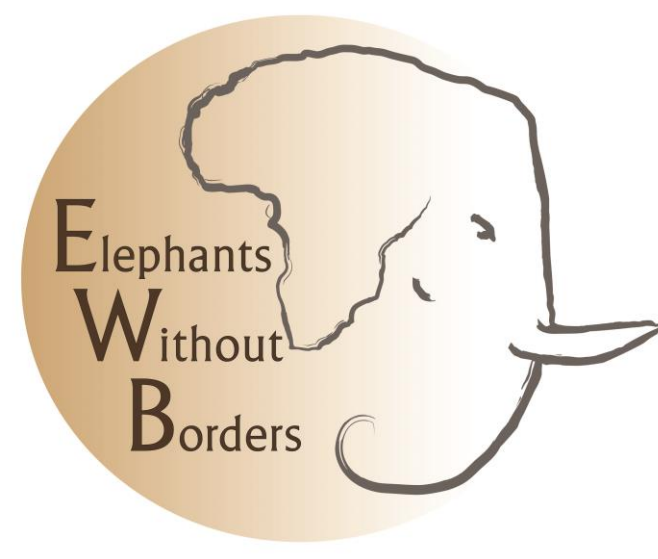




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Introduction

Are research results finding their way into the policy and practice of wildlife management in northern Botswana?

Communicating the results of wildlife research carried out in northern Botswana could contribute to adaptive management of an important natural resource that appears to be under threat. This study examined how stakeholders communicate to support management of northern Botswana's wild animals.

Aim

To determine whether stakeholders in management of northern Botswana's wildlife are communicating research findings to support adaptive management.

Priority Study Area	Number of Projects
1 Monitoring of population distribution and habitat	11
2 Studies of the impact of offtake, including illegal hunting	3
3 Studies of problem animals and human-wildlife conflict	3
4 Ecology of species and communities	16
5 Studies of wildlife use	3
6 Studies of the impact of artificial water supply	0
7 Studies of specific, named ecosystems	2
8 Studies of amphibians and reptiles	1

WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER RESEARCH PERMIT 2000-2005, ALIGNED TO DWNP PRIORITIES

Methods

The following questions framed the investigation:

- Do research outputs show that researchers are planning their investigations in consultation with the potential users of the findings, or at least based on the stated objectives of managers?
- Are these products making their way into accessible repositories, rather than sitting on office shelves or as attachments to email messages?
- Are articles being cited by other academics to enhance the knowledge base available to decision-makers?
- Are researchers sharing their learning process, not just their final reports?
- Are they creating additional outputs for potential users that present their findings through plain language, graphics and engaging formats, and that provoke discussion and problem solving?

I used the following data to explore these questions:

- the topic focus of 61 wildlife **research permits** issued by the Botswana DWNP between 2000 and 2005
- the content of two **key management documents** that outlined the research priorities of the DWNP
- a bibliometric analysis of **scholarly outputs** by holders of the research permits issued between 2000 and 2005
- **citations of these outputs** within the scholarly literature
- a series of semi-structured **interviews**.

Findings

50 % of project titles reflected one or more of the priority areas identified by DWNP

28 % of project outputs were captured in the University of Botswana library catalogue

53 % of project outputs were found in the peer-reviewed literature

TWO COMMUNITIES, OR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

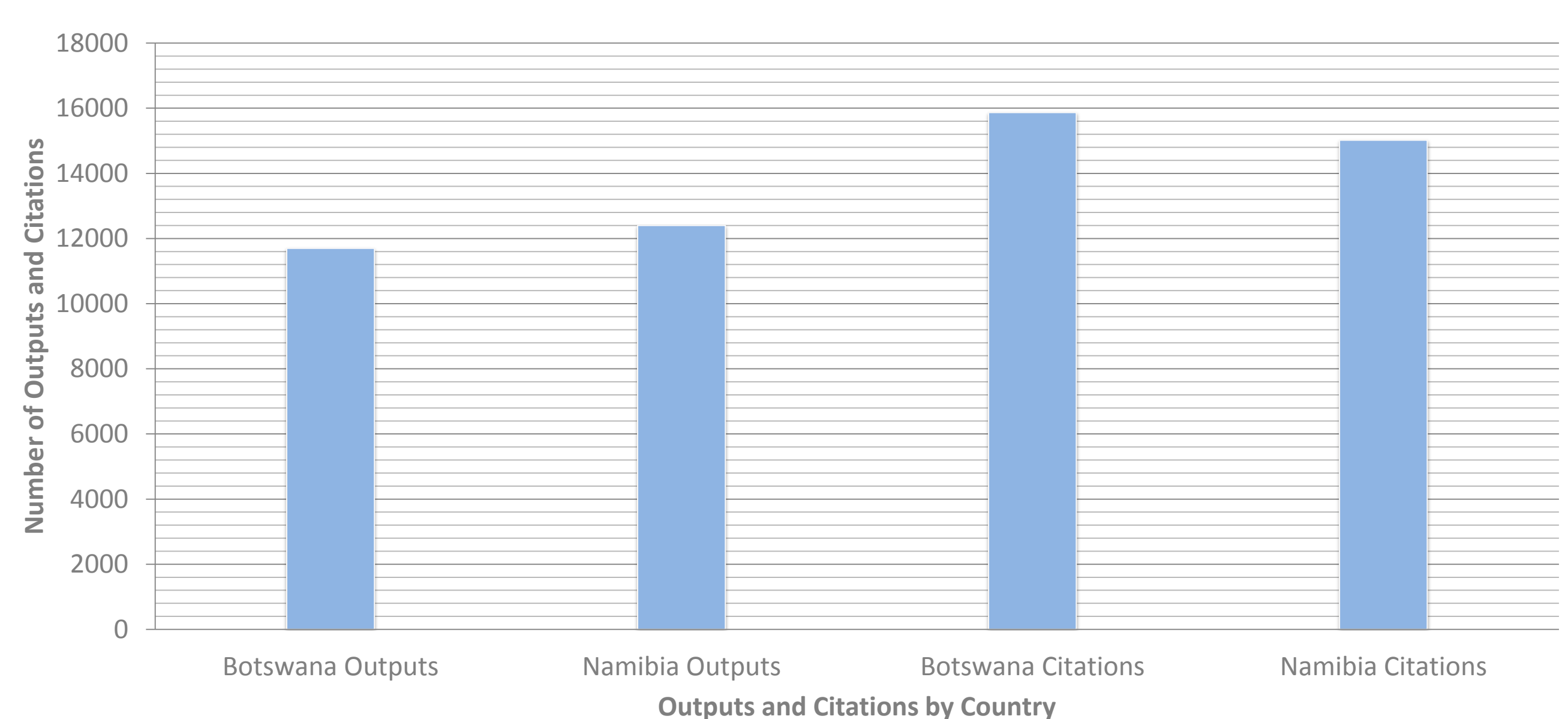


Communicating Wildlife Research in Northern Botswana

Monica Morrison

Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST)

Botswana Symposium on Wetlands and Wildlife, March 17-19, 2015



COMPARISON OF BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA: PEER REVIEWED ARTICLE OUTPUTS 2000-2010

More Findings

- Quarterly **reports to DWNP** provide an opportunity for early learning, but the findings of these and consultants' reports are not widely shared
- **Social scientists** are best at sharing early learning with community stakeholders.
- **Workshops and projects** are important channels for sharing among stakeholders.
- While adoption of new communication tools has been slow in northern Botswana, researchers are being creative in finding ways **to share their findings with non-scientist stakeholders**.

Conclusions

Their selected research outputs, research permits, management documents, and interviews indicate that these stakeholders make up an identifiable community of practice, characterized by mutual engagement, joint enterprise, and shared repertoire. Communication, within this community of practice, and to outside actors, however, should be strengthened, to both inform debate and to allow findings to be put to more use in continuously improving management of wildlife resources.