

In Situ Conservation and Use of Crop Wild Relatives in three ACP countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region

What are Crop Wild Relatives (CWR)?

Wild plant species closely related to crops that are a potential source of genes and adaptive traits useful to make crop more nutritious, resistant to pests and diseases, and adapted to harsh climatic conditions.

Project objectives

- Enhance the **scientific capacities** in SADC to conserve crop wild relatives and identify useful potential traits to adapt to climate change.
- Develop National Strategic Action Plans (**NSAP**) for the conservation and use of crop wild relatives in partner countries

Beneficiaries reached as of June 2016

Beneficiaries	Female	Male
Scientists	63	120
Breeders	4	12
Polymakers	41	93
Communication specialists	2	3
Farmers	202	309

Capacity building

- 41 scientists from 14 SADC countries with a good gender balance trained on the *in situ* conservation techniques and/or use of CWR in pre-breeding programs.



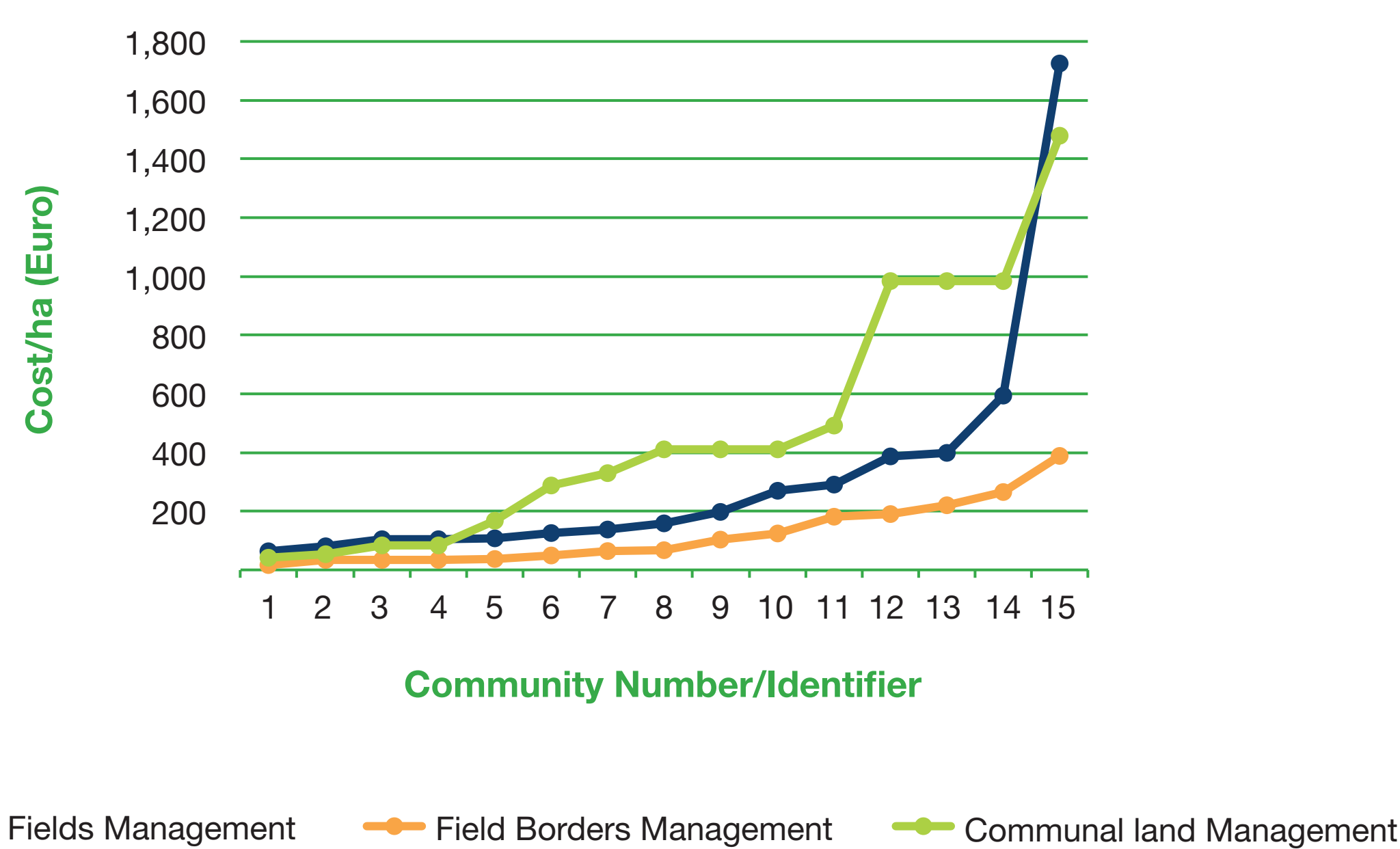
- An online interactive toolkit being developed for use in other countries to help them conserve CWR as well as producing NSAPs.



Applications of incentive mechanisms for on farm and in situ conservation of Crop Wild Relatives

- Surveys of CWR on farm and on communal lands carried out in 26 local communities (15 distant from and 11 closer to game management areas) in Eastern and Muchinga provinces (Zambia).

Crop Wild Relative Management - Cost/ha by Land Type



- Community group conservation service offers potentially involving 3,208 farmers indicate willingness to participate in CWR management activities, Costs/hectare vary from 33 to 1,724 €/ha, with crop wild relatives -friendly management of crop borders being associated with the lowest opportunity costs for farmers.

Contribution to the overall programme objectives

- Project has helped to build and strengthen capacities on *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives in SADC region
- Technology transfer on the use of geographic information system tools for diversity assessment between Bioversity International/University of Birmingham and three ACP countries has helped to reduce the science and technology divide between them.

Impact

- Increased scientific capacity in SADC region (through workshops, toolkit and technical backstopping)
- Increased knowledge of diversity of crop wild relatives in each country through checklist development and conservation planning
- Identification of key crop wild relatives sites for priority crops within the country for setting up as new protected areas
- Increased awareness on importance of crop wild relatives among stakeholders and governments

Crop Wild Relatives diversity assessment and National Strategic Action Plans development

Country/Region	CWR species in checklist	Priority CWR species	Type of crops considered
Mauritius/Rodrigues	528/142	13/10	all crops
South Africa	1609	292	food and fodder crops
Zambia	572	34	59 crops prioritized by national stakeholders
SADC	>1900	115	food and beverage crops

	Mauritius/Rodrigues	South Africa	Zambia	SADC
Priority CWR-related crops	Mauritius: Coffee, fig, fonio, olive Rodrigues: Aloe, fig, millets, asparagus, olive, sweet potato	Cucumber, melon, eggplant, rooibos tea, millets, sweet potato, yam	Cowpea, cucumber, melon, eggplant, millets, rice, sorghum, sweet potato, yam	Coffee, cowpea, eggplant, rice, sorghum

Awareness on importance and conservation of Crop Wild Relatives

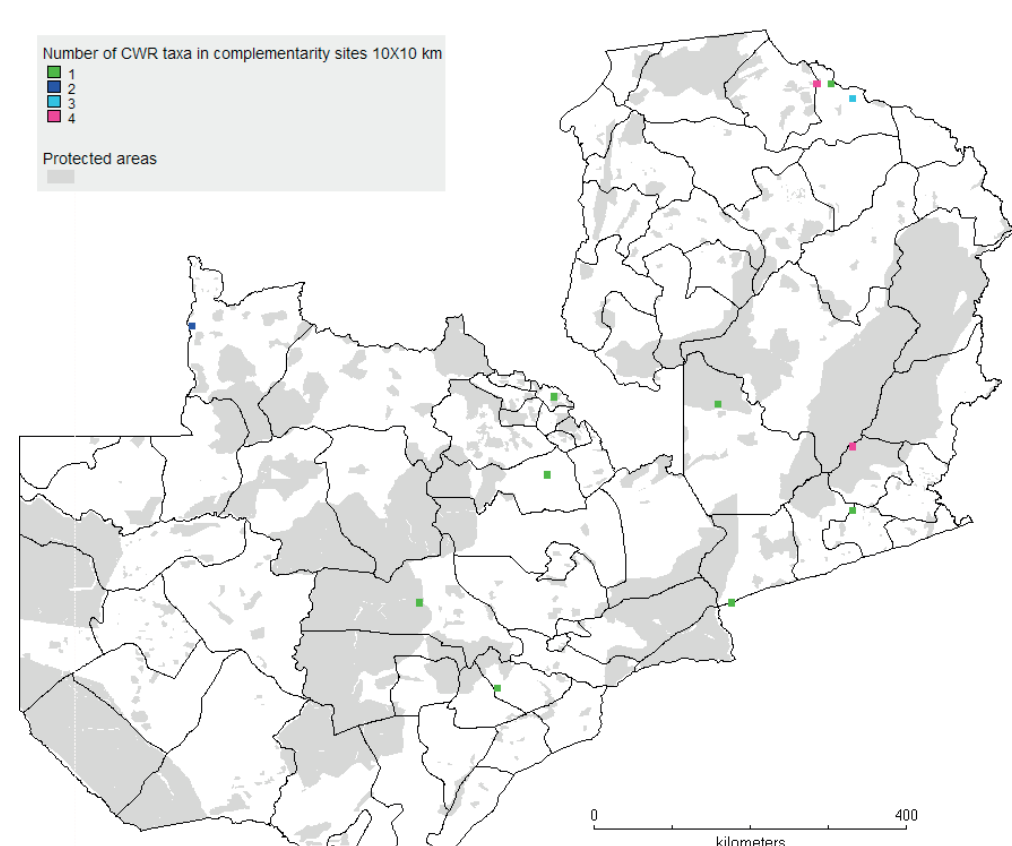
- Five side events/presentations at international conferences and meetings.
- Strong national stakeholder involvement in National Strategic Action Plans development in all three countries



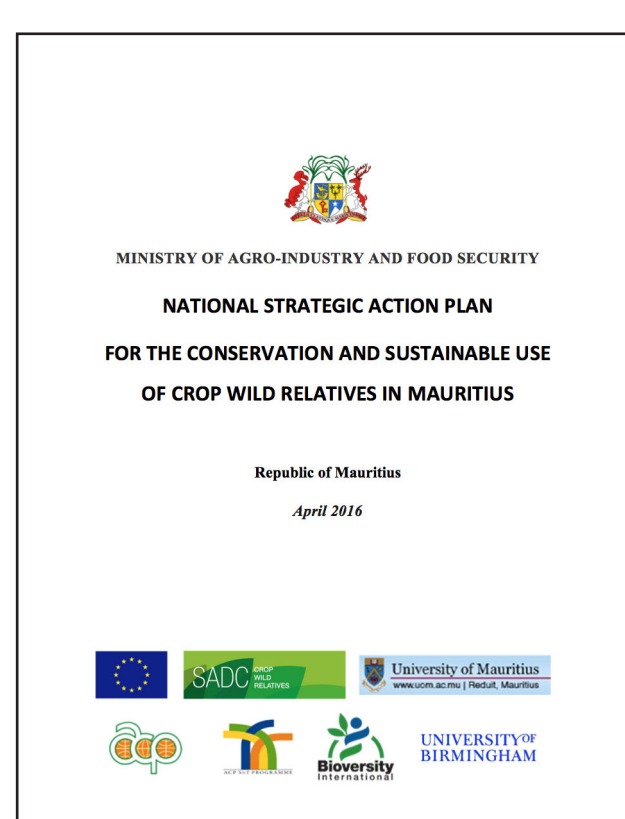
Conclusions

The project has created great awareness on the importance of crop wild relatives not only within the three countries, but globally through the participation in side events at major international meetings. Each country is actively preparing their National Strategy and Action Plan and plans are underway to get them endorsed by their respective governments. The project is a model for the creation of a network of crop wild relatives sites within the SADC region.

- Identification of key CWR sites for priority crops within the country for setting up as new protected areas.



- Draft National Strategic Action Plans being submitted to Ministry of Agroindustry in Mauritius.



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