

Survey design

Q: Is it acceptable to change the survey strata – e.g., the Botswana strata are based on management units (CHAs) while precision can be improved by stratifying according to elephant density distribution?

A: Yes it is acceptable. The draft design presented in the RFP has considered previous surveys and densities but there is room for refinement and improvement where raw data is available, and we expect to work together with successful bidders on the final design.

Q: The sampling intensities are given in the ToR. Is it the job of the coordinator or the survey conductor (!) to generate transects?

A: We will work closely with the successful contractors, and because we expect multiple companies to be involved across the region with varying capacities, we will ultimately be responsible for the final design and generating the transects.

Q: What would be the proposed count area of the Sebungwe area – is it a full area count or sample count as per the proposed SI % ?

A: All the surveys in this KAZA-wide elephant count will be sample count surveys, with the possible exception of fixed wing total counts in the Mosi-oa-Tunya and Rakops strata . For the majority of the Sebungwe area transect surveys are required, but the mountainous strata will be surveyed using block counts. Please refer to **Section 3.1: Selection of Aerial Survey Method** of the CITES MIKE Aerial Survey Standards v.3 and to previous survey reports for this region.

Crews

Q: Who approves the crews and how?

A: The coordination team will approve the crews as objectively as possible. The crews will be selected based on experience and then objectively vetted prior to the survey using tests designed to evaluate proficiency.

Q: If the difference in sightings between the left and right observer is larger than is acceptable, which observer is to be rejected – the one that sees more (which might be a result of counting outside the strip), or the one that sees less?

A: The project must ensure control over the quality of observers and that those who are not performing to standard can be replaced. However, this is a very low likelihood risk since the crews will be selected and vetted prior to the survey, during the workshop where objective tests will be conducted. To answer the question more directly; the test will identify a problem and the project will then work collaboratively with the contractor to resolve it in a reasonable way. We will work with the partner states to have a pool of standby observers available.

Q: If the survey contractor is unable to replace an incompetent observer, will the survey stop and thereby leave a gap in the survey coverage?

A: This is a low likelihood scenario as we aim to identify and mitigate potential shortcomings before the survey starts. However, a pool of replacement observers will be available on standby for any eventuality to ensure there are no stoppages, only minor delays. If the right crew is selected from the start it should not be necessary to make any changes to crew mid-survey. We will try to minimise the risk of observer issues prior to the survey through selection of experienced crews and then an objective vetting process. If indeed a major issue arises during the survey, we will work together with the contractor to find a reasonable solution that meets the demands and objectives of the KAZA-wide survey initiative.

Q: Has consideration been given to the likelihood that if an observer has to be replaced, there will be a loss of about 4 days while the new observer is transported and calibrated?

A: Yes and this is why a significant amount of training and test flying has been planned prior to the start of the surveys to ensure the best possible teams are selected.

Q: Will KAZA carry the costs of accommodation cancellations, transport of crews and extra time spent by the rest of the crew? Should we put in a contingency?

A: In the case of replacing crews during the survey, yes, the KAZA secretariat will cover these costs.

Q: Should we include additional funds in the budget to pay stand-by crews?

A: By all means propose stand-by crews and the associated costs as an extra line item. However, it is planned to have standby crews members available from partner state wildlife agencies as well.

Training

Q: Who will be trained? i.e. will training include the entire crew, biologist, FSOs, RSOs, pilots, ground crews, spare RSOs etc?

A: Yes the workshop will provide training for all members on the standard methods and protocols to be employed during the survey. Furthermore specific training and evaluations for pilots and observers will be conducted.

Q: What will training include?

A: The training syllabus is yet to be determined, but will be focused on the standard methods and protocols for observations, data recording, data handling, flight safety and emergency response procedures that will be employed during the survey.

Q: How will participants be evaluated at the workshop?

The details are yet to be determined, but will involve some objective testing (e.g. eye tests, species identification etc.) and some practical flying work.

Q: As the training appears to be via a workshop, does this mean it's all theory and no practical training (flying)?

A: The pre-survey workshop will include theoretical and practical training including flying work.

Q: If there aren't enough experienced observers available for the survey, will it be possible to train and employ new ones?

A: Yes it will be possible, and we plan to develop capacity within partner states' wildlife agencies, but ultimately we have to ensure we are using the best possible and standardised crew and equipment.

Data capture

Q: What software is to be used for data capture? Is there, say, a standard Excel spreadsheet or dbase? If so, would it be possible to have a copy in advance?

A: This is to be determined, but will most likely involve the use of standard paper data sheets and Excel spreadsheets for data capture.

Analysis

Q: Is the data analysis to be done by the survey team?

A: No, data analysis will be carried out independently.

Data sharing

Q: Will participating countries be provided with copies of the data sheets/raw data (sightings, tracks etc)?

A: Yes partner states will have copies and ultimately own the data, while KAZA is the custodian to consolidate, organise, store, and analyse the data.

Experimental survey

Q: Will this comprise oblique camera systems? Would it be possible to have more details about the proposed experiment?

A: It will use oblique camera systems as referenced in the RFP. This will be largely independent of the actual survey work and the data will not be used to generate population estimates. However it will require collaboration from contractors to facilitate this experimental work, and this might require operation of the camera system and handling data.

Budget

Q: Could you inform me exactly which costs should be included in the "detailed cost proposal"?

A: The detailed costs proposal must include, at a minimum the following:

- Aircraft hire (dry rate), with estimated hours required.

- **Daily rate** for personnel, preferably broken down as line items (*The RFP erroneously requires an hourly rate for personnel*)
- Travel costs
- Any other associated costs, such as vehicles and ground staff

The following items will be paid for directly by the project but the bidder must present a plan for implementation:

- **AVGAS:** estimated litres required and where.
- **ACCOMMODATION:** estimated nights, for x crew and where.
- **EQUIPMENT:** The bidder should list all equipment currently at their disposal. The project will provide certain essential equipment to ensure standardisation.

Logistics

Q: Are there proposed survey bases set up in the area, with accommodation provided or is the contractor responsible for organising the base setup?

A: The contractor should propose which survey bases it will use to carry out the survey of the selected strata. However the coordination team will work with the successful bidders on a final logistics plan to ensure that the central objective of carrying out the survey in a synchronised and coordinated fashion is met.

Q: Would it be acceptable to do the Sebungwe Survey between mid-July to Mid-August

A: From mid-August the conditions in the mountainous parts of Sebungwe are unfavourable for surveys with high heat, strong winds, thermals and low visibility. The block surveys in these strata must be conducted prior to the onset of these conditions at the end of the dry season. The rest of the strata will be conducted using transect surveys later in the dry season when there is greater leaf fall and better visibility through the canopy (typically in late August or September).

Other

Q: Could we have a copy of the surveys that have been done in Angola?

A: Yes, please email specific requests for survey reports to aerialsurvey@kavangozambezi.org

Q: May we have permission to ask the country contacts whether they have crews that they would like to be included in the surveys?

A: Yes, please do. The project encourages inclusion of national wildlife agency staff.

Q: Where would one find the CITIES MIKE AERIAL SURVEY STANDARD VERSION 3?

A: [Here https://citesmike.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MIKE_aerial_survey_standards_Final.pdf](https://citesmike.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MIKE_aerial_survey_standards_Final.pdf)