



FARM for WILD

Vision

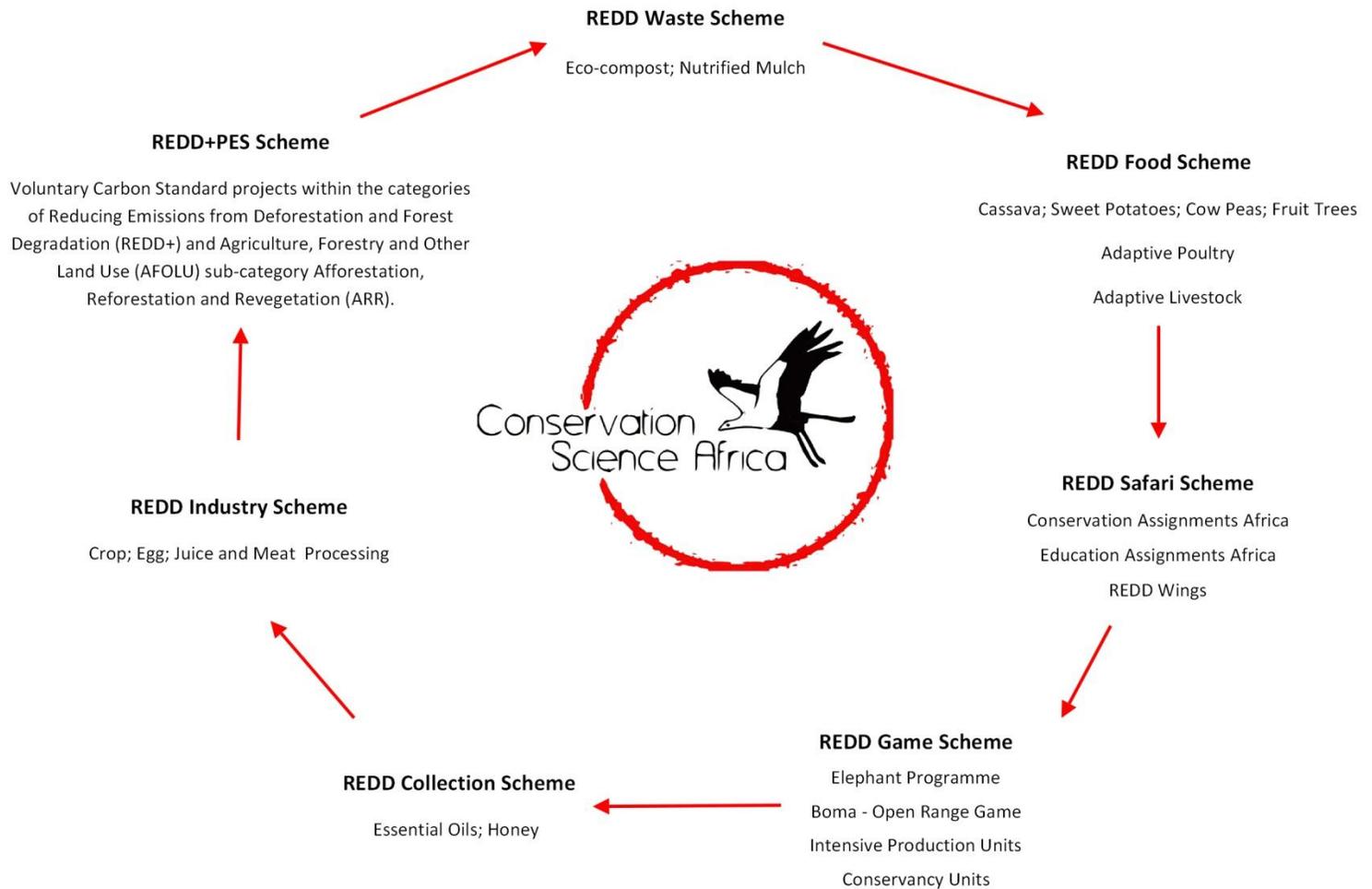
“Farm for Wild” is Conservation Science Africa’s community enabling process with a vision and strategies to address rural poverty in and around Botswana’s wildlife zones.

The vision is that the long-term future of Botswana’s unique wildlife environment lies in developing a conservation and ecological farming based economy that addresses the challenges of population pressure, land and habitat degradation, and rural poverty. This takes into account that Botswana has an important rural community with people requiring resilient livelihoods, and who cannot all be trained and absorbed by the existing tourism industry.

Strategy

CSA have been actively engaged in developing an Eco-Initiative concept into working schemes based on an Eco-Initiative Business Cycle. This is designed to function in association with the agricultural, wildlife and tourism industries, creating additionality for Botswana’s economy.

Eco-Initiative Business Cycle



Actions

- The development of community based natural resource management initiatives with the active participation of the public and private sector.
- The capacity building of District and Village institutions in charge of the management, control and technical support for the ecological farming sector.
- Support to develop and implement National ecological farming policies and strategies, including participation in applied research

Approach

- **Close cooperation with the Government:** The approach will be clearly linked and supportive of the government strategy involving economic development related to wildlife, tourism, agriculture and the environment. The relevant technical government institutions will be involved at all levels of design, planning and implementation.
- **Strong capacity building component:** Actions and activities will improve the skills and capacity of all actors, and will provide training or access to training, organize exchange visits and info-sharing workshops, and include elements of applied research that can develop and improve the sector.
- **Sustainable natural resource management initiatives:** The initiatives will be structured to develop a regular and sustainable source of income to the farmers, through ensuring the promotion of a viable market oriented approach, production and pro-poor value chain, ensuring robust commercial partnerships, and ownership of initiatives by all actors to ensure business sustainability.
- **Vertical and coherent approach:** Simultaneous implementation at national, district and local level. The link between the different levels is essential. A policy supported at national level will be encouraged, to be integrated in the curriculum for the training of extension officers at District Level and applied to community based initiatives.
- **Extensive visibility and info-dissemination:** There will be a strong component on visibility, info-dissemination and education, including the development of relevant education/extension materials and lessons learnt processes, press articles, radio or TV messages, cultural events, information sharing sessions' meetings or workshops at ecological farming sites.
- **Shock/disaster resilient:** Based on a strong risk analysis, possible risk mitigation measures for ecological farming will be promoted to reinforce resilience of the farmers on shock and disaster and therefore ensure sustainability.
- **Reporting and communicating:** Strong stakeholder analysis and baseline surveys will be promoted with robust methods of monitoring and data collection in place to ensure that there is ample evidence of ecological farming activities ameliorating levels of food insecurity amongst the target population.