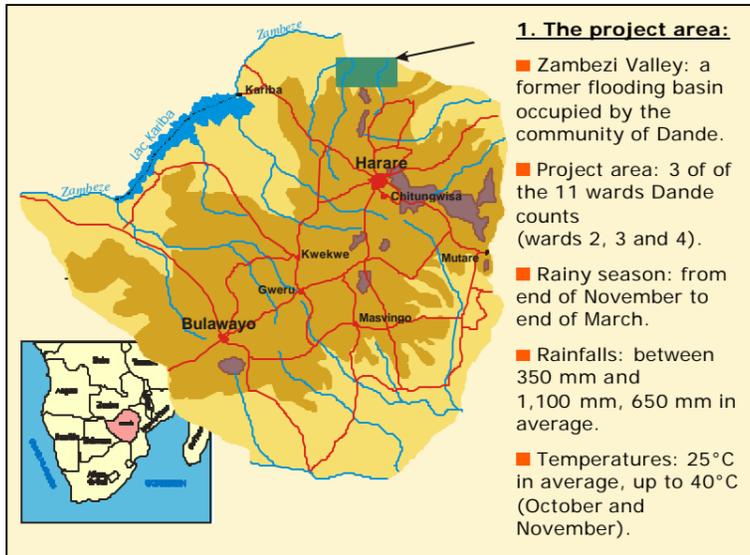


INTEGRATING AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN MID ZAMBEZI VALLEY

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Unsustainable practices and limitations in farm labour

- **Disruption in the eighties due to tse tse flies' eradication in a large area of the valley and wide promotion of cotton farming.**
- **Dande became a pioneering front. Agriculture quickly deprives of its habitat a very rich wildlife.**
- **Fertilization practices remain almost absent. Semi-roving agriculture is still the rule.**
- **Farmers practice a very labourious manual agriculture (weeding operations).**
- **Man power in Dande is weaken by insufficient nourishment, malaria, but also HIV virus.**

The answer of Conservation Agriculture

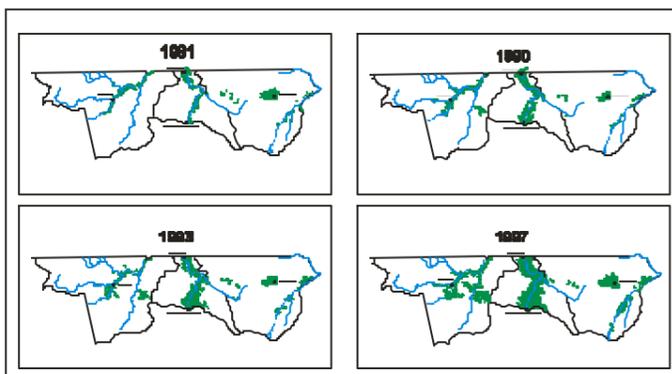


tsetse fly

- In Dande, the use of plants covers is not threaten by the low populations of ruminants.
- In the West part of the project (ward 2), direct planting after slashing and burning is used.
- This ward has been targetted as a pilot zone.
- The main expectation of farmers is a reduction of laborousness.
- The main expectation of funders is a better sustainability of the plot, reducing natural habitats clearing process that threatens **CAMPFIRE** program...



Degradation of the land...



Evolution of croplands in the project area.

Interventions

- Work shops on Conservation Agriculture.
- Farmers' experiments on small plots.
- An experiment is considered to be a success if the farmer adopts the method on a surface of at least one acre.
- 25 households targetted the first year, 50 the second.
- An expected transboundary project of 5 years focused on Zambezi Valley and involving Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia (funded by GEF).

Results and conclusion

- **General results: reduction of labour very positive.**
- **Gain in weeding operations makes agriculture more adapted to women and children or even farmers weaken by HIV-AIDS.**
- **Good adoption of manual direct planters (11 "planting canes" and 6 "sowing wheels").**

- **Maize: better germination (+10%) and better growth. Per year, a single weeding is required, versus 3 with conventional agriculture.**
- **Cotton: disappointing results . Per year, two weedings are required versus 5 with conventionnal agriculture.**

Conservation Agriculture can not control croplands extension on itself. Policies and land use plans need to be respected.



Field visit.



Plant cover on a farmer's field.



Work shop in ward 2.



Demonstration of the 2 different manuel planters.



Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement



Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Mid-Zambezi Valley

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