

A NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF SANGO RANCH,
SAVE VALLEY CONSERVANCY, ZIMBABWE

by

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ABSTRACT

Research was conducted to describe the natural resources of Sango Ranch, Zimbabwe, in terms of soils, vegetation and animal populations. A phytosociological and structural classification facilitated the identification of plant communities and management units. Veld condition and responses of the common grass species to grazing pressure were determined with a DECORANA ordination. The grasses were allocated to various ecological categories according to their responses along the grazing gradient so obtained. Herbaceous biomass for each management unit was determined with the disc pasture meter. The browsing capacity was determined by calculating the available leaf biomass of the woody vegetation. The grazing capacity was calculated using GRAZE. Ecological capacity was calculated as the sum of the grazing and browsing capacities. Phenological characteristics of 23 plant species were collected for 12 months. It followed a typical pattern. Recommendations are made on the ecological management of Sango Ranch and a monitoring programme is presented.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. STUDY AREA	3
Location	3
Physiography	3
Geology	5
Soils	7
Climate	8
<i>Rainfall</i>	10
<i>Temperature</i>	11
<i>Sunshine and humidity</i>	13
<i>Solar radiation</i>	13
Vegetation	13
Animals	16
3. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY	20
The southeast Lowveld	20
The Save Valley Conservancy	21
Vision, mission and objectives of Sango Ranch	23
4. SOILS	26
Introduction	26
Methods	27
<i>Selection of sample sites</i>	27
<i>Classification of soils</i>	27
<i>Physical and chemical analysis</i>	27
Results and discussion	28
Conclusion	36
5. VEGETATION	38
Introduction	38
<i>Phytosociology</i>	38
<i>Woody vegetation structure</i>	39
Methods	40
<i>Phytosociological assessment</i>	40
<i>Structural assessment of the woody vegetation</i>	44
Results and discussion	45
<i>Phytosociological classification</i>	45
<i>Description of the plant communities</i>	48
1. The <i>Acacia tortilis</i> subsp. <i>heteracantha</i> - <i>Urochloa</i> <i>mosambicensis</i> Tall Closed Woodland	48
1.1 The <i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> subsp. <i>leptostachya</i> - <i>Urochloa</i> <i>mosambicensis</i> Short Closed Woodland	50
1.2 The <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> subsp. <i>africana</i> - <i>Urochloa mosambicensis</i> Short Closed Woodland	55
1.3 The <i>Capparis tomentosa</i> - <i>Urochloa mosambicensis</i> Tall Closed Woodland	60

1.4	The <i>Sporobolus nitens</i> – <i>Urochloa mosambicensis</i> Short Closed Woodland	68
2.	The <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> – <i>Brachiaria deflexa</i> Short Thicket // Short Closed Woodland	73
2.1	The <i>Commiphora edulis</i> – <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> Short Thicket	78
2.2	The <i>Indigofera praticola</i> – <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> Short Closed Woodland	83
2.3	The <i>Thilachium africanum</i> – <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> Short Thicket	88
2.4	The <i>Ruellia patula</i> – <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> Tall Closed Woodland	88
3.	The <i>Combretum apiculatum</i> subsp. <i>apiculatum</i> – <i>Colophospermum mopane</i> Short Closed Woodland	94
4.	The <i>Combretum apiculatum</i> subsp. <i>apiculatum</i> – <i>Digitaria milanjana</i> Tall Closed Woodland	99
4.1	The <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> – <i>Combretum apiculatum</i> subsp. <i>apiculatum</i> Short Closed Woodland	104
4.2	The <i>Commiphora africana</i> – <i>Digitaria milanjana</i> Tall Closed Woodland	110
4.3	The <i>Kirkia acuminata</i> – <i>Panicum maximum</i> Tall Closed Woodland	119
5.	The <i>Milletia usumarensis</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> – <i>Brachiaria deflexa</i> Short Koppie Thicket	125
6.	The <i>Acacia tortilis</i> subsp. <i>heteracantha</i> – <i>Panicum maximum</i> Tall Closed Woodland	131
7.	The <i>Dalbergia arbutifolia</i> – <i>Diospyros mespiliformes</i> High Riverine Forest	131
7.1	The <i>Strychnos potatorum</i> – <i>Panicum maximum</i> High Closed Woodland // Short Thicket	137
7.2	The <i>Albizia glaberrima</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i> – <i>Panicum maximum</i> High Forest	143
7.3	The <i>Faidherbia albida</i> – <i>Eriochloa meyeriana</i> Tall Closed Woodland Sub-community	152
8.	The <i>Phragmites mauritanus</i> Tall Closed Reedbeds	157
9.	The <i>Echinochloa colona</i> – <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> subsp. <i>auricomus</i> Tall Open Wetland	157
9.1	The <i>Paspalidium obtusifolium</i> – <i>Echinochloa colona</i> Tall Closed Wetland	163
9.2	The <i>Acacia xanthophloea</i> – <i>Echinochloa colona</i> Tall Closed Woodland	163
	Ordination	169
	Identification of management units	174
	Description of the management units of Sango Ranch	174

Conclusion	176
6. HERBACEOUS SPECIES COMPOSITION AND VELD CONDITION ASSESSMENT	179
Introduction	179
Methods	180
<i>Species composition of the herbaceous layer</i>	180
<i>Veld condition</i>	181
Results and discussion	183
<i>Grass species composition</i>	183
<i>Degradation gradient</i>	186
<i>Ecological status categories</i>	190
<i>Veld condition</i>	190
7. HERBACEOUS BIOMASS ASSESSMENT	193
Introduction	193
Methods	194
<i>Selection of sample sites</i>	194
<i>Measurement of settling height</i>	195
<i>Calculation of herbage yield</i>	195
Results and discussion	195
Conclusion	197
8. AVAILABLE BROWSE	198
Introduction	198
Methods	199
Results and discussion	200
Conclusion	209
9. ECOLOGICAL CAPACITY	210
Introduction	210
Methods	212
<i>Grazing capacity</i>	212
<i>Browsing capacity</i>	212
Results and discussion	212
<i>Grazing capacity</i>	212
<i>Browsing capacity</i>	214
10. PHENOLOGY	217
Introduction	217
Methods	218
Results and discussion	219
Conclusion	222
11. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	223
Introduction	223
Adaptive management	224
Veld management	224
<i>Fire management</i>	225
<i>Grazing and browsing management</i>	229
<i>Stocking rate</i>	230

<i>Placing and control of waterpoints</i>	235
The harvesting of selected plant species	238
Monitoring program	241
<i>Biotic factors</i>	242
<i>Abiotic factors</i>	244
<i>General factors</i>	245
SUMMARY	246
OPSOMMING	249
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	252
APPENDIX A - PLANT SPECIES LIST	253
APPENDIX B - LIST OF MAMMAL SPECIES	268
REFERENCES	269