

News from the 'Four Corners'

IN the area where Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe meet, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is implementing with its partners, the Four Corners Transboundary Natural Resources Management Area Initiative with support from the United States Agency for International Development.

The Chobe-Hwange-Mosi-au-Tunya-Caprivi-Kafue area is an estimated to be 220 000 square kilometres in size.

The 'Four Corners' initiative aims to provide the enabling environment for increased co-operation among the four constituent country interests in the management of the natural resources that are shared among them, particularly water, migratory wildlife and critical ecosystems.

Lions to be collared for study The Large Carnivore research is to take off by deploying two Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) collars on lions along the Chobe Riverfront.

Unlike other ordinary collars, these collars are based on the GPS system.

The collars will allow researchers to examine the extent of movement of lions in the Chobe-Caprivi transboundary area - Botswana and Namibia respectively.

Depending on the performance of these two collars, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) intends to collar an additional lion and hopefully some on spotted hyena and wild dogs.

The data from this research will be very useful in crafting management responses to large carnivores in the Four Corners area.

Jumbo research task underway IT is estimated that the Four Corners area has approximately 14 per cent of Africa's elephant population.

AWF recently awarded a sub-grant to Conservation International, a US International NGO with offices in Botswana, to conduct research to provide resource management authorities with information on the population status, ecology and transboundary movement of elephants.