



Reinforcement of Agricultural and Environmental
Research in TFCAs - Zimbabwe

**EU-DREAM PROJECT INCEPTION
WORKSHOPS AND SET UP OF ICPs
HURUNGWE & MBIRE, CHIREDDZI AND
HWANGE**

August 2014

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ACRONMYS

BHT	BIO-HUB Trust
BUSE	Bindura University of Science and Education
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research for Development Institute
CNRS	National Scientific Research Centre
DA	District Administrator
DRSS	Department of Research and Special Services
EU	European Union
DLVS	Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services
ICP	Innovation and Communication Platform
LPD	Livestock Production Department
NUST	National University of Science and Technology
PWMA	Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
RDC	Rural District Council
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
UZ	University of Zimbabwe
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation

Introduction

Dream Project was successfully launched on the 9th of June 2014 by Minister Kasukuwere with other 4 projects funded by European Union (EU). Following this successful launch, it was necessary for the project to be launch in the sites were it was to be implemented. Threes inception workshops were organised in Chiredzi, Hwange combined with Binga and Hurungwe combined with Mbire as they share the same TFCA. These inception workshops were also combined with the setting up of the Innovation and Communication Platform (ICP).

Objective

The main objectives of the trips in the 3 project sites were to:-

1. Officially launch the Dream Project at site level
2. Presentation of the project (objectives, expected results, final beneficiaries, partners)
3. Set Up the Innovation Platform, identification of stakholders and collect research needs from the participants
4. Report back on the Diagnostic conducted by IRT

Output from the 3 Project Sites

The workshop finally kicked off after several postponements due to the Rural District Councils (RDC) that were involved with the Government training on ZIMASSET the whole of July. The first site to be free was Hurungwe and Mbire Districts, (ZIMOZA/Lower Zambezi Mana Pools TFCA) and the meeting was held on the 14th & 15th of August, followed by Chiredzi (Great Limpopo TFCA) on the 18th & 19th August and finally Hwange and Binga Districts (KAZA TFCA) on the 21st & 22nd of August. Participation in all areas was overwhelming and encouraging, see annex 1.

Output 1:- Remarks from Hurungwe and Mbire

Senator Chief Chisungo

The meeting commenced with the Senator Chief Chisungo giving opening remarks. He alluded that the project had come at a vital moment were issues of food security were of paramount importance and meeting of people to share information and experiences was important as well. The Senator Chief added that the project was in line with the government initiative of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) blueprint. He added that this was a difficult era for the country at large and projects like these were vital and essential for development of their area and that of the nation. There was need for research and improvements on the agricultural practises in Zimbabwe so as to improve food

security. Senator Chief Chitsungo went on to talk about climate change which was being experienced in the country through erratic rains and change in rainfall patterns and would like to see some of the challenges they are experiencing being addressed through the Dream Project. The Senator Chief said he was also pleased with the fact that they were having their meetings combined with Hurungwe as they have the same weather patterns and welcomed the platform as it would promote information sharing.

Senator Chief Chitsungo went on to give Israel as example of a country that came up with good innovations through research that made them a leader in agriculture, irrigation and citrus production. Through their best practises and innovations such as the drip-irrigation they are producing more yield than Zimbabwe although it was a country mainly dominated by desert. Participants were urged to emulate the innovations of Israel and come up with innovations that can up lift the country from where it is at the moment and also export these innovations. He concluded by stating that at the end of the project he would expect changes in farming practises and policies.

Assistant District Administrator (DA)

The Assistant DA from Mbire also emphasised on the need of research so that agricultural practises for food security can be improved and he welcomed the intervention of the Dream Project in their District.

Forestry Commission FC Remarks

The Forestry Commission through their representative from Hurungwe stated that they welcomed research as it will help them in improving forest management, exploit growing of fruit trees in order to improve diet of people and also promote the following:-

- Bee keeping for honey production
- Tree planting (mainly indigenous)
- Ecosystem conservation
- Poverty alleviation
- Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and Carbon Density Measurements projects

Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) Remarks

The Parks and Wildlife Authority representative from Mbire also welcomed the project and stated that if there were to be innovations and best farming practises being adopted, it would increase food security and it would reducing poaching in the game reserves and national parks.

Natural Resources Committee

Chairman of Natural Resources Committee from Mbire requested that the project should address issues specific to that area and not generalise because in the same district issues can

differ such as rains, soils, etc. Research should also look at population dynamics of wildlife and the effects and viability of breeding cattle in such environment.

Environmental Management Agency (EMA)

EMA from Hurungwe raised that they would also want the project to address the issue of burning bushes and forests were wildlife was being killed and alternative ways of reducing stream bank cultivation. They would also want to see research on the grass that was being burnt to see how it can be utilised more.

Lead Farmer

Lead farmers, representing Mbire community also added their voice as they would like to see research on how they can harness water that flows past them in the revers.



Dream Tear Drop at Twin River Inn



Senator Chief Chitsungo (Centre) with HRDC (Left) and Mbire (Right) Council Chairpersons



Group Photo at Twin River Inn

Output 2:- Comments and Questions on Dream Project Presentation

The Dream Project was presented (annex 2) to the participants, showing the objectives, key activities and expected results and the following questions were raised:-

1. Will this project address human-wildlife conflict issues and also be able to set up fences that can demarcate the different land uses?
2. The project is focusing on research and after the results are out, is there any funding that is set aside to address the problems and actually get to help the communities?
3. Are you able to extend the project to other thematic areas as some people might not be interested in farming but would like to venture into mining for example?
4. The research area is it the whole of Hurungwe or just Region 4 and 5. This is a concern as most of the animals are region 2B and 3?
5. Are we going to access the results or they are going to be available only to the donor and the researchers since projects are “said” to be confidential?
6. There are problems with borehole drilling as many efforts are not successful. There is need for research by hydrologists to identify the suitable site for borehole drilling. Will this project address that?

ISSUES RAISED

Concern was raised over the use of the project results as past experience in Hurungwe did not go down very well with the people. Results from a research conducted on the rate of deforestation in Hurungwe District did not help the district but were used to source funding for another district, Zvimba District.

They also pleaded that research opportunities be given priority to the residents of Hurungwe first. A suggestion was made that an Memorandum Of Understanding should be generated and signed between the Dream Project and the Rural District Councils as a way of ensuring that the districts benefit from all research conducted.

Output 3:- Remarks from Chiredzi

Chief Executive Officer Remarks

Welcome Remarks from Chiredzi Chief Executive Officer:- In his welcome remarks the CEO gave an insight of what Dream Project was and its importance to the District. He noted that the project would boost agriculture performance at the same time preserving the environment for current and future generations. He highlighted that some projects done in the district were not being successful because they lacked feasibility study or research backing to support what they would be trying to implement. The Dream project will be able to complement development projects in the district and it will also help farms with tried and tested farming systems and also address their needs through research. Participants were urged to participate freely as this was their chance to express themselves.

Chief Remarks

The Chief thanked everyone for coming and he was looking forward to understand more what Dream Project was all about and how they will benefit from it since they were the ones living with wildlife.

DA Remarks

Ms Muzenda, the DA of Chiredzi District, started her presentation by explaining what research was. She also gave the importance of research in line with the District developmental plans and stated that this project would provide them with well informed and researched information that will help them carry out their plans with best options which will be formulated and implemented. This project would also allow them to make informed decisions on the strategies to adopt and the results of the project could also influence policy changes in management of agriculture and environment. The DA added that having research results at their disposal would give them confidence in the strategies to adopt.

Research would go a long way in helping the district to solve some of the problems and challenges it was facing which includes land degradation, deforestation, erratic rains, conservation farming and best land use options. She added that current farming practises were not sustainable as the farmers were experiencing less yield hence research would help in coming up with strategies and best practises to combat them and also address the issue of suitable cattle breeds for their environment. She highlighted that there were knowledge gaps in the District which this project could also address so that right interventions would be done in correct areas. She also expect innovations and appropriate technology transfer to be part of this project. The issue of institutional set up was important and she was happy with the structures in place. They start right from the community level, going through the traditional leaders who were governed by the Traditional leaders act on the importance of managing the environment, to the Environment Committees, then to the RDC and finally the DA's office. All the information generated from the project would also come up through these structures until it reaches policy makers. She welcomed the project and alluded that it was addressing

issues such as animal health, farming crops and environment which were key issues being encouraged to be looked at by ZIMASSET.

Agritex Remarks

The local Agritex officer stated that research was vital to their organisation as its role was to give reliable and helpful knowledge to farmers on how to maximise yield. Farmers needed to know which seed types to plant and choose crops wisely, especially with climate change and variability information on how to cope with the impacts was important and this could only be achieved through research. Market identification for farmers would also come through research. Research would conclusively help on new management strategies, new technology, conservation agriculture and it should be able to address the concerns of that particular area. He gave an example of Drips Kits they received, which were working well in Mutare but did not do well in Chiredzi. People ended up not using them but instead brewed beer in the drums.

Livestock Production Department (LPD) Remarks

LPD officer highlighted that extension thrived to change people's minds and enhance capacity on problems they faced by giving or exposing them to opportunities that can assist in counteracting their endeavour. They need competent institutions to help with mechanisms to generate and disseminate information to farmers. Under the ZIMASSET, they were mandated to increase the nation's cattle herd and increase meat production by 400 000 tonnes which was a huge challenge and the Dream project would go a long way in assisting with the critical information on how to achieve that. The main issue affecting them was erratic rains, there had not been enough herbage production, hence less nutrition available to livestock. Research would also give alternative ways to feed the livestock. Invader species were of great concern and most of them were unpalatable or of no nutritional value and research could be conducted on how to get rid of these invader species and come up with appropriate grass species which can be used to replenish the veld and used as pastures. Research could also come up with new cattle breeds that were more suitable to the new environment in Chiredzi and still produce adequate tonnage of meat for farmers. The District needed assistance on how to propagate Zhombe in order to produce large quantities as it was highly nutritious to livestock.

EMA and Forestry Commission Remarks

They highlighted that research was important as it would help them address issues using reliable knowledge and hope the research project will address the issue of *lantana camara* which was now a growing problem in Masvingo, Zaka, Gutu and Chiredzi and other areas. *Optia Falbida* was also an exotic species that was spreading invasively and knowledge was needed on how to eradicate these invasive species. It was noted that Parliamentarians had also raised this issue, to see how it can be eradicated. There was another plant which needs to be researched on, it grows along sides of the road and was only eaten by cattle when it's dry. EMA also hoped that this project would help in knowing or linking them with other key stakeholders they can work with.

Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Remarks

Department of Veterinary Services also added their voice on lantana camara that it mainly affects the skin of livestock. Anthrax and Tuberculosis Bovine (TB) also need to be looked into as cases were recorded between 2008 and 2009 and no research has been done. There was need to identify hot spots of anthrax and a recent case of TB needs to be verified whether it came from South Africa or locally. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) needed to be verified in areas like Chizvirizvi, Chikombedzi and SAVE. FMD has different types hence there was need for research on proper treatment/vaccination as the type may differ from the one found in Mid Zambezi Valley. There was a disease found in milk that also needs research although it had no effect once the milk is boiled.

PWMA Remarks

The area manager for Gonarezhou, Mr Mpofu, highlighted that PWMA has a Park Management Plan which includes issues of scientific research and a department of conservation carries out research with different institutions which includes universities and research institutions. The manager also highlighted that research was very key especially these days of Climate Change (CC) which they needed to know and understand how to adapt and properly manage wildlife in order to avoid extinction. Through research there would be able to see changes in vegetation types due to CC and population dynamics, whether they were increasing or decreasing and influencing factors. Research also plays an important role in equipping the Parks Extension and Interpretation Services which goes out and engages with communities. It disseminates information with scientific research so that the communities can appreciate wildlife and be well knowledgeable. There was need to understand how to get rid of **Latana Camara** as it was not palatable to wildlife. Issues of law enforcement could be well addressed or shown through research on why particular areas are more concentrated on than the others. The issue of Problem Animal (PA) could also be well addressed through research and he concluded that without research in and around the park area, it would be difficult to manage and make correct decisions.

Bindura University Remarks

Dr Nyakudya from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment Science, spoke of the different programs that were offered and that they were into teaching only but also research and extension. For Universities, research generates information, shows proper targets for intervention and helps in decision making and research was an ongoing process and were happy to be invited and work together with communities. Dr Nyakudya spoke about internship which helps them gather data using students that would be on attachment. He concluded by inviting all stakeholders who wanted to research to engage universities as they had the capacity to do so.

Comments and Questions on Dream Project Presentation

1. Is there development coming after the research.

2. Are you going to include community leaders in this project because if you don't there will be no ownership and no continuity after the project period is over?
3. We are having problems with marketing of products is the project going to help us??



Group Photo at Hippo Country Club



Chief Sengwe and his aid follow proceedings



Council Chairperson and Dr Nyakudya follow proceedings



From Left DA, CEO and Council Chairperson follow proceedings

Remarks from Hwange

DA Remark

The Hwange DA welcomed participants and expressed his happiness with the coming in of the Dream research project, which was very key to the district given the fact that they were the beacon of Matebeleland North. He noted that with research they can get results that can be used for policy formulation. Participants were encouraged to fully participate and express themselves.

Department of Research and Special Services (DRSS)

Mr Sikosana, the Director of Livestock Production in DRSS under the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MAMID) briefly explained the structural set up of the Ministry, the departments it has, which are Agritex, DVLS and DRSS and how these departments are linked and connected through research. Mr Sikosana also gave a brief insight of the areas he worked in which included, the Matopo Research Station, where he worked for many years. He highlighted that through his experience in research, it was very key as it gave an opportunity to explore new ideas, innovations, solutions and answers to problems and different questions. His department was very excited to be part of this project and was looking to generate more information as they will interact with different stakeholders, right from the grass roots level.

Forestry Commission (FC)

The Coordinator of Research from Forestry Commission Mr Mushongahande, gave a comprehensive insight presentation (annex 4) of the operations of Forestry Commission which is one of the departments under the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. Other departments are Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA). In a short summary the presentation touched on the following:-

- The Forestry Commission was established through an Act of Parliament (Forest Act Cap 19:05) on 1 April 1954 with the mandate to:- Regulate the forestry sector; Conserve the country's forest resources; Conduct forestry extension; Conduct forest research & training and Generate revenue
- The functions of Forestry Commission as provided for in the forest act were to make sure regulations are adhered to, capacity enhancement through research, training and extension, conduct extension work, sound forest management and generation of revenue.
- It has divisions, departments and units, which are, Conservation and Extension (CONEX); Research and Training (R&T); Ngamo Safaris; Finance and Accounting and Human Resources and Administration

He highlighted the linkage with Dream Project would fit very well with the Research and Development activities of Forestry Commission which includes:-

- Conducting tree breeding and silvicultural/management studies to improve the productivity of pine, eucalyptus and wattle tree species for the plantation forestry sector
- Managing the forest area through fire protection, regeneration and appropriate silvicultural operations including timber anti-poaching activities.
- Managing wildlife in forest area through game counts, provision of water, maintaining appropriate carrying capacities and undertaking anti- poaching activities.
- Promoting forest health and vitality through pest and disease management, just to mention a few.

PWMA – Hwange

PWMA representative highlighted that there were many organisations working with Parks, mainly in Hwange National Park, through helping and conducting game counts, species management, anti-poaching, vegetation mapping and many other activities. The contribution of Cirad and CNRS in Hwange National Park through research was noted and appreciated by Parks. The Dream Project would go a long way in assisting Parks with more detailed information and dynamics that were happening inside the Park and its surrounding areas (community areas).

Research Platform – Production and Conservation in Partnership (RP-PCP)/National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS)

Arthur Perrotton, a Cirad PHD student gave presentation (annex 5) of the Research Platform-Production and Conservation in Partnership (RP-PCP) on behalf of CNRS. He summarized the RP-PCP as follows:-

- It was established in 2007 by 2 local Universities, thus University of Zimbabwe (UZ), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), and 2 French Research Institutions, CIRAD and CNRS and works with local government department such as PWMA, Agritex and DVLS and also does exchange programs with universities in Southern African, (South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana)
- The overall objective was to contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and improved rural livelihoods in Southern Africa.
- Four thematic areas that platform focuses on were, Animal Health and Environment; Functional Ecology; Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resource Governance and Institutions

He highlight that Dream Project like other research programs being done by CIRAD and CNRS, it falls under the RP-PCP. He concluded that there will be a lot of linkages and value addition that the Dream Project brings to the KAZA TFCA, mainly to Hwange National Park and the communities around.

Issues Raised

- Concern was raised over the research methods used by researchers, e.g. the collaring of lions. It was concluded that there was need for research that would answer questions, lead to policy change and help farmers increase the food security.
- There was a request for hand-outs on presentations that were made so that they can easily follow and also use them to give feedback when they go back to their areas.

Comments and Questions on Dream Project Presentation

1. Are we going to be getting feedback on these research result because NGO's generally do not give feedback?
2. Is this project going to research on the hunting ban and selling of ivory?
3. Is there a monitoring system in place for the information that goes out of the country that would have been collected during research by foreign researchers? Some of this information come out in international congresses, workshops, papers and journals and yet us the local will not have it and some of the information will not be true.
4. Why is Lupane University not part of this project yet it is easily accessible to Hwange
5. EMA is the law enforcement when it comes to environmental issues, why is it not part of the project as partners so that it can use some of the results or best practises coming from research to influence policy change and better enforcement laws that preserve the environment???
6. Why is this project targeting people working and government departments only, what will happen to our own local people, the children who are failing to go to Universities due to lack of resources???. How can this project address that????



Group Photo in Hwange at DA's Office



DA, Chief Hwange and Council Chairperson follow proceedings



In the far corner, Binga CEO Stress a point



From Right to Left, Mr Sikosana and Mr Mushongahande follow proceedings

DRAFT

Innovation and Communication Platform (ICP) set-up

Introduction

1. Introduction

After the successful inception of the Dream Project, the setting-up of innovation and communication platforms (ICP) followed. Since most of the key stakeholders including universities, lead farmers, traditional chiefs, private sector, government departments and NGOs were present, it was conducive for the ICP to be formed in a participatory manner. . After giving a detailed brief the ICP objectives and how would work, the ICP was formed for each TFCA. Broadly, research issues were identified by the participants to the meetings in all three TFCAs and these are listed in this report.

1.1 Number of people present for ICP formation in each TFCA

District	No. of attendants
Great Limpopo TFCA	27
Kavango-Zambezi TFCA	39
Lower Zambezi Mana Pools TFCAs, ZIMOZA: Mid-Zambezi Valley	33

Table 2: Number of people who attended ICP set-up meetings



Hwange District

1.2 Objectives of the ICP set-up

According to the DREAM proposal, these meetings were done under result 2.2, which states that:

Result 2.2

“To set up ICP (Innovation and Communication Platform) for each TFCA

Identify research issues from each TFCA

1.3 Methods and tools used in the set-up of the ICPs

1.3.1 Group Discussions

The ICP set-up sessions were participatory and involved a cross section of stakeholders from the local level in all three districts the meetings were held. Universities also attended these meetings providing their science and/or research capabilities to the meetings. All sessions were facilitated by BIO-HUB Trust and made use of power point presentations, followed by discussions. These discussions afforded the participants to freely ask questions where they were not clear with the setup of the ICP. BIOHUB also had an opportunity to probe for more information from the participants as to the structure of the ICP to be formed in each district. Generally, BIOHUB facilitators provided guidance during the discussions to keep the discussion focused. Broadly, research issues were identified by the participants. These were listed down and will be analysed further to extract research questions which can be researched on.

1.3.2 Power Point Presentation on ICP (see annex 3 for the power point presentation)

Through the power point presentation the Innovation and Communication Platform (ICP) was described as a concept aiming at fostering the participation of different categories of actors in innovation processes including the definition of priorities, the identification of relevant research questions and the evaluation of the results. They were identified as having potential to foster a better exploitation and comparison of scientific and conventional /traditional knowledge. They facilitate exchanges of experiences and skills among participants with a view to optimize use of natural resources in the various TFCAs targeted by the DREAM project

The DREAM project network was also explained to the participants. This included the Farm level, which will allow close interactions between researchers and groups of farmers to share knowledge and experience, to test innovation and to get farmers’ feed-backs. The national level, which is the steering committee of the project, which defines the global priorities, monitoring of the project, evaluation of the budget, etc composed of various representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation, Representatives of the

Universities, farmers' representatives, private sector representatives, and NGO representatives. It will interact with a Scientific Advisory Committee (members of University, DR&SS, Technical Services and the Research Council of Zimbabwe) aiming at providing scientific advice to the steering committee.

1.4 Rationale for ICP formation

The ICPs were identified as the pillars of the DREAM project as they bring together local actors at TFCA level (research station representatives, national parks representatives, FOs, farmers, NGOs, private sector) in order to define research needs and priorities at local level based on surveys and consultations, regularly assess and discuss research results to monitor the research process and to share results and experiences, and recommend and implement actions to disseminate the results through relevant institutional mechanisms (scaling up and scaling out).

Such a platform was also identified as being important as it afforded debate about common agricultural problems and NRM and innovation processes in the different TFCAs. In districts such as Chiredzi, where the LOCAL Forum already exists, the ICP was discussed as being able to link up with such existing forums and committees when appropriate to benefit from their structure, links and experiences. The ICP was also identified as important in that new questions are submitted to research for complementary studies in the field. Communication and effective dialogue between all stakeholders is then supported through the ICP.

1.5 How is a group formed: the ICP

The facilitators made the participants aware that when a community or stakeholders have identified a resource that they want to manage (in this case agriculture and environmental research), they will have to come together and form a group defining the decision making roles, rules and responsibilities and workings of the group. This group can be in the form of the ICP, which is a multi-stakeholder arrangement. The important questions to then address are:

At what level shall the group be formed?

Will the group be a recognised legal entity, independent of other structures e.g., EMA structures, RDC structure, or will it be a part of these structures for sustainability?

Will the group be incorporated through a group constitution?

These were the questions that participants addressed together through a discussion and the structure of the ICP was developed in each district. Furthermore, the participants were made to understand the purpose of forming the ICP and the following questions were also addressed in the forming of the ICP:

- What is the purpose of the ICP
- Is it clear why the ICP must be formed?
- What it is the ICP expected to do and,
- How is it intended to achieve its goals and objectives?

2. Outcomes from the ICP set-up meetings in the three TFCAs

For ICPs management to be successfully implemented, strong stakeholder buy-in and participation needs to be in place. As a result, BIOHUB Trust addressed issues of sustainability of the ICP. Hence, during the meetings, the participants looked at the structure of the ICPs, their financial, and human resources as well as defined rules as these determine the effectiveness and sustainability of the formed ICPs. It was very important that the ICPs formed be capable of providing scientific based advice for making decisions at district level (or TFCA level), provide a feedback mechanism to the local farmers and stakeholders and influence national policies were possible.

2.1 Forming the ICPs

2.1.1 Great Limpopo TFCA

ICP set-up

The participants from the Great Limpopo TFCA suggested that their ICP be a formally structured group that is recognised by the Chiredzi RDC and Chiredzi DA's offices. As a result, participants agreed that the ICP be part of the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC) structure as a sub-committee. This had the advantage that the RDDC chairperson is the district DA and hence by adopting a similar structure the ICP will be recognised as a sub-committee by all district structures. All local level stakeholders in the district would automatically be members of the ICP and the ICP would be flexible enough to allow new members to join. This would include universities and the local farmers who are currently not part of the RDDC structures.

The DA was selected to hold the chairperson post for the ICP and the RDC CEO will be the secretariat. This structure allows for sustainability of the ICP after funding period as the DA has a mandate to call for district level meetings and the CEO organises and ensures that all stakeholders are present. At the same time, the CEO will then delegate authority to chair the meetings to the Natural Resources Committee of the RDC. This committee already had a recognised role to facilitate sustainable natural resources management working with various stakeholders in the district. Universities' role was considered very critical in the ICP and they were advised by the participants to come in as technical advisers on research issues and innovations. This would allow them flexibility to carry out various researches in the district.

To formalise this whole structure at a simple level without too much technical input, the participants requested that the ICP develops a constitution that spells out the purpose and the structure of the formed ICP. CIRAD through BIOHUB Trust will provide the terms of references (ToRs) of the ICPs such that these would be used at district level to develop the constitution.

Kavango-Zambezi TFCA

ICP Set-up

The participants from the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA (Hwange and Binga) suggested a similar ICP structure as that of Great Limpopo TFCA (Chiredzi). The Kavango-Zambezi TFCA was composed of two RDCs, which are Binga and Hwange districts. Both RDC CEOs and DAS' offices recognised the need for the ICP to be part of the Rural District Development Committee (RDDC) structure as a sub-committee. The chairmanship of the ICP would be on a rotating basis. Every meeting would be held inter-changeably between the two districts and the district hosting the meetings would be responsible for logistics and the chair. Participants also noted that the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) should be part of the ICP as they have interests of farmers at heart. The role of chiefs and other traditional leaders was also recognised since they will be part of the local communities.

Timelines of ICP formation

Participants noted that DREAM project staff should send out the ToRs in September for the district structures to develop the constitution of the ICP. The next meeting of the ICP was put in November and would be held in Binga.

2.1.3 Lower Zambezi Mana Pools TFCAs, ZIMOZA: Mid-Zambezi Valley

ICP Set-up

The participants in Hurungwe chose that the ICP fall under the RDDC as a sub-committee as in the other TFCA and also that within the RDC it be under the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. This TFCA has two districts as well, that is Hurungwe and Mbire districts. There will be co-chairing of the ICP on a rotational basis. All stakeholders present in the meeting were already members to the ICP and universities would be welcome to join the ICP as well.

Research issues identified per TFCA

Chiredzi District: Great Limpopo TFCA – South East Lowveld	Hurungwe District: Lower Zambezi Mana Pools TFCA, ZIMOZA, Mid-Zambezi Valley	Hwange District: Kavango-Zambezi TFCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of climate change • Change in technology – technology transfer • Post-harvest handling/activities • Utilisation of local animal feeds: their availability is scarce • Market linkages are weak • Inclusion if IKS within the researches • Issues to do with HWC • Zoonosis research • Mixing of wildlife and livestock • Control of invader species and their potential utilisation (latana camala, fadibia albida -) • Rangeland/pasture reinforcement • Issues around carrying capacity: possible overstocking currently, need further research • Alternative (diversification) land-use options: best land-use options • Preparedness of DRR e.g., army worms, floods, etc • Cattle breeds(cross breeding) • Use of recommended technologies • issues to do with environmental degradation • Proper watershed management • Monitoring plan of future researches • Capacity of small scale farmers to respond to the challenges there are facing • Research on the future of CAMPFIRE with regards the current challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to diversify cash crops due to degradation as a result of tobacco • Alternative ways to cure tobacco moving away from firewood • Are there any other high value crops to substitute tobacco which can do well in our environment • ZIM-ASSET – promote value addition where processing is possible – research around that • Ratton crop (Cotton stalks) are more yielding if left in the field over 2 seasons, research around this area because farmers are not allowed to keep them after harvesting • Red ball worm?? • Do we have a cotton variety that has resistance to the red ball worm, if not where is the link • Ecological research, a lot changed has not been captured recently • Comparison studies: livestock versus crops in regions 4 and 5 (which one is more profitable) • Human wildlife Conflict and corridor mapping – what is driving wildlife to move into urban areas: there is increasing citing of wildlife in residential persons • Research on PAC, finding other non-lethal ways of control • Elephants, hyenas, lion are a problem • Research on agro tree species with immediate commercial benefits/value • Research on armoured cricket, it has become a pest • Complement forestry initiatives through promoting NTFP projects: honey production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban of elephant ivory by the Americans • Exploration of agricultural potential at local level to improve livelihoods including livestock production • Understanding grazing potential of areas • Research around intensive farming: irrigation, types of crops... • Understanding issues related to climate change • Harnessing of surface water: water harvesting • Issues around CAMPFIRE (CA) concept to improve it • Initials principals/factors of CA have changed overtime • Need to assess compensation of PAC to direct victims of PAC • Policy issues: EMA, FC, PWMA, inconsistency and local communities' perceptions • HWC: birds and other species • Research around ecotourism to reduce HWC • Technology transfer • Cost benefit analysis of the exploitation of the natural resources to the advantage of the local • Settlement patterns and land-use plans with relation to HWC • Stream bank cultivation versus aquaculture • Apiculture and HWC • HWC is a big issue • Develop a research centre in Hwange or Binga • Research on livestock diseases • value addition to local products: <i>Munyi, marula tree</i> • Stocking ratios/densities/ carrying capacity issues within the districts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-reliance on hunting, ban of hunting, need to diversify the model, accommodate traditional leaders etc • Impacts of fencing around Gonarezhou NP, social, economic, environmental • Issues around farmers' resilience and adaptation to shocks • Tap <i>murara</i> species, is it possible to propagate <i>murara</i> • Perpetual succession of the project, research studies initiated should be finished • Current land disputes and declining productivity: research on that <p>Research on natural disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve fishing and trade (markets) along the Zambezi River • Gully reclamation: emphasis on Dande river which is threatening Mshumbi township • Water harvesting technologies • Research on high value uses of grass • Detect poaching and reduce it • Plant pathology: miombo, eucalyptus • How can stream bank cultivation be done sustainably without siltation • Can fencing reduce occurrence and incidence of veld fires through controlling trespassing • Research on interplanting of indigenous and exotic tree species for improved afforestation • Utilisation trends on NR use: male vs females • Indigenous fruit processing • Methods suitable to the farmer: is CA the best option • Post-harvest handling, is this contributing to food insecurity • Sustainable and affordable tools/machines to use for CA • Trophy quality on economic and commercial value species: what is happening? • Livestock breeds adapted to the terrain/environment • Transmission of diseases from wildlife to livestock people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research around behaviour change: use/commercialisation of resources(livestock) for improved livelihoods • CSR: private sector needs to plough back: research on the effectiveness of policy on Community Ownership Trusts Schemes • Meat, employment from wildlife should be given to the locals as well: Policy reform/ decentralisation • Miners need to plough back: policy issues – land-use • Awareness of policies e.g., EIAs • Research around impacts of mining on agriculture • Local governance and mining concessions: policy issues • Research on small livestock and potential impacts on livelihood improvement • Market linkages • Promote diversification/cultivation of small grains • Traditional varieties of small grain resistant to birds
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IRT Comments from the districts

In order to demonstrate how the ICP will be working and its importance on sharing information and giving feedback, a report back presentation on the Diagnostic on Agricultural and Environmental Research in Zimbabwe was done in all 3 project sites and the following are the comments from the report:-

Hurungwe District

- Rating of the overall report: 65%
- Still needs accuracy in some sections e.g., CAMPFIRE
- Fast track extension officers – there was an immediate need for that, so it is not a negative situation as such but how to move forward is what is required
- Political intervention: in terms of opening up protected areas seeking political support, that is why protected areas remain under threat of settlements – it is political
- NGO – Donor syndrome: we need to look at how best we can move forward, donor support is needed but it needs to be responsive to needs of beneficiary communities
- SANCTIONS!!!! There are there and we need to look at their impacts at community development work as well
- Overallly the research was done very well
- CAMPFIRE failure: Mbire generally not accepting this position, a lot has been done and is being done through CAMPFIRE. Need to explain where the failure is
- Running costs of RDC and salaries, game scouts coming from CAMPFIRE, which is a very huge advantage of having CAMPFIRE
- HWC (Mbire) a bit of misunderstanding presently but does not reflect failure of CAMPFIRE
- Need research to address HWC
- Mbire is wholly communal and not A2 sections as presented in the report
- Hurungwe: researchers need to state exact locations (wards) of the issues raised. Issues in study raised possibly from a few disgruntled community members, which shows lack of communication between community and leadership
- Possibly there is failure on CAMPFIRE but there are reasons (for Hurungwe), study should have brought out the reasons of the failure
- Now there is community share ownership, but that was supposed to have been the line of CAMPFIRE
- Dividends levels are dwindling as a result of structural issues, high fees, rentals/leases etc
- Failing to sustain infrastructure developed in CAMPFIRE wards due to little revenues
- Potential for communities to move out of the CAMPFIRE concept due to little benefits
- In its essence CAMPFIRE program is good
- But communities are disgruntled over issues of dwindling benefits
- Need information dissemination on what CAMPFIRE Association is doing
- Need to clarify communal benefits (clinics, schools) as opposed to personal benefits (money)
- Overall comment CAMPFIRE is not really bad or failure

- 200 livestock killed in Mbire – HWC. This is not in the report
- Problem Animal Control (PAC) must insure against loss to property, lives, crops etc etc
- Historically communities got large revenues but after land reform no more revenues from private operators so money to the RDC now comes from the CAMPFIRE revenues
- National embargo/sanctions biting: National parks underfunded – generating National Parks is now receiving funding/revenue as well from CAMPFIRE revenues
- US\$ regime: has affected from operator right through to community: change in operating environments
- CAMPFIRE model is working and very positive: comment from Chief Chisunga
- Mbire: need to understand where livestock is being killed: is it CAMPFIRE active wards or not? Livestock eaten in non-active CAMPFIRE wards because that is where the livestock is found in higher numbers. Report needs to be accurate here
- Indirect use of CAMPFIRE funds: salaries, operating costs, graders for making roads etc etc, report needs to highlight these issues
- Government departments under resourced (Forestry Commission) not mobile,
- Researchers (for the IRT study) must have come onto the ground to talk with the district officers
- Agritex officers not mobile
- Is it possible to recommend Extension officers with certificates to upgrade to diplomas etc etc

Chiredzi District

- FOs used to be there but now their status needs to be reviewed: ZFU, cattle producers, etc
- Absence of a well-structured cattle market
- CARE has no projects in Chiredzi
- Study consultants from IRT should have gone on the ground
- E.g Manjinji pan is no longer active, need to go on the ground
- Include IOM, gave inputs – goats embarrass
- The list of NGOs present in the district is not accurate at all
- ICT support and in-service training? Way forward on that
- Presence of many donors causes more local level conflicts: needed to capture this in the study
- Parallel extension with NGOs is not good, need to capture this in the report
- Too many workshops than trainings by NGOs
- NGOs not following up on their work – SAFAIRE: Manjinji and crafts
- RDC needs to follow up on what NGOs are working on
- Farmers need continuous support and not over project duration only
- Non-disclosure by NGOs of their budgets
- NGOs raise expectations of communities and then do very little work
- NGOs expect communities to be cohesive, but yet the NGOs are not working together
- They only attend NGOs' forum
- Need for follow up of monthly reports submitted to DA's and RDC offices by the NGOs as well
- Targeting the 'most vulnerable' should be reviewed....
- Responsiveness of NGO interventions to communities' needs is often lacking
- NGOs addressing symptoms and not solving problems
- Research on impact of development work by external partners and way forward
- Localised reporting which is different from donor reporting: should be less technical and more impact oriented
- Sustainability of projects based on continuous training
- NGOs and Private sector forum and link to ICP to remove duplication of activities
- local existing structures should be incorporated in agenda setting by NGOs
- Transparency on budgets; huge budget on administrative issues and less on the actual ground work
- Poor project concepts: rehabilitation being done on one issues over and over
- Equipment: when NGOs move out, they move out with their equipment e.g.s cars
- Irrigation schemes, the problem is the size/plots are small 0.1 ha is not enough
- Group interventions vs individual interventions
- Changeover of project committees need to be addressed as they create gaps in sustainability after project period has ended
- Need for a business approach to addressing community issues
- Issues raised in IRT report to be the backbone of the ICP – need to avoid research fatigue
- CAMPFIRE might have its problems: need to be clear on its failure to address HWC and what level of failure is this and what is the way forward
- Need to improve the CAMPFIRE model

- No report on agricultural shows and weekly markets, and monthly district based markets at different points and what are the impacts of these local markets

DRAFT

Hwange District

- 'Poorest' is not the best term to be used when describing communities in Hwange
- Researchers must be tactful in writing
- There is mixing of issues for Hwange section
- 'fast track in Binga' needs to be corrected, there was no fast
- 84% needs to be verified as more training has been done – that is for extension workers
- Lack of commitment by some extension officers
- Poorly resourced extension officers
- IRT needed to have added more stakeholders when conducting their research
- IRT needed to have consulted more local stakeholders
- IRT needed to identify market linkages capacity building and marketing courses that can be done
- Need action on the ground based on the ICP: tangible improvements being discussed
- Business approach to community issues

Annex 1

Hurungwe and Mbire Participants

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