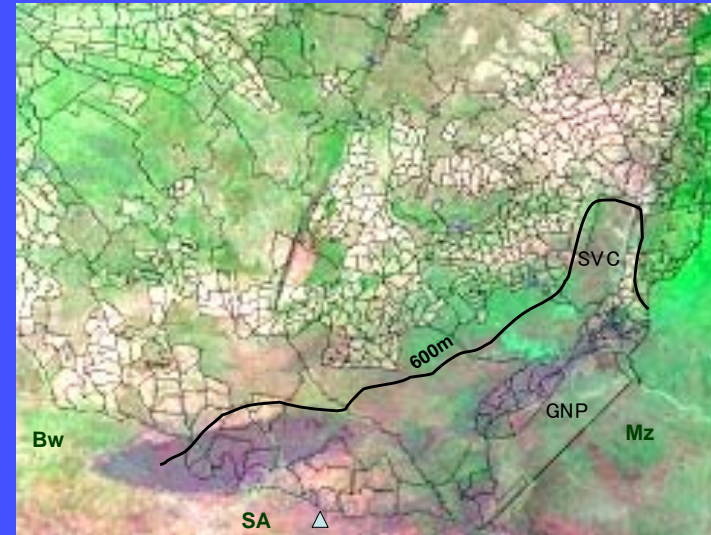


# Research & Development Activities In the South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe

David Cumming

## South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe - Context



Area:  
c. 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Altitude:  
300-600m

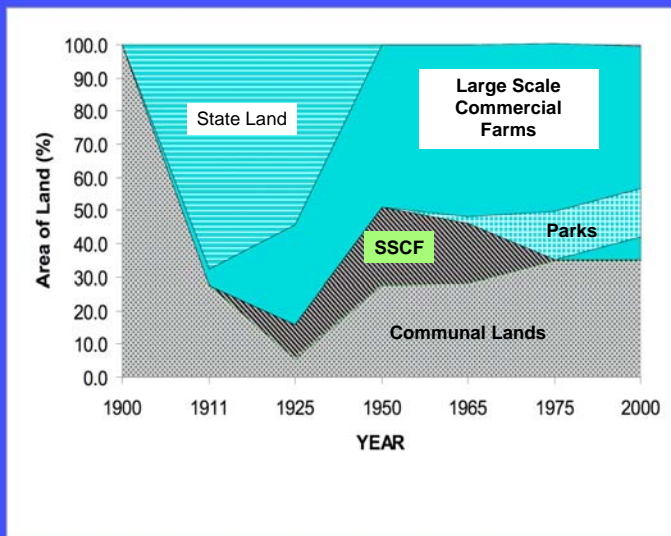
Rainfall:  
<400mm,  
CV >35%

Temp:  
25-27.5° C

Growing season:  
c. 90 days

Satellite Image from S. Prince – University of Maryland, 2000

## SEL – Changing land tenure

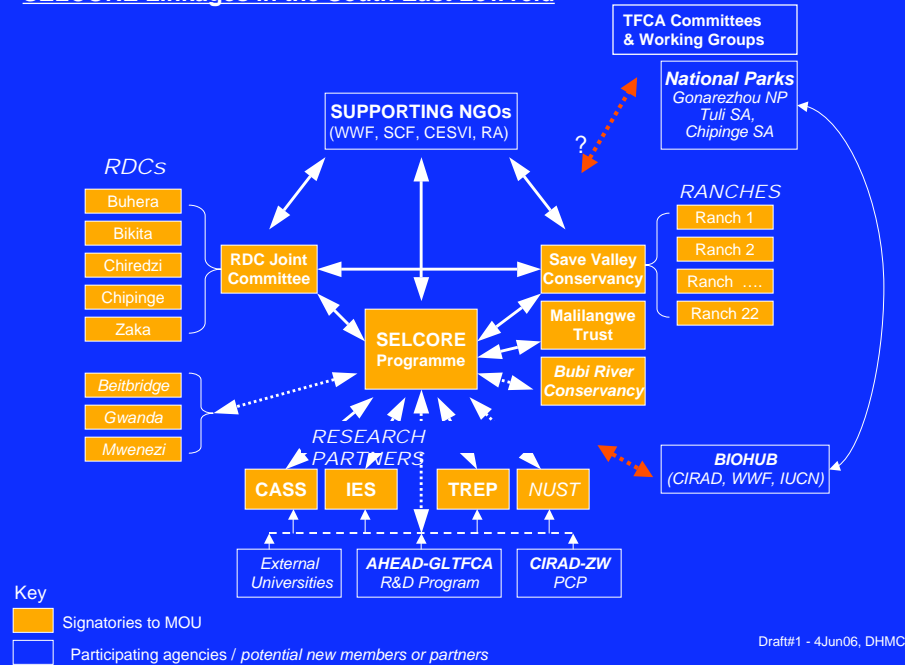


## Land tenure in SE Lowveld - 2000 (~ 43,000 km<sup>2</sup>)

Land category	% of Area	People/km <sup>2</sup>
Communal Land	35	11 - 52
Large-scale C. Farms - irrigation	<0.01	
?		
Cattle ranches	16 ?	< 3
Wildlife + cattle	9	< 3
Conservancies	18	< 3
Small-scale Commercial Farms	1	<10?
Resettlement land	7	?
Parks & Wildlife Estate	14	<1

→ Wildlife use on c. 35%+ of the SEL

## SELCORE Linkages in the South East Lowveld



## SELCORE - Key Objectives

- To foster an inter-disciplinary, participatory research and monitoring programme that will enhance landholders understanding of ecological and social systems in the SEL and thereby improve:
    - Adaptive management for the sustainable use of the region's natural resources
    - Policy frameworks for integrated management and conservation of natural resources
    - Resource management capacity, adaptability and resilience of linked social-ecological systems of the SEL,
- ➔ *In order to ultimately enhance the livelihoods and environmental security of people living in the SEL*

## SELCORE – Some Outputs

- Series of workshops exploring, natural resource management problems, needed research
- Examination of research needs in three main sectors (wildlife & tourism, agro-pastoral and large-scale irrigation) and the linkages between sectors
- Options for extension of wildlife based tourism across land tenure regimes through joint ventures & partnerships
- Options for the development of irrigation through linkages between large and small scale irrigators in Runde catchment (Proposal to EU)
- Review of past research on natural resources
- Preliminary analyses of resilience and adaptability in SEL

## CESVI (with RDC & NPWMA) – Main Outputs

- GIS data base and mapping – Maramani and Sengwe
- Biodiversity inventories and vegetation mapping
- Facilitating development of Sengwe Corridor
  - ✓ PRA and questionnaire surveys
  - ✓ Impact assessment of corridor
  - ✓ Resource management options
- Landuse options for Shashe-Limpopo TFCA
- Review of small-scale irrigation schemes
- Development of resource management trusts
- Review of past tourism plans and future options

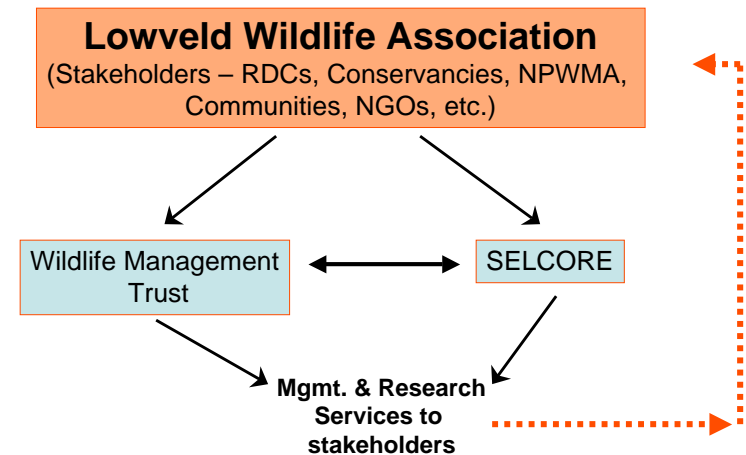
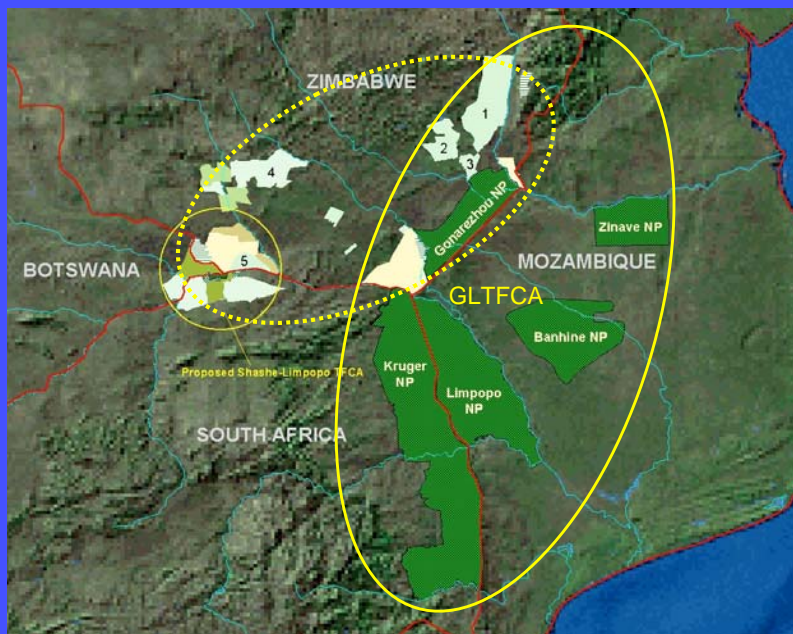
## Other Agencies or Research Groups

- Veterinary Services – BTB, FMD and Tsetse surveillance
- CASS - Resettlement in Save, Campfire (Mahenye's)
- IES – Institution building for resource management
- SCF – Land holder monitoring and resource management
- WWF – Rhinos and conservancies, landuse options
- IUCN – Livelihoods in arid lands
- CESVI – Transfrontier use of natural resources
- CIRAD – support for PPCP, Chitsa, SEL planning and wildlife assessment with WWF & IUCN under *BIOHUB*
- AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group – program to address animal, human, and ecosystem health in the GLTFCA
- Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group

## Other Agencies or Research Groups

- Malilangwe Trust – Elephants and habitats, Archaeology, annual surveys,
- Save Conservancy – Elephant management, wild dogs, landscape/vegetation mapping, landowner values in relation to habitat management, rhino monitoring, surveys, etc.
- Sugar Research Institute
- Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group

## Extending the TFCA?



## Extending the TFCA?

