

AHEAD-GLTFCA WORKING GROUP – 8TH MEETING

Record of the 8th Meeting held on the 5th – 7th March 2008

Ingwenyama Conference and Sport Resort, White River, South Africa

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Following welcoming and opening remarks from Nicky Shongwe, delegates introduced themselves in turn.

It was noted that this was the largest Working Group meeting thus far, with over 70 participants including several from overseas (please see Appendix 1 of these minutes).

2. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO *AHEAD* AND BACKGROUND - Nicky Shongwe

The following power point slides provided a brief introduction to the *AHEAD-GLTFCA* programme for those who had not been to previous meetings.

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| <p>AHEAD – GLTFCA programme launched in 2003 at WPC</p> <p>Mixed group of people – vets, economists, ecologists, conservationists etc</p> <p>From Sn Africa, E Africa, Europe, USA</p> <p>Several working groups present</p> <p>GLTFCA identified as priority area due to size, population and local history</p> | <p>Linkages and interface issues between wildlife health, livestock health and human health</p> <p>AHEAD = Animal Health for the Environment And Development</p>  |
| <p>AHEAD – GLTFCA has evolved into:</p>  <p>Human health – livelihoods and wellbeing</p> <p>Animal health – wildlife and livestock health and disease</p> <p>Ecosystem health – goods and services</p> |  |
| <p>Impact of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Land use •Fencing •Domestic animal stocking rates •Encroachment of territory •Human wildlife contact/conflict <p>New concept: “One Health”</p> <p>New paradigm: “healthy people [with healthy livestock] are more likely to support conservation initiatives and be good environmental stewards ” <small>Kock 2007</small></p> | <p>AHEAD is network based</p> <p>250 members in database</p> <p>LoU with 10 organisations incl: WCS, UC Berkeley, DNAC, WWF -SARPO, DVS -Zw</p> <p>7 Working Group meetings since 2003</p> <p>Smaller core group meetings inbetween</p> |

Last year: 7th Working Group Meeting in Mozambique

54 attendees

Policy makers, vets, social scientists, park community reps, medical doctors, zoologists etc

From USA, Germany, and 3 GLTP countries

Topics varied from risk of bTB infection in humans, to role of trees in the community, to lessons for permaculture in arid landscapes

Since the last WG meeting:

“Linking Projects ” initiative – arose from suggestions in the meeting

Database of project summaries and abstracts – kept by co-ordinator – actively seek linkages of people working on similar projects/ able to assist in project

Responses from 12 individual/ organisations + several others ?forgotten

A few links/matches have been done – early days..

AHEAD-GLTFCA Scenario planning projects:

“Kruger Scenarios ” – M Murphree

“CASS Community -based scenarios ” – Muyengwa & Chirozva

Steering committee:

Last 3 WG meetings

Call sent out for volunteers

Response mainly vets, mainly South Africans

Time commitment issue

Meeting called last August

Mistakenly labelled “Steering committee ” meeting

Realised that it actually was a “Core Group ” meeting –don’t confuse!

Immediate / short term objectives:

- 1) To facilitate and stimulate active participation and interaction between members of the programme and potential partners (while ensuring creative space)**
- 2) To develop a strategy for sustaining the AHEAD - GLTFCA programme, incl financial and communications strategy**
- 3) To develop formal links with the Joint Management Board of the GLTFCA and establish further partnerships with participating agencies (e.g. LoUs)**
- 4) To lead conceptual development and growth of the research and development programme and network**

3. OBJECTIVES AND FORMAT OF THE 8TH WORKING GROUP MEETING

Nicky Shongwe

Objectives of the 8th AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group Meeting 5 - 7 March, 2008

Ngwenyama Lodge, White River

Overall objective of the AHEAD – GLTFCA programme:

Facilitate development and conservation success thro’ integrated understanding based on innovative, inter -disciplinary applied research, monitoring and surveillance at the interface between wild and domestic animal health, ecosystem goods and services and human livelihoods and wellbeing.

3 specific objectives

- 1) Look for opportunities for innovation
- 2) What? So what? Now what?
- 3) 5 years on in AHEAD, 3 things to consider

Harvard Snowflake Model:

- 6 traits for creativity
1. Personal aesthetic
 2. Problem finding
 3. Mental mobility
 4. Risk taker
 5. Objectivity
 6. Inner motivation

Creativity >>>>innovation

What? So what? Now what?

What – basic facts, what happened , what was said etc ?

- So what?
- USA “so what ...?” ☹

SA “SO WHAT! @ % \$#&%!!”

“So what about it? ” – consequences, relevance?

Now what? – what to do next, what lessons learned for the future?**What?****So what [about it]?****Now what?**

AHEAD-GLTFCA – 5 years on ...

Sustainability?

3 things to consider in the discussions:

Environmental impact/relevance

Economic impact/relevance

Social impact/relevance

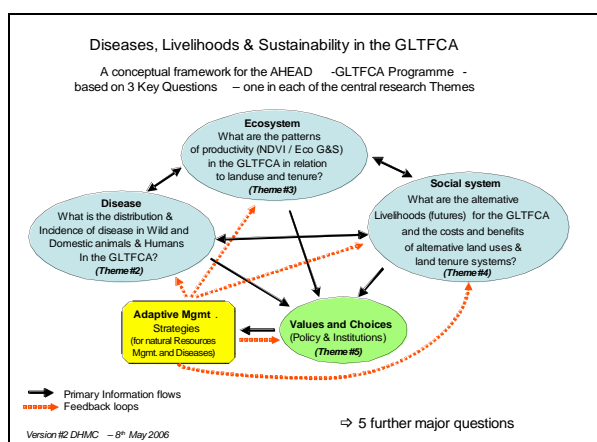
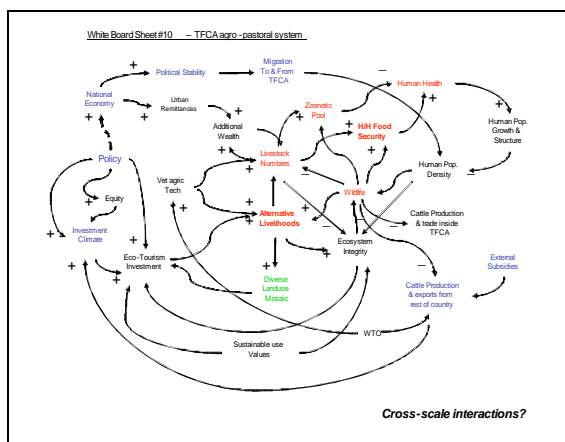
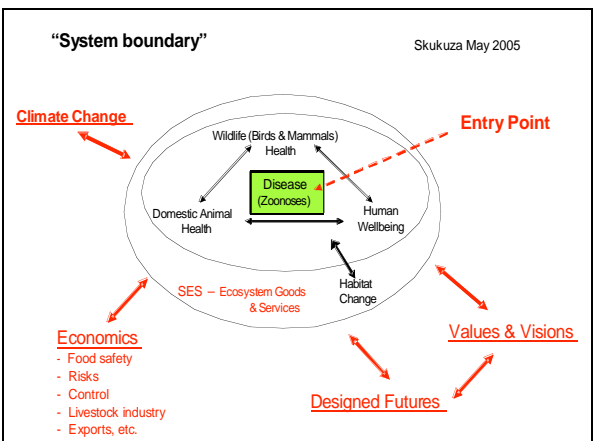
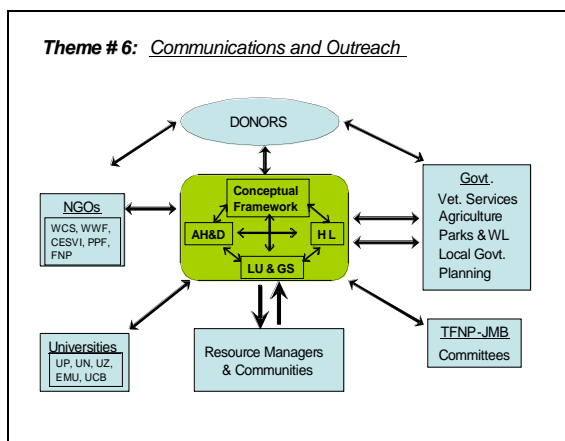
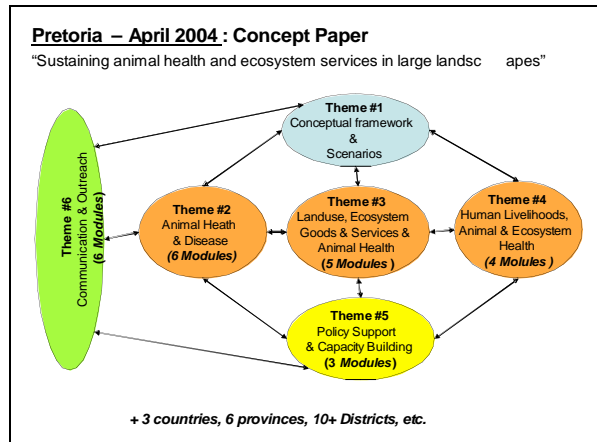
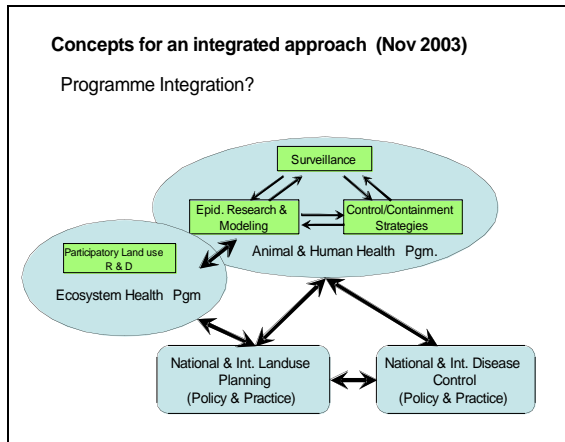
question: “researchers are the people who listen the least because they think they know the solution ...”

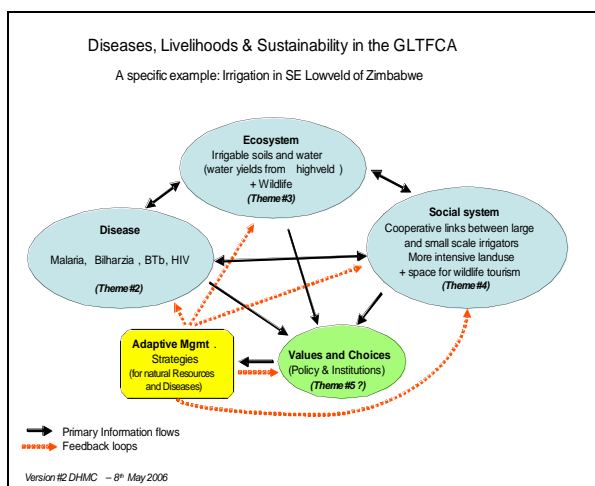
4. THE AHEAD-GLTFCA PROGRAMME: KEY QUESTIONS AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK REVISITED: OVERVIEW AND SOME QUESTIONS – David

Cumming

The following slides were presented on the revised conceptual framework¹. Printed copies of the full paper (Cumming et al 2007) were available to all participants. The first five slides shown below outlined the evolution of the conceptual framework to its present stage, which is captured in the last four slides. These were presented at the 7th Meeting last March. The final slide raises critical questions which needed to be discussed and commented upon by the working group. The major difference between the earlier conceptual framework and the current version was that of placing the triad of wildlife, domestic animal, and human diseases and zoonoses more firmly within a sustainability and livelihoods framework - a shift that should contribute to greater interdisciplinary cohesion within the programme.

¹ The slide showing the GLTFCA and the Limpopo-Shashe TFCA areas is not included here because of its size.



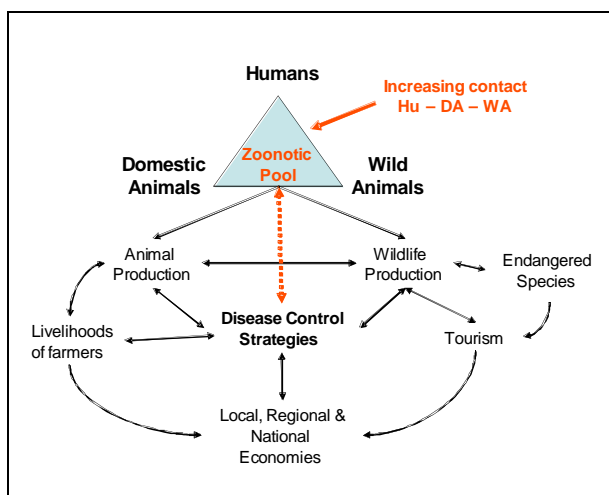


Diseases, Livelihoods & Sustainability in the GLTFCA
A conceptual framework for the AHEAD -GLTFCA Programme -

Five major questions

1. What types and pattern of landuse and tenure will enhance system health, productivity and resilience (sustainability) of the Social System (SES) of the GLTFCA?
2. What is the state and trend of the five capitals (Natural, Human, Social, Financial & Physical) in each landuse/land tenure component of the GLTFCA and how might these change, and system influence health, under differing scenarios?
3. How will the biodiversity, environmental, social and economic trade offs/opportunity costs of alternative patterns of landuse influence adaptability and resilience of the SES?
4. What cross subsidies exist within the system and how vulnerable are they to disturbance and shocks?
5. What is the level of external subsidy to the GLTFCA system and how dependent is the system on, or vulnerable to, external subsidies?

* "Health" refers to wild and domestic animal health and human livelihoods – the disease component of the AHEAD programme.



March 2008 - Issues

1. Is the conceptual framework useful?
2. Has anyone used it?
3. Critical comment?
4. Does it need revisiting – e.g. climate change?
5. How useful / important is it to embed our work on system health within a sustainability framework?

Discussion points:

1. The framework document is valuable and is being used, not only by the group. But, in order to be more widely available a supplementary document that is more accessible to a wider audience should be written and produced.
2. Critical feedback on the conceptual framework document is still needed and would be appreciated by the authors.

5. UPDATE ON THE GLTP PROJECT, FORMATION OF THE GLTFCA AND THE STATUS OF FENCES - Piet Theron

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park treaty was signed 2002 and was the first of two phases in the development of the region, namely i) the core national park comprising Kruger, Limpopo and Gonarezhou National Parks and, ii) the development of the broader Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area which would also includes a range of conservancies, communal lands and Banhine and Zinave National Parks. The major activities have so far involved and included the following:

- a. Wildlife translocation programme
- b. Dropping of sections of LNP/KNP boundary fence
- c. Development of the GLTFCA
- d. Addressing interface issues – AHEAD

- e. Implementation of an integrated tourism development plan for the GLTP (Pafuri Land Use Plan & Gonarezhou Tourism Plan)
- f. Development of a 5-year integrated development and business plan.
- g. Operationalisation of the Giriyondo Border Post
- h. Development of Sengwe Corridor and a new Limpopo Crossing Point
9. Development of Joint Research Policy
10. Setting up a Project Implementation Unit
11. Mechanisms for Sustainable Financing

Some 3,800 animals covering ten species have been translocated from KNP to the LNP over the last six years and the first section of 45 km of fence was dropped in 2002. The aim is to drop most of the fence by 2010. However, cross border crime and illegal crossings remain a concern. A joint research policy has been drafted and is presently being discussed (copies were circulated to participants at the meeting). The document provides a summary of current research being undertaken in the GLTFCA. Key issues that remain to be resolved are procedures for joint research across borders and the associated movement of researchers across borders, and joint research priorities.

The management structure of the GLTP is reflected in the following diagramme,



and the South African Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT) will host the secretariat, which is to be based in Phalaborwa, for the first three years.

Discussion points:

1. Developments are unfolding without an overall policy and guiding framework. Surely the overall management philosophies, policies and plans for the GLTNP and GLTFCA should be in place before more specific development plans such as those for tourism and the Pafuri area are developed? In response, it was pointed out that the development of tourism plans is a national responsibility and, in the case of Gonarezhou, it is the responsibility of the Zimbabwe Government to develop an overarching park plan before finalising a tourism development plan.
2. Has 'cultural zone' depicted in one of the maps in south eastern Zimbabwe been approved and have the people living there been consulted about it?
3. This is an important presentation that raises several 'so what?' questions. While the developments may be good for conservation, what are the implications of removing fences for public health and for livestock agriculture? Developments have moved faster than the science and ahead of environmental and social impact assessments, largely due to politically enabled 'windows of opportunity.'

4. Some participants considered that the development of tourism was a key driver for the three countries in the establishment of the TFNP, others that conservation was the primary driver.
5. There is an ongoing need for the AHEAD-GLTFCA programme to involve government agencies; particularly those concerned with health and security issues. It is government agencies that advise heads of ministries and ministers and the programme should continue to make a strong effort to secure their engagement.

6. CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PROGRESS IN THE SOUTH EAST LOWVELD, AND THE SEL WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION – Raoul du Toit

A significant step in the development of large-scale, co-management systems in the south-eastern Lowveld of Zimbabwe was the formation of the Lowveld rhino conservancies in 1991.

The immediate catalyst to the formation of these conservancies was a rhino custodianship programme, which provided donor funding incentives to encourage landowners to combine their properties into units large enough to hold viable populations of rhinos, without internal game fences. The willingness of landowners to consider co-management arrangements had been developed through the well-established ICA (Intensive Conservation Area) system. This system had been in place for several decades and had effectively devolved authority for some aspects of resource management to commercial farming communities. The conservancies were a logical extension of this approach.

The challenge for the conservancies has been to achieve all dimensions of sustainability:

- 1.) ecological sustainability, 2.) economic sustainability, 3.) socio-political sustainability.

The ecological sustainability of the Lowveld conservancies has been clearly demonstrated through their track record in wildlife production (as demonstrated by the growth of their black rhino population from 42 in 1991 (4% of the national population) to approximately 400 today (75% of the national population)).

The economic viability of the conservancies as wildlife production systems, as opposed to cattle ranching operations, had to be investigated through an objective professional study as a condition for permission to be granted for the largest conservancy, Save Valley, to introduce foot-and-mouth (FMD) infected buffalo. This restocking of buffalo was approved, and the species replaced cattle in Save Valley after the major drought of 1991/2. In other conservancies, FMD-free buffalo were permitted in fenced enclaves, and FMD-infected buffalo continued to roam in small herds in Communal Lands where they were a significant source of safari hunting revenues.

The socio-political viability of the conservancies was a major challenge from the outset due to the land hunger and poverty of surrounding communities. Although the conservancies had initiated, and were expanding, some neighbour outreach programmes, these were derailed completely by the national political agenda of “fast-track” resettlement during 2000/1. Extensive peripheral areas of the conservancies as well as Gonarezhou National Park were occupied by subsistence farmers and bushmeat harvesters.

Some of the consequences have been: 1.) major poaching losses; 2.) loss of habitats; 3.) loss of spatial connectivity between wildlife areas (in turn creating problems of human-wildlife conflict); 4.) spread of wildlife diseases via cattle that were introduced into conservancies as their perimeter fences were destroyed, and converted into snares; 5.) reduced investment in resource management.

The varied efforts of stakeholders and of NGOs to engage with the relevant officials and politicians have encouraged the gradual emergence of some options for sustainable wildlife-based land reform. By late 2006, it became apparent that a framework was required to facilitate discussions between the stakeholders, not only on these land reform options, but also on TFCA connectivity, maintaining the spatial scale of, and connectivity between, wildlife operations, restocking depleted wildlife populations, enhancing community awareness, etc. Thus the concept of a Lowveld Wildlife Association (LWA) was debated between stakeholders (being mainly representatives of conservancies

and Rural District Councils). In early 2007, it was agreed in principle that the LWA should be established.

The initial priorities of the proposed LWA were identified as: 1.) the development of a constitution; 2.) acquisition of information on the spatial pattern of land-use in the Lowveld and on wildlife distribution; 3.) issues related to FMD control (very important for zonation of wildlife-based land-uses). The FMD issues were discussed at a meeting of these stakeholders in March 2007, during which a broad scenario analysis of land-use options was undertaken.

Over the past year, several significant developments suggest that instead of the LWA being established with a sectoral focus on wildlife issues, it should instead be initiated as a broader Lowveld Partnership Programme that deals with the interfaces between all the major land-use sectors (i.e. commercial wildlife operations, irrigation schemes, and communal land-use systems).

Factors that encourage this broader approach are:

- 1) Policy on wildlife-based land reform is now emphasizing Private-Community Partnerships and/or Public-Private-Community Partnerships, so the interface between these sectors is less politically sensitive as a focus for discussion than it was a year ago;
- 2) Some projects that link these sectors have been initiated or are under consideration, associated with recent private investment in the Lowveld (Bubye River Conservancy/Mwenezi community) and with funding from the European Union (Save Valley/Sengwe community);
- 3) Further development aid appears feasible for multi-sectoral land-use projects, and stakeholder coordination is required to grasp these opportunities;
- 4) There is a growing recognition of the fact that a diversified livelihoods approach is essential to ameliorate rural poverty in the Lowveld – no single sector will uplift the region on its own.

These factors, combined with the difficulty of establishing the classes of membership and voting rights that would pertain to those classes, suggest that the overall Lowveld Partnership Programme should be a loosely structured framework for coordination of stakeholders from all the major land-use sectors. As with the Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya, membership would be fairly open to a variety of stakeholder groups. Under this umbrella could be more tightly structured institutions such as a trust with a board of trustees to manage finances, acting in general conformity with the views expressed by the body of membership of the association, but with internal checks and balances as defined by the deed for that trust and by the agencies that contribute funding.

These ideas now need to be debated further by the Lowveld stakeholders, as does upgrading of the LWA concept. If agreed to by the stakeholders, the broader concept must be sold to development agencies in order to attract the funds necessary for professional staff, to maintain better stakeholder coordination for:

- 1.) Holistic land-use planning/zonation;
- 2.) Durable options for land reform;
- 3.) More effective control measures for FMD and other wildlife/livestock diseases;
- 4.) Locally developed agendas for development aid, instead of externally driven agendas.

Discussion points:

1. The development of coal mining in several parts of the South East Lowveld will add an additional complication in the land use mix and is being driven by foreign entrepreneurs and politicians.
2. The shift from livestock to wildlife-based land uses in the large-scale commercial farming sector after the 1991-1992 drought has now resulted in a renewed focus on FMD while in the communal lands FMD is not seen as a major issue; of greater local concern are tick borne diseases. Government and donor agency preoccupation with FMD is driven by a focus on export markets for

beef. There is a need to reassess this emphasis within a wider framework of land use options, livelihoods and sustainability.

3. Is there a dialogue within Zimbabwe on how aid, when it does return, should be used? A major difficulty is that aid tends to be narrowly sector-focused and involves convoluted planning processes that tend to involve high transaction costs. They also tend to be top down and agreed between donors and central government with little local consultation and input. Stakeholder driven development would be more appropriate, with funds being spread over longer periods and serving to facilitate local self organisation. A good example has been the LIFE programme in Namibia which has been supported over more than a decade and focused on grass roots institutional development.
4. This presentation should be made to the JMB as an example of local consultation in the development of the TFCA, a factor that has been neglected in the other countries.
5. The people in the SEL do not wish to be lumped together as one large 'community' and it is important that they are involved in the development and management of the Gonarezhou National Park which was formerly their land.

7. GLTFCA DISEASE ISSUES

7.1 Progress in addressing animal disease threats (including zoonoses) and priorities in the GLTFCA – a JMB Conservation and Veterinary Sub-Committee update on challenges and progress - Roy Bengis, Chris Foggin, Markus Hofmeyr, Nazare Manguenze.

The power point presentation by Markus Hofmeyr contained slides with the following text and/or photographs:

Slide 1: The title slide showed an oblique aerial photograph of a village in the LNP

Slide 2: GLTFCA JMB Veterinary Subcommittee Mandate includes:

- The identification of potential animal health issues and challenges related to expansion of the geographic range of wildlife and their pathogens.
- Identification of potential conservation threats related to pathogens cycling in neighbouring livestock (in all 3 countries)
- Identification of the related human health, domestic animal health and zoonotic issues
- Inclusion of these veterinary issues in the development of a Joint Management Plan for the GLTP
- To advise the Joint Management Board (JMB) on the management of animal health challenges, and prioritise appropriate activity areas to address these issues

Slide 3: *TFCA SUMMARY DOCUMENT FROM THE VETERINARY SUB-COMMITTEE*
PRIORITISATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN THE GLTP

A) INFRASTRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL NEEDS

- Basic veterinary monitoring and laboratory capabilities lacking in all three countries
- Diagnostic capability – local lab capacity compromised in all three countries
- Centralised data base with GIS capability and data management system – in process of being developed by PPF
- Technical equipment – PPF assisted with funding in Zimbabwe, Mozambique in process of developing capacity
- Training and capacity building – in process of developing training course at various levels
- Development of a Wildlife Veterinary Unit in Mozambique – ongoing (Chokwe workshop)
- Support for Wildlife Veterinary Unit in Zimbabwe - ongoing

APPENDIX 2

orange= those presentations for which PDFs of slides are downloadable via the AHEAD website.

