

# **KAZA Animal Health Sub-Working Group**

*A collaboration of partners interested in supporting the KAZA TFCA to address animal health and disease challenges across the KAZA landscape*

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## **Animal Health Sub-Working Group of the KAZA Conservation Working Group Terms of Reference**

*(revised by consensus as of August 2018)*

### **1. Background**

The KAZA TFCA is a vast landscape that encompasses multiple land use areas that consist of protected areas in the form of national parks, wildlife/game management areas, forest reserves, and communal areas. More than 70% of the land in the KAZA TFCA is inhabited by communities that live in close proximity to protected areas, expanding the interface among wildlife, livestock and people. Management of animal diseases (including zoonoses – diseases transmissible between animals and people) at this wildlife-livestock-human interface is a concern for public health, economic and conservation reasons. Diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, rabies, brucellosis, and anthrax impact rural development by decreasing livestock productivity, causing livestock and wildlife mortality, and affecting the health and wellbeing of people. Foot and mouth disease continues to negatively impact livestock producers. Transfrontier conservation entails free movement of wildlife over large geographic areas. However, the current internationally accepted approaches for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) is to prevent movement of animals (wild and domestic) between areas where TADs occur and where they do not (primarily through veterinary fencing, which has major impacts on migratory wildlife). As a result, the TFCA vision and geographic (fence-based) approaches to TADs management approaches are not compatible. It is within this broad context of environmental and social impacts that animal health challenges need to be addressed.

The KAZA TFCA Conservation Working Group (CWG), an advisory body to the Joint Management Committee (JMC), was established in 2010 with many of these challenges in mind, and included in their guidelines the importance of animal health in conservation. In addition, one of KAZA's objectives as listed in the Treaty (2011) is to “promote and facilitate the harmonization of relevant legislation, policies and approaches in the area of transboundary animal disease prevention.” Many of the animal health and disease concerns facing respective partner countries have been discussed at recent collaborative meetings, including the 2016 KAZA-AHEAD-FAO workshop on Commodity-Based Trade. At that workshop, there was broad support from KAZA stakeholders to reinvigorate the Animal Health Sub-Working Group so that these issues can continue to be addressed through a cross-sectoral, integrated approach.

In February 2018, the KAZA JMC noted the revival of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group of the KAZA CWG which is expected to focus on animal health and disease-related matters. The Sub-Working Group met from 1-2 August 2018 in Maun, Botswana with three out of five partner states represented and a host of collaborating partners. It is based on the recommendations of that meeting that these Terms of Reference have been refined.

### **2. Purpose, Objectives & Activities**

The aim of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group is to improve animal health and mitigate disease and related conflicts within the KAZA TFCA. We note with full understanding that the CWG is the overall responsible structure on matters of conservation and may assign tasks to the Animal Health Sub-Working Group that fit within the mandate described above. In this context, the primary objectives and activities are described below.

### Objectives

- a) Promote multi-sectoral dialogue on animal health-related developments at national and regional levels
- b) Assist in the identification of animal health and disease risk challenges and associated mitigation measures
- c) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts between current animal disease regulatory needs and KAZA TFCA objectives
- d) Support harmonisation of policy, regulations, guidelines, practices and communication related to animal health, disease management and diagnostic sampling and testing
- e) Assist in efforts to align veterinary services with those of human health authorities
- f) Assist in building capacity of natural resource managers to understand and monitor wildlife health
- g) Facilitate improvements in veterinary services offered within the TFCA
- h) Support improved livestock production and management systems based on good agricultural practices within the TFCA
- i) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts that hinder trade in animals and animal products at the KAZA level

### Activities (illustrative)

- a) Review key livestock and wildlife diseases in the five partner countries, providing priorities for surveillance and strategic control/containment
- b) Participate in assessment of existing and/or proposed fences to control transboundary animal diseases within the TFCA while considering needs related to corridors / wildlife dispersal areas
- c) Coordinate the provision of basic training on wildlife health, diseases and their control to TFCA managers, officials and livestock owners
- d) Guide the establishment of wildlife health databases, information-sharing across KAZA, and sample archiving
- e) Provide advice/guidelines on joint cross-border disease control protocols and interventions
- f) Provide advice on transboundary movement of biological samples for criminal tracing
- g) Assist in assessing impacts of the use of poisons and toxins on key wildlife species
- h) Provide technical advice on proper housing, containment, surveillance and health care of wildlife
- i) Provide technical advice in the development of emergency protocols for outbreaks of key diseases
- j) Participate in the review and assessment of veterinary requirements within the TFCA
- k) Propose improvements in veterinary services offered in the TFCA
- l) Any other activities as deemed important by the Sub-Working Group

## **2.1 Institutional Arrangements**

The Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be comprised of a range of stakeholders that have an interest or are involved in animal health / veterinary matters from each partner state, and across the KAZA landscape. The composition of the Sub-Working Group will include a minimum of three representatives from each partner state including (i) a senior representative from the department of veterinary services (preferably at the director level), (ii) a senior representative from the department of animal production (preferably at the director level), and (iii) a senior wildlife veterinary officer. Other practitioners (e.g. civil society and private sector) and institutions working in support of KAZA (e.g. SADC livestock & wildlife/NRM representatives, OIE and FAO) will be regular members. Other organisations and institutions shall be invited to provide specialist input as deemed necessary, such as those from the public health sector, reference laboratories, the World Health Organisation, and other subject matter specialists.

The functioning of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be facilitated by a small *steering committee* (maximum five people in addition to the KAZA Secretariat) whose role will be to: perform secretarial functions for the WG; disseminate current and relevant information to members; facilitate the collection and collation of information and relevant reports from the partner states; engage in strategic and

innovative thinking; support the mobilization of resources for agreed activities and priorities; and write proposals for the same. Acknowledging that these functions will require time and energy over and beyond existing workloads, Sub-Working Group members should *volunteer* rather than be delegated to be on the committee, which shall be comprised of: one (1) senior government agency representative from livestock/veterinary service, one (1) government agency representative from wildlife veterinary service, at least two (2) representatives from expert organizations in the animal health field (e.g. AHEAD, Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust) and one (1) representative from the KAZA Secretariat. Chairpersonship of both the steering committee and Sub-Working Group shall fall to the current coordinating country, as is the principle for all other KAZA structures. The steering committee shall serve for a tenure of three years unless indicated otherwise by the Sub-Working Group.

The proposed Animal Health Sub-Working Group will operate according to the Terms of Reference of the CWG and will fit into the Institutional Arrangement as proposed below (Figure 1).

**2.2 Operational**

The Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be a platform for collaboration between stakeholders engaged in animal health and veterinary matters in the KAZA TFCA and serve to further the mandate of the CWG. Activities of the Sub-Working Group will be guided by a prioritized list of action steps, which will be reported against periodically to the CWG and other KAZA structures. It is proposed that the Animal Health Sub-Working Group meet twice a year, or more frequently depending on needs or requests from the CWG.

As the Animal Health Sub-Working Group will meet twice a year or more frequently, it is also proposed that the Animal Health Sub-Working Group *steering committee* meet twice a year, or more frequently if a clear need arises to discuss issues of concern. The steering committee shall otherwise strive to conduct its affairs online, and will assist in disseminating information among members of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group between meetings as needed, and in reporting back to the CWG.

**Figure 1. KAZA Institutional Structure**

