



Applied research, post-graduate training and expertise by RP-PCP:
Accompanying programs in agriculture and conservation in Zimbabwe

Who we are:

The Research Platform “Production and Conservation in Partnership” (RP-PCP) was established in 2007, formally associating the University of Zimbabwe and the National University of Science and Technology with two French research organizations, CIRAD (<http://www.cirad.fr/>) and CNRS (<http://www.cnrs.fr/>).

End 2010, the staff involved in the activities of the RP-PCP represented an international multidisciplinary group of 50 senior researchers, academics and post-graduate students from a wide range of disciplines, including Social Sciences, Agronomy, Ecology, Geography and Veterinary Science.

Our objectives:

The overall objective of the RP-PCP is to contribute to sustainable development, conservation and improved rural livelihoods in Southern Africa through strengthening national research capacities, multidisciplinary approaches and institutional partnerships with a focus on protected areas and neighboring production areas.

The RP-PCP seeks to promote applied research on “wild-domestic interfaces” in order to address issues related to the coexistence of Man and Nature, by mitigating development and conservation activities. Our framework is organized in four broad thematic areas: Animal Health and Environment (AHE), Ecology (Eco), Conservation and Agriculture (C&A) and Natural Resources Governance and Institutions (NRGI).

The platform has selected 3 priority areas of activities which include Transfrontier Parks and their peripheries: Gonarezhou NP/GLTFCA, Hwange NP/KAZA-TFCA and the mid-Zambezi valley/ZIMOZA.

Key achievements

- Scientific productions: research papers (13), book and book chapters (5), communications during international conferences and regional workshops (>30) and technical reports have been produced.
- Academic productions: 28 postgraduate students have been/still are supervised under the RP-PCP since its inception in 2007, including 20 Zimbabweans (5 Masters students have graduated since 2007).
- Co-funding of studies/expertise done by members of the RP-PCP for the benefits of various projects coordinated by one of the partner institutions: EU-PARSEL coordinated by CIRAD, EU-LIFIN coordinated by Action Contre la Faim, ANR-FEAR coordinated by CNRS, WATERNET via UZ, FAO-DNPWMA/HWC via CIRAD, MAEE-GRIPAVI and MAEE-CORUS FMD coordinated by CIRAD...

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RP-PCP: Members of the Scientific Steering Committee and students (Harare, November 2009)



Farmers and staff of the Veterinary Services (South East Lowveld, June 2009)



Radio-tracking of buffalos equipped with GPS collars (periphery of Hwange National Park, March 2010)



Sample collection from immobilised Greater Kudu (Gonarezhou National Park, October 2008)



Questionnaire survey at Malipati dip-tank (Southe east lowveld, April 2007)