Effective responses to HIV/AIDS

The Conservation Sector

Su Erskine

The Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD), University of Natal, South Africa

“Conservation in Crisis”
College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka
10th – 12th December 2003
Presentation outline

- What is HIV/AIDS impact?
- Why is HIV/AIDS a conservation issue?
- What can we do about it?
HIV/AIDS Impacts

- Are long term
- Occur at all levels of society

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Pathways to impact

HIV

AIDS

MORTALITY

Smaller population

Change in age structure

Productivity

MORBIDITY

INDIVIDUAL

HOUSEHOLD

LABOUR MARKET

FIRM/SECTOR

GOVERNMENT

MACRO-ENVIRONMENT

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HIV/AIDS Impacts

- Are long term
- Occur at all levels of society
- Affect the very fabric of society
  - Economic
  - Demographic
  - Social

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## Rural household responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD SECURITY</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>LABOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eat cheaper foods</td>
<td>Diversify income</td>
<td>Reallocate labor – e.g. children leave school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce consumption</td>
<td>Migrate</td>
<td>Work extra hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call in social &amp; familial obligations (send children to relatives)</td>
<td>Borrow (from informal sector/relatives)</td>
<td>Hire labor &amp; draft animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat wild foods</td>
<td>Sell assets (dissaving)</td>
<td>Decrease cultivated areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beg</td>
<td>Use savings or investments (dissaving)</td>
<td>Call in social &amp; familial obligations (ask relatives to help)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beg</td>
<td><a href="http://www.heard.org.za">www.heard.org.za</a></td>
<td>Diversify income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Generic Organisational Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Progression of HIV/AIDS in the Workforce</th>
<th>Economic Impact on the Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 0</td>
<td>Employee becomes infected</td>
<td>No costs to organisation at this stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1-5</td>
<td>Morbidity begins</td>
<td>Morbidity-related costs are incurred (e.g. absenteeism, individual &amp; workforce capacity, management resources, medical care &amp; insurance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 or 7</td>
<td>Employee leaves workforce (resigns or dies)</td>
<td>Termination-related costs are incurred (e.g. payouts from pension or provident fund, funeral expenses, loss of morale, experience, &amp; work-unit cohesion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 or 8</td>
<td>Organisation hires replacement employee</td>
<td>Turnover costs are incurred (e.g. recruiting, training, reduced capacity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Effect on operational costs, capacity to manage & protect the environment & demand for capital/labor

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Main issues identified as Impacts to NRM due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic

- Loss of knowledge
- Diversion of conservation funds
- Loss of capacity
- Forest destruction
- Overuse of medicinal plants
- Increased poaching

Source: ABCG workshop proceedings, September 2002
The susceptibility & vulnerability of conservation workforce

- Large, skilled & knowledgeable workforce
- Mobile/migrant workers
  - From homes
  - Within the field
- Economic characteristics
  - Relative wealth
- Remoteness of work environment
  - Poor access to health care
  - Living arrangements

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So what do we do about it?

- Formal legislation
- Best practice from other sectors
  - Prevention, Mitigation, Leadership
- Develop innovative responses
- Communication & partnerships
- Training
  - Peer educator programs
  - Students (the future workforce)
  - Preserve indigenous knowledge systems
- Care, treatment & support options

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Where to start

- Institutional Audit & KAP Surveys
  - Assess impact
  - Understand vulnerabilities & susceptibilities
  - Identify obstacles/constraints
  - Identify opportunities

- NRM is impacted by, but also impacts on HIV infection
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife

- Assess potential impact of core functions
  - Conservation
  - Conservation partnerships
  - Ecotourism
  - Support functions
Organizational visibility
- Line item in Strategic Plan
- HIV/AIDS program funding secured
- Establishment of HIV/AIDS committee

Benefit fund structures
- Retirement fund, medical aid schemes

Occupational health
- Nurses employed

Partnerships
- Health facilities, provincial HIV/AIDS programs, traditional medicines
- HEARD

Education
- From the inside out

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...and others

- WWF policies on HIV/AIDS
- Great Limpopo Transboundary NRM Initiative
- Multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS project (Tanzania)
  - Eastern Arc Forests Conservation & Management Project (Tanzania)
- Indigenous Knowledge & HIV/AIDS (Ghana & Zambia)
- Orchidmania (www.orchids.org.za)
The role of conservation in the HIV/AIDS epidemic

- Healthy people depend on healthy environments
- Ensure natural resources are available
- Provide education & support to employees (& families)
- Extend services to local communities

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An Action Agenda

There are no:

- Simple solutions
- Short term solutions
- Technical/medical solutions
- Imposed solutions
- Money is not the answer
- Drugs are only part of the answer
- A multisectoral response
“...the environment does not exist in a sphere separate from human actions, ambitions and needs...”