

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group's HIV/AIDS & Environment Manual: A Resource for Practitioners



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WITH GREAT THANKS AND APOLOGIES TO
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CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



Review of Symposium



1. HIV/AIDS and environment interactions
2. Natural resource use by impacted communities
3. Integration of HIV/AIDS into conservation programs
4. Cost assessments
5. Behavior change programs & multi-sectoral planning
6. Tools & resources

Why Should Conservationists Care about HIV/AIDS and Act?



Impacts on

- People
- Natural resources
- Human resources & training

Opportunities to

- Improve community health in remote areas
- Mitigate loss of staff due to illness and death
- Improve future security and lessen conflict

Origins of HIV/AIDS & Environment Manual



- Leadership of Henri Nsanjama, Judy Oglethorpe and Nancy Gelman
- Field visits to learn about impacts assessment and coping strategies – Jane Dwasi
- Case studies on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS action into conservation organization – Daulos Mauambeta
- World Conservation Congress Resolution, 2005
- Funding from USAID's Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) program, MacArthur Foundation and Johnson & Johnson

HIV/AIDS Impacts Conservation Organizations



Kasungu National Park, Malawi

- 1980s-1990s
 - Main camp & 5 outposts with teams of game scouts
 - One break per month on payday – drinking and women
- 2000-2006
 - 17 middle managers lost to health-related deaths (22% loss of workforce)
 - Weakened conservation capacity
 - Escalation of poaching
 - Decline of buffalo, elephant and other large mammals
 - Diversion of conservation funds for health care

HIV/AIDS Impacts Community Capacity



Namibian Communal Conservancies

- Recent loss of senior local staff
- Pioneer in program
- 20 years of experience
- Important indigenous knowledge

Charcoal Traders in Mozambique

- 90% of population relies on charcoal and firewood
- Women must travel farther to collect and trade
- Sleeping in improvised shelters
- Negotiate sex-for-transport to bring charcoal to market

HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies



Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO)

- Developed model HIV/AIDS workplace policy with member organizations
- Non-discriminatory work environment
- Working conditions to limit spread of HIV
- Access to quality education and family planning services
- By 2009, 11 out of 15 members and 19 communal conservancies had their own policies

HIV/AIDS Workplace Programs



Mt. Elgon Conservation Program, Uganda

- Management staff attends workshops on HIV/AIDS in the workplace and community to share with staff
 - Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) and medical services provided by partner organization
 - Prevention education for all staff
 - Behavior change programs
 - Access to free condoms
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- ✓ Increase in demand for services, condoms and awareness programs
 - ✓ Staff mortality has decreased over 3 years

Community Programs: Access to Healthcare



Reaching remote & mobile communities in Northern Kenya

- Community Health Africa Trust (CHAT) & Nomadic Communities Trust (NCT)
- Mobile clinics for remote rural communities
- 25 rural sites/month - Laikipia region by Land Rover
- 19 villages/month - Samburu region by camel
- Training local residents as healthcare workers
- More than 20 support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS

Community Programs: Medicinal Plants



Tanga AIDS Working Group (TAWG)

- Partnership of medical doctors and traditional healers
- Homecare visits to patients and families
- HIV/AIDS education and awareness programs by nurses, counselors and community educators
- Community exchanges with healers, people living with AIDS and medical staff
- Care and alternative income-generating opportunities

Community Programs: Food Security & Livelihoods



Nutrition and urban agriculture in Ethiopia

- *Working in the garden gives me the feeling of worth and takes my mind away from negative thinking.*

Bushmeat and wild foods

- PEACE project in Saadani
- Alternative livelihoods for women, fishermen and youth
- Fuel-efficient stoves
- Small-scale restaurants
- Milkfish culture

Community Programs: Empowering Women



In Africa, AIDS has a woman's face
- *Kofi Annan*

Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation, Namibia

- In Caprivi, 47% of pregnant women HIV+ and 80% of households are female-headed
- Voluntary testing and counseling
- Grants for school fees, many for AIDS orphans
- Medicinal plants and harvesting
- Training in crafts and sustainable management of materials
- Integration of project into existing conservation activities

Community Programs: Empowering Orphans



Umzi Wethu Training Academy for Displaced Youth, South Africa

- Training of youth impacted by AIDS and loss of family
- Tourism and natural resources management training
- Guaranteed job placement as rangers, nature guides, etc. for wildlife tourism operators

Chiuzira Education and Development Centre, Malawi

- Support for orphans and families affected by HIV/AIDS
- Education for children – new library
- Training for families

Mainstreaming and Scaling Up



In your organization:

- Become a champion for the issue
- Develop workplace policies & programs
- Provide access to health & family planning services
- Work in partnership with communities
- Support women, girls and orphans
- Mainstream: conservation plans, actions & operations

At meetings and conferences:

- Host a plenary talk on HIV/AIDS and conservation
- Education in conference bags
- Condoms in washrooms

HIV/AIDS and Conservation ~ What's the link?

Conservation organizations in Africa are losing educated and skilled employees and communities are losing champions due to AIDS. For example:

- ⌘ HIV/AIDS threatens protected area and natural resource management:
 1. Loss of human capacity, skills, knowledge
 2. Changes in demand for and use of natural resources
 3. Diversion of conservation funds for AIDS associated costs
- ⌘ Illness and death of staff mean higher absenteeism, lower productivity, higher recruitment and training costs, loss of skills and experience
- ⌘ Illness and death in families mean loss of labor, lower wage remittances and, in turn, greater reliance on natural resources (bushmeat, medicinal plants, charcoal-making)

Useful resources:

- ⌘ www.abcg.org
- ⌘ <http://tinyurl.com/IUCN-AIDS>

**Learn more: HIV/AIDS & Conservation
workshops on Tuesday
& symposium on Thursday!**

~ TRAVEL TIP ~ Use a condom when having sex



1. Get information

You **can** contract HIV from:

- ⌘ Unprotected sex with someone who is HIV+
- ⌘ Sharing needles with someone who is HIV+
- ⌘ Receiving blood containing the HIV virus during a blood transfusion

You **cannot** get HIV from:

- ⌘ Sharing food or cutlery with someone who is HIV+
- ⌘ Sharing toilet facilities with someone who is HIV+
- ⌘ Shaking hands, hugging or kissing someone who is HIV+

2. Protect yourself – As simple as A-B-C

- ⌘ **A**bstinence
- ⌘ **B**e Faithful
- ⌘ **C**ondom use during sexual intercourse can protect you from contracting both HIV & other sexually transmitted infections.

- ⌘ www.unaids.org
- ⌘ [www.usaid.gov/our work/global health/aids/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/)