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

WITH GREAT THANKS AND APOLOGIES TO NANCY GELMAN, JUDY OGLETHORPE, JULIUS ZELOTHE AND KAME WESTERMAN
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

- 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

- 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

- Abstinence
- Be Faithful
- Condom 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/