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LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa hereby express our intention to participate and collaborate, in so far as our resources in time and funds allow us to, in the development and execution of the AHEAD-GLTFCA programme on sustaining animal health and ecosystem services in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.

More specifically the overall long-term objective of this programme is to:

Facilitate development and conservation success in the GLTFCA through integrated understanding based on innovative inter-disciplinary applied research, monitoring and surveillance at the interface between wild and domestic animal health, ecosystem goods and services, and human livelihoods and wellbeing.

The programme to which we refer is more fully outlined in the widely circulated concept paper developed by the AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group in March 2004 entitled "*Sustaining animal health and ecosystem services in large landscapes – 2nd Draft*". The planned programme is outlined in the attached single page ANNEX in the form of an *Objectives Tree*.

Dr Clifford Nxomani
Director

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES TREE

“Sustaining animal health and ecosystem services in large landscapes”

A program to address wildlife, livestock and related human and ecosystem health issues
in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area

Overall Programme Goal:
Facilitate development and conservation success in the GLTFCA

Programme Purpose:
Contribute towards establishing an integrated understanding of the Social-Ecological systems of the GLTFCA based on innovative inter-disciplinary applied research, monitoring and surveillance at the interface between wild and domestic animal health, ecosystem goods and services, and human livelihoods and wellbeing

Output #1:	Output #2:	Output #3	Output #4:	Output #5:
An enabling framework for a long term R&D program initiated* <i>(Theme #1)**</i>	Integrated, long term R&D program established for <i>(Themes 2 – 4 of the overall program)</i>	Framework for policy support and capacity building in operation <i>(Theme #5)</i>	Communications and Outreach program established <i>(Theme #6)</i>	Overall program management established and working effectively
Activities: 1. Develop an overarching conceptual framework for the program 2. Explore alternative scenarios for the GLTFCA at several scales (local to regional) 3. Assess current status of wildlife-livestock-human diseases and disease risk factors in the GLTFCA 4. Critically review current knowledge on wildlife, livestock, and human health & ecosystem services in GLTFCA. 5. Develop indicators against which to measure programme progress 6. Facilitate the development of collaborative agreements for the overall long-term R&D program.	Activities: 1. Develop more explicit research proposals & programs for each theme and its modules. 2. Submit proposals to potential donors and implement once funding is secured 3. Encourage independent research groups to participate fully in the program and to bring their own resources to it. 4. Foster full inter-disciplinary contact and interaction between researchers in all themes and modules and with related research and development initiatives in the region.	Activities: 1. Initiate and facilitate dialogue for developing policy on wildlife/livestock/human health issues in the GLTFCA 2. Encourage the production of “policy briefs” as part of research output. 3. Continuing analysis of policy implications on animal, human and ecosystem goods and services 4. Set up seminars and training courses in policy analysis 5. Assist in harmonizing policy and practice in disease control across international borders and in the region	Activities: 1. Establish framework for communication between researchers and main stakeholders in the GLTFCA 2. Fully support communications and outreach between researchers, farmers, resource managers relevant agencies and stakeholders. 3. Establish appropriate linkages with development and health agencies and projects working in the GLTFCA. 4. Establish links and/or partnership with other projects involved in improving communications in remoter areas	Activities: 1. Once programme reaches appropriate size and critical mass facilitate the establishment of an “Institutional home” and recruitment of overall Programme Scientific Director, Programme Manager and Project Leaders for each theme. 2. Admin and accounting staff appointed 3. Financial reporting systems for multiple donors in place 4. etc. etc.

*In a programme this size each Output and each of the themes would merit a separate log frame/objectives tree.

** “Themes” and their “Modules” are outlined in the March 2004 AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group Paper.