

Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area



Animal Health Sub Working Group

Report to the Conservation Working Group

June 27, 2019

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Abbreviations

AHEAD	Animal & Human Health for the Environment And Development
AHSWG	Animal Health Sub Working Group
BPCT	Botswana Predator Conservation Trust
CBT	Commodity-Based Trade
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLAWS	Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
H4H	Herding for Health
JMC	Joint Management Committee
KAZA TFCA	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
LTC	Livestock Technical Committee (of SADC)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
ORI	Okavango Research Institute
PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SC	Steering Committee
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TBNRM	Transboundary Natural Resource Management
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
VFWT	Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust
WDA	Wildlife Dispersal Area
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WG	Working Group

1. Introduction

The KAZA TFCA is a vast landscape that encompasses multiple land use areas that consist of protected areas in the form of national parks, wildlife/game management areas, forest reserves, and communal areas. More than 70% of the land in the KAZA TFCA is inhabited by communities that live in close proximity to protected areas, expanding the interface among wildlife, livestock and people. Management of animal diseases at this wildlife-livestock-human interface is a concern for public health, economic and conservation reasons. Diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, rabies, brucellosis, and anthrax impact rural development by decreasing livestock productivity, causing livestock and wildlife mortality, and affecting the health and wellbeing of people. Climate change is likely to exacerbate challenges to animal and human health in the region as temperature extremes, lower rainfall and more extreme weather events become more common. The presence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) continues to negatively impact livestock producers by restricting market access for the beef they produce. In addition, FMD control fencing restricts wildlife movements and threatens the success of KAZA's Wildlife Dispersal Areas (WDAs). It is within this broad context of environmental and social impacts that animal health challenges need to be addressed.

The KAZA Treaty (2011) allows for the establishment of ad hoc specialist advisory groups (Working Groups - WG) to advise the KAZA Joint Management Committee (JMC) on their areas of specialisation, represent different sectors of society in the

KAZA developmental process and facilitate exchange of information on matters of mutual interest among the partner states. One such group, the Animal Health Sub Working Group (AHSWG) under the Conservation WG, had remained dormant for many years. However, in February 2018 the JMC noted its revival so that animal health and veterinary challenges across the TFCA could continue to be addressed through a cross-sectoral, integrated approach, as underpinned by sound policy development emphasizing sustainable approaches to disease and land-use management.

Following revival, the AHSWG met in August 2018 and again in June 2019. The following is a summary report of the outcomes of these meetings, including a proposed workplan for the coming year.

2. Summary of meetings

The AHSWG met from August 1-2, 2018 in Maun, Botswana, with three out of five partner states represented, including two Directors and one Deputy Director of Veterinary Services and a host of collaborating partners (participant list can be found in Annex 2). The meeting focused on developing a common understanding of the key animal health challenges found in the KAZA TFCA. Following presentations by partner states and collaborating partners, the group reviewed and agreed on the modalities of the group, as listed in the attached Terms of Reference (see Annex 1 and Section 3 below). Later, in breakout groups, participants listed priorities that need to be tackled, particularly through a cross-sectoral, transboundary lens. In the same breakout groups, participants went on to identify practical actions that need to be taken in the next three-year period. While initial progress was made, it was recognised that a more detailed work programme, delineating specific key role players and timeframes was needed to ensure timely progress. Also, not all partner states were represented in the 2018 meeting. Thus, bringing the group together again to gather input from all partner states was necessary prior to finalizing a prioritised list of action steps.

Accordingly, the AHSWG Steering Committee (SC) met from June 10-11, 2019 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Using breakout notes from the previous meeting, the SC produced a master list and began to prioritise identified animal health issues for action within KAZA. Priorities were assigned according to the following:

Priority	Key
C	Completed
O	Ongoing, with some funding
U	Greatest urgency in terms of animal health & conservation outcomes in KAZA
L	Easy to accomplish (low-hanging fruit) within one year with limited resources
B	Both urgent & low hanging fruit

The full group met from June 12-13, 2019, immediately following the SC, at the same venue. This time, all five partner states were represented together with a host of collaborating partners (participant list can be found in Annex 3). Partner states and collaborating partners provided updates on key animal health related issues – current and emerging – within KAZA or that have a bearing on the TFCA. Following this, the SC presented the consolidated draft list of priority animal health activities to the WG for consideration. This was refined further in breakout groups. Following this, the identification of key role players and timeframes was delineated. Finally, the WG honed down on those actions that it could commit itself to undertake within the first year, i.e. July 2019-June 2020. These are outlined in Section 5 below.

3. Modalities of AHSWG

A full Terms of Reference (ToRs) are attached in Annex 1. Importantly, the objectives of the group include the need to:

- a) Promote multi-sectoral dialogue on animal health-related developments at national and regional levels;
- b) Assist in the identification of animal health and disease risk challenges and associated mitigation measures;
- c) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts between current animal disease regulatory needs and KAZA TFCA objectives;
- d) Support harmonisation of policy, regulations, guidelines, practices and communication related to animal health, disease management and diagnostic sampling and testing;
- e) Assist in efforts to align veterinary services with those of human health authorities;
- f) Assist in building capacity of natural resource managers to understand and monitor wildlife health;
- g) Facilitate improvements in veterinary services offered within the TFCA;
- h) Support improved livestock production and management systems based on good agricultural practices within the TFCA;
- i) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts that hinder trade in animals and animal products at the KAZA level.

3.1. Institutional arrangements

The composition of the Sub Working Group includes:

- A minimum of three representatives from each partner state from (i) department of veterinary services (preferably at the director level), (ii) department of animal production (preferably at the director level), and (iii) a senior wildlife veterinary officer.
- Other practitioners from NGOs and other entities and institutions working in support of KAZA e.g. SADC, OIE and FAO.
- Other organisations and institutions shall be invited to provide specialist input as deemed necessary, such as those from the public health sector, reference laboratories, the World Health Organisation, and other subject matter specialists.

The group will be chaired on a rotational basis, following the Country Coordination role as allowed for in the Treaty. The AHSWG may meet up to twice a year – funding and workloads depending.

The functioning of the AHSWG is facilitated by a small *steering committee (SC)* whose role is to: perform secretarial functions for the WG; disseminate current and relevant information to members; facilitate the collection and collation of information and relevant reports from the partner states; engage in strategic and innovative thinking; support the mobilization of resources for agreed activities and priorities; and write proposals for the same. Acknowledging that these functions require time and energy over and beyond existing workloads, SC members are volunteers rather than delegated officials and comprise the following: (i) BW (Chair): Comfort Nkgowe (Department of Wildlife and National Parks), (ii) ZM: to be confirmed (veterinary), (iii) ZW: Columbas Chaitezvi (ZIMPARKS), (iv) AHEAD, (v) Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, (vi) Markus Hofmeyr, and (vii) KAZA Secretariat.

4. Priority animal health issues and objectives

The following are some key objectives that were identified during the course of the meetings:

- i. **Facilitate sustainable integrated land use & livelihoods in KAZA.** FMD management practices continue to negatively impact livestock production and wildlife conservation efforts in KAZA. Several AHSWG collaborating partners are working on ways to improve the situation through adoption of commodity-based trade (CBT) of beef. Regional CBT Beef Guidelines have been developed by the AHEAD programme (<http://www.wcs-ahead.org/kaza/181114-guidelines-for-implementing-cbt-final.pdf>), and the SADC Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) recommended them for adoption as a SADC document to encourage their use by Member States. The document was subsequently approved at the most recent SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Windhoek in June 2019. The Government of Botswana noted it is committed to implementing CBT and the AHEAD consortium is assisting them in their efforts. Through this technical support, capacity-building through training of veterinary officers and extension staff has been undertaken, awareness raising workshops at the producer level have been held, and a draft gap analysis has been completed with a stakeholders validation workshop planned for late July 2019. The Herding for Health (H4H) project, implemented jointly by Conservation International (CI) & Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), has identified priority sites in KAZA's WDAs for pilot projects, with work being initiated at various stages ranging from feasibility studies to early implementation at the animal production level. These sites include Habu and Eretsha villages in Botswana, Simalaha in Zambia and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.
- ii. **Improve speed & accuracy of diagnostics / analysis to improve disease management / forensic identification.** The movement of samples within KAZA to referral testing facilities or labs is currently constrained by several factors including restricted movement between veterinary zones of differing animal health status. However, there was recognition that there are perfectly competent facilities within KAZA, which should be utilised under certain conditions and for specific purposes, which can enable more timely determination of results. This is important from a disease risk management perspective. However, national protocols and procedures need to be considered, as does whether these facilities within KAZA have the necessary accreditation to offer such services and if not, how this could be facilitated. Drawing from experiences from other TFCAs and even KAZA, it was acknowledged that while high level harmonization of legislation and policy in TFCAs is a time-consuming and challenging goal, developing working, field level Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has proven easier to achieve within broader national and regional frameworks. This reflects in the workplan (Section 5) where the AHSWG proposes to develop SOPs to enable cross-border collaboration on sample movement while addressing longer term accreditation issues based on an assessment of diagnostic capacity within KAZA. CITES permit requirements (related to Appendix 1 & 2 listed species) are also a barrier to wildlife sample analysis. This issue has also been raised by the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group and the OIE Working Group on Wildlife. As a first step, AHSWG members agreed to sensitise their own countries to support the upcoming CITES CoP18 Doc.56 resolution dealing with movement of diagnostic and forensic samples. See: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-056.pdf>
- iii. **Improve decision making by making surveillance data more comparable across the KAZA landscape.** To establish a baseline, it was agreed that all partner states begin collating a list of existing SOPs as well as recent and planned surveillance operations within KAZA. Once complete, this will allow for

an assessment of existing SOPs to determine if updates and/or harmonization would increase efficiency – recognising that some countries may require support in SOP development.

- iv. **Enable more effective transboundary collaboration.** The need for improved communication between field-based veterinary officers from different partner states came out strongly in discussions, especially when dealing with disease outbreaks. As a first step, a WhatsApp group has been established. It was also felt that joint field-based veterinary officer meetings held at least twice a year in different locations would help improve trust and communications across borders. To ensure this does not add unnecessary burden to operatives on the ground, it was suggested that these align with existing mechanisms e.g. the TBNRM forums, or the Joint Permanent Commissions if appropriate. Finally, the AHSWG now has its own online presence at <http://www.wcs-ahead.org/kaza-ahswg/kaza-ahswg.html>. Materials of relevance to the WG's meetings including ToRs, meeting notes, programme agendas and PDFs of PowerPoint presentations are included.
- v. **Ensure fencing decisions are based on sound cross-sectoral cost/benefit analysis.** WG members reiterated that CBT approaches to beef production facilitate the management of FMD trade risk while diminishing the need for expensive and environmentally damaging fences. Discussions centred around the need to assess current and planned veterinary fences affecting KAZA's WDAs – to gain a clearer understanding of their utility and/or which are most environmentally damaging. Partner states noted that fences are expensive for governments to maintain and many are in a state of disrepair [causing further wildlife and livestock mortality through entanglement]. Even though disease control was the original justification for putting up many fences, this has evolved over time with some serving a multitude of purposes, including mitigating human-wildlife conflict and border security. Consequently, any review of fences in KAZA must be cognizant of these various intentions and the changing socio-political realities on the ground. Botswana noted the recent revival of its multi-sectoral National Committee on Cordon Fences, previously known as the Ad Hoc Committee on Fences. One of the functions of the Committee will be to conduct a review of its internal veterinary fences.

5. Prioritised activities for the year 2019-20

Based on outputs of the 2018 and 2019 meetings, the AHSWG has identified the following key activities that need to be undertaken/initiated within the next 12 months (July 2019-June 2020). These are outlined in Table 1 – please note that some minor changes may be made to the workplan based on input from Directors of Veterinary Services and Animal Production who were unable to attend the June 2019 meeting.

6. Immediate next steps

The following next steps were agreed to by the group:

- i. SC to prepare and disseminate 2019 meeting report and draft action table to AHSWG;
- ii. KAZA DVS and Animal Production Directors to be briefed at the next SADC LTC (June 18-19, 2019) to bring them up to speed [task completed June 18, 2019];
- iii. Brief the Conservation WG at their next meeting;
- iv. Pending approval of work plan by Conservation WG, AHSWG to begin to undertake agreed upon activities;
- v. AHSWG to meet again at least once before July 2020.

7. Recommendations for consideration by the KAZA Structures

- i. Country representatives to sensitize the delegations from each KAZA partner state that will be attending CITES COP18 on the importance of the resolution related to sample transfer so that it may supported; and
- ii. Communication regarding the KAZA AHSWG (e.g. pertaining to meetings) to be copied to Directors of Veterinary Services and Animal Production in the ministries of agriculture, whilst being sent directly to the KAZA lead ministries. This will enable the Directors to lobby for their personal attendance (including sponsorship) at WG meetings and/or that of the most appropriate, delegated officers.

Table 1. Prioritised activities for the year 2019-2020

Priority legend

C Completed

O Ongoing

U Greatest urgency in terms of animal health & conservation outcomes in KAZA

L Easy to accomplish (low hanging fruit) within 1-year with limited resources

B Both Urgent AND Low hanging fruit

No	Topic	Objective	Activity	Responsibility	Location/ Scope	Timeline	Details	Priority
1.1	Animal Production & Livelihoods	Facilitate sustainable integrated land use & livelihoods in KAZA	Prepare updated regional guidelines for CBT beef production	AHEAD	SADC region	2017-2018	Revised to incorporate 2015 changes to OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code that allow for quarantine.	C
1.2			Revise guidelines for CBT beef production based on SADC Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) input for proposed adoption as SADC document	AHEAD	Presented to SADC LTC (Jul & Dec 2018)	Jul 2018 – Jun 2019	Revised following SADC LTC feedback; approved by SADC Council of Ministers as regional document (June 2019)	C
1.3			Identify priority sites in KAZA WDAs for CBT pilot projects	H4H	Multiple sites	2018- to date	Field site assessment with eventual feasibility studies	O
1.4			Initiate CBT pilot work at multiple sites identified in WDAs (3 countries to date)	Govt & community partners; H4H, BPCT; CLAWS; ORI; CIRAD; VFWT; PPF; CI; AHEAD	(BW) Habu & Eretsha (ZM) Simalaha (ZW) Victoria Falls	2018 – to date	Various stages from feasibility studies to early implementation at production level (e.g. herding/kraaling pilots)	O
1.5			Conduct CBT beef market opportunities analysis for Ngamiland, BW	AHEAD, WWF	Ngamiland, BW	2017	Stakeholder consultation & desktop study.	C
1.6			Conduct detailed gap analysis on implementation of CBT beef in Ngamiland, BW	AHEAD consortium in partnership with DVS, BW	Ngamiland, BW	Nov 2017- Jul 2019	Stakeholder consultation & field site visits; capacity-building/ training; workshops. Draft report completed; DVS HQ validation (June 2019); stakeholder validation workshop (July 2019)	O
1.7			Conduct analysis of regional abattoir capacity	TBD			Analysis to consider potential for more efficient use of resources within KAZA	L

1.8		Improve understanding & ability to mitigate risk	Collate data & apply rainfall biomass model to help guide risk mitigation/ future management strategies	DVS – Afonso & Machado (AN); Mbeha & Mafonko (BW); Amushila (NA); Katampi (ZM); Taylor (WWF)	Rainfall station data (as many as possible); mortality data available for KAZA component; modelling	Jul 2019 – Jun 2020; ongoing with progress report by end of Yr-1	Collection of data (yr-1); apply Coe, Cumming & Philipson model (1976) - Yr-2 (Taylor). Rainfall data & statistics on animal mortality, especially livestock (deaths due to disease, predation, environmental/underlying nutrition, fence & road kills). [Editor's note: consider FEWS NET famine early warning system for possibly useful tools.]	B
2.1	Surveillance	Improve decision making by making surveillance data more comparable across KAZA landscape	Collation of existing SOPs	DVS - Afonso & Machado (AN); Mbeha & Mafonko (BW); Amushila (NA); Katampi (ZM); Hanyire (ZW)	Desktop	Jul – Sep 2019	PDF documents, send to AHSWG SC	B
2.2			Collation of recent & planned surveillance operations within KAZA	DVS - Afonso & Machado + Cuando-Cubango province vet officer (AN); Mbeha & Mafonko (BW); Amushila (NA); Katampi (ZM); Hanyire (ZW)	Desktop. Data from 2015 onwards (passive & active operations)	Jul-Sep 2019	List of surveillance operations & where	B
3.1	Disease risk assessment	Coordinate & spearhead prioritised AHSWG activities	Produce Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a proposed KAZA-wide epidemiologist	VFWT (Foggin); AHEAD; Chaitezvi (ZW)	Start process to produce ToRs & source funds	Jul 2019 – Jun 2020	Email & Skype meetings b/w team; desktop	L
3.2		Improve ability to mitigate disease risk	Desktop survey of epidemiological capacity within KAZA	TBD	TBD	Likely 2020-2021	Progress envisioned once KAZA-wide epidemiologist position filled &/or Yr-2 activity	L
4.1	Diagnostics	Improved speed & accuracy of diagnoses to improve disease management	Survey of diagnostic capacity within KAZA (including listing labs that are accredited for certain tests)	Team to source info: Foggin (VFWT); Hanyire (ZW); Mbeha (BW). Nyika to provide info from LTC (via Manyire)	Initially desktop study; ZW chairing LTC lab sub-committee (indicated some info already there)	2019	Progress envisioned within one year. Conduct survey for disease risk assessment capacity, with view of more efficient use of resources within KAZA	L

4.2			Promote use of regional (KAZA) facilities/labs	TBD	TBD	Likely 2020-21	Progress envisioned once survey of diagnostic lab capacity completed	B
4.3		Improved speed & accuracy of diagnostics / analysis to improve disease management / forensic identification	Develop veterinary SOPs for gross examination & next course of action for confiscated consignments of animal products	DVS - Afonso & Machado (AN); Mbeha & Mafonko (BW); Amushila (NA); Katampi (ZM); Hanyire (ZW)	Examination of legislation - both wildlife & veterinary health statutes (2019); start to develop SOPs (2020)	Oct 1 - Dec 15, 2019 (gather Acts/regulations)	Examine with view to developing SOPs & share w/ group (2019); develop SOPs (2020); developed in partnership with law enforcement agencies.	B
4.4			AHSWG members to get their own countries to support CITES CoP18 Doc.56 resolution dealing with movement of diagnostic & forensic samples	Individual countries with top-down & bottom-up approaches	1. Chair for AHSWG 2. Conservation WG 3. Country delegation to CITES CoP18 4. Country representatives	ASAP (before Sep 2019)	Through written communication to the Directors cc KAZA focal persons	B
5.1	Communications		Enable more effective transboundary collaboration	Set up WhatsApp group for field level operatives	One administrator per country: Afonso (AN); Nkgowe (BW); Amushila (NA); Katampi (ZM); Foggin (ZW)	Include representatives from PS (DVS; wildlife & private sector)	Initiated 13 Jun 2019; full set of names by Jun 30	Develop rules of communication
5.2		Institute veterinary officer meetings (local/field-level)		Representatives from PS	Veterinary officers stationed within KAZA	Use existing mechanisms where possible e.g. TBNRM forum	Initial step: brief &/or write to superiors in PSs	B
6.1	Disease control	Ensure fencing decisions are based on sound cross-sectoral cost/benefit analysis	Determine mechanisms in place in each PS for cross-sectoral engagement on fencing issues (start w/ key government authorities)	Individual countries	DVS representatives: Matamdiko (BW); Amashila (NA); Tapiwa (ZW)	Aug 31, 2019	Consultation with relevant stakeholders and written communication	B
6.2			Re-establish Botswana multi-sectoral national fencing committee to review fencing	BW - co-chaired by DVS & DWNP; support provided by AHEAD	Botswana	2018 - to date (ongoing)	Regular meetings of Committee; input from technical experts on specific issues, as required	O

6.3			Conduct assessment of current & planned veterinary fences affecting KAZA's WDAs	AHEAD; WWF	Start process to source funds	Attempt to source funds: Yr-1	Actual assessment possibly done at individual country level?	U
6.4		Improve KAZA-wide disease management	Coordinate shared emergency disease response	TBD				O
6.5			Coordination of vaccination campaigns (activities to be synchronized)	TBD				O
7.1	Cross cutting – Research	Improve regional knowledge base for science-based decision making	Identify veterinary research priorities	Steering Committee (SC)	AHEAD to share preliminary list with SC for expansion	Jul 2019 - Jun 2020	Desktop	L

Annex 1. AHSWG Terms of Reference

KAZA Animal Health Sub-Working Group

A collaboration of partners interested in supporting the KAZA TFCA to address animal health and disease challenges across the KAZA landscape

Animal Health Sub-Working Group of the KAZA Conservation Working Group Terms of Reference

(revised by consensus as of August 2018)

1. Background

The KAZA TFCA is a vast landscape that encompasses multiple land use areas that consist of protected areas in the form of national parks, wildlife/game management areas, forest reserves, and communal areas. More than 70% of the land in the KAZA TFCA is inhabited by communities that live in close proximity to protected areas, expanding the interface among wildlife, livestock and people. Management of animal diseases (including zoonoses – diseases transmissible between animals and people) at this wildlife-livestock-human interface is a concern for public health, economic and conservation reasons. Diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, rabies, brucellosis, and anthrax impact rural development by decreasing livestock productivity, causing livestock and wildlife mortality, and affecting the health and wellbeing of people. Foot and mouth disease continues to negatively impact livestock producers. Transfrontier conservation entails free movement of wildlife over large geographic areas. However, the current internationally accepted approaches for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) is to prevent movement of animals (wild and domestic) between areas where TADs occur and where they do not (primarily through veterinary fencing, which has major impacts on migratory wildlife). As a result, the TFCA vision and geographic (fence-based) approaches to TADs management approaches are not compatible. It is within this broad context of environmental and social impacts that animal health challenges need to be addressed.

The KAZA TFCA Conservation Working Group (CWG), an advisory body to the Joint Management Committee (JMC), was established in 2010 with many of these challenges in mind, and included in their guidelines the importance of animal health in conservation. In addition, one of KAZA's objectives as listed in the Treaty (2011) is to "promote and facilitate the harmonization of relevant legislation, policies and approaches in the area of transboundary animal disease prevention." Many of the animal health and disease concerns facing respective partner countries have been discussed at recent collaborative meetings, including the 2016 KAZA-AHEAD-FAO workshop on Commodity-Based Trade. At that workshop, there was broad support from KAZA stakeholders to reinvigorate the Animal Health Sub-Working Group so that these issues can continue to be addressed through a cross-sectoral, integrated approach.

In February 2018, the KAZA JMC noted the revival of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group of the KAZA CWG which is expected to focus on animal health and disease-related matters. The Sub-Working Group met from 1-2 August 2018 in Maun, Botswana with three out of five partner states represented and a host of collaborating partners. It is based on the recommendations of that meeting that these Terms of Reference have been refined.

2. Purpose, Objectives & Activities

The aim of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group is to improve animal health and mitigate disease and related conflicts within the KAZA TFCA. We note with full understanding that the CWG is the overall responsible structure on matters of conservation and may assign tasks to the Animal Health Sub-Working Group that fit within the mandate described above. In this context, the primary objectives and activities are described below.

Objectives

- a) Promote multi-sectoral dialogue on animal health-related developments at national and regional levels
- b) Assist in the identification of animal health and disease risk challenges and associated mitigation measures
- c) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts between current animal disease regulatory needs and KAZA TFCA objectives
- d) Support harmonisation of policy, regulations, guidelines, practices and communication related to animal health, disease management and diagnostic sampling and testing
- e) Assist in efforts to align veterinary services with those of human health authorities
- f) Assist in building capacity of natural resource managers to understand and monitor wildlife health
- g) Facilitate improvements in veterinary services offered within the TFCA
- h) Support improved livestock production and management systems based on good agricultural practices within the TFCA
- i) Collaborate towards resolving conflicts that hinder trade in animals and animal products at the KAZA level

Activities (illustrative)

- a) Review key livestock and wildlife diseases in the five partner countries, providing priorities for surveillance and strategic control/containment
- b) Participate in assessment of existing and/or proposed fences to control transboundary animal diseases within the TFCA while considering needs related to corridors / wildlife dispersal areas
- c) Coordinate the provision of basic training on wildlife health, diseases and their control to TFCA managers, officials and livestock owners
- d) Guide the establishment of wildlife health databases, information-sharing across KAZA, and sample archiving
- e) Provide advice/guidelines on joint cross-border disease control protocols and interventions
- f) Provide advice on transboundary movement of biological samples for criminal tracing
- g) Assist in assessing impacts of the use of poisons and toxins on key wildlife species
- h) Provide technical advice on proper housing, containment, surveillance and health care of wildlife
- i) Provide technical advice in the development of emergency protocols for outbreaks of key diseases
- j) Participate in the review and assessment of veterinary requirements within the TFCA
- k) Propose improvements in veterinary services offered in the TFCA
- l) Any other activities as deemed important by the Sub-Working Group

2.1 Institutional Arrangements

The Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be comprised of a range of stakeholders that have an interest or are involved in animal health / veterinary matters from each partner state, and across the KAZA landscape. The composition of the Sub-Working Group will include a minimum of three representatives from each partner state including (i) a senior representative from the department of veterinary services (preferably at the director level), (ii) a senior representative from the department of animal production (preferably at the director level), and (iii) a senior wildlife veterinary officer. Other practitioners (e.g. civil society and private sector) and institutions working in support of KAZA (e.g. SADC livestock & wildlife/NRM representatives, OIE and FAO) will be regular members. Other organisations and institutions shall be invited to provide specialist input as deemed necessary, such as those from the public health sector, reference laboratories, the World Health Organisation, and other subject matter specialists.

The functioning of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be facilitated by a small *steering committee* (maximum five people in addition to the KAZA Secretariat) whose role will be to:

perform secretarial functions for the WG; disseminate current and relevant information to members; facilitate the collection and collation of information and relevant reports from the partner states; engage in strategic and innovative thinking; support the mobilization of resources for agreed activities and priorities; and write proposals for the same. Acknowledging that these functions will require time and energy over and beyond existing workloads, Sub-Working Group members should *volunteer* rather than be delegated to be on the committee, which shall be comprised of: one (1) senior government agency representative from livestock/veterinary service, one (1) government agency representative from wildlife veterinary service, at least two (2) representatives from expert organizations in the animal health field (e.g. AHEAD, Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust) and one (1) representative from the KAZA Secretariat. Chairpersonship of both the steering committee and Sub-Working Group shall fall to the current coordinating country, as is the principle for all other KAZA structures. The steering committee shall serve for a tenure of three years unless indicated otherwise by the Sub-Working Group.

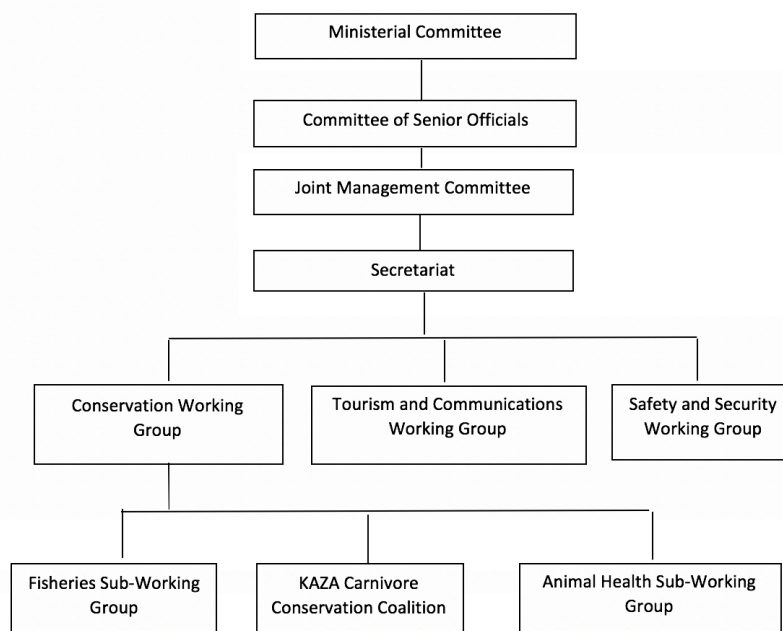
The proposed Animal Health Sub-Working Group will operate according to the Terms of Reference of the CWG and will fit into the Institutional Arrangement as proposed below (Figure 1).

2.2 Operational

The Animal Health Sub-Working Group will be a platform for collaboration between stakeholders engaged in animal health and veterinary matters in the KAZA TFCA and serve to further the mandate of the CWG. Activities of the Sub-Working Group will be guided by a prioritized list of action steps, which will be reported against periodically to the CWG and other KAZA structures. It is proposed that the Animal Health Sub-Working Group meet twice a year, or more frequently depending on needs or requests from the CWG.

As the Animal Health Sub-Working Group will meet twice a year or more frequently, it is also proposed that the Animal Health Sub-Working Group *steering committee* meet twice a year, or more frequently if a clear need arises to discuss issues of concern. The steering committee shall otherwise strive to conduct its affairs online, and will assist in disseminating information among members of the Animal Health Sub-Working Group between meetings as needed, and in reporting back to the CWG.

Figure 1. KAZA Institutional Structure



Annex 2. Attendees – AHSWG August 2018

No.	Surname	Name	Country	Affiliation	Title &/or expertise	Email
1	Britton	Andrea	Botswana	OIE	Project Coordinator	a.britton@oie.int
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3	Hofmeyr	Markus	Botswana	Great Plains Conservation	Chief Conservation Officer & Veterinarian	markus@greatplainsconservation.com
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