

ZIMBABWE PRESENTATION ON THE INTERLINKAGES OF BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH WORKSHOP

BY

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Joint Actions

- Conduct a Situation and Needs Analysis to see where exactly we are as a nation
- Taskforce on health and environment
- To incorporate in the review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP.)
- Identification of the biological species that have a benefit to human health.

Key Elements

- Formulate a joint policy on human health and biodiversity
- Mainstreaming of health and biodiversity issues into the educational curricula
- Capacity building of existing structures to ensure biodiversity and health information is cascaded to the local or village level.

Needs

- Coordinating board with a secretariat at national level with the responsibility of disseminating information, research and capacity building.
- Skills development to the existing National Institute of Health Research to ensure mainstreaming of the linkages of biodiversity and human health.
- Creation of a National Regulatory Framework with which ensures the sustainable utilisation of biodiversity with health benefits and protect it from becoming extinct.
- A Declaration to harmonise the implementation of health and biodiversity issues
- Regional Framework to harmonise the implementation of Biodiversity and health instruments.
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Best Practices

- Bio-safety Council in existence in Zimbabwe
- Traditional Medical Practitioners Council
- Department of Traditional Medicine in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
- The Botanical Gardens
- There is strong collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management

Collaborative Mechanisms

- Harmonisation of legal instruments in the Region eg countries in the region are at different stages in the implementation of the ABS

Actions of Urgent need

- There is need for strengthening of existing and creation of new structures in terms of skills development.
- Technical and financial support
- Equip and support Institutions of research and laboratories