

LAND-USE PARADIGMS, WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK: CHALLENGES, CHOICES AND POTENTIAL WAYS FORWARD

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Nature-based tourism (photographic safaris, trophy hunting, etc.) now contributes about as much to the gross domestic product (GDP) of southern Africa as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries combined – a remarkable and relatively recent development documented by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. However, the management of wildlife and livestock diseases (including zoonoses) within proposed transfrontier conservation areas presents an emerging policy issue of major concern to livestock production, associated access to export markets, and other sectors, including public health, in the region. Over the past eight years, the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) Animal & Human Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) programme, and partners, have gained valuable insight into the animal health policy challenges facing transfrontier conservation area initiatives. Emphasizing the synergies that diverse stakeholder collaboration across institutions and sectors offers, we will share some examples from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region wherein countries have chosen to pursue transfrontier conservation areas in the interest of regional risk-diversification of land-use options and livelihood opportunities – and to enhance resilience in the face of climate change and food security challenges.

