



Developing livelihood strategies for livestock-based communities in Zimbabwe



Motivation for working with livestock-based communities in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a country with lots of promises, rich in natural resources knowledge and management, in Southern Africa. About 70% of this country depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, however over the years these farmers have seen their dreams being shattered in the face of climate change, poor decision making and socio-political challenges.

Potential of holistic management

Holistic Land & Livestock Management uses a decision-making framework and planning process to produce ecologically regenerative, economically viable and socially sound management of the world's grasslands.

It has great potential in climate mitigation and beyond due carbon sequestration in the world's grasslands- Savory Institute and others have been scaling these up, Machmuller et al ; results from South eastern USA- holistic grazing has sequestered 29.36 metric tons of CO₂/ha/year.

There's potential for scaling this up in the world's grasslands

Tools are:

Holistic Grazing which mimics predator-prey relations in wild Africa

Animal impact- from herds of animals together and moving according to grazing plan

Grazing and permanent ground cover enhance infiltration and contribute to watershed restoration

Regeneration of community values and food sovereignty

Restoration of relationships with wild life and rich natural resources



Trainings in session at community using active learning skills



Pictures showing changes of land after high animal impact at ACHM

Working with communities

Poverty cycles and lots of failed farming has seen these communities almost hopeless to dream of a future for the next generation. Igugu Trust does the following:

- Trainings in Holistic grazing
- Livestock management
- Herder organising and skills building
- Consensus building for grazing and regeneration
- Leadership engagement
- Mentoring and support



Predator friendly Boma /kraal used to impact land and protect livestock

Remaining issues

In addition to ecological and social regeneration- Need to diversify income sources, also linked to sustainable tourism and nutrition for poverty alleviation.

Building value for herders as stewards of the land

Potentials to explore:

- Community vegetable gardens
- Bee keeping
- Creation of value for wildlife as part of our identity

Contact

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Synergies with Research

Despite the proven success of holistic management, there is great need to partner these practices with research to ;

- > Close the gap of peer reviewed evidence
- > Inform policy and decision making
- > Speed up large scale adoption by communities in arid regions
- > Potential for CO₂ measurements and mitigation potential in Africa

