**Call for applications from TFCA Managers in the SADC region to attend the AHEAD GLTFCA conference in Hwange, Zimbabwe, 12 – 15 May 2014**

**Background**

The **Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme (BIOPAMA)** is an EU-funded project that aims at improving the long-term conservation of biodiversity in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region and enhancing the capacity of existing institutions and networks involved in biodiversity conservation and protected area management. BIOPAMA has been implemented since March 2012 in close collaboration between the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC) and the German Agency for International Collaboration (GIZ). By improving access to and availability of relevant data and information on biodiversity, climate, natural resource management, governance and socioeconomic issues, the BIOPAMA programme aims to enhance the management of protected areas (terrestrial and marine) and national systems of protected areas. A Regional Observatory will be established in the Eastern and Southern African region to enable the provision of relevant data and information to assist in improved planning and decision-making as well as exchanging knowledge. A capacity building programme is also being implemented to support decision-making for Protected Areas at all levels. Stakeholder consultations identified a common threat to Protected Areas across the region relating to conflicting/competing land uses at the interface of PAs. Therefore, the overall theme for the initial work of the Observatory in the Eastern and Southern African region will be on supporting integrated planning and cross-sectoral engagement between Protected Areas and, in particular, the Extractive Industries, Agriculture, Fisheries and Infrastructure Development sectors to resolve and avoid potential land/resource use conflicts around Protected Areas and promote integrated development planning. The focus of the CB programme is thus on negotiation skills and supporting cross-sectoral engagement, supported by information and analyses from the Regional Observatory.

The **Research Platform “Production and Conservation in Partnership”**(RP-PCP) associating CIRAD, UZ, NUST and CNRS was created in 2007, to support applied research and academic training for improved management of “wild-domestic interfaces”. The RenCaRe project, implemented by the RP-PCP is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the period 2012-2016. The project supports several activities aimed at informing management of the GLTFCA and KAZATFCA, including support to SADC post-graduate students, improvement of field research infrastructures in Gonarezhou and Hwange, and consultation/sharing information with local and regional stakeholders (hence this conference).

Founded at the 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa by the Wildlife Conservation Society and partners, AHEAD (Animal & Human Health for the Environment And Development) is a convening, facilitative mechanism, working to create enabling environments that allow different and often competing sectors to literally come to the same table and find collaborative ways forward to address challenges at the interface of wildlife health, livestock health, and human health and livelihoods. We convene stakeholders, help delineate conceptual frameworks to underpin planning, management and research, and provide technical support and resources for projects stakeholders identify as priorities. AHEAD recognizes the need to look at health and disease not in isolation but within a given region's socioeconomic and environmental context.

These two organizations share similar objectives and fields of interest, and they have collaborated fruitfully for the past 7 years. The RP-PCP and AHEAD have thus decided to hold a joint conference/meeting, for the first time in Zimbabwe (see also attached conference flyer below).

**This opportunity**

In refining the specific needs of the Eastern and Southern African region both in terms of relevant information and capacity needs related to land/resource use competition/conflicts, the BIOPAMA programme would like to support up to 5 TFCA Managers from the SADC region to attend the RP-PCP and AHEAD GLTFCA conference in Hwange, at which the BIOPAMA team will be hosting a session on the BIOPAMA Regional Reference Information System and the Capacity Building Programme to solicit feedback and input from PA Managers and other participants at the conference. In addition, the BIOPAMA programme would like to support the networking and exchange of information and best practices across the region and provide an opportunity for these TFCA managers to engage with each other and in particular also learn from the AHEAD –GLTFCA model of collaboration between various stakeholders around that TFCA.

**Support offered:**

Successful candidates will receive financial support to attend the full conference. This will include travel to and from Hwange Safari Lodge (airport transfer in country of origin, economy class flights, visa, transfer to Hwange Safari Lodge); Accommodation for 4 nights (Sunday – Wednesday) during the conference (full board); the Conference Package for the duration of the conference and a small incidental allowance of 20$ per overnight (80$ total).

**Application process:**

Please send a letter of motivation outlining how you will benefit from attending this conference, specifically answering these two questions:

1. How will this conference support you in your work in your TFCA?
2. What longer-term benefits do you aim to draw from the conference and the BIOPAMA session?

Applications should be sent by email to Christine.mentzel@iucn.org by **Friday, 2 May 2014** and successful candidates will be contacted on Monday, 5 May 2014.