

Project Summary

Title	Participatory action research-based strategies for utilising fallows to enhance land and livestock productivity in Zimbabwean communal lands.
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Purpose	The main objective of the study is to explore potential strategies that can be used to enhance land use and livestock productivity of fallow land in Zimbabwean communal lands.
Project Summary	Land distribution has dominated if not defined the agrarian debate in Zimbabwe since the attainment of national independence in 1980. However, sustainable land utilisation and management is the new challenge since land is a finite resource, which underlines the need to address the phenomenon of increasing hectareage of fallow land in communal lands against a backdrop of professed landlessness. This study explores potential strategies that can be used to better utilise fallow land so as to enhance land and livestock productivity in Zimbabwean communal lands through the application of a participatory action research methodology known as the Learning Alliance Approach. Two postgraduate students will spearhead the research; one will focus on assessing the spatial and temporal distribution of fallow land and its utilisation while the other will focus on utilisation of mixed legumes in fallow land to improve livestock and land use productivity. Expected outputs include maps of distribution of fallow land and its utilisation, identified suitable legumes species and related production protocols, land use productivity indices, information bulletins, policy briefs, 2 MSc theses, and 3 referred articles. Envisaged outcomes include adoption of the identified strategies by the

	beneficiaries and development actors, improved livestock and land use productivity, and more secure livelihoods. Partnerships will be forged with Non-Governmental Organisations and the extension service to ensure continuity of the project.
Country and Specific Location(s)	Chibi district, which lies some 400 km south-east of Harare, Zimbabwe
Participating Institutions	University of Zimbabwe, Local NGOs and traditional leadership
Start Date	October 2010
End date	October 2012
Amount of Funding	US\$ 59 648

