



# Effective responses to HIV/AIDS

The Conservation Sector

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“Conservation in Crisis”

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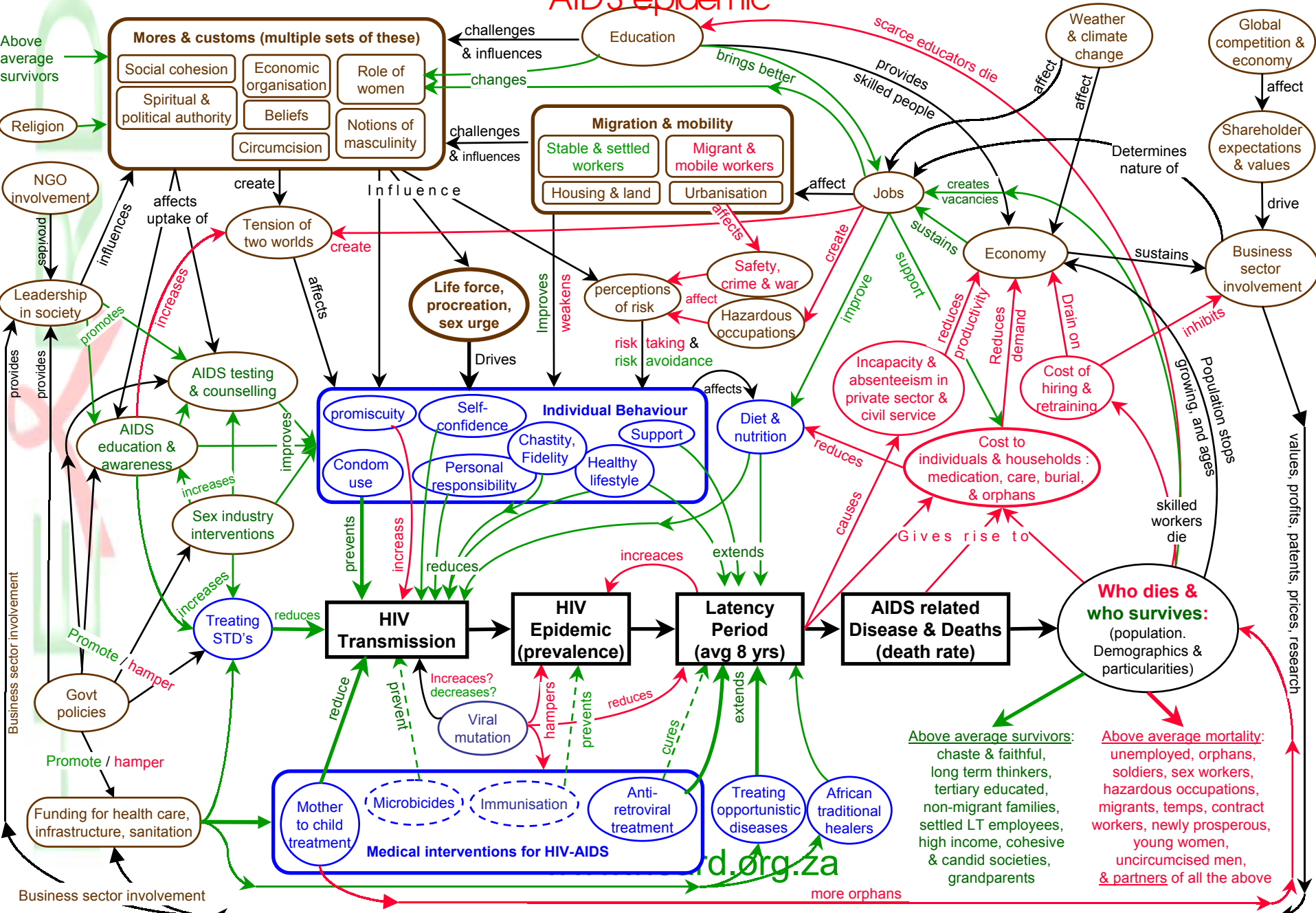
10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2003

# Presentation outline

- ⦿ What is HIV/AIDS impact?
- ⦿ Why is HIV/AIDS a conservation issue?
- ⦿ What can we do about it?

# Autonomy of HIV in Complex Societies - A systems model of the S'n Africa

## AIDS epidemic



# HIV/AIDS Impacts

- Ⓡ Are long term
- Ⓡ Occur at all levels of society

# Pathways to impact

**HIV**

**AIDS**

**MORTALITY**

**MORBIDITY**

Smaller population

Change in age structure

Productivity

**INDIVIDUAL**

**HOUSEHOLD**

**LABOUR MARKET**

**FIRM/SECTOR**

**GOVERNMENT**

**MACRO-  
ENVIRONMENT**

# HIV/AIDS Impacts

 Are long term

 Occur at all levels of society

 Affect the very fabric of society

❖ Economic

❖ Demographic

❖ Social

# Rural household responses

## FOOD SECURITY

## INCOME

## LABOR

Eat cheaper foods

Diversify income

Reallocate labor –  
e.g. children leave  
school

Reduce consumption

Migrate

Work extra hours

Call in social &  
familial obligations  
(send children to  
relatives)

Borrow (from  
informal  
sector/relatives)

Hire labor & draft  
animals

Eat wild foods

Sell assets  
(dissaving)  
Use savings or  
investments  
(dissaving)

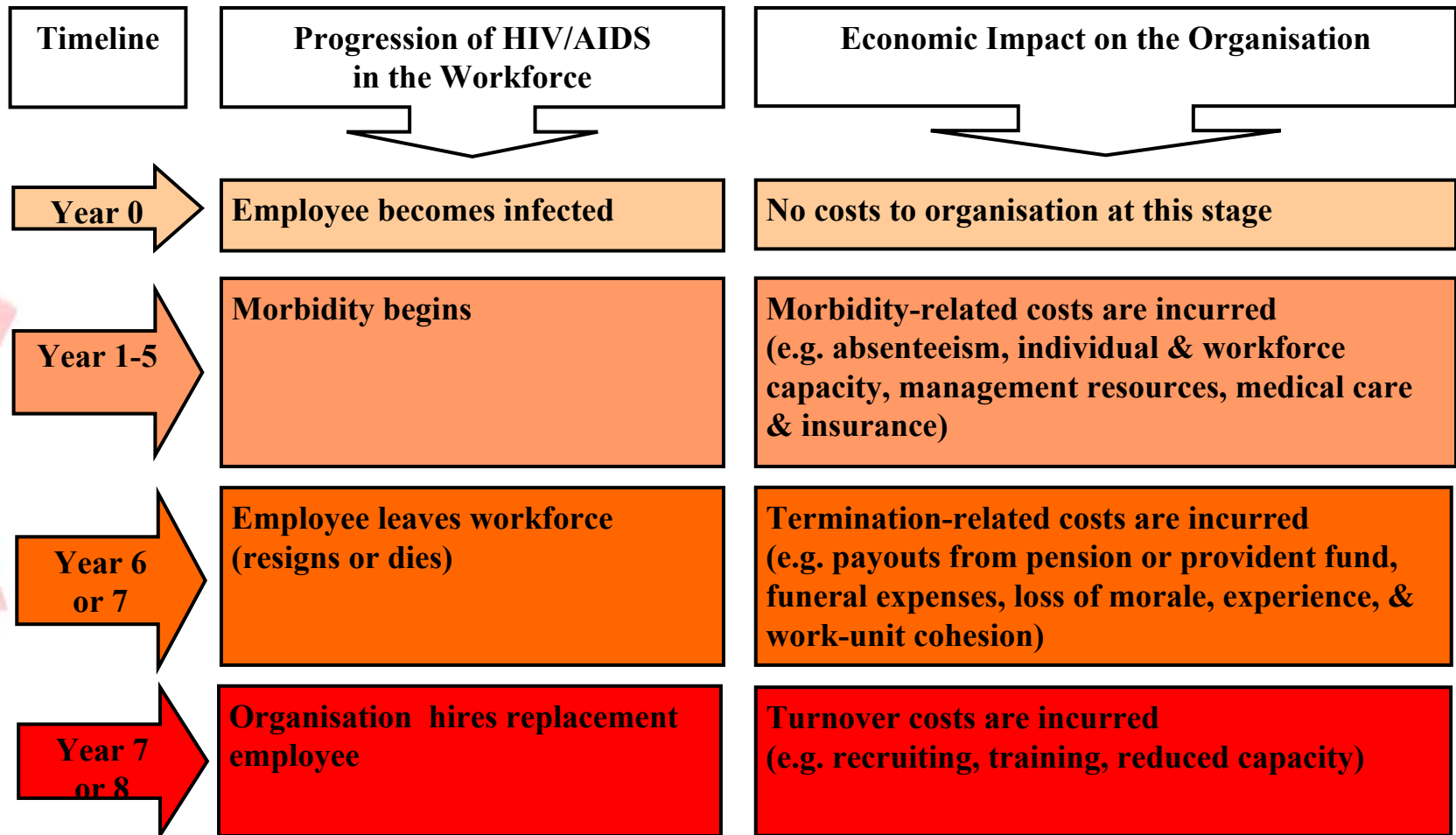
Decrease cultivated  
areas  
Call in social &  
familial obligations  
(ask relatives to help)

Beg

Beg  
[www.heard.org.za](http://www.heard.org.za)

Diversify income

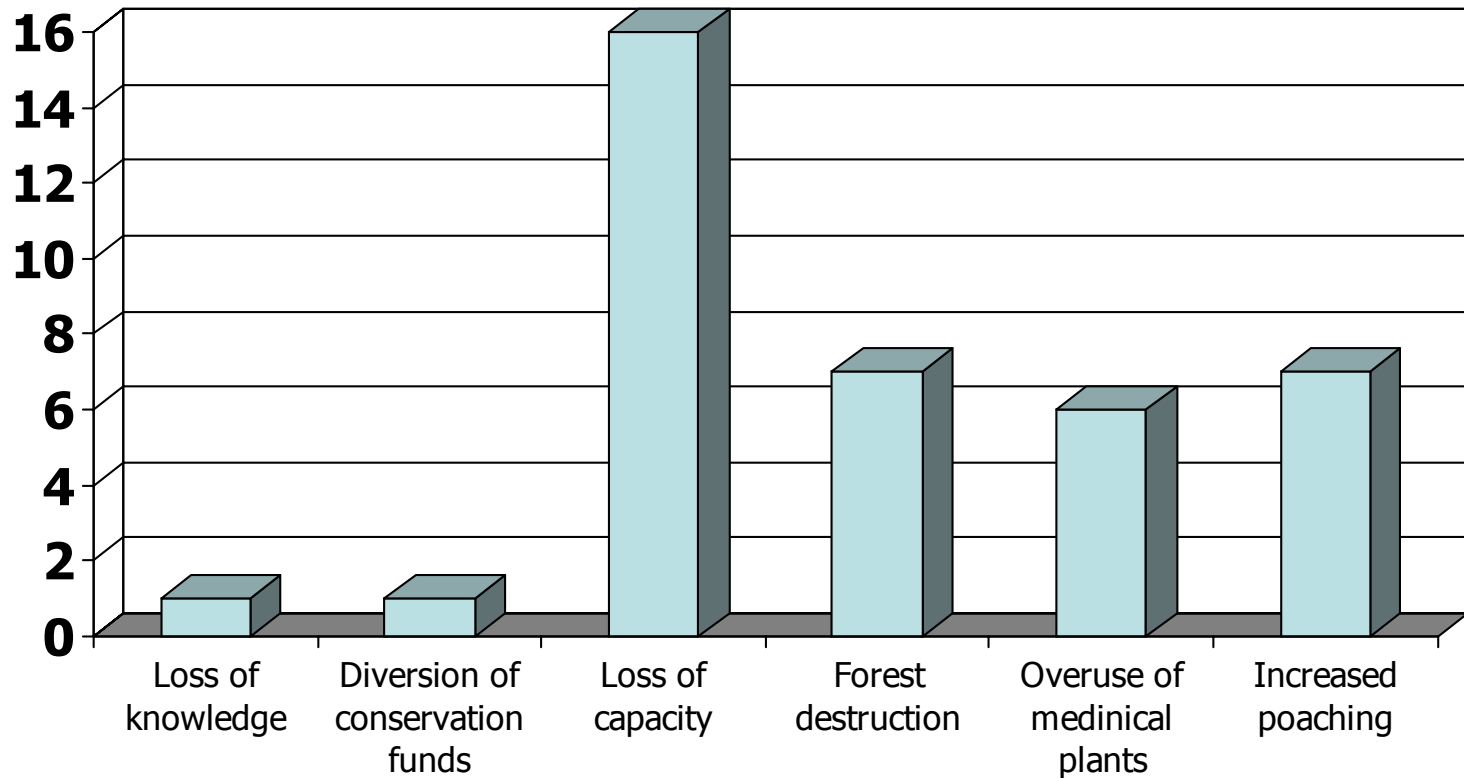
# Generic Organisational Costs



Effect on operational costs, capacity to manage & protect the environment & demand for capital/labor



# Main issues identified as Impacts to NRM due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic



# The susceptibility & vulnerability of conservation workforce

- ❧ Large, skilled & knowledgeable workforce
- ❧ Mobile/migrant workers
  - ❖ From homes
  - ❖ Within the field
- ❧ Economic characteristics
  - ❖ Relative wealth
- ❧ Remoteness of work environment
  - ❖ Poor access to health care
  - ❖ Living arrangements

# So what do we do about it?

- 🎗️ Formal legislation
- 🎗️ Best practice from other sectors
  - ❖ Prevention, Mitigation, Leadership
- 🎗️ Develop innovative responses
- 🎗️ Communication & partnerships
- 🎗️ Training
  - ❖ Peer educator programs
  - ❖ Students (the future workforce)
  - ❖ Preserve indigenous knowledge systems
- 🎗️ Care, treatment & support options

# Where to start

- 🚫 Institutional Audit & KAP Surveys
  - ❖ Assess impact
  - ❖ Understand vulnerabilities & susceptibilities
  - ❖ Identify obstacles/constraints
  - ❖ Identify opportunities
- 🚫 NRM is impacted by, but also impacts on HIV infection

# Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife

 Assess potential impact of core functions

- ❖ Conservation
- ❖ Conservation partnerships
- ❖ Ecotourism
- ❖ Support functions



## Organizational visibility

- ❖ Line item in Strategic Plan
- ❖ HIV/AIDS program funding secured
- ❖ Establishment of HIV/AIDS committee

## Benefit fund structures

- ❖ Retirement fund, medical aid schemes

## Occupational health

- ❖ Nurses employed

## Partnerships

- ❖ Health facilities, provincial HIV/AIDS programs, traditional medicines
- ❖ HEARD

## Education

- ❖ From the inside out

## ...and others

- 🎗 WWF policies on HIV/AIDS
- 🎗 Great Limpopo Transboundary NRM Initiative
- 🎗 Multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS project (Tanzania)
  - ❖ Eastern Arc Forests Conservation & Management Project (Tanzania)
- 🎗 Indigenous Knowledge & HIV/AIDS (Ghana & Zambia)
- 🎗 Orchidmania ([www.orchids.org.za](http://www.orchids.org.za))

# The role of conservation in the HIV/AIDS epidemic


- 🚫 Healthy people depend on healthy environments
- 🚫 Ensure natural resources are available
- 🚫 Provide education & support to employees (& families)
- 🚫 Extend services to local communities



# An Action Agenda

There are no:

- ❌ Simple solutions
- ❌ Short term solutions
- ❌ Technical/medical solutions
- ❌ Imposed solutions
- ❌ Money is not the answer
- ❌ Drugs are only part of the answer
- ❌ **A multisectoral response**

A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide. It features the word "HEARD" in large, green, outlined letters. A red ribbon is tied around the letters, starting from the top of the 'H', looping around the 'E', and crossing itself between the 'A' and 'R'.

“...the environment does not exist in a sphere separate from human actions, ambitions and needs...”