ZIMBABWE BIODIVERSITY BOOKLET

Peter Mundy

Held on Thursday 8th March 2001 at "Cedar Cottage", 130 J. Tongogara Street, Bulawayo.
Present - Don Broadley, Woody Cotterill, Peter Mundy, Alan Sparrow, Jonathan Timberlake, Clifford Tafangenyasha, Verity Bowman, Amy Plowman, Andy ....

A workshop was held to discuss the possibility of publishing a booklet on Biodiversity of Zimbabwe, aimed at "A' levels students (18 year old) as well as decision makers. There was some talk of targeting junior school pupils, but this was dismissed. It was agreed that the BFA would initiate and fund development of such a booklet, which was urgently required. The booklet would include sections on:

(a) Biodiversity - what is it?
(b) What is the biodiversity of Zimbabwe, and where is it
(c) What are the threats and what can be done for its conservation.

Envisaged as an A5 booklet of 40-50 pages with colour maps. Advice would be sought from a graphic designer on layout and style. The text would be gone over by an experienced "educator" (e.g. Ron Hartley) to ensure appropriateness of wording (possibly also Dick Pitman).

The Booklet would be in three parts:

Part I - INTRODUCTION

- Principles to explain what biodiversity is
- Key concepts in biodiversity
- What the booklet attempts to achieve

Part II - SPECIES, DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

- Country profile - geography, climate, patterns/processes. Map of Zimbabwe
- Description of biomes, vegetation types and structure. Vegetation is seen as important in structuring what occurs where
- Brief but detailed account group by group (perhaps a page for each). Poorly known groups would be highlighted. Each account would follow a similar pattern, and mention endemics or near-endemics. Idea is to get a rapidly accessible pro-forma account of a wide range of taxonomic groups across the country which can be used for comparative purposes.

Table of major statistics for each group, e.g.

Group	No. Species	Hotspots	Endemics	Red Data spp.
Pisces				
Aves, etc				

Groups for which summaries are possible include:
Mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, Odonata, Lepidoptera (Rhapocera, Saturnids, Sphingids), Scarabidae, Isoptera, arachnids, crustacea, freshwater molluscs, terrestrial molluscs, nematodes (agricultural importance), vascular plants, mosses, lichens, macrofungi.

Part III - SYNTHESIS, THREATS AND FUTURE

- Synthesis of patterns in organismal biodiversity
- Hotspots, maps of protected areas (conservation landscape management)
- Trends, threats to biodiversity (e.g. human demography, development)
- Looking to the future - why conserve biodiversity, economics, goods-&-services, science, conservation and management
- Solutions (Alan Sparrow to help)

Bibliography - Key References

Key institutions, including web sites

What is now required is someone (as yet unidentified) to lead the process, and to get a mock-up account of at least one well-known group. It was suggested that Pete Mundy could get this done for birds. The BFA would support costs associated with this process, but other funds would need to be sourced for printing/ publication/ distribution.