Applied research, post-graduate training and expertise on human-nature interactions in the periphery of protected areas: supporting the co-existence of agriculture and conservation in Southern Africa.

Funding:
The French Embassy in Zimbabwe has been supporting the RP-PCP since its implementation and provides the core of the funding. Co-funding of studies/expertise is also done by members of the RP-PCP for the benefits of various projects coordinated by one of the partner institutions:

- European Commission (EU)
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAEE)
- French National Agency for Research (ANR)

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www.rp-pcp.org
Who we are:
The Research Platform “Production and Conservation in Partnership” (RP-PCP) was established in 2007, formally associating:
- University of Zimbabwe
- National University of Science and Technology
- Cirad
- CNRS

Beginning 2016, the staff involved in the activities of the RP-PCP represented an international multidisciplinary group of more than 100 senior researchers, academics and post-graduate students from a wide range of disciplines, including Social Sciences, Agro-nomy, Ecology, Geography and Veterinary Sciences.

Our objectives:
The overall objective of the RP-PCP is to:
“Contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and improved rural livelihoods in Southern Africa” through strengthening national research capacities, multidisciplinary approaches and institutional partnerships with a focus on protected areas and neighbouring production areas.

Our multidisciplinary group is organized in four broad thematic areas:
- Health and Environment
- Ecology and Conservation
- Agriculture and Conservation
- Natural Resources Governance and Institutions

The RP-PCP seeks to promote applied research on “wild-domestic interfaces” in order to address issues related to the coexistence of Man and Nature. Recently the platform started collaborating regionally with research institutions in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia to adress similar issues across TFCAs.

Key achievements
Since its inception, as a research platform, the RP-PCP aims at promoting applied scientific studies through support to post-graduate students, the vast majority of them being Zimbabwean.

So far, more than 95 postgraduate students (MSc, MPhil and Ph.D) have been/still are supervised under the RP-PCP, including 65 Zimbabweans and 9 SADC students.

All together, they have produced:
- more than 76 research articles
- 18 book chapters,
- more than 100 communications and posters presentations during regional and international conferences.

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