

# Institutional EIDM landscape map

Mr. Gilchriste Ndongwe

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This map is part of a series of maps on the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscapes in different countries in Africa. The series comprises 25 maps and is available from the Africa Evidence Network. This is map 20 in the series. Maps were produced as part of the bursary conditions for attendance at Evidence 2016 (<http://evidenceconference.org.za/>). Bursaries were provided as part of the UJ-BCURE programme, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

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Strengthening Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Africa

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## **Institutional EIDM Landscape Map**

### ***Country: Zimbabwe***

Evidence Informed Decision Making is a relatively new concept in Zimbabwe as obtained from our surveys and needs assessment meetings. In a bid to promote, advocate for the use of research evidence in decision-making; needs assessment and benchmarking exercises were conducted on the targeted audience of our interventions which were Parliament of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Youth Development.

### **Needs Assessments/ Capacity gaps**

It was critical to have a good baseline understanding of what EIDM needs are for the targeted audiences. ZeipNET conducted a baseline survey targeted at technocrats (Senior Researchers, Researchers, Economists, Chief Economists, Youth Officers and Directors) within the selected targeted audiences; and sensitisation meetings were also held with senior managers of the Ministries and Parliament of Zimbabwe (PoZ). The sensitisation meetings used the problem-tree analysis to ascertain what the EIDM problems of the ministries/PoZ and possible proffered solutions. The needs assessment results and findings shaped the development of the EIDM training course and private-public engagement platforms such as policy dialogues and knowledge café.

### **Stakeholder Mapping of Key Stakeholders**

**EIDM Stakeholder Mapping** was modelled along who are the primary, secondary stakeholders within the targeted institutions. This was guided by “who is doing what, where and how”. The main players who were identified in the ZeipNET EIDM interventions were research departments, policy units within the selected institutions. These units have direct remit to supply evidence to senior ministerial teams within the Ministries and Parliament of Zimbabwe. External evidence producers such as ***quasi-government research institutions***, universities, research regulatory bodies (which supply evidence to government ministries such as ZEPARU, LEDRIZ); ***universities*** ( these also play a role in the pro-active and commissioned research within the institutions EIDM landscape); ***research regulatory bodies*** such as the Research Council of Zimbabwe - there conduct national research prioritisation exercise to fund research which informs/influences decision making, policy making and development.

### ***Are there bottlenecks or organisational silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system?***

The following challenges exist within the institutional EIDM system:

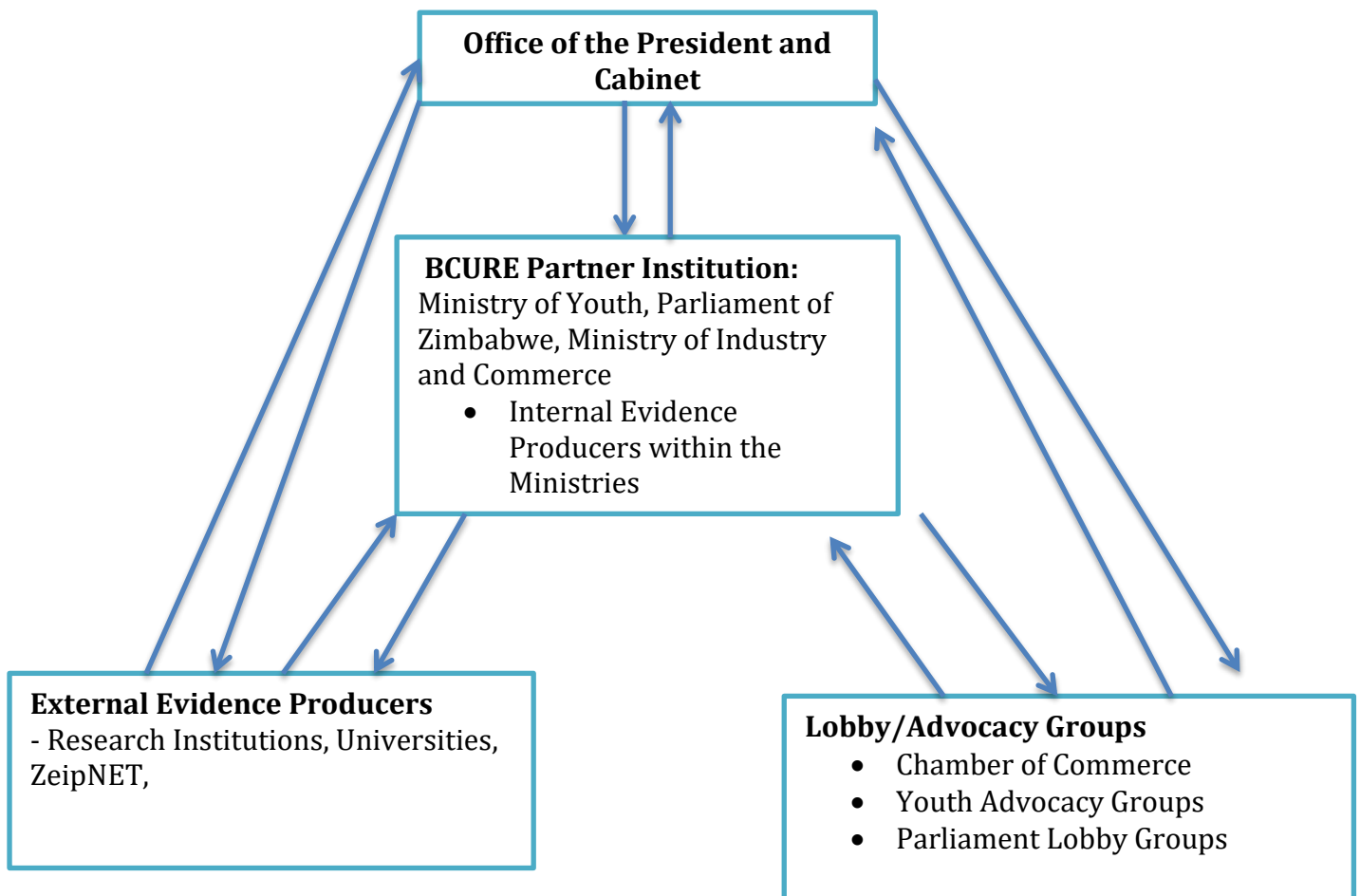
- Minimal capacity (skills, knowledge) to access, appraise evidence for decision making;
- Limited or no access to high quality research evidence portals by

- government ministries;
- Limited platforms exist that link researchers to policy makers, for example knowledge café, policy dialogues;
- Institutional politics – “ where is the evidence coming from” is always an issue within government.

### Evidence Map

EIDM environment is complex and multi-factorial and decision making process/ policy making is a political process, with the Office of the President and Cabinet as the key player in formulating the national blue-print such as the ZimAssets<sup>1</sup>. Though the national blue-print is rather too ambitious, evidence exists where quasi- government research institutions supply research evidence to both the OPC and the partner ministries. The uptake of research evidence from both internal and external producers is contextual and political interests vested. Proximity and trust to the “high offices” becomes the key factor in the decision making influencing matrix.

**Figure 1 Abridged Map**



<sup>1</sup> [www.zimtreasury.gov.zw/zim-asset](http://www.zimtreasury.gov.zw/zim-asset)