

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiv
LIST OF APPENDICES	xv
Chapter 1	1
Introduction and Objectives and Hypotheses.....	1
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Justification	4
1.3 Objectives.....	4
1.4 Hypotheses	5
Chapter 2	7
Identifying and Characterising Genetic Diversity of Extensively Raised Chicken Populations	7
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Objectives.....	8
2.3 Role of chickens in the smallholder farming sector	8
2.4 Chicken production systems.....	9
2.4.1 Intensive system	10
2.4.2 Semi-intensive system.....	10
2.4.3 Extensive or scavenging system.....	11
2.5 Biodiversity and its role in chicken production systems.....	12
2.6 Forces that create, maintain and reduce chicken biodiversity.....	13
2.6.1 Drift, mutation and restricted gene flow	13
2.6.2 Natural and artificial selection and non random mating	13
2.7 Assessment of biodiversity.....	17
2.7.1 Phenotypic diversity	17
2.7.2 Genetic diversity	17
2.7.2.1 Microsatellites	18
2.7.2.2 Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs)	19
2.7.2.3 Mitochondrial DNA sequences	20
2.8 Diversity measures	21
2.8.1 Within population diversity measures.....	21
2.8.1.1 Number of alleles	21
2.8.1.2 Gene Diversity.....	22
2.8.1.3 Inbreeding coefficient	22
2.8.1.4 Marker estimated kinship (MEK)	23
2.8.2 Between population diversity measures.....	24
2.8.2.1 Wright's fixation index	24

2.8.2.2 Distance methods with biological assumptions	25
2.8.3 Clustering analysis	26
2.8.4 Nucleotide diversity measures	27
2.8.4.1 Analysis of molecular variance	27
2.8.4.2 Nucleotide distance measures	28
2.8.4.3 Networking analysis	29
2.9 Conservation of chicken genetic resources	30
2.10 Conclusion.....	32
Chapter 3	33
Study Design	33
3.1 Description of the agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe.....	34
3.2 Sampling of households	35
3.3 Chicken populations.....	36
3.3.1 Zimbabwe chicken eco-types	36
3.3.2 Reference populations	37
3.4 Study layout.....	37
3.5 Research tools	38
Chapter 4	39
Variation in Village Chicken Production Systems Among Agro-Ecological Zones of Zimbabwe.....	39
4.1 Abstract	40
4.2 Introduction	40
4.3 Materials and methods	41
4.3.1 Study Area.....	41
4.3.2 Sampling procedure.....	41
4.3.3 Questionnaire administration and participatory rural appraisals.....	41
4.3.4 Statistical analysis	42
4.4 Results	43
4.4.1 Household demographics and farming system.....	43
4.4.2 Village chicken production system	48
4.5 Discussion	51
4.6 Conclusions	54
Chapter 5	55
Choice of Breeding Stock, Preference of Production Traits of Village Chickens Among Zimbabwe Agro-Ecological Zones	55
5.1 Abstract	56
5.2 Introduction	56
5.3 Materials and methods	58
5.3.1 Study site.....	58
5.3.2 Questionnaire administration	58
5.3.3 Statistical analysis	58

5.4 Results	59
5.4.1 Chicken strains	59
5.4.2 Choice of breeding stock.....	61
5.4.3 Ranking of production traits.....	63
5.4.4 Culling of male and female chickens	64
5.5 Discussion	66
Chapter 6	71
Absence of Population Sub Structuring in the Zimbabwe Chicken Eco-Types Inferred Using Microsatellite Analysis.....	71
6.1 Summary	72
6.2 Introduction	72
6.3 Material and methods	73
6.3.1 Zimbabwe eco-types	73
6.3.2 Reference populations	74
6.3.3 Collection of blood samples and DNA isolation.....	75
6.3.4 DNA polymorphism.....	75
6.4 Statistical analyses.....	75
6.4.1 Marker polymorphism and within population diversity.....	75
6.4.2 Among population diversity.....	76
6.4.3 Assignment of individuals to populations	76
6.5 Results	77
6.5.1 Marker polymorphism, within and among population diversity.....	77
6.5.2 Pairwise genetic distances	80
6.5.3 Cluster analysis	81
6.5.4 Marker estimated kinships	82
6.6 Discussion	83
Chapter 7	87
Genetic Diversity and Phylogeographic Structure of the Zimbabwe Chicken Eco-Types Investigated Using Mitochondrial DNA D-Loop Sequences.....	87
7.1 Summary	88
7.2 Introduction	88
7.3 Materials and methods	89
7.3.1 Chicken populations	89
7.3.1.1 Zimbabwe eco-types	89
7.3.1.2 Reference populations	90
7.3.2 mtDNA amplification and sequencing.....	90
7.4 Statistical analysis	91
7.4.1 Sequence variation and haplotype diversity.....	91
7.4.2 Within population diversity.....	91
7.4.3 Determination of population structure using AMOVA.....	91
7.4.4 Network analysis of haplotypes	91
7.5 Results	92
7.5.1 Sequence variation and haplotype distribution	92

7.5.2 Within population diversity.....	92
7.5.3 Population structure.....	94
7.5.4 Network analysis.....	95
7.5.5 Within and between clade diversity.....	97
7.6 Discussion.....	98
Chapter 8.....	101
General Discussion.....	101
8.1 General discussion.....	102
8.2 Conclusions.....	109
8.3 Implications and recommendations.....	109
SUMMARY.....	113
REFERENCES:.....	117
APPENDICES.....	131
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	137