

APPENDIX G

Research Priorities

There is still considerable research that needs to be undertaken to aid our understanding of TEM use and how best we can collaborate with healers to reduce blindness. Some issues that should be addressed include:

- What is the relative contribution of popular (general population) and folk (traditional healer) traditional eye practices to eye care practices and corneal disease?
- How does gender affect the use of traditional eye medicines and eye care practices?
- Are there plant products used for traditional eye medicines that have particularly helpful biochemical properties?
- Are there endangered plant species used as traditional eye medicines?
- What is the community perception of couching versus modern cataract surgery?