

Central Region CRB Status Report

A Review of progress from 2022-2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ACROYNOMS

CRB	COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARDS
AGM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HWC	HUMAN WILDIFE CONFLICT
ZCRBA	ZAMBIA COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARDS ASSOCIATION
DNPW	DEPARTMENT OF NATIOANL PARKS AND WILDLIFE
VAGs	VILLAGE ACTION GROUPs
GMA	GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS
NP	NATIONAL PARK
CR-CRB	CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARD
GMP	GENERAL/GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN
CLZ	CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
WPO	WILDLIFE POLICE OFFICERS
CS	COMMUNIT SCOUTS
CFMG	COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT GROUP
PA	PROTECTED AREA

ABOUT THE REGIONS (Number of CBOs/ Geographical/ Habitat type) Number of GMAs and statuses of the GMAs

There are 7 CRBs in the Central Region CRB Association and it is the mother body for all the individual CRBs in the region. The region sits on the Lower Zambezi Area Management unit and its geographical boundaries covers Chiawa GMA, Rufunsa GMA, Lower Luano GMA and Upper Luano GMA. Furthermore, the region has two National Parks namely Lusaka National Park and Lower Zambezi National Park.

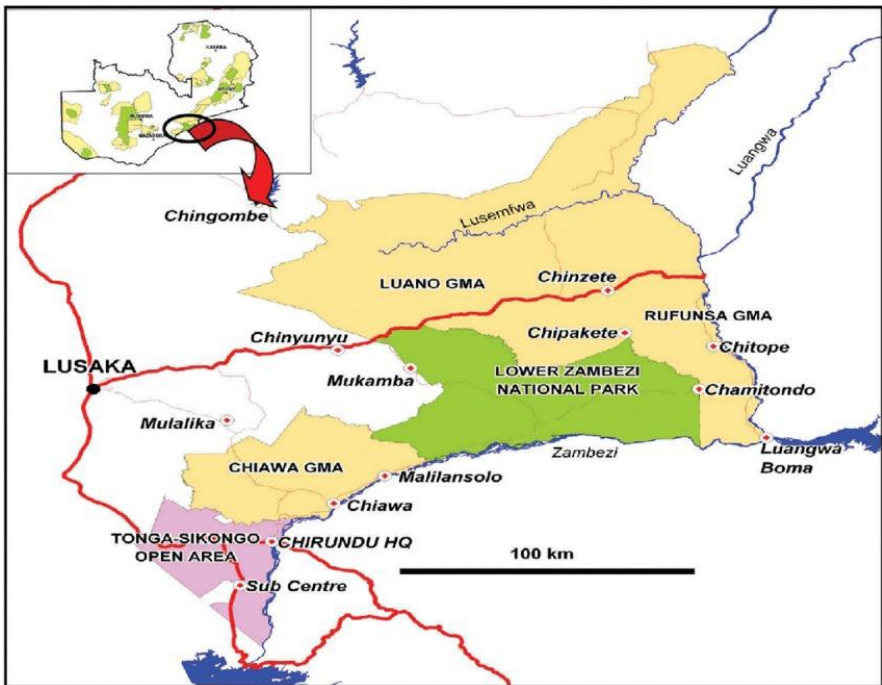


Figure 1: Map for lower Zambezi National Park and GMAs.

The biophysical environment in the region is characterized by floodplains, Mopane woodlands, a minimal number of huge acacias and scattered winter thorn tree species. Even though the Lower Zambezi National Park covers an area of 4092 square kilometers, most of the game is

concentrated along the valley floor. The National Park is still undeveloped leaving its beauty hidden in the back woods and the animal species in the vicinity are not as extensive as in other National parks, fortunately this has not been a limiting factor to opportunities to explore the remarkable Zambezi National Park.

Status of the GMAS

SN	NAME OF GMA	STATUS OF GMA	NAMES OF CBOs	STATUS OF CRB
1	CHIAWA	ACTIVE	CHIAWA CRB/CFMG	ACTIVE
2	RUFUNSA	ACTIVE	MPHUKA CRB	ACTIVE
			MBURUMA CRB	ACTIVE
			MPHASYA/CFMG	ACTIVE
3	LUANO	ACTIVE	SHIKABETA/CFMG	ACTIVE
			MBOROMA CRB	INACTIVE
			MBOSHYA CRB	ACTIVE
			CHEMBE CRB	INACTIVE
			BUNDA-BUNDA CFMG	ACTIVE

Table 1: Status of GMAs and CRBs for Central Region CRB Association.

WHAT MAKES THE REGION OUTSTANDING?

The Central Region CRBA exclusivity lies in several features and one of them being the Lower Zambezi National Park that is opposite to the famous Mana Pools Reserve in Zimbabwe making the area a sight of beauty to look and mesmerize on the enormous Wildlife on the two sides of

the Zambezi River. The beautiful sites on the south side of the valley are known for abundant wildlife which include the elephants, Crocodiles, buffalos, hippos, and fish eagles. There is an escarpment along the northern end which acts as a physical barrier to most of the Park's animal species. Enormous herds of elephant, some are up to 100 strong, and they are often seen at the river's edge. 'Island hopping' buffalo and waterbuck are common. The Park also hosts good populations of lion and leopard and listen too for the ubiquitous cry of the fish eagle.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE REGION

Law enforcement

The Central Region landscape has seen transformation in law enforcement through the community scouts to Wildlife Police Officers, this has been done in order to upgrade and intensify laws enforcement activities in the Game Management areas. Established law enforcement camps have continued to be set up by conservation partners who work closely with the local community scouts who are supported through their institutions. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife in the region have equally set up strategic measures to ensure that law is followed in accordance with the Wildlife Act, as a way of ensuring that natural resources and wildlife are protected and conserved.

GMA patrols, Community anti-poaching sensitization activities in the region are perceived as life changing opportunities by the local communities who have begun to appreciate the natural resources in their landscapes thereby enforcing community measures to help the relevant authorities with the conservation and monitoring of natural resources.

Sensitization in natural resources management and developmental opportunities

Central region has for a while utilized the District Development Coordination Committee platform to stay informed on activities implemented and actions being taken in the region by various cooperating partners who are operating the 3 GMAs (Luano, Rufunsa and Chiawa). The region has also continued to align their operations to the governance and management of the natural resources collectively because of the value and benefits that come with inclusivity and co-management around implementing activities.

Resource monitoring

Monitoring of the protected and conserved areas is being done with the assistance of relevant stakeholders and partners through the provision of equipment to help with tracking the wildlife and the states of the biophysical environment

Land use planning and GMP

GMPs and Land use plans are valued in the Region for the guiding purposes and assistance it gives to the communities to identify areas that have been zoned for different activities, this has really helped when it comes to natural resource protection and conservation in the GMAs. The CR-
CRB has put in place measures to apprehend any person (s) found doing illegal activities in the GMA and zoned areas in the region.

REGION ACHIEVEMENTS

Community development

Mphanshya CRB

- 2 by 2 classroom blocks built
- 3 boreholes drilled
- 2000 eggs capacity incubator has been made
- 120 householders were given 5 improved chickens
- 180 householders empowered with cash capital
- 900 families helped with k400 to contribute to FISP
- 800 families helped with roofing sheets

Ngabwe CRB

- Trained 26 community members as community scouts on full time basis
- Trained 15 SMAG members to help in maternal and child health services in the community
- Besides these 2500 households will earn direct income in soya beans in a program under Ngabwe CRB
- Ngabwe CRB will soon start supporting the provision of clean and safe water

Shikabeta CRB/CFMG

- The community received 4,970 pieces of 0.4mm by 3.6m IBR Iron sheets and 497 households of Shikabeta Chiefdom benefited and received 10 pieces per household. Therefore, the communities which benefited are as follows 136 households of Shimunguwo, 164 of Mwateshi, 157 of Lunsemfwa and 40 households of Chomba VAGs.



Figure 2 communities benefited from carbon credits funds

- The community received 1,300 pockets of LARFAGE SUPASET of 42.5 cement and this project benefited 90 households of Lubalashi and 40 households of Chomba VAGs. Each households received 10 pockets of cement this was in to promote sustainable housing units, to minimize tree cutting for shelter purposes.



Figure 3 300 Pockets of Cement

- The community received 352 bags of fertilizer as a livelihood support project alternative to tree cutting and poaching. Therefore, the community was provided with two bags of urea and two bags of D compound fertilizers per household. Further, this project benefited 82 households of Lubalashi VAG and 6 households of Lunsemfwa VAGs.



Figure 4 352Bags fertilizer

- There is an on-going project on the extension of water reticulation system from Shikabeta village to the CRB/CFMG block. This project will cover three villages and they have access to clean and good water sanitation for good health.

SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

The CRB has come up this on-going project which provide school fees to vulnerable students, and so far, three tertiary students have been supported, this activity is being done in two VAGs namely Mwatashi and Lubalashi this is to improve and have access to quality education in the chiefdom.

COMMUNITY TEACHER SUPPORT

The Shikabeta CRB/CFMG is supporting community schools which have shortage of teachers to enhance improved education services in 4 schools, and about 5 teachers are provided with monthly allowances and the activity is done in Mwateshi, Lunsemfwa and Shimunguwo VAGs.

Employment creation

Employment helps in alleviating poverty and helps in decreasing the illegal activities in protected areas, for Central Region, tourism is the backbone of its economy because through tourism development many community members have been employed by lodge owners and NGOs, some members have been employed as community scouts whilst others have been upgraded from scouts to Wildlife Police Officers.

Capacity building

The custom of all the CRBs in the Region are that after a new board is formed an orientation/ induction training is done by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife that covers roles and responsibilities of each member of the CRB. Apart from these there was an EGG project under Biopama project which was conducted by ZCBNRM forum.

Regional AGMs

The Central Region CRBA has faced financial challenges, and this has made the region not to have AGMs from 2022 to date.

Income generating activities

For the past two years of non-hunting in the country has affected most regions and the central region is not spared on the negative impact of the ban. The CRBs in the central region has faced financial challenges as most of them depend on income coming from hunting and this has made most CRBs not to have community projects and failing to run the day today activities of the local communities. Most of the income generate from external sources like carbon credit is not enough to sustain the CRBs in the region. Most of the local communities are on FISP to help them to have access to farming inputs which boost their farming and increase the income.

THREATS TO THE GMA

Encroachment

The beautiful and spectacular GMAs, open areas and other historical places in the past decades are slowly losing their captivating sceneries due to the uncontrollable encroachments to the regional sites. The many Wildlife protected are being encroached every single minute a good example is that of Chiawa GMA that has big agriculture fields and human settlements a case leading to high HWCs in the region due to human negligence and ignorance.

Another pinning issue that is causing encroachment in the Region is lack of game management plans (GMP) and Maps for the protected areas to clearly show areas that are zoned for particular and designated activities to done there.

Human Wildlife Conflicts

Human Wildlife Conflicts are so rampant in the Central CRB Region at a scale of 9/10 percent leading to Crop destruction, Loss of Livestock, Loss of Human life and Injury, this vice has been increasingly affecting the livelihood of the communities in the region as not much is done by the relevant authorities' due constraints that they encounter in their operations. Some of the major cause of HWC in the region are due to human settlements, agricultural field expansions, illegal grass collection, overgrazing by livestock and deforestation in in protected areas that are increasing on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, the Region has had plans to initiate wildlife protection programs to be implemented in order to lessen the numbers of HWCs through rapid response to incidents using the readily available machinery (Vehicles) and Manpower. Dialogue with conservation bodies (DNPW, Outfitters and Other partners) to protect the resources and help alleviate and prevent the occurrences of incidents from emanating. Engagements and efforts that have been put in place by Central Regional CRB Association through support, pledges and HWC community awareness programs have been normalized though more still needs to be done.

The Chiawa CRB in this period under review recorded the following Human Wildlife Conflict cases:

- i Elephants breaking maize storages in Chiawa and Mugurameno VAGs.
- ii Crocodiles killed 2 people on Zambezi and Kafue rivers.
- iii Hippo killed 1 person in Gota-gota VAG while guarding his crops.
- iv The Lions killed 3 cattle at Kanyangala zone of Kabwadu VAG.
- v Crop raiding by Elephants and Hippos



Figure 5 Human Wildlife Conflict

Maize storage for Mr. Tauzen Kapembeza Destroyed by Elephants right at his home. About 26 bags of 50 kg eaten by elephants.



Figure 6 Human Wildlife Conflict

Front view of the destroyed maize storage for Mr. Tauzen Kapembeza

Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly affecting the biophysical environment across the globe, consequently the CR-CRB has not been spared from the diverse effects. For instance, the rainfall patterns are now disturbed especially those CRBs who are fully dependent on agriculture have been affected and owing to the fact that agriculture is the second to tourism in the Region and a great boost to the economy, this calamity has led to food shortages for communities who in turn

have opted to poach wildlife to sustain themselves and venture in business that are not environment friendly.

CONCLUSION

The region has been doing everything possible in promoting sustainable housing units and maintain zero encroachment in the REDD+ zone, and to help the community to build permanent houses which reduces tree cutting for housing purposes. Though the region has faced a number of challenges ranging from human wildlife conflicts and financial challenges which has affected the region operations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Introduction of HWC rapid response special unit with scouts and own transport
- DNPW to finalize the hunting concession agreement for Chiawa West Hunting Block

Conservation Stakeholders operating in Central Region CRB Association

SN	STAKEHOLDER NAME(S)	OPERATIONAL FUNCTION(S)	AREA OF OPERATION
1	Bio carbon Partners	Forest Conservation/ Carbon trade	Rufunsa, Lower Luano, Chiawa GMAs
2	Conservation Lower Zambezi	Wildlife protection/ Community engagement	Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding GMAs (Rufunsa, Chiawa and Lower Luano GMA)
3	Game Rangers International	Wildlife Protection/Human Wildlife Conflict	Mburuma and Mphuka CRBs

4	Zambezi Wildlife Trust	Wildlife protection/ Community engagement	Chiawa GMA
5	Lower Zambezi Tourism Association	Wildlife Protection/ Tourism development	West Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit
6	Makasa Safaris	Safari Hunting	Lower Luano GMA
7	Nyampala Safaris	Safari Hunting	Rufunsa GMA
8	Jungle Safaris	Safari Hunting	Chiawa West Hunting Block

Table 2: Central Region partners and stakeholders in conservation.

Our Partners



CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI
Working Today to Protect Tomorrow



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