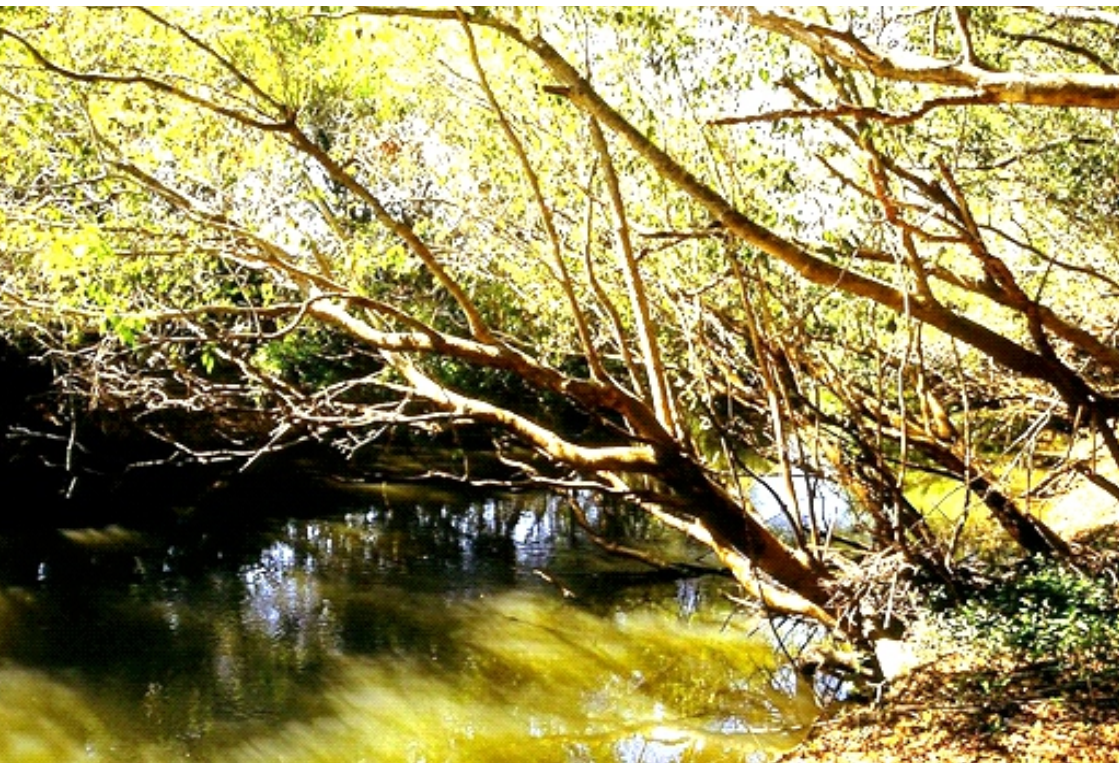




Northern Region CRB Status Report



**A Review of progress from
2022-2023**



This document was compiled by the Zambian Community Resources Board Association Secretariat (Thelma Nkandu, Jafe Muzuri, Bupe Banda, Mike Mumba, Clarence Muzyamba, Isaac Banda, Mildred Ikwenda, Racheal Nkhoma, Kutemba Sakambuta and Gracia Lubilo) with great contributions from the National Executive Committee (NEC).

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Acronyms

ADMADE	Administration Management Design
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CRB	Community Resources Board
CFMG	Community Forest Management Group
NR-CRBA	Eastern Region Community Resources Board Association
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
FZS	Frankfurt Zoological Society
GMA	Game Management Area
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
VAG	Village Action Group
WPO	Wildlife Police Officer
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

About the region

The Northern region lies in the Northern part of Zambia alongside sharing an international boundary with the Democratic Republic Congo and Tanzania. However, the Northern region CRB/CFMG Association is an umbrella organization representing community-based organizations Known as Community Resources Board Association and the Community Forestry Groups in the northern part of Zambia with the engagement support from the cooperating partners within the region.

The region is rich in natural resource that make up a pride for the local community people residing in the northern landscape. In light of this the region has a significant interest and passion to conserve biodiversity and other natural resources in the game management area (GMA) and open areas with the aim to sustainability conserve the natural resources and improving the livelihoods of the local community people in the landscape, which in return improves the performance of the GMAs and open areas for the enhancement of livelihoods through economic opportunities.

There are six (6) National parks (North Luangwa Park, Lavushi National Park, Isangano National Park, Lusenga Palins National Park, Mwarwantipa National Park and Luambe National Park) surrounding 10 GMAs (Mukungule, Musalangu, Bangweulu, Chambeshi, Luwingu, Kalasa-Mukosa, Mansa, Tondwe, Kaputa and Kafinda GMA), with Several CRBs/CFMGs.

Uniqueness of the region

The beauty of the region is exhibited by its wonderous features that are unique from the other parts of the country and regions and such includes Natural resources, Soil, climate and adequate rainfall rivers and lakes that facilitate the implementation and execution of the conservation activities in the landscape.

The region also comprises two unique national parks:

Nsumbu National Park

Nsumba Game reserve lies on the southernmost tip of Zambia covering about 2063 square Kilometers of the landscape. This Park is rich with water-based tourism potential with water creatures such as the Hippos, Crocodiles, and natural birds such as the Flamingos and water-based birds. The waters are the great scenery point to watch the variety of bird species and wildlife such

as the buffalo, lion, antelope, zebra, sitatunga, waterbuck, puku, sable and leopards.

Kasanka National Park

This Park is situated on the southwestern edge of the Lake Bangweulu basin covering about 390 square Kilometers in the landscape. It is therefore, known for the diverse vegetation from lush wetland and papyrus swamps to evergreen forest and harbors a great variant of unusual birds and mammals.

The Park is managed by the kasanka trust and hosts the annual Bat Migration, the best time to visit for the bat migration is October-December with a view of wildlife such as the hippos as well as different species of antelope like puku, waterbuck, monkey, sitatunga and reedbuck. Further, a Million of fruit bat congregate at Park when towards the end of the year in a spectacular display. Migratory birds, apparently from Australia have only one place of migration which is the bangweulu swamps in Zambia.

Climate Change

Change in the rainfall patterns has increased the dispersal potential of invasive species during the wet season. While some of the new arrivals are exotic species spreading from naturalized populations,

others are native species that spread from their current distribution.

Threats to the GMAs performance in the region

Encroachment

Community-related issues are primarily related to the fact that local people do not receive adequate benefit flows from wildlife in GMAs, because community ownership of land and wildlife resources is not recognized in GMAs and because ‘community membership’ is not defined, with the effect that outsiders are free to move in and exploit natural resources and further diminish minimal per-capita wildlife-based benefits. The modest per capita benefits generated from trophy hunting are frequently misused and tend to favour local elites due to problems with the structure, functioning and accountability of Community Resource Boards (CRBs). Consequently, GMAs are effectively open access regimes and there is an incentive for communities to occupy land and kill wildlife to obtain meat or harvest trees before someone else does, resulting in rapid and widespread immigration, encroachment, habitat destruction and bush meat poaching.

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Human Wildlife Conflict

Human wildlife conflicts are still an issue and a threaten communities living in the GMAs, and open areas. This has forced more strict measures to reduce the cases. WPOs and the community scouts have been deployed to protect the area and help save human life. However, communities are using other means to prevent the human wildlife conflict such as, fencing livestock.

Challenges

The weak coordination and collaboration of the CRBs/CFMGs and other CBNRM structures brought ineffective management of natural resources in the region as such this resulted in failure to implement activities that can enhance the governance of these structures to the effect of sustainable management of natural resource and improved livelihood in the region. Further, the challenge is unfair utilization of funds by the government institutions working with the CBNRM structures in the region. For example, there is poor performance by the communities in areas such as implementation of activities and drawing of reports due to inadequate income generation from the hunting blocks this has led to some CRBs not to have revenues as they are fully dependant on animal fees.

Conclusion

The Region strive to contribute positively to strengthening the CBNRM approach in Zambia by ensuring that there is transparent, accountable, and inclusive leadership in the management of natural resources and enhancing partnership with the government, private sector and NGOs working in the conservation fraternity in the region and country at large.





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