



WWF Zambia Hosts Performance Review and Strategy Alignment Retreat

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Zambia concluded the month of March with a strategic Performance Review and Strategy Alignment Retreat, convening over 50 staff members from its three priority landscapes: Kafue Flats, Upper Zambezi, and the Kavango–Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area. The retreat provided a structured platform for reflection on organizational performance, cross-functional learning, and strategic alignment, with key presentations delivered across core thematic areas, including programme implementation, finance, operations, & monitoring and evaluation, enabling a comprehensive review of progress and operational effectiveness.

The retreat highlighted strong programme performance across WWF Zambia's conservation portfolio. Notable achievements included over 336,000 hectares brought under sustainable land and ecosystem management, strengthening landscape-level conservation outcomes. In addition, more than 860,000 hectares of Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) were mapped exceeding targets and advancing Zambia's national commitments as well as global biodiversity frameworks.

Wildlife management efforts recorded a 98% success rate in translocation initiatives, reflecting the effectiveness of species recovery and management interventions. Across the landscapes, enforcement and ecosystem restoration activities consistently met or exceeded planned output targets, while data quality across projects was assessed as high, supported by the use of GIS, field verification, and triangulated reporting methods. These results were underpinned by strong technical teams, effective collaboration with government institutions and strategic stakeholders, and the use of GIS and evidence-based planning tools to guide implementation and strengthen accountability.

The retreat was further strengthened by the participation of senior leadership, including Yvonne Godo, WWF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, and Norbert Hsu, Senior Director for the Country Office Division at WWF International. Their contributions underscored the importance of strengthening planning frameworks, enhancing monitoring systems, and ensuring efficient, results-driven service delivery across country programmes. Yvonne described WWF Zambia's immense potential as that of a "sleeping giant" that needs awakening to fully transform Zambia's conservation landscape.

Taking place at a critical juncture, the retreat sharpened institutional focus, reinforced collaboration across teams, and strengthened alignment toward shared conservation outcomes. It also served as a key preparatory milestone ahead of the launch of WWF Zambia's 2026–2030 Office Strategic Plan (OSP).



Young Voices Light Up Earth Hour's 20th Anniversary in Lusaka

More than 1,500 primary school pupils from 40 schools gathered in Lusaka to commemorate Earth Hour during the second edition of the Kids Climate Action Fair, held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

The Earth Hour moment was marked through an engaging candlelight storytelling session, where enthusiastic young learners were taken through the origins and significance of Earth Hour. The session encouraged pupils to reflect on how their everyday actions can contribute to building a safer planet and a more sustainable future.

The learners' curiosity and enthusiasm stood out, as pupils from Grades Four to Seven actively engaged by asking insightful questions on environmental conservation and climate action, making the session both interactive and impactful.

To conclude the commemoration, learners participated in the Earth Hour "I Pledge" Challenge, where they committed to protecting the environment by writing down specific actions they will take to preserve and safeguard the planet.

The Kids Climate Action Fair, organised by Butterfly Entertainment, is a one-day event dedicated to primary schools. It provides a platform for learners to showcase sustainable and eco-smart innovations while fostering environmental awareness from a young age.

This year's fair was held under the theme: "Climate Action through Technology for a Healthier Tomorrow."

Earth Hour is a global environmental movement organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), where individuals, communities, and businesses turn off non-essential lights for one hour to show their commitment to protecting the planet.

Read the full story on our website, visit: https://www.wwfzm.panda.org/our_work/youth___education222/



WWF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa Makes Debut on National Broadcaster

Yvonne Godo, WWF Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, recently made her debut on Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC)'s flagship environmental programme, Climate Check, where she discussed WWF's conservation efforts across the region.

The conversation focused on WWF's work in advancing nature-based solutions and how these interventions address some of the region's most pressing environmental challenges.

Yvonne highlighted the growing threats facing Africa's freshwater systems—including rivers, wetlands, and fisheries—which are increasingly under pressure from hydropower expansion, pollution, overfishing, and climate variability. In Zambia, these challenges are reflected in altered flows of the Zambezi River, declining fish stocks, and degradation of critical wetlands such as the Kafue Flats, a vital ecosystem for both food security and biodiversity.

She further emphasised WWF's efforts to restore wetlands and catchments, which serve as natural water storage systems and buffers against flooding. In Zambia, this work is supported through initiatives such as the recently concluded Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas Project, which contributed to ecosystem restoration, improved water security, sustained fisheries, and strengthened community resilience to droughts and floods.

Addressing barriers to conservation, Yvonne identified financing as a key challenge. She noted that WWF is promoting innovative solutions, including blended finance approaches, partnerships with development banks, and climate and biodiversity funding mechanisms. For Zambia, she underscored the need to align national priorities with global frameworks to unlock increased funding for nature-based solutions and community-led initiatives.

Community-led conservation was highlighted as a critical pillar for success. Yvonne stressed that effective conservation across Africa is achieved when communities are empowered with rights, incentives, and a meaningful stake in natural resource management. In Zambia, models such as community conservancies and fisheries co-management demonstrate that when communities directly benefit, conservation outcomes significantly improve.

Read the full story on our website, visit: https://www.wwfzm.panda.org/our_work/climate___energy2/



WWF ZAMBIA LAUNCHES ITS USD43 MILLION DOLLAR OFFICE STRATEGIC PLAN

March ended on a high note with WWF Zambia launching its long-awaited 2026–2030 Office Strategic Plan (OSP), which outlines the organisation’s conservation ambition and investment priorities for the next five years.

The Office Strategic Plan repositions WWF Zambia with a clear, results-oriented roadmap to address the country’s most pressing environmental challenges through inclusive, landscape-based approaches to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Anchored in WWF Zambia’s vision to be the partner of choice for locally empowered conservation and resilient food systems, the strategy focuses on protecting and restoring ecosystems while supporting climate-resilient livelihoods, advancing a future where people live in harmony with nature.

The OSP is designed to deliver measurable impact across five core pillars, with clear success targets guiding implementation from 2026 to 2030:

- **Wildlife:** Achieving a 60% reduction in elephant poaching and stabilising key wildlife populations across priority landscapes.
- **Climate:** Sequestering or avoiding 700,000 metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (MtCO₂e) through nature-based solutions.
- **People:** Improving wellbeing and climate resilience for 100,000 households, particularly among communities directly dependent on natural resources.
- **Water:** Restoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems to support the annual replenishment of 6 million cubic metres of water, strengthening water security for people, ecosystems, and downstream users.
- **Finance:** Mobilising USD 10 million in catalytic funding and launching at least one Nature Bond to unlock innovative and sustainable financing for long-term conservation impact.

WWF Zambia will implement the strategy across its three priority landscapes: the Upper Zambezi, Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA), and the Kafue Flats.

Speaking during the launch, WWF Zambia Country Director Nalucha Nganga-Ziba emphasised that achieving the OSP’s ambitions will require strong and strategic partnerships. She reaffirmed WWF’s commitment to working closely with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, particularly the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MoGEE), the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, the Ministry of Energy, and other key line ministries.

Meanwhile, MoGEE Minister Mike Mposha noted that the future of Zambia’s environment cannot be shaped by one institution alone, but requires collective action through government leadership, community participation, private-sector innovation, and the unwavering commitment of partners such as WWF. His remarks were delivered on his behalf by MoGEE Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Rainford Simumbwe.