



WWF

NEWSLETTER

ZAMBIA

2020

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Conservation at a glance: stories
from the field, 07/2019 - 07/2020



A farmer harvesting tomatoes in Nyimba district, Zambia.

FOREWORD FROM THE WWF ZAMBIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR



The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is the world's leading conservation organization. Our mission is to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment.

The history of WWF in Zambia started in 1962 on the Kafue Flats with the purchase of private land which was donated to the Government to create Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks. We operated through a series of specific projects including support to anti-poaching, conservation education, community based natural

resource management and wetlands conservation. In 1991, we signed an understanding with the Government of the Republic of Zambia to create a coordinating office in Zambia.

Since then, we have achieved much, but not without the support of our partners that include; the Government of Zambia through various government bodies, civil society organisations, local communities and the private sector.

Through our partnerships, our Freshwater Programme has worked closely with the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, the Water Resources Management Authority and private sector companies such as ABInBev to contribute to the body of knowledge through research such as; various studies on the Kafue Flats, the HydroATLAS datasets and environmental flow research tools that we hope will inform decision making. We have also been involved in restoring wildlife habitat for the endemic Kafue Lechwe in partnership with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the International Crane Foundation, through supporting communities to clear the invasive *Mimosa Pigra*. This activity has also created employment for the local communities. Furthermore, we are working with civil society organisations in Luangwa, to raise awareness on the need to conserve our water resources.

Our Wildlife Programme focuses on restoring and conserving wildlife populations. Through supporting the Ministry of Tourism, and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to accelerate wildlife growth in the Silwana Complex, which aims to be a world-class tourist destination, through wildlife translocations. Our Community Centered Conservation Development Project is working with environmental clubs in schools to teach children about conservation agriculture, and supporting Seed Grower Associations. Our Zambia Youth for Conservation Agriculture and Livelihoods Action, ZYCALA, supported by GAIA Education is training young people on alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping and poultry production. Our Cities 2020 project is working with the Lusaka City Council and Plan International to get children involved in City Planning and finally, we are supporting the sustainable development of the Upper Zambezi, through our Upper Zambezi Programme, and have joined hands with the National Heritage Conservation Commission, to advocate for the declaration of the Barotse Floodplain as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In this newsletter, we bring you stories from the field, written by our Programme staff. We hope you enjoy the read. For more information visit our website: <https://wwfzm.panda.org> or follow us on social media @wwfzambia.

Nachilala Nkombo, WWF Zambia Country Director

RESTORING WILDLIFE POPULATIONS



**600 animals have
been translocated
to Sioma Ngwezi
National Park**

WWF Zambia has been supporting the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, to restore wildlife populations in Sioma Ngwezi National Park, through a restocking exercise. Last year, over 200 impala were translocated bringing the total number of wildlife translocated, since the inception of the project in 2016, close to 600.

Part of this initiative is funded by WWF Zambia, with support from WWF US, Netherlands, Belgium and the Isdell Family. The operation is one of the milestones for achieving the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier conservation Areas' (KAZA TFCA) vision of "establishing a world-class transfrontier conservation and tourism destination area in the Okavango and Zambezi River Basin regions of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe within the context of sustainable development.

The Sioma Ngwezi National Park, located in Sesheke and Sioma districts of Western province, is Zambia's third largest National Park and lies in the centre of the KAZA TFCA. Unfortunately, it is among the least stocked and developed, after having suffered excessive hunting and poaching during and after liberation wars. It was also subject to sub optimal management investment after the post liberation war era.

To ensure the safety of the reintroduced wildlife, WWF supported the recruitment of an additional 25 Wildlife Police Officers in 2017 and is supporting 22 Community scouts working in the Silwana complex.

The restocking initiative is a long term partnership among the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Peace Parks Foundation, the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area and Community Resources Boards, that all seek to contribute to the enhancement of ecological and socio-economic functions of the Sioma Ngwezi National Park and parts of the West Zambezi Game Management Areas.

PROTECTING FORESTS IN THE SILOWANA COMPLEX



© PATRICK BENTLEY/WWF

Forests are among the precious natural resources in the Silwana Complex and are highly essential in protecting cultural and linguistic diversity, and fundamentally important to the livelihoods of local communities who depend on the natural environment.

This includes non-timber forest products such as grass for covering their roofs (shelter), selected tree species for medicinal purposes or as a source of wild fruits such as Muhamani, Muzauli, Mumaka and Muzinzila which are local delicacies. The rural communities utilize the forest products for domestic use and sometimes for sale in order to augment their income.

Threats to the forest however come from illegal timber logging, due to high demand for timber on the international market. Unfortunately sometimes, the local communities are asked to sell their timber at an unfair price.

At WWF, we recognize the interdependence of community well-being and ecosystem health, and people are at the center of what we do. That is why we are strengthening the capacity of communities to have a voice in decisions about planning and design of conservation initiatives affecting them, through supporting Community Resources Boards. Additionally, we are facilitating the creation of community forests in Ngweze, Makanda and Kapau villages, as provided for under the Forest Act of 2015.

At national level, we are supporting the development of the new CBNRM policy that aims at putting community benefits at the center of conservation - a people-centered approach to the integration of conservation of natural resources (wildlife, water, soil, trees and biodiversity) and development, in order to overcome poverty, hunger and disease. We are also embarking on a new forest landscape restoration program, that has interventions in the Silwana Complex.



**Forests are
important to the
livelihoods of local
communities**

THE BAROTSE FLOODPLAIN - UNDER THREAT



© JASPER DOEST/WWF



Over 225, 000
people depend
on the Barotse
Floodplain

Ecologically, the Barotse Floodplains and Liuwa Plains in the Upper Zambezi Catchment are still in a relatively pristine or in a near-natural state. The levels of endemism and biodiversity are overwhelming. However, the future of all this wealth depends on the wise use of these systems as these are literally the lifeline of local people and nature. This year marks two decades into the millennium and offers a unique opportunity to seriously reflect on human- nature interactions and consequent human impact on our wetland ecosystems.

The Barotse Floodplain alone hosts over 225, 000 people who live and depend on its natural resources. The main livelihoods include fishing, livestock and agriculture. It is currently threatened by;

- Invasive species such as *Mimosa pigra*
- Prospects of unplanned large scale infrastructure development
- Unsustainable fishing practices such as; the use of mosquito nets, poisoning of fish and use of drag nets
- Illegal and unsustainable forest logging that degrade the structure of the forests

To protect the Barotse Floodplain and the livelihoods it supports, WWF is working with the National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) and the Barotse Royal Establishment, who are advocating for its declaration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Additionally, we are working with partners to explore and identify opportunities for forest based enterprise projects, that aim to uplift local communities, contribute to better management and attract sustainable private sector investment in the forest sector.

KAZA CONNECTIVITY RECEIVES A BOOST



© WILL BURRARD-LUCAS / WWF-US



**KAZA received
a boost of 16.9
million euros**

Recently, the Kavango – Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) received a boost of 16.9 million euros DreamFund Grant from the Dutch Postcode Lottery in the Netherlands. The fund was awarded to three nongovernmental organisations - Africa Parks, Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), that will work with the KAZA Secretariat, the Angolan, Namibian and Zambian Governments, and civil society organisations.

KAZA is located at the heart of five countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe- and covers an area of 520 000 km² making it the largest Transfrontier Worldwide. In 2011, these five countries became signatories to the KAZA treaty at an event in Luanda, Angola. Shaped like a butterfly in flight, KAZA faces threats such as; loss of biodiversity, increasing human-wildlife conflict, deforestation, unsustainable fishing practices, uncoordinated development, reduction in freshwater supplies and drought.

To deliver on the objective of securing the world's largest population of elephants while providing a promising future for local people in KAZA, it rests on three pillars, that of; securing important elephant safe havens, the corridors that links them and the Kwando River freshwater. WWF and partners will work towards securing the Kwando River as an important freshwater artery in KAZA.

At the community level, we will invest part of the funds in training communities on water stewardship, sustainable water management in fishery, and agricultural practices. This will contribute to bettering the communities' livelihoods, food security and income generation. WWF will also focus its efforts on the Zambian side of KAZA, including; the Kafue National Park; Sioma-Ngwezi National Park and Sesheke District.

RESTORING FORESTS ON THE KABOMPO LANDSCAPE



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**Competing uses
of forests have
resulted in high
deforestation**

North-western province is not only famous for abundant unearthed mineral deposits, but is also known for its biodiversity richness (wildlife, forestry, fisheries, hydrology, etc.), importance, and cultural history. Forests are an important source of livelihoods for the local communities. They provide energy, timber and non- timber forest products such as; mushrooms, honey, caterpillars and wild fruits. In addition, the manufacturing industry is also heavily dependent on forests, including; railway sleepers, mine poles and furniture. These competing uses of forests have resulted in high levels of deforestation and diminishing of key species such as rosewood.

With better protection, forests can continue to provide a home for wildlife and resources for local communities. Globally, they can keep providing us all with essentials such as fresh air and clean water. With better management, we can boost timber production without damaging the local environment, and with better planning, we can produce enough food for growing populations without having to convert forests to farmland. It is for these reasons that WWF is supporting local communities to take control of their forest resources, and encouraging investment in restoring forests. Additionally, due to the high rates of deforestation, we are working with the Water Resources Management Authority to ensure that there is sufficient forest cover to protect river sources.

LOWER KAFUE RIVER BASIN HEALTH REPORT CARD



**The Lower Kafue
River Basin Health
Report Card won
the traditional
leaders applause**

WWF Zambia has been working on the Kafue Flats since its inception. As part of our efforts to ensure that the Flats are protected, we have been working with University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences (UMCES), the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), People's Action Forum and other Zambian government agencies, academic institutions, civil society organisations, community based organizations, and the private sector (with funding from WWF Netherlands) to create the Lower Kafue River Basin Report Card through gathering scientific data, and series of stakeholder workshops.

A River Basin Health Report Card is an assessment and communication product that compares ecological, social, and/or economic information against pre-defined goals or objectives. Similar to school report cards, River Basin Health Report cards provide performance-driven numeric grades or letters that reflect the status of a river basin on a regular basis.

Community mobilization and information dissemination activities for the River Basin Report Card process and its finding received maximum attention by basin stakeholders and won traditional leadership applause. This information descending down to the communities, will enable them participate in managing the resources and participate in providing recommendations for more efficient use.

ZAMBIAN YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE CITY



WWF in its quest to create a world where humans live in harmony with nature, has built the capacity of pupils in 13 schools of Lusaka District to support the preservation of biodiversity, under the Our Cities 2030 project. This is in partnership with Plan International and the project has been supporting; tree planting, school and community awareness campaigns, and promotion of the *reuse, reduce and recycle* approach to waste management in their respective schools.



**Our Cities 2030 is
in partnership with
Plan International
and the Lusaka
City Council**

It has also trained teachers from the 13 schools to ensure full adoption of education for sustainable development (ESD) teaching methodologies in their everyday interactions with pupils. Additionally, WWF Zambia in partnership with Plan International has engaged and trained youth organizations to ensure that youths out of schools are not left behind in the fighting against environmental evils including biodiversity loss. These youth organisations carry out various activities to support the preservation of biodiversity through sensitization and public awareness campaigns.

As a key decision player in making Lusaka City smart, resilient and sustainable, Lusaka City Council has not been left behind. WWF in collaboration with Plan International has been training Lusaka City Council Staff in 1.5 Degrees Celsius trajectories development and monitoring, climate change mitigation and adaptation, education for sustainable development, and involvement of youths in local governance. The project is based on the premise that once stakeholders (pupils, youths, teachers, and city administrators) understand the concept of sustainability and are familiar with its concepts, they will examine their everyday activities and establish potential windows to contribute to making individuals, households, communities and cities resilient, smart and sustainable. This will enable them to effectively contribute to the sharing of sustainability knowledge and skills, which contribute to making the city sustainable.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



EDITORIAL TEAM



Nachialala Nkombo,
Country Director,
WWF Zambia



Isabel Mukelabai,
Government Relations & Strategic Partnerships Manager &
Acting Communications Manager,
WWF Zambia

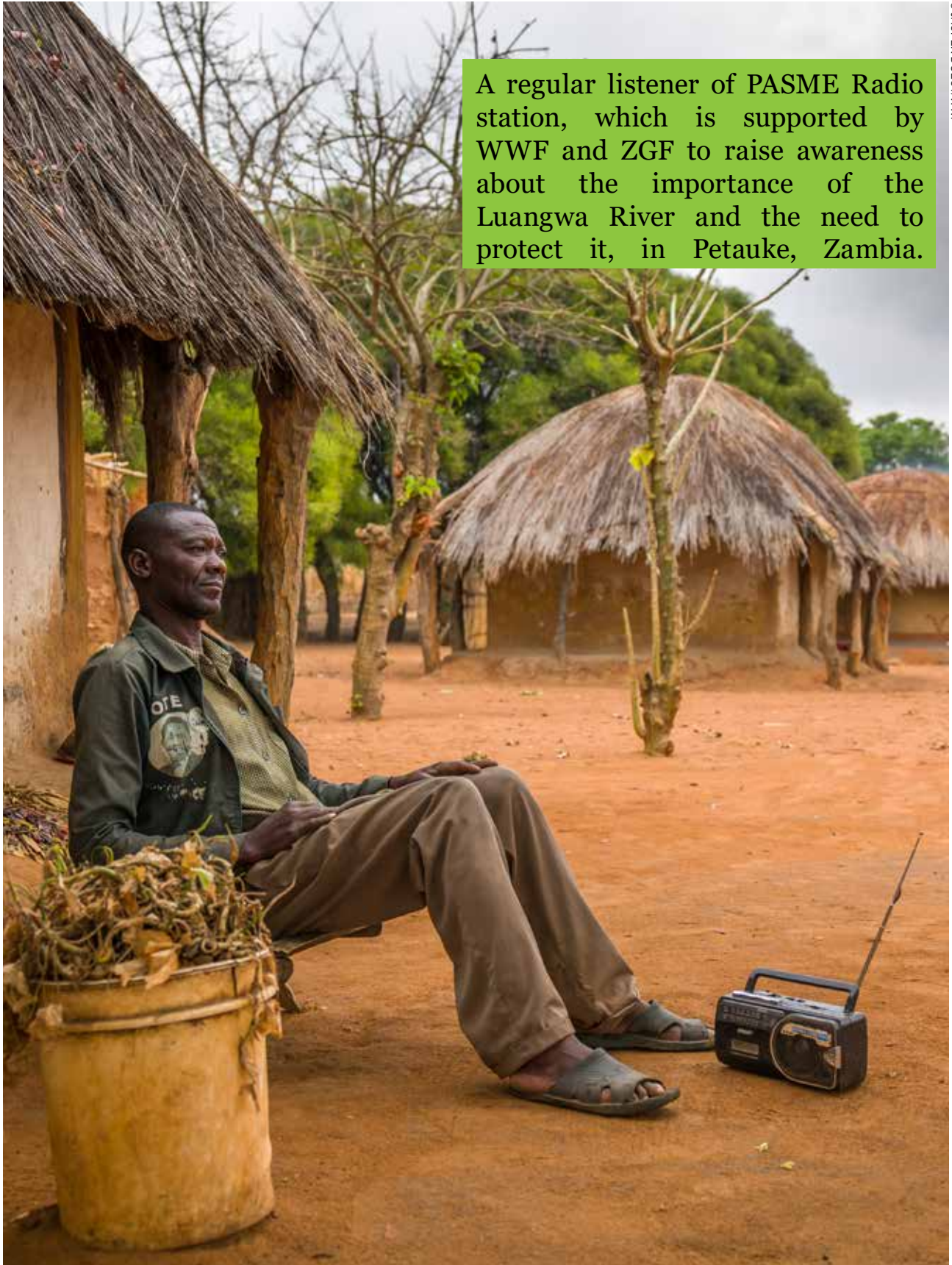


Elvis Milambo,
Communications Officer,
WWF Zambia

CONTRIBUTOR'S



A regular listener of PASME Radio station, which is supported by WWF and ZGF to raise awareness about the importance of the Luangwa River and the need to protect it, in Petauke, Zambia.



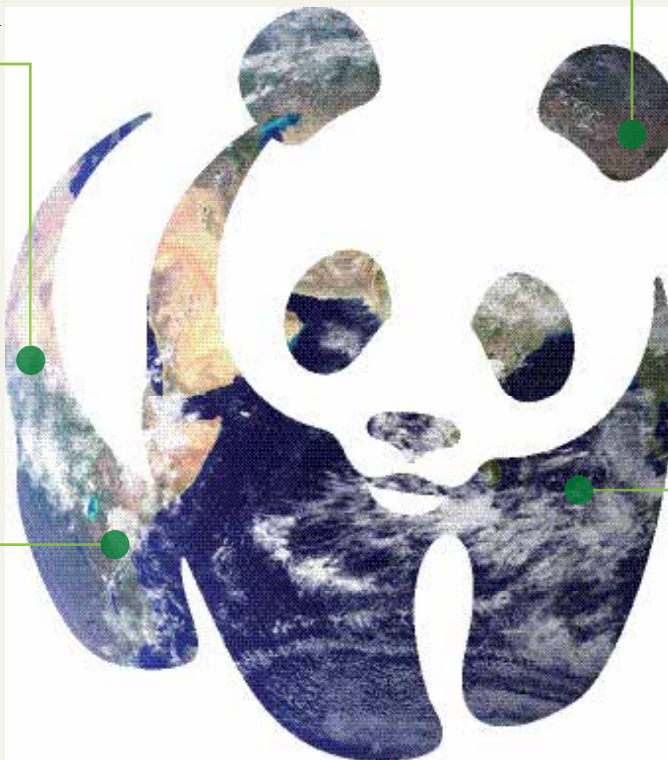
WWF Zambia in Numbers

1962

WWF was established in Zambia.

1991

We signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Republic of Zambia.



4

We focus on 4 thematic areas; people, wildlife, freshwater and forests.

8

We work in 8 provinces in Zambia.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.