



Zambia CBNRM Forum



2018 Annual Report

Secretariate

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Vision

“ To foster sustainable livelihoods among rural communities through sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources”.



Mission Statement

“To improve rural livelihoods at the household level through sustainable management of natural resources by communities in Zambia”.



Values

The Forum is a voluntary and non-partisan organization which does not interfere in the autonomy of its members. ZCBNRM Forum organization is committed to:

- **Working with efficiency and long term sustainability.**
- **Valuing the principle of social justice, inclusiveness and empowerment for rural communities.**
- **Believe in the power of committed community-based organizations who want to contribute to a sustainable natural resource management and development.**



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBNRM: Community-based Natural Resources Management.

CBOs: Community-Based Organization.

GMAs: Game Management Areas.

HRBA: Human Rights-Base Approach.

ICCAs: Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas.

IIED: International Institute of Environment and Development.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization.

PPCR: Pilot Project for Climate Resilience.

MTENR: Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources.

WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature.

Chairman's Statement



Zambia is endowed with numerous natural resources across the entire country, which if tapped and well managed could sustainably contribute to improved economic well-being of its citizens. There is generally a growing need for the participation of resource users in achieving sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. It is indeed our duty together with our members and stakeholders to champion in creating an enabling CBNRM environment in Zambia. It is in this sense that we need to consider communities as key players in conservation, as working with local communities to raise conservation awareness and promote sustainable use of natural resources will contribute to economic

development. The Zambia CBNRM Forum is one such suitable mechanism through which member organizations participation could be enhanced. I would like to acknowledge the fact that there has been limited participation of civil society and the local communities in natural resources management. One such reason is that there has been no clear legislation on natural resources management as it relates to CBNRM. Similarly, poor information dissemination or lack of it has contributed to the slowdown of CBNRM in Zambia. The need to strengthen the capacity of local communities to manage natural resources and the environment at large therefore arises. In acknowledging this requirement, the Zambia CBNRM Forum aims to provide a valuable and useful platform through which CBNRM could be enhanced. We believe we can have a greater impact in areas with limited existing capacity. I wish to assure all members, communities and other stakeholders that our current strategic plan, 2018-2022 will provide to the forum among others a number of strategic options and interventions to guide the operations of the forum. Recently, Zambia CBNRM Forum experienced financial challenges, but we have been able to adapt to changing and often challenging situations, working to improve our efficiency to ensure more of our revenue goes towards our intended programs. In 2018 the Zambia CBNRM Forum entered the first year of its corporate operational and mobilization strategies, with an aim of taking action so that the organization becomes more sustainable and feasible. As an organization, we consider this as a bold ambition and one we can aim to achieve by becoming a leader in promoting community-based natural resources management in Zambia. On behalf of my board I would like to thank you for backing us in our new direction, which in reality is an evolution of our work to date. We will always strive for a world where vulnerable communities are heard and empowered to create their own futures in the management of natural resources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rodgers Lubilo', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Dr. Rodgers Lubilo,

Board Chairman

Zambia CBNRM Forum.

National Coordinator's Statement



It is now fourteen (14) years down the line since the Zambia CBNRM Forum was established in 2004 and launched by the former Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR) in 2005 with the aim to reduce poverty through community-based management of natural resources. The forum has recently been registered with the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Development since December 2014, in accordance with the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Act No. 16 of 2009. Indeed, the Forum's focus has been around creating secure livelihoods for communities in Zambia through sustainable utilization of natural resources that includes; forestry, fisheries, water, agriculture, land and wildlife. Through all these years, we have been building on our mandate for strengthening the capacities of vulnerable rural communities in their role in conserving nature as well as holding government accountable on the enforcement of policies and regulations for sustainable natural resource *management* and climate justice. Strengthening the capacity of these communities and upholding their rights to demand for implementation of policies and programmes to promote inclusiveness, accessibility, accountability is one of our key ingredients in our fields of work. 2018 marked Zambia CBNRM Forum's tremendous transitional milestone for the organization and one that has seen us witness great change in the CBNRM sector and across the country. We're proud of our new status as champions of Community-Based interventions, but we understand that the world we were founded in is a very different one to the one we see now. In order to make the largest possible impact for the vulnerable communities we target, we need to be as forward thinking and willing to adapt as we were at our inception. Zambia CBNRM Forum is now one year into its five-year corporate strategy (2021-2022). This strategy has seen us adopt new ways of working, a stronger voice as advocates for pro-poor and inclusive CBNRM policies. Our advocacy locally has seen communities take the stage and fight for their rights. Our work with these vulnerable communities and stakeholders through our programs has continued to strive for greater inclusion throughout communities so that the most marginalized in the utilization of our natural resources are heard. We acknowledge that climate change and conflict have continued to threaten the wellbeing of society, especially rural communities. As the world changes we are proud that we have been able to adapt with it. It is imperative that we equip communities and our members to have the tools, resilience and a voice in the face of this shifting world. Our work is only possible with your support. Whether it's sponsoring a group of community, advocating for change, fundraising, supporting our passionate CBNRM efforts, or even remembering Zambia CBNRM Forum in your will, your support is invaluable. Thank you for associating with us.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'N. Chongo'.

Mr. Noah Chongo,

National Coordinator: Zambia CBNRM Forum.

Zambia CBNRM Forum Board Members

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1. Introduction

The Zambia CBNRM Forum is an umbrella organisation for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or institutions with interest in or supportive of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Zambia providing a platform for CBNRM discourse, debate and development. The forum was established in 2005 and launched by the Former Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources (MTENR) with the aim to reduce poverty through community based management of natural resources. The focus of the organisation is around



creating secure livelihoods for communities in Zambia through sustainable utilisation of natural resources that includes; forestry, fisheries, water, agriculture, land and wildlife.

During 2018, the Zambia CBNRM Forum has gone through a lot of changes with a new National Coordinator that has arrived in April, 2018, a new Program Officer in July, 2018, a new Accountant in August, 2018 and an intern in August 2018. All

these changes created a lot of work but also a lot of opportunities for the Forum. The Forum also went through a critical phase of strengthening the institutional capacity of the organization. It is within this period that key institutional issues were planned for review in order to enhance the visibility and credibility of the institutions. The period has also seen embankment of new project interventions and collaboration with other like-minded stakeholders such as CRBs, Government agencies and the general public.

2. Governance

The governance of the Forum comprises the following organs: Board of Directors; the Annual General Meeting and other organs as the membership may determine at an Annual General Meeting. The Board constitutes thirteen (13) members who are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. In line with its mandate for growth, in 2018, the forum focused on:

- i. Strengthening its institutional capacity for human resource management and organisation policy direction.
- ii. Enhancing its resource mobilisation strategy and organisation feasibility.
- iii. Operationalising the 2018-2022 strategic planning process.
- iv. Ensuring forum participation in local and international natural resource conservation and environmental educational platforms.
- v. Creating strategic partnerships with like-minded corporate and private institutions.
- vi. Affiliating forum to international and local networks for sustainable collaborations.

Box 1: Zambia CBNRM Forum has embarked on pursuing the following strategic objectives:

- i. Rural communities in protected and open areas adopt best CBNRM practices.
- ii. Partnerships around CBNRM practices enhanced.
- iii. Conducive legal and policy environment for CBNRM in place.
- iv. Cross Cutting Issues (CCIs); climate change, gender and HIV & AIDS, HRBA mainstreamed in the Forum's programmes.
- v. Institutional and organizational capacity of the CBNRM Forum strengthened.



3. OUR WORKS

- **Strengthening Zambia's Climate Resilience:** We have hugely undertaken the mission to contribute to Government efforts in improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the Barotse Sub-Basin in Zambia. Among our interventions include:
 - Facilitating financing and implementation of small grants to pilot projects in Mandia, Sekute and Sikaunzwe wards of Kazungula District, and
 - Strengthening climate information to communities and planners.



Our Goal by 2019:

- More than 30% of the direct project primary beneficiary's livelihoods, including rural farmers who often suffer climate related losses are uplifted and sustainable.
- There will be integrated community-based adaptation in the district that will support areas of interventions such as, community-based adaptations, farm-level systems among the few.

“ 72 Community-Based Projects Approved in 2018 ”

- **Supporting Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas:**

For many of the local communities there is a close association between specific indigenous people or local communities and specific territories, areas or bodies of natural resources. The Zambia CBNRM Forum are taking a leading role in ensuring that for many people in Zambia's identified emblematic Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas have a much richer relationship with the natural resources around them, than it can be expressed in words. We have experienced through our interaction with these communities that this relationship is a bond of improved livelihood, energy and health. It is a source of identity and culture, autonomy and freedom.



“It is our responsibility as a national catalytic organization to involve indigenous communities in development projects for cultural and biodiversity conservation in at least five chiefdoms in Zambia: +5 ICCAs are approved for finding”.

- **Promoting Stainable forest management I protected areas in Zambia.**

Forests are vital areas for biodiversity and livelihood support. With our corporate partners and the government we have been supporting local efforts to enhance extension services and the production of information materials for communities living around protected forests reserves in Eastern province. We are grant managing a program that targets 17 forest reserves in the province covering a total of 222,600 hectares and 743.7 kilometers of forest boundary.



“We believe that forests are important in the livelihoods of local people mostly who depend on forests resources for various products such as fuel wood, construction materials, medicine, and food. ”

- **Building Capacity of Community-Based Enterprises and Communities.**

Our vision of fostering sustainable livelihoods among rural communities through sustainable management and utilization of natural resources is no pipe dream. We have plans, the practical solutions and the will to realize it. We are building capacity of conservation CBOs and ensuring effective delivery of community-centered conservation initiatives by local bodies working in the Kafue Ecosystem of Zambia. This is with specific focus on the western region CRBs and chiefdoms in this landscape.



“Three CRBs in the name of Chilyabufu, Shimbizhi and Kaingu have been supported in developing a bankable business development proposal in cooperatively coming up with a bulk milk collection center”.

- **We are leading governance assessment for protected and conserved areas in Zambia.**

In collaboration with IIED of London, the forum has championed early experience of a multi-stakeholder methodology for ensuring equity and effectiveness in Chiawa and Mumbwa Game Management Areas. In the year 2018, we have increasingly recognized that governance is key for enhancing the effectiveness, equity and sustainability of conservation efforts.



Box 2: There are a number of reasons for the forum to engage communities in the assessments of protected areas:

- **As a health check:** to determine strengths and challenges of governance arrangements and identify issues that need attention.
- **As a diagnostic:** to understand the underlying causes of existing challenges and identify actions that could improve the situation.
- **For monitoring:** to establish a baseline against which to measure changes or improvements in protected and conserved areas governance over time.

4. Challenges

In the beginning of the year, the forum was faced with a huge challenge of limited number of human resources which affected our national dialogues and organization development in many aspects. The limited office space is also increasingly becoming a challenge as the secretariat staff has grown to four personnel.

The other challenge the forum has faced is to reach out to potential old and new members. It is observed that for the last period of operation, the forum has been unable to collect enough subscription from its membership. In order to address this gap, the forum has developed its website and Facebook page in an effort to sell the benefits of the forum membership. Facebook and LinkedIn are actively running and a social media calendar has been created by the secretariat team.

During the period of 2018, the forum experienced financial sustainability challenges as most of the running projects came to an end. Project implementations in some cases have suffered due to delay in signing of agreements and disbursement of funds despite the current efficient financial system controls in place.

The team and the board are fully geared to explore a robust mobilization strategy and operational plan to drive key governance and management activities.

5. Recommendations

- The financial monitoring system to be enhanced further in order to have smooth implementation of the projects and sound donor relationships.
- To build a more robust membership base for the forum and market extensively its membership benefits due to fully paid-up members.
- Strengthen more the forum capacity to develop large scale project funding in order to sustain the forum mandate.
- To reach out to more strategic partners in engaging them in strategic partnership for future collaboration.
- To fully extend its mandate in all the country's provinces including southern which is hosting the Pilot for Climate Resilience project. The Livingstone office needs to be fully functional with the employment of permanent staff to pick from the PPCR project.

6. Future Outlook

The focus of 2019 is to improve the forum overall performance through enhanced resource mobilization, feasibility and institutional capacity. The forum will prepare new project proposals for funding by Government and Cooperating partners as a means to achieve its intentions and sustain the organizational capacity. Through our vision, we seek solutions to the challenges. This includes the following:

- **The forum is planning for the creation of a learning and action platform for community engagement against illegal wildlife trade.**
- **Leading the formation of a National Support ICCAs Network for conservation of biological and cultural diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.**
- **Engaging Parliamentarians in addressing the many challenges posed by the current institutional reforms in the management of National Parks and Game Management Areas (GMAs).**
- **The forum increasing it's cooperate mandate beyond limited boundaries making it feasible in all provinces of the country.**
- **Engaging with other partners in operationalizing the landscape approach for biodiversity benefits in terms of policy, practice and people in order to contribute to biodiversity conservation, reducing forest loss and contributing to rural development.**
- **Revitalizing forum thematic working groups and a full-fledged forum sustainable secretariat team to support and supplement government efforts in fostering sustainable rural livelihoods through sustainable management of our natural resources.**

7. Our Financing Partners

During the period of 2018, the forum has been working with the following financing partners:

- WWF
- The Nature Conservancy
- IIED
- USAID
- GRZ
- TIDES Foundation.
- TIKVA
- CIFOR
- CSEF2
- World Bank Group
- UNDP GEF-SGP
- International Climate Initiative-Germany.