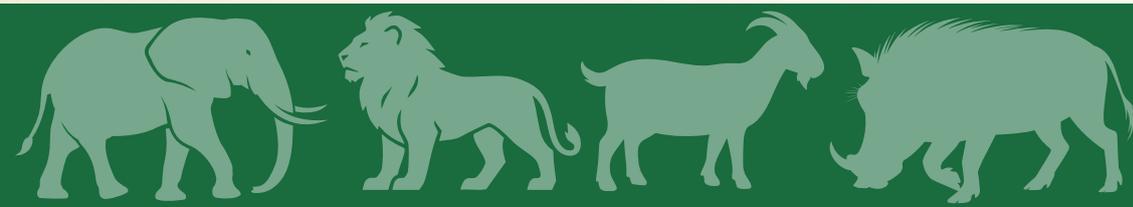




# PROGRESS REPORT



**JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2025**



**2025**

## STATUS- ZCRBA

Since the formation of the ZCRBA in 2016, the organisation continued to foster the principle that the communities' voices across the country in Natural Resource management are heard in building the bridge together with local natural resources governance institutions, civil society organisations and government. ZCRBA is aligned with a vision that strives to build a vibrant natural resources economy in natural resources-rich communities that have Village Action Groups (VAGs), Community Resources Boards (CRBs), Community Forestry Management Groups (CFMGs), Community Fisheries Groups (VCFGs), and Conservancy Trusts (CTs) to directly benefit those communities while delivering effective management of natural resources



## PRINCIPLE GOALS

The principle goals of ZCRBA is to strengthening a sense of local community ownership, taking up the responsibility of natural resource protection and management including wildlife, fish, and forests; Ensuring transparency, equitable and accountable local governance anchored on active local participation and equitable benefit sharing; To lobby for conservation business models that encourages sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, as well as advocating for the policies and legislation that promotes Community –Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM).



## PURPOSE



This report provides and highlights the activities and programs of the Zambia Community Resources Board Association (ZCRBA) over the period of January 2024 to December, 2025.

## PROGRAMS/ ACTIVITIES UPDATES-ZCRBA

### **1. 2024-2025 ZCRBA & CLZ: Strengthening of Chiawa and Mphuka Community Resources Boards (CRBs) and Village Action Groups (VAGs) leading to enhances national policy on communities, engagement and development.**

ZCRBA and Conservation Lower Zambezi engaged in a collaborated activity funded by the CLZ in strengthening of Chiawa and Mpuka Community Resources Boards (CRBs) and Village Action Groups (VAGs) to enhance national policy on communities, engagement and development.

The activities implemented includes; Rapid Governance and Skill Gap Analysis; Establishment of Village Land Use Plan; Data Capturing and Reporting; Development of Village Action Group (VAG) Constitution; Operational Guidelines; Awareness Meetings on Constitution; Governance, and Natural Resources Enterprises; Financial Management and Reporting; Meeting Management and Monitoring; Resource Monitoring; Gender Mainstreaming and Youth Participation in Natural Resource Management; Fundraising and Proposal Development and Project Management and Monitoring.



**Figure 1: Land Use Planning Activity in Chiawa CRB**

## **2. 2025 - ZCRBA & MAZA-TFCA: Scale-up Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Measures in the Malawi-Zambia Trans frontier Conservation Area (MAZA TFCA).**



**Figure 2 : MAZATFCA PROJECT LAUNCH**

This program was launched on 9th September, 2025 to mark an important milestone in advancing transboundary collaboration between Zambia and Malawi to address the challenges of human–wildlife conflict within the MAZA TFCA. The project provides a significant step forward in enhancing resilience, promoting coexisting and ensuring the long term sustainability of the Malawi –Zambia Transfrontier conservation Area. However, ZCRBA, FZS, COMACO (Zambia), TLC and SAFACA (Malawi) are implementers of the project programs.



On the 6th and 7th of October 2025, ZCRBA conducted its first project activity — the Community Entry Meeting — under the “Scale-up Human–Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation Measures in the Malawi–Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area (MAZA TFCA) Project.” The activity targeted Kambombo and Tembwe as project sites on the Zambian side

During the meetings, ZCRBA provided an overview of the project and its objectives, emphasizing transparency from the onset. The scope of work and planned interventions were presented to both community members and traditional leaders, ensuring that all stakeholders clearly understood the project’s intentions and activities and highlighted the importance of community participation and engagement as key to achieving the project’s goals. The project was warmly received, with community members and traditional leaders expressing optimism that the interventions would help reduce the high incidence of crop and property damage in their chiefdoms caused by wildlife.

### **3. OAK FOUNDATION –ZCRBA 2024: SMALL GRANT SUPPORTING THE OPERATIONS OF THE ZAMBIA CBNRM ASSOCIATION.**

The grant was an essential contribution from the Foundation, providing essential funding to support the Association in fulfilling its mandate as the coordinating voice for local communities in Zambia, it equally contributed to the Association's broader efforts to revitalize community–based natural resource management (CBNRM). The grant provided critical financial assistance during a time when the Association was facing significant financial challenges, helping to maintain its operations and continue its important work in the community.



The grant in its initial stage facilitated the internal staff training / refresher training with intent to strengthen the organization's capacity to effectively facilitate participatory training at community level successfully.

This provided the foundational understanding required to ensure that subsequent activities were aligned with the overall goals of the project. Following the Inception Meeting, both short-term and long-term visioning and planning meetings were conducted, setting clear objectives and realistic timelines. With

#### **4. 2025 AFRICAN PARKS /ZCRBA: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE GRASS ROOTS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES (KABULWEBULWE, MULENDEMA, CHIBULUMA, MUSUNGWA & SHEEZONGO) IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA OF AFRICAN PARKS- GREAT KAFUE LANDSCAPE.**



African Parks and Zambia Community Resources Board Association collaborated in building the capacity of governance structures in the great Kafue landscape. The activity was funded by African Parks and the ZCRBA was the implementing, Partners. The capacity-building process equally focused towards strengthening grassroots structures to secure community rights. Additionally, a strategic plan was developed to provide a clear and actionable framework for long-term community engagement, empowerment and sustainability. As the plan assisted development and packaging of guiding documents, outlining the vision for the community's future while emphasizing the importance of securing community rights in sustainable development. These activities were designed to equip these user groups with the skills and knowledge necessary to advocate for their rights effectively and engage in meaningful community-based governance

## **5. 2025-COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**



Over 8 years now the Zambia Community Resources Board Association (ZCRBA) and Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum (CBNRMF) hold an Annual general meeting / conference every December of each progressive year and this conference bring together a wide range of stakeholders including government officials, community leaders, environmental practitioners, development partners, and academics to explore innovative approaches to natural resource management that prioritize participatory governance and collaboration. The success of these conferences is a joint effort of the Zambia CBNRM Forum and Zambia Community Resources Board Association (ZCRBA) in collaboration with government and conservation partners. The Conference is a national platform for reviewing the conservation performance in CBNRM/CFM models in Zambia. This monumental annual event brings together local communities, conservation partners, NGOs, and the government in one place to take stock of conservation performance in natural resources management across the country. The Conference provides opportunities to strengthen natural resources governance, promotes peer-to-peer learning across communities and NGOs cross-pollination. This is also an opportunity for NGOs and conservation partners to interact with policymakers and provide feedback on implementing conservation policies in Zambia

This year 2025 will be the 9<sup>th</sup> CBNRM conference, which will be held at Golden Peacock based on the theme “Revitalizing CBNRM and Securing Land Rights for Sustainable Livelihoods and Empowering of Rural Communities”. This conference will attract over 350 participants from across the country from the government, traditional authorities, communities, NGOs, Civil Society organizations (CSOs), conservation partners and the private sector. The conference will include landscapes and national-level presentations, success storytelling, plenary, and breakout group discussions. The 2025 conference is fundamental for strengthening collaboration between various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and local communities in the management of natural resources.

**COOPERATING PARTNERS WORKING WITH ZAMBIA COMMUNITY  
RESOURCES BOARD ASSOCIATION (ZCRBA)**

