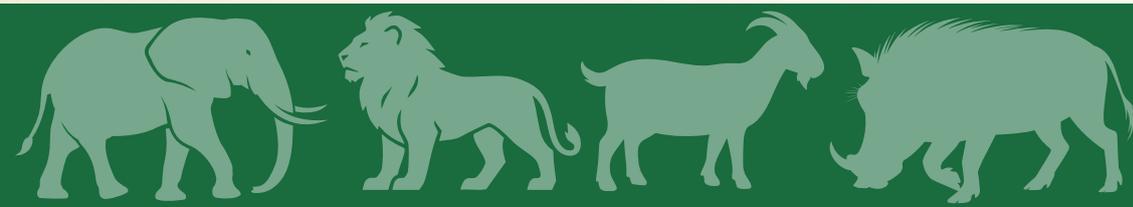


STATUS REPORT



COPPERBELT NORTH-WESTERN REGION



2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ACROYNOMS

CRB	COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARDS
AGM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HWC	HUMAN WILDIFE CONFLICT
ZCRBA	ZAMBIA COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARDS ASSOCIATION
DNPW	DEPARTMENT OF NATIOANL PARKS AND WILDLIFE
VAGs	VILLAGE ACTION GROUPs
GMA	GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS
NP	NATIONAL PARK
CR-CRB	CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARD
GMP	GENERAL/GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN
AP	AFRICAN PARK
TNC	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
WPO	WILDLIFE POLICE OFFICERS
CS	COMMUNIT SCOUTS
CFMG	COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT GROUP
PA	PROTECTED AREA

OVERVIEW OF THE REGION

Copperbelt–North–Western Region is the largest region rich in resource known for its unique ecosystems and significant contributions to Community–Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). It covering approximately 157 154 square kilometers The Region shares borders with Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The region contains several major rivers, including the Kabombo, Zambezi, and Lunga rivers. Much of the area is dominated by extensive Miombo woodlands and These woodlands are home to a variety of wildlife and are crucial for local communities who depend on them for firewood, building materials, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

The Region is home to diverse wildlife species, including elephants, lions, leopards, and several antelope species. Key protected areas include the West Lunga National Park and the Chibwika–Ntambu Game Management Area (GMA).

The region is rich in minerals, including copper, gold, and other valuable resources. However, mining activities have raised concerns about environmental degradation and the displacement of communities.

The Region has 11 active CRBs and 36 CFMGs working to manage wildlife and forest resources sustainably. These include boards in areas like the Chibwika–Ntambu GMA and the West Lunga GMA.

CRBs in this region focus on mitigating human–wildlife conflicts, promoting sustainable hunting practices, and engaging in wildlife monitoring to protect key species. CFMGs are putting more efforts to involve communities in forest management through initiatives like community forestry and forest product enterprises. This includes sustainable harvesting of honey, wild fruits, and mushrooms, which are vital income sources for local communities.

REGIONAL FACTS AND FIGURES

Comparative Table: Key Statistics of Copperbelt and Western		
Indicator	Copperbelt Region	Western Region
Population (2022)	2.5 million	1.1 million
Land Area (km ²)	31,328	126,386
Urbanization Rate	85%	17%
Poverty Rate	29%	82%
Youth Population	60%	65%
Main Economic	Mining	Agriculture, Fishing
Forest Cover (%)	24%	50%
Protected Areas	Few (Mining Zones)	Multiple National
CBNRM Activities	Limited	Active

COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM (NTAMBU COMMUNITY GAME RESERVE)

Ntambu game reserve is the first ever community owned ranch in Zambia and is a fountainhead for two management areas (Chibwika Ntambu GMA and West Lunga NP) the ranch came into existence when Chief Ntambu influenced government to support community game ranches and offered 1,000 hectares of Ntambu land to the cause foundations. This initiative was made possible and coming to reality when First Quantum Minerals (FQM), DNPW, West Lunga Conservation Project and WWF entered into a partnership to provide necessary requirement for the ranch to be functional. Ntambu game reserve plans to reach a state of self-sustainability through the project to prove their capability to manage, conserve and protect natural resources. Community members have become actively involved in the conservation field and are hoping to increase the wildlife in the years to come so it could be a site for tourist and in return will boost its economic status.

STATUS OF THE CRB/CFMGs

SN	NAME OF GMA	STATUS OF GMA	NAMES OF CRBs/CFMG	STATUS OF CRB
1	Lunga Luswishi	Active	Kasempa,	Active
			Machiya,	Active
			munjimazovu	Active
			Sibuchinga	Active
2	West Lunga	Active	Chibwika	Active
			Ntambu	Active
			Chizela	Active
			Sikufele	Active
			Matebo	Active
			Musele	Active
3	Kasonsobusanga	Active	Mubambe	Active
			Kasepa	Active

SN	NAME OF CFMGs	STATUS OF GMA	NAMES OF CFMG	STATUS OF CFMG
1	Lunga Luswishi	Active	Kasempa	Active
			Kayola	Active
			Kalasangubo	Active
			Kamakechingubo	Active
			Lunjinka	Active

STATUS OF THE CRB/CFMGs

SN	NAME OF CFMGs	STATUS OF GMA	NAMES OF CFMG	STATUS OF CFMG
2	West Lunga	Active	Mumpulumba	Active
			Chuulu	Active
			Kimba	Active
			Ntambu Central	Active
			Makuya	Active
			Kanyamusovu	Active
			Mushipi	Active
			Kema	Active
			Kayisumpa	Active
			Kayonge	Active
3	West Lunga	Active	Kalemalema	Active
			Kamapanda	Active
			Muwozi	Active
			Kasenga	Active
			Chibwika central	Active
			Mukuyu	Active
			Kimonwa	Active
			Kyanseng'a	Active
			Kamabokwe	Active
			Bukomo	Active
			Butemwe	Active

			Mayawu	Active
			Kashinakashi	Active
			kanyisombu	Active
			Kapidi	Active
	West Lunga	Active	Kamwezhi	Active
			Nyachi	Active
			kalondu	Active
			luji	Active

ACTIVITIES

key activities undertaken by the regional association are listed below

- Regional meeting
- Capacity building trainings
- Exchange Visits
- Recruitments of scouts
- Some CRBs and CFMGs had an exchange visit with other CRBs that are in North region

ACHIEVEMENTS

key activities undertaken by the regional association are listed below

- Regional meeting
- Capacity building trainings
- Exchange Visits
- Recruitments of scouts
- Some CRBs and CFMGs had an exchange visit with other CRBs that are in North region

VALIDATION REPORT

Validation of the General Management Plan (GMP) for West Lunga National Park was done at G-Greens in Solwezi. The validation period was 3 days starting on and ending on was attended by the profile delegates like director General Department N.P.W, their Royal highnesses thus, Senior Chief Musele, Chief Ntambo, Chief Chibwika as well as Chief Chizela's representative. The main purpose of the meeting was to validate the General Management and allowed it to be signed and to be decided when it should be implemented and launched. The validation process comprised key participants from different circles such as the district commissioners, D.I.O, 11 officers from the office of the president and senior officials from line ministries.



WORK PLAN

SN	ACTIVITY	REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE
1	Recruitment of the secretariat	Operations of the region	Regional Committee
2	Certification of the Regional	Development of Regional	Regional Secretariat
3	Opening of a Regional Bank	Application form, Regional	Regional Secretariat
4	Maximization of the Revenue base of	Annual affiliations of individual CRBs	CBOs
5	Regional Stakeholders'	Representatives from West lunga,	Snr. Warden and Regional President.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE REGION



Figure 1 : Ntambu Honey production projects

- CRBs and CFMGs that are in West Lunga GMA are actively having a project for honey processing
- Have uncomplete project called Habandwe (Game Meat butchery) in Ntambu chiefdom.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY LED CONSERVATION IN COPPERBELT/NORTHWESTERN REGION

A critical opportunity to enhance biodiversity, improve livelihoods, and ensure sustainable natural resource management in the Copperbelt–Western region.

1. Community Empowerment in Conservation

- Communities can be involved in honey processing project
- Communities can be involved in land restoration projects, promoting carbon credits, and improving local air quality.
- Establishing nature reserves and bird-watching sites in less industrialized parts of the region can attract eco-tourism, providing alternative income for local communities.
- CRBs/CFMGs can be enhanced through the capacity training in wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching activities, and tourism management can boost conservation efforts.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE REGION



Figure 2 : Community members participating into honey project in Ntanbu

2. Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Collaborative Management

- **Participatory Land-Use Planning:** Involving local communities in the planning process ensures that conservation measures respect traditional land-use practices and local cultural values. This approach helps align conservation goals with community needs.
- **Reviving Traditional Governance Systems:** Traditional leaders and local chiefs play a significant role in resource management. Empowering traditional governance structures to take part in conservation decisions can enhance community buy-in and compliance.
- **Collaborative Management Frameworks:** Encouraging joint management agreements between local communities, government agencies, and conservation NGOs can improve resource sharing, monitoring, and enforcement of conservation rules.

FUNDING SOURCES AND RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

Financial Overview of the Region

The CBOs that are in Copperbelt–Northwestern region have not started receiving income from any sources. And they haven't started generating income from Carbon business. CRBs and CFMGs are receiving support from the partners they are working with.

CRBs and CFMGs Securing funding is essential for implementing effective community-led conservation projects. Various sources can be explored, some of the alternative for securing funding are listed below.

- Provides grants and technical support for environmental projects, including community conservation and forest management.
- Offers financial and technical support for community projects focused on sustainable forest management and wildlife conservation.
- Engages in partnerships with local communities to support wildlife management and conservation projects.
- Supports community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) projects, focusing on sustainable forestry, anti-poaching activities, and eco-tourism.
- Provides funding and capacity building for community conservation initiatives, particularly in areas with significant wildlife populations.
- **Carbon Credit Programs:** Initiatives like REDD+ offer funding opportunities for communities that engage in forest conservation and carbon sequestration projects.

Threats to Regional Performance

The Copperbelt–North–Western regions face several challenges that threaten both the environment and the livelihoods of local communities. The regions experience high rates of deforestation due to charcoal production, logging, and clearing of land, agriculture and settlements. Other challengers are highlighted below.

FUNDING SOURCES AND RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

- **Mine Activities**

The expansion of mining activities in forest-rich areas like the North-Western Province, has further exacerbated deforestation. Intensive mining operations have led to significant soil degradation. Open-pit mining activities disturb large areas of land, leading to soil erosion, reduced fertility, and loss of vegetation cover. This degradation also affects agricultural productivity, making it harder for communities to sustain their livelihoods.

Mining activities, has led to heavy metal contamination of rivers and streams. Wastes from mining operations release pollutants like copper, lead, and sulfuric acid into water bodies, impacting aquatic ecosystems and posing health risks to communities that rely on these waters for drinking, fishing, and agriculture.

- **Policies**

Policies related to mining, agriculture, and conservation are in conflict. For instance, the allocation of mining licenses within protected areas or GMAs can undermine conservation efforts and lead to land use conflicts between local communities, mining companies, and conservation authorities.

Despite the principles of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), local communities often have limited input in decision-making processes related to natural resource use. This can lead to dissatisfaction and reduced cooperation in conservation initiatives, as communities may feel excluded from the benefits of resource exploitation.

- **Poverty and Lack of Alternative Livelihoods.**

High levels of poverty in community areas drive unsustainable practices such as poaching, illegal logging, and charcoal production. Without viable alternative livelihoods, communities exploit natural resources to meet their immediate needs, even if it leads to long-term degradation.

- **Access to Markets**

Communities, especially those involved in small-scale agriculture and fishing, access to markets is a significant challenge. Poor infrastructure, including roads and communication networks, limits the ability of these communities to sell their products, forcing them to rely on subsistence activities that may deplete natural resources

- **ØClimate Change**

Extreme weather events such as drought has exacerbated water scarcity, leading to increased competition for resources between humans and wildlife

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

- **Strengthening CBNRM Initiatives:** Engaging communities in natural resource management through well-supported Community Resource Boards (CRBs) can enhance conservation efforts. Providing training, resources, and financial incentives can motivate communities to adopt sustainable practices.
- **Improving Policy Implementation:** Strengthening the enforcement of environmental regulations and ensuring better coordination between various government departments involved in mining, forestry, and conservation is critical. This may involve revisiting land use policies to reduce conflicts and integrating community needs into decision-making processes.
- **Promoting Alternative Livelihoods:** Introducing alternative income-generating activities, such as eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and forest-based enterprises like beekeeping, can reduce the pressure on natural resources. Providing market access and support for value addition can help communities benefit economically while conserving the environment.

Recommendations

- Encourage alternative income-generating activities like ecotourism, beekeeping, and craft-making to reduce dependence on unsustainable practices.
- Facilitate regular dialogues between communities, government agencies, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders.
- Establish multi-stakeholder forums to align goals, share knowledge, and develop joint strategies.
- Promote youth and women's active participation in decision-making processes.
- Explore carbon credits, biodiversity offsets, and payments for ecosystem services as revenue streams.



Figure 3: Group photo after validation meeting in solwezi



Figure 4. Scouts from chungwa wildlife training school



Figure 5. musele project of construction of laboratory and computer room by Kanfunfula community camp

PARTNERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Association extend deepest gratitude to the valued partners who worked tirelessly in the Copperbelt and Northwestern region. Your commitment, expertise, and collaboration have been pivotal in driving sustainable development, empowering communities, and promoting the responsible management of natural resources.

Your efforts in supporting initiatives that enhance livelihoods, conserve biodiversity, and strengthen community-based natural resource management are truly commendable. Together, we are making significant strides in fostering a thriving and equitable future for the people in these regions.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and partnership in these impactful endeavors

