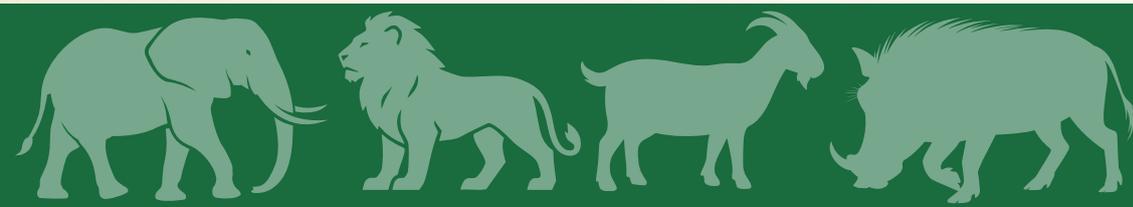


STATUS REPORT



WESTERN REGION



2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABOUT THE REGION.....	3
WHAT MAKES THE REGION OUTSTANDING.....	4
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE REGION.....	5
Law enforcement.....	5
Sensitization on conservation natural resources.....	6
Resource monitoring.....	6
Land use planning and GMP.....	7
REGION ACHIEVEMENTS.....	7
Diversification of income from Carbon trade.....	7
Community development.....	7
Employment creation.....	11
Capacity building.....	11
Income generating activities.....	11
Small scale firming.....	11
Bee keeping.....	11
OTHER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN THE REGION EG COMMUNITY GAME RANCHES, ECOTOURISM (Community based tourism).....	11
Kaindu Community Game Ranch.....	11
Simalaha Conservancy.....	12
Hotels, Lodges and community relationship.....	12
THREATS TO THE GMA.....	12
Human Wildlife Conflicts.....	12
Encroachment.....	12
Causes and Effects of Encroachment in Western Region CRB.....	13
Climate Change.....	13
CONCLUSION.....	13
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	13
Partners in the Region.....	14

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
BCP	BIO-CARBON PARTNERS
VAG	VILLAGE ACTION GROUP
GMA	GAME MANAGEMENT AREA
WR-CRB	WESTERN REGION COMMUNITY RESOURCES BOARD
GMETT	GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESSTRACKING TOOL
TNC	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
CBNRM	COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
KNRT	KAINDU NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST
KAZA TFCA	KAVANGO ZAMBEZI TRANS-FRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA.

ABOUT THE REGION

The Western Region currently has a total number of 33 Community Resources Board spreading across 14 GMAs namely Mufunta, Nkala bilili, Musele matebo (3,700 sq.km), West Zambezi, Mumbwa, Namwala, Kafue flats, Mulobezi, Kasonso busanga (7,780 sq.km) GMAs that are buffer zones to the wondrous National parks that the Regional has. The western region has seven National Parks namely; West Lunga, Blue Lagoon, Sioma Ngwezi, Mosi-oa-Tunya, Liuwa Plain, Lochinvar and Kafue National Parks.

The region is characterized by a wide range of habitats varying from open grassy plains comprising of a mixture of dry to wet grasslands, Miombo woodlands, Swamps, Kalahari, Mavunda dry evergreen forests, Termitaria woodlands, Dambos and Chipya woodlands.

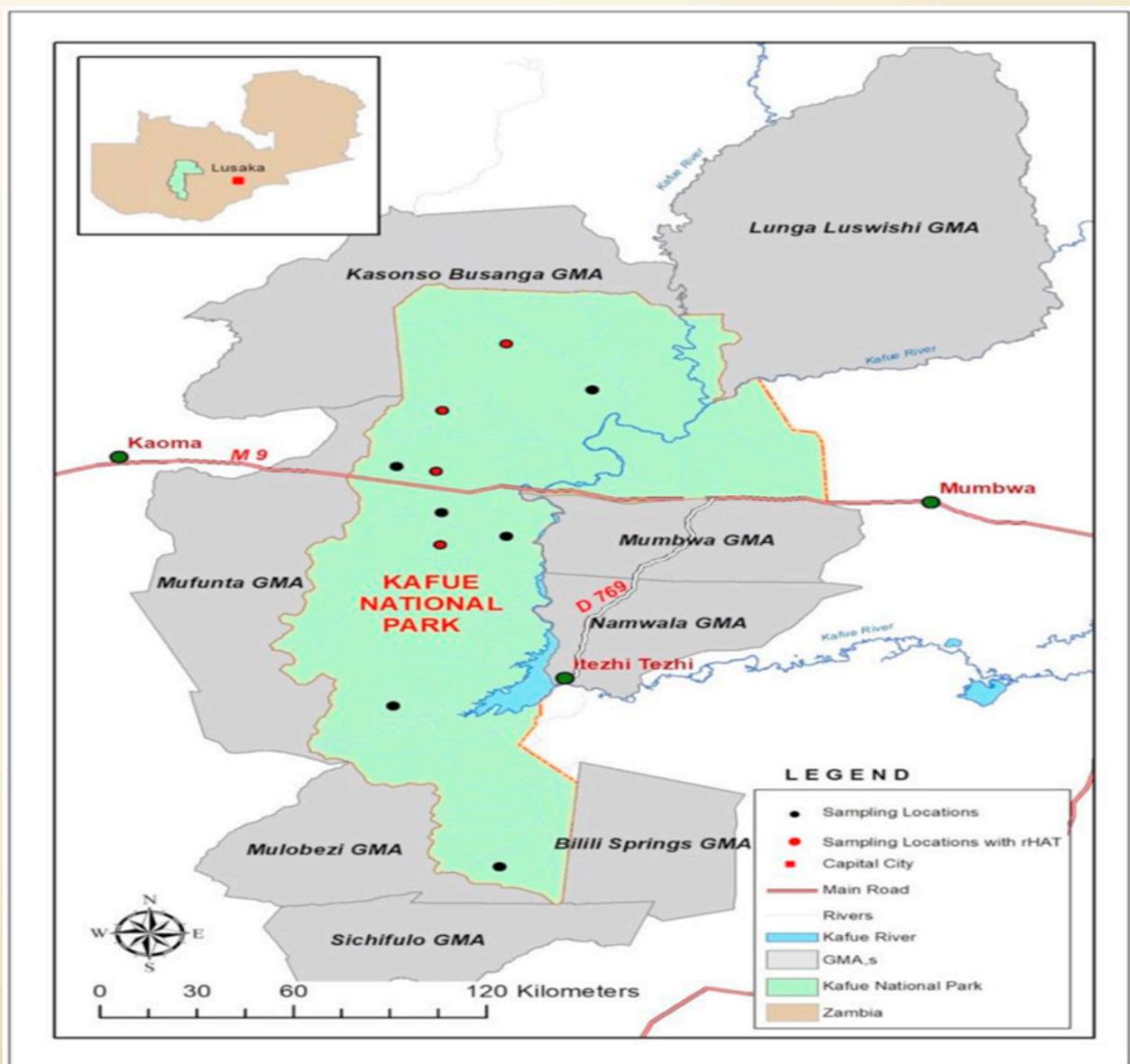


Figure 1: Map of some GMAs in the WR-CRBA.

WHAT MAKES THE REGION OUTSTANDING

The WR-CRB was the first in the history of Zambia and is the oldest CRB region to have been formed in Zambia, it is a conservation mother body for natural resources organizations in the region and also a region whose GMAs are interconnected.

The region was/is well known for its magical site Busanga plains that is awesomely attractive to the sights of the tourists. Additionally, diverse species inhabited by the Kafue National Park spice up a significant view to the region status. The Busanga plains has plenty of animals' species such as bushbuck, puku, wildebeest, oribi, red lechwe, lions' sable and roan antelope.

Western region is also a bright home-based to the wondrous dams like the itezhitezhi dam which is a source of hydroelectric power built between 1974 and 1977 east side of the itezhi -tezhi town and the Victoria Falls Power Station is a hydroelectric power plant on the Zambezi River in Livingstone, Zambia. It is located in the third gorge below Victoria Falls and consists of three power stations with a total capacity of 108 megawatts (145,000 hp).

The Kaindu community game ranch is located in the open area south of LungaLuswishi GMA and northeast of the Kafue National Park. The Kaindu game ranch falls within Kaindu Chiefdom of Mumbwa District covering a space of 15,000 ha.

Venturing in community-based tourism has proven to be beneficial to communities, it is for this reason that the Kaindu Natural Resources Trust (KNRT) in its quest to support community-based natural resource management thought of partnering with Royal Kafue and with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The partnership has brought out the sense of natural resource ownership in the communities and their livelihoods have been improved positively.

WHAT MAKES THE REGION OUTSTANDING

The Simalaha Conservancy is a contributor to the improvements and enhancement of livelihoods for the community members and this tremendous improvement can only be linked to the unwavering sacrifice of the senior leadership of two chiefdoms who agreed for their land to be developed as a wildlife conservancy as way to allow for conservation of the area and viable natural resource management. The official launch of the area was on October 22, 2012 by Chief Sekute of the Kazungula district and Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta of the Sisheke district. The Simalaha Community Conservancy also forms part of the Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA T FCA). The expansive KAZA T FCA is the world's largest T FCA covering approximately 520,000 square kilometers across 5 countries (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE REGION

Law enforcement

The Western Region CRB Association has a law enforcement system in place that strives to maintain order in all the activities of the GMAs because they are a source benefits for the community. Therefore, the region has employed community security personnel to assist in curbing the many threats to the natural resources in the areas through law enforcement by realizing, preventing, restoring and imposing harsh punishments to the people who violate the rules of protected areas. Some conservation organizations who have keen interest in the management and protection of natural resources a good example is African Parks who purchased a helicopter to primarily be used for law enforcement in the Kafue ecosystem to help the curb illegal activities thereby, African Parks opted to partner with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to implement the activity and conduct frequent patrols in the KNP. The Western Region Association is keen on law enforcement activities to avoid the serene and beautiful environments getting subjected to illegal activities that would lead them to be depleted, the region has since continued to employ more community scouts and paying their salaries for the services of enforcing laws.

Sensitization on conservation natural resources

Sensitization meetings for WR-CRB are held on publicly to attract a large number of people to participate and acquire firsthand information on activities in the GMAs, its importance and benefits if correctly protected and conserved, the costs and benefits of managing the GMA and the procedures for designating a GMA have been provided to the communities by the western CRB region with help from the Nature Conservancy. Other awareness issues brought to the attention of people during the meeting are focused on the deployment of staffs, illegal practices like charcoal burning and income generating activities.

Resource monitoring

With natural resource monitoring it requires to be done repeatedly through measurement, analysis of data and physical patrols. On a brighter note, the region has been making all the necessary adjustments to evaluate changes in the characteristics of features with the goal of meeting a particular management objective. Henceforth, western region CRB adopted the governance manual (GMETT) that was developed by ZCRBA to monitor resources and other undertakings in the region whilst the monitoring of resources using SMART is being done in Mulobezi GMA with support from panthera.

Land use planning and GMP

Preparations and implementation of land use plans tend to increase productivity of land and other related natural resources. It is for this reason that the land use plans enable people to translate the goals for sustainability into specific objectives and leaves room to integrate a wide range of decisions. Fortunately, with the help of TNC in the past the Region successfully did land use plans that expired this year since then they no plan has been done due to the economic starvation that the region is being faced

REGION ACHIEVEMENTS

Diversification of income from Carbon trade

Strengthening Community Governance for Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and Enhancing REDD+ preparedness for communities in Selected Kafue GMAs has initialized to support community development and enhancement of livelihoods. The region has embarked on a trail to conserve their remaining forests by engaging Bio-Carbon Partners to become an agent to sell carbon on their behalf due to lack of capacity to do the business.

Community development

Community development empowers community members and creates stronger opportunities and connection to be able to sustain themselves in line with organizational objectives. In order to achieve organizational goals, the Western Region CRB Association has continued to implement various actions/activities in order to fulfil its mission. Below are some of the community development projects that have been implemented.

Employment creation

Employment is often at the top of any developmental agenda for policy makers, social partners and the civil society, the interventions include direct short-and-long-term job creation programs. This is because labor is more than a factor of production; it is an essential element of any development process, of well-being and social cohesion. Thereby, WR-CRB has taken interest in creating employment opportunities for the local people to explore, empower and improve their livelihoods as a way of fighting the many illegal activities that are taking place in the protected areas.

Capacity building

Western Region CRB Association has the desire to improve the living standards of community members by imparting knowledge and skills to enhance their abilities and capabilities to manage and govern the natural resources of their GMAs, it is for this reason that a governance reporting business and financial management trainings in the Region are constantly done in CBOs. The training comprises of conducting a baseline and needs assessment survey to be conducted then later implementation of the governance reporting business and financial management training is done.

Income generating activities

With support from TNC, AP, By Life Connected etc, the region is involving communities from in the Kafue ecosystem to livelihood programs and interventions whilst others have been introduced to REDD+ and communities have continued to show interest of forming a CFMG's as an avenue for Sustainable management of forests with hope that the carbon trade in the region will help address climate change because of the communities have known the importance of conserving and protecting the biophysical environment.

Small scale farming

Farming for years has been a driver for community income generations in Zambia, many of which are small scale farmers. WR-CRBA communities have practiced farming of different crops which has been a source of food security in the region. Farming input support is done by partners through the individual CRBs to help the communities to farm and harvest produce that can be a source of income when sold.

Bee keeping

Bee keeping is one of the most profitable income generating activities and CRBs in the Western Region have begun to show interest in beekeeping. Some communities have begun to engage relevant stakeholders to assist with setting up beehives for the benefit of livelihood improvement in the region.

OTHER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN THE REGION EG COMMUNITY GAME RANCHES, ECOTOURISM (COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM)

Kaindu Community Game Ranch

The Kaindu community game ranch is located in the open area south of Lunga-Luswishi GMA and northeast of the Kafue National Park. The Kaindu game ranch falls within Kaindu Chiefdom of Mumbwa District covering a space of 15,000 ha. Venturing in community based tourism has proven to be beneficial to communities, it is for this reason that the Kaindu Natural Resources Trust (KNRT) in its quest to support community-based natural resource management thought of partnering with Royal Kafue and with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The partnership has brought out the sense of natural resource ownership in the communities and their livelihoods have been improved positively.

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The has made the local communities to have a sense of ownership of which in turn has drastically improved the livelihoods through proper management and protection of resources in the community conservancy and it remains fundamental to re-establishing wildlife populations and their migration routes in the Kavango Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area.

Hotels, Lodges and community relationship

Western Region CRBA has numerous hotels and lodging places which thrive on conservation of natural resources. Unfortunately, the relation between the communities and hotel owners is not established but as WR-CRB engagements with hotel owners have been initiated so they could start giving back to the community.

THREATS TO THE GMA

Human Wildlife Conflicts

Wildlife can at times be a danger to community members in GMAs and other protected areas whilst on the other hand can become its greatest natural asset. It is for this reason that the Western Region CRB put in place strategies to help reduce Human wildlife conflict cases/incidents that are occur in the region. Cases are rampant but are rarely reported due to lack of a proper secretariat and necessary tools reporting back to the region has become a challenge.

Encroachment

Encroachment in the GMAs of the western region CRB is getting out of hand each passing moment especially in Mumbwa GMA due to increasing due to illegal human settlements and farming sprees that have led to clearance of large portions of natural resources. Consequently, encroachment the regional GMAs is increasingly becoming a big challenge in natural resource conservation, there is less protection of the natural resources by the communities in the region and less of ownership by the communities which has become a loop hole for them to carryout illegal activities in the GMAs which leads back to lack of awareness programs by PA actors hence the increase in encroachment due to expansions of agriculture and charcoal burning.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF ENCROACHMENT IN WESTERN REGION CRB

Causes	Effects
Disputed land ownership	Loss of PA revenues
Weak PA law enforcement	Loss of biodiversity
Displacement of groups outside	Human wildlife conflicts
Rising population pressure	PA-community tensions
Incompatible land uses	Polarization of ethnic groups
Ethnicity and rivalry	

Table 1:Diagram showing the trend of encroachment (causes and effects).

Climate Change

The western region CRB has experienced negative effects of climate change which in turn has affected the nature and quality of natural resources. Agriculture produce has also been adversely affected due to the fluctuating weathers because of the rates at which charcoal burning and timber logging keep increasing.

Conclusion

The need to build strong structures in the management of natural resources if the region is to attain a pristine state of its mesmerizing features and resources by developing plans to help in curbing the many illegal activities that conservation is done by law enforcement in the many GMAs of region. Sensitization campaigns on the importance of natural resources in the development agendas of the area and its CRBs.

Recommendations

- Need to bring together all CRBs and render support to those CRBs without funders.
- Proper governance tools to be developed and shared with all western region CRBs.
- To have awareness programs and other management undertakings in the region.
- To have in place strong operational procedures.



Figure 2 : Mother's Shelter Musungwa CRB



Figure 3: Installation of a Solar water pump and water tank Kaingu CRB



Figure 4 Musungu CRB Office funded by the CRB

- Have effective and efficient measures to protect and conserve natural resources.
- To have frequent capacity building/ development trainings.

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Partners in the Region

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