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**United Nations Development Programme
Project Document for nationally implemented projects
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ANNUAL REPORT: January – December 2021

Project title: Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe		
Country: The Republic of Zimbabwe	Implementing Partner: Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate (MEWC)	Management Arrangements: National Implementation Modality (NIM)
<p>UNDAF/Country Programme Outcome:</p> <p>Food and Nutrition Security: Outcome 1 - Targeted households in rural and urban areas have improved food and nutrition security; Outcome 2 - Communities are equipped to cope with climate change and build resilience for household food and nutrition security;</p> <p>Poverty Reduction and Value Addition: Outcome 1 - Key institutions formulate and implement socio-economic policies, strategies and programmes for improved livelihoods and reduced poverty of communities.</p> <p>CPD Output 3.1. Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable districts is funded and implemented</p>		
<p>UNDP Strategic Plan: Integrated Results and Resources Framework</p> <p>Output 1.4.1: Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains. SP Indicator 1.4.1.2 Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime:</p>		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Moderate	UNDP Gender Marker: 2 (the project has gender equality as a significant objective)	
Atlas Project ID/Award ID number: 00107199	Atlas Output ID/Project ID number: 00107558	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 5693	GEF ID number: 9660	
Planned start date: July 1 st 2018	Planned end date: July 1 st 2024	
LPAC date: Friday 13 th April 2018		

<p>Brief project description: Zimbabwe has very high level of biodiversity and is home to all the "Big Five" – African elephant, white and black rhinos, lion, buffalo and leopard. However, it also faces multiple challenges for sustainable development associated with biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and climate change consequences. This 6-year GEF project focuses on reducing key threats for wildlife, habitat, and livelihoods of local communities (poaching, IWT, deforestation, and impact of climate change) in one of the key biodiversity country's hotspots – Lower Zambezi Valley. The project strategy aims to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies to fight wildlife and forest crime (Component 1); strengthen Protected Area (PA) and Community Wildlife Conservancy management for wildlife and woodlands(Component 2); build strong sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) capacity for local communities and districts in cooperation with private sector (Component 3); and promote effective knowledge management (Component 4) to achieve the project objective: <i>to promote an integrated landscape approach to managing wildlife resources, carbon and ecosystem services in the face of climate change in the protected areas and community lands of the Mid to Lower Zambezi Regions of Zimbabwe</i>. The total project funding is US\$ 57,436,964, including GEF contribution of US\$ 10,025,964 and co-financing – US\$ 47,411,000. This project forms part of the GEF Programmatic Approach to Prevent the Extinction of Known Threatened Species, and falls under the GEF Programme Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (9071). Under this programmatic framework, with the coordination through the programme steering committee, coordinated knowledge management and cross-fertilisation of the individual projects will be assured.</p>	
FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund	USD 10,025,964
UNDP TRAC resources	USD 2,000,000
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 12,025,964
PARALLEL CO-FINANCING (<i>all other co-financing that is not cash co-financing administered by UNDP</i>)	
Government (METHI, ZPWMA, FC, EMA, CAMPFIRE)	USD 40,100,000
NGOs (AWF, , Zambezi Society, Tashinga Initiative, WWF)	USD 2,540,000
Private Sector (Kariba REDD+ Project Tree Eco Ltd., HKK Safaris, McCallum Safaris, Nzou Safaris)	USD 2,771,000
(2) Total co-financing	USD 45,411,000
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 57,436,964

Background

The Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI), received funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), developed a project to mitigate these challenges in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe. The project “Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe” also known as the *Zambezi Valley Biodiversity Project (ZVBP)* was developed in strong cooperation with national and international stakeholders. The Project has four components and these are (a) Strengthening capacity and governance frameworks for integrated wildlife and forest management and wildlife and forest crime enforcement in Zimbabwe; (b) Strengthening Zimbabwe’s PA estate and CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies in areas global BD significance; (c) Mainstreaming BD and ES management, and climate change mitigation, into the wider landscape; and (d) Knowledge Management, M&E and Gender Mainstreaming.

Zimbabwe has a high level of biodiversity of global significance. The country faces multiple challenges for development associated with biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and climate changes consequences. The challenges include, poaching and illegal wildlife trade, human wildlife conflicts and retaliatory killings, deforestation, and climate change consequences that include droughts, floods, and increased frequency of veld fires.

The project has four outcomes which are (1). Increased national capacity for IWT control, and integrated wildlife and woodland management; (2). Improved capacity of PA network and CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies to protect globally significant biodiversity of the mid-lower Zambezi region over a total area of 1,616,900 ha; (3). Increased area under sustainable management and benefits for local communities from CBWM, SFM and SLM in established CWCs and (4). Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E and gender mainstreaming are used nationally and internationally.

1. Executive Summary

The Zambezi Valley Biodiversity Project is being implemented in the Zambezi Valley region and covers Hurungwe, Mbire and Muzarabani Districts as well as Mana Pools National Park and the surrounding protected areas complex that includes Sapi, Chewore, Hurungwe, Dande, Charara and Doma Safari Areas. The Government announced the easing of the COVID-19 regulations in March and August 2021 which prompted all responsible parties (RPs) to resume project activities.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) finalized installation of radio equipment needed to migrate communication system from analog to digital in Zambezi Valley, however the system is not yet functioning. Law enforcement activities were carried out in the project area by both ZPWMA and local authorities.

The ZPWMA conducted two workshops; one on the review of the Parks and Wildlife Act, and an inception meeting for the Multi-Agency Crime Prevention Units. Field work for the aerial surveys for elephants and other large herbivores commenced in June with block counts and it was concluded in August. A consultant was hired to develop Integrated Landscape Management Plans in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Valley. The project procured the services of a consultant to review and draft the Wildlife Policy of Zimbabwe. The project has been facilitating stakeholder consultation for both consultancies. The Principles of Parks and Wildlife Management Bill were approved by Cabinet and the Draft Bill is ready to be presented to Parliament.

The Rural District Councils (RDCs) and Safari Operators conducted anti-poaching patrols and Problem Animal Controls (PACs) leading to confiscation of 353 wire snares and six fishing nets. Problem Animal Control (PAC) and Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) incidents decreased significantly after harvesting of field crops in the second quarter

A total 264,460 trees were planted across the project area during the tree planting season covering an estimated area of 148.83 ha. Most of the trees were planted in Hurungwe and Muzarabani Districts which are tobacco growing areas. The project nurseries (at Mavhuradonha and Chitindiva) produced 53,641 seedlings. To reduce forest crime in the project area, a total of 61 patrols were conducted. A total of 1,043 bags (50kgs) of charcoal and 28,067 m³ of firewood were confiscated during the patrols.

The project facilitated drilling of 10 boreholes in Mbire (5) and Hurungwe (5) and these will provide water for communities, wildlife, and tree nurseries at Mushumbi and Chitindiva.

Environmental Management Agency (EMA) carried out an assessment of the grass fuel load in the project area. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) also carried out hay bailing (producing 6,828 hay bales), thatch grass harvesting (producing 345,208 bundles), firebreak construction covering 321km and 82 veld fire awareness in Hurungwe, Mbire and Muzarabani Districts. The main purpose was to reduce fuel load in order to minimize the damage in case of fire incidence. Road servitude clearance covering a distance of 203km was done in the same districts

Under the Small Grants component of the project, Biotechnology Trust Zimbabwe (BTZ) started construction of a biogas-powered tobacco curing barn in Nyamakate, Ward 7 Hurungwe. BTZ also conducted training workshop on renewable energy, sustainable development and environmental management in Ward 7 Nyamakate that was attended by 33 farmers, (9 females and 24 males). Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) drilled three boreholes and motorised two out of the three boreholes with solar powered pumps in Hurungwe District. The Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA) fenced three fishponds and stocked them with 3000 fish fingerlings

in each pond. LGDA developed a pass-on data collection tool for the 320 farmers (185 Male and 135 Female) that benefited from small grains and legumes in the 2020-2021 farming season.

Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE) launched a school creative arts competition to commemorate the International Day of Biological Diversity (IDB) from 22 May to 22 June 2021. Additionally, SAFIRE established six groups that are participating in value addition of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Muzarabani and Mbire Districts. Zim Apiculture Trust (ZAT) conducted leadership training and group constitution formulation for beekeeping committees in Muzarabani, Mbire and Hurungwe Districts. The workshops covered topics on; honey grading and harvesting, woodlot management and bees forage and fire management. Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA) trained 80 students from four secondary schools on environmental E-Law societies in Mbire. ZAT with support from LA has commenced construction of Honey Processing Centres in Mbire and Muzarabani District.

Context and key developments of the project

COVID-19 continued to affect implementation of project activities, especially trainings and physical meetings that involved gathering in large groups of people. The strict lockdown measures were lifted from level 4 to level 2 towards the end of August. Lifting of strict lockdown measures provided an opportunity to accelerate implementation of project activities. The slow payment system at UNDP continued to negatively affect timeous implementation of project activities.

2. Objectives

The objective of the project is to promote an integrated landscape approach to managing wildlife resources, carbon and ecosystem services in the face of climate change in the protected areas and community lands of the Mid to Lower Zambezi Regions of Zimbabwe.

Outcome 1. Increased national capacity for IWT control, and integrated wildlife and woodland management

Output 1.1. National policy and regulatory framework is reviewed, and updated in accordance with the new Zimbabwe Constitution and national development priorities including National Wildlife Policy, Parks and Wildlife Act, forest legislation in accordance with National Forest Policy (2017), and National Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy.

Output 1.2. Two Multi-Agency Wildlife Crime Prevention Units are established and functional to ensure strong inter-agency collaboration to fight IWT and forest crimes

Output 1.3. Key law enforcement agencies (ZPWMA, ZRP Minerals and Border Control Unit, FC, ZIMRA, EMA, investigators, judiciary, and prosecutors) are provided with necessary trainings and tools to fight IWT and forest crime

Output 1.4. Nationwide system for monitoring wildlife and forest crimes is developed and implemented

Output 1.5. International treaties between Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique on protection of ZIMOZA and Lower Zambezi - Mana Pools Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are developed, submitted to the countries' governments and supported for implementation

Output 1.6. Project area awareness campaign targeting IWT, deforestation and climate adaptation/mitigation issues is developed and implemented

Outcome 2. Improved capacity of PA network and CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies to protect globally significant biodiversity of the mid-lower Zambezi region over a total area of 1,616,900 ha

Output 2.1. Updated Management Plans are developed and implemented for UNESCO Mana Pools WNH site (Mana Pools National Park, Sapi, and Chewore SAs) and surrounding PA complex of Charara, Hurungwe, Dande, Doma Safari Areas, including enhanced anti-poaching, woodland, HWC and veld fire management.

Output 2.2. CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies (CWCs) with total area of 334,500 ha are officially established, have functional governance structure and CWC Management Plans, and trained in CBWM, SFM, HWC, and fire management

Outcome 3. Increased area under sustainable management and benefits for local communities from CBWM, SFM and SLM in established CWCs

Output 3.1. Integrated Landscape Management Plans for Hurungwe (northern part), Mbire, and Muzarabani Districts are developed, officially approved, and implemented

Output 3.2. Pilot projects on community based SFM, SLM, HWC management and alternative sources of income are developed and implemented in the target CWCs via sustainable small grant mechanism

Output 3.3. Model woodland restoration projects are developed and implemented in the target CWCs.

Output 3.4. Local communities in the target CWCs are provided with alternative sources of energy and energy saving equipment to decrease their dependence on firewood

Output 3.5. Corporate conservation and social responsibility programs are developed and introduced to tobacco companies in the project area to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the production sector

Outcome 4. Lessons learned by the project through participatory M&E and gender mainstreaming are used nationally and internationally

Output 4.1. Participatory project monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is developed and implemented

Output 4.2. Lessons learned from the project are shared with national and international conservation programmes, including GWP

Output 4.3. Gender strategy developed and used to guide project implementation, monitoring and reporting

3. Achievements

Outcome 1. Increased national capacity for IWT control, and integrated wildlife and woodland management

Output 1.1: National policy and regulatory framework is reviewed, and updated in accordance with the new Zimbabwe Constitution and national development priorities including National Wildlife Policy, Parks and Wildlife Act, forest legislation in accordance with National Forest Policy (2017), and National Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy.

Legislative review consultations

The Parks and Wildlife Act Chapter 20:14 act is being reviewed to align it to the new Constitution and incorporate new and emerging issues. The act was last reviewed in 2002. A team of legal and environmental experts met and drafted principles of the Act. Stakeholder consultations were carried out on the draft principles. A meeting to finalise the principles and draft the bill was held in Kadoma from the 11th to 17th of August 2021. A memorandum to Cabinet was prepared by the drafting team. The Principles of Parks and Wildlife Management Bill were approved by Cabinet and the Draft Bill is ready to be presented to Parliament.

A consultant was hired to review and draft the Zimbabwe Policy for Wildlife. The project facilitated consultations across the country including communities in Tsholotsho, Hwange, Binga, Hurungwe, Mbire, Chiredzi and Beitbridge.

The project will assist in the review of the Environmental Management Act which has commenced and the principles of the act have been drafted.

Output 1.2: Two Multi-Agency Wildlife Crime Prevention Units are established and functional to ensure strong inter-agency collaboration to fight IWT and forest crimes

A Multi-Agency Unit (MAU) was established at Chinhoyi to cover the Mashonaland West region. A Committee was set up to draft Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), Terms of Reference (ToR) and a Work Plan for the MAU. A work plan for the rest of the year 2021 was also developed for the unit. The SoP was prepared, and it will address all operational aspects of the MAU. The documents for the MAU drafted by the Committee will be shared with the Director General for approval. Implementation of the activities in the work plan will follow after the approval of these guiding documents.

The project procured field equipment for ZPWMA field rangers and for the Multi Agency Unit staff. The equipment includes sleeping bags, shirts, gas canisters, and handcuffs.

Output 1.4. Nationwide system for monitoring wildlife and forest crimes is developed and implemented.

The project has engaged a consultant to develop a national strategy on using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) system as a tool for monitoring of poaching and IWT at national level. In addition, the consultant will provide training and mentoring of ZPWMA staff in the project area and target conservancies on development and use of SMART system. A planning meeting was held with

SMART Developers to discuss the setting up of the local server for ZPWMA. The SMART Developers offered long-term technical support and advised that there would be need to use cloud-based servers in future.

Output 1.5. International treaties between Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique on protection of ZIMOZA and Lower Zambezi - Mana Pools Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) are developed, submitted to the countries' governments and supported for implementation

In support of the Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) between Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique, the project has advertised for an international consultant to conduct baseline studies on the trans-boundary aspects of wildlife and other shared resources; law enforcement; socio-economic connectivity and issues; cross border tourism aspects.

Output 1.6. Project area awareness campaign targeting IWT, deforestation and climate adaptation/mitigation issues is developed and implemented

The Low Value Grant Agreement with Zambezi Society was terminated during this reporting period. Zambezi Society was awarded a grant amounting to US\$25,000.00 in 2020 for an awareness project in Hurungwe from November 2020 to October 2021. The Zambezi Society received a first disbursement of US\$13,600 in February 2021 but did not commence project implementation as planned in the Project Document. Several meetings were held between Zambezi Society and the GEF 6 PMU to provide support and address identified challenges and there were plans to begin implementation of the project as soon as was feasible. On the 24th of May the Zambezi Society indicated that there were no longer able to implement this project because of the impact of Covid-19 which resulted in refocusing of the Zambezi Society's operational footprint from ward 7,8 and 9 to other wards outside the project area. In addition, Zambezi Society were no longer able to co-fund the proposed project because of reduced funding from other donors. The grant was cancelled as requested.

The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) was awarded a grant of US\$25,000.00 in 2020 for an awareness project that will be implemented in Mbire and Muzarabani from February 2021 to January 2022. ZELA received their first disbursement of US\$12,500.00 in March 2021. ZELA carried out open house discussions on Illegal Wildlife Trade, deforestation and climate change adaptation and mitigation involving community members, Parks and Wildlife Authority, Forestry Commission and Mbire Rural District Council, in Wards 1,2,4,11 and 12. The awareness activities were attended by 194 participants (29 female and 165 male) who appreciated the activity very much as they are envisaging that establishment of communal wildlife conservancies would possible lead to their beneficiation and compensation for the losses and damages that they can incur due to interference with wildlife.

Schools Training on Environmental E-Law Societies

The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) trained 80 students (40 females and 40 males) from four secondary schools on environmental E-Law societies in Mbire, Wards 1, 2, 4, and 12 from 7-12 June 2021. The trainings were conducted in collaboration with EMA, Forestry Commission and ZPWMA. The main objective was to establish and strengthen environmental clubs in secondary schools and to raise awareness on environmental issues. Angwa and Gonono Secondary Schools did not have environmental clubs and ZELA is providing support to the schools to establish

environmental clubs. Chapoto, and Nyambudzi Secondary Schools already had environmental clubs and the trainings were used to strengthen the existing clubs.

Outcome 2

Output 2.1: Updated Management Plans are developed and implemented for UNESCO Mana Pools WNH site (Mana Pools National Park, Sapi, and Chewore SAs) and surrounding PA complex of Charara, Hurungwe, Dande, Doma Safari Areas, including enhanced anti-poaching, woodland, HWC and veld fire management

Law Enforcement and Human Wildlife Conflict

The project provided patrol rations to ZimParks to increase extended patrols in the protected area. In addition, the project provided fuel to assist in patrols on land and along the Zambezi and Lake Kariba. A total of 18 cases of illegal fish harvesting were recorded in the project area. Netting remains a challenge in Kariba dam (Charara Safari Area) and Kanyemba area (along the Zambezi river) as a total of 12,650 metres of twine nets were recovered. Six canoes used by the fish poachers were recovered. A rifle was recovered during law enforcement activities. Three hundred and fifty-three wire snares were removed while 10 dogs were shot and killed during patrols by field rangers. De-snaring of an elephant calf was done successfully by the Vet from ZPWMA Head Office. Eight people were arrested for illegally mining in the ZPWMA estates and 40 escaped. A vehicle, eleven shovels and twenty-two picks were recovered during the operations.

Radio digitalization

The Mid Zambezi Radio Digitalization project included the creation of new internet links from TelOne, the programming and setting up of new Hytera radios, SMART as well as SMART Dispatch implementation. A number of installations have been set up in the stations as part of the Digitalisation project. The stations that were part of the project include Marongora, Zambezi Valley Reaction Unit (ZAVARU), Mana Pools, Doma, Dande and Kariba. There are some sites that were used as backhaul for internet and these are, Makuti Exchange, Chemakunguwo and Kariba Heights Exchange. All the backhaul sites are Tel-One sites. At Chamakunguwo an RD 958S repeater and master Air-fibre for Mana Pools and ZAVARU were set up.

The set-up of the new repeater site at Marongora Office was completed. Marongora internet and radio communication system has improved. An African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) funded digitalisation program saw the installation of five 25-metre radio masts at Chewore South Office, Chewore North Office, Chewore North Redcliff Operation Base, Sapi at Pfumbe and Chewore South 406 Golf boom gate. The development will greatly improve communication on both land and water.

The digital system is not yet fully functional and currently it can only communicate up to a radius of 20km making it difficult to communication with rangers on patrols outside the 20km radius. During the routine monitoring by the PSC it was recommended that a proper assessment of the radio system be carried out in order to identify the faults and the corrective action that must be taken to improve communication in the project area.

Integrated Landscape Park Management Plans

A consultant was engaged to develop the Integrated Park Management Plans for protected areas in the Zambezi Valley. The consultant will also develop management plans for the three districts in the project area. The Mana Pools World Heritage Site will have its own separate Management Plan which

would be a part of the integrated plan. The consultant conducted GIS verification and questionnaire interviews for Safari Operators in Mana Pools during the third quarter.

Output 2.2: CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies (CWCs) with total area of 334,500 ha are officially established, have functional governance structure and CWC Management Plans, and trained in CBWM, SFM, HWC, and fire management.

Game Rangers refresher training course

A two weeks' intermediate ranger training course was conducted at Zimbabwe Institute of Wildlife Conservation (formerly Mushandike College of Wildlife) from the 14th to the 26th of November 2021. A total of 30 game rangers, including six females attended the training from the three project districts. The major objective of the course was to capacitate game rangers on anti-poaching operations especially use of firearms and patrol design concepts with particular emphasis on law enforcement monitoring and navigation skills using global positioning systems. Modules covered include: advanced weaponry studies, first aid, field craft, wildlife management, navigation, criminal procedure, physical training and wildlife law.

CWCs TRUSTS DEVELOPMENT

The CAMPFIRE Association conducted workshops to develop Notarial Deeds of Trust for Mbire-North, Mbire South and Karinyanga CWCs from the 5th to the 8th of May 2021. Participants for the workshops were drawn from the proposed CWCs comprising traditional leaders, ward Councillors, ward members, Environmental Sub-committee members and/or CAMPFIRE Committees, as well as the RDC Executive Officer - Natural Resources, Chief Chitsungo and Chief Chapoto.

The project has finalised the nomination of founding Board of Trustees for 3 CWCs (Mavhuradonha, Nyamakate and Mukwichi). The Notarial Deeds are under review by Costa and Madzonga Legal Practitioners. Nomination of Trustees for 3 CWCs in Mbire is underway

Patrol Rations and Uniforms Deployment

The project through CAMPFIRE Association procured and distributed patrol rations and uniforms for 102 game rangers. The ration packs consisted mainly of dry foods used during extended patrols and sanitary wear for female rangers. The supported rangers by district are: Mbire 81 rangers (Male 74, Female 7), Hurungwe 10 (all Males) and Muzarabani 11 (Male 9 and Female 2).

Rural District Councils (RDCs) and Safari Operators conducted patrols to monitor protected areas and strengthen conservation and protection works of biodiversity in the project area. A total of 117 patrol days were conducted in the 3 districts. The project has increased the capacity of game rangers to curb wildlife crimes by facilitating their training; and provision of anti-poaching equipment such as uniforms and camping gear as well as all-terrain Land Cruiser pick up vehicles for patrols. The project impact is evidenced by an increase in anti-poaching patrols and PAC reactions across all six CWCs.

A two-week intermediate ranger training course was conducted at the Zimbabwe Institute of Wildlife Conservation (formerly Mushandike College of Wildlife) from the 14th to the 26th of November 2021. Thirty game rangers, including six females attended the training from the three project districts. The major objective of the course was to capacitate game rangers on anti-poaching operations especially use of firearms and patrol design concepts with particular emphasis on law enforcement monitoring and navigation skills using global positioning systems.

Table 1: Statistics for patrols by rangers in the CWCs in Hurungwe, Mbire and Muzarabani

MBIRE DISTRICT			
No of Patrols	Arrests	Recoveries	Remarks
122	<p>-2 people, male and female were arrested for possession of 1 pair of ivory.</p> <p>-2 males were arrested for killing a Zebra and a lion by wire snares.</p>	<p>4 shovels</p> <p>2 jam-stable</p> <p>2 chisels</p> <p>72 wire snares</p> <p>1 solar panel</p> <p>28 nets were removed along Hunyani river in Kanongo, Ward 3 and Mushumbi, Ward 9.</p> <p>-12 mosquito nets used for fishing</p> <p>-1 canoe</p>	<p>-Wire snares were recovered during patrols in the district</p> <p>-A Zebra and a Lion were trapped and killed by wire snares in Kanyemba Ward 1, Mariga Village. 2 people responsible for setting up the wire snares have since been arrested.</p> <p>-2 people, a male and a female were arrested in Chitsungo Ward 10, Tanaka Village for possession of a pair of ivory.</p> <p>-Extended river patrols were conducted along Hunyani river from Mushumbi Ward 9, Kanongo Ward 3 and Chikafa Ward12 leading to the recovery of fishing nets.</p>
MUZARABANI DISTRICT			
73	<p>1 person arrested for illegal fishing</p> <p>4 people were arrested for charcoal making</p>	<p>2 fishing nets</p> <p>450x50kg charcoal recovered</p> <p>7 wire snares</p>	<p>-Charcoal production is still a problem within the district. The Zimbabwe and Mozambique border in the district is very porous and a lot of charcoal smuggling activities have been reported.</p>
HURUNGWE DISTRICT			
390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 arrests were made for cutting indigenous trees for tobacco curing 	<p>20 poles</p> <p>30 Wire snares</p> <p>Elephant carcasses</p> <p>10 cords firewood</p>	<p>2 elephant carcasses were discovered in Pfundundu, suspected cause of death is natural as the carcasses were intact had no wounds.</p>

		Gold panning equipment was confiscated in 3 spears were recovered	Panning activities are increasing in the District and the scouts have been on high alert. More wildlife species sightings were recorded in Pfundundu Conservancy of leopards, lions, buffaloes, Elands and Elephants.
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Weir Dams Construction

AfroCity Construction Company was awarded a tender to construct three weir dams at Chituwi and Kamasore (Mbire); and Pfundundu (Hurungwe).

The project drilled 8 boreholes in Karinyanga, Mbire North; and Mukwichi in Hurungwe District to improve access to water for wildlife and communities.

OUTCOME 3

Outcome 3. Increased area under sustainable management and benefits for local communities from CBWM, SFM and SLM in established CWCs

Output 3.1: Integrated Landscape Management Plans for Hurungwe (northern part), Mbire, and Muzarabani Districts are developed, officially approved, and implemented

Fire Risk Prediction 2021

Veld fire prediction is key in informing decision making and programming of activities to effectively reduce veld fire incidences and hectarage burnt. The conditions for veld fires are determined by climate and the state of the vegetation. Figure 1 shows the fire prediction map of the project area for 2021.

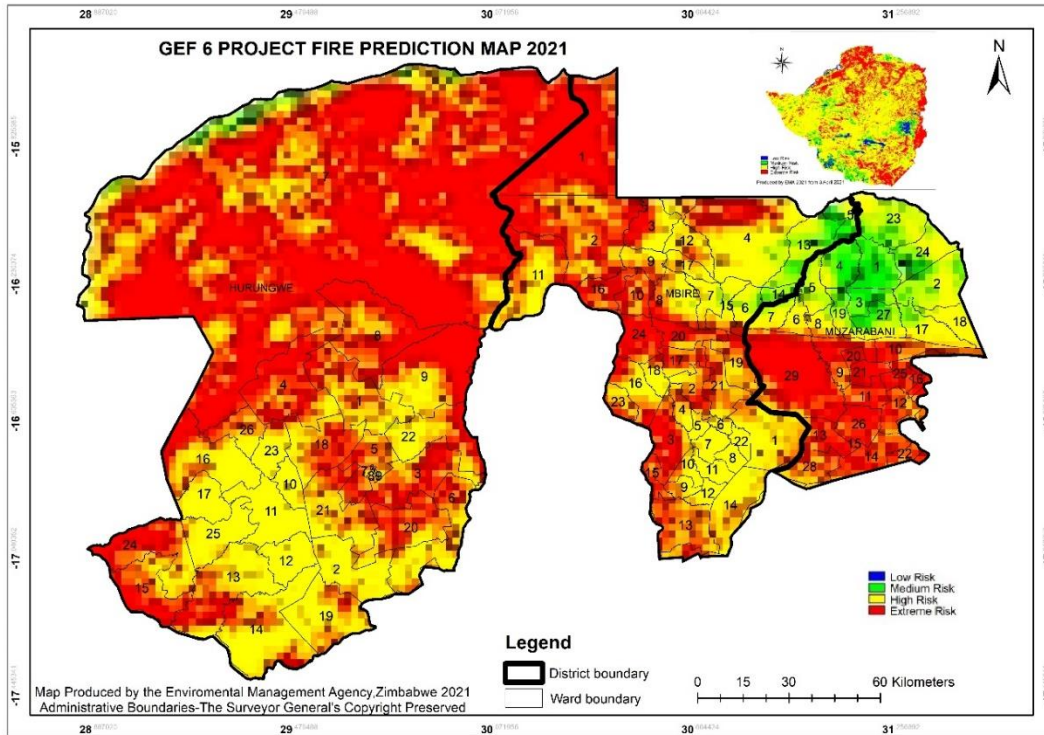


Figure 1 Fire Risk map for 2021

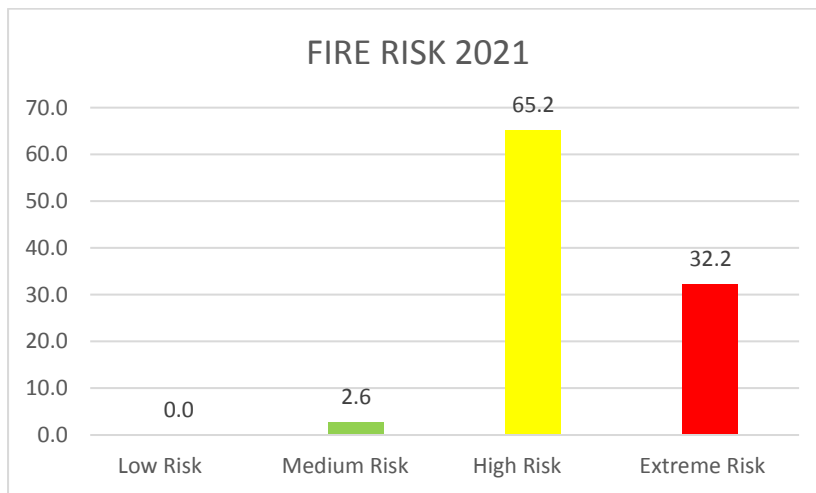


Figure 2: Percentage Risk of the Project Area

The project area was generally in the High **65.2%** to extreme risk **32.2%** to veld fires outbreaks in 2021. This was a result of a higher-than-average rainfall season received. As a result, the grass fuel load in some of the identified wards is high. The wards at extreme risk are Wards 7, 8 and 9 of Hurungwe; and Wards 1, 2, 3 and 16 of Mbire and Wards 9, 13, 21, 26, 28 and 29 of Muzarabani District. Wards 4, 9 and 11 of Mbire and 6, 7, 8 and 17 of Muzarabani districts are at high risk to veld fires.

Veld fire prevention awareness campaigns, training in the project area

The project carried out 82 meetings across the project area on veld fire prevention awareness and reached out to 2 019 people (1265 men and 754 women). Representatives from Rural District Councils, EMA, Carbon Green Africa and Forestry Commission carried out the awareness campaigns. A total of

1 000 veld fire management booklets and 914 veld fire management brochures were distributed during the meetings.

EMA GIS teams conducted ground truthing exercises for fires detected by the National Fire Station. The teams assessed and compared the actual area burnt with what was predicted before the start of the fire season. The fire risk prediction was at 97.4% of the project area and expectations were that all areas if not properly managed were going to be affected by the veld fires. Only four wards had low risk in Lower Muzarabani. Although a number of strategies were employed in this fire season as a way to reduce veld fires, Ward 7 in Hurungwe (Nyamakate area); Mbire Wards 5 and 11; as well as Muzarabani Wards 9, 11, 12, 18 and 29 were affected by veld fires indicating 46% of the project area was affected by veld fires as at 28th September 2021.

Support fuel load reduction projects in the project area.

The Environmental Management Agency supported hay bailing in Muzarabani by providing fuel and bailing twine. 6828 hay bales were produced in the project area. Thatch grass harvesting was also carried out. A total of 345,208 thatch grass bundles were harvested in the project area. EMA assisted 23 households in transporting 9000 thatch grass bundles from Upper Muzarabani to Lower Muzarabani where there is better demand. This initiative is a way of supporting communities to have a start-up fund for transporting thatch grass to different markets in Muzarabani District. Early burning was also carried out in the project area as a way of reducing grass fuel load. A total of 562Ha were cleared through early burning. In addition, widening of roads/servitude was done for a total of 203km as follows: Magume 4km, River Road 8km, Doma 68km, Kwara 4km, Death Road 3km, Dam Road 52km, Masoka access 53km, Sand grouse 7km and Mukwara 4km.

Support construction of firebreaks in selected wards

Firebreak construction was carried out in Hurungwe, Mbire and Muzarabani. A total of 321km firebreak was constructed by the community and 57km of the fireguards were constructed in the 4 conservancies of Mbire district.

Output 3.2: Pilot projects on community based SFM, SLM, HWC management and alternative sources of income are developed and implemented in the target CWCs via sustainable small grant mechanism

Community Technology Development Organisation CTDO

CTDO conducted three trainings on contract farming for sugar beans. Champion seed coop was invited to train the farmers on seed production protocols. Together with the local AGRITEX officers, a total of 122 farmers (44 females and 78 males) were trained. The training covered spacing, rouging, pesticides application, seed quality management and seed storage. The trainings were aimed at strengthening the capacity of contract farmers.

CTDO supported the formation and training of seven groups in poultry production with specific focus on Boschveld chickens. A total of 140 participants (120 females and 20 males) attended the training. The training covered topics that included poultry management, disease and pest management, housing systems, management of layer breeds, feeding management, stocking densities, artificial and natural breeding amongst other topics.

CTDO supported the training of 27 farmers (22 females and 5 male) on constructing low-cost solar dryers. The total number of beneficiaries trained to construct solar dryers to date is 111 (102 females and 9 male). The training showed that the community has the capacity to train each other on how to construct and use solar dryers. The solar dryers are important in promoting the use of affordable technology that reduces food loss and maintaining the nutritional value of crops and fruits. The solar dryers also increase shelf life of perishable vegetable and fruits produce.

CTDO procured and distributed 15 Boer goats to 15 beneficiaries (7 males and 8 females) that were selected as custodians of the goats by project members in Hurungwe Wards 7, 8 and 9. Project members will service their local goat breeds at the household of the custodians for a fee between US\$ 0.50 to US\$ 1.00. The funds raised will be used to purchase acaricides for goats at the breeding site. Each breeding site is expected to service goats from at least 200 households. The Boer goats are fast growing, have high resistance to diseases and high fertility rates, making them one of the most popular breeds for goat meat production. The expected results are that the community will produce an improved breed of goats that are highly marketable.

CTDO solarized two boreholes that were drilled through the ZVBP Small Grants project in Wards 7 and 8. Two 5000litre tanks were setup at each of the borehole sites for water storage and distribution. Three community taps were installed at each site to improve access to safe and clean water for the communities. In Ward 7 a total of four community drinking points were established. The water points are expected to serve 400 households within the four target areas. In Ward 8, a total of five water points were established. The water points will serve the local school (Mahwawu Primary School), a business centre and surrounding communities. The community also requested for water supply to be extended to the construction site of a new local clinic because construction could not be done due unavailability of water. The piped water scheme in Ward 8 is expected to serve more than 650 households, a school, and a business centre.

CTDO facilitated contracting of farmers by Champion Seeds to produce fortified NUA45 bean seed. Each farmer received 5 KGs of seed to grow under the contract farming arrangement. Champion Seeds managed to purchase seed from 77 (39 Female and 38 Male) farmers. On average each farmer managed to deliver 31.3kg from the 5kgs, the highest delivery was 75kgs and the least 4.5kgs. The average income per farmer was ZWL6323.27 (US\$74.43), the highest earning ZWL15150.00 (US\$178.24) and lowest ZWL909.00 (US\$10.69).

Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE)

SAFIRE launched a school creative arts competition to commemorate the International Day of Biological Diversity from 22 May to 22 June 2021. The competition targeted schools in Hurungwe Wards 7; 8 and 26; Mbire Wards 4; 8 and 12; and Muzarabani Wards 5; 17 and 27. The competitions were held under the theme, "We're part of the solution *#ForNature*". The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated in 2020 under the over-arching theme, "Our solutions are in nature", which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. The competition covered topics from nature-based solutions, climate change, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, emphasizing that biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better.

SAFIRE distributed 10 000 pamphlets and 100 flyers to a total of ten schools in Muzarabani and Mbire Districts as part of biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns. SAFIRE also carried out refresher trainings for three Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees in Mbire. The committees carried out vulnerability risk assessment during the trainings.

SAFIRE established six groups with a total of 107 beneficiaries (78 females and 29 males) that are participating in the value addition of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and groundnuts in Muzarabani and Mbire Districts. These groups will receive value addition equipment for processing baobab, groundnuts, maize, sorghum and *Ziziphus mauritiana* (masau) fruits. SAFIRE procured and distributed six motorized peanut butter making machines (for Muzarabani and Mbire groups), six manual peanut butter making machines (for Mbire district) and nine manual groundnuts shellers were purchased and distributed to nine entrepreneur groups in the nine wards. Training demonstrations on the use and maintenance of the machines were done. Ward 11 in Mbire district was supported with a bread making stove (Ngoda stove) with capacity to bake 14 loaves at a time to complement the jam making activity. The area previously had no bread supply from formal bakeries.

SAFIRE fenced three orchards (one per district) measuring area 50m x 50m. Planting stations were prepared, and tree planting will commence during the tree planting season. A total of 320 (mango, guava, citrus, pawpaw) seedlings were procured and ready to be taken to the three sites for planting.

SAFIRE supported farmers with mechanized Conservation Agriculture (CA) tools through the procurement and distribution of 90 ox-drawn ripper tines to enhance soil and moisture conservation among 18 (15 males and 3 females) lead farmers. The lead farmers are leading a group of 19 farmers each in the nine project wards. This was complemented with six demonstration trainings on the use of the tools which was led by AGRITEX Officers. SAFIRE fenced 18 Conservation Agriculture demonstration sites measuring 25m x 50m at the lead farmers' plots. There are two demo sites in each project ward, and these are being utilised as training sites by AGRITEX staff. Procurement and distribution of 500kg of sorghum seed of an improved variety (Shirikure from K2) to 250 (166M: 84F) farmers among the 12 farmer groups in Muzarabani and Mbire districts done to promote small grains in the wake of climate change.

SAFIRE supported Disaster Management Committees, which included scouts through training in early warning systems. The Committee was provided with 138 cell phone handsets and 138 lights which were distributed to ward level civil protection members that included scouts in all the nine project wards. The equipment was aimed at enhancing the fight against HWC through improved communication and lighting.

Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA)

LGDA developed a pass-on data collection tool to collect data from 320 farmers (185 Male and 135 Female) that benefited from small grains and legumes in the 2020-2021 farming season and are scheduled to pass over seeds to new farmers for the 2021-2022 farming season. A total of 320 households in Wards 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12 benefited from the small grains and legume seeds through the ZVBP small grants project in 2020-2021 farming season. Each farmer is expected to pass on seed to one farmer of his choice based on the capacity of the selected new farmers to produce crops through the conservation agriculture model. Data collection of small grain seeds that will be passed on to new beneficiaries was conducted in Ward 4. A total of 43 farmers passed on small grain seeds to 43 new farmers in Ward 4.

LGDA fenced three fishponds and carried out stocking of 3 000 fish fingerlings per pond in Kanyemba, Nyambudzi and Angwa in Mbire District. The stocking was followed by fish farming trainings at all the three fishpond sites. LGDA also carried out trainings on various livelihoods activities including leadership and beekeeping at Chapoto Community Hall where 23 people (9 males and 14 females) participated.

LGDA drilled and solarised a borehole at Kadzi Evergreen community garden following a successful water capacity testing. The results indicated that the water source is enough to sustain activities in the garden. A 10,000-litre tank with a 1hp pump and three solar panels were installed. The borehole will supply water for the community garden and a community orchard at the garden.

LGDA completed the fencing of a 1ha Masoka community garden in Mbire Ward 11. Construction of two squat hole toilets was done and the toilets are at roofing level. LGDA started sand abstraction in Masoka to extract water from Angwa river to Masoka community garden following multiple failed borehole drilling attempts in the ward. The purchase of sand abstraction materials was done and ZINWA engineers were fabricating the materials and extracting water from the water point. Pipes were laid along a 300m x 0.5m x 0.5m trench from Angwa river to the community garden. A solar pumping system will be installed to pump water from the sand abstraction point to the community garden.

LGDA carried out capacity testing of a community borehole near the fishpond at Angwa to assess the feasibility of upgrading the borehole from hand pump to solarisation. The upgrade is expected to boost water supply for the fishpond at Angwa and a planned community garden. The capacity test results were successful.

Zim Apiculture Trust (ZAT)

Zim Apiculture Trust started the construction of Honey Processing Centres in Mbire and Muzarabani. The construction of a Honey Processing Centre in Mbire at Mushumbi was ongoing although it was progressing slowly as the centre was still at foundation level and there were not enough bricks for constructing the centre. The community is co-financing the construction through supplying locally available materials such as bricks and quarry stones. The Honey processing centre in Muzarabani has reached the ring beam level.

ZAT supported the beneficiaries in finalising the formation of Muzarabani and Mbire Beekeepers Association and their constitutions. The beekeepers also held a Good Food Festival in Harare from which they marketed their pure honey, interfaced with different stakeholders by creating awareness of the small grants project.

ZAT facilitated market linkages for raw honey in Hurungwe, Mbire and Muzarabani. In Hurungwe, Ward 7 Chipfuko there was a total of 224 KGs of raw honey that was sold to Roy den Investments (Mrs M Chigumadzi) by three Chipfuko CBO farmers (1 female and 2 male). The beekeepers realized a total income of US\$ 410. A female farmer Mrs. Agartha Nyamuronda sold a total of 163 KGs and realized revenue of US\$ 284.50. Good prices were offered by buyers of US\$2.00 per kg for grade A honey and US\$1.50 per/kg for B and less than 1.50 for Grade C. This was an incentive to farmers to increase the production of good quality honey. A total of 224 KGs of honey harvested was in grade A, showing that there is an improvement in honey grading. A total of 4 371 KGs of honey was harvested in the three districts realizing a total revenue of US\$ 7 378.00 in the first honey flow season.

Output 3.3. Model woodland restoration projects are developed and implemented in the target CWCs.

Tree planting

The project facilitated planting of 264,460 trees across the project area.

Table 5. Trees planted in the project area

Tree Planting by Spp category	Hurungwe	Mbire	Muzarabani	Total
Indigenous	259	705	6,709	7,673
Exotic fruits	2,650	6102	5,121	13,873
Exotic other	500	6053	2,129	8,682
Eucalyptus	88,409	6,500	139,323	234,232
Totals	91,818	19,360	153,282	264,460

Mbire Tree Planting Monitoring

A monitoring exercise was conducted to assess survival rate of the planted trees and to find out challenges being faced by the community and other beneficiaries in Mbire. The seedlings planted were fruit and non-fruit, exotic and indigenous. The wards that benefitted from seedlings availed by the project and were visited are Wards 1,2,3,4,9,11,12 and 16. Seedlings planted by institutions recorded a higher survival rate (75%) compared to those planted by households (50%). Challenges encountered that resulted in low planting and low survival rates include late seedling delivery, inadequate moisture, termite attack and lack of proper care for seedlings delivered at central collection points.

Land use change in Mbire Wards 2 & 3

The Government is clearing land in Wards 2 and 3 in preparation for the sugarcane plantation project in the District. The clearing of the woodland will be done in phases. During the first phase 2 000 ha will be cleared. A total of 9000ha will be cleared for the sugarcane project. The project had established a permanent forestry monitoring plot in Ward 3 and has been affected by the sugarcane plantation project. The project will engage the sugarcane farmers and discuss mitigation measures in the area.

Nursery activities

A total of 56,624 tree seedlings were produced in the two nurseries located in the project area.

Hurungwe -Chitindiva Nursery

- Water is still a challenge at this nursery hence production level is very low. However, 2,648 seedlings were produced comprising of 2,484 assorted indigenous and 164 *Leucaena leucocephala*.

Muzarabani- Mavhuradonha nursery

- 50,993 seedlings were produced

Mbire-Mushumbi Nursery

The nursery is currently not functional due to water challenges. The borehole was drilled, and the motorisation process is currently ongoing. In the meantime, FC has been producing tree seedlings for Mbire District at the FC Guruve nursery. Guruve nursery produced 2,983 tree seedlings.

During the course of the year, regular patrols against forest crime were conducted especially in districts where tobacco farming is a dominant. There are areas where charcoal production is common in lower Muzarabani where there is rampant cutting down of Mopane trees. Chiwenga Ward 24 and Maungaunga Ward 2 were among the wards with relatively large virgin Mopane woodlands which are currently under threat from illegal charcoal producers. One thousand and forty-three bags of charcoal with average weight of 25kg per bag (giving a total weight of 26075kg) were confiscated.

Output 3.4. Local communities in the target CWCs are provided with alternative sources of energy and energy saving equipment to decrease their dependence on firewood

Biotechnology Trust Zimbabwe (BTZ).

BTZ conducted a training workshop on renewable energy, sustainable development, and environmental management in Hurungwe District, Nyamakate Ward 7. The training workshop was attended by 33 participants (9 females and 24 males) and included representatives from BTZ, EMA, Ward councillor as and community members. The expected impact of the training was to educate the community on renewable energy, sustainable development, and environmental management. The training was also aimed at illustrating the advantages of using alternative sources of energy such as the biogas-powered tobacco curing barn.

BTZ is constructing a biogas holding tank and gasifier for a biogas powered tobacco curing barn at Makanjera homestead in Nyamakate, Hurungwe. The excavation of a 1.5 x 1.5 x 3m deep gas drying unit and a gas holding tank pit with a diameter of 7m and a depth of 2.4m were completed. The project is promoting the use of biogas as an alternative source of energy for curing tobacco in order to reduce deforestation.

Environment Africa (EA)

Environment Africa have so far constructed four biogas digesters in Mbire off one was constructed in 2020 and is fully functioning. The construction of the three other biogas digesters was completed in 2021 and now awaits inspection by experts from the Ministry of Energy before connected to the houses. There are four biogas digesters that have been constructed to date. Construction was done by 10 local community members that were trained through the project and were supervised by experts from the Ministry of Energy. The first biogas digester was constructed at Chidongo homestead has been working for 15 months without any challenges. The construction of the biogas digester in the household has significantly reduced firewood consumption as they would normally use two carts or more in a month which has been reduced to zero.

Environment Africa produced and distributed a total of 2000 brochures and 500 posters in five wards in Mbire. From the distribution of these IEC materials, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of Jengetahuni adopters as well as improved awareness on the benefits of the energy efficient stoves and the need to conserve forests.

Environment Africa facilitated the linkage of local communities to service providers of solar products in a drive to promote the use of alternative and sustainable energy. In this regards, Impi Power which is the contracted service provider continued to supply solar products to interested local communities through selected agents. A total of 23 solar kits have been procured since this initiative started. Several community members expressed concern that they cannot afford the kits for cash and requested the supplier to make a provision to supply the goods on credit.

Output 4.1: Participatory project monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is developed and implemented
Aerial Survey

The aerial survey of elephants and other large animals are important to the project as they provide up to date estimates of the number of animals and their locations. Land Resources International (LRI), a South African based company was engaged to conduct an Aerial Survey for elephants and other large herbivores. The project facilitated a pre-inspection mission before the aerial survey started. Based on field observations and findings, all the prerequisites for a successful aerial survey were in place. The survey is being done by Kevin Dunham a local aerial survey expert and ZPWMA observers. The survey was divided into block counts and transect Field data was concluded in September 2021. counts. Preliminary results show a 29% decrease in elephant numbers compared to the 2014 survey.

Output 4.2. Lessons learned from the project are shared with national and international conservation programmes, including GWP

The project shared a lesson with GWP partners on Preparing for all Eventualities during Surveys - Lessons from Zimbabwe.

Major issues highlighted included: -

- Ensure that there is a clear line of command and guidance on communicating emergencies.
- There is need to prepare for all possible eventualities during development of terms of reference.
- In case of disaster, it should be clear who communicates or handles the media.
- Even with emergency services in place, you need a good network of stakeholders that can offer additional assistance.

4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion

Most women have embraced the project as they relate more to the positive impacts the project is having on life since they are the ones responsible for fending and preparing food for the family. The project emphasized the importance of including women during the launch of small grants projects. The project is promoting use of clean energy and water provision in communities near protected areas. In many instances women and girls bear the responsibility of collecting water for household use. The small grants projects are assisting communities by improving access to clean near homesteads. Provision of water near homesteads will guarantee safety of women and girls from wildlife and serves time needed to collect water. A total of 450 female community members were involved in the pegging and digging of an 8km water trenches in Hurungwe District.

The project is providing a platform for women to increase sources of income through natural resources utilization and management. A number of women are involved in bee keeping which is assisting in reducing incidences of veld fires as farmers protect their beehives from fires.

Capacity Development and Sustainability

Beekeepers were able to appreciate the linkage between beekeeping as an incentive for sustainable forest management through Basic Beekeeping Trainings received. They were also encouraged by the high returns realized from honey production with very little time input on their part.

The project has commenced planning to carry out training across the project area after the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown measures. There is need to continuously train communities in tree planting and management so as to improve the survival rates of planted trees.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

UNDP hired consultants to conduct a midterm review (MTR) of the project. Stakeholders consultations were conducted including field visit to the project area. The MTR will be concluded by 30 November 2021.

The Small Grants Selection Committee managed to conduct a monitoring visit to small grants projects that are being implemented by CTDO, SAFIRE, Zim Apiculture Trust and Biotechnology Trust Zimbabwe. in Hurungwe District. A monitoring visit was conducted by PMU in Mbire and Muzarabani to assess implementation status of projects by Zim Apiculture Trust, SAFIRE, ZELA, CTDO and BTZ.

A monitoring visit was conducted in the project area to assess progress made on borehole drilling in Mbire, Muzarabani and Hurungwe districts and radio system installation in the Zambezi Valley. Another monitoring visit was conducted to Mbire to monitor commencement of aerial surveys. UNDP carried out a monitoring visit to Muzarabani, Mbire and Hurungwe which was combined with Project Quality Assessment and assets verification in May 2021.

HACT Compliance

A revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for payment of DSAs was availed. The SOP includes the Straight to Bank payment modality. This modality has disadvantages as some participants do not have Nostro accounts and opening an account for a single deposit is costly. In addition, some amounts are too small for one to open an account as most of the money will go towards bank charges. The Project Cash advance modality is being considered under the prevailing circumstances.

UNDP is carrying out HACT assessment for selected different partners. Some NGOs that received small grants will be assessed during the exercise.

Observations

- It was observed that for forest restoration to be successful, alternative energy sources must be provided to reduce pressure on the existing forest resources
- The RDCs and NGO partners appreciate the project. Visibility is high and the labelled vehicles and tractors have helped with the visibility of the project.
- The collaboration between the RDCs and Safari operators seems to have been effectively negotiated and strengthened by the CAMPFIRE Association
- Problem Animal Control (PAC) across all districts has greatly improved from the communication and mobility support. The base camps will improve reach and contact between rangers and communities.
- Tree planting should start mid-October for Upper Muzarabani and in lower Muzarabani and for Mbire November through December, to ensure that the planted trees will maximise growth and root formation during the rainy season. Early planting can be for those farmers with water who can irrigate just like they do for tobacco.

Annual Review and Planning Meeting

The project carried out the annual review and planning meeting in Karoi from 14th to 15th December 2020.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned **Challenges:**

- There was slow release of resources needed to carry out project activities during the greater part of the year. Procurement of fuel and payment DSA were delayed resulting in some project activities being suspended or cancelled. This affected time-sensitive activities like training for fire prevention.

Lessons learned:

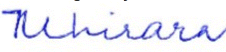
- It is not easy to establish reliable and sustainable water boreholes in Mbire because of the geological structure. Sand abstraction is a potential alternative for accessing water (instead of drilling boreholes) particularly in Mbire.
- In Mbire, beekeepers are using grease and petroleum jelly to protect beehives from crawling insects.
- Community-based management committee meetings are key platforms for learning about the knowledge and skills of communities and improvement of project intervention strategies.

7. Project Board Meeting Outcomes and Programmatic Revisions

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was held on 18 October 2021. The objective of the meeting was to approve the quarterly work plan and quarterly report.

Prepared By

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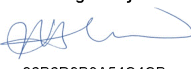
06-Sep-2022

UNDP Project Manager

Date

Approved By

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08-Sep-2022

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