

Country Profile: Zimbabwe



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OVERVIEW

Project Title: Strengthening Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management and Climate-Smart Landscapes in the Mid to Lower Zambezi Region of Zimbabwe

Project Sites: Mbire, Hurungwe, and Dande Protected Areas, Mana Pools, and Chewore and Sapi

Species Focus: Elephants and lions

Total Project Cost: \$10 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment, Water, and Climate (MEWC)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

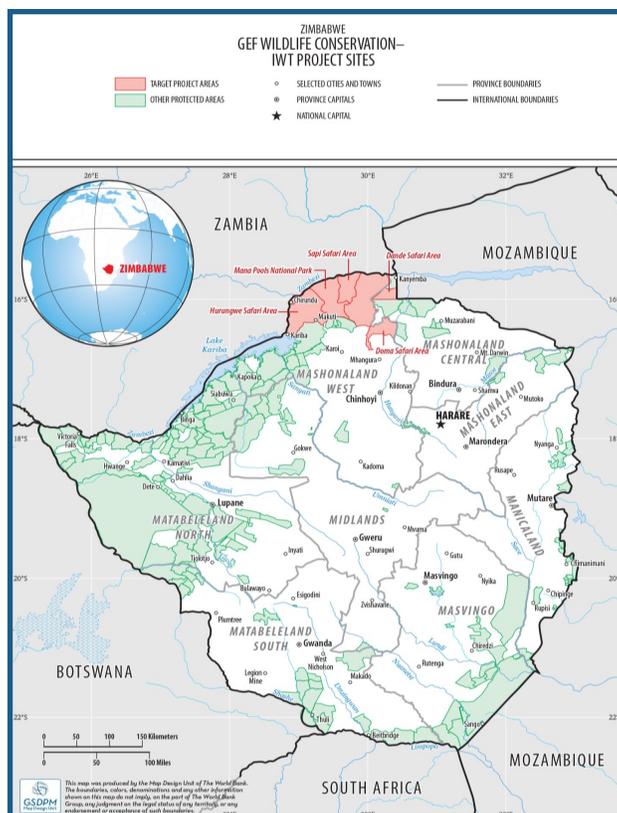
Zimbabwe has a rich biodiversity and its protected areas network covers 28% of the total land area. It's economy depends greatly on the forest systems and other biodiversity to support tourism and rural communities. The tourism industry contributed 10% to the national GDP in 2012. Most of the population lives in rural areas, and they derive their livelihoods from the agriculture and biodiversity that Zimbabwe's ecosystems provide. Deforestation along with poaching, especially of large mammals such as the elephant, is a major threat. Poaching alone has led to huge monetary losses.

Protecting Zimbabwe's endangered species and other biodiversity is essential for the economic wellbeing of the country. As a part of this process, Zimbabwe is a participating state in the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force and associated strategies and actions. Additionally, in 2013 the government launched its second-generation National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to address threats facing biodiversity.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Zimbabwe project aims to promote an integrated landscape approach to managing wildlife resources. The key management approach is to prevent illegal wildlife poaching by focusing on engagement with rural communities in the protected areas and community lands of the Mid to lower Regions of Zimbabwe. The project components are:

1. Strengthening capacity and governance frameworks for integrated biodiversity, carbon, and land-use management
2. Strengthening and expanding Zimbabwe's protected area estate in areas of global biodiversity significance
3. Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem management and climate change mitigation into the wider landscape



See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](#)