

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

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



Image by Vince O'Sullivan / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Mbire, Hurungwe and Dande; Mana Pools, Chewore and Sapi, and contiguous wildlife areas of Hurungwe, Dande and Doma, Manyame and Mazowe catchments

Species Focus: Elephants, lions and buffaloes

Total Project Cost: US\$12.03 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment Tourism and Hospitality Industry

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 its biodiversity. The nature based tourism industry contributed 10% to the national GDP in 2012. Most of the country's population lives in rural areas, and they derive their livelihoods from the natural resources contained in Zimbabwe's ecosystems. Deforestation along with poaching, especially of large mammals such as the elephant, is a major threat to the economy and community livelihoods.

Protecting Zimbabwe's endangered species is essential for the economic wellbeing of the country. As a part of this process, Zimbabwe is a participating state in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (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 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. The project's main components are:

- Strengthening capacity and governance frameworks for integrated wildlife management and wildlife crime enforcement in Zimbabwe
- Strengthening Zimbabwe's protected area estate and Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) Wildlife

PROJECT FOCUS

- Establishment of CAMPFIRE Wildlife Conservancies (CWCs) and implementation of sustainable community based natural resource management (CBNRM) subgrants
- Integrated Landscape Management, Community based sustainable forest management, sustainable land management, and Human-wildlife-conflict management
- Management Plans for targeted protected areas
- Implementation of international treaties for protection of Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).
- Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the production sector (tobacco companies)
- Reviewing and updating national policy and regulatory frameworks related to wildlife and forests
- Strengthen law enforcement (Multiagency wildlife crime units created; capacity building; Nationwide system for monitoring wildlife and forest crimes)

