



**An Overview of the State of the Environmental Movement  
in Zambia**

A Status Report

Study undertaken on Behalf of the  
Norwegian Development Fund with the  
support of Harvest Help

Prepared by

Monica Chundama

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## **Forward**

This report was authored by Monica Chundama, Environmental and Natural Resources Consultant. The views and interpretations expressed in this report belong to the authors and neither necessarily reflects those of the Harvest Help or the Development Fund.

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACF	Agriculture Consultative Forum
ADC	Area Development Committee
CBE	Citizen for a Better Environment
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCJP	Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
CEEEZ	Centre for Energy Environment and Engineering of Zambia
CLZ	Conservation Lower Zambezi
COMACO	Community Markets for Conservation
CONASA	Community Based Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture
CRB	Community Resource Board
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
DFA	District Farmer Association
DFN	Development Fund of Norway
ECAZ	Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia
ECZ	Environmental Council of Zambia
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMS	Environmental Movements in the South
GMA	Game Management Area
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
JCTR	Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
JFM	Joint Forest Management
KTL	Kasanka Trust Limited
KRLIP	Kaoma Rural Livelihoods Improvement Project
KZF	Keepers Zambia Foundation
MTENR	Ministry of Tourism Environment and Natural Resources
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NRCF	Natural Resources Consultative Forum
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NWASCO	National Water and Sanitation Council
PAM	Programme against Malnutrition
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Landuse Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WESCZ	Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLT	West Lunga Trust
WWF	World Wide Funds for Nature

ZAWA	Zambia Wildlife Authority
ZLA	Zambia Land Alliance
ZNFU	Zambia National Farmers Union
ZOS	Zambia Ornithological Society
ZWP	Zambia Water Partnership

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of an overview of the Environmental Movement in Zambia commissioned by Harvest Help Zambia Office for the Development Fund (DF) of Norway a member of Environmental Movements in the South Alliance. The overview is part of a scoping exercise that will serve as a baseline for measuring the evolution of the country's environmental movement in addition to guiding EMS decision-making.

Zambia is a country endowed with a wealth of natural resources within 16 ecosystems with landscapes that include extensive forests, grassy plains, hills and steep escarpments; huge lakes and rivers, deep valleys and ecologically rich wetlands together with areas of anthropogenic origin such as cropland, plantation forests and urban settlements. All development programmes are undertaken against this environmental background and depend to some extent upon the natural resources. The country is mainly a primary commodity producer of non-renewable resources that require special care, management and application. Environmental and resources management are thus critical.

The major environmental challenges include conservation and management of biological and water resources; planning for and managing the use of land; managing biotechnology; managing waste from productive processes and managing the impacts of climate change.

Zambia has put in place a legal framework whose central aspect is the Constitution. Policy frameworks are in place for all the major sub-sectors of the environment (wildlife, forests, fisheries, land and water). An all embracing new policy for the environment is under consideration. The national legal framework embraces sectoral statutes that regulate the use of wildlife, forest, fish biodiversity and land and water resources through the Departments of Forests, Land and Fisheries, Ministry of Land, and the Zambia Wildlife Act. The sector legislation has been highly centralised and monopolistic.

One significant weakness in existing law is the codification of international treaty agreements into national law. Justiciable treaties that create obligations e.g. Conventions that have to be enforced in the court of laws have been more problematic to domesticate. Much of the justiciable international law is unenforceable as it has not been incorporated into national law.

Implementation of legal instruments, whether national or international, is compromised by problems of capacity at national level, district and local levels. While government response to capacity deficiencies has been to reform legislation and reorganize associated environmental organisations, the new organisations have failed to adapt to new challenges which has resulted in the failure to institute efficient and effective regimes for the management of environmental resources. This in turn has led to

weaknesses in resource protection, research and a critical lack of planning, monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of national instruments is affected by the weak financial situation of environmental and natural resources management agencies which essentially makes the organisations ineffective. Gaps and conflicts in the policy and legal frameworks has meant that different institutions and organisations have dissimilar sets of principles and procedures, overlapping mandates and different priorities, which often have created a context that, has lead to conflicts and delays in the execution of management decisions

The Civil Society has become an important part of the development process in Zambia. For many years civil society advocacy in the environment was focused on species conservation. The widening of scope of advocacy in the environment, after UNCED in 1992 catapulted environmental NGOs into the development sphere, but also highlighted the importance of sustainable use and livelihood issues for development NGOs. Compared to other countries in the sub-region, Zambia has very few local NGO's in "environmental" advocacy. However there are many other relevant developmental NGO's that now deal with poverty and sustainable livelihoods issues, if one adopts a more broadened definition of the environment. The challenge thus then becomes one of sustainability of the support provided by civil society - which in the authors opinion needs serious attention.

The main drivers of change in the environment are several and include-government departments and public institutions, the donors (also known as cooperating partners), and civil society. Advocacy by the environmental movement has influenced economic policy. Decision and policy makers are now more aware of how the environment is the basis for growth of the economy. Sector policies for wildlife, forestry, land, water and wetlands, and the tourism policy have been revised as a result of advocacy. Perhaps the most significant development in environmental policy development was the drafting of the National Policy for the Environment drafted in 2005.

The private sector has also had considerable influence on policy, especially in wildlife and tourism. Interest groups such as the Wildlife Producers Association of Zambia, the Professional Hunters Association, and the Tourism Council of Zambia have all had significant influence in respect of the wildlife and tourism policy through representation to relevant authorities.

National level governance in the environment is as per the laws and policies set forth. However local level governance is compromised by the inability to effectively decentralise to the local level. While the law, provides for institutions such as Area Development Committees CRB's and JFM's they are neither independent nor strong enough for government to listen to them.

Although civil society in general is growing and taking on new challenges, civil society in the environment remains small. Government departments and other public institutions, international institutions continue to drive change in environmental issues.

Some international non-governmental organisations have been instrumental in moving policy frameworks and legislation ahead. However, local civil society is still too small to significantly influence policy and public opinion. This presents opportunity for growth.

## **1.0 Introduction**

The purpose of this study, commissioned by the Harvest Help Zambia Office is to provide an overview of the state of the environmental movement in Zambia. The Development Fund of Norway (DFN) is considering establishing a development support programme in Zambia. However, before any commitments can be concluded, the DFN have deemed it necessary to undertake a scoping study that will illuminate the status of Governance and the Environment in Zambia that will provide input into the development of the programme strategy. The DFN's area of interest relates to how change in local governance can improve the lives of the rural poor households and communities in Zambia, and particularly those which depend on the natural resource base. The studies will focus on governance and the environmental challenges facing rural communities in Central Eastern and North Western provinces.

In addition to the Governance studies it was found necessary to undertake a general Country Assessment to provide an overview of the state of the environmental movement and natural resources agenda in the Zambia. This report provides that overview for the Development Fund which is a partner in Environmental Movements in the South (EMS) Alliance programme in Norway.

The assessment was essentially a desk assessment and based on the review of literature from relevant local and international organisations in the public non-governmental and private domain in the environment sector.

### **1.1 Objectives of the Country Assessment**

The Country Assessment has two objectives:

- i) to serve as a baseline for measuring the evolution of the Zambia's environmental movement;
- ii) to provide a guide and context analysis for Environmental Movements in Zambia when making decisions about fund to individual organisations.

The sections that follow below present analyses of main issues of the environmental movement in the country

### **1.2 Biophysical resources**

Zambia has an area of 752,614 km<sup>2</sup> located at an altitude between 350m and 2,164m above sea level. Zambia has a continental climate with four major biomes consisting of forest, woodland, grassland and aquatic systems. These encompass large parts of the Zambezi and Congo drainage systems and making the country one of the better water resourced countries in southern Africa. Zambia is endowed with a wealth of natural resources within 16 ecosystems with landscapes that include extensive forests, grassy

plains, hills and steep escarpments; huge lakes and rivers, deep valleys and ecologically rich wetlands together with areas of anthropogenic origin such as cropland, plantation forests and urban settlements.

All development programmes are undertaken against this environmental background and depend to some extent upon the natural resources. The country is mainly a primary commodity producer of non-renewable resources that require special care, management and application. It is within this context that, with planned economic growth, the ensuing increase in resource utilisation can only be sustained through application of a national policy to protect and manage the environment.

## **2.0 Overview of the Political Situation**

For 27 years, through what are known as the First and Second Republics, Zambia was a single-party state with a central economy. During this time, the ruling party promoted a welfare state that provided health, educational, and other services free to its citizens, and discouraged citizens' attempts to provide such services themselves.

Since 1991, Zambia has undergone a political transition from decades of one-party autocracy to multi-party democracy. Fundamental economic liberalization and structural reform programs have accompanied this political transformation which has seen the emergence of many political parties and a growing civil society movement.

### **2.1 Major environmental challenges**

Major environmental challenges in Zambia are the result to two basic interactions: firstly the impact of a growing economy no matter how minimal, on the environment and secondly the impact of increasing poverty levels on environmental resources. In both these situations, the unsustainable use of the environment affects the livelihoods of people, especially the rural poor.

#### *2.1.1 Management of biological resources*

Zambia has a listed total of 8,017 known species of organisms (ECZ 2001). At least 615 of these species are endemic to Zambia, 174 are classified rare while 31 species are endangered or vulnerable. Zambia's diverse ecosystems comprise some of the world's most important and largely undisturbed systems. The majority of Zambia's biodiversity continues to be contained within the extensive forest and wildlife protected areas.

Close to 40% of the country is under protected areas set aside as national parks, game management areas, and local and national forest reserves, to protect the country's biodiversity. The enforcement of natural resource management laws has generally been difficult. Government departments entrusted with managing biodiversity are constrained by the shortage of staff, inadequate operational budgets and institutional conflicts. Government's austere spending measures in compliance with HPIC in past years compounded the resource constraints of biodiversity protection agencies. This

situation remains unchanged even with the completion of HIPC. Many biodiversity protection agencies are thus highly dependent on the support of donor agencies for any meaningful protection programmes.

Threats to biological diversity include illegal harvesting, unregulated harvesting in the case of fish and wildlife resources. Other serious threats include habitat destruction (especially deforestation for fuel-wood and land conversion to agriculture). Conversion of land to agriculture especially in wildlife corridors has tended to reduce wildlife habitats and led to increasing human wildlife conflicts

Generally, all major fisheries are believed to be over fished. The fish ban effective December to March of the following year instituted for fish stocks to recover is difficult to enforce because of capacity problems in the Fisheries Department. Few stock assessments have been carried out in the recent past and reported fish catch levels are considered unreliable.

Under wildlife, numbers of key species continue to decline, a serious threat to the developing wildlife based tourism industry. A major weakness in the management of national parks and GMA's is inadequacies in the database on key habitats, species numbers, their protection and major threats. Data is scanty and gaps deter any meaningful determination of trends in the status of the wildlife and habitats. Any management scenarios planned for the wildlife estate would be well supported by the development of data and effective monitoring systems.

No objective assessment of the condition of the vegetation cover has been carried out in Zambia over the years. However, qualitative on the ground observations indicate that on the average, the condition of the woodlands and forests especially in the northern parts of the country remain relatively good. Zambia still has significant forest biological resources classified under nine forest types and five woodlands types. Unfortunately many of these natural ecosystems continue to be threatened by human activity. According to the Southern Africa Red Data List<sup>1</sup>, seven Zambian habitats<sup>2</sup> and 146 plant species are classified as "threatened". Disturbance even in the more common forest types such as the miombo, munga and Kalahari woodlands, also has a negative impact on forests functions which in turn affect the forests' ability to provide environmental services. Illegal logging of high value species is rampant where vehicle access is possible. The rate of deforestation has been estimated at between 250,000 to 300,000 hectares per year (PFAP 1998). The latest estimates reveal a higher deforestation rate of 900,000 ha/annum (Puustjärvi et al 2005). The accurate estimation of the annual rate of deforestation is dependent on reliable forest assessment data, which is not available. Investigations suggest that more than half of deforestation is attributable to the expansion of agriculture, whilst wood fuel harvesting, uncontrolled fires and

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<sup>1</sup> Golding, J. (2002). Southern African Plant Red Data Lists. Southern African Botanical Diversity Network Report p.14.

<sup>2</sup> Riparian forest, Iigi thicket, mateshi evergreen thicket, Livunda *Cryptosepalum* forest, Baikiaea forest, one wetland habitat (Kafue Flats) and the Lusaka dolomites.

commercial logging account for the remainder<sup>3</sup>. The removal of forest and woodland cover in many head water areas in the country is leading to the shortened flow of seasonal streams and the drying up of formerly permanent rivers (GRZ (2007)<sup>4</sup>. In the gazetted forest areas, only half of the forest areas remain intact.

### *2.1.2 Management of water resources*

Zambia is well endowed with water. However,, some provinces have experienced droughts, and water quality problems have been observed both for surface water and groundwater in particular locations. Zambia generates an estimated 100 km<sup>3</sup> per year of surface water and has an estimated annual groundwater potential of 49.6 km<sup>3</sup> per year (Sievers 2006<sup>5</sup>). The surface water is unevenly distributed, with high runoff and density of rivers is in the northern parts of the country. In the south there are a few very large rivers, which make general access to the water very difficult. It is conjectured that Zambia has well distributed groundwater resources. At the moment there is however, inadequate data to make an accurate assessment of the groundwater availability for exploitation. The quality of the water resources is still relatively good in most parts of the country for various uses.

### *2.1.3 Planning for and managing the use of land*

Zambia has for the most part avoided many land-related social and environmental problems experienced in the sub-region. However, Zambia is by no means immune to land related conflicts, and the last ten years have witnessed increasing numbers of land related problems, particularly in communal areas. These include degradation of arable lands, internal migration, unplanned and unmanaged settlements and depletion of resources on the land, border disputes between chiefs, conflicts between commercial and community interests, and challenges to central government. These challenges mainly relate to jurisdictional issues. For example government and traditional leaders are not always in agreement regarding appropriation of traditional land as a result of urban expansion.

The increasing demands for land are in many places resulting in greater conflicts and pressures. Among the land pressures seen are conflicts between resource user groups "encroachment" into "proscribed uses "and conflicts between established residents and new migrants. A second set of problematic issues stem from the conversion of communal land into leasehold tenure. This conversion of tenure was made possible

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<sup>3</sup> Puustjävi, E. – GM. Kokwe – M.Chakanga (2005). The contribution of the forest sector to the national economy and poverty reduction in Zambia.

<sup>4</sup> GRZ (2007) Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Implementation Plan, Volume I: Main Report (2007-2030), Draft.

<sup>5</sup>Sievers, P. (2006) Zambia Water Sector Challenges for Integrated Water Resources Management in Zambia, Water Sector Coordination Unit, Royal Danish Embassy, Zambia

under the 1995 Land Act, but remains highly controversial (ZLA 2004). Motivated by pressure to attract direct foreign investment, many chiefs tend sell land in the traditional areas held in trust for the communities, moving it into the titled category.

Local communities are very cognisant of the problems associated with land and have in some cases developed local institutions to complement traditional authorities and engage in development and resource planning. These institutions are varied and include Community Resource Boards, Trusts, Development Committees, and various other models. In several areas, these emerging institutions are working with NGOs (local and international) and sympathetic offices within government to develop land use plans and navigate the murky waters of investor relationships. The stakes are high for local resource users, and they know it.

#### *2.1.4 Managing Biotechnology*

Of concern to biodiversity conservation is the impact of technological applications that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use. Biotechnology can contribute significantly to the social and economic development of Zambia, especially in the areas of agriculture, health care, environment as well as industry. However,, maximal benefits from biotechnology can only be realized if it is applied judiciously and in a sustainable manner.

While there are many aspects of biotechnology that Zambia has adopted, there is great concern over the potential risks genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could place on human and animal health as well as on the environment. Zambia has thus decided to take a judicious approach to its handling. Zambia made international headlines in 2002, when it rejected about 27,000 tons of genetically engineered food aid donated by the US government despite the food deficit situation caused by prolonged drought. The basis of the decision was the country's inability to handle genetically modified organisms and the risk presented to the environment and biodiversity. Zambia seeks to implement measures and build capacity to assess and manage any risks associated with processes and/or products of biotechnology.

#### *2.1.5 Managing waste from productive processes*

##### *Solid waste management*

Land contamination from solid waste disposal continues to grow as an environmental problem. Waste management particularly the management of municipal solid waste (domestic, trade and manufacturing and hospital waste) is of serious concern in urban areas. The extraction and production processes of industries have also had negative impacts on the environment related to the disposal of waste. Notable polluters include chemical fertilizer plants, textile factories, edible oil factories, tanneries and cement factories. The limited knowledge of pollution and resultant effects and constraints in resources makes it difficult to solve the problems of solid, including hazardous waste management. Generally many local authorities have capacity difficulties which prevent

the institution of more sustainable waste management system. Inspections and compliance monitoring activities carried out by ECZ in Lusaka and other provinces indicate that most district councils have no designated disposal sites.

#### *Water pollution*

Surface and ground water resources are threatened by pollution from release of dissolved substances including heavy metals as well as oils, into rivers wetlands and ground water from industrial activity. Cement waste, molasses and bagasse, soap stock textile sediment sludge, petroleum, paint and lime sludge from industries in Lusaka, Kafue and the Copperbelt, all continue to find their way into water systems through direct discharge, seepage or overflow to underground and surface water courses. The Kafue River one of the countries main rivers is threatened by industrial activity and residue from agriculture run off.

On the Copperbelt, the discharge of effluent with sediments from the mining industry continued to compromise the quality of water as well as threaten the Kafue river base due to sedimentation. The water contains dissolved major elements of calcium, magnesium, copper and cobalt emanating from acid mine drainage. This contamination directly affects most water treatment plants drawing from the river through high expenses towards water treatment chemicals and process materials. Water contamination problems are more acute in the peri-urban areas than in the rural areas.

High population densities in urban areas leading to smaller plots and consequently very short distances between latrines and open yard wells or hand pumps present considerable risk to subterranean and surface pollution of water. Residents in all informal settlements principally use unimproved pit latrines as their means of human waste disposal.

#### *Air pollution*

Air pollution is localised in Zambia and mainly felt in and around fertilizer manufacturers, cement manufacturers, lime producers as well as around petroleum production facilities (ECZ 2000). On the Copperbelt where mining activity has picked up again, air pollution is mostly felt in areas near Nkana mine smelter in Wusakile and in Mufulira. In areas affected by air pollution in Kitwe, little or no vegetation, especially in the direction of prevailing winds, where 'acid rain' has continued to damage the vegetation. Residents living close to the Kitwe smelter continue to be exposed to ambient SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in excess of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Zambian 24-hour SO<sub>2</sub> guidelines. Annual concentrations also tend to occur above the WHO guidelines Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and dust from the smelter aggravates the health of the elderly and those with existing pulmonary (lung) diseases (Munyati 2005). High emissions of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere from the Mufulira smelter has been blamed for desertification in Kankoyo, a very large high density residential area.

### *Land dereliction*

Dereliction of land is also a problem in mining areas. The problem occurs and manifests itself as tailings dumps largely un-vegetated and aesthetically unpleasant. In Wusakile Township in Kitwe, for example, areas near the mine have little plant growth except hardy pioneer species. This land likely to be of little use unless restored. Other land degradation includes the serious lead poisoning problem in Kabwe from past mining activity. Kabwe is labeled one of the most polluted locations in the world. Lead contamination is a serious health risk to communities in and around the now disused mine area, especially to children that play on lead contaminated surfaces.

### *2.1.6 Climate Change*

The impacts of climate change have been investigated in the agricultural, wildlife, forestry, health and water sectors using the intergovernmental panel on climate change guidelines. The following studies have been undertaken- Green house gas inventories; Vulnerability and Adaptation; and Mitigation.

Four sectors have been inventoried; these are energy, industry, land use and forestry. The green house gases considered in the studies were carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and precursors like oxides and nitrogen, carbon dioxide (CO) and non methane volatile organic compounds.

Electricity is the main source of energy in the Zambian industries. However, some industries use fossil fuel in boilers for production of steam. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the industrial sector account for about 14% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Results from the studies have shown that the production of maize the staple food of Zambia would reduce under the scenario of double the amount of carbon dioxide that is currently present in the atmosphere particularly in Zambia's agro-ecological zones II and I. Under drought conditions, reduced soil moisture and poor quality fodder, stress, mortality and migration of wildlife would occur. Under low rainfall (500mm) and high temperature (20°C) and few rain days (50 days) miombo woodland cover, which is 80% of forested land, would suffer a 50% reduction whereas the dryer mopane and munga vegetation types would predominate. During periods of high rainfall, humidity and high temperature, malaria incidences would increase in all the three ecological zones of Zambia exerting a heavy burden on the health service delivery system.

Adaptation measures already being implemented include the development of drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties, crop diversification, sinking boreholes and construction of dams to provide water to people, livestock and wildlife during droughts. Game ranching and plantation forestry for conservation purposes is being encouraged and institutional and legal frameworks are being strengthened.

Climate change mitigation measures being considered include:

- the improvement of charcoal production processes,
- switching from the use of diesel powered generators to mini hydropower,
- minimizing green house gas emissions from coal mining,
- reducing energy demand by encouraging energy efficient cook stoves and increasing electrification of households in the low income groups and
- promoting the use of renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind.

Mitigation measures for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the manufacturing industries have focussed on improving boiler operating efficiency as well as converting coal and diesel fired boilers to electric ones. In the mines the strategy for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is being achieved by switching from diesel to electric engines and adoption of new technologies such as the use of flash smelting furnace, ceramic concentration filters and oxyfuel smelters in smelter operations.

In the transport sector the strategies that are being encouraged are: pooling transport, running vehicles that are technically efficient and blending fuel with ethanol.

In agriculture mitigation measures have focussed on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by discouraging shifting cultivation through the use of organic manure and fertilisers

Zambia is constrained by inadequate skilled human resources, poor infrastructure and weak economy in responding in a timely and effective manner to challenges of protecting the atmosphere. Modest achievements have been made under the industrial pollution prevention programme and the ozone layer project. Equipment to measure industrial stack emissions and others equipment for recycling, retrofitting and proper handling of ozone depleting substances, have been acquired.

#### *2.1.7 Community participation in managing the environment*

Managing environmental and biological resources by government alone has been prohibitively expensive and logistically impractical in the light of declining operational resources. In response to this problem, the Zambia has experimented with alternative approaches that give responsibilities and benefits of managing environmental and especially natural resources that cover approximately 40% of the country to rural communities. The premise of community based natural resource management is that the cost of conserving natural resources in protected, semi-protected and "open" areas will be greatly reduced if benefits for management are distributed fairly among all members in the community, and if the benefits they provide are sufficient incentives to protect these resources.

There is growing national recognition in Zambia, that the community approach is the right way for managing natural resources and also a useful strategy for alleviating poverty in the rural areas. Communities, traditional leaders and politicians alike are pressing for a larger share of the revenue benefits to be returned to community constituencies for their efforts in conserving natural resources.

### *2.1.8 Gender considerations*

Associated with the issue of community participation, special mention should be made here of the impact of gender-based use and management of resources. Women constitute the majority of people living in rural areas in Zambia. Civil Society's experiences over the last ten years working with rural communities draws attention more than ever before to the relationship between women and the environment, especially with natural resources. They provide over 70% of all agricultural labour required especially in subsistence level food production. According to the Agricultural Analytical Report of the Central Statistical Office, there are a total of 1, 084,673 agricultural households in rural Zambia. Out of these 250, 279 or 19.2% are female-headed households (CSO, 2003, p8).

In the rural communities women play a central role in providing the families' nutrition, health and income needs through collecting and gathering wild foods and indigenous agriculture, collecting water and firewood, supplementing western medicine with traditional remedies harvested from the forests and, converting natural resources to products for sale in the local and national market. Although women are key actors in natural resource use, they continue to be marginalised in the decision-making process.

Gender in Development Department (2005) reports that rural women farmers are constrained by the shortage of land do not have the capacity to utilize land. Further they are disadvantaged by the practice of land grabbing particularly and excluded from accessing common property resources. Although it is increasingly accepted that supporting women as key stewards of the environment not only benefits the countries conservation and biodiversity goals but also benefits Zambia's communities through a well-managed environment.

## **2.2 Legal Framework for environmental advocacy**

The central aspect of the legal framework for the environment is the country's constitution. The constitution of Zambia establishes the institutional and legal framework for the State and further assigns functions of policy formulation and legislation to various organs of the State. In so far as the environment and natural resource sector is concerned, the State is directed to "provide a clean and healthy environment for all" and to "promote sustenance, development and public awareness of the need to manage the land, air and water in resources in a balanced and suitable manner for the present and future generations" (CONASA 2000). These provisions are intended to guide the state in the development and implementation of national policies; enactment of laws; and application of the constitution and any other law. Zambia has several policies and statutes in place in support of environmental advocacy.

### *2.2.1 National legal framework*

The promulgation of environmental laws is the initiative of the government. This initiative is influenced by three factors: the need to conserve natural resources, control of overuse, control of pollution; and pressure from international aid donor agencies. However, it is not necessarily a result of interest group pressure on government policy makers to take action with respect to the environmental situation.

Over 30 Acts of Parliament make up the national legal framework for environmental and natural resources management. Responsibility for the statutes is dispersed amongst at least ten line ministries including the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and Natural Resources. Policy frameworks are in place for all the major sub-sectors of the environment (wildlife, forests, fisheries, land and water). A new policy for the environment is under consideration.

The management of biological resources has historically been designated to sectoral institutions with specific mandates based on sectoral legislation and policy frameworks. The national legal framework thus embraces sectoral statutes that regulate the use of wildlife, forest, fish biodiversity and land and water resources through the Departments of Forests and Fisheries and the Zambia Wildlife Act. The sector legislation has been highly centralised and monopolistic. Legislative reform the past 10-15 years has brought about the enactment of new wildlife, forestry and land laws<sup>6</sup>. A new Fisheries Act is under consideration.

The passage of the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act No 12 of 1990 by the Zambian parliament provided a single and comprehensive national legislative and administrative structure for environmental protection (including water, air, noise or chemical pollution). This Act made Zambia one of few, in southern Africa, with a comprehensive environmental law, and institutional structures responsible for the environment. The Act provides, among other things; regulations for protection of environment and control of pollution; establishment of structures to implement and enforce the provisions of the Act, functions and powers of such structures.

A biotechnology and biosafety legislative framework is currently in preparation following adoption of the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy in 2006.

Growing consensus amongst Zambian policy makers and practitioners that environmental protection and economic development must reinforce each other has witnessed a change in approach from central control and management of biological and other resources to a decentralized and participatory process. This new approach is premised on the belief that sustainable development is best attained with the meaningful involvement of local communities, or in other words, biodiversity conservation is best achieved when it contributes to improvements in livelihoods of the producer communities. This new paradigm is anchored on the understanding that if local communities derive direct benefits, they will conserve natural resources, and play a more effective role as custodians of natural resources, provided, that communities are accorded appropriate rights and authority through policy and legislation. The wildlife

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<sup>6</sup> See full list at Appendix

sector has been most progressive and led the way in developing and implementing community based approaches (WWF 2005).

### 2.2.3 International conventions

Zambia's global commitments are numerous. Of the prioritised international conventions in Box 1, five conventions were selected through a consultative process for domestication.

#### Box 1: Priority International Environmental Conventions

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Mitigation serious effects of Drought (UNCCD).
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).
- The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- The Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The International Plant Protection Convention.
- The Agreement on the Action Plan for the Sound Management of the Common Zambezi River System/ SADC Protocol on shared Water Resources.
- Basal Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal.
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

These include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), the Convention for the Protection of World Culture and Natural Heritage, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, are at various stages of domestication and appear to place Zambia on a positive path to better environment protection and natural resource management. Action and strategic plans have been developed for a few the conventions (Table 1). No convention has yet been fully incorporated into national legislation yet

Table 1: Action/Strategies Developed for International Conventions

CONVENTION	ACTION/STRATEGIC PLAN
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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),	National Action Plan (NAP) for the UNCCD
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), for the CBD
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	Zambia Wetland Strategy and Action Plan
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	National Adaptation of Program of Action (NAPA) for UNFCCC

One significant weakness in existing law is the codification of international treaty agreements into national law. Programmatic treaties e.g the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), have been easier to implement these need no approval from Parliament before implementation. However, justiciable treaties that create obligations e.g Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that have to be enforced in the court of laws have been more problematic to domesticate. Much of the justiciable international law is unenforceable as it has not been incorporated into national law. For example, there is no legislative authority for the wetland sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (Douthwaite et al 2005).

In other cases, while legislation implementing part of a convention is passed for example to protect trade in endangered species and thus covered under national law, similar national legislation to protect other endangered animals and plants is not passed.

#### *2.2.4 Implementation of instruments*

Environmental legislation, policy and other means of control are important instruments that government uses to protect the environment and ensure sustainable development. Zambia has a reputation for developing innovative policies and laws but has been unable to commit to effective implementation for a number of reasons.

Firstly, implementation of legal instruments whether national or international is compromised by problems of capacity at national level, district and local levels. The notion of capacity building here goes beyond the conventional perception of training. It encompasses the central concerns of environmental and natural resources management i.e., change management, conflict reduction, institutional and organizational pluralism, enhancement of coordination, communication and sharing information whose realization requires a broader and more holistic view that is encased in capacity development. In many instances these issues have never been addressed holistically. While government response to capacity deficiencies has been to reform legislation and reorganize associated environmental organisations, the new organisations have failed to adapt to new challenges which has resulted in the failure to institute efficient and effective regimes for the management of environmental resources. This in turn has led to weaknesses in resource protection, research and a critical lack of planning, monitoring and evaluation

Secondly, the implementation of national instruments is affected by the weak financial situation of environmental and natural resources management agencies which essentially makes the organisations ineffective. During the years of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, government adherence to a cash budget severely constrained regulatory obligations of resource management agencies. Whether the situation will be any different now that the economy is showing signs of improvement will be a test of the government's priority to environmental protection.

Thirdly, gaps and conflicts in the policy and legal frameworks has meant that different institutions and organisations have dissimilar sets of principles and procedures, overlapping mandates and different priorities, which often have created a context that, has lead to conflicts and delays in the execution of management decisions. The extent to which existing regulations may or may not be perfect, difficult to implement and policies and procedures unclear, may combine to undermine environmental protection and management. Table 1 below illustrates these problems across the main sector Acts

*Table 1: Acts and Key Attributes and the Envisaged Areas for Further Work*

Act/Statute	Selected Key Attributes in Relation to the Environmental Movement			
	Potential for Partnering *	Community participation enabled	Private sector participation possible	Sub-sector mandate
Wildlife Act (1998)	Not provided for; can be opportunistic but agreements required	Clear and through CRBs	Clear but specific agreements required	Clear
Forests Act (1999)	Silent	Provided through JFMs but guidelines need operational clarity	Implied through forest concessions	Clear
National Heritage Conservation Act (1989)	Not provided but there is potential	Not provided but there is potential	Possible esp. in management of tourism	Clear
Water Act (1997)	Not provided for	None but catchment committees proposed in proposed new Act.	Limited, no incentives	Clear but no <i>de facto</i> catchment managers
Fisheries Act (1974)	No framework	None, fishing by permit	None - artisanal fishing	Clear but too many open fishing areas
Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act 1997	Not provided for	Enabled through public hearings of the EIA process	Only through regulatory relationship	Crosscutting; Overlaps evident eg with water sector

\*Non-Governmental and Private Sector Organisations; Source: After WWF 2004; p90

### 2.3 Scope of Civil Society Advocacy in Zambia

The civil society in Zambia generally includes non-governmental organisations, trade unions, human rights organizations, sports clubs, churches, and advocacy groups etc.

These groups are independent of government and tend to reflect the interests of the citizens. The growth of civil society gathered momentum with the re-introduction of multi-party democratic system which further created opportunity for civil society activity and participation in the new dispensation. In recent times civil society has enhanced, its profile and role in the Zambian society, by galvanizing itself around critical development issues. As at 31 December 2004 there were 11,096 non-governmental organisations including community based organisations (CBO's), and 13,924 religious organisations established as civil society organisations in Zambia<sup>7</sup>.

In terms of geographical distribution, the church is much more represented than any other forms of civil society organization network. More than 80% of Zambians are Christians and church life is a significant part of social life in both the urban and rural areas. Some churches, especially the Catholic Church are seriously advocating for better living conditions and are endeavouring to provide information for advocacy. In the urban areas the Unions take up the widest representation of interests. In the rural areas, the broadest representation is with the Zambia National Farmers Union which brings together the interests of rural farmers. Other than Lusaka and the Copperbelt there are very few locally based non-governmental and community based organisations in the provinces and districts.

A vast majority of civil society organisations came into being during the last 15-20 years. A large number of these organisations are apparently not operational. A considerable number of civil society organisations have come into existence by way of self-employment activities of mostly young, often well educated individuals, including former government employees. These people, in response to a lack of demand in the existing labour market for their skills, try to seize the opportunities offered by an ever increasing flow of donor funding into the NGO sector (Fiedler-Conradi, 2003). The fact that there are over twenty thousand registered civil society organisations may give the impression of the existence of a very vibrant civil society in Zambia. Sadly indications are that, many of the organisations have a relatively short history of establishment or activity (Mupindu et al 2005).

Most functional civil society organisations are welfare and service oriented. Community mobilisation and advocacy are important activities and focus on:

- humanitarian relief services;
- general health, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS;
- care and relief for vulnerable groups, with a focus on street children, orphans and the elderly;
- formal and informal education of children, youth and adults;
- training and micro-credit facilities for employment creation;
- support for small-scale and peasant farming (extension services, farming inputs, out-grower schemes);
- income generating at community level.

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<sup>7</sup> *Institutional analysis of Non-State Actors in Zambia; Stakeholders meeting, Presentation of findings, December 2005.*

There is a growing number of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and self-help groups in the rural areas. Many of them take the form of user groups originated by government or NGO projects or programmes. Women are increasingly active in such groups.

Civil society has long been dominated by women's issues, gender analysis and advocacy. Some of the oldest NGOs are active in this field, which is partly due to political history and generous donor-funding since the 1980s. The most active of these organisations are based in Lusaka. Whilst women's organisations attend to cover a broad range of social development and economic justice issues, there is a vast and rapidly growing number of organisations that advocate for needs of other specific groups in society (e.g. people living with HIV/AIDS, youth, vulnerable children, disabled people), as well as organisations which look at social development from a defined sector perspective (e.g. sustainable agriculture, rural and water development, community based natural resources management, the land question).

In July 2007 the Zambian Government introduced a draft bill in Parliament aimed at regulating non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Governments view in this respect is that it is necessary to make the civil society sector more accountable. Civil society had divergent views. Some NGOs felt it would compromise their work and independence, and could even result in their operations being closed down. Other thought that a rationalisation was sensible given that many just exist on paper and are inactive or are undertaking work not in line with social objectives. Another view point held that efforts by civil society to self regulated itself through a code of conduct should be encouraged. As a result of local and international pressure and representations to the Government, debate in Parliament was suspended in August 2007.

The private sector is rarely involved in civil society issues. However,, there are a number of areas where private sector interests, social welfare and development interest, including a common quest for good governance and democracy, may still lead to more common ground for example in the fight against corruption and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

### *2.3.1 SWOT Analysis of Zambian Civil Society Organisations*

The SWOT analysis below perhaps best demonstrates the strengths and weaknesses of internal to civil society and the opportunities and threats that this body of developmental agencies need to be wary of:

#### *Strengths:*

- Proximity, compassion and sympathy to the grassroots is usually regarded as the major asset of civil society organisations;
- Many CSO's established at national level and maintain key links at this level with government and donors

- Established partnerships within civil society- emergence of coordination fora and networks;
- Civil Society taking initiative is promoting national debates: poverty reduction, debt cancellation, constitutional issues; emergence of strong civil society positions and recognizable input into government policies
- Diversity of civil society adds to wealth of information; broadening stakeholders engagement.
- Improving capacities for resource mobilisation at national level

*Weaknesses:*

- Experience gained on the ground in Zambia, in implementing welfare projects, but no linkage to strategic thinking in terms of requirements in the socio-political arena- little communication between need, service delivery, and advocacy.
- Weak linkages between national and grassroots; limits in legitimacy and representativeness;
- Weak, limited civil society coordination fora at provincial and district levels;
- Weak engagement capacities at provincial and district level-input into national process e.g. national development planning; formulation of national policies; inability to influence government processes effectively;
- Deficient strategic outlook, as far as the organization as a whole is concerned;
- organizational culture often shaped by the dominance of individual leaders and non-transparent decision making procedures;
- Deficient funding strategies - donor diversification, consistent budget planning and finance controlling and reporting.

*Opportunities:*

- Relatively good relations between CSO's and government on national issues
- Government providing opportunity for policy engagement on issues of national importance
- Positive donor support to civil society
- Willingness of local people to operate in groups
- Developing stakeholder fora for sharing experiences and information
- Favourable policies (agriculture diversification, decentralisation, community participation)

*Threats:*

- Dependency on cooperating partners, when funding is phased out, CSO's collapse
- Low level of specialization-CSO level of operation determined by funding opportunities offered by donors and international NGO's
- Under-developed civil society in particular subjects e.g. Natural Resources Management;
- Competition between member umbrella organisations
- Prevalence of HIV/AIDS which impacts of capacities of both NGO's CBOs and beneficiaries
- Low literacy and numeracy levels among beneficiaries
- Poor communication in the rural areas

- Fragmented and uncoordinated interventions in the field.

## 2.4 Scope of Civil Society Advocacy in the Environment

For many years civil society advocacy in the environment was focused on species conservation. Conservation organisations focused on flagship species such as elephants, on endemic species such as the lechwe and on threatened species such as the rhinoceros. However, the growing realization that these species did not exist in isolation and the growing pressures from anthropogenic sources, broadened the scope of advocacy. The “people” became part of the conservation equation and especially people at the community level that resided with the resources.

The scope of civil society participation in environmental advocacy expanded most during the period leading to and after the United Nations Conference on the Environment (UNCED) in the early 1990’s when donor funds to the environment increased considerably. Agendas broadened to environmental monitoring and practical conservation, environment education and awareness, gender and natural resources management, institutional development and community mobilisation, conflict resolution and pollution awareness. Many environmental NGO’s were formed at this time and those in existence found it fashionable to latch the “environment” onto their programmes.

The widening of the scope of advocacy has catapulted environmental organisations into the development sphere. Today the environmental movement has to deal issues of local poverty, empowerment, democratisation of local institutions and income generation. At times environment organisations have been ill prepared to handle the demands that this shift brings.

Generally compared to other countries in the sub-region, Zambia has very few local NGO’s in environmental advocacy if you define “environment” in narrow terms - the more respected ones include the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WES CZ), Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia (ECAZ), the Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA), the Zambia Farmers Union, Zambia Water Partnership (ZWP), Centre for Energy Environment and Engineering of Zambia (CEEEZ), Kasanka Trust, Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ), Zambia Ornithological Society (ZOS) to name but a few. However if the definition is broadened the developmental NGO’s which address issues of sustainable use and livelihoods e.g. Keepers Zambia Foundation and Women for Change, become relevant players. Very few NGO’s deal with the hard science of environmental protection and natural resource management i.e. climate change, energy issues, population dynamics etc.. In other countries civil society contributes significantly to the development of an alternative data base to government in these issues. That is not the case in Zambia. Perhaps CEEEZ is the only NGO significantly involved in climate change and energy issues.

#### *2.4.1 Main Drivers of Change in environmental issues*

The drivers of change in the environment are several. The government departments and public institutions, international institutions and donors, and civil society all contribute to driving change in the environment.

##### *Government Departments and Public Institutions*

The Ministry of Tourism Environment and Natural Resources (MTNER) is the core institution in the country for the environment and natural resources. All issues relating to the management and development of the environment and natural resources are managed by the Ministry directly or through the Statutory Boards under it. The Ministry thus assumes a coordination role and with that comes the crucial role of policy formulation for these sub-sectors. The MTNER's roles also embody the facilitation and monitoring the implementation of international agreements, conventions and treaties with a view to promoting the country's conservation interests as well as meeting international obligations. These two roles have a critical bearing on how conservation work is carried out in Zambia.

Another strategic institution is the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ), whose focus is on the enforcement of environmental impact assessment regulations; air, noise and water quality standards, pesticides and toxic substances and waste management and natural resources management

Probably the most conspicuous institution is the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) whose roles and responsibilities cut across national parks, game management areas, forestry reserves, and heritage sites. In addition, ZAWA is responsible for the protection and conservation of individual wildlife species. These roles have assumed such proportions that there is a tendency to overshadow all the other institution's roles e.g conservation of biological diversity in protected areas. ZAWA seems to be everywhere on the protected area map However, their ability to meet the expanded mandate is at times seriously questioned

Another important institution is the Department of Forestry with a single mandate for national and local forestry reserves. The new Forest Act of 1999 incorporated many innovative provisions that would have seen the increased participation of stakeholders in the sector especially at the community level. However, the "new" Act has had no commencement order passed and remains inactivated. The new Act intended to put in place a more professional Forest Commission. However in view of the enormous amount of resources required to establish the Commission progress has stalled. Government has only just allocated resources for re-capitalisation to ZAWA in the 2008 budget, seven years after its formation. It is likely the Commission will not come to fruition in the near future unless the funds for its establishment are secured. Stakeholders including the environmental movement have continued to call for a better managed forest estate.

Another important institution with a single mandate is the Department of Fisheries. The department is responsible for commercial fishing, issuance of licenses, and enforcing fishing regulations and laws, which give the department a basis for controlling fishing. The fisheries legal framework is one of the more archaic of environmental laws. A new framework has been drafted but awaits ratification.

The National Heritage and Conservation Commission is responsible for the management of the country's cultural and natural heritage. Cultural heritage includes archaeological, historical, architectural, and engineering/ industrial (structures and) sites which play a role in the development history of the nation. Natural heritage are resources that are naturally occurring. Natural heritage includes geological/ palaeontological material, geomorphologic heritage and biological sites with rare, unique or representative plant and/ or animal species or assemblages or communities. Zambia has so far recorded 3,000 sites

The cross section of environmental institutions described above Zambia is basically driven by mandates. Not only are these institutions highly centralized but also pay scant regard for overlaps, grey areas, and conflicts. Areas of possible contestation and/ or collaboration have never been fully rationalized which could be a possible strategy for maximizing returns on funds available for each organisations operations. This is very pertinent as the continued compartmentalization as provided for in the Acts does not promote more collaborative approaches to management of the environment. A major block to improving the status quo is the sector approach itself which is historical. Another is delayed integration at the local level environmental management takes place. Decentralisation and the capacity needs for environmental management still need to be addressed.

Generally government's ministries and departments engagement with civil society leaves room for improvement. Constraining factors include the limited number of NGO's in the environment and the lack of a clear strategy as to how engagement will proceed. Most stakeholder consultative processes during the preparation of the strategy papers, policy frameworks and national programmes and projects have suffered from the lack of civil society participation. This fact was recently acknowledged at the re-launched Tourism and Environment and Natural Resources Sector Advisory Group under the MTENR in January 2008.

#### *International Institutions and Donors*

Cooperating partners such as international institutions and bilateral donors wish to be referred to have played a significant role in the environment in Zambia. They have over the years provided financial and technical resources for environmental and natural resources management. Cooperating partners have funded programmes at national level and local level ranging from development of strategies for the protection of the environment and support sustainable development to building capacities for implementing environmental conventions. International institutions and donors have also been instrumental in providing support for the adoption of sustainable land

management practices and pollution control. In the specific area of biodiversity conservation international institutions have provided support for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity.

At the local level international institutions have provide support for the legal and institutional reform for the involvement of local communities in natural resources management. Support has also gone to wildlife population surveys, protected areas management. Much of this support has been provided through project assistance for specified periods. While significant strides have been achieved, the sustainability of some project support has been questioned. Many projects fade away once donor funding is phased out. Government does not always have the resources to keep activities running or take on new challenges the projects unearth. Some cooperating partners a thus opt to support the sector wide funding approach and others provide direct budget support.

### **3.0 Overview of the Environmental Movement**

Environment management and conservation in Zambia has since independence mainly relied on government run and sponsored initiatives. This has mainly been through policy and legal framework, formulation of resource use regulation and law enforcement. With increasing pressures on the environment, this model has proved difficult to manage over the years with government capacity falling short of expectations. This situation is increasingly prompting greater involvement of non-state or civil society actors in management of the environment. The international non-governmental organisations, the private sector and a small number of local civil society organisations have advocated for changes in the environment and are what you would term the “environmental movement” in Zambia.

Civil society advocacy for the environment started with wildlife conservation and has over the years evolved from a wildlife species conservation focus to a more cross cutting perspective the consider rural livelihoods. This evolution seems to have grown out of a genuinely expanding civil society and the expansion in the scope of issues being advocated in the local and international development arena.

Establishment of civil society organisations in the environment goes as far back as 1950. Some of the earliest civil society organisations in the country were born out of hunting interests and closely associated with the evolution of protected areas. The early civil society organisations were membership organisations initiated by the settler community. They were active in wildlife conservation, the study and conservation of birds and the study and conservation of insects to name but a few. Perhaps purely from a background of lack of information there was a perception by locals that the early civil society groups were associated with a “privileged” group which led to the view that involvement in environmental issues is a luxury. These perceptions worked to the detriment of the early civil society organisations. With the departure of expatriate members, membership contracted and affected programmes, a situation which persists in organisations such as the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia

(WESCZ) and the Zambia Ornithological Society (ZOS). These organisations have to date struggled to keep up membership numbers.

### **3.1 Environmental movements influence on policy**

Public awareness and concern for the environment is becoming an increasingly important factor among decision makers in Zambia as the country seeks to expand the development of the economy. Advocacy by the environmental movement has influenced economic policy. Decision and policy makers are now more aware of how the environment is the basis for growth of the economy. Sector policies for wildlife, forestry, land, water and wetlands, and the tourism policy have been revised as a result of advocacy. Perhaps the most significant development in environmental policy has been the development of National Policy for the Environment drafted in 2005. This is an all encompassing environmental policy whose goal is to support the Government's development priority to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the people of Zambia (NEP 2005; p 16). Other visible examples are in the wildlife and land policy and legislative frameworks. In the wildlife sector, local level project initiatives instigated but also provided the basis for policy change (Wildlife Policy and Wetlands Policy). These initiatives were supported by the international NGO's such as the World Fund for Nature. In land policy reform civil action led by the Zambia Land Alliance has contributed to a consultative process that is expected to deliver a revised and more equitable land policy. The consultative process is ongoing and expected to be concluded in 2008. In agriculture civil society organisations such as the Programme against Malnutrition (PAM) and Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) have had excellent policy engagement in respect of reducing poverty, improving agriculture and food security at national level (ACF 2005)

It is perhaps important to point out that much of the pressure for policy reform has been exerted by the multilateral, bilateral and international non-governmental organisations. It might be said that in this instance cooperating partner conditionalities have supported environmental policy reform, but has also contributed to raising awareness on environmental issues. For example unpopular as privatisation may have been its realisation demanded that environmental management planning and strengthening of the regulatory framework take place. As such the regulatory agencies such as the Energy Regulation Board (ERB), National Water and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) ECZ, and ZAWA are now in place. In addition NGO's such as the CBE engage Zambian citizens in an effort to hold mining companies accountable to domestic and international environmental law.

However, while large donor support to the environmental movement may have achieved results at a policy and national institutional level, the support has not tended to be as successful at district and sub-district level. The larger programmes with their rigid structures, annual work plans, semi-annual reports and log frames are not adaptable to community institutions and time scales. Smaller locally based programmes have tended to score more success through the development of community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide the means to identify the underlying community needs

and development of interventions which are demand-driven and relevant to beneficiary needs. CBO capacity building has also proven to be an effective way of increasing the efficiency of delivery of services and extension training, and strengthened the ability of rural people to manage their own development activities (Lyons 2000).

Many donor funded programmes in the environment have been important factors in promoting gender equity. However, cultural and social constraints have prevented the effective inclusion of women in environmental focused projects.

The private sector has also had considerable influence on policy, especially in wildlife and tourism. Interest groups such as the Wildlife Producers Association of Zambia, the Professional Hunters Association, and the Tourism Council of Zambia have all had significant influence in respect of the wildlife and tourism policy through representation to relevant authorities. These groups were also active participants in the development of subsidiary legislation for the Zambia Wildlife Act Of 1998.

Some sectors such as wildlife, tourism and agriculture, environmental movement the environmental movement is 'punching above its weight' and has had impact on policy at national level. In other sectors such as forestry, fisheries and the so called "brown issues" or pollution the environmental movement it has not had much impact. However all sectors are dogged with local level governance problems - how local folk play more meaningful roles in sustaining their livelihoods.

### *3.1.1 Governance and Environment*

National level governance in the environment is as per the laws and policies described above. However national environmental policy and law does not yet take account of the Decentralisation Policy under which central government will be responsible for aspects such as general policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, national performance standards, initial capacity development at district level and the mechanism for mobilising local financial resources, while district councils will be responsible for such things as planning and implementation of development projects, service delivery and the management and conservation of natural resources, including wildlife etc. (MTENR 2005). Even the most progressive of existing natural resource management laws, the Wildlife Act of 1998 has no role for the district council.

Addressing ensuring environmental sustainability at the local level has much to do with local governance and how institutions strengthen peoples abilities, especially rural folk, to be able to meet their basic needs (food shelter and income) from the environment; making people aware and capacitating them with information to challenge their situations (poverty); strengthening communities possibilities for gaining control of resources for their development and; strengthening peoples abilities for seeking greater representation in decision making. Civil Society has attempted to address these issues in one way or another.

The democratisation of local governance and management institutions is a key component of strengthening and widening the people's abilities for achieving

environmental sustainability and sustainable livelihoods. From the many programmes and projects being implemented civil society desires to see a situation where planning and co-ordination of development efforts at district level and local level are enhanced; channels are created so that needs and demands identified by the communities can reach the responsible bodies; democratically elected community structures controlling resources and initiatives related to their own development; democratic processes and practices being instituted; and elected representatives at local level are being held responsible to their constituencies.

Implementing the Decentralisation Policy seems the only way the above ideals can be attained. However, government rhetoric and action remain divergent in where decentralisation is concerned, which poses a great challenge to civil society work. The central government still controls both national and local government elections. For a long time no matching resources and personnel have been suggested to be devolved to the local level even though on paper the devolution of power to local levels is the main intention in the Policy. Between 2006 and 2007 there was some movement towards implementing the policy through the Decentralisation Secretariat. No significant progress has been made, development planning and budgeting still remains an enclave for central government, and there are no clear guidelines and legal provisions to enhance local political and administrative authority. So, district councils continue to be weak entities and unable to deliver the peoples aspirations.

Area Development Committees, sub-district institutions provided for under the Decentralisation Act have largely been non-functional because of a lack of financial resources and a lack of local level support. In view of the situation at the district, some legislation have by-passed the district and provided for the establishment of community institutions at local level rather than use established local government institutions. Local level institutions provided for under sector legislation include the CRBs for wildlife management and Joint Forest Management Committees for forest management.

### **3.2 Environmental movements influence on public opinion**

Environment awareness programmes implemented by some civil society organisations have contributed to the raising of awareness amongst members of the public. Generally Zambians today know more about the environment and the need for its protection than say ten years after independence. But awareness without action is of no value to the environment. Poverty levels and the lack of alternatives deter many Zambians from "doing the right thing".

Awareness programmes have been directed both at the young (who are future leaders of tomorrow) and the older generation (in decision making positions). The Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society has had a long standing environment education programme that has not only won accolades nationally and internationally but has also contributed to opinion forming amongst the young citizens.

Perhaps one of the failures of the environmental movement has been an emerging opinion, especially amongst the urban poor that the too much consideration for the environment is a constraint to improving their livelihoods. These perceptions have been brought to the fore by requirements of the environmental impact regulations that require development projects to undergo environmental impact assessment. There have been sentiments expressed sometimes even from individuals (even those in authority) that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are an impediment to development.

This indicates an information gap in the general public on role of EIA in the development process. In fact, other than the Environmental Council of Zambia, civil society has not been active in advocating for the EIA process.

### **3.3 Overview of Civil Society Actors in the Environment**

There are three groups of civil society actors in the environment. They include international non-government organisations with representative programmes in Zambia, local non-governmental organisations and community based organisations. These groups of actors collaborate with each other as well as with other sections of society on short- or long-term basis depending on the issue and purpose.

This section analyses the strengths and weaknesses of groups of actors in the environmental movement. The section also presents a more detailed analysis of the more prominent civil society organisations involved not only in environmental management but also in broader issues of sustainable use and livelihoods.

#### *3.3.1 Local non-governmental organisations*

Local civil society organisations that are seemingly active in the environment at national level include the following (not exhaustive):

##### *Centre for Energy, Environment and Engineering of Zambia (CEEEZ)*

CEEEZ is an independent and non profit making organisation. Its major activities involve collaborating with Government and various institutions in the country and overseas in the fields of energy, environment and engineering. CEEZ works at national level. The specific role of CEEEZ is to investigate, analyze and make useful conclusions and policy recommendations on energy, environment and engineering concerns. In addition, CEEEZ carries out studies, research and development, consultancy and training in the areas of energy, environment and engineering. CEEEZ has been involved in a number of studies on energy and environment issues among them being the Zambia Country Study on Climate Change a greenhouse gas emission study supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

##### *Citizen for a Better Environment (CBE)*

The CBE is located in Kitwe on the Copperbelt. It is dedicated to developing, promoting and implementing sustainable environmental and economic policies. CBE utilises

research, public education, community organisation, legislation and litigation in achieving goals of social economic and environmental justice. For now the CBE's focus is in the Copperbelt in view of the location of major mining activity in this area.

The CBE area of focus is in water pollution from mining related activities. CBE is also involved in the following areas- the protection of watersheds through lobbying for legislation change and community awareness and mobilization in mining areas; undertaking environmental studies to determine the extent of ecological damage to streams and rivers due to mining activities in preparation for rehabilitation and restoration; conducting water quality monitoring with respect to the Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Act; preventing river bank cultivation.

CBE campaigns to ensure that mining companies that violate domestic and international law are held accountable to the Zambian public. CBE has ensured that new housing is built where subsidence has affected people's dwellings in Mufulira and put in place a livelihoods and restoration plan. CBE has also facilitated compensation for farmers who have suffered from pollution from mining effluent. These victories have helped garner public support and trust which are essential ingredients in mobilizing for future campaigns. They have also challenged the widespread belief that mining companies and their practices are untouchable.

In terms of corporate responsibility, since most of the mining companies are either wholly or partly owned by foreign investors- and since Zambia is a signatory to a host of international agreements- CBE also leverages the power of international law and norms. In May 2001 and July 2003, for instance, CBE lodged a complaint against the Anglo American Corporation and National Grid Transco (UK) respectively with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in London for Anglo and National Grid's breach of OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises during the privatization of the mines in Zambia. The complaints were determined by the DTI.

In a path breaking effort, in conjunction with Oxford University's Rights and Accountability Department, CBE submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights a report entitled "*Zambia Deregulation and Denial of Human Rights.*" The report exposes the environmental and socioeconomic costs behind the multilateral organization-driven efforts to privatize state enterprises in Zambia, including the copper mines. Through this intervention, the UN directed the Zambian government to submit a report per requirements of the UN convention ([www.Ashoka.org](http://www.Ashoka.org))

CBE also targets the limited capacity of state monitoring and enforcement and seeks to engage citizens in the responsibility for reversing and preventing environmental damage in Zambia. CBE has been involved in regular government environmental regulatory processes. CBE currently sits as a member on several important policy-making committees, including the National Environmental Policy Working Group, National Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Management Committee. CBE participated in the drafting of the National Environmental Policy and National PCBs Policy and

National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the National Solid Waste Management Committee.

CBE also works with the government to research and develop new environmental legislation proposals – particularly in areas where CBE identifies gaps or inadequacies which CBE sends to the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Environment.

### *Conservation Lower Zambezi*

Recognising the need for organized support of government activities in the lower Zambezi area, Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) was established by Safari Tour Operators and Stakeholders within the Lower Zambezi National Park and Chiawa GMA as a non-profit volunteer organization.

CLZ was registered in 1995 with the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) in accordance with the Societies Act. CLZ thereafter began to assist the former National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) now the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and the Chiawa community with conservation efforts. Its area of operation covers the Lower Zambezi National Park and the Chiawa and Rufunsa Game Management Areas.

The goal of CLZ is to assist wildlife management authorities address management problems related to resource protection, tourist use and development and other conservation issues that could enhance the status of the area. The organization's chief purpose is to safeguard the wildlife and habitat of the Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding GMA's.

The CLZ implements an Education Programme that is active in Chiawa, Chongwe and Rufunsa and is in the process of establishing a Safari Guide Training Programme for the Lower Zambezi funded by the Royal Danish Embassy. CLZ also remains active in conservation activities and still provides substantial support to ZAWA in mobilising anti-poaching patrols in the area. In particular a grant from US Fish & Wildlife via Elefence International has helped CLZ help ZAWA provide more effective conservation activities aimed at stemming the poaching of bush-meat and ivory from the Lower Zambezi. CLZ is active in the field of research and has assisted with the African Wild Dog project in Lower Zambezi. CLZ has also assisted the University of Pretoria & ZAWA in an elephant survey of the Lower Zambezi

Some of the challenges of CLZ have included formalisation of a collaborative framework with ZAWA-conclusion of a working memorandum of understanding took unnecessarily long. CLZ also faces mistrust from ZAWA, local leaders and the local community in spite of the substantial assistance it provides to ZAWA and the community; Operational resources are limited. Observers have stated that perhaps some of CLZ's problems are a result of that fact the communities do not fully appreciate the need for conservation in the Lower Zambezi.

### *Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia (ECAZ)*

The Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia (ECAZ), previously called the Agricultural Conservation Association of Zambia (ACAZ), was inaugurated in May 1990. The initiative to form the Association was taken by the then Commercial Farmers Bureau (CFB), which has since changed its name to the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU). The majority of members were farmers and it was their concern to promote "greener" policies in agriculture. The concerns of the Association now include the wider field of environmental management and sustainable utilization of natural resources rather than issues related only to agriculture.

The general objective of ECAZ is to work towards the conservation and sustainable utilization of Zambia's natural resources. The current ECAZ focus is the promotion of sustainable land management systems in support of improved food security; multiplication of local seed; lobbying government to put in place reasonable land tenure policies and land distribution; promotion of community involvement and development of appropriate local level institution for sustainable natural resources management.

ECAZ is still affiliated to the ZNFU from which it receives much support. ECAZ now draws its membership from commercial and small scale farmers, professionals in environmental management, other NGOs with similar interests, Government institutions, students, limited companies and individuals who care about the conservation of Zambia's natural resources. ECAZ encourages the formation of branches of the Association to enable members to participate in conservation activities at the local level.

ECAZ is currently involved in community based forest conservation work in the Mwomboshi Forest Reserve in Chisamba, Lukolongo Local Forest in Kafue and in Lusaka South. ECAZ is also involved in various awareness programmes at community level and for women and youths. ECAZ is the focal point for the Miombo Forum on Alternative Trade and Eco-labelling Organic agriculture and Natural Resources in Miombo Woodlands for Zambia. ECAZ is also the lead technical organisation of the Zambia National Farmers Union-GMO committee to spearhead the development of a position by members on issues related to biotechnology and biosafety through technical facilitation.

ECAZ maintains an office and secretariat in Lusaka. It has an experienced executive committee and backing from ZNFU. It has good relations with the MTENR and MACO and is a member of World Conservation Union. However personnel at secretariat are limited, funding is inadequate and ECAZ is dependent on ZNFU for financial accounting.

#### *Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection*

The JCTR for Theological Reflection is a research, education and advocacy team that promotes study and action on issues linking social justice in Zambia. The Centre engages in research on key social issues like cost of living, social implications of debt servicing, accessibility of healthcare and education, and integrity of local democracy. The JCTR puts out findings in publications, workshops and conferences, and media

presentations. It is active in advocacy campaigns by mobilising the public through local-based teams around Zambia and by cooperating with other civil society groups like the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP).

A major JCTR initiative is the *Meeting Basic Needs* initiative where a monthly survey of prices of basic family necessities in Lusaka is undertaken (e.g. food housing, etc.) comparing the finding with take-home wages. This "Basic Needs Basket" is widely used by civil society organisations, labour unions, etc., to promote better living conditions. ([www.jctr.org.zm](http://www.jctr.org.zm)). Other initiatives include Cancelling Zambia's Debt, Promoting Churches' Social Teaching, Promoting Churches' Social Teaching, Partnering for Change and Building Awareness.

#### *Kasanka Trust Limited*

The Kasanka Trust Limited (KTL) is a charity registered in Zambia and the United Kingdom working to conserve and develop Kasanka National Park in the Northern Region of Zambia and hosts visitors and volunteers to Kasanka and the Bangweulu. Kasanka is Zambia's only national park under private management and is entirely reliant on tourism revenue and charitable funding. It is a valuable conservation area with diverse flora and fauna including many endangered species and exceptional birdlife.

The Kasanka Trust in Zambia is incorporated as a non-profit charitable institution with tax exemption. It has a board of 7 honorary trustees who meet in Lusaka and take responsibility for all aspects of planning and policy making. The Kasanka Trust has responsibility for Park management, community development, and tourism under the terms of the management agreement with the government through the Zambia Wildlife Authority. This partnership has been active since the late 1980s. In recent years illegal harvest of wildlife in the park has considerably reduced and populations of animals have stabilized.

Implementation in the Park is through a Park Manager, Community Relations Officer, Projects Coordinator and a team of around 90 locally employed staff. Kasanka Trust actively seeks support from the local community to secure the long term future of Kasanka National Park. By using education as a basic tool, Kasanka Trust is trying to increase the community's awareness of conservation and promote economic development in the Kafinda Game Management Area. With the support of the Ministry of Education, Kasanka Trust has set up a project to aid education in Kafinda Game Management Area (GMA). The project is funded by external donations from various trusts and charities as well as individual sponsors

The Kasanka Trust is working with local conservation groups and women's clubs to enhance conservation awareness. School children participate by revamping their 'Chongologo' conservation clubs. These clubs educate the students about natural resources and they enjoy various opportunities to share their knowledge with other community members. Educational drama tours are also conducted to carry the message to all areas.

Most importantly the local community is being encouraged to develop income generating projects through sustainable use of their natural resources including wildlife, fish, timber and other forest products in the 'Game Management Area' outside the national park. The area now has eight resource committees reporting to a central Community Resources Board for the Chiefdom. The Kasanka Trust supports the Community Resource Board by giving it 5% of its tourism revenue from Kasanka. This helps the community see a direct benefit from every visitor to the park and provides funding for small community projects.

Kasanka Trust has been brave in taking the lead in providing financial resources for park management as well working models of how to work with rural communities. The extent to which the park itself has been profitable is debatable however the situation in the park has stabilized. In addition the basis for a workable conservation arrangement has been established. The Kasanka Trust model holds potential for replication but the extent to which the conditions that carried Kasanka Trust to the higher level may be replicated in another area could be difficult to recreate. What is clear is that ZAWA and the former Department of National Parks and Wildlife Service provided the environment that enabled the Trust to succeed. The modalities of how the Trust worked could be replicated by having the members of the Trust articulate the motivations that drove their work. Such models should also be considered for some of the GMAs.

#### *Keepers Zambia Foundation*

Keepers Zambia Foundation (KZF) was registered as an NGO in 1996 with the aim of responding to poverty in peri-urban and rural households. It evolved out of a Netherlands government funded Livestock Development Programme implemented in Western Province from the mid-1980s until 1995. The foundation has expanded into all seven districts in North-Western Province, along with Western Province. Its head office is in Lusaka. KZF is perhaps one of the more successful local NGO's and is better resourced than most.

The vision of KZF is an empowered and economically secure Zambian community where people utilise sustainable means to continuously enhance the quality of their lives. KZF's main focus areas are agriculture and food security, water supply, sanitation and environmental health education, community-based natural resource management, health and HIV/AIDS, rural enterprise and private sector development, and social protection. The organisation is headed by a board of six prominent Zambians and a staff compliment in field offices in Solwezi and Mongu.

The importance of partnerships is central to Keepers Zambia Foundation's work. It has forged links with local community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations, international NGOs, the government, donor agencies and the United Nations. Key among those it has worked with in Zambia includes Africare, PAM, the Office of the Vice President Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and the MIFENR. KZF has also worked with German Development Service (DED), Harvest Help, Village Water and Oxfam of the UK, the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV),

while other agencies have included the European Commission, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the Danish Association for International Co-operation (MS-Zambia), Micro Bankers' Trust (MBT), the International Fund for Agricultural development (IFAD) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Co-operatives (MACO).

Keepers Zambia Foundation has implemented the Forest Resource Management Project (FRMP) in North-Western Province, funded by IFAD and the government. This project benefited more than 12,000 beneficiaries and helped form 455 producer groups for various commodities. Other project milestones have been training people in the propagation and sustainable harvesting of bamboo and rattan, resulting in establishment of four rattan nurseries in Mwinilunga; the raising of seedlings and training in designing and shaping rattan products.

KZF trained over 2,000 people in the use of forest products such as chikanda, munkoyo, caterpillars, mushrooms, fine grass and medicinal plants, while others were trained in the use of natural dyes. Some 4,000 bee-keepers were trained and KZF promoted an environmentally friendly beehive, with financial support available for capital equipment.

In Western Province, KZF has implemented several projects in Western province ranging from livestock development, community based natural resource management, humanitarian support, micro-financing, cash transfer to water sanitation and hygiene. Under its recent project the Kaoma Rural Livelihoods Improvement Project (KRLIP), positive impacts on uplifting the livelihoods of beneficiaries in the Kaoma project area which included-the introduction and uptake of improves seed varieties by target farmer groups; enhanced crop diversification contributing to improved food security at household level and delivering training in business development which has provided the basis for the development of entrepreneurship environment in the area.

KZF has had many successes in the field however its recent work under the KRLIP brings to the fore areas that KZF will need to improve upon for the future. These include- the lack of sufficient institutional robustness in Lusaka that could provide guidance and cohesiveness to field level operations and the need to pay attention to the needs of monitoring and evaluation which both contribute to a holistic knowledge management system for a project or programme. (Mulolani et al 2007).

#### *Munda Wanga Trust*

Located outside of Lusaka the Munda Wanga Trust is an established environmental educational resource centre for use teachers, and community leaders and other interest groups. The Trust goal of the Trust is to raise awareness of environmental conservation and management on a local, national and international scale, for all ages. Munda Wanga has an established botanical garden and zoological park. The Trust works closely with environmental organisations, schools and other interested groups in Zambia, including the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ), Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ), the National Curriculum Development Centre and Lusaka National Museum, to create a holistic environmental education and

interpretation programme for Zambia. Munda Wanga is actively involved nationally and internationally in conservation of endangered species through the education and awareness raising programmes, and also through the captive breeding of animals.

Originally established as a private garden in 1950, Munda Wanga has undergone transformation over the years. The biggest change is happening now with the ambitious programme to restore the gardens and integrate them with the Wildlife Park to form the Premier Environmental Education venue in the region. The Gardens were originally established to introduce to Zambia new exotic species of plants from all around the world. Many of these have been lost during droughts or shaded out by the trees as they have grown. The Gardens are being restored and prepared for new collections of Zambian and southern African plants which will be used in the new education programme as well provide an interesting garden to enjoy and relax in.

Regarding wildlife conservation, the Trust is involved in captive breeding programmes and is currently working with 2 species: the African Painted Dog the rarest large African carnivore after the Ethiopian Wolf and the Kafue Lechwe, an antelope with a restricted range.

Much of Munda Wanga's programmes are funded by well-wishers. So far the Trust has been quite successful in attracting corporate support for reestablishing the gardens and the zoo.

*North Western Beekeepers Association.*

The traditional beekeepers of north-western Zambia are organised into an association known as the North Western Beekeepers Association. These traditional honey producers have inspired all the alternative trade and certification initiatives in the area. The Beekeepers' Association has over 4,000 members who hold 50% of the shares in a local independent company called the North West Bee Products (NWBP) which has become a successful entity.

A local trust Uchi Mukula Trust (UMT) holds shares for and on behalf of beekeepers in the NWBP and another company Muzama Crafts. UMT is the biggest shareholder in both NWBP and Muzama. Uchi means honey and Mukula is the local name for the valuable timber species *Pterocarpus angolensis*, Muzama's producers and the wider rural community. UMT has two functions: to give the producers' elected leaders/trustees more control over NWBP and Muzama and to give them access to relevant and independent professional advice. This is provided by professional Trustees who give their services on a voluntary basis. The aid agencies active in the area also participate in UMT.

The beekeepers association is a powerful lobby that plays a dominant role in NWBP. On several occasions it has forced the resignation of staff assigned to work for them and they have organised boycotts of NWBP to force up producer prices. This power is exercised through beekeepers conferences which take place every two years or so. This arrangement often attracts criticism from external observers but it is an efficient and

effective means of empowerment for beekeepers spread over an area of some 75 000 km<sup>2</sup>. The beekeepers' conferences provide a useful model for local consent and control elsewhere in the Miombo phytoregion.

#### *Programme against Malnutrition*

Program against Malnutrition (PAM) is one of the leading local non-government organization in Zambia that focuses on food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, capacity building and income generation. It is based in Lusaka but operates throughout much of Zambia and is a leading partner with the Ministry of Agriculture. It helps distribute food-security packs and promote better farming skills.

PAM has considerable experience and has developed institutional structure for the delivery of emergency food aid at the community level. It has been widely cited as a model for effective relief work, in the distribution of seeds to farmers in provinces affected by drought.

PAM has been involved in government sponsored Food Security Pack Programme intended to improve crop productivity and household food security thereby contributing to the reduction of poverty among the targeted beneficiaries. The Pack consisted of a cereal, legume root or tuber, fertilizer and lime, depending on agro-ecological zones. The Pack was designed to optimise natural soil processes and to balance food security requirements for resource poor households.

PAM has been active in promoting sustainable and drought resistant crops like cassava and sorghum. PAM along with other NGOs undertaking this work have been criticized for operating in isolation and viewing themselves as part and parcel of the Government efforts, thus limiting their chances of influencing policy. The lack of regular consultations with like minded NGOs as well as with government has also resulted in conflicts and duplication of efforts. For instance during some of food relief distribution programmes it became apparent that some areas have not been receiving food aid at all while others have been receiving food baskets from several NGOs. (Kalinda and Sikwebele (2006)

#### *PELUM Association- Zambia*

The PELUM Association Zambia is a membership network association of Zambian NGO's and CBO's that work in the field of participatory ecological land-use management. PELUM Zambia is one of nine national programmes affiliated to the regional PELUM association that includes countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, with a membership of over 160 members. PELUM-Zambia has more than 30 members. The Association has an elected governing body in place and secretariat responsible for programme management and development.

The goal of PELUM-Zambia is to put in place an empowered and active network of indigenous development NGO's in Zambia sharing indigenous knowledge and information in participatory ecological land use management. PELUM-Zambia's current strategies are to strengthen networking and collaboration, and capacity building among members; the promotion of sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, and participatory development approaches, advocacy for access ownership rights and control of productive resources; facilitation of gender mainstreaming and, the addressing the sustainability of PELUM-Zambia and its activities.

Thus PELUM-Zambia supports its members in information distribution and training, campaigning advocacy and lobbying, the documentation of indigenous knowledge systems, monitoring and evaluation, gender sensitisation, resource data base development and gender sensitisation.

PELUM-Zambia has received support for activities from several organisations which have included MS-Zambia, Voluntary Services Organisation (VSO), Harvest Help, World Wide Fund for Nature Zambia Office, Oxfam, Swedish Cooperative Centre DanChurch Aid and UNDP to name but a few. Funds raised are used for member's activities.

The Association has an important function in respect of advocacy and lobbying. While members organisations lobby and advocate for issues regarding their operations, (sometimes at district level), they also require a voice at national level to strengthen their voice as well as to lobby a higher and broader levels. (Chundama 2006) It is not always the case that members appreciate that the Association has this important role. Observers are of the opinion that this strength should be developed and exploited more.

#### *Organic Producers and Processors Association in Zambia*

The Organic Producers and Processors Association of Zambia (OPPAZ) was founded in 1999, by some local NGOs and farmers interested in producing organic agricultural products for the growing international market, OPPAZ is a membership organization which provides production, marketing and technical advice, and fosters linkages between growers and traders to provide an accessible export route for both smallholder and commercial farmers. Its current membership base is 57. OPPAZ's objectives are to support development of income generation and diversification by enabling viable markets to develop for certified and non-certified organic produce in-country and externally, and expand the already established export market for certified products; encourage small-scale, rural production and processing of agricultural products for socio-economic benefits these activities provide, and promote and develop sustainable methods of agricultural production.

OPPAZ offers technical advice and training related to organic methods of production for diversified/ specialised crops; production quality/ hygiene for products for the market place (local, regional and international); appropriate crops for production in a two-year transitional period; methods/facilities for harvesting (timing is critical in maximising quality/yield) drying, handling and storage; specifications for capital items such as

storage facility and the co-ordination of crop production in relation to OPPAZ identified markets.

OPPAZ also produces technical leaflets, information sheets and market information and recruits and provided training services for extension workers and small-scale farmers; It carry's out research and trials on new crops and technologies and facilitates linkages between small and large scale farmers through out-grower and processor schemes. It facilitates the development of regional organic growers groups and partnerships with NGOs and other organisations. OPPAZ also negotiates with international buyers on behalf of organic producers.

To date OPPAZ has obtained organic certification (from Soil Association and Ecocert). Its impact on agro-biodiversity is in its promotion of targeted field commodity crops and high-value or value-added species. OPPAZ also promotes harvesting and marketing of valuable wild plant products. Critical factors that seem to have contributed to this success include- liberalised market policies; availability of a diverse range of indigenous crops and wild plant products; availability of markets in Europe and elsewhere; commitment and monitoring of technical and extension staff; constant technical services and support from OPPAZ members and partners; skills in developing international partnerships (e.g. with Canon-Garth and Tradecraft); establishment of national partnerships with a wide range of producers' and traders' organisations; participation in regional and international organic trade fair events (e.g. Bidfach).

Although there seems to be a growing demand for organic products especially from the international market OPPAZ faces constraints which agriculture units that are predominantly small scale and spread over remote landscapes; capacity constraints that make it difficult to organise extension services for certification and collection of organic products; limited transport and lengthy paperwork hindering the export process;

#### *West Lunga Trust*

The West-Lunga Trust, (WLT) is a community based natural resource management initiative located in the Chibwika-Ntambu Game Management Area in North-West Zambia. The WLT intends to achieve community empowerment, sustainable resource use and economic prosperity. The Trust perceives these a necessity for the economic viability of the community. It anticipates that with sound guidance and proper funding, communities neighbouring the West Lunga Game Park and surrounding Game Management Areas can achieve meaning resource management.

The WLT strategic approach is to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders, assist communities in navigating official channels, organize crucial workshops to build knowledge and expand community capacity for resource management thereby delivering confident, capable community leaders and institutions.

The long term goal of WLT are to put in place robust governance structures, healthy resources and prosperous communities in all three Game Managements Areas surrounding West Lunga National Park. However, rather than stretch limited capacity,

Chibwika-Ntambu GMA will be the focus for an initial three year period. This initiative is expected to allow for more time and attention from Community Coordinators and to strengthen personal relationships within target communities.

Being a relatively new organisation compared to similar such initiatives across the country, WLT wants to spend time to discern what might and what might not work, especially in relation to the local communities (WLT 2007). However local level institutional building is in progress area through the registration of Chibwika Community Resource Board. Chibwika CRB has indicated a desire to run more independently of West Lunga Trust and several members have expressed interest to provide input to assisting operation of the CRB.

Resource use and management activities of the WLT include forest and fisheries management, wildlife conservation and tourism promotion environment education and conservation farming. The WLT intends to develop a feasible way of earning carbon credits for the country by devising a Carbon Credits Plan. This has never been done in Zambia. The WLT will thus be working in uncharted waters. If pulled off this will be an exciting "first" for a community based initiative in Zambia. A buyer has already been identified. Under fisheries management patrols continue to deter those using mosquito nets for fishing. Many fish barriers on the Lunga River have been removed and the WLT report an improvement fish population and size. Wildlife protection measures are also seemingly paying off. Many species that have not been seen in years are now being seen again. In the Chibwika area elephant and buffalo are now reappearing. WLT are also assisting to sensitize communities on natural resources management.

As with new local level initiatives the WLT and communities are enthusiastic about meeting their goals, however support from the community is vital and the sustainability of the Trust and community activities is equally important. These are issues that need to be addressed upfront.

#### *Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia (WESCSZ)*

WESCSZ was founded in 1953 by concerned members of the hunting fraternity as the Game Preservation and Hunting Association (GPHA). In 1962 the GPHA changed its name to the Wildlife Conservation Society of Northern Rhodesia (WCSNR), reflecting the increasing urbanisation of its members. When Zambia gained independence it changed its name again to the Wildlife Conservation Society of Zambia (WCSZ), with the former Zambian Republican President Dr Kenneth Kaunda as its first patron. In 1995 the society, recognising its broadened environmental responsibilities, became the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WESCSZ), and remains the country's oldest charitable membership-based non-governmental organisation dedicated to environmental conservation.

A key element of the WESCSZ Environmental Education Programme is the production of environmental education material such as the Chongololo and Chipembele magazines, distributed free to schools and community-based Chongololo and Conservation clubs in Zambia. These printed materials are supported by a weekly environmental commentary column, "Environmental Notes by Warthog", in the Sunday Times of Zambia, and the

Chongololo Club of the Air, a weekly Sunday lunchtime radio programme on ZNBC Radio 2. This programme has a declared membership of over 80,500, with countless passive listeners countrywide, making it probably the largest environmental radio club in Africa. Adoption of Chongololo clubs in schools is optional currently. However, government is considering making these clubs compulsory in schools in 2008. (pers. com Adam Pope 2008).

The WECSZ has been a proud recipient of the prestigious Global 500 Award on June 5, 1990 (now called the Champions of the Earth Award) from the United Nations Environment programme (UNEP), for its conservation efforts. The society also actively seeks to get engaged in supporting wildlife research, environmental monitoring and practical conservation, as well as awareness campaigns, advocacy, lobbying and training.

#### *Women for Change*

Women for Change (WfC) is local NGO committed to working with and empowering remote rural communities especially women through gender analysis and popular education methodologies and to contribute towards the eradication of all forms of poverty. WfC is a non-membership organisation. WfC undertakes activities in Gender Analysis and Awareness Raising, Human Rights Education, Economic Empowerment and Cooperatives Development, Rural child and Youth Development, HIV/AIDS and advocacy for gender sensitive policies and practices that respond to the plight of the poor.

WfC sees itself as a grassroots organisation that reaches out to many rural villages where the press is never read and where change is needed. WfC works in southern, central and western provinces, but is also involved in advocacy at national level. Over the years, the organisation has managed to work systematically with practical help as well as consciousness raising. It is very typical for WfC to decide that as many representatives from local communities as possible should have the experience of attending international forums. During the World Social Forum in Nairobi, 24 women, men and traditional leaders got this opportunity.

WfC focus on building capacity among poor men and women. They focus on women's rights but also on the importance of developing accountability and democratic practices at the local level. Not just in rural areas but also at the international level. The organization is strongly critical towards the organisation believes are neo-liberal practices of the World Bank and IMF. WfC cooperate with local authorities and traditional leaders who are still very important for everyday life in the villages of Zambia

#### *Zambia Ornithological Society (ZOS)*

ZOS has been in existence since the mid 1960 providing an opportunity for those interested in learning about and protecting Zambia's bird life.

The object of the Society is to stimulate interest in and to further the study and conservation of birds in Zambia. The society has a serious and long-term commitment to carrying out scientific and educational work on Zambia's birds and their habitats. In Zambia, as elsewhere, some bird species are threatened by habitat degradation, hunting and poisoning. A few species are extremely rare and it is ZOS's conviction that efforts to protect them must continue. ([www.zos.org](http://www.zos.org))

ZOS has a core of technically skilled members that contribute to the publication of ornithological research that is published in local and international scientific publications. ZOS has members in distant population centres of important conservation areas that act as its agents. In conjunction with Birdlife International, the Society co-ordinates and sponsors academic research into the status of Zambia's birds. The Society maintains an impressive and authoritative database of Zambian bird sightings.

The Society's major principle is that education is the key to conservation. In this regard ZOS implements an Important Bird Area (IBA) education and conservation programme, with donor support. Prominent supporters of this programme have included the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF) and NORAD. IBA schools have been selected within or near designated IBAs. These schools are included in ZOS activities within the IBAs (for example the biannual waterfowl counts), and are provided with identification guides, copies of the ZOS IBA book and educational material on endangered birds. Other ZOS major projects include production of the Zambia Bird Atlas- a colossal project initiated in the 1970s which aims to map the distribution of all the species that occur in Zambia; the African Waterfowl Census- undertaken annually in January and July for the global surveys coordinated by Wetlands International; and the Zambia Ringing Scheme.

ZOS also analyses and monitors the status of birds in Zambia from both ornithological and conservation perspectives, including the maintenance of nesting records, national park bird species lists and sites list of bird species for the 42 IBA's. This information is vitally important to the Zambia Wildlife Authority whose capacity in avifauna is currently weak. ZOS provides assistance to the Ministry of Education by providing material for the Chongololo Clubs in schools and radio programme.

The core functions of the Society are financed from member's subscriptions and other internal fund raising activities. In addition, the Society has been successful in acquiring grant financing for specific projects such as the publication of books and journals in view its reputation for credibility and accountability.

Criticism levelled against ZOS is that it is expatriate based and will thus experience problems in growing its membership if local interest is not cultivated.

#### *Zambia Water Partnership (ZWP)*

The ZWP is a membership organisation of water related institutions that advocates for integrated water resources management IWRM. ZWP is an affiliate of the Global Water Partnership. The ZWP mission is to promote collaboration and sustainable utilization and management of water resources in Zambia. The partnership was established in early

2000 and has more than 65 registered members. The ZWP programme is anchored around four objectives - establishing partnerships and mobilising political will; building strategic alliances for action; promoting good practice in IWRM; and developing and implementing national actions.

The strategy for ZWP is to facilitate and demonstrate IWRM implementation through the collaboration among the partnership. The partnership is comprised of stakeholders that include key actors such as government ministries and departments, city and municipal councils educational and research institutions, bilateral organisations, non-governmental organisations, private companies and commercial water utilities. The ZWP is hosted by the School of Mines at the University of Zambia. An elected Executive Committee is mandated to manage the day to day needs of the partnership.

The critical difference between the partnership and other water groupings at country level is that the partnership is a neutral representative multi-stakeholder network of institutions, while other groupings tend to be viewed as partisan to some extent; have narrower interests or perspectives; not (necessarily) equally open to the whole range of different stakeholders and/or based in individual rather than institutional membership. The value that is added by a ZWP over other water groupings lies precisely in the neutral, representative multi-stakeholder and institutional nature of the network (Krugmann 2007)

The Zambia Water Partnership has been instrumental in promoting the concept of integrated water resources management in Zambia. The partnership approach has provided a platform for articulating IWRM issues in addition to building awareness in over the last five years or so. Together with WWF, ZWP and its partners successfully implemented a water dialogue process for the Kafue Basin. It is currently implementing a Partnership for Africa Water Development (PAWD) initiative funded by CIDA. Through this initiative, ZWP has provided capacity building in the use of the IWRM Tool Box, management of environmental flows, conflict resolution, root cause analysis, disaster management and, gender and HIV/AIDS.

ZWP is leading a process for developing a national integrated water resources management and water efficiency plan that will be an operational plan for the Water section of the Fifth National Development Plan. ZWP is working with several local stakeholders to conclude the plan. Key to the process is the Ministry of Energy and Water Development. The aim is to provide a unified implementation plan that will support both the water reforms as well as other aspects of IWRM and water efficiency. The plan will serve as a reference point for all actors in the water sector and also provide an integrated approach to water resources planning; the mobilization of water-using and (non-traditional) water-influencing sector ministries. The ZWP is also implementing a pilot project in the Chalimbana River Catchment aimed at demonstrating IWRM principles and practices.

In 2007 ZWP hosted a regional IWRM symposium in conjunction with the Water Capacity Building Network for Southern Africa, the Water Research Fund for Southern Africa and Global Water Partnership Southern Africa which brings together researchers,

policy makers, key cooperating partners and other stakeholders to meet and exchange ideas on IWRM.

The partnership has come a long way in organising itself as a partnership network putting in place transparent governance structures and engaging in advocacy in support of the application of IWRM approaches and principles. Its current challenges however, include ensuring sustainability of operational resources, the constrained capacity of the Executive Committee regarding the servicing of the partnership (all except 2 members are in full time employment), especially in maintaining the motivation of member and their willingness to invest in the partnership; being hosted by an institution that itself has operational problems itself and, weaknesses in information sharing and communication within the partnership.

#### *Zambia Land Alliance*

The ZLA is a network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) advocating for fair land policies, laws and administrative systems. Its members include Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP), Law and Development Association (LADA), Women for Change (WfC) and Zambia Civic Education Association (ZCEA). The alliance serves to coordinate the activities of member organisations in areas dealing with land issues. The Alliance was formed in 1997 following the Zambian Government's land reform processes which started in the early 1990s. The Alliance began as a committee to coordinate activities of member organisations.

The goal of the Zambia Land Alliance is to contribute towards equitable access and ownership of land by poor rural families. The ZLA overall objectives are; to lobby and advocate for policies and laws that are inclusive for the rural and urban poor most of whom depend on land for their livelihood; to conduct research on land related laws and policies, investigate and to document the efforts by various stakeholders on equitable access and ownership of land and to raise awareness on land issues

The ZLA networks and collaborates with national, regional and international bodies to share experiences and discussions on the future courses of action on land issues as they relate to poor rural families.

ZLA has been involved in the review of the Land Policy, capacity building, advocacy and civic education. The overall objective of the land policy review project is to advocate for a land policy that is broad based in terms of participation of key stakeholders in its formulation and protects the interests of the poor and marginalized social groups such as women, children and physically disabled. Under building capacity Zambia Land Alliance works with its members to strengthen effective lobbying and advocacy for land policies, laws and land acquisition procedures that take into consideration the interests of the poor. The intervention involves or will involve forming four (4) Provincial Land Alliances and (8) District Land Alliances through representatives from existing community based organisations. The Mansa District Land Alliance is already formed. The intervention will also promote information dissemination on land issues and

encourage members to address land issues in relation to inheritance, governance, HIV/AIDS, dispute resolution and encourage sustainable use of land.

#### *Zambia National Farmers Union*

The ZNFU is among the oldest of Associations in Zambia and has various names. Until independence, the membership had been almost exclusively confined to large scale farmers. During the 1980's many small scale farmers became members of Commercial Farmers Bureau which transformed to the Zambia National farmers Union. ([www.znfu.org.zm](http://www.znfu.org.zm)).

The ZNFU's aim is to promote, and to protect the interests of its members. In 2003 for example, the ZNFU managed to stop the Food Reserve Agency from dumping cheap maize in the already depressed local market through a court injunction, thereby stopping further decline of maize prices (Hantuba and Wamulume 2004).

Membership is available to corporations/companies and other institutions in the business of farming in Zambia, However the ZNFU is an organization made up mostly of farmers and led by regularly elected leaders who are farmers. Members include small scale farmers associations spread across districts, the large scale farmers association, corporate members, commodity or specialized associations and associate members. All individual farmers clubs and district sub-associations are required to affiliate to ZNFU through the district associations.

More than 40 district farmer associations across the nine provinces are affiliated to the Eighty percent (80%) of the DFA's are small scale farmer associations. The small scale DFA's seeks to promote sustainable livelihood strategies amongst its members through the diversification of their livelihood activities, training in sustainable agricultural methods and establishment of linkages to markets and service providers. In many rural areas infrastructure is poor, access to resources limited. However even with underdeveloped structures DFA's are facilitating farmer interaction coordination and making voices heard at a higher level to lobby and advocate for issues important to farmers. The DFA's provide a forum for discussion of policy at the grassroots. The district level, associations are represented at the village level through the information and or tele-centers.

ZNFU are of the view that farmer's association need assistance in advocacy/lobbying, market opportunities, mobilization of rural finance, technology, and information.

#### *Zambia Green Living Movement*

The Zambia Green Living Movement (ZGLM) is a local environmental pressure group concerned with promoting sustainable development and environmentally-sound practices in local communities. It was founded as the Green house Foundation (GHF) in 1997 by a group of environmental journalists. The organisation works with several villages in introducing and educating people to sustainable livelihoods. Through a

participatory approach GLM work with villagers who depend on natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. Education as well as community participation is seen as key in challenging present attitudes towards the environment and sustainable development.

Since its inception, the Green Living Movement has been working with communities in four villages of Chibobo, Kundalumwanshya, Nambo and Chilipamushi in Serenje and Kapiri Mposhi districts in Central province. The idea is to restore the dignity of local people and attain food security through agro-forestry and land rehabilitation activities.

With support from Kapa-Zambia and other cooperating partners, the organization has managed to train over 30 small scale farmers in agro-forestry. Another 120 local and foreign volunteers have been trained in Participatory Approaches to Community Development (PACD). Some of the beneficiaries of these trainings include foresters, journalists, foreign students who come to Zambia as volunteers, disabled people and development workers from various civil society organisations.

In 2008 GLM in conjunction with Edinburgh Global Partnership are organising a volunteer's event for Mkushi. The volunteers will participate in construction of a hammer mill for grinding maize. Maize mills in rural Zambia have massive implications for the rural community through sustainable crop marketing.

GLM also supports a pilot media project - the Green Times. This monthly paper is Zambia's first national publication dedicated to the environment. The paper promotes and publicises environmental and sustainable development issues at both the local and national level. It aims to challenge both the public and private audiences on their conception of the environment. GLM is probably the only local NGO that publishes a newspaper; however, its consistency needs to be kept up.

#### *Zambia Alliance for Women*

The Zambian Alliance of Women (ZAW) is an affiliate of the International Alliance of Women. The Mission Statement of the ZAW is to "empower women to take charge of their lives through gender, environmental and social justice so that the right to a healthy life is enjoyed by the now and future generations." ZAW is a non government, non-profit making, non partisan organisation that was first registered in 1982.

ZAW has been involved in the advocacy for women's rights as human rights, gender sensitisation and in raising awareness in Zambia of CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.) ZAW has done much work in improving the educational chances of young rural Zambians through the establishment of pre-schools in Chongwe, Chibombo and Suziman. ZAW has developed agro-forestry programmes in Chongwe and Chibombo. This has led to the planting of trees to be used as wind breaks, as well as providing fuel, shade and fruit. The nursery tree projects are also an income generating activity for member groups.

Furthermore, ZAW spearheaded the SADC regional rural industries study to promote rural industries. ZAW has also promoted household fuel security through the

establishment of seed multiplication and crop diversification projects and sustainable agricultural farming methods at village level

ZAW has also worked with local communities of Shantumbu near Lusaka on issues of desertification. Much of the work in this area was focussed on discouraging unsustainable practices of resource utilization - overuse of fertilizers and charcoal burning. ZAW promoted the use of energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly cooking stoves called ZIKOs, which not only accommodated charcoal but also other energy sources such as tree twigs, saw dust and dry cow dung. This initiative was helping to conserve the indigenous forests of the area.

### 3.3.2 Private Sector Initiatives

The private sector also offers lessons for engaging with communities. Two initiatives are described below. There may be others in existence around the country and these may be covered in the paper detailing *Mapping Good Practice from Local Governance Livelihood Improvement* initiatives. This paper however highlights the following initiatives:

#### *Community Markets for Conservation*

Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) is a multi-stakeholder program initiated and coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in close consultation with Community Resources Boards of the Luangwa Valley, District Council authorities, and key Government institutions, such as Zambia Wildlife Authority and Ministries of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Local Government. A wide range of other collaborating partners provide technical support services to COMACO. Its goals are poverty reduction and job creation

The COMACO programme currently operates over large landscapes of Eastern and portions of Lusaka and Northern Provinces of Zambia. The coverage of the COMACO program is mainly around national parks and protected forest areas in the Luangwa valley and Lower Zambezi basins. COMACO encourages and maintains sufficient involvement of local residents to build increased community commitment and capacity to conserve watershed and wildlife resources. COMACO has set up four regional offices situated in Lundazi, Mambwe, Luangwa and Chama districts

As a program, COMACO oversees the development of a limited-by-guarantee, non-profit company called Conservation Farmer Wildlife Producer Trading Centre (CTC), whose Articles of Association require all net revenue gains to be reinvested in food security, rural incomes and conservation. Rural people benefit from this company by joining a COMACO-registered producer group, which requires group members to learn improved farming skills and adopt by-laws that refrain group members from using snares or other practices destructive to their natural resources. COMACO facilitates the formation of Producer Group Cooperatives among the different producer groups for each COMACO trading depot. Producer group members are entitled to improved producer prices and producer bonus prices for complying with by-laws.

The premise of COMACO is fairly simple; if alternative livelihoods can be identified the dependency on wildlife could be reduced resulting in conservation.

#### *North Western Bee Products*

North Western Bee Products Ltd is a community based enterprise, alternative trading organisation specialising in organic forest bee products certified by the Soil Association of the UK. It has a similar history to its sister company called, Muzama Crafts. NWBP has been profitable and self-sustaining for several years.

The overall objective of North Western Bee Products (NWBP) is poverty reduction and improved quality of life for its members, beekeepers in North West Zambia. NWBP began as a government-supported community project in 1979, to improve the quality of life for people in North Western Zambia, and to help conserve Zambia's endangered miombo forest. In 1988 it became an enterprise fully owned by the producers – the first of its kind in Zambia. NWBP has since grown from the involvement of 100 local beekeepers in 1988 to now more than 6000 from over a 5000 km area. In 1990 NWBP became the first company in the world to sell certified organic wild honey. The honey is free of pesticides, additives, bacteria, antibiotics and pollution, and is considered the purest in the world. Finished products made from NWBP's bee products are widely available in the EU and the USA and the bottled honey has a loyal customer base in several European countries.

The beekeepers employ traditional honey harvesting techniques, using a variety of hive types such as bark, log, twigs, grass, calabash or gourd. Beekeeping provides people with a source of food year round and now an income. This practice also fosters conservation of the habitat on which both bees and people depend for nectar and bee products. The local communities have become the key custodians of the region's forests, for they are aware that without the forests there will be no bees to produce the much-needed honey. The opportunity to make a living from beekeeping provides local communities with an alternative to burning the forests for charcoal production.

As indicated above, poverty reduction and improved quality of life for local communities are the key aims of NWBP. In working towards this goal, NWBP has greatly increased the number of people who are involved in the enterprise and receiving benefits from the operation. In addition to the over 6000 beekeepers who are part of NWBP, the company also employs part-time and full time staff. The ownership of the company is divided between a trust representing the beekeepers, the Beekeepers Association, and five local district councils. By establishing markets for organic honey in England and Germany, NWBP has moved from a government-initiated endeavour to a privatized company that is completely self-sustaining. NWBP is thus able to provide an income and employment to a significant number of people in the northwest region of Zambia. The beekeepers are able to buy essential commodities such as salt, blankets, soap, bicycles or bicycle spare parts from the enterprise's mobile shops after selling their honey and beeswax. Income from the sale of bee products allows the beekeepers to send their children to schools and pay school fees.

Dealing with more than 6000 beekeepers over a 5000 km area ensures that beekeepers even in the remotest parts of the catchment area can take part in the enterprise and benefit from the sale of honey and beeswax. Producer's prices are negotiated with beekeeper's representatives to facilitate maximum return to the beekeepers. Ongoing honey harvesting and financial return to the beekeepers has resulted in improved household food security maintained throughout the year.

### *3.3.2 International non-governmental organisations*

The gap in scope left by local civil society has been filled in by international non-governmental organisations which have taken major risks by trying out innovative ways of addressing conservation work. The international non-governmental organisations have also taken the lead in providing not only financial but also workable models on how to work with the rural communities. The NGOs involved are diverse and do, in some cases work on their own or in close collaboration with the government departments. Some of the NGO's include the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), World Conservation Union (IUCN), David Shepard Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Care International, SNV, World Vision, Hieffer International, Co-operative League of the USA (CLUSA), MS-Zambia and GreenForce to name but a few. Their activities have centered on:

- wildlife population census and monitoring,
- anti-poaching and monitoring of illegal harvesting
- environment education
- wildlife research
- capacity building of government conservation agencies
- legislative and policy development and reform with a special focus on community based natural resources management,
- local level institutional development, and food security
- crop diversification
- Capacity building and training
- Democratisation
- Livestock development
- Conservation Farming

There are very few international NGOs active in the forestry sub-sector unless in a general environment perspective.

### *3.3.3 Community Based Organisations*

At the local level many community based organisations have emerged. These could be in any form. However, with regard to wildlife and forestry local level institutions (Community Resource Boards and Joint Forest Management units) have developed and interface between the larger communities and national level environmental

organisations. They have the responsibility of mobilizing community members around the objectives of national level organisations but also articulating the communities' ideals regarding the use of the environment.

#### *3.3.4 Major donors for the environmental civil society*

Multilateral and bilateral financial mechanisms have provided funds for programmatic work to government. Key organisations have included UNDP/GEF, World Bank and NORAD, NORDIC Development Fund, FINNIDA, JICA, European Union, USAID and DANIDA. Several local civil societies have also received funding from international development agencies represented locally. Details of levels of funding are available from both the donor and the recipient civil society organisation. However provision of those details is beyond the scope of this assignment.

The international NGO's have also provided funds for the environment either from private funding. Sometimes funds are raised locally from the government aid agencies which tend to place the International NGO's in competition with local civil society.

The international NGO's have also provided funds to local civil society. WWF has for example funded the Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society, the Zambia Alliance for Women and has also provide seed funds for operationalisation of the Zambia Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum (ZCBNRMF) through the WWF Regional CBNRM project funded by WWF Norway. DANIDA was instrumental in supporting the initial phase of the Natural Resources Consultative Forum.

### **3.4 Environmental Civil Society Networks**

Civil society has many networking arrangements. Smaller networks/fora are in place currently and invariable depend on outside funding for support. Donor assistance is tied to project horizons and the reason why some networks have failed or operate inefficiently once funds dry up. Some key national network in respect of environmental management, sustainable development and poverty include:

#### *Civil Society for Poverty Reduction*

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is the largest cross-sector civil society network in Zambia formed towards a common goal. The majority of its members are national and urban based a constant criticism from government functionaries. CSPR is said to encompass over 90 organisations, groups, umbrellas and smaller networks. It has a steering committee and a full time operational secretariat. Some of the weaknesses levelled against the CSPR are that the steering committee is too large for effective decision making, too personalised and that communication mechanisms are too weak to ensure effective information flow, feed-back and delegation between the network's steering committee and its member organisations.

### *Agriculture Consultative Forum*

The Agriculture Consultative Forum (ACF) is a unique institutional setup aimed at enhancing consultation between the public and the private sector stakeholders, transparency in policy and decision making among stakeholders. The ACF was as offshoot of a government programme Agricultural Sector Investment Program. The ACF transformed from a project under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, to an independent formally registered association whose aim is to consolidate the consultation process on agricultural development and policy formulation among key stakeholders.

The goal of the ACF is to contribute to sustainable and continuous growth in the agriculture sector through development of consultation, networking and information sharing among private and public sector players. The ACF provides policy advisory services to government. The forum meetings have provided a channel through which stakeholders have been able to comment on the direction and performance of agricultural policies and programs. Stakeholders are also able to make suggestions on critical actions required to overcome the policy constraints identified.

The ACF has been quite successful in developing policy advice for government. Government response to most of advice has equally been encouraging.

### *Natural Resources Consultative Forum*

Fashioned after the ACF, the National Resources Consultative Forum (NRCF) launched in 2005 attempted to bring together stakeholder in the public, private and civil society sectors. NRCF was envisaged as a neutral platform for stakeholder participation in the management of natural resources, particularly policy formulation. The NRCF is intended to be member driven, and promote the transfer of technical information within the sector. The deliveries of the NRCF are advisory notes encapsulating stakeholder issues and concerns, addressed to the MTENR. The development objective of NRCF was to provide national policy goals - within a supporting technical framework, on the sustainable use and conservation of Zambia's natural resources, with the immediate objective being to provide an organization able to deliver such an objective. (Manning 2006). To date the NRCF has collaborated number of institutions as organisations which include the Royal Danish Embassy, the UNDP, the World Bank, Development Services and Initiatives Southern Africa (DSI), MS-Zambia and ZAWA ([www.nrcf.com.zm](http://www.nrcf.com.zm)).

Since inception the NRCF has brought stakeholders together to discuss issues raised in the Game Management Areas Household Survey, Tourism Survey of 2007, Elephant Sport Hunting in Zambia, Joint Forest Management (JFM) in Zambia and a report on the contribution of the Forestry Sector to gross domestic product (GDP). The NRCF has issued one policy advisory note relating to Joint Forest Management which resulted in the issuance of a statutory instrument for operationalising JFM in Zambia. The NRCF also issued a policy advisory Note on Elephant Sport Hunting.

Operationalising a new phase has somewhat stalled as new funds are sought. The Forum has a National Chair taking the lead in facilitating a new phase. The NRCF intends to set up a physical office and put in place a lean Secretariat, hold board and members meeting, develop a strategic plan and communication strategy (NRCF 2008)

A similar forum was launched in 2006 for community based organisations known as the Zambia Community Based Natural Resources Forum ZCBNRMF with assistance from WWF and MS-Zambia. WWF funding came from its Sub Regional CBNRM project. This forum is intended to bring together community level institutions in natural resources management. Operationalising the ZCBNRMF has been difficult. The majority of the board members are from rural community based organisations, mainly Community Resource Boards and it has not always been possible to fund meetings of the board. The board has had its meetings in Lusaka.

For now it seems both the NRCF and ZCBNRMF have been dogged with funding problems. The challenge of both institutions is put in place measures to ensure sustainability of operations but also to convince potential members of the added value they bring. It is also possible that the two institutions could be in competition with each other.

Mupeta & Makota (2004) established that the 75% of NGO's and CBO's are involved in networking or collaborative activities in a survey of NGO and CBO activities. Ninety nine percent of respondents indicated that collaborated with partners to some extent. Some of the problems and difficulties experienced when working other organisations include - competition or overlapping mandates (in geographical areas), differences in development approaches (no vision or strategy); Capacity constraints and the absence of supporting staff at community level; non-implementation of planned activities; donor influences; lack of cooperation and inadequate communication.

The NRCF and ZCBNRMF thus offer the opportunity for bringing different stakeholders and subsectors together to address these problems. The advantages of networking include -the removal of competition and overlapping activities (in geographical areas); resolution of differences in development approaches; recognition of and making use of NGOs/CBO's comparative advantages; Better capacity building for local NGO's/CBOs; development of collaborative frameworks; and better coordination programmes, projects and fundraising.

### **3.5 Collaboration between academics and civil society.**

Individual professionals regularly collaborate with civil society. Collaboration has been mainly in the form of participation in special studies and consultancies. In view of the poverty levels in the country volunteerism is not developed. However, there is scope for collaboration between academia and civil society. In order for civil society to participate effectively in these environmental management processes they need to have access to information on which policy positions are being developed. Academics could be very useful in this process.

There is also scope for collaboration at organisational level, between academic institutions and civil society organisations. Although civil society is strong in particular areas, it is weak in others. These weaknesses may preclude effective advocacy work. The University of Zambia - School of Mines for example has been active in providing training on air pollution and monitoring systems for the industries, the public, NGOs and various bodies involved in environmental programmes. Other higher learning institutions have also introduced courses in environmental pollution control. These are areas of collaboration that could be explored further for the benefit of environmental advocacy.

#### **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

The analysis in this assessment confirms a developing environmental movement in Zambia. The assessment also highlights challenges that the environmental movement is faced with, which includes degrading resources, weak enforcement of legislation, inadequate finance, weak and divided institutions, inadequate capacity, inadequate resource management, insufficient awareness and education, and inadequate private sector participation.

From the synopsis presented of civil society organisations, it is evident that this sector is instrumental and probably indispensable for advocacy in a developing environmental movement. The issue of capacity of civil society therefore is critical to its ability to articulate relevant issues. The organisations that have been reviewed are characterised by approaches. The more national level organisations such as WESCZ, ZOS, CEEZ, ECAZ, ZAW and PELUM, ZWP and ZGLM have made impact on law and policy on issues of public concern at the national level as watchdogs, analysts networkers and mobilisers. Most national NGO's are often attacked for lacking legitimacy or constituency which makes them vulnerable to changing political (power) contexts. This calls for establishing links with those parts of civil society that are close to the people including those organisations that have a capacity to mobilise such as KZF, WfC, and ZNFU. This presents a case for strengthening networking and information through the NRCF or ZCBNRMF.

This assessment also concludes that although civil society in general is growing and taking on new challenges, civil society in the "traditional" environment remains small. Government departments and other public institutions, international institutions continue to drive change in environmental issues. Some international non-governmental organisations have been instrumental in moving policy frameworks and legislation ahead. The voice of so called "traditional" non-governmental organisations in the environment is still too small to significantly influence policy and public opinion. However the voice grows larger when coupled with the voice of developmental non-governmental organisations concerned with sustainable development issues with a lot more experience in advocacy work.

There is no all encompassing local level institution that can be used as a one stop entry point for local level initiatives, several are in existence and include- ADC, CRB, JFM farmer group and other such institutions. Civil society has worked with these institutions or formed new ones. Consideration of one local level institution over

another essentially has depended on the nature of initiatives proposed. While local level institutions provided for in the sector legislation are important stakeholders in local level environmental management and may provide some opportunity for lobby and advocacy work, they are not necessarily independent, strong enough and do not have the strength of voice to lobby the system that they are an inherent part of. Lobby and advocacy work will require input from organisations that are independent -which presents a case for civil society participation and better collaboration between NGOs working at grassroot level and national NGOs.

The local level individual actor is a citizen, a farmer and also a user of natural resources. These roles are integrated. WWF community work in the Bangweulu, KZF work in the Kaoma and other community initiatives elsewhere have proved that actor at the local level do not separate their lives into citizen today, a farmer tomorrow and natural resource user the next day. They have a more integrated approach than introduced environmental management approaches that separate their lives for "easier management" of projects interventions. Local level actors perhaps appreciate the integratedness of their lives better than outside agencies do. It is not uncommon to find more the same individuals sitting on community committees facilitated by different entities. For example the same individuals will sit on the CRB, Fisheries Committee of the Joint Forest Management Committee and also belong to a farmer group. Advocacy thus needs to recognize this dynamism in local level actors and the challenges presented to local level environmental management. The focus should thus not be on which institutions to work with, but on social transformation desired in a particular community. Whether CRB, JFM or ADC is the focus it will be important to provide link communities with NGO's that are strong service providers and that can provide the type of support local level institutions will need. It will be important for local level NGO service providers to forge links with national level NGO's that have proven ability in advocacy.

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