

PRO-NATURE ENTERPRISES FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Lower Zambezi Fisheries Co-management Project, Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools TFCA, Zambia | Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ)

OVERVIEW

The Lower Zambezi fishery is key to the livelihoods and food security of communities that live along the river, and a cornerstone of the tourism industry that provides over 1 000 jobs for local Zambians as safari and fishing guides, support staff and managers. In 2018, Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) embarked on a fisheries management project as part of an EU funded project in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation. The project supported the Department of Fisheries in the area through the development of a Fisheries Management Plan and strengthened the engagement of fishing communities in the co-management of the resource through the formation of Village Fishing committees, with supporting by-laws passed through district councils.

The Pro-Nature Enterprises for the People of Southern Africa project further develops and implements this fisheries co-management model to ensure sustainable use of the resource by different actors in the Lower Zambezi – Mana Pools Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA). This will be achieved through the implementation of the co-management plan under the framework of conservation agreements between communities, Department of Fisheries, CLZ and tour operators. The project will also support access to legal fishing gears, strengthen community structures such as VFMCs, enabling them to fulfil their community-based resource management mandate. develop a community fisheries scout unit and conduct ecological monitoring of fisheries resources to support evidence-based management of the fishery. The project will also enable cross-border cooperation between government institutions and communities in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The lead implementing partner, CLZ is a Zambian registered, non-profit organization committed to the protection of wildlife and sustainable use of natural resources in the Lower Zambezi. CLZ was founded in 1994 by local safari operators and other stakeholders to provide organized support to the national wildlife protection authority (now the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, DNPW).

PROJECT IMPLEMENTER

Conservation Lower Zambezi

SIZE OF AREA

250 km of the Zambezi River

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

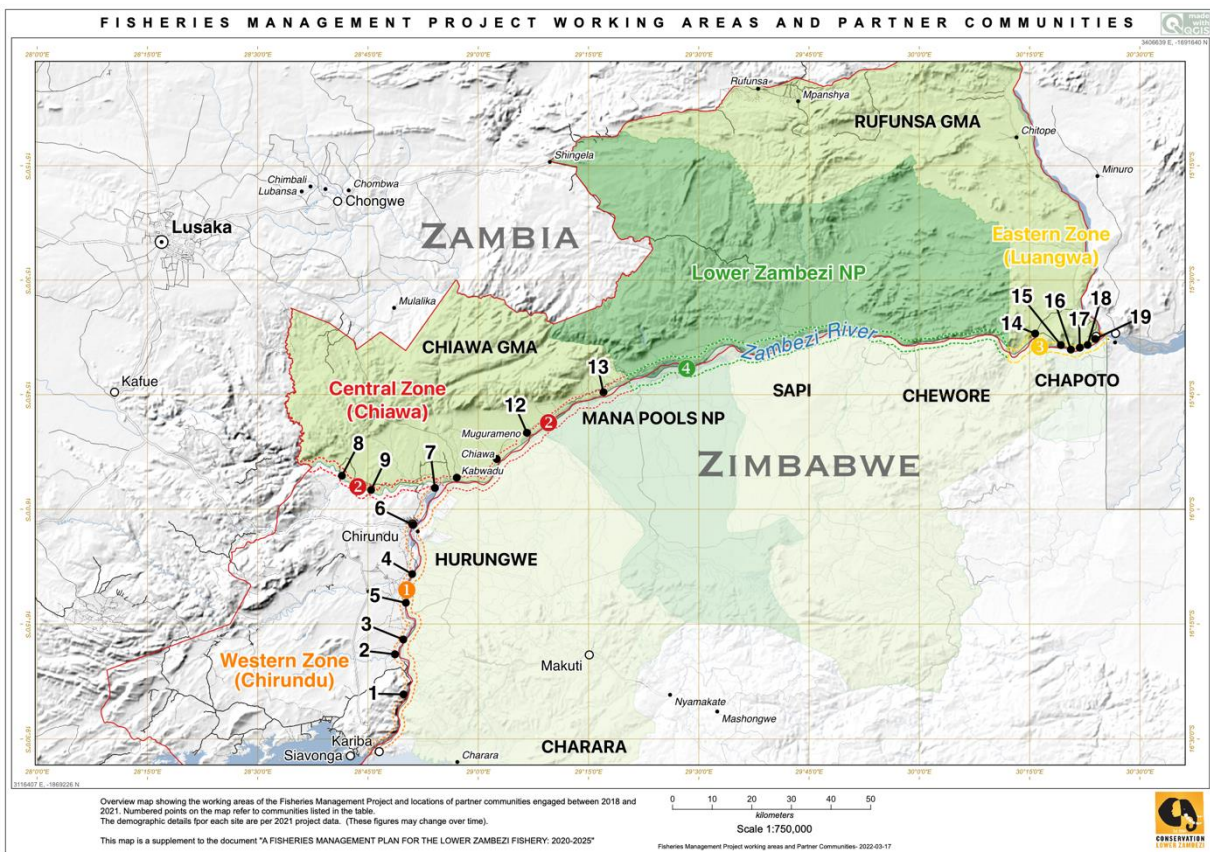
20 000 people in fishing communities

THREATS

- Unsustainable and unregulated Fishing practices
- Competing interest by fisheries resource users
- Increasing riverfront development
- Biodiversity loss and food insecurity due to climate change

OTHER PARTNERS

- Department of Fisheries
- Department of National Parks and Wildlife
- Community Resource Boards
- Village Fishing Management Committees
- Tourism Operators
- ZimParks



INDICATORS TO BE TRACKED

- Numbers of fishers adopting legal fishing gears or methods.
- Fisheries population health (fish frame survey)
- Level of compliance to the fisheries co-management plan
- Number of people benefitting from nature friendly enterprises, including sustainable fishing, tourism, and agriculture (disaggregated by gender)
- Number of employment opportunities created in tourism and conservation related services



CONTACT

DR SVEN VRDOLJAK | sven@conservationlowerzambezi.org

www.conservationlowerzambezi.org | www.facebook.com/clzafrica | www.facebook.com/lowerzamfish

This document benefits from the support of the French Development Agency. However, the ideas and opinions presented do not represent necessarily those of AFD.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANCOIS D'ELBEE, SVEN VRDOLJAK AND CARL HUCHZERMEYER