

## Process Framework for Involuntary Restriction on Access to Resources

1. **Date:** 2 August 2016
2. **Grant No.** 66315
3. **Grantee:** Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia
4. **Title:** Conservation and Forest Management in the Mafinga Hills priority KBA, Zambia
5. **Location:** KBA 144  
Northern Lake Niassa Mountain Complex / Mafinga Hills  
Mafinga District, Muchinga Province, Zambia
6. **Amount:** US \$130,000
7. **Period:** September 2016 – August 2018

### 8. Project Background

The Mafinga Hills are located astride the north-eastern part of Zambia bordering Malawi. The Mafingas are found in Mafinga District of Muchinga Province, and is 1,335 Kilometers by road from Zambia's capital city – Lusaka. The Hills are part of the Northern Lake Nyassa Catchment; and boast of not only being a botanically rich area, but also the source of the mighty Luangwa River. The central coordinates of the 23,000 hectares mountain range is 33 degrees 17.58' East 10 degrees 0.00' South.

There are 18 villages in the proximity of the Mafinga Hills namely, Malungule, Nachisitu (lulindo), Sichitambule, Mulekatembo, Choma, Insemi, Kalao, Chinyonga, Kabwali, Mailodele, Chanzi, Iteneka, Juweta, Ilenje, Balwe, Malembo, Nanyi and Damasca villages. These villages are found in Mafinga, Mukutu and Ntonga District Electoral Wards; whose total population is estimated at 24,979 as indicated in the Report on Mapping Sub-national Poverty in Zambia (Central Statistics, 2015).

Mafinga is a rural District lacking basic infrastructure and social amenities that include tarred roads, lodging facilities, piped water and electricity. The community members including villagers in the KBA are predominantly subsistence farmers utilizing traditional land that lies in the custody of the Chief, on behalf of the President of Zambia. Being a farming community, the community members are organized into farming blocks and associated cooperatives. According to the Central Statistics Office, 90% of Mafinga District's inhabitants, including those in the KBA are poor and fail to meet the basic nutrition requirements for their wellbeing. This translates to 22,481 of the 24,979 people living in the KBA.

In 2015, WECSZ conducted CEPF-funded on-site research to identify key threats of the Mafinga Afromontane Ecosystem and possible locally driven interventions to address the identified threats.

As part of the 2015 work, WECSZ met with local communities and their leaders, including Chief Mwenichifungwe and Chief Mweniwisi. During those meetings, communities agreed:

- The hill slopes of the Mafinga Hills in Nachisitu (Lulindo) area are highly deforested, as evidenced by a number of regenerating chitemene (slash-and-burn) fields observed during the field visits; including riparian buffer zones. While conservation is more urgent here than areas such as Malungule Village, conservation agencies face logistical challenges that include inaccessibility due to very poor roads and a lack of lodging facilities.
- A lack of conservation activities by both Civil Society Organizations and government agencies. Government agencies, particularly, the District Forest Department lacks capacity especially in

terms of transport and personnel (the District Forestry Office has only one person) to conserve the area.

- The Mafinga Hills is an ecological heritage site protected by the laws of Zambia. However, the National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) – the Government agency mandated to conserve such areas -- is absent.

The result of the meetings and first grant was a Conservation Action Plan that identified next steps which are now incorporated in the current/subject project. These include:

1. Making existing national policies and laws operational at a local level.
2. Livelihood promotion through beekeeping and honey production.
3. Reforestation of the riparian corridor.

Items 2 and 3 are discussed below. Item 1 is what triggers the Process Framework.

The legal framework developed to provide a protection mechanism for critical ecosystems that include the Mafinga Hills, wildlife and the forestry resource are not adequately communicated at community level and thus creating a gap in domestication or implementation of these policies and laws. Key among these policies and laws is the “Forest Act 2015.” While the Act forbids local communities surrounding the Mafinga National Forestry Reserve from conducting any activities in the reserve, the field visit revealed that the Forest Reserve has been encroached by illegal shift and burn subsistence farming (Chitemene). The Forestry Department is responsible for communicating the demands of the Forest Act to the local communities, but lacks capacity in terms of personnel, a lack of transport logistics and financial resources to conduct community sensitization and to patrol the area.

Government targets by 2022, to take deliberate actions to protect the critical ecosystem of the Luangwa watershed (Mafinga Hills) under the Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2). Key activities to achieving this target include the following:

- Assessing on-going activities in the Luangwa watershed and identifying activities that are detrimental to biodiversity conservation,
- Implementing deliberate actions to stop activities negatively impacting on biodiversity conservation in the headwaters through legislation, and
- Disseminating the legislation among the public and other key stakeholders.

The Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MLNREP) is responsible for implementing the above mentioned activities. Local communities in Mafinga District are however unaware of existing national policies and laws that have been developed by MLNREP. For instance, only until WECSZ implemented the 2015 CEPF funded research did Mafinga District local government receive information on the NBSAP 2 via brochures developed by MLNREP.

WECSZ intends to solve the above stated problem by sensitizing the local communities and the local leadership on the existing national policies and laws. Additionally, WECSZ intends to engage the local leadership and local communities to commit to conserving the KBA by upholding the existing laws and policies.

## **9. Participatory Implementation of Project**

WECSZ will ensure participatory implementation in several ways.

In month 1, Peter Chisanga, the Project Manager, will have separate meeting(s) with Officer(s) from the MLNREP, Forestry Department, Agriculture Department and NHCC offices in Lusaka; to discuss relevant policies/laws that apply to the KBA. The results of the meetings will be simplified and summarized policy/law (Forestry Act, NBSAP2, National Agricultural policy and the Natural Heritage Conservation Commission Act and the Environmental Management Act of 2011) presentation(s) developed by Peter Chisanga and the relevant government officers for the sensitization workshop.

In month 1, Elias Kunda, the Mafinga District Agriculture Officer will assist WECSZ mobilise the traditional leadership in the KBA for the sensitization workshop. He will do this by first informing Chiefs Mweniwisi and Mwenichifungwe. He will then call Agriculture Camp Officers in relevant camps to inform Headmen and other leaders from Malungule, Nachisitu (Lulindo), Sichitambule and Mulekatembo areas/villages. Peter Chisanga, the Project Manager, will initiate this process.

In month 2, Gift Mwandila, the Project Officer, will prior to the workshop travel to Isoka District from Lusaka District to organize lodging and workshop/meeting logistics. With support from Peter Chisanga, the Project Manager and Elias Kunda, the Mafinga District Agriculture Officer; Gift Mwandila, the Project Officer, will organize the sensitization workshops for all affected communities. The results of the workshop will include an agreement signed by WECSZ and the 19 Mafinga District local leaders to conserving biodiversity in the KBA.

In months 7 and 8, Gift Mwandila, the Project Officer will organize local school groups and respective headmen to conduct community sensitization events in, Nachisitu (lulindo), Malungule, Mulekatembo and Sichitambule areas/villages through drama and role play. The events will be supported by Elias Kunda (Mafinga District Agriculture Officer), Kennedy Banda (Mafinga District Forestry Officer) and Lizzy Banda (Mafinga District Council Environmental Planning Officer) who will explain relevant policies in their respective fields that support conservation of the KBA.

All of the proposed work has already been shared with and received written endorsement from the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources, and Environmental Protection; the Ministry of Agriculture; the National Heritage Conservation Commission; and the Mafinga District Council. These groups will continue to be involved and will be part of the community engagement process throughout.

## **10. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons**

Potentially affected people are defined as residents of 18 villages in the proximity of the Mafinga Hills; namely: Malungule, Nachisitu (lulindo), Sichitambule, Mulekatembo, Choma, Insemi, Kalao, Chinyonga, Kabwali, Mailodele, Chanzi, Iteneka, Juweta, Ilenje, Balwe, Malembo, Nanyi and Damasca villages. These villages are found in Mafinga, Mukutu and Ntonga District Electoral Wards; whose total population is estimated at 24,979 as indicated in the Report on Mapping Sub-national Poverty in Zambia (Central Statistics, 2015). In other words, these are people who are conceivably already engaged in slash-and-burn agriculture or may engage in slash-and-burn agriculture inside declared zones of protection.

## **11. Measures to assist the affected persons**

As noted above, Component 2 is promotion of beekeeping, honey production, and honey marketing. WECSZ will establish apiaries in three villages: Malungule, Nachisitu (Iulindo), and Sichitambule. Local chiefs and WECSZ will then identify a total of 45 farmers – fifteen each village – to be trained in beekeeping. These people will be poor and/or at risk of needing to do slash-and-burn inside protected areas. WECSZ will negotiate agreements with outside buyers to purchase up to 900 kilograms of honey by 2018.

Also as noted above, Component 3 involves erecting a nursery, collection of local seeds, growing of seedlings, and planting of saplings. WECSZ will negotiate with local corporations to contribute to the cost of this effort, which is, in effect, payment to people for this. Local chiefs and WECSZ will identify the people to do this work. These people will be poor and/or at risk of needing to do slash-and-burn inside protected areas.

## **12. Conflict resolution and complaint (grievance) mechanism**

Community members may always voice concerns to their headmen, chiefs, and government agency representatives. In addition, WECSZ will publicly post instructions in English (the national language of Zambia) and appropriate local languages directing people to voice complaints to any of the following, in any order with which they are comfortable.

- Peter Chisanga; Telephone: +260 211 251630; Mobile: +260 0977 110 863, [wecsz@coppernet.zm](mailto:wecsz@coppernet.zm), [weczzam@gmail.com](mailto:weczzam@gmail.com)
- Patrick Shawa; Telephone: +260 211 251630; Mobile: +260 0977 780 770, [wecsz@coppernet.zm](mailto:wecsz@coppernet.zm), [weczzam@gmail.com](mailto:weczzam@gmail.com)
- Maaïke Manten, CEPF RIT Team Leader. BirdLife International. [maaïke.manten@birdlife.org](mailto:maaïke.manten@birdlife.org). 254-20-2473259 / 8068314
- Via the formal CEPF grievance mechanism at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)

Should WECSZ receive any complaint or grievance, we will immediately consult with the RIT team leader and appropriate government authority, at a minimum. Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.

We will post information about the project at WECSZ offices in Lusaka, on flyers posted in district government offices throughout the affected districts, and on signboards adjacent to the protected sites. We will also share this information at all public meetings.

## **13. Implementation Arrangements of the Process Framework**

Peter Chisanga and Patrick Shawa will be responsible for all elements in the implementation of this process framework. Together and variously, they will engage local communities, their leaders, and government representatives to ensure their understanding of the project and the goals of better implementing already existing laws. These two people will ensure communities understand the laws (i.e., sensitization meetings) and their rights. These two people will be responsible for preparing and posting public documents describing the laws. These two will also be responsible for providing alternative livelihood training to members of the community, including to specifically affected people.

#### **14. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Per project design, WECSZ will be based both in Lusaka and on site. Monitoring and evaluation of this process framework will be a natural part of monitoring and evaluation of the overall project. We will provide semi-annual reports on the implementation of this framework that provide:

- Location, date, and participation of all public consultations.
- Description of any disputes/complaints and their resolution.
- Copies of public announcements explaining laws.