



*Activity monthly report for July 2013*



***Compiled by:***

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## 1.0 Introduction

This report covers activities for July 2013 which were conducted in four community conservation cooperatives and two Miombo wildernesses conservation areas that have been identified for their high biodiversity value. These are 15 000 hectares Muchinga Nature Conservancy (only officially paid for 5 000 hectares of forest lands at the moment, still seeking funds to secure the remainder) and Fisonge Forest and Watershed project is taking a model of Participatory Forest Management approach to be spearheaded by the community members themselves. Already, with FWHC facilitation, the local community has voluntarily donated their land to be put under a community trust for conservation and protection of the natural resources; attached is a concept paper for the same area

In 2011/12 agriculture season, the FWHC facilitated all the four groups with production and management skills in food production and other non-forest products like bee keeping and mushroom collection and processing. And using part of the money they have raised in the community, they managed to buy their own maize, beans and groundnuts seeds and planted last season agriculture season.

During the period under review the project conducted 8 field monitoring and evaluation trips to Salamo, Tubondo, Kaluba Kaole Conservation, Muchinga Nature Conservancy and Fisonge Forest and Watershed Project.

The organization also participated in the monthly local NGO forum meetings, comprising of Mpika Business Association, (MBA) Mpika Dairy Farmers Association, (MDFA) ,Mpika Community Radio Station, District AIDS Task (DATF) Force, Mpika District Welfare Assistance Committee (DWAC), District Farmers Association (DFA) and Bangweulu Basin Conservation forum with support from WWF Miombo region ecosystem. FWHC (Mr. Simwinga) an active member of several government district development committees is currently chairman for District Welfare Assistance Committee for the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child, Mpika Community Radio Station (commonly known as Mpika FM Radio) and the District AIDS Task Force a coordinating committee for all Institution in Mpika working in HIV and AIDS related programs.

**The FWHC main mission** is to change adverse living conditions in rural areas of Zambia through sustainable utilization of natural resources, improved access to Education facilities, Rural Health Services and enhanced community capacity to initiate and implement community based initiatives.

The strategic objectives include:-

- To attain a sustainable increase in household food and seed production
- To increase household income earnings
- To increase the capacity of FWHC and its local community groups (CBOs) to manage natural resources.

## 2.0 Project activities conducted during July 2013

### 2.1 Partnership Meetings

During the period under review, FWHC collaborated with the following institution both within and outside Mpika

1. Goarta in Partnership with Zambian NGO of Chipata eastern province of Zambia under a Watershed program
2. Africare STEPS –OVC – Clouse out Stakeholders meeting
3. WWF Miombo Region Eco-system Zambia
4. Local meetings in Mpika

### Goarta in Partnership with Community Development Programme

The period under review, FWHC was invited to attend GOARTA'S Watershed Management workshop, in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Community Development Programme (CODEP) a local NGO in Chipata Zambia from 24th to 28th June 2013. The main Theme for the workshop was **New Generation Watershed Management**. The organizers and workshop sponsor were FAO and GORTA of Ireland, Goarta is an Irish NGO, whose main mission is to make hunger history. Goarta implements innovative and effective strategic partnerships with some of the poorest communities in Africa focusing on:

- Food and water security that sustains life
- Health care that saves lives
- Education that empowers
- Livelihoods that create prosperity in a manner that thrives to achieve social environmental and economic justice

Country	Representatives		Topic
	Govern-ment	NGO	
Zambia	8	9	Integrated watershed management and food security
The Gambia	1	2	Water Harvesting and human resource development in watershed management
Kenya	-	2	Promotion of Eco-friendly farming systems Integrated land use systems
Malawi		2	Promoting women's and children right's for gender equality
Nigeria		2	Appropriate Soil improvement technologies
Rwanda		2	Vegetable production with limited space (urban agriculture)
Tanzania	2	2	Drilling boreholes, permaculture and herbal medicine
Uganda	1	2	Applied and Adaptive agriculture research and development Increasing Mainstreaming Rights to Food in sub national plans
Senegal		2	Groundwater recharging, storage design of salt exclusion
<b>Resource Technical Persons</b>			<b>Technical Presentations</b>
FAO Rome		4	Key elements – integrated Watershed management
FAO Zambia		1	-
FAO Pakistan		1	Watershed management and mountains

Goarta Consultants			
Consultants		4	
Concern Worldwide		2	Permaculture, water management, integrated systems Conservation agriculture, emergency response and social safety nets
Excellent Development		1	Sand Dams technology in dry lands
Save the Children		1	The right and development of children and mother, boys and girls and men and women
Concern Malawi		2	-
Goarta Staff		6	Drip irrigation in Africa
<b>Total Partic.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	

### List of participants at Goarta watershed management workshop in Chipata, Zambia

Table 1.

#### Africare STEPS –OVC – Clouse out Stakeholders meeting

FWHC signed a partnership agreement with Africare Zambia to implement a health program. This program was a capacity building program for 8 months. A total of K28,000 was approved for active funding to FWHC. The first disbursement amounting to K17,777.77 catered for two trainings were 22 Youths were trained as peer educators in Drug and Alcohol abuse prevention and 16 female and 1 male trained in orphan management and care. The second disbursement was supposed to support the households keeping orphans. Unfortunately the last disbursement was not done and the capacity building for resource mobilization was never implemented. However, after the training for the community care givers, 62 orphans were identified as highly vulnerable and at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases due to highly poverty levels. About 74% of the orphans are child headed households with siblings struggling to go to school and medical care.

This Africare STEPS – Orphans and Vulnerable Children came to a close in June 2013. FWHC now continues to look for partners who can provide one last support to conduct training in community resource mobilization to empower the care givers and households keeping orphans.

Africare STEPS /OVC awarded 12 new window 10 computer to partners as part of institution capacity building. FWHC received one as well.

#### WWF- Miombo Eco-Region

WWF Miombo Region Ecosystem is a region project with its headquarters in Zimbabwe. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has been working in the Miombo eco-region for about 3 years in Mpika, addressing different conservation issues that include, forests, protection through Bee keeping in the Bangweulu wetlands area, networks and livelihoods. WWF- Miombo Eco Region Project and FWHC are still in the early stages of trying to see how a partnership for the support of the nature reserves can be implemented. Two planning meetings have so far been conducted and the outcome of this partnership will be clearly known in few months to come.



*Visit to Fisonge watershed by Fred Siangulume, WWF field officer in Mpika*

**Local meetings in Mpika:** FWHC is a member of the district coordinating committee. FWHC attended 5 district meetings which included business meetings like the government sponsored Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission

### 3.0 Implementation of July work plan







**Table 2.**

<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Done</b>	<b>Not done</b>	<b>comments</b>
Micro savings meeting with Fisonge cooperative	16 women and 10 men attended the meeting and contributed to the savings account		Need more capacity building training in resource and health creation
Watershed management planning meetings	Toured the proposed watershed and forest area and did a resource mapping to present to the chief during land application. 19 community members participated (11 female)		Awaiting approval from traditional authority (chief Chikwanda)
Conduct training in vegetable production	All the women participated in the training (“mostly hand on”)		Nursery preparation Land preparation Farm irrigation design and planning
Survey and demarcation of forest area for protection and conservation	Not done	✓	Need to higher technical staff to conduct survey and pick co-ordinates for the area
Planning meeting for bee keepers	Not done	✓	Logistics not available

### 3.1 Activities being undertaken in the target communities

#### 3.2 Addressing Environment problems

a) Fisonge River ecosystem highly degraded

 <p>Cultivating in the river banks causing excessive soil erosion</p>	 <p>Cutting of trees in the watershed area</p>	 <p>The Fisonge river bed, not flowing dry by July</p>
<p>b) Isunga stream about 2.5 km from Degraded Fisonge stream</p>		
 <p>Isunga river banks still intact it needs protection</p>	 <p>Miombo forest downstream of Isunga watershed area</p>	 <p>Isunga still flowing with water</p>

*Both Fisonge and Isunga river eco-systems are recharges of the area watershed which need protection.*

### 3.3 Livelihood activities at 6 project sites

The field trips conducted to the 4 conservation cooperatives was aimed at assessing the improvement levels in food , income and conservation contribution they are making in their own community .

The following is what was observed.

**Table 3.**

	Conservation Group	Chiefdom	Ongoing Activities	Yields	Remarks
1	Salamo	Mpumba	Beans, groundnuts, maize B/keeping, small livestock	Compiling records	Information yield to be available next August report
2	Tubondo	Mpumba	Maize production and beans	Compiling records	Information yield to be available next August report
3	Kaluba	Mukungule	Beans, groundnuts, maize B/keeping, small livestock	Compiling records	Information yield to be available next August report

4	Kaole	Chikwanda	Beans, conservation farming	Compiling records	Information yield to be available next August report
5	Muchinga Nature conservancy	Mukungule	Habitat conservation		10 000 hectares not yet secured.
6	Fisonge Community	Trans - boundary in three (3) chiefdoms (Mukungule, Chikwanda and Mpumba)	Forest and watershed protection Vegetable production		Negotiations still On going.

*The members for each conservation group is by payment of a membership total fee of K 20.(≈ US\$ 4.6) Membership not yet updated*

About 80% of the beneficiaries are food secure in terms of food grains (maize and beans), wherever, there is need to help the members in the area of income generation. Most members have only increased in income by earning only by 15% through the sale of cash crops like groundnuts and beans. The project plans to encourage the members to diversify and go into horticulture production, especially the off- season crops like leaf vegetables, roots and tubers like potatoes.

**Bean Production.**

The Kaluba, Kaole, Salamo and Tubondo conservation cooperatives have participated in local beans seed multiplication program in partnership with the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) at Kasama. Below are some of the seed varieties the farmers have been growing.



A total of 35 farmers (12 females) have been trained in seed technology and production and are supplying beans seed to over 1,500 households with planting seed.





Members preparing and cleaning beans for storage.

Different Bean Varieties at the Collection Center



The farmers have recommended the following varieties to grow for sale in the coming seas

### 3.4 Food and Income Activities in Fisonge West community

Activity	Total number of beneficiaries	Gender		General Crop performance	comments
		Male	Female		
Irish potato	18	5	13		Germination was at 40% due to adverse weather conditions (frost and less ground moisture)
Tomato production	32	16	16		Tomato and Cabbage doing well on the nursery
Cabbage production	32	16	16		Transplanting into main field will be in August.



### **3.4.1. Irish potatoes.**

The crop has germinated and 2 farmers have a good crop which has reached flowering. They have done the first earthing up.

The rest planted late and their crops have experienced heavy frost leading to some plants dying.

### **3.4.2 Tomato and Cabbage**

Are ready for transplanting and farmers have started preparing sowing beds.

### **3.4.3 Micro Savings – Village Banking**

Community saving bank members are now meeting regularly (once per month)

## **4.0 Conservation Education and Natural Resource Management**

### **4.1 Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in Fisonge Community**

FWHC, Kaluba and Fisonge conservation cooperatives have continued engaging other community members in the neighborhood to get involved in natural resource management and protection of Muchinga Nature Conservancy and the Fisonge Watershed programs.

#### **4.2.0 Muchinga Nature Reserve**

FWHC conducted two monitoring routine trips to the reserve. The Kaluba Conservation Cooperative also conducted 4 patrols during the period under review and reported incidences of tree being cut for timber. However, the project plans to increase community sensitization programs in the nearby villages.

#### **4.2.1 Threat to the area**

Incidences of poaching still being reported and some arrests have been done in Mpika Four elephants have been documented and reported killed by poachers this July of 2013.

## **5.0 Major challenges**

### **5.1 Environment and the people**

- 1. Expanding human populations** demanding more land. More households in the rural areas are now looking to agriculture as alternative livelihood activity
- 2. Soil degradation**  
This has increased pressure on the environment causing soil degradation due to poor methods of land cultivation. Unsustainable land use and management practices
- 3. Deforestation**  
More trees are being cut and opening up for subsistence agriculture practice. Most forests on the hill tops and river basins are now cleared, exacerbating soil erosion.

## 5.2 Improving Livelihood

1. The major challenge in the area is the high levels of illiteracy among the people. There are no schools nearby for children to start school early. About 99% of women above 22 years can neither read nor write.
2. Very little government development extension system ever reaches this area due to poor road infrastructure.
3. Depend mostly on traditional methods of agriculture and use inferior seed types.
4. Sickness from poor sanitation and contaminated water makes people not well most of the time and this has severely eroded active labor in the village.

## 5.3 Conservation Education

Only one community school was visited during the month. FWHC worked with children to identify an area where they will establish a tree nursery.

## 5.3 Natural Resource Protection and conservation

It's a concept needing a lot of support to continue sensitizing the community members on the importance of taking care of our natural resources.

## Summary of the general underlying cause of the above problems

1. High poverty levels
2. Low literacy levels
3. No environmental awareness meetings
4. No land use management plans in place
5. Weak leadership skills among traditional leaders

## 6.0 Network/partnership meeting during month of July

Type of meeting	Duration	Organizer	Where
Stakeholder meeting	1days	Zambia Governance Foundation	Mpika
Annual General Meeting	1 day	Mpika FM radio	Mpika
Muchinga Agro-processing	1 days	Mpika Business Association	Mpika
Monthly meeting	1 day	District AIDS Task Force	Mpika
Village meetings		FWHC/conservation clubs	Mpika
WWF – Partnership meetings	2 times	WWF/FWHC	Mpika
Stakeholders meeting	2 times	District Farmers Association	Mpika

## 7.0 Proposed work plan for August 2013

Activities	when	where	Purpose
Community meeting	8.08.13	Fisonge	Monitor livelihood projects
Fisonge Watershed leadership meeting (chief and advisers)	9. 08.13	Chief's palace	Formal agreement for Fisonge watershed
Conduct 2 monitoring trips to the Muchinga	12 to 13 th	MNC	Verification of

Nature Conservancy (MNC)and verify coordinates			boundary and pick coordinates for map drawing of the area
Attend at least 3 local networking meetings	?	?	networking
Village monitoring trips	14 to 16th	Kaluba, Kaole, Tubondo and Salamo	Activity monitoring
Fund raising trip to Lusaka	19th to 22nd	Lusaka	Partnership appointments (fund raising)
Attend UNWTO	24th to 29th	Livingstone	Exhibitor