



**ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
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Submitted To
Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation (USA)**



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1.0 Introduction

Foundation for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation has continued working in rural communities surrounding the national park of North Luangwa promoting small livelihood development activities. The main activities are provision of capacity building trainings to community leaders in Leadership skills and Community Development Initiatives and Rural Agricultural Development.

Mpika District is the largest district in Zambia. It is divided in three ecological zones. The Dry Luangwa valley in the eastern side and the Valley of the Bangweulu swamps in the west. The central part of Mpika is on a higher plateau with mountain ranges forming part of the great Muchinga Escarpment. This is an important landscape because it functions as the main water catchment for all of the rivers running east and west. This is a function all landscape supporting small streams into Luangwa River, the only main water lifeline of wildlife in North and South Luangwa National Parks. FWHC works with women groups, rural school children and development clubs (now formally registered as Conservation and Marketing Cooperatives). The organization facilitated formation and legalization of these groups so that they would be able to sustain themselves in the future when support from FWHC will be no longer there. The vision is that one day the people will no longer depend on illegal hunting, timber cutting, and charcoal burning but have alternative sustainable livelihood activities for food and income generation

2.0 Project Overall Goal

The organization's Mission is helping people conserve and preserve the environment for economic livelihood benefits through sustainable income generation and revenue collection opportunities from natural resources.



The organization has four (4) main active programs;

2.1 Community Development:

- *To attain a sustainable increase in household food and seed production*
- *To increase household income earnings*
- *To facilitate the development of effective monitoring and evaluation system*
- *To increase the capacity of FWHC and its partner community based groups*

2.2 Conservation Education

- *Advocate and lobby for better and cleaner environment*
- *Promote conservation through tree planting*

2.3 Community Forest/Nature reserve support

- *Establish, protect and preserve important functional landscapes*

2.4 Rural Health

- *Promote good sanitation*
- *Health living (nutrition and safe motherhood)*

The organization's operation areas are pro-poor rural communities surrounding Game Management Areas of North and South Luangwa National Parks.

1.1 Community Development

The living conditions of the rural people are still very bad in Zambia. The percentage of those in extreme poverty is at present are still very bad in Zambia. The percentage of those in extreme poverty is at 42.3% (2006-2010 Living Conditions Monitoring Survey (LCMS). In 2010 rural poverty was estimated at 77.9% compared to urban at 27%. Caritas Zambia (State of the Nation Report 2009) indicated that 64% of Zambian population live below poverty line (80% said to be poor rural)



Mrs. Buyantashi (meaning Progress) lives with six grandchildren in Katonga village. Her main source of income and food is from a small river garden.

In order to address the above, FWHC is working with a network of community based groups, government ministries such as Department of Agriculture, Community Development and Social Welfare, in an effort to improve the standard of living for the rural people. The overall extreme poverty and lack of resources, the young rural poor men and women have instead shifted the efforts and attention on the exploitation of natural resources to sustain the livelihoods. The increasing rural population has also exerted more pressure on the limited natural resources available; such as timber, water sources and forests. The unsustainable forest product extraction and poor farming methods have had a negative impact the environment too. With the increasing poverty levels among the young adults, incidences of trespassing into the national parks have been reported and several arrests carried out. The FWHC, with financial support from SAAH and The Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, undertook the following initiatives to address the above challenges;

a) Small Livestock Trainings: The project conducted on farm trainings in small livestock rearing and management in the four Conservation and Marketing Cooperatives. A total of 10 male and 20 females were trained in basic small livestock housing, feeding and nutrition, disease control and marketing. 25 families received the initial grant of small livestock (30 pigs). When the se livestock start reproduction, the animals will be passed onto the other members in the group (only those trained). During the period under review FWHC worked with the ministry of community development in identifying 25 households and trained them in poultry and pig production. This was a capacity building training so that rural people can take up the initiative of

keeping small livestock especially local chickens (popularly called village chickens) as opposed to hybrid which are very expensive to feed and manage. On the last day the training 30 farmers we retaken to a nearby training center for practical and see how pigs and chickens are kept under good management. Pigs and chickens are kept under good management.

Below: Farmers visited Katibunga Catholic Mission farm to see and learn how to manage on farm small livestock



Rural pig housing using poles



Pigs under good management using hard flooring.

(b) Crop Production - Training and Seed Distribution:

The project supported crops that farmers are growing and helped with basic technical information on the same crops in order to achieve the best results. The following crops were identified and appropriate training materials were designed; Maize, Groundnuts, Beans, Irish potatoes sweet potatoes, Banana production and cassava. The crop production trainings were re-conducted in all the four cooperatives A total number of people trained in basic crop production and management were 130 (70 male and 60 female) out of the targeted 180.

Attendance of the entire period by farmers was 72%. Half of the number of those who did not attend sent in apologies for their absence due to circumstances beyond their control.

Farmer field visit during training



The farmers had also an opportunity to visit a banana field and learn how to manage it

During the same period, the FWHC purchased Irish potato seed for distribution (revolving seed loan) for the Conservation and Marketing Cooperatives in Kaluba Tulibonse and Salamo and Tubondo communities. A total of 2,500 kilograms of seed was purchased and 2000 kg distributed to the 50 (30 female) project beneficiaries. The 500 kg of seed was retained by the organization for seed multiplication.



Potato seed ready for distribution while farmers are busy preparing land for planting

(FWHC) has secured a piece of land where it will plant and manage an acre of Irish potato for seed multiplication program. This initiative will help sustain seed supply in the area and make it available and easy to access by resource poor farmers. Normally the potato seed is commercially grown and most times very expensive to buy. The expected average yield from the seed distributed will be about 12,000 to 15,000 kgs. This will give farmers an average income of about US\$ 300. (Average rural Zambian lives at less than \$2. Per day. This initiative will increase average income to about \$10. Per day)

Table 1: Supported Conservation and Marketing Cooperative

Name of Cooperative	Chiefdom	Membership			Development Activities going on	status	Future plan
		M	F	Total			
Tulibonse (Kaluba village)	Mukungule	20	15	35	Crop, horticulture and small livestock production Tree nurseries	Above average	Diversification, scale up bee keeping activities, promote cottage processing
Kashaita	Mukungule	28	19	47	Field Crop production and vegetable production and horticulture Tree nurseries	Below Average /need trainings and input support	Strengthen group leadership and business entrepreneurship skills required
Mpimbishi (Salamo village)	Mpumba	30	25	55	Crop and small livestock production, small scale bee keeping, small business enterprises Tree nurseries	Average and require market linkages	Scale up bee keeping and field crop production like maize.
Tubondo	Mpumba	18	25	43	Crop and small livestock production Tree nusaries	Average	Scale up beans and groundnuts production
Total		96	84	180			

2.2.2 Conservation Education:

FWHC is working with both urban and rural schools in the area of environment and natural resource conservation. Over 1,000 trees were distributed and planted at Chitulika primary school. And over 500 seedlings were given out to Mpika community members to go and plant at their private property. 800 fruit trees (avocado, lemons, pawpaw and guavas) were raised and children near the nursery site collected and went to plant in their backyard gardens. FWHC also supports the activities of Mpika Climate Change Ambassadors - a group of young pupils in secondary who advocate for safer environment for all.

Right: 11 Year Old Elijah is a regular visitor to the FWHC nursery.





Hammaraskjold Simwinga (center) in a group picture with the UNICEF Climate Change Ambassador training team in Mpika.

Mpika Climate Change Ambassadors at a workshop to map up strategies on how to combat the effects and impact of climate change in Zambia



2.3.3 Community Forest/Nature Reserve Support:

With support from TIKVA Grassroots Foundation, FWHC purchased a 5,000 hectares of land in order to protect and preserve the natural resources found in that particular area. The area is a key component of the Luangwa . Zambezi River hydrological system. And is part of the North Luangwa ecosystem that is pristine wilderness and supports some of the largest and most significant wildlife populations in Africa. This Community forest seeks support and protection in order to preserve its genetic biodiversity and maintain good flow of water into the North Luangwa National Park. It will also be protected from bush fires and deforestation due to human activities.

(a) *Some important trees that can support livelihood improvement*



(A) *A monkey orange tree*



(B) *Moringa tree*



(C) *Construction of b/hives*

- (A) A monkey orange tree produces fruits that people can make assorted crafts from the dry shells. This one single tree, each year can help communities raise more money than 100 mature tree cut down for charcoal production
- (B) Moringa tree is highly rich protein source. Seeds and leaves can be cooked as a vegetable at home.

2.4.4 Rural Health:

During the period under review the organization participated in all the World Health Celebration events such as Universals Child Immunization Week, Worlds Health Day, and World AIDS Day. In the last quarter FWHC participated in formulating HIV and AIDS work policies for NGOs in Mpika District.



Formulating HIV and AIDS work policies for NGOs in Mpika

3.0 Partnership and Networking:

During the period under review, FWHC was privileged to be selected among many equally deserving NGOs to attend two international environmental conservation forums and several local meetings with in Zambia.

1. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF Council Meeting . NGO Network) in November 2013 - Washington, DC
2. European Environmental Foundation . The 3rd International Convention of Environmental Laureates (EEF . 10-13 April 2014 in Freiburg, Germany)
3. The Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation November 2013, Atlanta, Georgia USA
4. Zambian Governance Workshop . Lusaka, Zambia, May 2014
5. UN . REDD Programme Workshop (Provincial & District Stakeholders Sensitization) May 2014
6. Open Heart Safari in Africa (USA Based) meeting in Mfuwe National Park, July 2014

Below: European Environmental Facility Laureates, Germany



Major achievements and Challenges during project implementation:

Community Development:

Objective 1	Activities	Achievements	challenges
To increase household incomes by 20% among project beneficiaries.	- Conducted 2 trainings in horticultural production	80% of beneficiaries able to apply knowledge and skills obtained from training	Crop marking and distance to main market.
	- Conducted trainings in business entrepreneurship	5 households have diversified sources of income and food	Limited business opportunities in the area.
	- Promoted bee hive construction among 20 b/keepers	15 bee keepers have constructed own hives using local materials	Local construction materials expensive to find
<i>To Improve food production by 35% among project beneficiaries</i>	- Conducted 8 trainings in crop production	Trained beneficiaries able to apply appropriate crop production technologies	80% of our project beneficiaries do not have access to irrigation, hence production is limited to rain fed crops only
	- Provided small livestock for rearing	30 breeding pigs distributed to beneficiaries	Pigs are heavy feeders and will highly compete with home consumption
	- Provided seed for potato production	2000 kilograms of seed distributed to project beneficiaries	Most soils will require manure to increase organic content in the soil.
<i>To Build local human development capacity through trainings</i>	- Conducted training resource management for cooperative.	4 trainings conducted and members holding meetings on their own.	Attendance still low during meetings
	- Leadership training/skills development	2 trainings conducted and work plans designed.	Still dependent on external support.

Conservation Education:

Objective 2			
- <i>Advocate and lobby for better and cleaner environment</i>	Facilitated training for 42 youth in climate change issues	Were able to come up with own work plans for implementation	Still require external support/materials and finances
- <i>Promote conservation through tree planting</i>	Seeds and seedlings sourced.	Seeds and seedlings and distributed seed for nurseries to varies community members	Post nursery management in some areas very difficult due to non-availability of water

4.3 Community Forest/Nature Reserve Support

Objective 3			
Promote community forest participatory conservation methodologies	Still working on maps and finalization of documentation	Land secured and protected	Slow process in documentation and legalization by authorities.

4.4 Rural Health

Objective 4			
- Health living (nutrition and safe motherhood)	Promoting of food legumes and vegetables (high protein and vitamins)	100% of women able to provide their children with protein rich food stuff and those high in vitamins and essential minerals	Very low challenges
- Promote good sanitation	Sensitization on going	Very low	Big challenge

Issues that need to be addressed:

5.1 Poor leadership skills at cooperative level:

Leadership at cooperative level needs to be improved, in some cases it hampers progress in development programs As a result a deliberate approach of training groups in leadership is to be included in the coming year.

5.2 Need to participate in Foundation seed multiplication of leguminous seeds:

The severe scarcity of foundation and basic seed creates a serious challenge on the project. Food security and poverty alleviation can be overcome once communities have access to seed early and at an affordable price.

5.4 Increase capacity of FWHC and Collaboration CBO's:

Design personal development plans for staff, in particular to upgrade specific management and technical skills. Invest in the capacity of the FWHC Board; facilitate exchange visits and joint training with other Board Members for cross pollination of ideas.

5.5 Stakeholder Meetings and Annual Project Reviews:

Involve all stakeholders and key players including donors, local government, staff and consultants for regular project visits.

Activity Based Work plan 2015 (Investments)

Activity	when	Where	By Who	Projected cost
FWHC capacity building				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and Review of the projects under FWHC 	November to December 2014	All 4 project sites	Project staff/stakeholders	Transport, food and stationary US\$ 1600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder/staff /board meeting 	January week 3. 2015	Office building	Executive Chairman	Food, transport refunds, accommodation US\$1200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor elections of new leaders at cooperative level 	February 2-15	All 4 project sites	Executive Chairman	US\$ 600
Community Development:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase vegetable seeds Purchase beans and 	March 2015 May 2015	Seed dealers Seed growers/Mpika	Project officer	Us\$200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> groundnut seed Promote small business enterprises 	April 2015	All 4 project sites	Project officer	US\$ 500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote field visits and farmers shows 	May – August 2015	Block show District Show Provincial show National show	Project officer	Travel, Transport, food Accommodation, exhibition fee US\$4,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build local human development capacity through trainings 	May /June 2015	All 4 project sites	Project officer	Us\$ 3,500

Conservation Education				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate and lobby for better and cleaner environment 	January to December 2014	All 4 project sites	Project officer	US\$ 4700
Purchase of agro forest seedlings and tree plant	May 2015	Department of forest	Project officer	US\$ 2,000
Community Forest/Nature reserve support				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote community forest participatory conservation methodologies. 	April to November 2015	Department of forest & FWHC	Project officer	US\$ 2,300
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of Hives 	May 2015			US\$ 1,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design management plan for the Nature conservancy (workshop) 	February 2015	FWHC/TIKVA (usa)	Project officer	US\$ 10,000
Rural Health				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health living (nutrition and safe motherhood) 	All year round	Ministry of Health\FWHC	Project officer	US\$ 3,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote good sanitation 	All year round	Ministry of Health\FWHC	Project officer	US\$ 1,300
Project Annual Budget Total				US\$ 36,800

The items below will require a supplementary budget

1. Human Resource (Salary):

FWHC works on principal of voluntarism; however, retention of qualified staff has been a challenge. Once funds are secured the organization will hire two permanent staff for at least 18 months to conduct specialized work within the organization. The Project Manager, Administration Officer and Office Assistant are needed.

2. Administrative Support:

Require support of office rentals, water, electricity, correspondence, mails and stationary.

3. Short Term Advisory Assistance: (hire subject matter specialists)

Over the years, FWHC has had opportunities of meeting people with specialized skills in different fields of our interest. We have wanted to transfer some of this knowledge and technologies to our communities but we have found it is a big challenge to invite

and host the specialist (travel, accommodation and technical fees, etc.). One of the technologies we would like to bring to Mpika rural communities is the construction and utilization of a fuel efficient cooking stove which was developed by an award winning Ethiopian that we met at the European Environmental Foundation Conference in Germany in April 2014.

4. Per Diem for travel (partnership meetings, workshops and fundraising trips).



Mpika Climate Change Ambassadors Pose for group photo with the District Commission (in yellow dress)



Meeting of Contractors Cooperative to discuss Environment & Construction in the Muchinga Province.



With financial support from the Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation in the USA and partners, an overhaul of the 1988 Nissan Patrol the FWHC Project Vehicle was worked on in order to continue the village outreach programs.



Hammerqis working on the expansion of the Beekeeping Project. The target for 2015 is to construct and support 100 households with at least five standard hives per family. From the available materials only 50 hives will be made. The remaining 450 hives will require external support. One standard hive costs US \$39.70. With transportation and delivery to the farmer in the remote village the total cost if US \$50.00.