



PROJECT PROFILE

Integrated Conservation Planning
for the Zambezi Region



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Applying the 4Returns Framework to supporting a connected, resilient, economically viable conservation landscape for people and nature in the Zambezi Region

Restoration and conservation require a holistic and inspirational approach, one that combines and connects different landscape zones, identified as the natural, combined, and economic zones, builds new partnerships across sectors, creates opportunities for learning and sharing, and has a meaningful impact on local communities.

This is the purpose of the Integrated Conservation Planning for the Zambezi project. Spearheaded by WWF Namibia with a host of important partners, the project takes the 4Returns approach to supporting a connected, resilient, economically viable conservation landscape for people and nature in the Zambezi Region.

Ecosystem degradation leads to 4 losses: purpose or hope, employment and security, biodiversity, including degradation of soil and water, and economic activity. The 4Returns approach strives to reverse this, by creating programmes that address:

Return to inspiration: giving people hope and a sense of purpose

Return of social capital: bringing back jobs, business activity, education, and security

Return of natural capital: restoring biodiversity, soil, water quality and capturing carbon

Return of financial capital: realising long-term sustainable profit

The Integrated Conservation Planning for the Zambezi Region project is supported by the COMON Foundation, Commonland, Wetlands International, and Landscape Finance Lab.

WHY ZAMBEZI

- The Zambezi Region of Namibia is the third smallest region in the country (14 785 km²). Of all the regions it is the one under the most pressure from potentially conflicting land use demands.
- The region receives the country's highest annual rainfall, and is virtually surrounded by perennial rivers, making it the logical target for agricultural development in an otherwise arid country. It is also rich in wildlife, riparian forests, woodlands, rivers and wetlands, and the associated rich biodiversity of these habitats.
- It is at the heart of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), an area of over 520 000 km² through a Treaty signed by five member states (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).
- The Zambezi State Forest, a woodland of significant importance to local livelihoods and as a wildlife corridor within KAZA, will soon be gazetted.
- The Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) has put in place an important new Zambezi Wildlife Corridors strategy.
- The incidence of multidimensional poverty (MDP) in the Zambezi Region is 60.7%, the fourth highest in the country.
- Accommodating the needs of the different developmental agendas for the region, in a way that maximizes the economic potential, whilst retaining the integrity and health of critical ecosystems, requires an integrated approach to implementation.

PROJECT PROFILE

Integrated Conservation Planning for the Zambezi Region

TIME:
20+ YEARS

Minimum of 20 years (one generation) is a realistic timeframe to successfully implement large-scale integrated landscape management activities with all stakeholders

PROCESS:
5 ELEMENTS

Landscape Partnership

Shared Understanding

Collaborative Vision & Planning

Taking Action

Monitoring & Learning

3 CATALYSTS →

SUPPORTING GOVERNANCE

FINANCE

ACCESS TO MARKETS

AREAS:
3 ZONES

Natural zone

Combined zone

Economic zone

IMPACT:
4 RETURNS


Return of inspiration


Social Returns


Natural Returns


Financial Returns

Source: The Little Sustainable Landscape Book, GCP, WWF, IDH, EcoAgriculture Partners, TNC (2015); 4 Returns, 3 Zones, 20 Years, IUCN CEM, RSM (2015)

The Integrated Conservation Planning for the Zambezi project focuses on the following objectives:

Return of inspiration

- Build upon an existing platform to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, inspiration, coordination, professional exchanges and synergies for integrated planning and service delivery within the Zambezi Region.
- Raise awareness and create enthusiasm on the intrinsic value of the environment and for conservation-focused sustainable development, with emphasis on the youth of the Zambezi Region, thus reversing the decline in support for conservation.

Return of natural capital

- Introduce mechanisms to restore degraded components of the Zambezi State Forest.
- Support for maintaining, protecting, and promoting wildlife corridors.

The 4Returns project and WWF Namibia are proud to partner with the Zambezi Regional Council, the Ministries of Environment Forestry and Tourism; Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform; Health and Social Services; Education, Arts and Culture; Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; Urban Planning and Rural Development, the University of Namibia, NaDEET, WWF in KAZA, IRDNC, NNF, KCP, DWN and NACSO, and with the Zambezi local communities and indigenous people in our common interest to build resilient landscapes, restore healthy ecosystems and create regenerative businesses for generations to come.

Return of social capital

- Undertake a multi-dimensional poverty survey that is driven by and for individual households.
- Develop and implement multi-sectoral concepts for semi-urban development hubs outside of key wildlife areas (e.g. in vicinity of Sibbinda and Linyanti).

Return of financial capital

- Explore and pilot agroecological value chains for local economic growth.
- Identify needs and opportunities for impact that will create returns and address the skepticism about the success of a wildlife-based economy.

4Returns impact

- 4Returns framework tested and delivered to accelerate landscape regeneration so that nature and people thrive.
- Impact generates a return to support for conservation amongst all stakeholders.



For more information, contact

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