

ZAMBIA- PROTECTED AREA OVERVIEW

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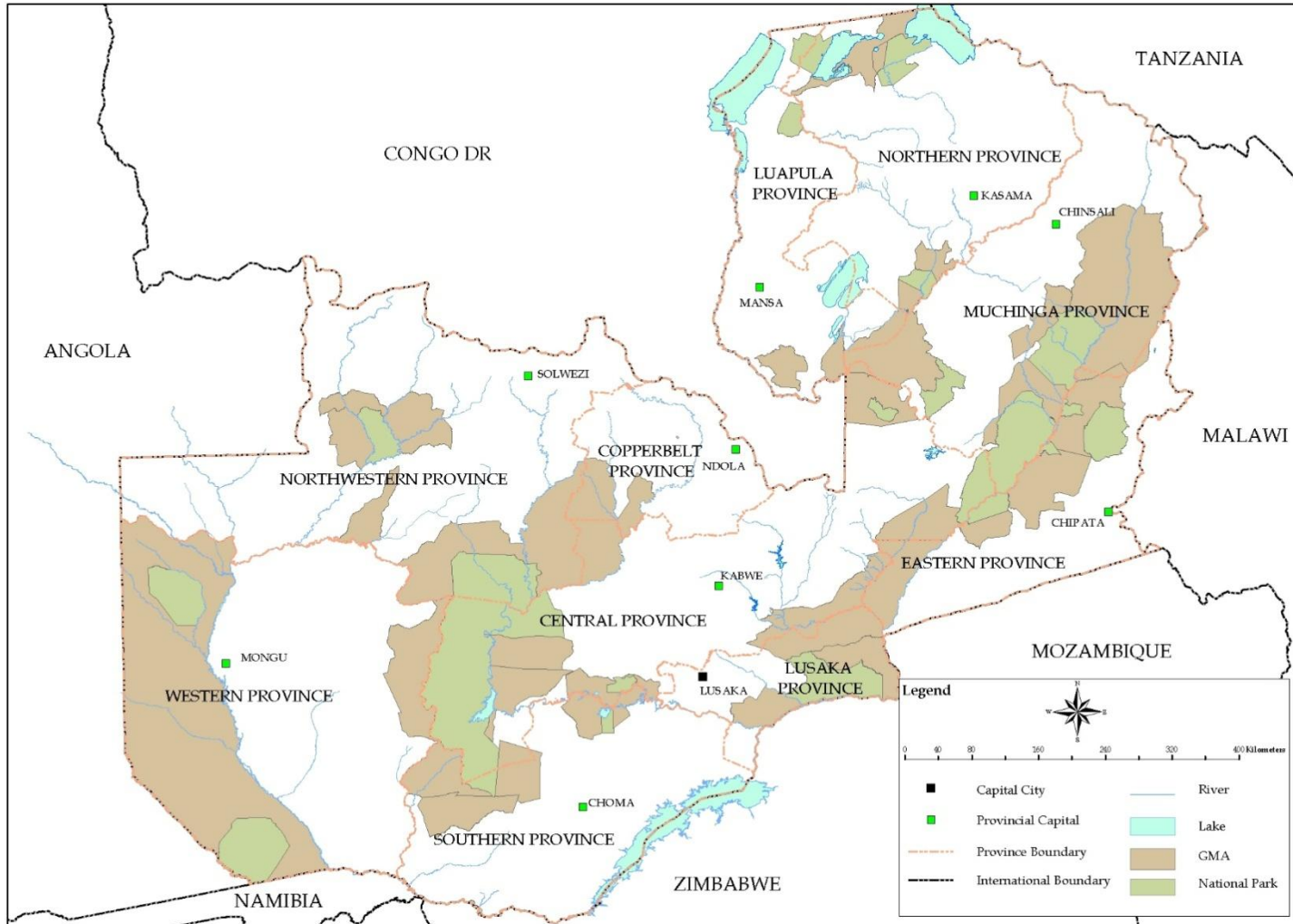


National Parks

- Zambia's first Protected Areas were created in the 1920's as game reserves under the Game Ordinance of 1925, prior to independence
- 30 % of Zambia's 752,614 square kilometres is reserved for wildlife
- This consists of 20 National Parks covering close to 8% of the total land area in Zambia mainly established to conserve faunal biodiversity, protecting the integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations
- South Luangwa, Kafue and Lower Zambezi rank among some of the finest game parks in the world



Map: National Parks and GMAs





GMA, Forests & Fisheries

- There are 36 GMAs that act as buffer zones to National Parks
- GMAs cover approx. 23% of the total land area and comprise mostly communally-owned land used primarily for the sustainable utilization of wildlife (Safari Hunting)
- The forest reserves cover a total land area of about 4.2 million ha and play vital roles in traditional medicine, woodfuel, food, building materials and play major roles in both carbon and hydrological cycles
- This consist of 485 forest reserves out of which 180 are National Forests while 305 are local forests





GMA, Forests & Fisheries

Fisheries Management Areas

- These are intended to promote the management and sustainable utilisation of fish resources.
- The major fisheries management areas in Zambia are found in Lake Bangweulu Wetlands (North and Luapula); Lukanga Swamps (Central Province); Lake Tanganyika (Northern Province); Mweru-wa-Ntipa (North); Mweru; Itetzhi-tehzi (Southern Province), Lusiwashi and Kariba as well as the Kafue, Zambezi and Luangwa Rivers.



Other Protected Areas

Private Wildlife Estate

- The Game ranches are managed by the Private Sector. These are areas set aside for the purpose of keeping and managing wildlife by individuals in the private sector and includes game ranches, crocodile and reptile farms, etc.

Wet Lands

- Approximately 45,000km² (6%) of Zambia's total surface area.
- Eight Wetlands of global significance have been listed under the Ramsar Convention, including the Kafue Flats (Lochnivar and Blue Lagoon National Parks) Lukanga (Central Prov), and Bangweulu Wetlands (Chikuni area).



Threats to effective management

- **Land Use Conflicts** (Human encroachment, logging agric & other land uses pose threaten ecosystems and habitats)
- **Climate Change** (potential of floods & droughts to overwhelm ecosystems)
- **Wildfires & extensive agro practices** affect species composition and distribution in habitats
- **IAS** (*Mimosa Pigra* in *Lochinvar* National Park, Southern Province)
- **Transboundary Air and Water Pollution** especially of aquatic ecosystems
- **Growing global markets** causing increased level of natural resources extraction vs management capacity limitations (e.g rampant extraction of *Pterocarpus chrysothrix* or Mukula in Zambia)

Some barriers to effective management



- **Insufficient Institutional Capacity leading to high Deforestation & Habitat Destruction** (250 000-300 000 ha/yr)
- **Limited choice of protected area categories** (At present, only national parks, when properly managed, provide good assurance of biodiversity conservation.
- **Inadequate ecosystem representativeness** - The current PA system serves as a barrier to effective biodiversity conservation because the current categories of PAs do not provide adequate, representative coverage of the full range of Zambian ecosystems.
- **Inadequate and sustainable financing** of protected areas for effective management



Government Response



- Undertook reclassification of Protected Areas System in the country with new categories recommended;
- Integrated Land use Assessments, I and II to generate credible data on forest estate and status, among others;
- Reviewing forestry and wildlife policies and legislation to make them more responsive and effective.
- Enhance stakeholder participation in conservation such as through Community Resource Boards under wildlife, Joint Forest management in forestry and private public partnerships
- Formulating a National Climate Change Policy



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION