

# GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Reporting from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**

## 1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1 Project Details

<b>GEF ID:</b> 10192	<b>Umoja WBS:</b> SB-017844
<b>SMA IPMR ID:</b> 85583	<b>Grant ID:</b> S1-32GFL-000714
<b>Project Short Title:</b> North Western Zambia	
<b>Project Title:</b> Ecosystem conservation and community livelihood enhancement in North Western Zambia	
<b>Duration months planned:</b>	60
<b>Duration months age:</b>	48
<b>Project Type:</b>	Full Sized Project (FSP)
<b>Parent Programme if child project:</b>	
<b>Project Scope:</b>	National
<b>Region:</b>	Africa
<b>Countries:</b>	Zambia
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Biodiversity, Land Degradation
<b>GEF financing amount:</b>	\$ 5,338,585.00
<b>Co-financing amount:</b>	\$ 20,380,000.00
<b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>	2021-06-01
<b>UNEP Project Approval Date:</b>	2021-08-19
<b>Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):</b>	2021-08-20
<b>Date of Inception Workshop, if available:</b>	2022-03-29
<b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>	2021-09-14
<b>Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:</b>	\$ 4,115,374.00
<b>Total expenditure as of 30 June:</b>	\$ 3,271,116.00

<b>Midterm undertaken?:</b>	Yes
<b>Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:</b>	2025-04-01
<b>Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:</b>	
<b>Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:</b>	2026-08-31
<b>Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:</b>	2027-08-31
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>	2027-03-29
<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	2027-08-31

## 1.2 Project Description

**Project Summary:** The Ecosystem Conservation and Community Livelihood Enhancement in Northwestern Zambia project is a five-year project aimed at addressing the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and the degradation of forest and agricultural lands. The Project is also addressing the barriers to sustainable management of forests and other natural resources and the barriers to the development of sustainable agriculture. This aligns with the priorities of the GEF-7 Impact Program (IP) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Drylands Landscapes.

**Project Objective:** To strengthen community-based sustainable management of forest landscapes, and provide improved livelihood opportunities for targeted forest-dependent rural communities in Zambia's North West Province.

**Implementation arrangement:** The Implementing Agency of the Ecosystem Conservation Project is UNEP, with The Nature Conservancy as the executing agency and Forestry Department under the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment as the main government partners. Other supporting partners include Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Trident Foundation Limited, West Lunga Conservation Project, WWF Zambia, and Kasempa Conservation Foundation.

**Project Location** The project operates in three specific sites, one in each of the three project districts in North-Western Zambia and each with distinct ecological features and community structures. The Ntambu CFMA (project site in Mwinilunga District) benefits from co-financing from WWF and the West Lunga Conservation Project and has high biodiversity. The Kelongwa Makaba, now Kelongwa Kamanama CFMA (Kasempa District) is part of the Greater Kafue Ecosystem. The Kamikolo CFMA (Kalumbila District) benefits from relatively undisturbed forests and co-financing from First Quantum Minerals for at least the life of the mine, projected for another 17 years, despite the threat from high migrant influx.

**Components** Component 1: Developing the enabling regulatory, planning and governance frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management: The Project supports forest communities with awareness raising on community forest management (CFM), has undertaken as assessment of forest biophysical conditions, economic

potential and the socio- economic importance of forest products and has supported the delineation of forests for community management based on the optimum geographic and economic scale. The Projects has further supported the development of forest management plans for equitable sharing of costs and benefits. All the 14 CFMGs have so far been legally recognized by government, of which 13 were supported by the Project to get legal recognition and 1 already had legal recognition at Project start. All 14 CFMGs have had their user rights devolved through an agreement with government.

Component 2: Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests: The Project assists communities to develop business plans and investment plans, and has commenced providing catalytic funding for productive investments and for the interim hiring of professional staff for CFMGs. The Project is further helping develop self- financing forest/natural resource management capacity by providing training for strengthening capacities for good governance, natural resource management and enterprise development and is brokering commercial relationships between communities and private actors in forest-based markets, including forest carbon, honey and other non-timber forest products. Under this Component, the Project is further supporting the CFMGs with strengthened capacities for improved resource protection and conservation through development of forest management plans, land use plans and community implementation of the management plans including support to active community level resource protection and monitoring.

Component 3: Improved productivity, gender equality and climate resilience from sustainable agricultural practices: The Project has supported a network of agricultural extension officers, 'lead farmers' and other actors in the agricultural supply chain with training to deliver extension and other market services in support of sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to community-managed forests. The aim of this component is to facilitate support to farmers to sustainably intensify production and improve productivity on existing agricultural lands, mitigating the need for agriculture to expand its horizontal footprint into forests and other wildlands.

### 1.3 Project Contacts

<b>Division(s) Implementing the project</b>	Ecosystems Division
<b>Name of co-implementing Agency</b>	
<b>Executing Agency (ies)</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>names of Other Project Partners</b>	
<b>UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)</b>	Johan Robinson
<b>UNEP Task Manager(s)</b>	Daniel Pouakouyou
<b>UNEP Budget/Finance Officer</b>	George Saddimbah
<b>UNEP Support Assistants</b>	Charles Imbenzi
<b>Manager/Representative</b>	Robert Munro
<b>Project Manager</b>	Ethel Mudenda

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<b>Finance Manager</b>	Charles Mbugua
<b>Communications Lead, if relevant</b>	

## 2 Overview of Project Status

### 2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

<b>UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):</b>	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
<b>UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):</b>	Ecosystem Management
<b>PoW Indicator(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.</li> <li>• Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas</li> <li>• Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration</li> </ul>
<b>UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages</b>	Strategic Priority 1: Prosperity Strategic Priority 4: Planet
<b>Link to relevant SDG Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</li> <li>• Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</li> <li>• Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> </ul>
<b>Link to relevant SDG Targets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</li> <li>• 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average</li> <li>• 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status</li> <li>• 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</li> <li>• 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities</li> <li>• 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote</li> </ul>

	appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
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## 2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
4.1- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	50000	130000	130000	247,000
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	3000	10000	10000	3862
11.1- Male	1950	6000	6000	1800
11.2- Female	1050	4000	4000	2062.
1- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use	120000	120000	120000	247000
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)	3000	10000	10000	3563
6.1- Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector		5837315	5837315	

Implementation Status 2025: 3rd PIR

## 2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2025	3rd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2024	2nd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2023	1st PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				

FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

**Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities**

The project continues to promise good outcomes. The project has demonstrated satisfactory implementation progress, with an average of 77 % completion of planned outputs across its components into the Year 4 period. This is particularly evidenced by the recognition of 14 Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs), with 13 new signed agreements, bringing the total to 14 Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) with signed agreements (including 1 that was signed prior to the Project). All 14 CFMGs have enhanced forest protection efforts, including improved monitoring and reporting systems, adequate documentation for case management, and collaboration with the Forestry Department (FD) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). The project has successfully rolled out the Gender Action Plan through a gender toolkit, leading to the identification of community gender champions who are supporting the implementation of gender activities in the communities. Additionally, the project has successfully finalized the Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs) of which 2 out of 3 have been adopted by the Government Local Authorities in 2 districts for incorporation into the District Integrated Development Plans (DIDPs). The project further reached of a milestone, with all CFMGs having signed CFM agreements, with Kamikolo being the latest addition. Development of a knowledge management system is underway to ensure Community Forest Management (CFM) learning is enhanced across the project sites and the Zambian landscape, of which to date a project newsletter has been developed, participatory survey completed and curriculum improvement recommendation provided to tertiary institutes. The project has made significant progress in diversifying the nature based enterprises by supporting the establishment of an ecotourism enterprise. Capacity building of farmers in climate-smart agriculture and establishing market off-take has been a key focus area, resulting in farmers generating profits from the sale of forest produce under the project's sustainable farming practices, to date the project has supported farmer linkage to markets through a sugar bean out grower scheme which yielded 27.5 metric tons of beans, which were purchased by the off-taker at ZMW22 per kilogram, generating revenues of ZMW605,000 for the farmers. Furthermore, the project initiated the livestock climate smart farming, of which 3 climate smart livestock demo plots have been established, 1 in each Project Area. Due to the initial slow offtake of the agricultural component, a bit more time is needed to established adoption of the climate smart practices being introduced. The overall project performance towards achieving outcomes is deemed satisfactory, with significant progress made across all project outcomes. Key results include 247,000 hectares of dryland forests now covered by 14 recognized CFMAs with viable forest management systems in place, surpassing the initial baseline of 78,374 hectares at the project's start. Additionally, nature-based enterprises have taken off, with one site already generating income from sustainable production to the tune of over USD 23,000. The CFMGs are set to begin investing in community enterprises to ensure equitable benefit sharing. The project established linkages to off-take markets, resulting in 588 farmers (314 male and 274 female) generating a significant profit of ZMW605,000 (USD26,400) from 27 metrics tonnes of sugar beans. The project risk rating remains low, consistent with the risk assessment conducted during project development. No new risks were identified since the last Project Implementation Report (PIR), which is a positive outcome. Project implementation has been smooth and has not encountered any significant issues that could lead to a shift in the risk rating. The project team will continue to diligently monitor and track these risks as implementation progresses to ensure timely mitigation.

measures are applied if needed. The low-risk rating reflects the project’s effective risk management strategies and its ability to maintain a stable course towards achieving its objectives. Despite generally satisfactory implementation performance, the project faced several challenges that required attention to ensure optimal progress. Firstly, poor rainfall impacted community farmers, prompting the need to diversify CSA technologies to include irrigation and alternative drought-resistant crops. Secondly, the high illiteracy rate in the communities impedes effective communication and understanding of key project information, leading to limited engagement. Addressing these challenges with targeted solutions will foster better implementation, ensuring the project’s success in strengthening sustainable forest management and improving livelihoods for forest-dependent rural communities in Zambia’s North West Province.

**Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities**

Non availability of local institutions in the Project Areas to implement specialized activities as specified in the Project Procurement Plan (particularly for Agriculture) Inadequate and unreliable transport by the government partners to effectively support the implementing local conservation organizations and communities with project oversight Delays due to renewal of almost all contracts (unavoidable contractual processes) Production and conveyance fees (K9 per Kilogram) for honey too high and would disadvantage CFMG’s income generation from honey enterprise.

**2.4 Co Finance**

<b>Planned Co-finance:</b>	\$ 20,380,000
<b>Actual to date:</b>	48,776,411
<b>Progress</b>	<p><b>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</b></p> <p>All co-financing partners except for WWF have submitted their co-finance obligations up to June 2024. Since co-finance reports are only shared by partners once a year as at end of June, the figure above does not include July 2024 to June 2025 as these are currently being recieved and compiled. The commitments have remained the same apart from WWF who have not reported any commitemnts so far. The challenge faced with co-financing is delayed reporting by almost all implementing partners except for TNC and WLCP. To circumvent this challenge, the issue has been earmarked for reporting to the Project Steering Committee to be held end of July 2025 for resolution. An update will be given to UNEP.</p>

**2.5. Stakeholder**

<b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b>	2024-04-04
<b>Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement Progress Summary</b>

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Significant progress has been made in implementing the stakeholder engagement plan, with the various stakeholders fully involved in the project activities

**1. Councils and Municipalities:**

Town Councils have been actively involved as key members of the District Implementation Team, playing a crucial role in the development of Integrated Land Use Plans. Ward Development Committees (WDCs) are also engaged at the Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) level, participating in all key activities. This collaboration ensures that the project activities are intergrated into local governance structures for the project's success and sustainability.

**2. Communities, Traditional Leadership, and Marginalized Groups:**

Participatory Land Use Planning: Communities and traditional leaders have been actively involved in participatory land use planning, ensuring that land rights are recognized and respected through the issuance of land rights certificates.

CFMGs : Communities, traditional leaders and Marginalized Groups including Women have been engaged in the annual CFMG meetings to review the CF Management Plans and ensure everyones views are heard in decisions made on forest and natural resource utilization and conservation.

**Capacity Building:** Communities have received training in business planning and business proposal writing, empowering them to identify and develop bankable enterprises at CFMG level and at commiunity and individual enterpreneural champions within their groups. Under sustainable farming, the farmers have been supported partnership brokering and have entered into several agreements with outgrowers and oftakers.

**Validation and Awareness:** Communities have been engaged in the validation of CFMG business and investment plans. Awareness-raising activities on Community Forest Management (CFM) have been conducted, following the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures. Communities have reaffirmed their interest in CFM by writing consent letters and signing the CFM agreements.

**Community Engagement:** Regular meetings are held between the communités and the local conservation partners (Project Sub awardees). Communities in Kelongwa Makaba were supported to review their CFM constitution to address the gaps and all CFMGs held

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their annual review and planning meetings to assess their performance of the CF management plans and plan for the year ahead. Consent is always sought before taking photos at community engagements. Efforts are made to meet community members in their respective zones to reduce the burden of traveling long distances to meeting places. The community in the Ntambu project site participated in the Forestry Department led International Day of Forests to create awareness of the value of forests and conservation and general awareness about the project successes.

**Regular Updates:** All stakeholders, particularly communities and traditional leadership, are updated on project implementation progress through quarterly meetings, newsletters, and fliers. Traditional leaders receive briefings on project implementation on a quarterly basis through newsletters and implementation leaflets.

**Participatory Approach:** All project activities on-site are undertaken through a participatory approach, including the formation and formalization of CFMA, boundary mapping, value chain identification, and biophysical assessments.

**Gender Inclusion:** A gender strategy and action plan have been completed to strengthen the participation of marginalized groups. Community Gender Champions have been selected in each project site and are supporting implementation of the Gender Action Plans. Awareness-raising meetings on the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan have also been conducted.

### **3. External Stakeholders:**

**Inclusive Planning:** Stakeholders have been involved in the development of the gender action plan and annual planning meetings. They have also participated in engagements with consultants, such as inception and validation meetings.

**Regular Communication:** The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) holds monthly virtual meetings with key stakeholders to plan, share information, and address any challenges in project implementation. Additionally, the PIU holds quarterly physical meetings with stakeholders at all project sites, which are combined with monitoring visits. A quarterly newsletter is sent to all project stakeholders to keep them informed.

### **4. Ministries and Government Departments:**

**Government Engagement:** Various ministries and government departments, including Ministry of Green Economy and Environment,

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Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Local Government, Provincial Administration in Northwestern Province, Gender Department, and Ministry of Community Development have been actively engaged. The project has facilitated Project Technical Committee meetings and monitoring visits, involving key stakeholders such as communities, traditional leadership, provincial and district government teams, and local implementation partners.

**Steering Committee:** The project is planning to hold the third PSC meeting scheduled to take place in Q1 of the next reporting period.

**5. Private Sector Players:**

**Business Opportunities:** Various engagements have been held with private sector partners to create collaboration for conservation and other business opportunities. The PIU has signed contracts with Impulse Africa Limited to support livestock production capacity building and Edgewise Business Solutions to provide capacity needs assessment and training in business and financial management. These partnerships aim to enhance the economic viability and sustainability of the project. The PIU has further signed MOUs with Good Nature Agro and Hermaton Agro (agro based outgrowers and offtakers); with Wuchi Wami (Beekeeping out grower and offtaker) who have in turn signed agreements with the CFMGs on collaboration including extension service provision, input supply and offtaking.

Overall, the stakeholder engagement plan has resulted in enhanced collaboration and involvement of various stakeholders, increased awareness and participation among communities, and strengthened partnerships with external stakeholders and private sector players. Regular information sharing, addressing of concerns, and proactive policy review have contributed to the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of its goals.

## 2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>Gender mainstreaming efforts within the project are advancing as planned. Following a comprehensive gender assessment and analysis at the project sites, a detailed gender strategy and action plan were developed. These were rigorously reviewed and validated by stakeholders to ensure that gender integration is guided by clear, context-appropriate actions.</p> <p>The rollout of the gender action plan has commenced..</p> <p>To promote gender balance in project activities, deliberate and inclusive measures have been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 24 gender awareness meetings in resource management were held across the 3 project sites, combined with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. A total of 1,283 community members (636 males and 647 females) were reached</li> <li>• A total of 192 women and girls took part in this year’s district-level Women’s Day celebrations, held under the theme: “For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment”. As part of the celebrations, women from the Community Forest Management Groups (CFMG) joined others in commemorating the day. They were also featured on Kasempa Radio, where they discussed opportunities and challenges for women in conservation</li> <li>• 31 women are managing the vegetable nursery.</li> <li>• At the Shibalange eco-tourism camp, 4 women have been employed.</li> <li>• 8 women were engaged in general works at the Bulking Center construction site.</li> <li>• 40 women contributed to the construction of the livestock breeding center in Kelongwa Kamanama CFMA.</li> <li>• 20 participants (5M, 15W) trained in women's participation in Natural Resource Governance</li> <li>• Project facilitated a Gender Trainer of Trainers (TOT) training for implementing partners, government staff, and PIU staff at in Solwezi. A total of 35 participants (26 males and 9 females) attended the training, which focused on building the capacities of local trainers to advocate for and implement gender-sensitive practices, ensuring these principles are integrated into all project activities</li> <li>• 26 gender champions empowered/active: These champions are actively conducting awareness meetings at both project sites and district levels, including participation in International Women’s Day celebrations and radio engagements.</li> <li>• A total of 24 gender awareness meetings in resource management were held across the 3 project sites, combined with the 16</li> </ul>

	<p>Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. A total of 1,283 community members (636 males and 647 females) were reached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of fire Management, fire management Committees in each CFMG conducted awareness-raising meetings across all sites. These meetings were attended by 660 participants (303 males and 357 females), with 54% being women, including traditional leaders, local community members, government officials from the Forestry Department and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and WLCP staff.</li> <li>• In terms of capacity building: During the review period 2 HFOs were trained in Human Rights awareness in relation to law enforcement</li> <li>• The project established linkages to off-take markets, resulting in 588 farmers 314 male (54%) and 274 female (46%) generating a significant profit of ZMW605,000 (<b>USD26,400</b>) from 27 metrics tonnes of sugar beans. This was a</li> <li>• Towards gender mainstreaming in CSA, 479 participants (255 males and 224 females) attended the Farmer field schools for the 2024/2025 season, with 47% being women.</li> </ul> <p>Overall a total of 3,862 CFMG members are benefitting from the project of which 1,800 are male (47%) and 2,062 are female (53%) indicating significant progress in mainstreaming gender as a result of the gender responsive business plans and Forest Management Plans.</p> <p>These efforts reflect the project’s commitment to fostering gender equity and empowering women across all levels of implementation</p> <p>With a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and gender sensitivity, the project aims to create an environment where all individuals have equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes. By addressing gender disparities and implementing targeted actions, the project strives for gender equality and social equity, empowering communities to thrive harmoniously with nature</p>
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## 2.7. ESSM

<p>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</p>	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p>
<p>New social and/or environmental risks</p>	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p>

	<b>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</b>
<b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts</b>	<p><b>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</b></p>
<b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b>	<p>The project has successfully developed an Environmental and Socioeconomic Management Plan (ESMP) to address any potential social or environmental impacts that may arise from implementing the project activities. A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) system has been established to address complaints arising during project implementation. The process is structured to begin at the community level and escalate, if necessary, through the district and provincial levels, ultimately reaching the national level. Key stakeholders have been identified and will be oriented on the GRM's processes and procedures to ensure effective and timely resolution of grievances. The FGRM will be anchored on already existing government and community level structures. See attached documents.</p>

## 2.8. KM/Learning

<b>Knowledge activities and products</b>	<p>During this period, the project facilitated the first participatory knowledge management review to document lessons learned from CFM implementation in Zambia. This review also suggests best practices to ensure future success in CFM (see Appendix 8 for the detailed report). Selected CFMGs in Lusaka, Northwestern, Eastern, and Central Provinces were visited, namely Mphomwa CFMG, Musima CFMG, Mpanshya CFMG, Upper Lusemfwa, Kaafwa and Upper Munsakamba. Key lessons were drawn, which can be summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The need to focus on financial incentives as an entry point for CFM</li> <li>2. The need to diversify CFMG enterprises: The honey enterprise is the most prominent enterprise that every CFMG has been dragged into, albeit at a scale that is not commercial. None of the CFMGs visited demonstrated any capacity to develop other viable Non-timber Forest Products enterprises, thereby lowering the value of the forests in relation to local livelihoods</li> <li>3. The need to structure projects in a manner that assures sustainability after funding ends</li> <li>4. There is a need to assist communities in internalising the CFM process: The case studies revealed that each group fondly associates with the initiators, such as FAO CFMG, ZIFLP CFMG, BCP CFMG, etc. This demonstrates</li> </ol>
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	<p>a substantial lack of ownership of the process and suggests that the group will likely revert to their old ways of doing things in the environment at the project closure. The best practice is to shift from an all lecture-based implementation to a more participatory process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <b>Lesson:</b> There is a need to enhance women's participation in resource governance: From all of the case studies, it is evident that women's demands and duties as forest users in resource governance have received less attention. Women's rights to forest resources are often rights of use rather than property ownership. <b>The best practice</b> to enhance women's participation in the CFMG decision-making governance structure is to delay holding the election until in-depth gender-based awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted throughout the landscape of interest.</li> <li>6. The need to build transparency in the CFMG governance: Concerns about openness are growing among CFMGs, although not prevalent. There appear to be low levels in accounting for group funds. It highlights the need to bolster CFMGs in financial management. The best practice is for the members to be assured of transparency and accountability by the Executive Committee through having general meetings as enshrined in the constitution</li> <li>7. There is a need to engage technical staff to run the cfm business: The CFMG Executive functions voluntarily, and to expect them to spend their time at the office is too much to ask. The best practice would be to employ a fulltime Technical Business Unit (TBU) that comprise professional staff to assist the CFMG attain business goals</li> </ol> <p>The project further developed the Knowledge management strategy that would guide implementation of KM activities during the project period.</p> <p>The project has in period under review produced the first issue of the semi-annual newsletter which was shared with all stakeholders highlighting the key successes of the project.</p> <p>Furthermore a curriculum review was completed, and a report on curriculum improvement was submitted and shared with four (4) higher learning Institutions namely, The Copperbelt University, Mulungushi University, Zambia Forestry College and Mpika College of Agriculture for consideration into their CFM Curriculum. The following is a summary of general feedback from participants regarding gaps in the Natural Resource Management (NRM) curricula and the short training program for Honorary Forest Officers (HFOs):</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While current tertiary programs include the topic of participation, it is largely theoretical, focusing on levels of participation rather than practical application.</li> <li>• The curriculum lacks content on the establishment of Community Forest Management (CFM), despite its legal recognition for over eight years and multiple curriculum reviews by institutions.</li> <li>• Although scientific forest management is well covered, CFM planning—an essential component of participatory forest management embedded in national forest policy and legislation—is entirely missing.</li> <li>• Current curricula emphasize standard business management skills but overlook the business potential of nature-based solutions, which are critical for promoting sustainable and profitable income streams under CFM.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design a three to six month short course on Community Forest Management, to be offered in both full-time and online formats. The online version should include a two-week field practical component.</li> <li>• Integrate key elements of CFM into full-time NRM programs to align with recent shifts in forest policy and enhance relevance to current sector needs. <i>(Check the link for all deliverables/documents)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Main learning during the period</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immediate benefits are required by communities to maintain community commitment. However, nature-based enterprises take time to mature from start up phase. There is therefore need to consider alternative livelihoods in the immediate timeframe and more stable and sustainable financing such as Carbon. (FD/TNC/Plus)</li> <li>2. Access to Credit through linkage to established financial institutions can be challenging for nature based small scale enterprises due to seasonality of products hence the need to explore local level savings schemes such as COCOBANKS especially at household level.</li> <li>3. To have traction in enhancing women participation in conservation, beyond just representation in meetings and committees, there is need to support and economically empower women champions through enterprise groups.</li> <li>4. In promoting the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture, there’s need to think beyond just Knowledge but also the time it takes for a new technology to be adopted and additional farmer support for conversion.</li> <li>5. There’s need to support research/studies and document community level threats and risks to CFM that can impact CFM (e.g. change of Chief in Kamikolo area) – case study for training of FD staff and CFM practitioners?</li> <li>6. Although land Use Plans are useful for strategic land management and to support environmental protection and resource management, rapidly urbanizing areas like Ntambu could benefit from Local Area Plans (LAPs) to support zoning of infrastructure development and site specific development including upgrading informal settlements.</li> <li>7. To create lasting partnerships, promote local ownership and build resilience and sustainability, there is need to develop a</li> </ol>

	<p>community singular exit strategy/sustainability plan for each of the 3 Project sites to ensure continuity and stability after the Project exit. The current partnerships are mainly with TNC and dependent on project funding. The PIU and Forestry Department can negotiate MoUs/Other Agreement forms factoring in Carbon.</p> <p>8. Introduction of a variety of crops at demo plots/FFS, is key in identifying most suitable crop for CSA. From recent farmer field monitoring, cowpeas out-performed all other crops at the demo plots, which called for promoting the crop in the sites.</p>
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## Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	
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## 2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	No specific story worth sharing was recorded during the period under review
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### 3 Performance

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
To strengthen community-based sustainable management of forest landscapes, and provide improved livelihood opportunities for targeted forest- dependent rural communities in Zambia's North West Province	a. Hectares of dryland forests and lands under improved, more sustainable management	189,339ha transferred to CFMG, but without viable SFM systems	50000	130000	247000	During the period under review the area under improved and more sustainable management stands at 247,000 ha against of 130,000 ha. This milestone is attributed to the area being covered by 14 recognized CFMAs that have established and improved viable SFM systems than at baseline. The 14 CFMGs have developed forest management plans that comprise activities that include law enforcement, fire management, beekeeping and area specific activities. Forest protection is on-going through 77 Honorary Forest Officers (59 males, 18 females) deployed to support protection activities. This signifies an improvement from the baseline strides towards achieving more viable SFM systems. The project will continue working towards ensuring sustainable management of dryland forests by providing mentorship and building capacity of the CFMGs	HS
To strengthen community-based	b. % change in the income of	ZMW 2,100	No Target	2,415 (15%)	35 (ZMW 2,877)	To date the project, has scored	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
sustainable management of forest landscapes, and provide improved livelihood opportunities for targeted forest- dependent rural communities in Zambia's North West Province	women, men and youth from forest-based products and services.					an increment of 35% from the calculated average annual income of ZMW 2,100 at baseline to an income of ZMW 2,827 as reported in the previous PIR. This year, 588 (314 male and 274 female) farmers were engaged across the project sites. The sugar bean out grower scheme yielded 27.5 metric tons, which were purchased by the off-taker at ZMW22 per kilogram, generating revenues of ZMW605,000. Development of a more detailed method of measuring this indicator is up for consideration as noted during the MTR.	
1. Sustainable forest management (SFM) mainstreamed in local development plans in target Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs)	a. Area covered by recognized CFMAs with operational forest/NR management systems	78374ha covered by existing CFMA in Kasempa District, but w/o viable management systems	120000	120000	247000	During the period under review the total area under recognized and operational CFMA stands at 247,000 with 14 recognized CFMAs all with signed CFM agreements with established and improved SFM systems. The 14 CFMGs have developed forest management plans that comprise activities that include law enforcement, fire management, beekeeping and area specific activities. Forest protection is on-going through 77 Honorary Forest Officers (59 males, 18 females) deployed to support protection activities.	HS
1. Sustainable forest management (SFM)	b. Number of District Integrated Development	0	1	2	2	During the review period, final ILUPs were completed for Kamikolo, Kelongwa,	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
mainstreamed in local development plans in target Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs)	Plans with SFM mainstreamed addressing gender equality					Ntambu and subsequently submitted to the town councils for inclusion in DIDPs through special council meetings. Two (Kamikolo and Ntambu) have been endorsed for consideration in next DIDPs. This milestone was a result of the successful stakeholder engagement at community, district and provincial level. The ILUPs capture the full essence of CFM envisioned in the Forest Management plans of the respective CFMAs.	
2. Improved management of forest resources enhances gender equality and contributes to enhanced welfare and livelihoods	a. Number of CFMG receiving funds from their investments and dispersing funds in accordance with their benefit sharing plan and investment plan.	0	3	6	0	While CFMGs are yet to receive funds from their investments, notable progress has been made in one CFMG, which has successfully started generating revenue from honey and ecotourism enterprises. This milestone demonstrates the potential for sustainable income streams. However, the enterprises still require consolidation before starting to make profits which can then be shared as per benefit sharing plan.	S
2. Improved management of forest resources enhances gender equality and contributes to enhanced welfare and livelihoods	b. % of men, women and youth satisfied with the current CFMG plan for equitable sharing of costs and benefits	N/a	Men 50% Women: 40% Youth: 30%	Men: 50% Women: 60% Youth: 50%	100%	Mechanism for equitable sharing of costs and benefits has been developed for all 14 CFMGs embedded in their respective constitutions across the three projectsites. While all CFMG members were happy with the cost and benefit sharing mechanism, the project	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						is currently undertaking beneficiary satisfaction survey now, as the CFMGs have begun generating income. Results to be ready next reporting period	
2. Improved management of forest resources enhances gender equality and contributes to enhanced welfare and livelihoods	c. Amount of investments in community businesses made by Project and by CFMG Beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	0	\$600,000 by Project \$20,000 by CFMG Men: 55%, Women 30%, Youth 15%	\$1,259,000 by Project and \$100,000 by CFMG Gender targets: Men 45% Women 35% Youth: 20%	\$709,000 by project	709,000 USD so far invested in nature-based enterprises. Honey enterprise developed in 14 CFMGs (Benefitting over 600 beekeepers) Modern Honey processing plant in Ntambu at 90% completion. Honey and mushroom bulking center in Kelongwa-Kamanama at 40% completion Eco-tourism camp construction at 90% completion Professional and Technical staff recruited for 14 CFMGs	S
3. Improved productivity, gender equality and climate resilience from sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to community- managed forests:	a. Number of farmers (disaggregated by sex and age) adopting gender sensitive sustainable agricultural practices	156 (69% Men, 11% Female, 50% youth)	3,000 new farmers; (60% men, 30% women, 10% youth)	10,000 45 % men, 35% women, 20% youth:	3,645 (43 % men), 57% women, 48% youth:	While measuring adoption over a short period can be challenging, our observations suggest that a significant portion of the 3,645 farmers who adopted conservation farming practices last year continued to maintain them. These farmers, trained through farmer field schools and outgrower schemes with private sector partners, demonstrated continuity in their practices. However, adoption is a long-term process, and sustained impact will be assessed over	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						multiple seasons. The project continued to promote adoption through outgrower schemes with partners like Good Nature Agro and Hermaton Agro. This season, 469 farmers participated, a decrease from the previous 560, due to concerns about drought extension. Many farmers opted to plant smaller areas to manage risk. The crop is currently being harvested, and yield and income figures will be available after the harvest.	
3. Improved productivity, gender equality and climate resilience from sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to community- managed forests:	b. Area under more sustainable agricultural practices in number of hectares	52	3000	10000	3536	To date a total estimate of 3,563 ha is under more sustainable agriculture. This land belonging to 3,645 farmerstrained in CSA pending verification in a second season based on the new farmer field school protocols	MS

### 3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks	Output 1.1 Comprehensive assessment of forests and communities in the project area – sex and age disaggregated.	2024-02-24	100	100	Biophysical and social economic assessment completed in previous period	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
for community-based, sustainable forest management						
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.1.4: Conduct socioeconomic assessments of the target communities.	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Output 1.2. In-depth awareness raising on inclusive, gender sensitive CFMA creation leading to the declaration by government of the new or modified CFMG	2024-03-03	100%	100%	All 14 CFMGS have been formally recognized by government with signed CFM agreements covering a total of 247,000ha of CFMA	HS
1 Developing the enabling	Activity 1.2.3: Provide support to each CFMG candidate for the participatory development of their constitution, with a strong	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	emphasis on transparent governance and equitable benefit sharing.					
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Output 1.3. Sustainable forest and natural resource management promoted in gender responsive District Integrated Development Plans and CFMA management plans	2026-02-05	75%	80%	During the review period, final ILUPs were completed for Kamikolo, Kelongwa, Ntambu and subsequently submitted to the town councils for inclusion in DIDPs through special council meetings. Two (Kamikolo and Ntambu) have been endorsed for consideration in next DIDPs. This milestone was a result of the successful stakeholder engagement at community, district and provincial level. The ILUPs capture the full essence of CFM envisioned in the Forest Management plans of the respective CFMAs. Further, 13 of the 14 CFMGs held annual review meetings to review the Forest Management Plans and Annual Work Plans which are currently being implemented to promote conservation, protection and sustainable use.	HS
1 Developing the enabling	Activity 1.3.6: Support participatory processes for integrating community management into the draft district integrated	2026-08-20	75%	80%	In progress	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	development plan resulting in formal approval of each DIDP					
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Output 1.4. Knowledge management (KM) system developed in support of gender sensitive community management of forests and natural resources	2026-08-12	67	70	During the period, the project facilitated its first participatory knowledge management review, capturing lessons from CFM implementation in Zambia and outlining best practices for future success . A Knowledge Management Strategy was also developed to guide ongoing KM activities.The project produced the first issue of its semi-annual newsletter, shared with stakeholders to highlight key achievements.Additionally, a curriculum review was completed, and a report on curriculum improvement was submitted to tertiary institutes for review. The project is currently in the process of finalizing the development of a platform for online CFM discussions.	S
1 Developing the enabling regulatory	Activity 1.4.3: Promote the mainstreaming of CFM courses at tertiary institutions who are interested in integrating CFM into their curricula.	2026-08-20	67%	70%	In progress	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management						
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Output 1.5. Subsidiary legislation for forestry reviewed and revised in support of gender responsive sustainable forest management	2026-06-06	0	10	Output yet to be completed as the project awaits review of the of the Forest act. Following a recommendation by PSC to support the review of the Forest Act, Preliminary meetings were held with FD and other stakeholders to discuss the specific support the project would provide in the process. It was agreed to table this during the Mid-term review to adjust the output and respective activities	HU
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.5.3: National stakeholder workshop to validate the results of the two regional workshops.	2026-08-20	0%	10%	Delayed	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.1.1: Enhance GIS capacity in FD provincial office in Solwezi	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.1.2: Conduct preliminary awareness raising of communities on potential benefits, obligations and risks of CFM	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based,	Activity 1.1.3: Conduct an in-depth assessment of forest and natural resources, value chains and optimal scale of operations for proposed CFMAs.	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
sustainable forest management						
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.2.1: Use assessment results for all communities at each site to define the geographic and economic scale of CFMA.	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.2.2: Conduct a gender audit to further enhance the gender action plan prepared during PPG.	2022-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks	Activity 1.3.1: Support the participatory integrated land use planning (ILUP) and mapping of the communal lands of CFMG communities.	2023-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
for community-based, sustainable forest management						
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.3.2: Review the literature and to test and quantify the results of improved silvicultural systems	2026-09-20	75%	80%	In progress	HS
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.3.3: Assist communities in the participatory definition of NR management objectives and rules	2026-08-20	75%	80%	Delayed	U
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.3.4: Provide support to CFMG communities to finalise their forest/NR management plans and to complete and submit their	2026-08-20	75%	80%	Delayed	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	application and approval by FD					
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.3.5: Create a DIDP CFM Planning Sub-Team and work plan.	2026-08-20	75%	80%	In progress	U
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.4.1: Conduct three participatory KM reviews to identify, synthesize and disseminate lessons learned and best practices and to identify knowledge gaps that need to be filled	2026-08-20	67%	70%	In progress	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
management						
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.4.2: Participate in the regional IP knowledge management exchange.	2026-08-20	67%	70%	In progress	S
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-based, sustainable forest management	Activity 1.5.1: Engage legal consultants to synthesize reviews of barriers and to prepare revised drafts of statutory instrument (SI)	2026-08-20	0%	10%	Delayed	U
1 Developing the enabling regulatory and planning frameworks for community-	Activity 1.5.2: Two regional stakeholder workshops held on the shortcomings and on proposed changes to the SI	2026-08-20	0%	10%	Delayed	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
based, sustainable forest management						
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Output 2.1. Training and deployment of a corps of gender sensitive community forest guards in targeted CFMAs	2023-10-10	100%	100%	77 HFOs (60 males, 17 females) have been recruited and Deployed to undertake forest patrols. HFOs actively conducting forest patrols in the 14 CFMAs covering 247,000ha of recognized CFMA. For the 2024 period, 1,894 patrol days were completed with an estimated 308,211 ha patrol coverage. The project has developed spatial data collection tools in survey123 to improve reliability and accuracy of forest protection reporting.	HS
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Activity 2.1.1: Undertake the participatory synthesis of the results of the previous analyses of resource abundance and value chains into a business plan for each CFMG.	2023-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
2 Promoting the conservation	Output 2.2. Gender responsive business plans developed in support of each community forest management group	2023-10-10	100%	100%	The project successfully developed comprehensive business plans for all three sites, including detailed	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests					enterprise plans for the honey factory, honey bulking centre, and ecotourism camp. The next steps include a participatory review with local communities to ensure the plans align with their needs and context. Following the review, the business plans will be refined to enhance their relevance and feasibility in the prevailing environment	
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Activity 2.2.2: Recruitment, training and onboarding of technical and professional staff and of forest guards	2026-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-	Output 2.3 Gender responsive community-based enterprises developed based on the business plan	2026-10-10	81%	89%	The project continued to build on the successes recorded in the honey value chain, including good yields and successful offtake transactions. Key milestones achieved include: - Construction of a honey bulking centre in Kelongwa, which will also serve as a processing facility for other non-timber forest products (NTFPs).- Equipping the	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
managed forests					honey factory in Ntambu, where the building has already been constructed, to commence operations.- Procurement of an additional 1250 beehives to support 125 beekeepers in Ntambu.In the eco-tourism value chain, the project has supported the development of a community-owned eco-tourism camp in Kelongwa, near the Shibalange Hills, a scenic natural wonder with untapped revenue-generating potential. These initiatives aim to enhance the economic benefits for local communities and promote sustainable development.	
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Activity 2.3.3: Conduct annual adaptive management reviews in each CFMG to strengthen each year the approach and the CFMG capacities for governance, NRM and enterprise development.	2026-08-20	81%	89%	In progress	HS
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable	Output 2.4. Capacities developed for gender responsive good governance, NRM and business management.	2026-08-20	63%	76%	During the period under review, theproject completed a capacity needs assessment of the CFMG for good governance, NRM, and businessmanagement. The key capacity	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	use of natural resources in community-managed forests				gaps identified were: Technical Skills Deficiencies; Financial Management Challenges; Market Access Limitations and; Inclusion and Participation Barriers. The project has since embarked on developing a capacity building program to address the identified gaps, with draft training manuals already produced.	
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Activity 2.2.1: Provide seed money for the most promising investment opportunities	2026-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed	Activity 2.3.1: Conduct an initial assessment of capacity development needs.	2023-08-20	100%	100%	Completed	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
forests						
2 Promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in community-managed forests	Activity 2.3.2: Develop and implement standard training modules for good governance, NRM and business management based on the capacity needs assessment.	2026-08-20	81%	89%	In progress	HS
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Output 3.1. Gender responsive network of actors developed and capacity built to deliver sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to community-managed forests	2026-10-12	66	88	New Farmer field school protocols developed by the Dept of Agric and ZAR The project developed a network of 54 lead farmers across the site that were trained in various climate smart agriculture practices The project has also built a network of 20 extension officers drawn from the government, market partners, and conservation organizations, providing communities with agriculture and livestock extension services. 2024/25 Farmer Field School underway	HS
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity	Activity 3.1.2: Develop and implement a programme of capacity building of extension staff and change agents from the agricultural community in target areas, based on the information identified in the participatory baseline survey.	2026-10-12	66%	88%	In progress	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
of agricultural practices in community-managed forests						
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Output 3.2. Capacity building provided to encourage the adoption of gender responsive, sustainable agricultural practices in agricultural zones in villages adjacent to community forests	2026-10-08	42	53	In the previous season, 3,645 farmers (1,583 males, 2,062 females) received training in conservation farming through farmer field schools (FFS) facilitated by the project. This season, due to a transition in delivery approach, fewer farmers attended FFS, with 479 participants (255 males and 224 females). However, the curriculum expanded to incorporate climate-smart approaches, including soil testing, utilization of weather information, drought-resistant crop alternatives, agro-forestry, tillage technologies, planting techniques, and off-season production through irrigation.	MS
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in	Activity 3.2.2: support the development of demonstration 'sites of best practice	2026-10-26	42%	53%	In progress	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
community-managed forests						
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Output 3.3. Crop and livestock male, female and young farmers adjacent to CFMAs equally assisted to sustainably improve their productivity and net income	2026-04-05	45	55	Building on the successful rollout of outgrower schemes last season, the project continued to expand and strengthen its partnerships with private sector players. This year, 588 (314 male and 274 female) farmers were engaged across the project sites. The sugar bean outgrower scheme yielded 27.5 metric tons, which were purchased by the off-taker at ZMW22 per kilogram, generating revenues of ZMW605,000. These market partners have stationed extension staff in the sites to provide training, extension services, and facilitate product offtake. That way complementing the extension teams from the government and local conservation organisations. In addition to crop production, the project has also made progress in livestock development. Demonstration farms have been built in two project sites, with the third site underway. Improved livestock breeds have been introduced, and extension officers have been assigned to provide support. With the completion of the demo farms, the training program is set to commence,	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					followed by market linkages.	
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Activity 3.3.2: Facilitate access to the wider agricultural market environment for male, female and young farmers managing diverse and sustainable agricultural systems	2026-04-05	45%	55%	In progress	MS
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Activity 3.1.1: Conduct a participatory, gender sensitive survey of farmers and extension agents to establish a baseline for training and the extent and understanding of sustainable agricultural technologies in target smallholder communities around forested areas.	2026-10-12	66%	88%	In progress	HS
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural	Activity 3.2.1: Support the development of demonstration 'sites of best practice	2026-10-26	42%	53%	In progress	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
practices in community-managed forests						
3 Enhancing the sustainability and productivity of agricultural practices in community-managed forests	Activity 3.3.1: Hold field days at demonstration sites	2026-04-05	45%	55%	In progress	MS

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

## 4 Risks

### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

#### Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Communities fail to develop capacities for accountability. transparency. sound management of funds and equitable sharing of costs and benefits.	Outcome 1: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) mainstreamed in local development plans in target	L	L	L	L				=	No variation. CFMGs have developed capacity to manage funds and have benefit sharing mechanisms in place as agreed by all community members

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
	Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs)									
Risk 2: Inadequate support from district councils towards CFM development.	Outcome 1: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) mainstreamed in local development plans in target Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs)	M	M	L	L				=	No variation. There has been significant support from the district councils towards CFM development which ultimately led to finalization and adoption of ILUPs.
Risk 3: Communities fail to develop profitable enterprises and hence no equitable sharing of benefits.	Outcome 2: Improved management of forest resources enhances gender equality and contributes to enhanced welfare and livelihoods	L	L	L	L				=	No variation. CFMGs have developed profitable enterprises as evidenced by Kelongwa Kamanama CFMG and they have an equitable benefit sharing mechanism in place
Risk 4: Communities choose to organize at a small scale as opposed to a large enough economic/geographic scale.	Outcome 2: Improved management of forest resources enhances gender equality and contributes to enhanced welfare and livelihoods	L	L	L	L				=	No variation. All CFMGs have maintained a large enough economic/geographic scale
Risk 5: CFM has no benefits to provide incentives for enforcement of SFM ban on deforestation;	Risk 5: CFM has no benefits to provide incentives for enforcement of SFM ban on deforestation;	L	L	L	L				=	CFMGs have begun accruing the rewards of implementing CFM which has incentivized enforcement of forest protection
Risk 6: Non- participation of women and youth in adopting gender sensitive sustainable agricultural practices	Outcome 3: Improved productivity. gender equality and climate resilience from sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to	L	L	L	L				=	Participating of women in CSA has been overwhelming with 57% (2062) of trained participants being women while 43% (1,583) are males.
Risk 7: Suitable technologies not adequate.	Outcome 3: Improved	L	L	L	L				=	No variation. Evidenced by 338

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
attractive. varied for Sustainable Agriculture and climate smart agriculture.	productivity. gender equality and climate resilience from sustainable agricultural practices on the lands zoned for agriculture adjacent to community- managed forests									farmers (183 men, 155 women) who joined a CSA-backed beans out-grower scheme in Kelongwa. Each received input packs worth ZMW1,600. With yields of 0.4MT/lima and prices at ZMW25/kg, returns could reach ZMW10,000— driving strong adoption of CSA practices
Risk 8: Cabinet approval to review of the Forest Act poses the risk of not delivering output 1.5 on time.	Output 1.5: Subsidiary legislation for forestry reviewed and revised in support of gender responsive sustainable forest management	N/A	M	M	M				=	No variation, PSC recommended project to support the ongoing review of the Forest Act
Risk 9: Disruption in traditional governance systems affecting CFM implementation	Output 1.2. In-depth awareness raising on inclusive. gender sensitive CFMA creation leading to the declaration by government of the new or modified CFMA/CFMG	N/A	L	L	L				=	Despite the challenges with the traditional governance system. the Kamikolo Community Forest Management Group (CFMG) is finally back on track and has since received user rights.
Risk 10: High: Major budget reallocation (>10%) across components or significant changes in budget lines (including any increase >5% from original budget)and Poor budget utilisation or exhaustion of PMC before project completion. High likelihood of negative impact on the project delivery.	Output 1.2. In-depth awareness raising on inclusive. gender sensitive CFMA creation leading to the declaration by government of the new or modified CFMA/CFMG	N/A	H	L	L				=	No variation.
Risk 10: Illegal Gold mining activities in Kasempa and surrounding areas posing a risk to current conservation efforts.	Outcome 2: Improved management of forest resources for gender equality and	N/A	N/A	N/A	H					The gold rush in Northwestern is becoming a high risk as community members in the surrounding regions

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
	enhanced welfare and livelihoods									have started illegal prospecting and mining. The new risk was identified in Kasempa, rumours suggested that there was gold at the eco-tourism centre, of which this not true after verification.
	L	L	L	L	L				=	

### 4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 8: Cabinet approval to review of the Forest Act poses the risk of not delivering output 1.5 on time.	PSC guided the Project to consider supporting current review of the Forestry act as a deliverable.	Preliminary meetings were held with FD and other stakeholders to discuss the specific support the project provide to the review of the Forest Act. It was agreed to table this during the Mid-term review to adjust output 1.5 to fit the recommendation	Revise output 1.5 to reflect support to review Forest Act. Plan for the project's alignment to FD's road map for the review of the Forest Act	January 2026	Project Manager
Risk 10: Illegal Gold mining activities in Kasempa and surrounding areas posing a risk to current conservation	N/a	The project organised a Gold Detector to convince community members that there was no Gold at	Increased awareness programmes within the communities on the effects of mining in a conservation	August 2025	PIU through Local Conservation Organization

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
efforts.		Shibalange and the results were in their favour, the detector proved to the people that there was no Gold. The project through KCF has to date also taken immediate action by organizing Law Enforcement Officers (Zambia Police) to control the situation and addressed the illegal miners in the CFMA who were digging Gold.	zone and the impact of unsustainable mining on society, economy and the environment.		

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

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## 5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

### Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

#### 5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

Co-financing for TNC has changed from 1,500,000.00 USD to 3,360,00.00 (as per the link in the appendices).

#### 5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Kelongwa Makaba CFMA	-13.804391	26.307556	12492700		Community Forest Management Area within Kasempa District
Kamikolo CFMA	-11.94881	25.67374	12547092		Community Forest Management Area within Kalumbila District
Chulu CFMA	-12.4712143	24.7961687	12547155		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Kahundula CFMA	-12.3537631	24.9508801	12547156		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Kanyamisovu CFMA	-12.3676641	25.0342282	12547157		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Kayonge CFMA	-12.3523909	24.6601626	12547159		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Kema CFMA	-12.3196491	24.9084903	12547161		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Kewundu CFMA	-12.414254	24.9733585	12547162		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Kimba CFMA	-12.4162615	24.8125849	12547163		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Makuya CFMA	-12.3396005	24.9950283	12547164		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Mumpulumba CFMA	-12.4937229	24.6073445	12547166		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Muyange CFMA	-12.3751408	24.9587794	12547168		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Ntambu Central CFMA	-12.3992241	24.9606909	12547170		Community Forest Management Area Within Mwinilunga District
Ntambu Honey Processing Plant	-12.3939958	24.9540439			Ntambu honey processing plant
Ntambu Livestock Demo plot	-12.3939958	24.9540439			Ntambu Livestock Demo plot
Honey storage facility	-12.4703739	24.8768707			Honey storage facility
Mumpulumba market area	-12.4661594	24.8801774			Mumpulumba market area
Tabula market	-12.4081726	24.9779318			Tabula market
Kelongwa makaba CFMG	-13.6790399	26.3451746			Kelongwa makaba

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
office					community forest office
Kelongwa Kamanama Bulking centre	-13.6790399	26.3451746			Proposed Kelongwa Makaba Bulking Center
Shibalangi Stone hill	-13.6785044	26.303667			Shibalangi Stone hill
Sub chief Makungu Palace	-13.5441933	26.2734343		Sub chief Makungu Palace	
Kamikolo Agriculture area	-11.9700976	25.6252997	12954037		Kamikolo Agriculture area
Kamikolo Agriculture area_2	-12.0010156	25.7617462	12954038		Kamikolo Agriculture area2

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. \*

Please see Excel file attached.

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

**Additional Supporting Documents:**

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Links to support documentation PIR.pdf	Executing Agency	2025-07-17 13:49:52	<a href="#">Download</a>