



Republic of Zambia

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

NATIONAL POLICY ON WETLANDS

Implementation Plan: 2018-2028



September 2018

FOREWORD



Wetlands are important sources of food (fish, game, rice) materials (papyrus, grass), fresh water and also play various ecological functions. There are various socio-economic and cultural services derived from wetlands and these include: pasture for livestock grazing; and traditional ceremonies such as the Kuomboka. Wetlands also provide other ecosystem services such as maintaining good water quality by acting as filters, recharging ground water, storage of carbon, recycling of soil nutrients and preventing soil erosion by acting as soil control. They are also important habitats for biological diversity.

However, all these benefits provided derived from wetlands are threatened due to weak coordination of wetland management activities. It is against this background that the National Policy on Wetlands has been developed to provide a framework for coordinated action for sustainable wetland management. The policy is a product of extensive consultations between government and other stakeholders across sectors in Zambia.

The Implementation Plan for the National Policy on Wetlands provides concrete area of work for the active support and participation of all key stakeholders in conservation and management of wetland resources. This is based on partnerships and provision of an enabling environment to ensure that wetlands contribute effectively towards national economic growth and development.

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Honourable Jean Kapata, MP

MINISTER OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The development of the Implementation plan for the National Policy on Wetlands for Zambia was achieved through a wide consultative process involving all key stakeholders across all sectors. Against this background I wish to extend my appreciation and gratitude to all stakeholders who participated in the formulation of this Policy. These include, but not limited to the following:

- a) All Government line Ministries and Departments whose staff immensely contributed to the process;
- b) The Members of Parliament for their contributions provided during the validation of the policy;
- c) Provincial Permanent Secretaries and their delegates for their contributions towards the refinement of the Policy ;
- d) Private sector institutions and Civil Society Organizations;
- e) Academicians, individual climate change experts and consultants who were involved in the development of this Policy;
- f) All media institutions who contributed to the development of this Policy;
- g) The Technical Working Group, who expeditiously and professionally executed their duties according to their terms of reference ascribed to them for the purpose of drafting this policy; and
- h) Members of staff in the Ministry, particularly the Natural Resources Management Unit who provided secretarial services;
- i) Last but not the least, I wish to thank any organizations or individuals, who, in one way or another contributed to the formulation process of this Policy but not specifically mention. The omission has not been intentional but purely due to constraints of space.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Trevor Kaunda
Permanent Secretary
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an implementation plan for the National Policy on Wetlands. The plan covers a period of 2018-2028 and is closely aligned to government initiatives as outlined in the Vision 20130, the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) and the Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of 2015-2025 as well as other related policies and pieces of Legislation.

The Plan provides concrete area of work for the active support and participation of all key stakeholders in conservation and management of wetland resources. This is based on partnerships and provision of an enabling environment to ensure that wetlands contribute effectively towards national economic growth and development.

Zambia's wetlands covers about 14 to 19% of the total land area of the country and contributes to economic development through supporting various economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry among others. They also support livelihoods and provide ecosystem services such as reducing the impacts from storm damage and flooding, maintaining good water quality in rivers, recharging groundwater, storage of carbon and nutrient cycling, thereby helping to control pests and stabilise climatic conditions.

Functions and uses of wetlands in Zambia can be divided into ecological, socio-economic and cultural. Ecological functions refer to those that are natural and independent of human manipulation, whereas Socio-economic functions refer to uses of wetlands that contribute to the economic well-being of local communities and the nation. Wetlands may be of religious, historical, archaeological or other cultural significance at local or national level.

Despite the importance of wetlands as highlighted above, they have continued to face a number of challenges resulting in their degradation. These include poor management, over cultivation, indiscriminate digging of drains, and overgrazing leading to permanent drying up of certain wetlands, mining, invasive species and encroachment.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in consultation with other stakeholders developed an implementation plan for the period 2018-2028, to guide the operationalisation of the National Wetlands Policy. The implementation plan aims at addressing the challenges highlighted in the Wetlands Policy and also spell out the activities of various stakeholders in wetland management such as Government, Private sector, Civil Society Organisations, Communities around wetlands and Development partners.

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 Timeframe for implementation

The National Wetlands Policy shall be implemented over a period of 10 years beginning in 2018 and will be reviewed from time to time. Government will ensure alignment of various strategies and development initiatives that have a bearing on the implementation of the plan.

2.2 Institutional arrangements

The Ministry responsible for Natural Resources will be the lead institution in overseeing the implementation of the activities in the plan and will lead the inter-agency coordination on the management of all wetlands in the Country. The Ministry will collaborate with other stakeholders that are involved in the conservation and management of wetlands.

3.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the National Wetlands Policy will be supported by the various pieces of legislation as outlined in the policy.

4.0 RESOURCE MOBILISATION

The implementation of the policy will be funded from the following sources:

- a) Government's national budget;
- b) Funding from bilateral and multilateral sources;
- c) Private sector finance; and
- d) Any other alternative funding sources.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Ministry responsible for Natural Resources shall develop a comprehensive M&E Framework in order to effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Wetlands Policy. To ensure that the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts are achieved in line with the National M&E System, the framework will emphasize on regular monitoring of progress and periodic in-depth evaluation with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The M&E Framework will be reviewed periodically to take on board emerging issues related to wetlands management.



ANNEX: National Wetlands Policy Implementation Logframe

NO	POLICY OBJECTIVES	POLICY MEASURES	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION/S	TARGETS	INDICATORS	ESTIMATED COSTS (ZMK)
1	To conserve wetland ecosystems so as to ensure their integrity, productivity and sustainability.	Strengthen the legal framework on wetlands management that seeks to prevent pollution, over-exploitation, and degradation and enhance biodiversity conservation.	1. Review existing legislation 2. Identify gaps and opportunities 3. Amend relevant legislation to address the identified gaps 4. Develop new legislation	1. Ministry Responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry of Justice	By 2028 at least 8 pieces of legislation reviewed.	Number of pieces of legislation amended. Number of pieces of legislation developed	250,000.00
		Develop and implement conservation plans, programmes and guidelines for sustainable management of wetlands.	1. Identify and engage relevant stakeholders 2. Identify conservation issues surrounding wetlands 3. Undertake field verification visits of identified conservation issues 4. Prepare conservation action plans 5. Implement the conservation action plans	1. Ministry Responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry of Tourism and Arts 3. Ministry responsible for Fisheries and Livestock, 4. Ministry responsible for Environment 5. ZEMA 6. NHCC 7. WARMA 8. Civil Society Organisations	By 2023 conservation plans for at least 8 key wetlands developed. By 2028 conservation plans for at least 8 key wetlands implemented	Number of conservation action plans developed. Number of conservation action plans implemented.	1,200,000.00

		Promote the development of green technologies for utilisation and value addition of wetland resources.	1. Develop guidelines on green technologies 2. Provide incentives on green technologies 3. Monitor the usage of green technologies for wetland resources 4. Establish linkages with institutions in the region and internationally on green technologies for wetland resources	1. Ministry responsible for Natural resources 2. Ministry Responsible for National Development Planning, 3. Ministry of Finance 4. Ministry responsible for Science and Technology, ZEMA 6. ZDA	Produce 2000 brochures and disseminate information on green technologies on wetland resources annually.	Number of brochures on green technologies distributed	150,000.00
2	To Protect the wetlands and their catchment areas and improve the resilience of wetland systems to natural and anthropogenic shocks.	Review existing information on wetlands, where necessary, undertake further studies in order to develop guidelines for their proper utilization.	1. Undertake assessments of wetlands 2. Evaluate high level risks 3. Develop actions to mitigate the threats for sustainable utilisation 4. Facilitate the implementation of the actions	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources, 2. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 3. Ministry responsible for fisheries, WARMA, ZEMA, NHCC, Zesco Ltd 7. Local Councils 8. Civil Society Organisations	By 2020 at least 8 key wetlands have their status reviewed and updated. Guidelines for proper utilisation of wetlands developed by 2019.	Number of wetlands with reviewed and updated status Guidelines document available	350,000.00

	Strengthen the Inter-Agency coordination for wetlands management through development and implementation of an integrated wetlands management system.	Establish a Wetlands Coordinating Committee comprised of various stakeholders involved in the management of wetlands	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 3. Cabinet Office	Wetlands Coordinating Committee established by June, 2018	Existence of ToR's of the committee	100,000.00
	Establish, implement and maintain wetland eco-systems restoration mechanisms.	1. Establish historical baseline for wetlands ecosystems 2. Undertake situation analysis compared to the historical baseline 3. Undertake restoration measures	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for Environment 3. Ministry Responsible for National Parks And Wildlife, 4. Ministry responsible for Water Development 5. NHCC 6. WARMA 7. Zesco ltd 8. Civil Society Organisations	Guidelines for wetlands restoration developed by 2019 At least 3 key wetlands have site based restoration programmes in place by 2028.	Handbook for wetlands restoration available Number of wetlands with site based restoration programmes in place.	3,000,000.00

		Put in place mechanisms and infrastructure to enhance wetland eco-systems and protection and resilience.	1. Installation of telemetric surface water level gauging stations 2. Installation of logger sensors to measure selected water quality parameters (including sediments) of importance to wetlands management 3. Prescription of environmental flow requirements for wetlands and in water permits issued around wetland areas 4. Mechanisms to enforce buffer zones for any kind of development around a wetland through declaration of water resource protection areas	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for Water Development, Ministry responsible for Environment 3. Ministry Responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 4. Ministry of housing and Infrastructure NHCC 5. DMMU 6. WARMA 7. Zesco ltd 8. Civil Society Organisations	Atleast 3 key wetlands are implementing a mechanism to enhance wetland eco-systems protection and resilience.	Number of mechanisms put in place Number of wetlands implementing a mechanism	396,000.00
3	To promote research, inventorying and monitoring of wetland resources to inform effective management.	Promote and finance research and monitoring programmes on sustainable wetlands management.	1. Provide funds for research in wetlands 2. Enhance collaboration and coordination between local and international research institutions in wetlands management.	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources Ministry responsible for Water Development Ministry	By 2028 at least 2 aerial surveys undertaken in 3 key wetlands. By 2028 undertake ground based annual surveys/research	Number of aerial surveys undertaken Number of wetlands surveyed Number of ground based surveys undertaken	1,200,000.00

					on key wetland resources.		
					responsible for Agriculture Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 2. NHCC 3. WARMA 4. Civil Society Organisations 5. NISIR 6. Academic institutions		
					1. Gather relevant data on wetlands 2. Validate and control the quality of data 3. Create and operationalise the wetlands information system 4. Conduct training among stakeholders to manage the system		
					Develop and implement an Integrated Wetlands management information system		
					1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for Water Development 3. Ministry responsible for Environment, Ministry 4. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 5. WARMA 6. Civil Society Organisations.	By 2020 an Integrated Wetlands management information system is developed and operationalised.	A functional information system in place.
							650,000.00

		Develop environmental and socio-economic modelling and forecasting system for wetlands.	1. Generate data and information for environmental and socio-economic modelling 2. Analyse data for trends regarding environmental and socio-economic aspects of wetlands 3. Develop a model for modelling and forecasting of wetlands	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for Water Development 3. Ministry responsible for National Development Planning 4. Ministry responsible for Environment 5. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 6. ZEMA 7. NHCC 8. WARMA 9. Civil Society Organisations 10. Academic institutions 11. Private sector	By 2025 at least 3 key wetlands have an environmental and socio-economic modelling and forecasting system in place.	Number of wetlands with a model in place and used in decision making.	300,000.00
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		Promote education and awareness on wetlands.	1. Produce and disseminate brochures, TV and radio programmes, poster and newspaper articles on wetlands conservation and management 2. Use social media to disseminate information on wetlands conservation and management 3. Include wetlands conservation and management in schools curriculum at all levels 4. Establish wetlands resource and information centres 5. Establish wetlands parks	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 2. Ministry responsible for Environment 3. Ministry responsible for Education 4. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting 5. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 6. ZEMA 7. Civil Society Organisations 8. Private sector	At least 10 public awareness events on wetlands undertaken annually. By 2028 at least 50 education awareness campaigns targeting learning institutions undertaken By 2020 at least 1 wetland resource information centre established Primary and secondary school curriculum reviewed, gaps identified and new elements recommended	Number of relevant commemorations. Number of TV and radio programmes. Number of wetlands related articles published in electronic and print media. Number of brochures distributed. Number of education awareness campaigns undertaken.	300,000.00
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4	To promote and support sustainable livelihood options in order to ensure productivity while protecting wetland resources	Promote sustainable livelihood programmes and projects within wetlands catchments at all levels.	1. Undertake studies on alternatives in wetland catchments 2. Support viable community based alternative livelihood activities 3. Involve communities around wetlands through established structures in the conservation and management of wetlands	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources Ministry responsible for Environment 2. Ministry responsible for Education 3. Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare 4. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 5. ZEMA 6. Civil Society Organisations 7. Private sector	By 2025 at least 5 key wetlands have viable community sustainable livelihood programmes and projects.	Number of wetlands with viable sustainable community livelihood programmes and projects.	100,000.00
	Promote and provide technical support towards wetlands based eco-tourism.	1. Identify wetlands with potential for eco-tourism 2. Identify eco-tourism initiatives 3. Provide support to eco-tourism initiatives	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources Ministry responsible for Environment 2. Ministry responsible for Tourism 3. Ministry responsible for National Parks	By 2025 at least communities based organisations in 5 key wetlands have received technical support towards wetlands based eco-tourism.	Number of community based organisations trained in wetlands based eco-tourism.	100,000.00	

5	To promote stakeholder participation in effective management of wetlands and ensure equitable sharing of benefits.	Support traditional leadership and communities to develop local level rules and regulations to facilitate effective management of wetlands.	1. Identify the status of rules and regulations on the ground 2. Analyse the existing rules and regulations to identify gaps 3. Facilitate the strengthening existing rules and regulations	and Wildlife 4. NHCC 5. Zambia Tourism Agency 6. ZEMA 7. ZDA 8. Civil Society Organisations 9. Private sector	By 2025 at least 10 traditional leaders around 3 key wetlands provided with support to develop local rules and regulations. By 2025 at least 10 community based organisation around 3 key wetlands provided with support to develop local rules and regulations	Number of traditional leaders supported Number of community based organisation supported/engaged Existence of rules and regulations on management of wetlands.	130,000.00
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		Develop mechanisms for value addition to wetlands resources for both local and foreign investments.	1. Undertake an economic valuation of wetland resources 2. Design a framework for Public Private Partnerships in the management of wetlands 3. Secure investments for conservation and sustainable of wetland resources 4. Develop and implement action plans within the framework	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources Ministry responsible for Commerce 2. Ministry of Finance, Ministry responsible for Tourism 3. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 4. Zambia Development Agency 5. Civil Society Organisations 6. Private sector	By 2020 mechanisms for value addition to wetlands resources for both local and foreign investments in place.	Number of mechanisms for value addition in place. Number of PPP investments and projects for value addition established.	80,000.00
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		Encourage the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in the sustainable utilisation of wetlands resources.	1. Formulate guidelines for participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in the harvesting of wetlands resources 2. Identify existing fund/s that could support participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in the harvesting of wetlands resources 3. Facilitate capacity building programmes for micro, small and medium enterprises in the management of wetland resources 4. Publicise through different media channels the existence of these funds	1. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources Ministry responsible for Environment 2. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 3. Ministry responsible for Tourism 4. Ministry of Finance, CEEC 5. ZEMA 6. ZDA 7. Civil Society Organisations 8. Private sector	By 2028 at least 3 key wetland areas have SME's participating in sustainable management and utilisation of wetlands resources.	Number of SME's participating in sustainable management and utilisation of wetlands resources.	140,000.00
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		Promote the documentation and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge on wetlands utilisation and management and practices in decision making.	1. Undertake studies on indigenous knowledge on wetlands utilisation and management 2. Validate the information with the communities 3. Identify entry points for indigenous knowledge in decision making 4. Disseminate the information on indigenous knowledge in wetlands conservation and management	1. Ministry responsible for Chiefs and Traditional Affairs 2. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 3. Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting 4. Ministry responsible for National Parks and Wildlife 5. NHCC 6. Civil Society Organisations,	By Indigenous knowledge on 3 key wetlands documented and incorporated into decision making.	Number of wetlands with Indigenous knowledge documented and incorporated into decision making. Number of programs on indigenous knowledge produced.	300,000.00
6	To regulate and promote sustainable management of wetlands.	Develop and implement standard operating procedures for extraction, processing, transporting and management of waste relating to wetland resources.	1. Review existing international standards in the management of waste in wetlands 2. Adapt relevant standards in the management of waste to Zambian context 3. Implement the adapted standards	1. Ministry responsible for commerce and industry 2. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 3. Ministry of Tourism and Arts 4. ZEMA 5. NHCC 6. Civil Society Organisations	By 2025 standard operating procedures for extraction, processing, transporting and management of waste relating to wetland resources are in place.	Standard operating procedures available.	100,000.00

		Ensure equity in benefits, define roles and responsibilities for women youths and people with special needs in wetlands management.	1. Undertake assessment on gender disaggregation on the utilisation of wetland resources 2. Develop guidelines to ensure that gender equity in utilisation of wetland resources is prioritised. 3. Implement the guidelines	1. Ministry responsible for Gender 2. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 3. Ministry responsible for Chiefs and Traditional Affairs 4. Ministry responsible for Community Development 5. Ministry Responsible for National Development Planning 6. Civil Society Organisations	By 2020 guidelines to ensure gender and social inclusiveness in utilisation and management of wetland resources are in place.	Guidelines to ensure gender and social inclusiveness in utilisation and management of wetland resources available.	100,000.00
	Investors to uphold the principle of corporate social responsibility.	1. Develop a corporate stewardship framework for wetlands management 2. Recognise/award with good corporate	1. Ministry responsible for Finance 2. Ministry responsible for National Development	By 2019 a framework for corporate wetlands stewardship is in place.	Framework for corporate wetlands available.	Number of corporate institutions recognised and awarded for their corporate	100,000.00

			social responsibility 3. Publicise best practices in corporate social responsibility	Planning 3. ZDA 4. Ministry responsible for Commerce 5. Ministry responsible for Natural Resources 6. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting 7. Civil Society Organisations 8. Private sector	At least 1 corporate institution recognised and awarded for their corporate social responsibility annually.	social responsibility	
GRAND TOTAL							
							9,946,000.00



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