



**JOINT SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS (ESMF)  
FOR THE WILDLIFE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION PROJECTS IN THE KAFUE  
FLATS OF ZAMBIA**

August 2025

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Kafue Flats Wildlife, Habitat, Health and Livelihoods Project (KaF-Wild) and Kafue Flats Climate Resilience and Adaptation Project (KaF-Adapt).**

**Please note that this document is a summary of the two Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) of the KaF- Wild and KaF- Adapt projects and does not contain all the details and information of the two full and complete ESMFs. For more information, and to see the full and unedited documents, please visit: <https://www.savingcranes.org/> or <https://www.mgee.gov.zm/> or <https://www.mot.gov.zm/>.**

The Government of the Republic of Zambia is accessing funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through WWF-US as a GEF Agency, for two projects in the 8th Cycle of the GEF. The projects are:

1. “Kafue Flats Climate Resilience and Adaptation Project (KaF-Adapt)”, to be funded by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and
2. “Kafue Flats Wildlife, Habitat, Health and Livelihoods Project (KaF-Wild)” which forms part of one of the GEF’s integrated programmes in the GEF-8 cycle, the “Wildlife Conservation for Development” (WCD) Integrated Programme, and joins other projects from the GEF-6 and GEF-7 cycles in the Global Wildlife Program (GWP).

The lead Ministry for the KaF-Adapt project is the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MGE), and the lead Ministry for the KaF-Wild project is the Ministry of Tourism (MT), through its Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Key executing partner is the Zambia office of the International Crane Foundation (ICF), in terms of a 20-year collaborative management partnership agreement signed by ICF, WWF Zambia and DNPW in 2022 for the Kafue Flats Game Management Area, Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks.

To ensure environmental and social concerns are integrated into project design and implementation, safeguards form an integral part of the project activities. Taking into consideration the policies, laws and regulations of Zambia, WWF’s Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) requires the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Process Framework (PF) whose focus is to avoid (or minimise) adverse environmental and social impacts, and to enhance positive impacts of the project. The ESMF provides an overarching safeguards document governing the approach, processes and specific instruments for the proposed projects. As such, the ESMF provides the safeguard decision support tool and guide to inform the yearly Environmental and Social Screenings and any resulting Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and other safeguard instruments (if applicable) during the project design phase. The ESMF will inform and guide designated implementing agencies and other government institutions responsible for ensuring safeguard requirements for the project’s proposed initiatives and activities are compliant with the Zambian government and WWF’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework guidelines.

## **Project Area Description**

The Kafue Flats comprise a large area of swamp, open lagoon and seasonally inundated flood-plain on the Kafue River in the Southern, Central and Lusaka provinces of Zambia. They are a shallow flood plain 240 km long and about 50 km wide, flooded to a depth of less than a meter in the rainy season (deeper in some lagoons and permanently swampy areas), and drying out to a clayey black soil in the dry season. The project will be developed and implemented in the Kafue Flats of Zambia which forms part of an ecologically sensitive system that supports diverse economic activities in the Country. The project area consists of two National Parks (Blue Lagoon and Lochinvar National Parks) and the surrounding Game Management Area (GMA) including the Nkala GMA of the Kafue National Park in Itezhi-Tezhi District.

The 240 km-long and 50 km-wide floodplain surrounds the lower stretch of the great Kafue River between Itezhi-tezhi Dam and the Kafue Gorge Dam with the Upper and Lower power stations used for producing 50% of the nation's hydropower. Despite changes in the hydrological system from damming of the river, and from climate change, the Kafue Flats remains one of the most productive wetlands in Zambia. The Flats is home to 20% of the national livestock herd, 7% of national fisheries, 40% of sugar production, and 25 % of maize production in the country. The Eastern end of the Flats, around Mazabuka and Kafue towns, much of the water is abstracted for commercial sugar cane farming by the large companies Zambia Sugar and Kafue Sugar. Other large water-consuming companies include Zambian Breweries, a subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) and Zambeef Products which is involved in the production, processing, distribution and retailing of beef, pork, poultry, dairy products, eggs, edible oils, flour and bread. Zambeef raises feedlot cattle on three farms outside the Kafue Flats, and also purchases cattle from commercial farmers, especially in Namwala district, and sometimes from traditional pastoralists. Zambeef also has a tannery and shoe leather division called Zamleather.

The project is classified as a category B project under the WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Categorization. Category B projects are Medium-risk projects that have potential adverse social and/or environmental impacts, and which require the development of a mitigation plan in accordance with the safeguards framework to address these.

## **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) Objectives**

Since the precise scope of activities that will be implemented as part of the project will only be determined during the implementation phase, site-specific social and environmental impacts are uncertain at this stage. Thus, the development of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) was not feasible, and an ESMF was necessary to set out procedures for addressing potential adverse social and environmental impacts that may occur during project activities. Site-specific ESMPs will be developed with the guidance provided by the projects' ESMFs during project implementation.

The specific objectives of the ESMFs include the following:

- Carry out a preliminary identification of the positive and negative social and environmental impacts and risks associated with the implementation of the Project, including any Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) risks;
- Outline the legal and regulatory framework that is relevant to the Project implementation;
- Specify appropriate roles and responsibilities of actors and parties involved in the ESMF implementation;
- Propose a set of preliminary recommendations and measures to mitigate any negative impacts and enhance positive impacts;
- Develop a screening and assessment methodology for potential activities, that will allow an environmental/social risk classification and the identification of appropriate safeguards instruments;
- Set out procedures to establish mechanisms to monitor the implementation and efficacy of the proposed mitigation measures; and
- Outline requirements related to disclosure, grievance redress, capacity building activities, and budget required for the implementation of the ESMF.

### **Process Framework (PF) Objectives**

The Project triggers the WWF's Standard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement as it may restrict or otherwise affect access to natural resources (both legal and illegal) within the Kafue Flats especially grazing lands and the livelihood activities particularly along the banks of the Kafue River and its tributaries. The Process Framework (PF) describes the process by which affected communities participate in the design of and agree to any mitigation measures that result from access restriction. Access restriction under the project cannot occur unless the affected people agree to an alternative, which will be laid out in a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP). The purpose of the PF is to ensure that Project Affected People do not become worse off because of the project but rather ensure recognition and promotion of their interests and rights. As the project intends to provide support for the development of various livelihood activities, the allocation of project benefits among local community members is particularly important. The intent of the framework is to ensure transparency and equity in the planning and implementation of activities by the project. The framework details the principles that become the bedrock for ensuring that mitigation of any negative impacts from project investments is through a participatory process involving affected stakeholders. It also ensures that any desired changes in the ways in which local communities exercise customary tenure rights in the project sites would not be imposed but should emerge from a consultative process. Below are some of the potential activities likely to trigger access restrictions with the associated potential mitigation measures. All mitigation measures will be designed in partnership with affected communities and written out in a LRP before related actions can take place, so the following measures are potential, and not certain at this point.

- i. **Boundary Demarcation Marking and Partial Fencing:** Some sections of the boundary demarcation will trigger access restrictions to both community members and livestock.

**Mitigation:** Community consent and involvement in the establishment of boundaries through the Traditional Leaders, local Civic leaders and Community Resources Boards (CRBs) to agree on alternative designated routes.

- ii. **Zoning in the General Management Plan:** Some zones in the General Management Plan may restrict settlements and uncontrolled movement of both livestock and community members.
 

**Mitigation:** Community consent and involvement in the establishment of Zones through the Traditional Leaders, local Civic leaders and CRBs to agree on alternative areas and routes.
- iii. **Implementation of Integrated District Plans (IDPs):** Some IDPs contain restrictions in the utilisation of some resources especially from wetlands and forests in an unsustainable manner.
 

**Mitigation:** Inclusive design and consent from affected groups/ communities in the development and implementation of IDPs for any access restriction that may occur.
- iv. **Folder Growing and Reseeding Grasslands:** The restriction might come about during the process of allowing the grass to grow to mature stage.
 

**Mitigation:** Community awareness and agreement during the development and implementation of the intervention.

### **Approach and Methodology**

The focus of the ESMF preparations were to highlight the potential environmental and social impacts of the planned future activities of the project and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for addressing potential negative impacts. To achieve the assignment objectives, both quantitative and qualitative methods of research were adopted. Specifically, the following was conducted:

- a) Desk review of Zambian Policies, Laws and Regulations and WWF's safeguards standards, that requires that any potentially adverse environmental and social impacts are identified, avoided or mitigated. For Zambian law, a review of sector specific policies, Laws and regulations related to project objectives was conducted, and those will apply to govern the outcomes and outputs to safeguard project affected people in the area. WWF-US is the Implementing Agency for the project, and therefore the WWF SIPP applies as well. The following Safeguards policies relevant to the project were reviewed:
  - i. Standard on Environmental and Social Risk Management,
  - ii. Standard on Protection of Natural Habitats,
  - iii. Standard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement,
  - iv. Standard on Indigenous People,
  - v. Standard on Community Health, Safety and Security,
  - vi. Standard on Cultural Resources,
  - vii. Standard on Accountability and Grievance System,
  - viii. Standard on Pest Management,
  - ix. Standard on Public Consultation and Disclosure, and
  - x. Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.
- b) The ESMF/PF also draws on the community engagement and consultation results through Focus Group Discussions that were held across the project area with different community members at village level.

General stakeholder engagement measures are outlined in the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP provides procedures on how project affected communities, and other

stakeholders should be engaged in advance of the implementation of each activity, and that their interests, entitlements, and livelihoods are not negatively affected. If the yearly environmental and social safeguards screening reveals adverse impacts that may result from project activities, a community consultation must be organized in advance of the implementation of such activities and agreement reached with affected communities of a way forward. To mitigate any potential adverse impacts, activities that result in potential environmental impacts to land, water or wildlife, or restriction or loss of tenure rights or restrictions to livelihood activities or other human rights will trigger the development of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) or Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs). Community members that should be engaged through consultations are those who, as a direct consequence of an activity or subproject would, without their informed consent or power of choice either lose their assets or access to assets or access to community and natural resources, lose a source of income or means of livelihood, whether or not they physically relocate to another place or have their cultural, spiritual or natural resources impacted in any way by project activities. Vulnerable and marginalized groups should be actively engaged in project-related consultations. These groups include women (especially widows and female-headed households), youths, disabled individuals, elderly people (especially single-headed households), poor households and other tribes. For the community engagement process to be as inclusive as possible, it is important to use as many avenues as possible to inform all stakeholders through advertisements, national radio and television etc. Specific recommendations and guidelines on engagement methods are provided in the SEP which is developed separately.

### **Environmental and Social Policy, Regulations and Guidelines**

The Zambian government has provided several policies and regulations directed at supporting efforts aimed at wildlife management and Climate change adaptation. In addition, to the WWF SIPP, several policies were reviewed and include the Vision 2030, Eighth National Development Plan (2022-2026), Fisheries Act (1974), National Policy on Environment (NPE), 2009, National Adaptation Programme of Action on Climate Change (2007), Zambia National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010). Other policies include National Policy on Climate Change (2016), Nationally Determined Contributions (2016; 2020), Second National Biodiversity and Action Plan (2015 - 2025), and the draft Climate Change Bill (2021). Other key pieces of legislation are listed below:

1. Environmental Management Act, 2011
2. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
3. Pesticides and Toxic Substances Regulations, 1994
4. Water Pollution Control Regulations, 1993
5. The Lands Act, 1995
6. Local Government Act
7. National Heritage Conservation Commission Act
8. The Natural Resources Conservation Act
9. The Plant Pests and Diseases Act, 1959
10. The Plant Variety and Seeds Act, 1968
11. Public Health Act
12. The Town and Country Planning Act

13. The Water Resources Management Act (Act no. 21 of 2011)
14. Forest Act of 2015,
15. The Zambia National REDD+ Strategy,
16. The Lands Act of 1995 (2012 – 2030),
17. The Tourism and Hospitality Act (2015)

### **Identified Project Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Potential Risks and Mitigation Measures**

Assessments done during project design as well as engagement with project stakeholders including community members revealed several potential risks associated with the implementation of the project. Several of these potential risks are highlighted below:

- i. **Cultural Resource Risks:** Implementation of the project may lead to the destruction or tampering of various sites of cultural importance scattered across the project area.  
**Mitigation:** In collaboration with the community, all the cultural sites of importance have been mapped out in the draft General Management Plan and will help to ensure these sites are not selected or impacted during the project sites selection process during implementation.
- ii. **Human Rights (Elite Capture Risks):** There is a strong possibility of elite capture and the inability of the most vulnerable to access the project benefits.  
**Mitigation:** Equitable selection criteria will be co-created and shared with all stakeholders, including communities.
- iii. **Gender Equality and Women's Rights:** The level of discrimination against women is generally high in the country, and there are disparities between men and women on education, land tenure and livelihood opportunities. These could all become worse because of the project if mitigation measures are not taken.  
**Mitigation:** Development and full implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plans and Gender Action Plans, with deliberate and specific social inclusion strategies. The stakeholder engagement plan will integrate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) principles.
- iv. **Children's Rights:** Children's rights are not a particular concern in the project area, but there is a risk that the project could encourage their participation in their parent's livelihood activities.  
**Mitigation:** Co-created equitable selection criteria for beneficiaries and livelihood activities with conditions that do not exclude those with children but prevent infringement of children's rights.
- v. **Conflict Sensitivity Risks:** Conflicts could arise between park rangers and other staff and communities due to better enforcement.  
**Mitigation:** Providing Ranger training on international best practice (human rights approach) for engaging with communities.

vi. **Community Health, Safety, and Security Risks:** Food security might be a potential issue in the project, due to stronger enforcement around the prevention of illegal harvesting of resources from the parks. Better enforcement might also trigger conflict between rangers and some community members, which could lead to safety issues. The hiring of youth for invasive species removal triggers a workers safety protocol.

**Mitigation:** Community awareness program on wildlife conservation, provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods that have been designed with and agreed upon by community members in a project-specific Livelihood Restoration Plan and safety protocol training for all those involved in the control of Invasive Alien Species. In addition, human rights training on both the rangers and community.

vii. **Climate Change:** Extreme events (Floods/ Droughts) may exacerbate food insecurity, gender disparities and subsequent illegal harvesting of wildlife.

**Mitigation:** Community awareness program on climate change adaptation and provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods. Development and full implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan with deliberate and specific social inclusion strategies. The stakeholder engagement plan will integrate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) principles.

### **Grievance Redress**

The Project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be administered by the Project Management Unit (PMU). The Safeguards & Gender Officer will oversee the operation of the GRM at the PMU, responsible for collecting and processing grievances that address activities in project areas. Until the PMU is hired, stakeholders can reach out to David Titus Banda, International Crane Foundation's Community Relations Manager at cell: **+260979537273** or [email: davidb@savingcranes.org](mailto:davidb@savingcranes.org) : Guidelines for the GRM operation are outlined in the ESMF and the SEP.

### **Disclosure**

All affected communities and relevant stakeholders shall be informed on the ESMF requirements and commitments in line with the outlined ESMF. The ESMF has been prepared in consultation with affected communities during the scoping mission in the project area and shall be disclosed to all stakeholders prior to and during the project implementation. Activity-specific ESMPs will be developed and disclosed during project implementation as needed.

**The consultative meetings from government were at three levels namely National, Provincial and District whilst the community consultative meetings were at two levels, the chiefs and community members. The community consultative meetings involved courtesy calls on their royal highnesses and community meetings for the community members during the project development phase. The community members comprised Headpersons, local civic leaders, farmers, women clubs, youths and community resources boards. Below is the table showing meetings that took place.**

Chiefdom	District	Site	Details
Mwanachingwala	Mazabuka	Palace	Meeting with Chief Mwanachingwala
Mwanachingwala	Mazabuka	Mwanachingwala	Meeting with the Mwanachingwala community members
	Mazabuka	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff
	Monze	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff
Choongo	Monze	Palace	Meeting with Chief Choongo
Choongo	Monze	Choongo	Meeting with the Choongo community members
	Monze	Lochnivar DNPW Offices	Meeting with Warden & Staff in Lochinvar National Park
	Choma	Provincial Administration	Meeting with Permanent Secretary & Provincial staff
Hamusonde	Monze	Palace	Meeting with Chief Hamusonde
Hamusonde	Monze	Hamusonde	Meeting with the Hamusonde community members
Nalubamba	Namwala	Chamber	Meeting with Chief Nalubamba
Nalubamba	Namwala	Nalubamba	Meeting with the Nalubamba community members
Mungaila	Namwala	Palace	Meeting with Chief Mungaila
Mungaila	Namwala	Mungaila	Meeting with the Mungaila community members
	Namwala	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff
	Itezhi tezhi	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff
Musungwa	Itezhi tezhi	Palace	Meeting with Chief Musungwa
Musungwa	Itezhi tezhi	Musungwa	Meeting with the Musungwa community members
Muwezwa	Itezhi tezhi	Palace	Meeting with Chieftainess Muwezwa
Muwezwa	Itezhi tezhi	Muwezwa	Meeting with the Muwezwa community members
Shezongo	Itezhi tezhi	Palace	Meeting with Chief Shezongo
Shezongo	Itezhi tezhi	Shezongo	Meeting with the Shezongo community members
	Mumbwa	Blue Lagoon DNPW Offices	Meeting with Warden & Staff in Blue Lagoon National Park
Shakumbila	Mumbwa	Palace	Meeting with Senior Chief Shakumbila
Shakumbila	Mumbwa & Shibuyunji	Shakumbila	Meeting with the Shakumbila community members
	Mumbwa	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff
	Shibuyunji	District Administration	Meeting with District Commissioner & District Staff

## **Guidelines for the ESMP Development**

The ESMP describes adverse environmental and social impacts that are expected to occur because of the specific project activity, outlines concrete measures that should be undertaken to avoid or mitigate these impacts, and specifies the implementation arrangements for administering these measures including institutions structures, roles, communication, consultations, and reporting procedures. The necessary ESMPs will be drafted by the PMU during project implementation, based on the required yearly ESS Screenings.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring of the project activities with the ESMF will ensure that the project adheres to the guidelines. Responsibility for meeting the requirements of the ESMF guidelines are as follows:

**Project Level:** The overall responsibility for implementing the ESMF and for monitoring compliance with the Project's environmental and social safeguard activities lies with the PMU. The Safeguards & Gender Officer within the PMU shall oversee the implementation of all field activities and ensure their compliance with the ESMF. They shall also monitor the project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and assess its effectiveness (i.e., to what extent grievances are resolved in an expeditious and satisfactory manner). The Officer will be responsible for reporting on overall safeguards compliance to the KaF-Adapt/KaF-Wild PMU project manager, the National Steering Committee, and WWF-US GEF Agency.

**GEF Implementing Agency Level:** The WWF-US GEF Agency as the project's Implementing Agency, and the Ministries of Green Economy and Environment and Tourism as the Executing Agencies and chair of the National Steering Committee, are responsible to oversee compliance with the ESMF.

## **Budget**

The ESMF implementation costs, including all costs related to compensation to project affected people, will be fully covered from the project budget. It will be the responsibility of the National Steering Committee and the PMU to ensure that sufficient budget is available for all activity-specific mitigation measures that may be required to comply with the ESMF. The principles and procedures of the ESMF apply only to project activities that are funded through the GEF.