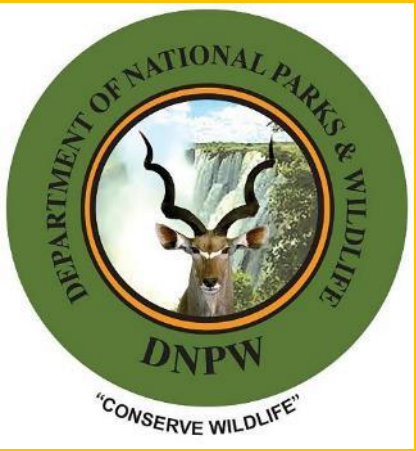


Update on the National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetahs and Wild Dogs in Zambia

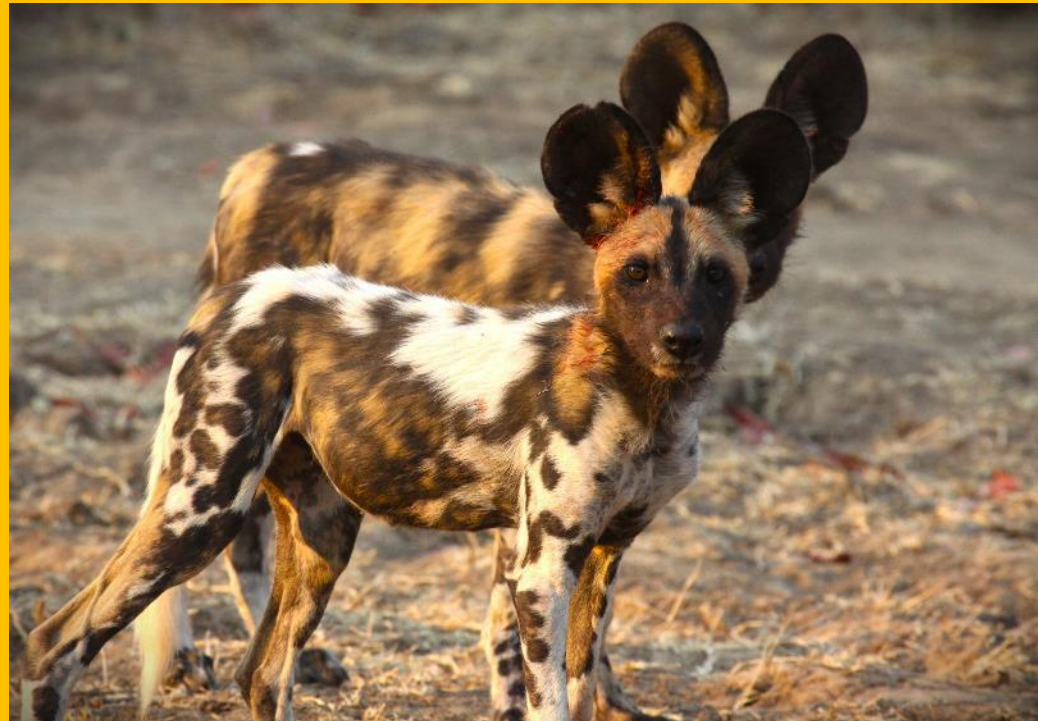


Sandra Ponde
Senior Ecologist
Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife





Update on the National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetahs and Wild Dogs in Zambia



Vision: Secure viable cheetah and wild dog populations across a range of ecosystems that successfully coexist with, and are valued by, the people of Zambia

Goal: Improve the status of cheetahs and wild dogs, and restore and secure additional viable populations across their range



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ARTS

National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetah and African Wild Dog for Zambia

2019 to 2023



With support from:



ZSL
LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE



Objectives

1. To **develop national capacity in all aspects of cheetah and wild dog conservation in Zambia** (*Capacity Development*)
2. To **improve knowledge and expand research and generate information for the conservation of wild dogs and cheetahs in existing range areas across Zambia.** (*Knowledge and information*)
3. To develop and implement mechanisms for the **transfer of information relevant to cheetah and wild dog conservation** and ensure active commitment of stakeholders to conservation. (*Information transfer*)
- 4 To **promote coexistence of people with cheetah and wild dogs across Zambia** (*Coexistence*)
- 5 **Promote best land use practices that provide for the ecological needs of cheetah and wild dogs in priority range areas in Zambia** (*Land use*)
6. To advocate for **increased political commitment to the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia** (*Political commitment*)
- 7 To advocate for **stronger international and national legislation, by-laws, policies and protocols to support cheetah and wild dog conservation** (*Policy and legislation*)
8. To **maintain and implement current national conservation action plans and utilise other relevant frameworks for the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia.** (*National Planning*)

1. To develop national capacity in all aspects of cheetah and wild dog conservation in Zambia (*Capacity Development*)

- **Successful**
- **1.1. Gaps in national capacity in all areas of cheetah and wild dog conservation are identified and documented; existing programmes are supplemented and expanded**
- **1.1.4. Support and expand existing capacity development programmes in research, monitoring, veterinary services and law enforcement as relevant to cheetah and wild dog conservation**



Capacity Development Programmes

- **Conservation Biologist Training Programme**
- **Women in Wildlife Conservation Training Programme**
- **Wildlife Vet Training Programme**
- **Advanced Education and Employment Opportunities for DNPW and NGO sector**



2. To improve knowledge and expand research and generate information for the conservation of wild dogs and cheetahs in existing range areas across Zambia. (*Knowledge and information*)

Successful

2.1. Acquire information about current and historical status, distribution, and connectivity of cheetah and wild dog populations across Zambia and assess recoverable and nonrecoverable priority range areas within five years.



Successful

2.1.1. Maintain and expand long-term monitoring programmes (*Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa each over 12 years running*)

2.1.2 Continue to contribute to the ongoing cheetah and wild dog atlas (*Ongoing*)

2.1.3 Continue studies on dispersal in both species, including factors influencing dispersal success (*Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa*)

2.1.4 Continue studies on cheetah and wild dogs feeding ecology in different areas in relation to potential range (*Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa*)

2.1.5 Assess viability and connectivity of small wild dog and cheetah populations (*Ongoing*)

2.1.6. Continue to conduct surveys in unknown and possible range to assess population status and distribution for cheetah and wild dogs (*e.g Liuwa-Mussuma corridor, Kafue-West Lunga, Nsumbu, Sioma*)

2.1.7 Assess recoverable priority range areas for factors likely to influence recolonization (natural or artificial) *Ongoing*

Successful

2.2. Standardised, quantitative knowledge of threats and their mitigation are generated and disseminated across Zambia, including on poaching for bushmeat, habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal trade, climate change and irresponsible captive management



Successful

2.2.3 Gather and disseminate information on present and emerging threats to cheetah and wild dog conservation from the bushmeat trade (*Ongoing, intensive studies in Kafue, Luangwa, Liuwa*)

2.2.5 Gather and disseminate information on loss and fragmentation of cheetah and/or wild dog habitat (*Ongoing encroachment and land-use change studies across Zambia*)

2.2.6 Gather and disseminate information on conservancy models and illustrate the potential benefits of conservancies as an alternative to game farming/ranching (*Ongoing in various ecosystems*)

2.2.7 Gather and disseminate information on management of areas of connectivity (*Ongoing*)

A pack of wild dogs is seen from behind, walking away into a savanna landscape. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the animals' fur. The background shows a line of trees and a hazy horizon.

Successful

2.3. Standardised, quantitative knowledge of human-carnivore conflict mitigation across Zambia is generated and disseminated

Successful

2.3.1 Compile available data on conflict, threats and their mitigation, and, where possible, collate in standardized formats (*Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa*)

2.3.2 Initiate studies (field studies, surveys, questionnaires for historical and existing data) to quantify conflict, threat, their drivers and mitigation and effects on population viability (*Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa*)

2.3.3 Identify shortfalls in existing knowledge about conflicts, threats, and their mitigation (*Ongoing*)

2.3.4 Continue gathering knowledge on present and emerging threats to cheetah and wild dog conservation, including illegal trade and develop mitigation measures (*Ongoing*)

2.3.5 Produce and distribute handbook on human carnivore mitigating methods (*Liuwa*)

3. To develop and implement mechanisms for the transfer of information relevant to cheetah and wild dog conservation and ensure active commitment of stakeholders to conservation.
(Information transfer)



- Successful
- 3.3 Awareness programmes of threats and benefits across the country in areas where the species occur or are likely to occur within one year initiated and established
 - 3.3.1 Develop curricula regarding cheetah and wild dogs and integrate with activities of Chongololo and Conservation Clubs (*Ongoing in Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa*)
 - 3.3.2 Organise competitions, essays, etc in schools and between schools to enhance and highlight conservation education (*Ongoing country-wide*)
 - 3.3.3 Encourage sponsorship of sports teams, clubs and groups named after cheetah and wild dogs at all levels (*Luangwa's Mimbulu Boys and Girls Football Academy, the Carnivore Cup Football Tournament*)
 - 3.3.4 Link with existing initiatives and provide relevant information and interpretive materials to support judicial and law enforcement agencies (*Ongoing, DNPW, WCP, CSL*)



Successful

4.1.4 Sensitise and enable relevant stakeholders to adopt livestock husbandry practices proven to reduce depredation
(not currently an issue in most of Zambia, conducted in Liuwa)

4.1.6 Implement human-wildlife conflict rapid response teams to react quickly and effectively to conflict situations
(Luangwa and Liuwa)

4.1.7 Initiate and continue targeted programmes to combat negative perceptions of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia
(Ongoing country-wide through radio, conservation clubs, theatre, media)

4.1.8. Initiate and continue poisons response training and implement poison response protocol across DNPW Area Management Units Zambia. *(Poisons response training across Luangwa, Kafue and Liuwa)*

4.1.9. Coordinate anti-trafficking and sensitization efforts with ongoing cheetah and wild dog research and monitoring to direct law enforcement and community awareness efforts to areas of high risk. *(Ongoing)*



4 To promote coexistence of people with cheetah and wild dogs across Zambia (Coexistence)

4.2.1 Support, expand and improve current monitoring of trends and patterns of incidental killing of cheetah and wild dogs across Zambia, and collate data annually on a national level while maintain regional communications *(Ongoing, across Luangwa, Kafue and Liuwa)*

4.2.2 Reduce snaring mortality of cheetah and wild dogs through initiatives such as anti-poaching/anti-snaring, integrated community-based population, health and environment, outreach and education initiatives *(Ongoing, across Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa)*

4.2.3 Coordinate anti-poaching, and sensitization efforts with ongoing cheetah and wild dog research and monitoring to direct law enforcement and community awareness efforts to areas of high risk *(Ongoing across Luangwa, Kafue, Liuwa)*

4.2.4 Initiate effective disease mitigation programmes to manage diseases that threaten cheetah and wild dog population viability
(Ongoing in Luangwa and Liuwa, needed in Kafue and Lower Zambezi)

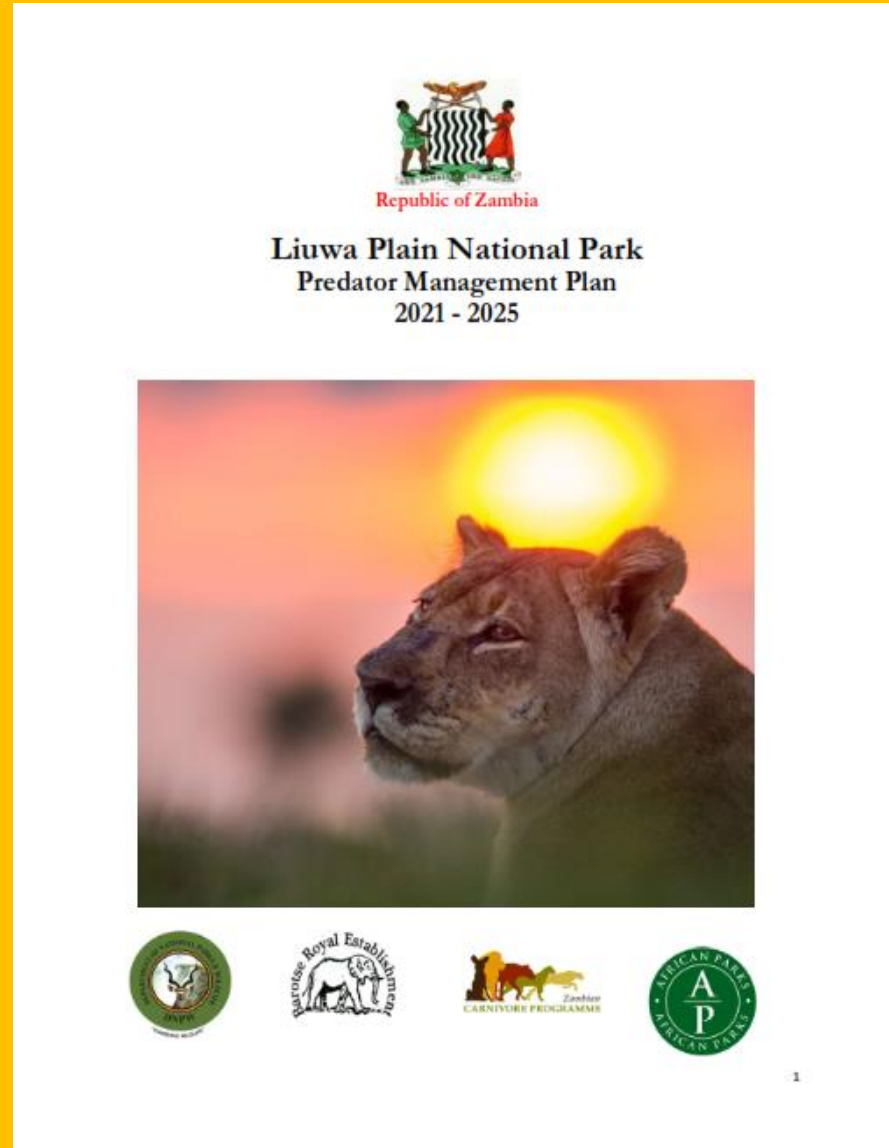
4.2.5 Substantially reduce road mortality of cheetahs and wild dogs through law enforcement and awareness campaigns *(In development in Kafue)*

4.2.6 Substantially reduce poisoning mortality of cheetahs and wild dogs through law enforcement and awareness campaigns *(Ongoing, though currently not a threat)*

4 To promote coexistence of people with cheetah and wild dogs across Zambia (*Coexistence*)


Management Plans

- Predator Management Plans
- HWC Plans
- Species Action Plans
 - National, Regional, and Species-level
- Land-Use Plans



Republic of Zambia

Liuwa Plain National Park
Predator Management Plan
2021 - 2025



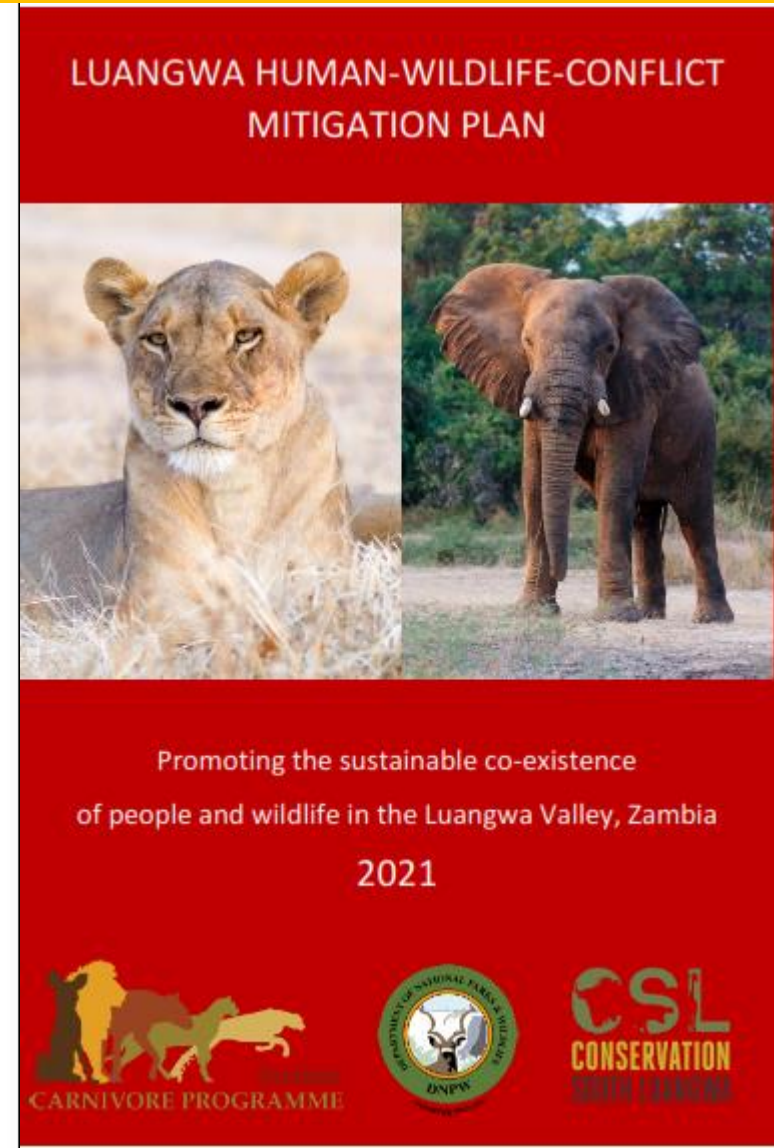
ZAWA

Zimbabwe Royal Establishment



Zambia Carnivore Programme

AFRICAN PARKS

1



LUANGWA HUMAN-WILDLIFE-CONFLICT
MITIGATION PLAN



Promoting the sustainable co-existence
of people and wildlife in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia
2021

CARNIVORE PROGRAMME

ZAWA

CSA
CONSERVATION
SOUTH AFRICA

5 Promote best land use practices that provide for the ecological needs of cheetah and wild dogs in priority range areas in Zambia (*Land use*)

Theme	Objective	Result	Activity	Actors	Timeframe
5. Land use	5.Promote best land use practices that provide for the ecological needs of cheetah and wild dogs in priority range areas in Zambia	5.1. Current and proposed trends in land use are evaluated against the conservation needs of cheetah and wild dog	5.1.1. Map the current and potential land use practices in and around priority range including corridors for cheetah and wild dog	DNPW, Ministry of Lands, NGOs	Within 2 years
			5.1.2. Evaluate and map threats to cheetah and wild dog populations from current and potential land use practices	DNPW with input from CRB & local & international NGOs	Within 3 years
			5.1.3. Collate and develop guidelines based on case studies of land-use strategies associated with successful cheetah and wild dog conservation in relevant countries in the region (Namibia and Botswana)	DNPW with input from CRB & local & international NGOs	Within 2 years
			5.1.4. Use the information from threat mapping to inform land use planning processes in and around priority range for cheetah and wild dog	DNPW, NGOs,	Within 4 years
		5.2. Cheetah and wild dog conservation is aligned with development needs through integrated and innovative land use approaches	5.2.1. Develop and recommend land use guidelines for development in collaboration with government and relevant stakeholders	DNPW with input from CRB & local & international NGOs	Within 2 years
			5.2.2. Promote and link agriculture and range management programmes to relevant areas.	DNPW with input from CRB & local & international NGOs	Within 4 years
			5.2.3. Coordinate with the providers of training programmes to increase the capacity of agricultural communities to practice sustainable range management	DNPW, NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture	Within 3 years
			5.2.4. Assess the effectiveness of new and existing livestock husbandry and range management programmes against the conservation needs of cheetahs and wild dogs and disseminate results annually to inform adaptive management strategies	DNPW with input from CRB & local & international NGOs	Within 5 years
			5.2.5. Utilize private public partnerships to advance best land use practices for cheetah and wild dog conservation	DNPW & NGOs (e.g. Africa Parks, FZS)	Within 2 years

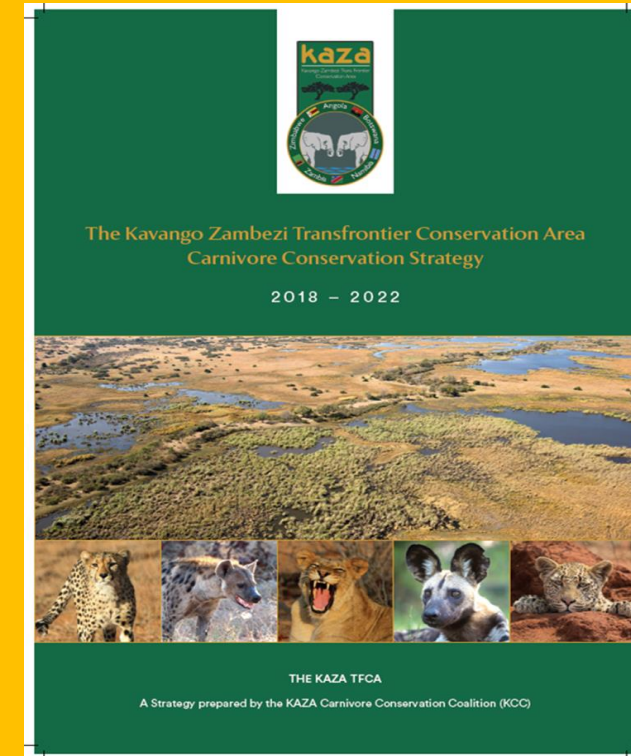


5.3.3. Promote wild dogs and cheetah as the flagship species of large landscape level habitat conservation initiatives. (e.g. TFCA)

5.4. Cheetah and wild dog range is expanded within Zambia in areas of recoverable range. Successful reintroductions in Bangweulu Wetlands GMA

6. To advocate for increased political commitment to the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia (*Political commitment*)

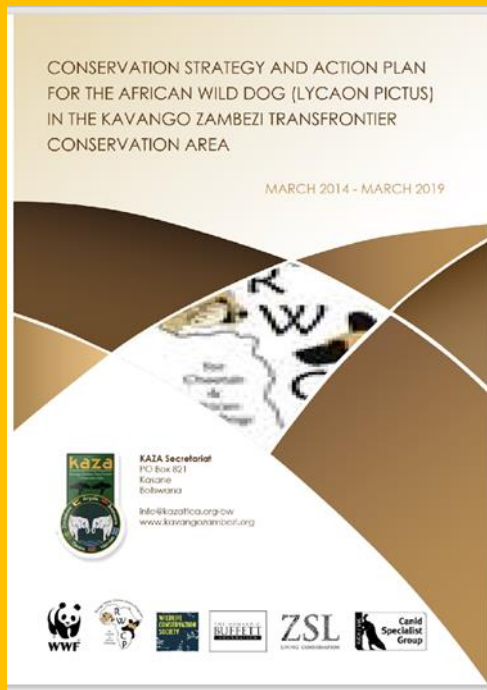
- 6.1 Relevant transboundary and large landscape conservation initiatives that will benefit the conservation of cheetahs and wild dogs are promoted (DNPW with input from CRB, local and national conservation NGOs)
- **6.1.1 Develop and promote further transboundary agreements and strategies that will benefit cheetah and wild dog (Successful) Zambia is part of the KCC,**



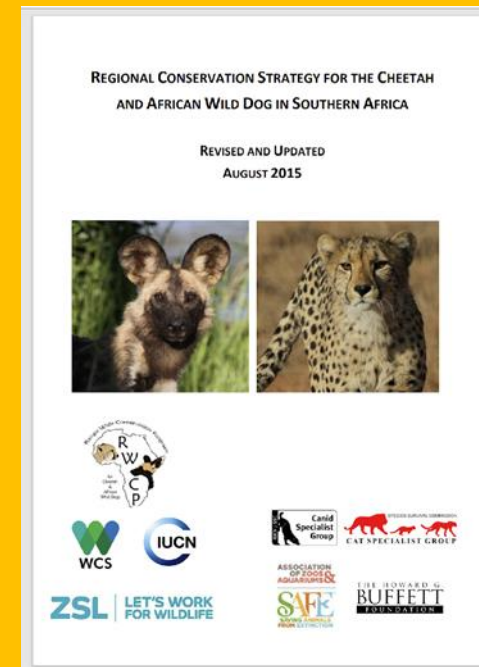
6. To advocate for increased political commitment to the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia (*Political commitment*)

- 6.1.2 Link and partner with local and international advocacy organisations, (e.g. CMS, CBD and IUCN) to achieve effective transboundary conservation efforts, **Successful**,

6.1.3 Develop and promote further agreements and strategies for large landscape conservation that will benefit cheetah and wild dog **Successful**



Compliments and builds on the existing Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the African Wild Dog in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area,



Zambia was an active participant in the updating of the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Southern Africa in South Africa

7 To advocate for stronger international and national legislation, by-laws, policies and protocols to support cheetah and wild dog conservation (*Policy and legislation*)

National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Zambia

(Draft copy – NOT FOR CIRCULATION)



7.1 The relevance and efficacy of current national, regional and international policies, protocols and legislation pertaining to the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs is assessed **Successful**

7.2 Cheetah and wild dog conservation actions are aligned to existing national and international policies, protocols and legislation, and revision is lobbied for where appropriate, **Successful**

Following the regional strategy developed in 2007, Zambia developed its **first ever** National Conservation Action Plan for Cheetah and Wild dog in 2009

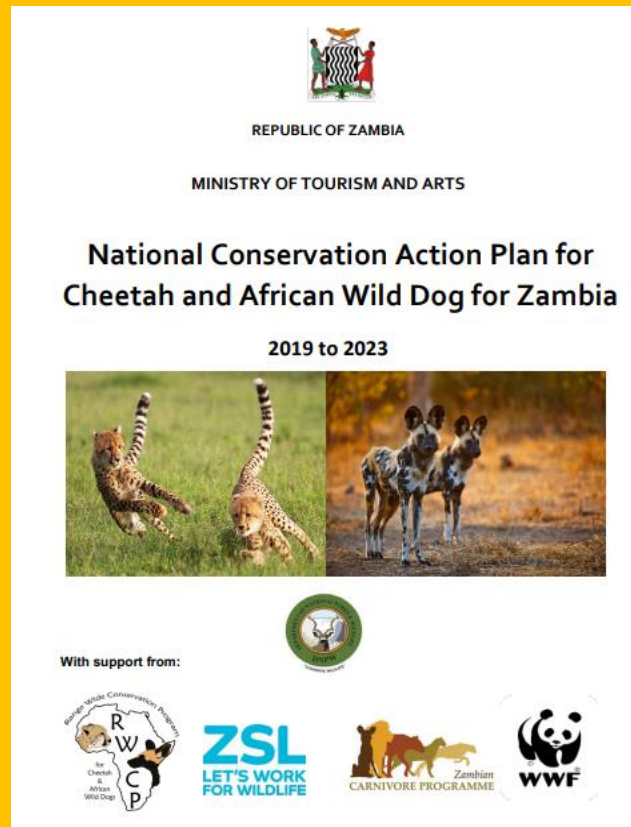
Suggested citation: Zambia Wildlife Authority (2009) *National Conservation Action Plan for cheetahs and wild dog in Zambia*



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8. To maintain and implement current national conservation action plans and utilise other relevant frameworks for the conservation of cheetah and wild dogs in Zambia. (*National Planning*)



8.1. The National Conservation Action Plan for Zambia is revised to ensure it remains S.M.A.R.T and in line with the regional strategy, every 5 years. (DNPW, ZCP, RWCP) **Successful**

The Zambian DNPW together with key stakeholders and the community revised the National Conservation Plan for Cheetah and Wild dog in 2018 and Government ratified in in 2019

Challenges and Recommendations

- More Funding to implement programmes yet to be achieved
-

Next steps

Review of the national strategy taking account of the gaps and activities not achieved over the past 5 years