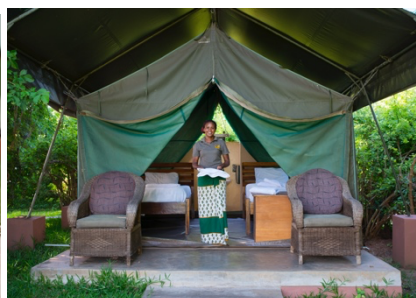
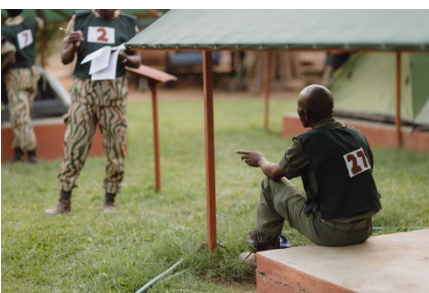




Conserving the Lower Zambezi for Future Generations



SwissAfrican Foundation Final Report 2021



Support to Conservation Lower Zambezi Final Report: January – December 2021

CLZ Background

Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) is a non-governmental organisation committed to the protection of wildlife and to the sustainable use of natural resources in the Lower Zambezi, Zambia. Established in 1994, CLZ's mission focuses on three main pillars of support: Wildlife Protection, Environmental Education and Community Empowerment all working towards a mission of *"A valued, protected and thriving Lower Zambezi landscape"*. The organisation works in collaboration with Zambia's local wildlife authority – The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) for over 25 years to ensure the sustainability of species in the Lower Zambezi and their ecosystems.

Support Background

In the past, SwissAfrican Foundation has supported Community Scout and DNPW patrols in the Lower Zambezi. This year, funding from SwissAfrican Foundation has allowed CLZ to continue protecting wildlife, empowering communities, and educating youth in the region. COVID-19 continues to affect both local communities and environmental conservation including an increase in illegal activities inside the Lower Zambezi National Park.

This critical support from SwissAfrican Foundation in 2021 has helped CLZ to:

Provide Staff Salaries

Support from SwissAfrican Foundation has helped to cover a portion of CLZ's operational cost for staff salaries which is a major part of the important behind the scenes work in conservation. Eighty percent of CLZ staff are hired from the local communities and while the organization was able to retain all staff in 2020 through emergency funding and donations, support from SwissAfrican Foundation ensured that all staff were once again maintained in 2021. This support in addition, prevented further distress due to job loss within the communities and allowed CLZ to continue to empower and support hard working and passionate employees.

CLZ basecamp is in a remote area, with the closest town approximately 140 km (round trip) from CLZ. It is key that CLZ can support the essential staff who reside and work there, which averages from 20 to 30 people at any one time, including managers, drivers, mechanics, maintenance personnel, cooks, cleaners, gardeners etc. who work together in support of CLZ's vision. This funding has provided critical support for staff salaries and its' absence would have resulted in negative results for staffing, morale, and the effective operation of CLZ basecamp and conservation work.

Establish a Long-Term Training Programme

Due to COVID-19's impact on CLZ's Environmental Protection Programme (EEP) schedule, CLZ requested that funds be shifted to support the establishment of a long-term training programme for law enforcement. In past years, CLZ has been able to provide refresher courses for specialised units and on an ad hoc basis for Rangers however, the need for a long-term, continuous training program was clear to ensure sustained improvement of law enforcement tactics across all operations. This training programme is multifaceted and goes beyond one-off trainings to instead focus on improving every level of law enforcement operations from the ground up to advance how teams communicate and operate in unison. Building this program has allowed for a more targeted and strategic approach to wildlife crime for all units and Rangers and will help assure teams are operating at the highest level in the field.

To design and develop this programme, CLZ and DNPW selected trainers—Resolve Wildlife—as Technical Advisors to facilitate and conduct the trainings based on a comparison of the quality and costs of available companies. Resolve Wildlife conducted two courses this year based on a Training Needs Assessment which

was done previously, and while following the Zambian Ministry of Health Guidelines. Resolve Wildlife, DNPW, and CLZ also constructed an Obstacle Course for these trainings to assess, develop, and improve the physical fitness of the Lower Zambezi Rangers.

The first course was a selection and training for CLZ’s new Marine Unit and newly redesignated Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) (formerly Rapid Response Unit) which occurred over four weeks in November and began with 29 participants—7 of whom were chosen for the RDT and 6 for the Marine Unit. While DNPW and Community Scout patrols are the foundation for wildlife protection in the region, these specialised units are used to target other avenues and facets of wildlife crime, building from the base level of boots on the ground. Candidates were assessed on three core components: moral, physical, and conceptual capabilities with results determined by an experienced panel of instructors representing DNPW, CLZ, and Resolve Wildlife. The training included classroom lessons, briefings, practical exercises, tests, and a two-day integrated exercise and real-life operation to shortlist candidates for the two units and assess everyone’s potential for future roles such as team leaders and instructors.

The second course was a Basic Refresher Training, during which, 24 Community Scouts and DNPW Officers attended a three-week programme to refresh and build upon their skills. The course included trainings and individual assessments on values and standards, leadership and teamwork, battle rhythm, navigation and radio procedure, human rights, physical fitness, equipment maintenance, and patrol and law enforcement techniques including camouflage, hand signals, tracking, ambushes, searches, and arrests. Rangers were given feedback on their results and guidance on areas where they could improve. They were also given the chance to provide feedback on the instructor’s performances and the clarity of the course which were resoundingly positive.

While Rangers are required to undergo an initial training, it is rare that they are ever given the opportunity to grow and build those skills through professional development and trainings. This leads to job complacency and decreased morale for their work. We are grateful for this incredible support from donors including SwissAfrican Foundation which has allowed DNPW and CLZ to establish this long-term training programme and guarantee that law enforcement operations are held to the highest standard possible and that all officers are invested in to build morale, confidence, pride, and integrity in their work.

Recognition for Swiss African Foundation Funding

CLZ would like to acknowledge and thank SwissAfrican Foundation for this critical, timely and necessary grant, allowing the organisation to continue to protect the wildlife of the Lower Zambezi.

Please see links below for SwissAfrican Foundation recognition on funding:

- CLZ Website: <https://www.conservationlowerzambezi.org/supporters/>
- CLZ October Newsletter’s story on the Specialised Units Selection and Training: <https://mailchi.mp/517cef0d2895/oct2021news>
- CLZ November Newsletter’s story on the Basic Refresher Training: <https://mailchi.mp/7252164e6cb6/nov2021news>

Financial Expenditure Summary

100% of Swiss African Foundation funding was spent in 2021, aside from \$21.89 which we are requesting as a donation to CLZ to cover administration costs. Expenditure outlined below:

Category	Budget	Spent	Remaining
Training Programme	\$ 5,982.50	\$ 5,960.61	\$ 21.89
Staff Salaries	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500	\$ 0.00
Donation to CLZ			\$ 21.89
Total	\$ 12,482.50	\$ 12,460.61	\$ 0.00



THANK YOU TO SWISSAFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORTING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE LOWER ZAMBEZI!