



## Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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### **Trip Report: Zambia** 24 July – 13 August 2006

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**Purpose of Trip:** COMACO & ZAWA Research & Data Collection

**Sites Visited:** Wildlife Conservation Society Lusaka/Nyamaluma/Mfuwe, Zambian  
Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) Mfuwe, Zambia

#### **Description of activities:**

My role in this project is to assess the economic costs and benefits of COMACO operations in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia. This research encompasses a broad range of subjects, from the value of establishing markets and improving food security, to the impact on wildlife from anti-poaching programs and sustainable agricultural practices, and the changes in tourism resulting from this. My objective for this trip to the Luangwa Valley was to begin collecting information on how tourism and wildlife populations are managed in the parks, and clarify the interactions between the national parks and the communities in the game management areas surrounding the parks. I also hoped to gain a more thorough understanding of COMACO and gather data that has been collected by COMACO on such aspects of its operations such as food security, livelihood improvements and agricultural price interventions among others. My long-term research goal is to integrate these findings into an “equation” regarding the costs of this model of biodiversity conservation.

I spent the bulk of my time in Zambia in the town of Mfuwe, located on the eastern border of the South Luangwa National Park. This was an ideal location to start my research as the Mfuwe Conservation Farmer Wildlife Producer Community Trading Center (CTC) run by COMACO, and the South Luangwa Management Unit (SLAMU) of the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) were both within easy reach. I spent most of my time in Mfuwe at the SLAMU offices researching the management model and costs/revenues associated with maintaining the South Luangwa National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas in Zambia. This included collecting data and documents outlining: the cost and effectiveness of monitoring/enforcement operations in terms of wildlife populations and poaching; revenue streams from tourism, both ‘photographic’ inside the South Park and Safari hunting in the game management areas; wildlife population trends; and patterns of poaching over time. My time at ZAWA proved fruitful as

their staff generously assisted me in my research, and generally allowed me unrestricted access to many of their resources.

I also spent some of my time at the CTC in Mfuwe. The CTC was in the process of starting a new vegetable production enterprise which aimed to supply tourist accommodation and restaurants in the area. Spending time with CTC managers, extension officers and the vegetable farmers themselves allowed me greater insight into not only the direct role of the CTC in the community, but also how it's operations are focused on reducing the deleterious impact on wildlife from unsustainable farming methods and food insecurity.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations:**

The South Luangwa Management Unit held a great deal of information on the South Luangwa National Park; however this data is not representative of the North Luangwa National Park and Lukusuzi National Park as they are managed by a separate Management Unit of ZAWA. There is little coordination between the parks, and there exists no comprehensive plan encompassing both parks. Furthermore, the South Park has received funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Conservation (NORAD) for several years, while the North Park is funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, and each funding body has its own management objectives. As a consequence, it may be necessary to undertake similar research for the North Luangwa National Park and Lukusuzi National Park to gain a more complete understanding of the National Parks in the Luangwa Valley.

Similarly, spending time at the other CTC's would also be advantageous. The Lundazi CTC, for example, was established earlier than the CTC in Mfuwe, and is more fully operational with well established markets. Further research in Lundazi would be valuable as it would shed light on the impact of well developed CTC's in the community and to the ecology of the area.

Research at the Eastern Luangwa Area Management Unit (ELAMU) and the Lundazi CTC would be prime objectives during any subsequent trip to the area, along with continued research on data held by COMACO in the Lusaka Head Office.

### **List of Contacts Made:**

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