

# Lower Zambezi Conservation for Future Generations



## SwissAfrican Foundation Final Report 2025



## **Support to Conservation Lower Zambezi Final Report: January – December 2025**

### **CLZ Background**

Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) has worked to protect wildlife and promote sustainable natural resource use in the Lower Zambezi since 1994. Through its core pillars of Wildlife Protection, Environmental Education, and Community Empowerment, CLZ partners closely with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to safeguard the region’s biodiversity and ecosystems. Together, these efforts contribute to the shared vision of a protected, valued, and resilient Lower Zambezi landscape.

The long-standing partnership between CLZ and DNPW, supported by donors such as SwissAfrican Foundation, has been essential to maintaining effective law enforcement in the region. Chronic underfunding within DNPW presents ongoing challenges, particularly in the remote and rugged terrain of the Lower Zambezi where cellular coverage is extremely limited. To address this, CLZ relies on InReach satellite devices and VHF radio systems to ensure reliable communication. These tools enable real-time data sharing, improve ranger safety, and maintain a constant link between field teams and the CLZ/DNPW Control Room, allowing for rapid reporting of locations, wildlife observations, emergencies, and illegal activities.



### **Support Background**

SwissAfrican Foundation (SAF) has consistently supported CLZ’s Community Scout and DNPW patrol operations in the Lower Zambezi. Between 2022 and 2024, SAF funding enabled aerial patrols and contributed to staff salaries for DNPW personnel, CLZ Operations Centre staff, and Basecamp teams. In 2025, CLZ presented SAF with identified funding gaps, and SAF committed to supporting DNPW Wildlife Police Officers stationed at Kulefu, the operations base staff within the CLZ/DNPW Control Room, and the Marine Unit.

## Supporting Kulefu, the Marine Unit, and the Control Room

Effective law enforcement in the Lower Zambezi depends on clear, reliable communication between the CLZ/DNPW Control Room and forward operating bases, particularly Kulefu and Chilapira. Kulefu serves as a key law enforcement base within the Lower Zambezi National Park, while Chilapira, located atop the Zambezi Escarpment, houses the radio mast that transmits communications across the valley and requires round-the-clock monitoring.

SAF support contributed directly to the continued operation of the Control Room and the Kulefu base, covering essential costs including rations, staff salaries, transport, VSAT connectivity, equipment, and consumables. This support enabled sustained DNPW ground patrols, CLZ-led aerial patrols, and the ongoing operation of the Legal Programme, collectively strengthening law enforcement and wildlife protection across the landscape.

The Marine Unit continues to play a critical role in monitoring cross-border illegal activities along the porous stretch of the Zambezi River between Zambia and Zimbabwe, where regular water patrols are essential to deter wildlife crime and maintain effective law enforcement presence along this shared boundary.



## Adaptive Use of Support

In early 2025, CLZ was significantly affected by the freeze on U.S. funding, requiring a rapid shift in priorities to maintain field operations. While CLZ was able to continue covering ranger salaries, SAF funding was partially redirected to support DNPW patrol activities. This flexibility ensured that fully equipped ranger teams remained operational throughout the year, maintaining a consistent law enforcement presence on the ground.

## 2025 Law Enforcement Outcomes

As a result of the continued operation of the 24/7 Control Room and the strategic positioning of the Kulefu forward operating base within the park, CLZ and DNPW achieved the following results in 2025:

Patrol person-day	Suspects arrested	Ammunition confiscated	Firearms detained	Snares removed	Bushmeat confiscated
15,308	92	97	28	296	1494.33 kg



CLZ sincerely thanks SwissAfrican Foundation for this critical, timely, and impactful support. Your contribution directly strengthens the teams working on the ground and plays a fundamental role in enabling CLZ and DNPW to continue protecting the wildlife and ecosystems of the Lower Zambezi.

Please see link below for SwissAfrican Foundation recognition on funding:

- CLZ Website: <https://www.conservationlowerzambezi.org/supporters/>
- CLZ annual report: <https://view.publitas.com/clz/impact-report-2024-conservation-lower-zambezi/page/32-33>

### **Financial Expenditure Summary**

100% of Swiss African Foundation funding was spent in 2025 as seen in the expenditure table outlined below:

Project Budget (USD)				
Budget Code	Project Activity	Budget	Actual	Remaining
1	DNPW /CLZ Control Room	10,868.00	11,146.02	(278.02)
2	Kulefu	3,000.00	2,435.22	564.78
3	Marine Unit	4,643.00	4,929.76	(286.76)
4	DNPW patrol support	5,058.00	5,058.00	-
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>23,569.00</b>	<b>23,569.00</b>	<b>(0.00)</b>



*All images in this report were kindly donated by Francois D'elbee*

THANK YOU TO SWISSAFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORTING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN THE LOWER ZAMBEZI!