

IRDNC Zambezi and Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA)

Since 1990, IRDNC’s work in the Zambezi Region has pioneered the expansion of community-based conservation and expanded its work to include rangeland management. Today there are 15 gazetted conservancies. Additionally, the Kyaramacan Residents’ Association, which represents the people living in Bwabwata National Park is managed and earns income in similar ways to conservancies. IRDNC also works with six transboundary forums that aim to improve collaborative management of KAZA’s vast natural resource in four countries.

About the Zambezi Region...

The Zambezi Region is in the extreme north-east of Namibia bordering on Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is characterised by woodland, swamps and floodplains of the Kwando, Chobe and Zambezi Rivers, which make it susceptible to occasional flooding. The region contains three national parks (Bwabwata, Mudumu and Nkasa-Lupala) and further borders on three protected areas in neighbouring countries. Since 2011, the region – which has 450 animal species - has become a critical part of the immense KAZA TFCA containing over 100,000 elephants.

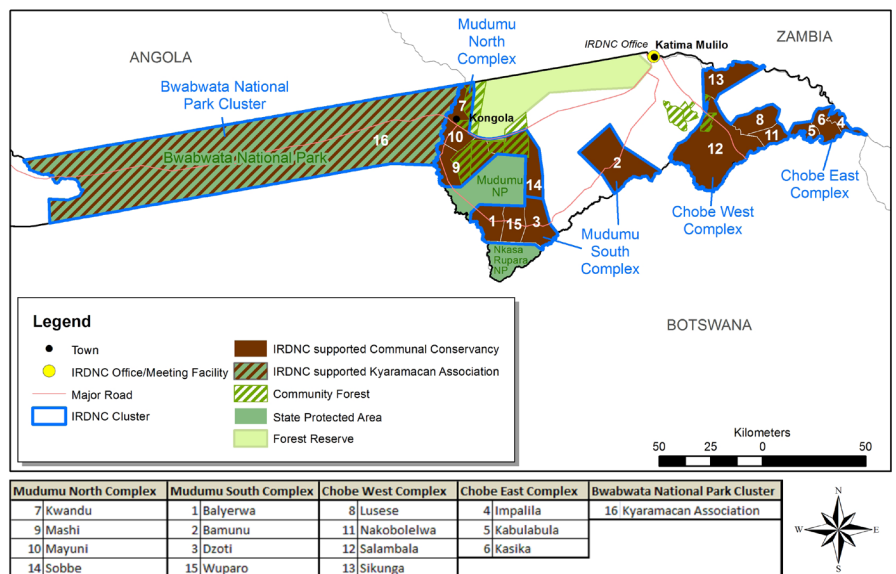
The Zambezi Region’s population of roughly 100,000 are mostly farmers, though wages and business activities are increasing in relevance. About 36 % of the adult population in the region are members of conservancies in Zambezi (36,008 people).

By 2018, the communal conservancies and association had generated US \$ 1.5 million (a huge increase from the income of US \$ 2,000 recorded in 2000). In 2018, the conservancies employed 758 people.

In Bwabwata National Park alone, communities have conditional rights to hunting, consumptive and sustainable use of bush food and wildlife resources, harvesting of Devils’ Claw and tourism for the mostly San people living inside the national park, and has allowed communities to continue living inside the park. This generates approximately US \$ 300,000 for the Kyaramacan Association per year and makes it possible for more than 70 local people to be employed by the association, mostly as ecological monitors.

About our work...

Wildlife populations have either remained stable or increased in the Zambezi conservancies, despite a concerning spate of elephant poaching in recent years. The conservancies have made immense gains in improving their governance and financial management, and all 15 of them along with the Kyaramacan Association, are completely independent of subsidies for their operational expenses.



IRDNC’s management team in the Zambezi are: Janet Matota (Assistant Director), Dominic Muema (Operations Manager), Julia Nchindo (Financial Administrator), John Kamwi (Cluster Coordinator – Transboundary Natural Resource Management), Justice Muhinda (Cluster Coordinator – Chobe West, Reuben Mafati (Cluster Coordinator – Chobe East), Bennetty Busihu (Cluster Coordinator – Mudumu South) and Eben Tjiteere (Cluster Coordinator – Mudumu North).

Aside from our **key priorities of increasing community involvement, improving governance and expanding benefits reaching households**, our additional initiatives in the Zambezi are:

Transboundary Natural Resource Management in KAZA

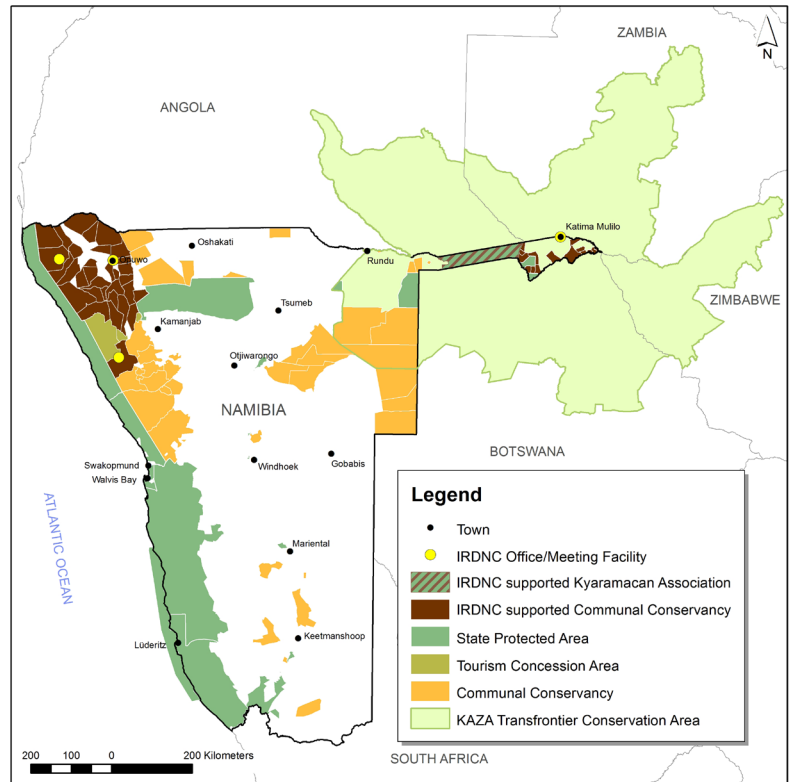
- Deepening and expanding the work of the six transboundary forums to increase coordinated natural resource management, and lesson learning between KAZA countries

Livestock Wildlife Integration

- Finding ways for livestock farmers to benefit more from their livestock (considering Foot and Mouth Disease prevalence in the area) and harmonising the management of cattle with wildlife

Elephant protection

- Securing cross-border habitat for the world's largest remaining population of elephants, and maintaining essential wildlife corridors and dispersal areas
- Mobilizing and supporting conservancies and community game guards in the monitoring of elephant
- Collaborating with authorities within Zambezi and in neighbouring countries to combat illegal poaching



Zambezi Conservancies Income by Category 2018

