

Zambia: Rod Tether

Status of Conservation Projects

There are currently no projects in Zambia funded through the ABC Conservation fund. There are a large number of Conservation Projects working in many different parts of the country – notable among them are Africa Parks, operating in the Liuwa Plains and the Bangweulu Wetlands, the North Luangwa Conservation Project (funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society), the South Luangwa Conservation Society, Conservation Lower Zambezi as well as a number of NGOs based in Lusaka working primarily in advisory roles on national strategy planning. A new Conservation Project – Conservation Lake Tanganyika - is in the process of being established with the aim of promoting and preserving the biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika, particularly Nsumbu National Park.

The Zambian Ornithological Society - a partner designate of Birdlife International - continues to prioritise actions aimed at contributing to effective management and protection of Zambia's Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The 42 identified Important Bird Areas, though not yet fully recognised at national level, are a critical network of sites rich in biodiversity. These sites need to be conserved for the socio-economic advancement of the local people as well as to secure the sustainability of the environment for present and future generations.

Conservation Concerns

a/. Deforestation – the Republic of Zambia has approximately 50 million hectares of forest, with an estimated deforestation rate of between 250,000 to 300,000 hectares per year. The primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation vary across regions within Zambia and include

- i) charcoal and wood fuel use (for domestic, commercial and industrial uses)
- ii) timber production
- iii) unsustainable agricultural methods (notably “chitemene” – slash and burn) and other land use practices (including mineral extraction).

These drivers are a result of the intrinsic nature of the Zambian economy, based on:

- i) the overwhelming reliance of the largely poor rural population on natural resources for day to day survival
- ii) the lack of alternative energy sources in urban areas where much of the population also utilise charcoal and firewood for fuel.

It is estimated that about 75% of the country's energy supply is from charcoal and firewood and only 25% of the population have access to electricity. Currently, 49.3% of the urban population and 3.2% of the rural population have access to electricity.

b/. The new Government's Policy on Wildlife Protection

Zambia experienced a change of Government following elections in September 2011, on 24th October 2011 President Michael Sata announced that he wanted the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to respect people more than wildlife and pardoned 673 prisoners – the majority serving wildlife related cases, and dissolved the ZAWA board.

Significant Bird Sightings / Discoveries

No new birds added to the national list.

There have been the following additions to three National Park, and therefore IBA, lists:

Kasanka National Park (international code ZM025) – 9 additions; Mottled Swift, Lemon Dove, Black-winged Pratincole, Whimbrel, Black-chinned Quailfinch, African Quailfinch, Red-necked Falcon, Striped Crake, White-fronted Plover TOTAL 462

South Luangwa National Park (international code ZM019) – 2 additions; Bohm's Bee-eater, Collared Flycatcher TOTAL 462

North Luangwa National Park (international code ZM020) – 8 additions; Northern Wheatear, Groundscraper Thrush, Red-winged Warbler, Broad-tailed Warbler, Mottled Swift, Rock (Rock-loving) Cisticola, Black-eared Seed-eater, Green-backed Honeyguide TOTAL 412

African Shrike Flycatcher (*Megabyus flammulatus*) was seen and photographed on 17 September 2011 by Derrick Willby at “Madman's Crossing” at Jimbe Drainage, NW Zambia. This is only the third record of this species in Zambia (previous 10 Oct 1998 and 01 November 2011) and the first record in 10 years.

White-winged Flufftail (*Sarorutha ayersi*) – a “possible” record for this species, flushed from a grass verge on the main road South of Ndola on 10 Sept 2011. This species has not been accepted to the Zambia list (this is the third unconfirmed sightings on the Copperbelt since the 1950's) but is assumed to migrate through the country on passage between South Africa and Ethiopia.

A Lesser-spotted Eagle fitted with a satellite tracking device by the Milvus Group in Romania was killed by villagers in Mutoba Village near Kawambwa in Northern Province in October 2011 as it was believed to have magical (witchcraft) powers.

New Contacts with other Bird Clubs

I maintain close contact with the Zambia Ornithological Society and the Zambia Birds web group