



Zambia Land Alliance

## 2023 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT



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### LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBNRMC	Community Based Natural Resource Management Committee
CLAC	Community Land Advocacy Committee
CLHC	Customary Landholding Certificate
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DLA	District Land Alliance
FD	Forest Department
LAC	Land Advocacy Committee
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLP	National Lands Policy
NO	National Office
RIBI	Responsible land-based investment (RIBI)
SLUL	Sustainable Land Use and Livelihoods
SGMT	Saving Group Master Trainer
USD	United States Dollar
ZLA	Zambia Land Alliance

ZLA's VISION, MISSION, STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL & NATIONAL MEMBERS

**ZLA's Vision**

'A Zambia in which the rural and urban poor have secured access and ownership of land for development'

**ZLA's Mission**

Zambia Land Alliance is a platform for collective action committed to promoting equitable access, control and secured ownership of land by the rural, peri-urban and urban poor and marginalised, through lobbying and advocacy, networking, research and community

**Goal of the 2022-26 Strategic Plan**

To contribute to sustainable livelihoods through pro-poor and environmentally friendly land governance systems in ZLA rural, peri-urban and urban operational areas by the end of 2026.

**ZLA's National Members**

1. Disability Rights Watch
2. Caritas Zambia
3. Extractive Industries Transparency Alliance
4. Green Living Movement
5. Rural Women Assembly
6. Women for Change
7. Zambia Alliance for Women

# ZLA ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Established in 1997, Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA) is a network of seven (7) national and 48 district Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) promoting fair land policies, laws and land administration, which considers the needs of the poor.

ZLA promotes equitable access and secured ownership of land by the rural and urban poor through lobbying, advocacy, networking, research and community partnership.

ZLA operates through a national Secretariat located in Lusaka with seven (07) national members<sup>1</sup> and eight (8) District Branches<sup>2</sup> across seven (7) out of the 10 Provinces of Zambia. Additionally, ZLA has two (2) project offices<sup>3</sup>.

In 2023, ZLA continued to execute its 2022-2026 Strategic plan with the goal “*to contribute to sustainable livelihoods through pro-poor and environmentally friendly land governance systems by the end of 2026*”. The strategic plan has three (3) distinct programme focus areas which are:

- i. Land Rights Tenure Security and Governance (LRG),
- ii. Sustainable Land Use and Livelihoods (SLUL), and
- iii. Organisational Excellence (OE).

This report covers activities that were implemented by organisation during the period of January- December 2023 in line with the aforementioned programme areas.

The activities were supported by different funding partners, including the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), Comic Relief, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), Thousand Currents, USAID and We effect.

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<sup>1</sup> Caritas Zambia, Disability Rights Watch, Extractive Industries Transparency Alliance, Green Living Movement, Rural Women’s Assembly, Women for Change and Zambia Alliance for Women.

<sup>2</sup>Chingola , Chipata, Gwembe, Kitwe, Lusaka, Mansa, Monze, and Petauke

<sup>3</sup>Serenje and Solwezi.

## 2.0 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.1 LAND RIGHTS TENURE SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE (LRG) PROGRAMME AREA

**The Strategic Objective of the LRG programme area is:** To contribute to improved land governance in ZLA rural, peri-urban and urban operational areas by the end of 2026.

**Operational Objective 1.1:** To promote secured land rights for women, youths, PWD and other vulnerable groups through improved land governance.

#### A.1.1.3 Hold trainings and support operations of structures involved in state and customary land administration (year 1 to 5)

##### A.1.1.3.1 Establish up to secretariats at chiefdom level (1 per chiefdom)

A total of five (5) Secretariats were successfully established in Maguya, Mkanda, Nyamphande, Nzamane, and Sandwe chiefdoms. The offices were established to address administration challenges in customary land documentation. As part of the establishment and effective operationalisation of the secretariats, two (2) chiefdom clerks were recruited for each secretariat and trained in customary land administration. Among other duties, the clerks are expected to raise awareness on certification, ensure applications for certifications are processed, meet with the chief's council, document all conflicts and manage certification data.



**FIGURE 1 & 2:** COOPERATING PARTNERS VISITING MAGUYA SECRETARIAT (L) AND A SECRETARIAT POSTER WITH SERVICES (R)

#### A.1.1.5 Support the documentation of land rights such as title deeds, occupancy licenses and CLHCs (year 1 to 4)

ZLA has continued to promote secured land tenure security by working with 8 Chiefs in Mumbwa, Petauke, Monze, Gwembe, Nyimba and Chipata in the documentation of land rights through customary land holding certificates (CLHCs). Like many other chiefs, these chiefs were supported because they have limited financial and technical capacity to process the certificates. 1,782 adult and youth rights holders (793 male and 989 female) received sole certificates through the support of the ZLA. A further, 755 CLHCs were issued as co-ownership/joint ownership by the land holders. Under statutory land in Makululu compound (Kabwe district in particular, 141 female and 237 male land holders were assisted with advice and went on to acquire sole and joint certificate of title deeds under the on-going National Land Titling programme. Among other

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benefits, the land ownership documents have enhanced land ownership entitlements, reduced land disputes, defined land parameters and amplified women's land rights.

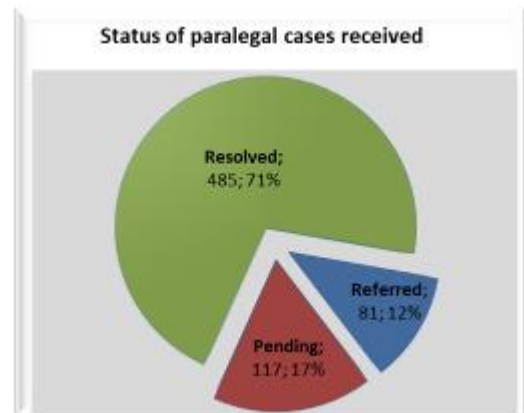


**FIGURE 3 & 4:** THE CENTRAL PROVINCE MINISTER GIVING A SPEECH DURING CLHC HANDOVER IN MUMBWA (L) & CLHC BENEFICIARIES POSE FOR A PHOTO(R)

### A.1.1.11 Support paralegal trainings and operations of paralegal desks including mobile clinics (year 1 to 5)

ZLA has five (5) operational paralegal desks in five (5) districts that provide access to free and independent spaces for conflict resolution to parties with conflicts over land matters.

683 cases were reported by 683 (221 female and 462 male) community members on different land disputes to the Paralegal Officers and the Community Land Advocacy Committees (CLAC) members. The highest disputes (414) were on boundaries followed by inheritance (103) that mainly surfaced during the land certification process.



#### Result of Activity

- A total of 367 cases were followed up (105 by the Paralegal Officers and 262 by CLACS).
- 11 GBV cases (from women) were documented and referred to other partners for further action, including the Victim Support Unit at the Police Stations.
- 485 (or 71%) cases were resolved, 117 are pending in the traditional courts and 81 were referred to the local courts. 158 (71%) of the 221 cases reported by women were resolved in their favour.
- 427 Customary land holders received CLHCs after resolution of their land cases.



**Operational Objective 1.2:** To promote transparency, accountability and responsible land-based investments (RIBIs) in land administration.

**A1.2.2. Support CLACs to develop, review and implement annual community advocacy plans (year 1 to 5)**

ZLA supported annual action plans that were developed by 11 CLACs in 5 districts. The one-year advocacy plans highlight activities to be taken by the CLACs in accordance with their roles which include awareness raising, participating in decision making platforms, community group monitoring and paralegal support identified etc. The District Coordinators also shared the district activities such as certification and saving groups for inclusion in the plans. CLACs were supported with communication, stationery, and transport costs to implement their actions plans. The committees monitored 57 project groups (savings, study circles, Community based natural Resource Management Committee and incubation hubs), supported the issuance of 417 certificates, sensitized 53 men on women’s land rights, followed up 135 land cases, attended 14 village meetings and 7 Community Development Fund project meetings.



**FIGURE 5 & 6:** CLACS CONDUCTING SENSITIZATION MEETINGS ON CLHCS (L) AND PICKING GPS COORDINATES (R)

**A.1.2.4 Hold trainings for traditional leader, civic leaders and traditional leaders on transparency, corruption and accountability in land administration (year 1 & 2)**

*A.1.2.4.1 Conduct 4 trainings for Traditional Leaders on land rights, FPIC, Land Administration, Community Participation, Transparency & Accountability*

Four (4) trainings for 71 (13 female and 58 male) village headpersons and chief’s advisors were conducted in four (4) chiefdoms namely Shaibila, Muchinda, Kapijimpanga and Mumena chiefdoms. The traditional leaders in North-Western Province appealed to ZLA to help them to secure their land through customary land documentation and strengthen existing by-laws for their chiefdoms. Central province traditional leaders had concerns over the environmental impacts of the mushrooming Mining activities and limited community consultations in land investment allocations. The traditional leaders were sensitized on the importance of attending Environmental Socio Impact Assessment (ESIA) report dissemination meetings to watch for potential human and environmental rights violations. ZLA has since sourced Free Prior and Informed



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Consent (FPIC) materials from Oxfam Zambia and Transparency International Zambia (TIIZ) for translation, printing and distribution to the chief's advisors and CLACs.



**FIGURE 7 & 8:** TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN MUCHINDA (L) AND MUMENA (R) CHIFEDOMS

### **A.1.2.11 Facilitate roundtable meetings among investors, community representatives and CSOs on land investments (year 1 to 5)**

*A.1.2.11.1 Conduct two (2) district roundtable engagement meetings with the private sector on the role of the private sector in promoting responsible land-based investment.*

ZLA organised a meeting that was attended by 11 (3 female and 8 male) participants drawn from mining investors from Mkushi District. The objective of the meeting was to share information on the concept of responsible land-based investment (RLBI). The investors said they faced challenges with Chiefs (who focused on monetary gains) and questioned whether the payments given to chiefs by investors benefitted the community members. Additionally, they expressed a concern about limited coordination among the existing Government departments that were looking into mining activities. Corruption and limited transparency by authorities involved in Mining activities was also a major concern. Further, representatives of small-scale miners complained that they were given less attention in comparison with large scale miners in terms of applications for mining licences. The participants agreed to strive more on practicing responsible land-based investment.

#### **Result of Activity**

- Increased knowledge on RLBI by the private sector.
- Established relationships with members of the private sector and set a platform for possible future collaboration with private sector players.
- The mining and traditional association of Zambia agreed to provide a platform for ZLA to raise awareness on the RLBI concept and to enhance adherence to the existing laws and policies on responsible mining.

**Operational Objective 1.3:** To lobby duty bearers and policy makers to adopt, enact, amend and implement laws, policies, guidelines and practices which promote good land governance.

**A.13.2 Hold stakeholder consultative workshops at district and national level on land related laws /policies and gather recommendations for duty bearers and policy makers**

*A.13.2.1 Facilitate dialogue meetings between traditional leaders and Government line ministries focusing on Land Acquisition Act* No. 189.



**FIGURE 9 & 10:** CHIEFS IN A GROUP WORK (L) AND CHIEF MUMENA MAKING A SUBMISSION(R)

Two (2) dialogue meetings on the Lands Acquisition Act of 1970 and the Lands Act of 1995 were held in Solwezi and Serenje districts. The two one-day meetings were attended by a total of 15 chiefs from five (5) districts. The Chiefs were informed of the plans by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) to embark on review and amendment all land-related laws to harmonise them with the provisions of the 2021 National Lands Policy. Therefore, it was cardinal for Chiefs to be engaged to give their insights on the changes they wanted reflected in the two pieces of legislation. The chiefs raised concerns on the absolute vestment of land in the president, inadequate consultations of chiefs in national level decision-making processes, limited chieftom benefits from land investment revenues.

**Activity Results**

- Chief's recommendations on the Lands Act of 1995 documented for submission to the MLNR.
- Chiefs have increased knowledge on the provisions of the Lands Act and the Lands Acquisition Act.

**A.13.3 Undertake reviews on land related laws and policies and make submissions to duty bearers and policy makers (year 1 to 5)**

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### *A 1.3:3.1 Review the 1995 Lands Act and make recommendations to policy makers.*

The 1995 Lands Act review meeting was attended by 11 (4 female and 7 male) CSOs representatives and two (2) land experts. ZLA organised the meeting as a proactive initiative in readiness to the upcoming MLNR call for submission in the Act in 2024. ZLA shared the copies of the Lands Act, the 2021 National Lands Policy (NLP) and the Constitution of Zambia Amendment No. 2(2016) and the review report of the 2021 NLP for participants to have better understand and synthesis their submissions.

Submissions were made on provisions related to the Lands Commission; Limitation of authority of chiefs on land; the 99-year lease for Zambians and non-Zambians alike; failure to conduct National Land Audit; and the need for strengthening compensation for displaced people.

#### **Activity Results**

- Proposed changes in the Lands Act and their corresponding justifications were documented.
- Increased understanding on the provisions of the Lands Act of 1995 by chiefs.
- A list of possible advocacy issues developed.



**FIGURE 11: DRAFTING SUBMISSIONS THROUGH WORK**

### **A.1.3.5 Hold engagement meetings and community dialogue forums with duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders including investors**

#### *A.1.3.5.1 Hold 5 Community public forums with duty bearers*



**FIGURE 12 & 13: ZLA ED PATRICK MUSOLE MAKING A PRESENTATION (L) AS KAMISENGO PARTICIPANTS LISTEN (R)**

A community meeting was held in Kamisengo area of Chief Mukumbi's chiefdom, which was attended by 216 (122 female and 94 male) community members. Kamisengo area is part of the 14,000 hectares of land acquired by Lumwana Mine for its expansion (current mining licence covers 1,355km<sup>2</sup>). Their area CLAC members reported to ZLA about the community's pending displacement by the aforementioned Mine in Kalumbila district. One of the Chief's advisors informed the meeting that a Liaison committee had been set up to act as a link between the community and the Mine. The committee would look into resettlement and

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compensation issues but needed support in terms of backup, advocacy and lobbying skills etc. Community members appreciated the information on land rights and provisions in the National Resettlement Policy on resettlement and compensation. The community further stated that this was the first time they were receiving such information that will support their decision making during the engagement with the Mine.

### *A.1.3.5.2 Hold 4 public engagement meetings with Chief and their Councils on certification, women's land rights and economic empowerment*

Four (4) communities in Gwembe and Monze districts each held meetings on the outlined activity topics. These meetings that had 198 (102 female and 96 male) chief's councils and community members, created a platform for the attendees to gain more insight on the statistics and benefits on paralegal cases, certification, saving groups and women's land rights. The interaction resulted in greater engagement between the communities and the chief's council on issues that were influencing and affecting the improvements on land administration.

The Chiefs Councils appreciated the work of ZLA in certification but requested that an affordable fee should be attached to land certification to build a revolving fund in future to buy stationery, toner and motivate the parasurveyors. The councils also commended the men for allowing the women to enjoy and secure their land rights through certification. The community members were bold enough to challenge the traditional leaders on the need to improve chieftom land administration in terms of ensuring more women ascend to headperson-ship, community consultation in land allocation, proper land use planning and land preservation for posterity. The councils were informed on the statistics of prevailing land cases and advice sought from the paralegal desks. The contribution of certification towards the reduction of land cases was a notable positive change.



**FIGURE 14 & 15:** CHIEFS COUNCIL AT A MEETING (L) & A HEADPERSON STANDS TO MAKE A SUBMISSION (R)

### **A.3.1.11 Develop, translate, print and distribute IECs including study materials and news letters**



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### *A.3.1.11.1 Produce visibility materials including billboards, calendars and Shirts/T-shirts*

The following visibility materials were produced: 200 calendars for 2024, two (2) banners, 40 Chief's council T- shirts, 100 bee keepers work suits, 40 Community based natural Resource Management Committee (CBNRMC) T- shirts, 150 staff shirts and 300 business cards. The materials produced served as visibility of ZLA's presence and identity in the communities and other stakeholders.

### *A.3.1.11.2 Translate and distribute Gender Guidelines*

In 2021, the Government of the Republic of Zambia launched the Gender Guidelines for the Traditional Leaders on the Management of Natural Resources in Chiefdoms. The main objective of the Guidelines is to act as a reference tool and equip traditional leaders with information on gender equality on land and natural resources. However, the guidelines have not been accessible to many chiefs and therefore not being applied in the chiefdoms.

ZLA acquired the services of two (2) separate consultants to translate and proof-read the translated guidelines to help the chiefs and communities understand in the local language (Tonga) and apply the information contained in the guidelines. The translation process was hampered by government's delay in providing a soft copy of the guidelines. However, the translation and proof reading are almost completed through the plan is to test if the translation accurately conveys the original text for the end users by early 2024.

### **A.3.1.12 Develop and distribute print and audio press statements at district and national level**

ZLA issued four (04) press statements (written and audio) to both print and electronic media houses on various land related themes as shown in the table below.

No.	Press statement theme	Summary
1.	Digitisation of the Land Information System	The transition to digital land information management system will end the era of missing files; limit long distance travel to Lusaka to follow up on documents, reduce corruption due to minimal human interaction.
2	Launch of the National Land Audit	Critical process as it will provide the country with information required for decision making for land use planning and development.
3	59 <sup>th</sup> Zambia's Independence Anniversary	Zambia continues with imperialists laws that deprive Zambia the right to natural resources. Therefore, the government must to amend all land related laws to empower citizens with land and its associated resources.
4	End of Year	The statement gave an overview of land related actions, events that took place and decisions made during the year as well as challenges that occurred the land sector.

Further, ZLA had at least 10 media interviews to give a perspective of different pertinent national land issues.

#### Activity results

- Increased understanding of ZLA's position on pertinent land issues by media houses and general public.

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- Dissemination of the ZLA position on specific land advocacy issues.

### A.3.1.13 Hold district and national radio and TV programmes including documentaries

Six (6) radio programs were aired by four (4) different radio stations in Central and North-Western Provinces. Discussants included staff, chief's advisors, CLAC members and community members. The radio scripts covered topics on Land Rights, Land Administration, Community Participation and RLBI. The mass-communication medium used local languages with a live phone-in approach for listeners to engage with the discussants.



*FIGURE 16 & 17: DISCUSSANTS DURING THE PROGRAMS*

### Result of Activity

- Dissemination of land related information to the over 100,000 plus radio listeners
- Enhanced knowledge of the impact of Large-Scale Land-Based Investments.
- Increased visibility of ZLA's work. 6 people called in after the programme while 8 others visited the offices to learn more about the organisation.
- Increase access to paralegal advice: 9 people received paralegal advice on their land challenges,
- Increased knowledge on the plight of community members. Some of the callers complained of the negative impact mining and agriculture investment on their land and environment.



## 2.2 SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND LIVELIHOODS (SLUL) PROGRAMME AREA

**The Strategic Objective of the SLUL programme is:** To contribute to sustainable land use and livelihoods among targeted communities in ZLAs operational areas by the end of 2026

**Operational Objective 2.1:** To promote agro-ecology for sustainable land use and food security among targeted households.

### A.2.1.3 Support the establishment and strengthening community interest agricultural groups (year 1 to 5)

#### *A.2.1.3.1 Facilitate training in bee keeping (2 per community)*

As part of enhancing community livelihoods, ZLA partnered with the Forest Department (FD) who to train 158 (87 female and 71 male) community members from Gwembe and Monze districts on Bee Keeping. The trainings were conducted in the community and provided in the local language (Tonga) following a curriculum developed by the FD. Training included topics on Environmental Awareness, establishment of hives, honey harvesting and responsibilities of beekeepers. A component of entrepreneurship and financial inclusion was also incorporated to help apprehend future incomes and expenses linked to Bee keeping. The community response to the bee keeping concept has been positive, with some particularly motivated people as beekeepers. Once the trainings were completed, the beekeepers received the essential equipment (refer to activity A.2.1.3.2) needed to start their activity.



**FIGURE 18 & 19:** BEE KEEP TRAININGS IN MONZE(L) AND GWEMBE(R) DISTRICTS

#### *A.2.1.3.2 Procure and distribute bee keeping materials to farmers*

ZLA purchased essential beekeeping equipment for the 158 (87 female and 71 male) selected bee keepers of Gwembe and Monze district to get started. More bee keepers (158 instead of 120) were targeted because the bee keepers agreed to share some bee hives as a learning phase and will purchase other hives after raising personal funds. The equipment that will make bee keeping safer, easier and more effective were purchased with guidance from the Forest Department. Other than hives, there is an array of key tools included smokers, safety wear, hanging wire, knives, honey pressers, wax, grease and Brushes.

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**FIGURE 20 & 21: DISTRIBUTION(L) AND TESTING (R) OF BEE KEEPING EQUIPMENT**

The Forest department have been providing periodic support visits to the beekeepers in their villages to ensure proper hive management. So far, at least 27 support visits have been undertaken. ZLA purchase 100 hives spread across 4 target communities of which the officers had a hand in guiding on the hive location. Practical meetings have been held on topics such as fundamentals of beekeeping, the establishment of a hive, the threats to bees, and the timing of flowering and harvesting. The traditional beekeepers have also been instrumental on providing information to honey species, local use of honey, schedule of flowering and associated harvests. The beekeepers are expected to harvest the first honey by May/June and October/November 2024

### **A.2.1.8 Link institutions that provides agriculture and financial assistance to the vulnerable households (year 1 to 5)**

#### *A.2.1.8 .1 Facilitate the identification and provision of cash transfers to highly vulnerable families*

Gwembe and Monze districts have been hard hit with high poverty levels due to poor crop production caused by the drought in the 2022/2023 farming season. Therefore, ZLA partnered with NCA to implement the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) intervention to 1000 community members. The SCT beneficiary selection was done through headmen using a set criterion. The headpersons listed 1000 (599 female and 401 male) beneficiaries. Working with the department of Social Welfare, the list of beneficiaries was triangulated to ensure that they are not under government led SCT.

The beneficiaries have started receiving the cash through a central place in their community. So far, each of the beneficiaries has received ZMW 400(USD 16)<sup>4</sup> for October and November. The individual SCT is ZMW 200 (USD 8) per month for 6 months starting October.

The beneficiaries understand the purpose and duration of the SCT initiative and have used the money to invest in other ventures other than buying food. The cash received has been used to procure farming inputs for the 2023/24 farming season, invest in saving groups and small businesses to sustain the fun.



<sup>4</sup> Exc

*FIGURE 22 & 23: SCT RECEIVING FUNDS IN MONZE(L) AND GWEMBE (R) DISTRICTS.*

### **A.2.1.3 Support the establishment and strengthening community interest agricultural groups (year 1 to 5)**

#### *A.2.1.3.1 Procurement and distribution of drought resistant seeds*

The selection of beneficiaries was done through headmen following the selection criteria developed by ZLA. Each headperson selected a list of beneficiaries from their village. The selected 530 that comprise 284 female and 246 male beneficiaries were sensitized on the importance of growing drought resistance crops amid the upcoming El Niño condition that will result in a drought.

The 530 beneficiaries have received 10 kg sorghum seed and 10kg early maturity maize. The CLACs, headpersons and Community based natural Resource Management Committee (CBNRM) have been monitoring field activities.



*FIGURE 24 & 25: COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION OF SORGHUM SEED (L) AND EARLY MATURITY MAIZE SEED FIELD (R)*

### **A.2.1.11 Procure, distribute and support the management of agro-forestry plants to farmers (year 1 to 5)**

#### *A.2.1.11.1 Facilitate formation and support community natural resources management (CBNRM) groups to implement their action plans*

The ZLA Gwembe and Monze offices held meetings with four (4) CBNRMCs. Each committee has received six (6) bicycles to support their mobility as they undertake their work. Besides reorienting them on their roles,



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the CBNRM were also guided on developing their action plans for the year. Some of the activities have been done. For instance, the Hufwa and Makuyu School Conservation Clubs were visited by the CBNRMCs to check on the growth of agroforestry and orchard trees. Additionally, 11 charcoal producers were sensitized on impacts of deforestation. Further, the committees also sensitized 92 (59 female and 33 male) community members on NRM while the Chipepo CBNRMC had a talk with 11 fishermen on responsible fishing techniques. Other CBNRMCs went around their communities to collect plastic waste.



**FIGURE 26 & 27:** CBNRMC DRAFTING THEIR ACTION PLAN (L) AND INSPECTING A SCHOOL CLUB ORCHARD(R)

### *A.2.1.11.2 Support natural resource management related school clubs in the CBNRM Communities*

ZLA in collaboration with CBNRMCs have continued to support 4 schools (Nkandela, Hufwa, Makuyu and Chabbobboma government schools) in tree planting. This is also in line with the growing green Zambia tree planting program in schools that was launched in October 2023. 154 (78 female and 74 male) teachers and pupils were reached by the Forestry officers and the CBNRMCs through sensitization and demonstration on impacts of climate change, tree planting and management. The schools received citrus trees such as Avocado, guavas, Oranges, Mangoes, lemons and pawpaw. The school were also supported with watering cans and pesticide for spraying trees to fight off pests that may attack the trees. The challenges being faced with working with schools, are that some schools do not have conservation school clubs coupled with limited knowledge/care on orchard management. Animals were also straying into the orchards and munching the trees. The trees have since been placed with protection guards though the request from the school authorities is to install wire fences. The schools have also put in place time tables for pupils to water and care for the trees. The CBNRMC will also work closely with school administration on orchard management monitoring.



FIGURE 28 & 29: PUPILS RECEIVING ORCHARD TREES(L) & BEING EDUCATED ON NRM BY THE CBNRM(R)

**Operational objective 2.2:** To enhance household incomes among targeted households headed by women, youths, PwD and other vulnerable groups

**A.2.2.3 Establish and strengthen saving groups**

*A.2.2.3.1 Establish and support new saving groups*

Thirty- four (34) new saving groups were formed with a total membership of 506 (434 female and 72 male) adults and youths. The group members voluntarily joined the groups after being sensitized on the saving group concept by their area Saving Group Master Trainers (SGMT). After the formation, the group members had in depth training on saving groups concept by an official from the Community Development and SGMTs. To support the establishment stage of the saving groups, ZLA procured and distributed saving boxes and saving accessories to all the groups. The accessories include among other items, a calculator, locks, passbooks and ledger books. The total saved fund (with social fund) for the 34 groups was ZMW189,207 (USD 7568) while the saving group with the largest group funds had ZMW15,382(USD 615). The organization also distributed ZMK6 500 (USD260) seed fund to 24 saving groups respectively to boost their saving group fund for members to borrow and undertake their desired businesses. The group members that have received the seed fund are either doing individual or group businesses such as baking, maize sale, selling dry fish, rearing/reselling hybrid or village chickens. To further ensure success and sustainability of saving groups, ZLA has been working with the department of community development who have experience on saving groups and entrepreneurship to backstop and mentor the groups. Group inter-learning has also been promoted and seven (7) saving group exchange visits have been undertaken.



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**FIGURE 30 & 31:** SAVING GROUP MEMBERS BEING TRAINED(L) & RECIVING ACCESSORIES (R)

### *A.2.2.3.2 Strengthen old saving groups (Training and backstopping).*

The purpose of the activity was to offer technical support to established saving groups to thrive in their operations. The support visits offered by both the SGMT and staff members who determined that 78 out of 82 saving groups were functional. The total savings in 2023 amounted to ZMW 1,253, 779 (USD 50,151) and the total loans amount was ZMW 1,466, 921.43(USD 58, 676). The membership for the 78 old group comprised of 1,698 (1341 female and 357male) adult and youth community members. Eleven (11) Saving groups received support on constitutional review while nine (9) groups were assisted with calculating share interests during share-out. Other support needs included record keeping, leadership skills and business marketing. The saving groups funds are increasing by the year which shows the acceptance of the concept by the beneficiaries and the enhanced saving capacities. Other Positive stories coming from saving group members included members using the funds to buy farming inputs, school requirements, i livestock, solar panels for their business/home operations as well as improve their homesteads. The highlighted challenges were defaults in loan repayments, poor record keeping and low saving volumes among some members. Animal diseases, crop failure and high cost of living also affected the saving capacities of group members who invested their savings in crop and livestock production.

### **Results of activity**

- 62 saving group members have started non –farm incoming generating activities.
- As many as 497 members used the funds from the saving groups to pay their subscription to Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for them to access farming inputs such as seeds and fertilizers for the 2023/24 farming season.



### **A.2.2.2 Hold trainings for community members on economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and community banking (year 1 to 3)**

#### *A.2.2.2.1 Hold training for Saving group Master trainers (SGMTs)*



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A government official from the Department of Community Development in Monze district was engaged to train the 8 new and 12 old SGMT on the saving group concept. The official was attached to this activity because he has been facilitating trainings on community saving group concept in the district as a strategy contributing to Economic Empowerment. The two (2) day training attracted 20 (10 female and 10 male) SGMT and 16 (6 female and 10 male) staff members from NOCAD and ZLA. The training followed an interactive learning approach by focusing more on sharing both positive & negative experiences from the old SGMTs. Demonstrations on saving meetings, ledger book entries and constitution developed enhanced the practical learning experience. The 6 new group members have gone on to form at least 5 groups (refer to activity A.2.2.3.1).



FIGURE 34: PARTICIPANTS POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTO

### A.2.2.4 Hold business mentorship meetings for saving groups (4 per community)

Eight (8) meetings were facilitated by local business owners as well as officials from community development. A total of 27 groups benefited from the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and sound practices on businesses. The mentors offered greater experience and fresh perspective to business ideas and existing businesses owned by group members. So far, seventeen (17) saving group members attested that they have had further engagement with linked facilitators. 23 group members reported an increase in profit margin and product presentation.

Further, five (5) intra-community exchange visits were conducted to foster learning among groups for improved group operations and effectiveness. Group members showcased some of their businesses and profit calculations. The benefits of businesses highlighted were financial and personal rewards. The business owners stated challenges such as low profit margins, market competition and low purchasing power from the community due to poverty. The group members recommended more mentorship sessions.



FIGURE 35 & 36: MENTORSHIP MEETINGS WITH SAVING GROUPS

## 2.3 ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE (OE) PROGRAMME AREA

**The Strategic Objective of the OE programme is:** To strengthen ZLA's organisational development to achieve its mandate in its operational areas by the end of 2026.

**Operational Objective 3.1:** To ensure that ZLA has an effective operational evidence-based monitoring and evaluation system.

### A.3.1.3 Hold planning and review meetings at district and national level.

Thirteen (13) planning and review meeting were held at both national and district levels. For new projects, the main objectives of the meetings were to orient staff on the project activities for the year and jointly planning for implementation. For on-going project had elements of reflections and strategic planning.

### A.3.1.4 Prepare and share annual reports to partners, members and branches.

ZLA shared various periodic (monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual) progress financial and narrative reports according to the donor reporting format. The reports were shared with different stakeholders including member organisations, cooperating partners and staff members. The submission of reported fostered further funding for the succeeding period, celebration of results, technical backstopping from cooperating partners and strategic decision making.

### A.3.1.5 Facilitate periodic monitoring of ZLA activities at national and Branch levels

The ZLA NO visited six (6) branches and the two (2) district offices for programme and financial monitoring. Some of the District Board members participated in the monitoring activities aimed at assessing administrative compliance, beneficiary monitoring and impact of ZLA's work. The district offices also had district level monitoring to capture activity results.



**FIGURE 37 & 38:** BENEFICIARY (L) AND FIELD MONITORING (R)

### Results of activity

- The monitoring activities revealed results, lessons and challenges that were key in reporting and improvement of projects. Additionally, some strategic decisions such as amendments to activities and budgets were made based on the monitoring.
- Financial reporting also improved due to the financial compliance monitoring.
- The district level monitoring has enhanced results-based reporting by the districts.

- Monitoring tools were updated and circulated for use to the district.

**Operational objective 3.2:** To improve ZLA's learning, networking and resource mobilization capacity.

#### Activity 3.2.10 Provide administrative and technical support to DLAs

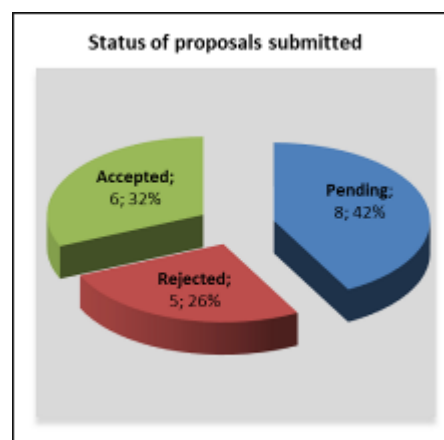
Six (6) District branches<sup>5</sup> and two (2) district offices<sup>6</sup> received financial support towards administration and activity costs through the National office.

##### Results of Activity

- The branches and offices had funding for activity and administrative use.
- The branches and offices received technical supported in form of financial, administrative and programming backstopping from the National office for improved operations.

#### A.3.2.12 Respond to calls for proposals including joint proposals with members, implementing partners and other stakeholders (year 1 to 5)

Nineteen (19) internal meetings were held on proposal writing at the National office and eleven (11) proposals were submitted to local and international partner. The National Office also provided technical support to six (6) district offices in proposal writing. The 19 proposals were submitted by National Office (7) and District offices (12).



##### Results of Activity

- 6 of the 19 proposals were funded and are all project funding.
- ZLA has two (2) new funders to finance its mandate.

#### A.3.2.4 Hold quarterly District and National Board meetings including board orientation Sessions.

Three (3) meetings were conducted and attended by 6 (3 female and 3 male) Board members and Executive Director as ex-officio. Out of the three (3) meetings, only one was held physically due to limitation in funds. The ZLA Programme Manager and the Finance Manager made narrative and financial presentations on all the current ZLA projects. The Board made recommendations on improving project success, financial sourcing and management. At least, 4 sub-committee physical and virtual meetings headed by Board members were held on Finance, Governance, Advocacy and Resource mobilization. Four (4) out of the eight (8) district branches held at least 1 board meeting due to funding challenges.

<sup>5</sup> Gwembe, Kitwe, Lusaka, Chipata and Monze Branches.

<sup>6</sup> Solwezi and Serenje.

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### Result of Activity

- The board members offered checks and balances to the National and district secretariat in terms of staff welfare, advocacy, project management, financial management, constitutional and policy reviews etc.

### **A.3.2.5 Hold Annual General Meetings at district and national level.**

The ZLA General Assembly (GA) was held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 in Lusaka. The meeting was attended by a total of 27 (12 female and 15 male) participants from the National office, member organisations (at national and district level) and district Coordinators. Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) was the independent election body appointed to conduct elections for ZLA National Board.

During the GA, the assembly had an opportunity to review the 2022 Audit report, 2022 Annual narrative Report and Chairperson Reports. District Branches and National members also presented their land related narrative reports. Amendments to the ZLA constitutions were submitted and adopted.



FIGURE 39: GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PROGRESS

### Results of Activity

- The participants had an opportunity to input into valuable organisational documents and had insight on different member and district activities.
- Points of synergies were created for possible collaborations among branches and national members implementing similar activities.
- The 2022 Financial Audit and Narrative report were adopted by the Assembly.
- Constitutional proposals were submitted and adopted by the Assembly.
- A New National Board member with 3 men and 3 women is in place. The next election will be in 2025.

### **A.3.2.9 Hold, participate and provide support to local, national and international events including commemoration days, trade fairs, networking, partners and stakeholders' meetings**

#### *A.3.2.9.1: Participation in the Rural Women's Day Celebrations*

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, three (3) CLACs took part in Rural Women's Day celebrations under the theme *rural women cultivating good food for all*. The CLAC members exhibited their farm food produce and sensitized attendees on the importance of land to food sovereignty.





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*FIGURE 40 & 41: MBONGE CLAC PERFORMING DRAMA (L) AND HUFWA RURAL WOMEN DISPLAY THEIR PRODUCE.*

### Results of Activity

- Increased knowledge by community members on the importance of land, women’s land rights and the role that women play in providing good food through productive land.
- Increased visibility of the work of ZLA and the CLACs in the community.
- Four (4) land cases were recorded by the CLACs and forwarded to the paralegal office.

#### *A.3.2.9.2: Participate in 2023 Conference on the Land Policy (CLPA)*

ZLA participated in the 2023 CLPA which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The organisation was represented by the Executive Director (ED) who made a presentation on Civil Society Influencing Policy and Legal Reform. Participants commended ZLA for pushing the CSO submissions in the 2021 NLP while working with the Government as a member of the technical committee that was drafting Policy. Some of the recommendations contained in the CSO position paper were adopted in the policy. The ZLA presentation resulted in organisation being invited by the MLNR for future consultations and collaboration on upcoming developments in the land sector.



*FIGURE 42 & 43: ZLA ED AT THE 2023 CLPA (L) AND MAKING A PRESENTATION(R)*

**Operational Objective 3.3:** To strengthen ZLA’s financial management, accounting, administrative and human resource capacity.

#### **A.3.3.2 Facilitate Annual external auditing of ZLA financial accounts**

The 2023 financial audit for the period January to December 2023 is being performed out by an External Auditing firm (Enosyst AM). The Audit will determine whether the organisation’s financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The report which is anticipated to be completed in March 2024, will be submitted to ZLA Management for review and then approval by the National Board before dissemination to different stakeholders.

### 3.3.5 Provide required training for finance and programmes staff at district and national level

In July 2023, a procurement system workshop for finance and procurement personnel was held for Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) partner organisations including ZLA to build their capacity in procurement planning and execution. Physical procurement monitoring visits were also conducted to the ZLA National office and Monze branch to ensure compliance with the set procurement principles and to view some of the procured items.

#### Results of Activity

- There is an improvement in procurement compliance in terms of following established purchasing rules and procedures.
- A notable improvement in project procurement plan development has been highlighted by the NCA.

### 4.0 LESSONS LEARNT

- a) The Zambia Government is in the process of reviewing several land related laws and policies so ZLA needs to be proactive in mobilising members and other stakeholders, and submitting input to the Government.
- b) Inclusive Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education (WASHE) be included in ZLA mandate so as to increase access to adequate water for both production and consumption. Other than reducing the water shortages, WASH will reduce the disease burden in the communities since it will also tackle sanitation issues.

### 5.0 EMERGING FUNDING AT ZLA.

ZLA partnered with the Thousand Currents as a potential core funder for the current strategic plan. The organisation received a Catalyst grant of USD 20,000 for 2023 that has a potential fund to pave way for a long-term relationship and renewable annual grant.

### 5.0 CHALLENGES

- a) The organisation experienced delayed funding from some of its partners for activity implementation.
- b) The prices of most commodities soared due to the depreciation of the Zambian Kwacha against major convertible foreign currencies such as the US Dollar and Euro, thereby increasing the activity costs. Budget amendments were done to prioritize key impact activities.
- c) Some District Branches have no transport to aide their mobility during activity implementation which has resulted in high costs of vehicle hire.
- d) Most of the planned activities in the ZLA Strategic plan were not implemented due to inadequate budget. In 2023, ZLA had only one partner supporting its strategic plan (Thousand Currents).
- e) The National Office has a lean structure that was causing an overload of work for the limited available staff members. A volunteer Accounts and Administration Assistant was recruited to assist in the Accounts department.
- a) There is predicted crop failure due to poor rainfall during the 2023/24. The challenge will plunge the already vulnerable small-scale farmers (who are reliant on rain-fed agriculture) into food and income insecurity.