



Republic of Zambia

THE NATIONAL POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT



2007

FOREWORD

In Zambia, development programmes are using environmental resources at an increasing rate. With a fast growing population the drive to meet goals set out in national development strategies and in international conventions, most recently defined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), has likewise accelerated.

The Government has developed a National Policy on Environment to avoid conflict of interest, harmonise sectoral strategies, and rationalise legislation that concern the use and management of environment in order to attain an integrated approach to development through a national cross-cutting consensus.

This Policy was developed through a comprehensive research and consultative process and would be fully integrated in principles of decentralisation, community participation and privatisation that underpin sustainable development.

With growing appreciation of the top priority need to eradicate poverty it was also recognised that sustainable development must embrace natural resource conservation as an equal partner. It is also widely realised that successful campaigns to achieve lasting and effective economic and social development require a strong sense of ownership rooted in a firm community base built around effective local institutions.

Michael L. Kaingu, MP

MINISTER OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the National Policy on Environment employed a broad-based Millennium Development Goal compliant participatory consultative process involving all the major stakeholders. Accordingly, due appreciation is being extended to all stakeholders who participated in the formulation and preparation of the National Policy on Environment. Among those consulted were:

- (a) The National Policy Working Group and the Policy Development Secretariat, established under the Environment and Natural Resources Management Department, to spearhead the development of the National Policy on Environment;
- (b) Chiefs, Provincial Permanent Secretaries, Senior Civil Servants, Local Authority Officials, Non-Governmental Organisations, Local Communities and the General Public who participated in the workshops at local, district, provincial and national levels which were conducted from October to November 2004;
- (c) Officials representing the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organisations, Defence and Security, Police and Prison Services, Academic Institutions, Professional Institutions and Statutory Bodies who participated in planning, sensitisation and awareness meetings convened between August and September 2004;
- (d) Chiefs, Permanent Secretaries drawn from line ministries and provinces, the Cooperating Partners, Non-governmental Organisations, Senior Civil Servants, the Private Sector, Academicians, Private Legal Practitioners, Private Entrepreneurs who participated in the three national workshops held in May and December in 2004 and in March 2005; and
- (e) The Academicians, Private environmental experts and consultants who developed the framework approach for the development of the National Policy in Environment at a meeting held in May, 2004 at Chisamba.

Gratitude is extended to all Ministerial and Provincial Permanent Secretaries who responded affirmatively and provided feedback that was crucial to the finalisation of the Draft National Policy on Environment.

Finally, invaluable technical and financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Environment and Natural Resources Management Project for the development of the policy is highly appreciated.

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Permanent Secretary

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WORKING DEFINITIONS

Biodiversity:	The total variety of all living organisms, including their genetic constituents, inter-relationships and habitats together with ecosystems and landscapes of which they are part
Biome:	A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major ecosystem such as forest or savannah
Chitemene:	Shifting cultivation involving the cutting and piling of branches which are later burned to create a potash contribution to the soil in a limited area in which crops are planted; practised traditionally in the Northern, Central and Luapula Provinces
Climate Change:	Human-induced changes taking place in the world's climate, especially trends towards global warming, which will deeply impact upon most ecosystems. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol seek to reduce the rate of climate change by curbing practices that are thought to accelerate the process.
Community Based Natural Resources Management:	The political-economic transfer of the rights to use high-value common property resources from the centre to communities, and the development of legitimate and effective local institutions and organisations to manage these rights profitably and responsibly
Conservation:	The wise use and management of nature and natural resources for their inherent value and for the benefit of society, bearing in mind that the future generations have as much right to these resources as our own
Ecological Process:	This is a process involving the relationship between an organism and its environment. Wise conservation practice should not be restricted to organisms by themselves but be extended also to the ecological process of which they are part

Ecosystem:	A complex of living communities of organisms and their non-living environment interacting as a self sustaining entity of its own
Environment:	The ecosystem of which mankind is part including cultural and man-made features sometimes defined as the complex set of physical, geographic, biological, social, cultural and political conditions that surround an individual or organism and that ultimately determines its form and nature of its survival
Environmental Integrity:	The wholeness of our environment, without any aspect of it being damaged
Environmental Accountability:	The principle that each one of us is accountable for any action that affects the environment and acknowledges our accountability to society
Environmentally Critical Area:	Terrestrial or aquatic areas within an ecosystem that should be accorded an agreed level of special protection or resource conservation as they are ecologically fragile
Harmful:	A subjective, but often quantifiable, generic term that reflects negative impacts upon the environment, people, natural resources or biodiversity
Heritage:	In the Zambian context this refers to anything passed on from one generation to another including traditions, customs, sites and artefacts that relate to identity, social order, leisure, education, research and, or conservation purposes
Invasive Species:	Species of organisms not indigenous to a given ecosystem that invade it, usually as a result of introduction from abroad for example Water Hyacinth, Eichornia crassipes. Indigenous species also tend to invade ecosystems when they are damaged or under stress
Joint Forest Management:	Management systems that involve the active participation of local communities in the protection, management and utilisation of forest resources
Mushitu:	Evergreen riparian forest that is important in the ecology of some rivers and streams as an important habitat for many

plants and animals that also plays a vital role in riverbank protection, erosion amelioration and stream-flow

National Heritage Resources: A network of natural and cultural heritage sites of international, national or local significance

Polluter Pays Principle: The principle that each of us is responsible to pay for cleaning up the mess we make. This includes paying for cleaner fuel, for the responsible disposal of garbage, for cleaner mines and industries, and mechanisms for rehabilitating degraded or damaged ecosystems, such as afforestation or re-introduction of locally extirpated species

Protection: This is a term used in contrast with conservation for the prevention of harm to organisms or the environment, usually with tangible intervention and active management

Ribbon Development: Roadside house construction on road verges without cohesive planning for social services

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs and aspirations of the present generation without causing deterioration and without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations

Utilization of Natural Resources: Implies consumptive and non-consumptive exploitation or use of natural resource products or ecosystem services

Wetlands: A transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peat lands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, shallow lakes and some rivers

ACRONYMS

AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBNRM	-	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	-	Community-Based Organisation
CEMP	-	Community Environment Management Programme
ECZ	-	Environmental Council of Zambia
EEPAP	-	Environmental Education and Public Awareness Programme
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENR	-	Environment and Natural Resources
ERB	-	Energy Regulation Board
ESP	-	Environmental Support Programme
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
GMA	-	Game Management Area
HIPC	-	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	-	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication
IEE	-	Initial Environmental Examination
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MEWD	-	Ministry of Energy and Water Development
MLGH	-	Ministry of Local Government and Housing
MTENR	-	Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEAP	-	National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHCC	-	National Heritage Conservation Commission
NISIR	-	National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research
NPE	-	National Policy on Environment
NTFP	-	Non-Timber Forest Product
SADC	-	Southern African Development Community
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCSZ	-	Wildlife Conservation Society of Zambia
ZAWA	-	Zambia Wildlife Authority
ZTB	-	Zambia Tourism Board

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