



**Community Leaders Network
of Southern Africa**

Annual Report

2021/2022



The Community Leaders network of Southern Africa

Annual Report 2022

a review of the joint activities of CLN and its
partners organisations



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FOREWORD

From the Chairperson of the Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa, Dr. Rodgers Lubilo (Zambia)

It is my duty and privilege on behalf of the CLN Executive committee, membership, and national focal persons and indeed on my behalf to present the various activities during our first year of formal existence.

Over the last year, we have demonstrated our commitment to advancing community rights and amplifying our community voices and indeed we have entrenched our presence in the global space. After operating loosely since 2019 when it was convened, CLN was officially formalized on the 22nd of October 2021. With its Chairmanship based in Zambia and its Secretariat in Namibia, and representation in 7 other Southern African Countries, CLN has grown significantly to be the lead CBNRM coordinating body in Southern Africa, ensuring that the voices of the often-marginalized communities are heard.

Organizationally, CLN remains a “toddler”, with the office presently only having one employee operating as the Coordinator (Vilio Muunda), whilst the second is set to commence duties next Monday to assist with Finance and Administration related activities (Viona Mwanamwina). Nonetheless, they receive enormous support from the experienced members of the Network and Country Focal Persons to ensure the office is operated efficiently. Allow me to also take this opportunity to thank NACSO for its leadership role played leading to the formalization of the network. Through, Maxi and NACSO leadership, a partnership was engaged with RASA, and RAUK and then eventually with generous support from Jamma International, we got together to rebirth the regional CBNRM dream. We further applaud Jamma International for its commitment to supporting the strengthening of the CLN secretariat and for providing us with a one-year grant.

In close collaboration with our partners and friends, “Our voices were heard” and positively influenced proceedings at the global stage (i.e CITES CoP19), continental and regional stage (APAC, AWCF), as well as nationally. We are thankful for the continued commitment from our partners, members, friends and community representatives for the unwavering support during the first year of operations; we look to strengthen these relationships further in the second year and beyond.

I should also mention that CLN is part of a global network and is currently a member of the African Civil Society and Biodiversity Alliance – a Pan-African movement to support conservation in Africa. We also align our issues with SULi among other progressive groupings. We are also reaching out to SADC and will also engage AU.

A luta continua



BACKGROUND

Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa (CLN) was born after the inaugural African Wildlife Summit, which was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in 2019. At this summit, community leaders noted the need to have one voice when dealing with community rights on natural resources in Southern Africa.

After the summit, the community leaders kept in constant contact with each other through various means of communication and vowed to formalise the relationships by expanding the scope and forming a network of community representatives from all over Southern Africa. In the interim, Ms Maxi Louis from Namibia was tasked to formalise the network.

Today, CLN is a voluntary association constituted under the Namibian common laws. It was formally instituted on the 22nd of October 2021 in Windhoek Namibia.

As rural communities, we are rarely involved in policy-making at international, regional and national levels that affect our rights and ultimately our livelihoods. The loudest voices against our rights are those of distant and powerful groups, far removed from our lived realities and with power and resources to influence policies that ultimately do not reflect our concerns and needs.

Without ownership of wildlife and the natural environment, we have little incentive to manage natural resources sustainably. The world must realise that we play an important role in managing ecosystems and thus our primary objective is to ensure that our voices are respected in discussions about our livelihood

Our resources - our rights



BACKGROUND: STATEMENTS



VISION

OUR VISION IS RESILIENT LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHOSE RIGHTS TO MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES ON THEIR LAND ARE RESPECTED NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.



MISSION

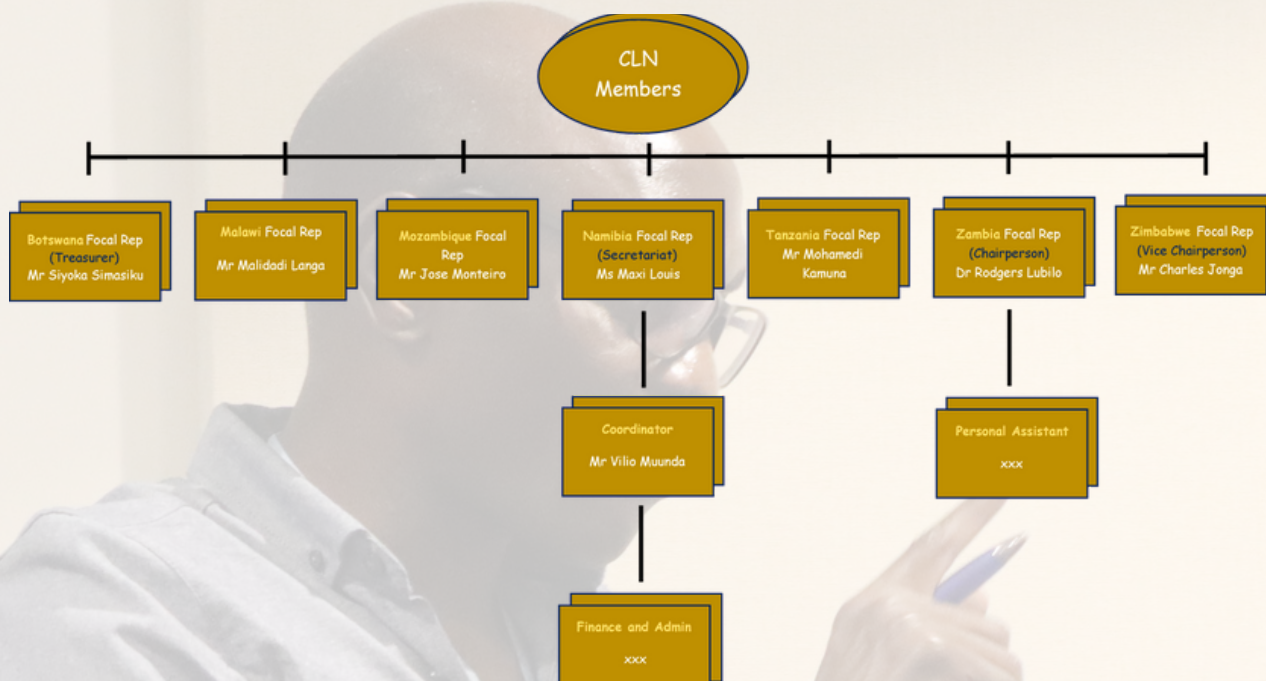
Our mission is to strengthen national community-based natural resource management programmes such that Southern African local communities influence policies and decisions that affect their livelihoods at all levels of governance.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To amplify the voices of local communities through participation and influencing policy negotiation, development and implementation processes to ensure informed decision-making at national, regional and international levels that reflect the needs and rights of local communities to manage and benefit from their natural resources.

BACKGROUND: STRUCTURE



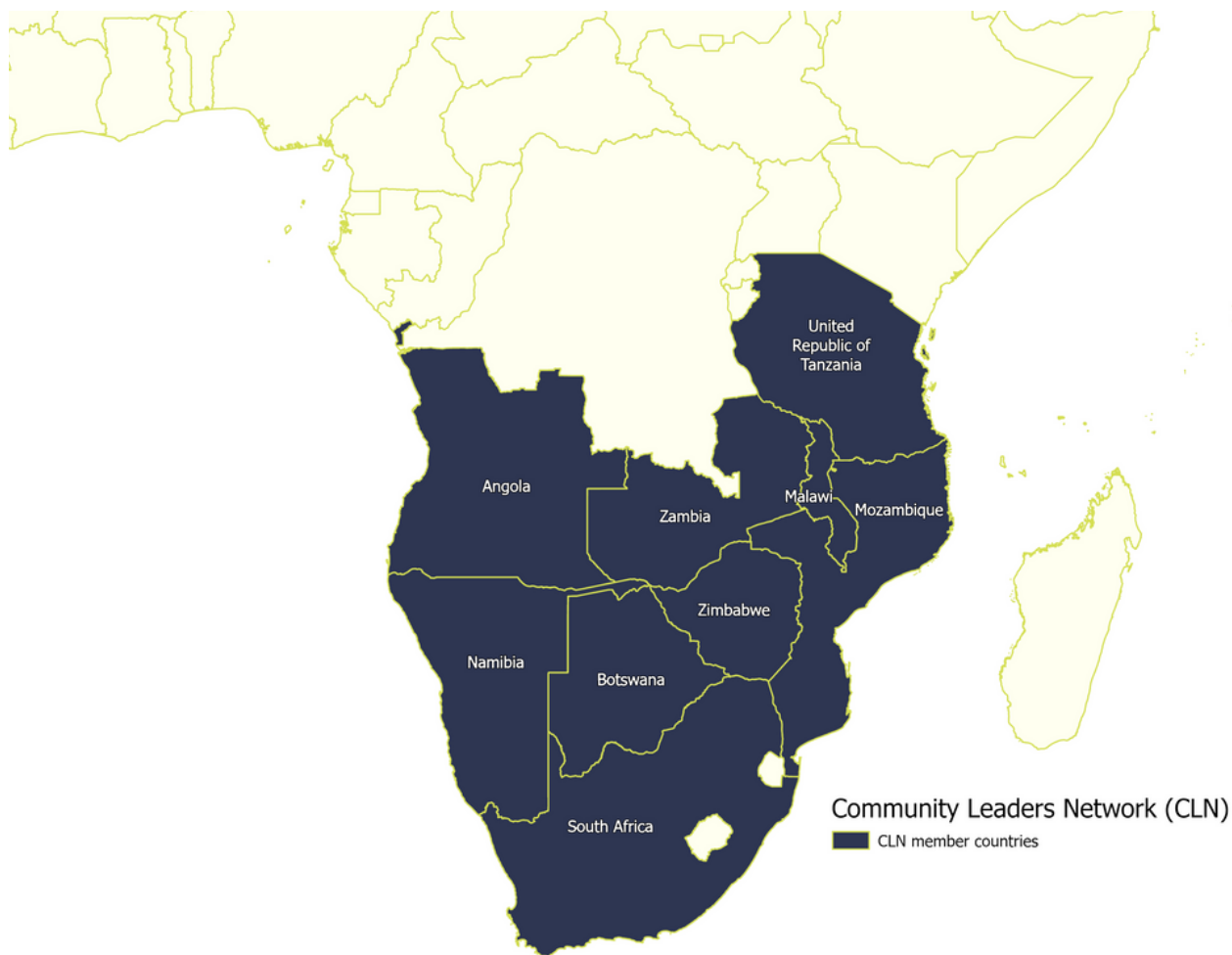
The assembly of community representatives from all our member countries is the highest level of decision-making in CLN. In order to harness the wide range of expertise from all over southern Africa, country representatives work closely with the secretariat team to ensure efficient operations.

The CLN team is a tight-knit, experienced group with a shared vision of amplifying the voices of community members from all over Southern Africa. Dr Rodgers Lubilo of Zambia is the chairperson of cln; Mr Charles Jonga of Zimbabwe is the vice-chairperson; whilst Mr siyoka Simasiku of Bostwana is the treasurer. With the CLN Secretariat office based in Namibia, Mr Vilio Muunda serves as the Coordinator, under the daily guidance of Ms Maxi Pia Louis – the CLN Secretary. member countries such as Tanzania (Mr Mohamedi Kamuna), Malawi (Mr Malidadi Langa), and Mozambique (Mr Jose Monteiro) are also represented on the executive committee of cln. The team is fast expanding, recently securing the services of a Finance and Admin Assistant (to officially commence in early December), meanwhile, a financial consultant has been contracted to ensure sound financial controls.



CLN country representatives after signing the constitution. Left to right: Mr Kevni Mfishani (representing Mr Charles Jonga), Mr Jose Monteiro, Mr Siyoka Simasiku, Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Mr Mohamedi Kamuna, Mr Malidadi Langa, Ms Maxi Louis.

BACKGROUND: WHERE WE WORK



CLN's Focal Organisations per Country

Angola - Association for the Conservation of the Environment and Integrated Rural Development (ACADIR)

Botswana - Ngamiland council of Non-Governmental Organisations (NCONGO)

Malawi - The National CBNRM Forum

Mozambique - Rede para Gestão Comunitária de Recursos Naturais (ReGeCom)

Namibia - Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO)

South Africa - The Makuleke Community

Tanzania - Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC)

Zambia - Zambia CBNRM Forum

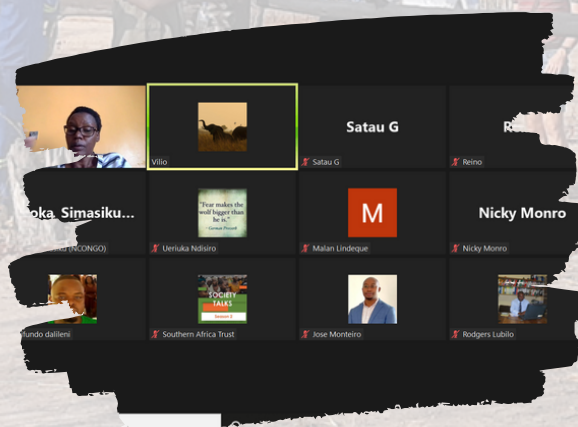
Zimbabwe - CAMPFIRE Association

INTERNAL MEETINGS

Members Meetings

Since October 2021, there have been five (5) CLN Member's engagement meetings organised by the Secretariat. Amongst seeking general guidance from the highest decision-making body of CLN (members), these meetings addressed:

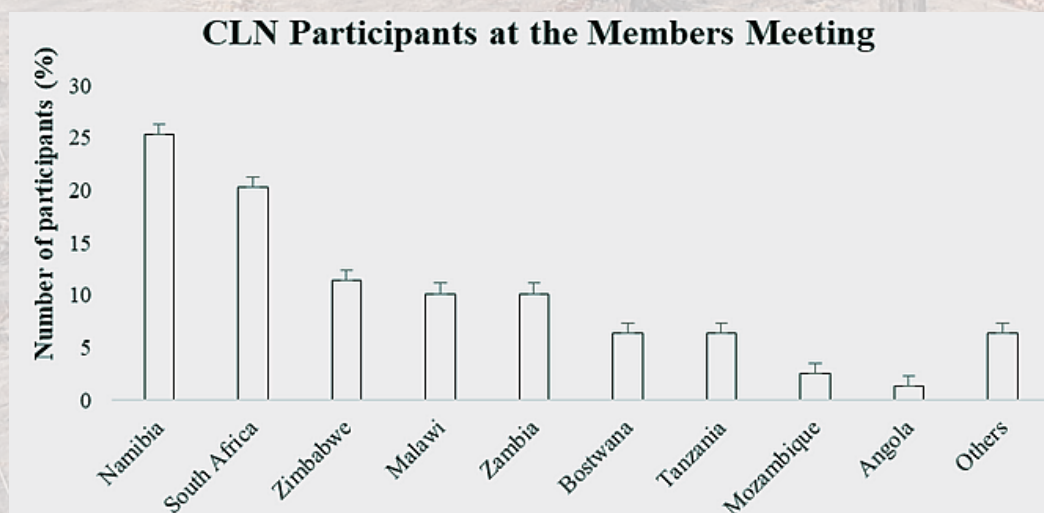
- 1) **08 December 2021** - Introduction of the new CLN Executive Committee elected at the "CLN Namibia Workshop", October 2021.
- 2) **09 February 2022** - Updates on the preparatory works on CLN's participation at the 5th UN Environment Assembly, as well as the formation of a CLN bank account and website.
- 3) **16 March 2022** - Fundraising activities and preparation for CLN's participation at the African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Rwanda.
- 4) **06 May 2022** - Launch of the CLN website.
- 5) **30 August 2022** - Update on the CLN Discussion Forum.



Executive Committee Meetings

During the same period, the CLN Executive Committee has met eight (8) times to ensure THE IMPLEMENTATION of the decisions adopted at the Member's Meetings. Amongst others, the following were the key businesses discussed at the Executive Committee meetings:

- 1) **01 November 2021** - Resources mobilisation and networking.
- 2) **19 November 2021** - Fundraising, and preparation for the EU Trip.
- 3) **23 December 2021** - Discussions over MoU with Resource Africa and the implementation of the Biocultural Community Protocol.
- 4) **18 February 2022** - CLN's position on hosting and managing the IPLC Pavilion at APAC.
- 5) **24 February 2022** - Deliberations over the RA supply of service contract for the "Voices of the People" project.
- 6) **13 June 2022** - Membership applications and final decision on IPLC Pavilion.
- 7) **11 July 2022** - Updates on preparatory work on APAC and the signing of the CLN Secretariat grant with Jamma international.
- 8) **20 September 2022** - CLN's position and messages to be delivered at AWCF.
- 9) **01 December 2022** - Preparations for AGM on the 2nd of December



CLN participants at member's meetings per country of origin

CLN PARTNERS



Resource Africa (RA)

Resource Africa promotes people-centred conservation for thriving, resilient livelihoods. They advocate for people's rights to sustainably use their natural resources, respecting their cultures, worldviews, and knowledge systems. Our interventions are science-based. Resource Africa provides technical support and expands our international advocacy capabilities. [Visit RA's website to learn more](#)

Southern African Trust (SAT)

The Southern African Trust strengthens the voice and agency of poor people in policy processes to reduce poverty and inequality in southern Africa. Established in 2005, the Trust works in expansive civil society engagements in national and regional policy dialogues to ensure the voices of the poor are heard, and they influence policies to end poverty. SAT provides training and connects us with key regional policy-making bodies. [Visit SAT's website to learn more](#)

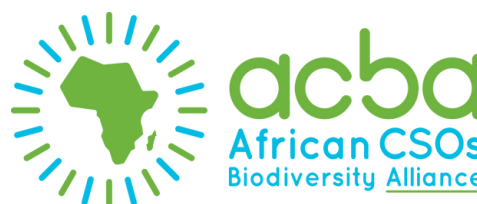


Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO)

Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) was renamed in February 2001 (from CBNRM Association of Namibia). NACSO is the umbrella CBNRM coordination organisation in Namibia, formed to harness expertise from stakeholders in Namibia to provide conservancies and community forests with best available resources. NACSO connects the communities and organisations that manage and conserve Namibia's natural resources. NACSO is currently housing the CLN Secretariat. [Visit the NACSO website to learn more.](#)

African CSO Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)

Formed in February 2020, the African CSO's Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) provides a platform for African CSOs to speak with one voice on issues of sustainable use of nature that contribute to conservation and equitable benefits from nature. CLN's alignment and collaborative partnership with ACBA link the southern African communities to the rest of the community representatives all over Africa. [Visit acba's website to learn more](#)



JAMMA International

JAMMA International is a UK-registered charity founded in 2010 to encourage, support, fund and implement meaningful conservation, well-being, education and innovation projects around the world. We support organisations that want to tackle issues to help communities and the environment thrive. JAMMA is currently financially supporting CLN's secretariat to establish an office building [visit JAMMA's website to learn more](#)

2021/2022 ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER
2021

CLN Formalisation Workshop

Date: 18 – 22 October 2021

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

Attendance: Over 40 representatives from Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa

Objectives/Outcomes: CLN Constitution was signed on the 22nd of October 2022

Read more: [Click here](#)



JANUARY
2022

RA/JAMMA Programme Implementation Plan Meeting

Date: 16 – 22 January 2022

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Attendance: Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Siyoka Simasiku, Mohamedi Kamuna, Vilio Muunda, Malidadi Langa (online), Jose Monteiro (online)

Objectives/Outcomes: review project activities for the JAMMA funded "Voices of People" project. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CLN and Resources Africa.



CLN @ fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5)

Date: 28 February – 02 March 2022

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Attendance: Mr Chifundo Dalireni (Malawi) and Dr Malan Lindeque (Namibia)

Objectives/Outcomes: CLN's involvement ensured that due recognition is given to the rights and needs of rural communities in every decision and discussion at this forum, noting that there were 14 resolutions adopted.

Read more: [Click here](#)



CLN European Union Trip

Date: 23 May – 01 June 2022

Location: Uk, France, Belgium, Germany

Attendance: Maxi Louis, Rodgers Lubilo, Siyoka Simasiku (online)

Objectives/Outcomes: the trip to Europe was crucial in that it has offered CLN representatives a unique opportunity to meet with key decision-makers and journalists in Europe, and to communicate directly and widely their perspectives on the issues of trophy hunting ban, the link between community rights and conservation, the link between development/poverty and wildlife conservation in southern Africa, the concept of CBNRM, and the successes of CBNRM programmes in Southern Africa.



FEBRUARY/
MARCH 2022

MAY/ JUNE
2022

CLN @ the IUCN African Protected Areas Congress (APAC)

Date: 18 – 23 July 2022

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

Attendance: 29 representatives from all member countries

Objectives/Outcomes: CLN hosted five (5) of their own side events, whilst some members were moderators and panelists on seven (7) other side events. These deliberations influenced several key outputs of the Congress, especially declarations and statements made by the IPLCs and ultimately the Kigali Call to Action. In particular, rights to the sustainable use of natural resources were recognized in all major outputs of Congress.

Read more: [Click here](#)



CLN @ the 4th SADC Youth Forum (SAYOF)

Date: 25 – 28 July 2022

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Attendance: Vilio Muunda

Objectives/Outcomes: on a panel session with youth representatives from all over SADC, Vilio Muunda glanced on how youth can get involved in CBNRM and climate change agenda – as well as stressing the need for community involvement in decisions related to sustainable utilisation of wildlife.

Read more: [4th SAYOF Declaration](#)



JULY 2022

JULY 2022

SEPTEMBER
2022

Formation of the Malawi CBNRM Forum

Date: 26 – 29 September 2022

Location: Malawi

Attendance: Malidadi Langa, Chifundo Dalireni and other community members in Malawi as well as support organisations

Objectives/Outcomes: With support from partners JAMMA International and resources Africa, the first CBNRM forum of Malawi was formalised.



OCTOBER
2022

CLN @ the African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF)

Date: 03 – 07 October 2022

Location: Maputo, Mozambique

Attendance: Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Siyoka Simasiku, Ditiro Mmereki, Mohamedi Kamuna, Chifundo Dalireni, Kevin Mfishani, Vilio Muunda.

Objectives/Outcomes: At Forum, the CLN representatives stressed the need for common standards in contractual agreements between communities and outfitters and to ensure that communities are involved as shareholders rather than stakeholders. Further, the platform served as great preparatory opportunity for the CLN delegates who will be at CITES to familiarize themselves with proposals and documents that will be discussed at CITES cop19.

Read more: [Click here](#)



CLN/RA institutional meeting

Date: 09 October 2022

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Attendance: Vilio Muunda, Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Siyoka Simasiku, Malidadi Langa (online)

Objectives/Outcomes: Immediately after AWCF meeting in Maputo, the CLN delegation held a brief meeting with Resource Africa (RA) in Johannesburg, enroute to their respective destinations. the meeting aimed at providing updates on the operations of the "voice of the people" project, as well as addressing how the continued cooperation between the two institutions can be strengthened.



CLN @ CITES CoP19

Date: 14 - 25 November 2022

Location: Panama City, Panama

Attendance: Maxi louis, Dr Rodgers Lubilo, Siyoka Simasiku, Ditiro Mmereki, Gail Thomson, Bupe Banda and others

Objectives/Outcomes: In collaboration with ACBA, RA, JAMMA and IUCN SULi, we called for the rights of rural communities to be actively involved in making decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods are upheld in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

Read more: [CITES CoP19 Press Release](#)



OCTOBER
2022

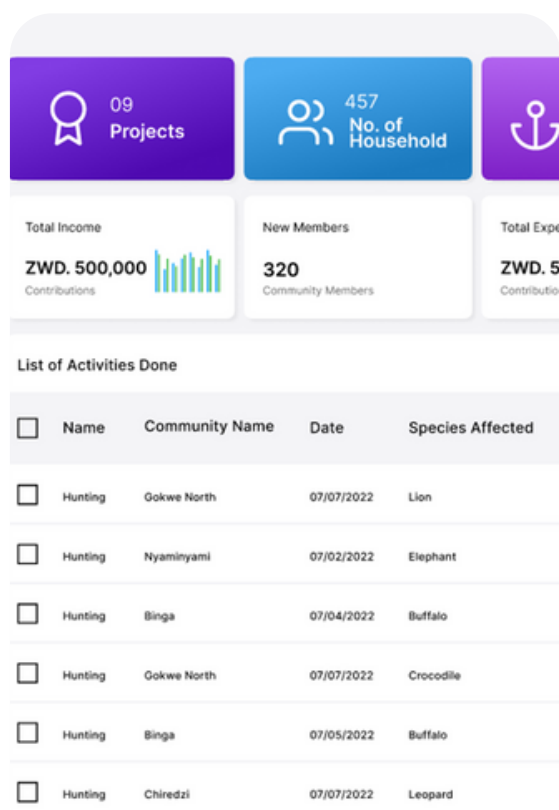
NOVEMBER
2022

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR 2021/2022

Nsefu Bio-cultural Community Protocol

Bio-cultural Community Protocols (BCPs) articulates community-determined values, procedures and priorities, and sets out community's rights and responsibilities under customary, state and international law. It is developed after a community undertakes a consultative process to outline their core ecological, cultural and spiritual values and customary laws relating to their traditional knowledge and resources, based on which they provide clear terms and conditions to regulate access to their knowledge and resources.

Prior to broader rolling out of the programme, a pilot BCP has been initiated in Zambia's Nsefu Village Action Group (VAG) in September 2022, in collaboration with Resources Africa. The BCP of the Nsefu VAG provides an insight into important social and cultural values of our people. It highlights and documents their traditional knowledge, way of life, customary laws. It also identifies current challenges faced and their impact on our way of life. It documents and showcases community's role in protecting and conserving biodiversity, and states clear terms and conditions regulating access to their knowledge and resources. By developing the BCP, the Nsefu community call on the Zambian Government and other stakeholders to recognize and appreciate our vital role as guardians and conservators of biological diversity and recognize our customary and legal rights over our land, territories and natural resources. We are hopeful and confident that the rollout of subsequent BCPs throughout southern Africa will follow same successful trajectory.



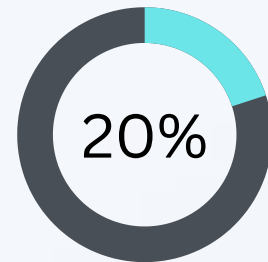
Monitoring and Evaluation in Southern Africa

Through the "Voices of the People" project with Resources Africa, five (5) Monitoring and Information Officers have been hired in Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the primary objective of cataloguing the communities practicing CBNRM in their respective countries. The data collected included the number of households, etc. as well the geolocation of these households. The data will be used to create a database of CBNRM related activities in Southern Africa, which will be used as an effective adaptive management tool.

CLN FINANCES

CLN Grants

Number of active grants:	One (1)
Grantor:	<u>JAMMA International</u>
Grant name:	Capacitating the CLN Secretariat
Grant duration:	One (1) Year (01 July 2022 – 31 June 2023)
Grant total:	USD 108 964.00
Grant expenditure to date:	20%
Grant objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Set up a functional and independent CLN Secretariat Office in Namibia* Develop operational manuals and financial guidelines* Embark on national, regional & international advocacy to introduce CLN



The CLN Treasurer's visit to Namibia. From left: Mr Vilio Muunda (CLN Coordinator), Mrs Idonette Botha (Financial consultant), Ms Peggy Couser (Financial consultant), Mr Siyoka Simasiku (CLN Treasurer)



Viona Mwanawina: The new CLN Finance and Admin Assistant

The CLN Treasury is headed from Botswana by the Executive Director of the Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO), Mr Siyoka Simasiku. Since the opening of the CLN Bank account in February, the Treasurer did not have access to the account because the bank requires that the addition of any signatory should be done physically. After securing the Jamma grant, it was planned that, as a matter of urgency, the Treasurer visits Namibia to be added as a signatory (10 – 12 August 2022) – in this way, he will have more financial oversight of the organisation.

The visit also served as an opportunity for the Treasurer to meet with the financial consultant (Peggy and Co Ltd) who will be temporarily tasked with setting financial management systems within CLN, as well as loading all transactions to trial balance. To date, the CLN accounts are updated, with continuous improvements still a necessity. With sustainability in mind, we are in the process of finalizing the financial operation guidelines as well as finalising the recruitment of a Finance and Admin Assistant who will initially work with, and later take over from, the financial consultant.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

As communities from Southern Africa, we have noted concern about the recent increase in opposition to sustainable use of natural resources, including attempts by the global north to ban the importation of hunted trophies from Africa. Southern African communities have long demonstrated their ability to conserve wildlife through Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), through which regulated sustainable use is permitted.

In partnership with Resource Africa (South Africa and United Kingdom offices), we have consistently scanned the political and media environment throughout the world for attempts of advancing the “anti”-sustainable use agenda and any other developments that may affect the livelihoods of our communities. In response, CLN timely contacted several government representatives and NGOs, offering an opportunity for consideration of the perspectives of the affected rural communities. Thus far, we have written letters to the following groups:

- UK Parliamentarians
- All-Party Parliamentary Group
- Born Free Foundation
- UK Charity Commission
- Belgium parliamentarians
- Finnish parliamentarians
- German parliamentarians
- The Green Party (Germany)
- Dortmund City Council
- USA parliamentarians
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Open letter



June 1, 2022

‘IT’S NEOCOLONIALISM’: CAMPAIGN TO BAN UK IMPORTS OF HUNTING TROPHIES CONDEMNED BY AFRICAN DELEGATION

Former colonial powers seeking to pass laws that threaten the rights and livelihoods of rural African communities and their wildlife, need to consider this impact and hear what Africans have to say about it first.



OUR RESOURCES OUR RIGHTS

21 July 2022

To: Honourable Member of the Finnish Parliament

Re: Urgent appeal to enable conservation and uphold human rights in Africa.



"Local community members - who live with wildlife on a daily basis - MUST be at the table where wildlife related matters are discussed"



UPCOMING EVENTS

The following are upcoming events where CLN will participate in before the 31 December 2022

Name: CLN Annual General Meeting

Date: 02 December 2022

Place: Virtual



Name: 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15)

Date: 5 - 17 December 2022

Place: Montreal, Canada





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