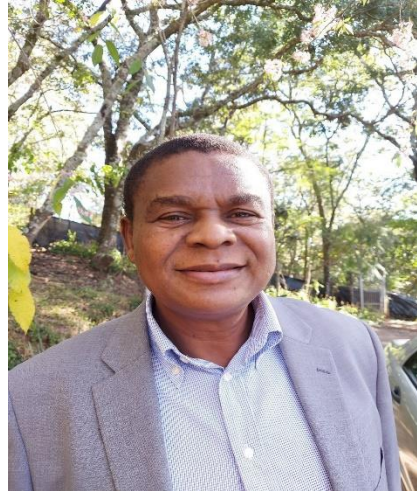


Message from Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa on the Passing of Charles Jonga



It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that we note the passing of CLN Vice Chairperson **Comrade Charles Jonga**.

Charles was an icon, a legend and exemplary leader for community conservation. Comrade Jonga was not just a pillar for CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe but an inspiration to young conservation leaders across Southern Africa.

Charles combined strong leadership with genuine compassion for communities. He was not afraid to stand up for the communities and speak out about the challenges they face on national, regional and international platforms.

Comrade Jonga taught us to be determined, to be passionate and to drive the change that is needed to benefit the local communities in Africa. In his role as CLN Vice Chair, he provided a wealth of experience and wisdom gained from decades of working with communities and the many other stakeholders in CBNRM.

As CLN we join the family, CAMPFIRE Association, colleagues and friends of Charles in grieving together. Zimbabwe mourns, SADC mourns and the world mourns the passing



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of our leader. Our elephant, our lion, our hero is gone too soon but his works will forever remain relevant to those who knew and loved him.

We will continue to soldier on as part of Charles' legacy in Southern Africa. Our comrade, our commander, our leader go well. We shall miss your contribution dearly but be assured you have left great lieutenants to carry the mantle of CBNRM forward. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Personal messages from CLN members:

Dr. Rodgers Lubilo, Chair of CLN Zambia: As a comrade, Charles was not just a local leader but also a global icon of our generation. I personally learnt a lot from Comrade Jonga. When I decided not to go to the CITES COP19, and asked him go instead, he said: "No, no comrade chair you have to go and represent CLN and register our regional concern to ensure that community voices are heard." I just did what he instructed me to do.

Maxi Louis, CLN Exco, Namibia: My sincere condolences to Charles Jonga's family and our CAMPFIRE colleagues in Zimbabwe. Charles was very instrumental in CBNRM not just in Zimbabwe, but he was known and respected in Namibia. Charles served as a mediator for any misunderstandings among us, a good hearted and honest visionary for conservation. May his soul rest in eternal piece, God bless his family and thanks for sharing Charles with us in Southern Africa.

Malidadi Langa, CLN Exco, Malawi: Charles was a pillar and mentor for the entire CLN family. Our communities in Malawi drew inspiration from COMPASS and Charles himself. He will be greatly missed by us all. MHSRIP.

José Monteiro, CLN Exco, Mozambique: Very sad news! May Charles' soul rest in peace. I will save and remember all the wonderful moments and knowledge shared.

Mohamed Kamuna, CLN Exco, Tanzania: Whaaat!?! My deepest shock on this saddest news. We truly lost a great man.

Lamson Maluleke, CLN Exco, South Africa: It is very difficult to accept that one of brother, our colleague, the revolutionary in the CBNRM industry is no more. Life can be unfair sometimes. May the Lord our God be with all of us, to all his friends and above all his family.

Viona Mwanawina, Namibia: May God comfort his family. Love and light.

Moreangels Mbizah, Zimbabwe: This is such a great loss. My condolences to his family, loved ones and colleagues.

Liberty Chauke, Zimbabwe: I am deeply shocked and saddened by this. May his soul rest in peace. May the Almighty God comfort his family during these hard times.

Ishmael Chaukura, Zimbabwe: Very sad news. My deepest condolences.

Joseph Kanyetu, Namibia: Allow me to wish the family strength and more blessings in this difficult time, we are all being touched and we will put him in our prayers.

Tuna Angula, Namibia: Heartfelt condolences to Charles' family. Praying that the Lord comforts his family, friends and the entire CBNRM fraternity.

Bupe Banda, Zambia: Oooh my.... this is so sad. Such a pillar of CBNRM in the region..... sincere condolences. What a loss.

Mutende Simwanza, Zambia: That's very sad, it's a big loss to the space. Heartfelt condolences. MHSRIP.

Mighty Ugwana, Namibia: My deepest condolences to the family and may his soul Rest In Peace.

Brisetha Hendricks, Namibia: My sincere condolences. This is awful! Our thoughts are with you all.

Dickson Saka, Malawi: Very sorry, MHSRIP

Vilio Muunda, Namibia: This is sad.MHSRIP

Personal messages from International Colleagues:

Prof. Brian Child: I am deeply shocked and saddened by this news. My condolences to all for a man who served CAMPFIRE for so many years.

Frederick Kwame Kumah: Oh what a shame! We have lost a leader of community natural resources management! May his soul Rest in Peace!

Leslé Jansen: Very sad news. Our sincerest condolences.

Gail Thomson: My sincere condolences to Charles' family and friends. He was not only a stalwart of CBNRM in Zimbabwe but also a good man who had a real heart for the communities. I will miss him. Praying for his family in this difficult time.

Steve Johnson: Please let Charles' family know that I am thinking of them in their bereavement. He was a pioneer in our midst and contributed hugely to the upliftment of thousands of poor rural families – not only in Zimbabwe – but through his advancement of our knowledge and understanding in the CBNRM space. He was a quiet giant among us!

Piet Theron: That's terrible news, and I actually can't believe it! Very sad. Condolences to his family, friends and colleagues, he will be sorely missed.

We will miss you Comrade Charles



Rodgers Lubilo
CLN Chairperson