

# Zambia CBNRM Forum

## Summary of LEAP – IWT Survey Questionnaires

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## SUMMARY REPORT

The survey questionnaires carried out comprised respondents from the Learning and Action for Community Engagement against Wildlife Crime (LeAP) National Dialogue and the Community Resource Board (CRB) regional meetings. A total of 60 respondents were interviewed, with more male (75%) respondents compared to female (25%) respondents. The top age category was 43-48 followed by the 49-54 category. Despite most of the respondents not indicating their age category, the youths had little representation in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions of the age category with the senior citizen being the minority. This indicates that there is still need for more youth involvement in the fight against illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as more men are eager to engage in illegal wildlife activities as compared to women as observed in Figure 1. Most of the respondents were from Jumbe (Mambwe district), Msoro (Mambwe district) and Kakumbi (Mambwe district) with a few from Kalasamukosa (Serenje district). The summary of events and CRBs that were present and participated in the survey are highlighted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of events and CRBs that were present during the survey collection

Date	Event	CRBs involved	Location
9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020	Annual AGM for reviewing CRB performance in the Eastern Region	Chitungulu, Mkhanya, Jumbe, Msoro, Lundu, Chikwa, Mphanshya, Malama	Chipata, Crystal Springs Hotel
28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020	Stakeholders meeting- Challenges being faced by stakeholders in CRBs	Nsefu, Jumbe, Kakumbi, Malama, Msoro, Chikomani, Mkhanya, Chitungulu, Sandwe, Nyalugwe, Mpansya, Shikabeta, Luembe, Mwanya,	Chipata, Crystal Springs Hotel

Date	Event	CRBs involved	Location
9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2020	Standardizing of CRB & Village Action Group (VAG) constitutions and regulations	Jumbe, Msoro, Kakumbi, Malama, Nsefu, Mkhanya, Mwanya	Mfuwe, Mambwe District
10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2020	Harmonizing working relationships of BCP with the community	Jumbe, Msoro, Kakumbi, Malama, Nsefu, Mkhanya, Mwanya, Nyalugwe, Lwembe, Mwape, Sandwe, Chinunda, Chikomeni, Chitungulu, Kazembe, Mwase Mpangwe	Chipata, Crystal Springs Hotel

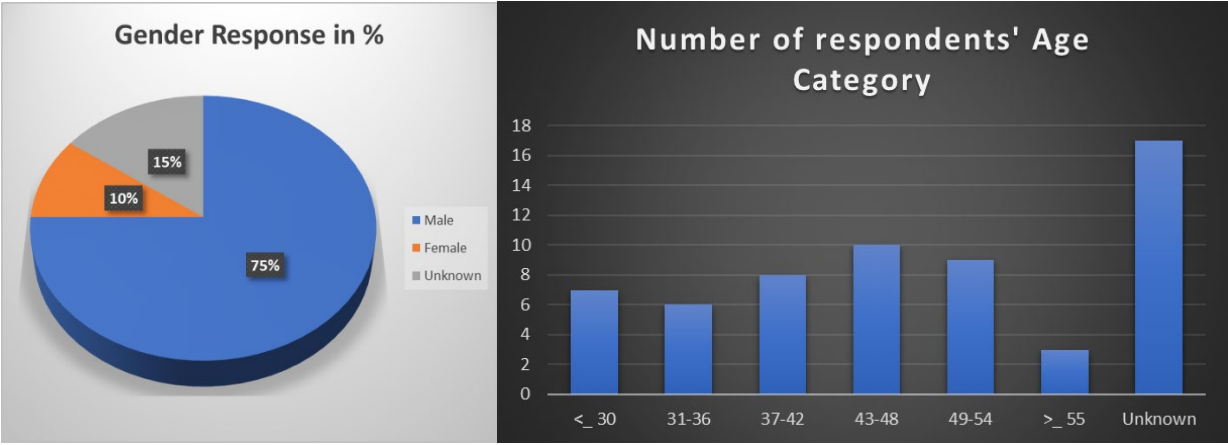


Figure 1: Gender and age categories response to the IWT survey

Whilst it is key for the communities to be part of the fight against IWT, more women and youths should be part of this fight. At least 98% feel that they both individually and as a community have a role to play in helping stop poaching and IWT as observed in Figure 2.

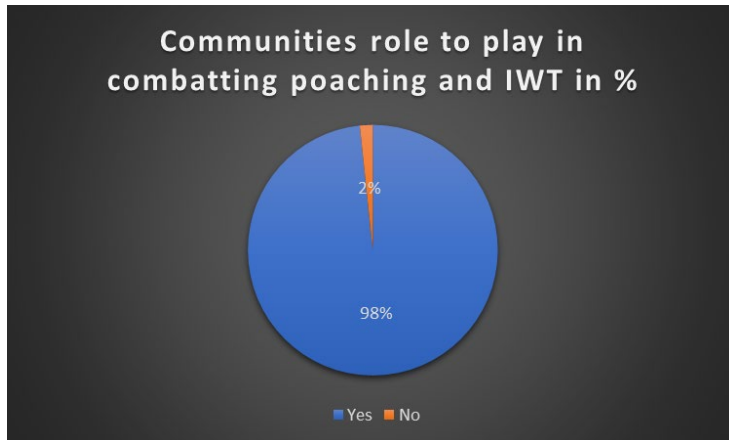


Figure 2: Perception of communities in stopping poaching & IWT

**Community feelings towards their role in stopping poaching and IWT. Some responses to the questionnaire:**

- The community is benefiting from money earned through employment as community scouts and also from livelihood improvements from conservation generated revenue (e.g. park fees).
- Community involvement in the fight against IWT should be easy to stop because they live with animals and it's where poachers come from.
- It is part of the communities' mandate to look after their natural resources.
- Their involvement in this fight will improve the revenue accrued from the Game Management Area (GMA) if the communities report illegal activities in the GMA/forest.
- It is also the community's responsibility to protect vital forests and sensitize other community members on the dangers of IWT.
- Communities can be afraid of the laws against poaching.
- Despite sometimes not receiving their fair share of revenue, it also important for the communities to conserve the natural resources for future generations and to avoid extinction of species.

In addition to the way the communities feel about their role in stopping poaching and IWT, 75% of respondents do feel that the government recognizes their role in helping stop poaching and IWT, as seen in Figure 3.

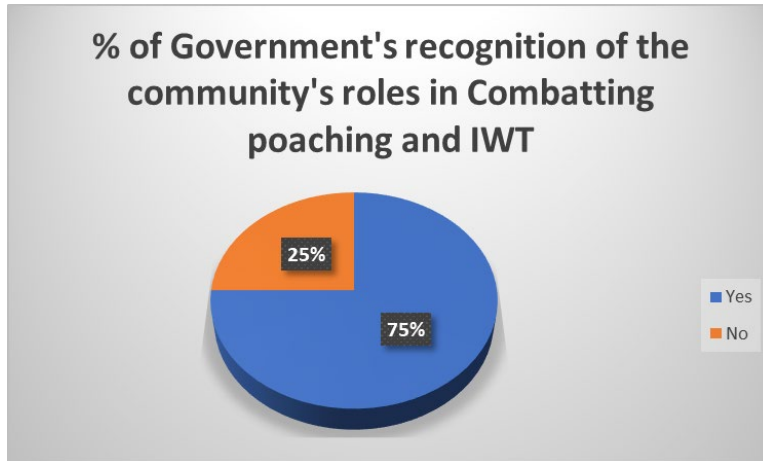


Figure 3: Governments recognition in helping stop poaching and IWT.

**Government recognition of the community's role in the fight against poaching and IWT. Some responses below:**

- They advise the communities to stop poaching so that they can be involved in more projects that will enhance their livelihood.
- The government provides food for the communities in times of hunger so that people don't have to resort to poaching.
- The government has sent wildlife police officers, who work with the village scouts, to help enforce the law.
- Others feel the government have also helped to revamp the CRBs that had stopped operating.
- Community relationships with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) have improved due to revenue being shared on time.
- Government works with VAG members to encourage the community to stop any illegal activities.

- Government supports the community through wildlife education conservation programmes.
- They fund anti-poaching programmes under the CRBS.
- There is legal provision in the law giving CRBs the right to employ community scouts who are deployed in anti-poaching operations across Chiefdoms.

Despite 75% of respondents thinking that the government does recognize their role in stopping poaching and IWT, the other 25% did not agree. These respondents feel the government doesn't transfer funds due to the communities on time, that the percentage of revenue given to the communities is less compared to what is generated/agreed and that the penalties are too harsh on poachers. For example, the fines charged can't usually be paid by a local community member (e.g. K5000 for killing a buffalo) and so they end up serving a jail sentence instead. Communities also feel that informants sometimes report false information to the government on community involvement in IWT.

Over the last year, some respondents feel the government's recognition of their effort and role in fighting against poaching and IWT has changed. The majority feel it is still the same, followed by those who feel the situation is now better and finally those who feel the situation has now worsened over the last year, as seen in Figure 4.

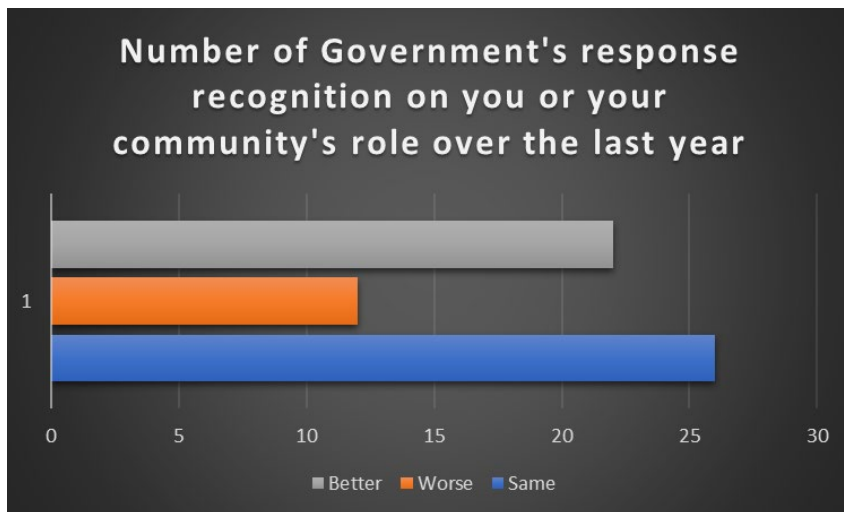


Figure 4: Number of respondents on whether government recognition on the community's role in tackling IWT has changed over the last year

Some mixed responses:

- The government had helped communities by giving them food (particularly maize and beans) and by enforcing the law through community scouts.
- They feel negatively about the fact that hunting fees are too high, meaning they are not involved in or allowed to hunt or have access to wild animals.
- They now have a higher understanding of the importance of wildlife from projects the CRB/VAG have undertaken with government support.
- The government has upgraded local community scout from the various CRBs to wildlife police officers.
- The government has been assisting in helping communities tackle human-wildlife conflict (HWC) cases.
- The relationship has worsened as the government hasn't paid community scouts for 6 months and local people are often ignored when it comes to recruiting wildlife police officers.
- Revenue from hunting and tourism is sometimes delayed.

### **Community involvement in tackling poaching and IWT**

Communities would like to be more involved in tackling poaching and IWT. Most of the respondents would like to have other ways to earn income so that they are not tempted to get involved into poaching and other illegal activities, whilst others would like to be involved in tackling IWT for employment purposes, or to gain more knowledge on how they can conserve natural resources. The community also want the government to do something about HWC, which can sometimes lead to illegal killing of wildlife, as seen in Figure 5 below.

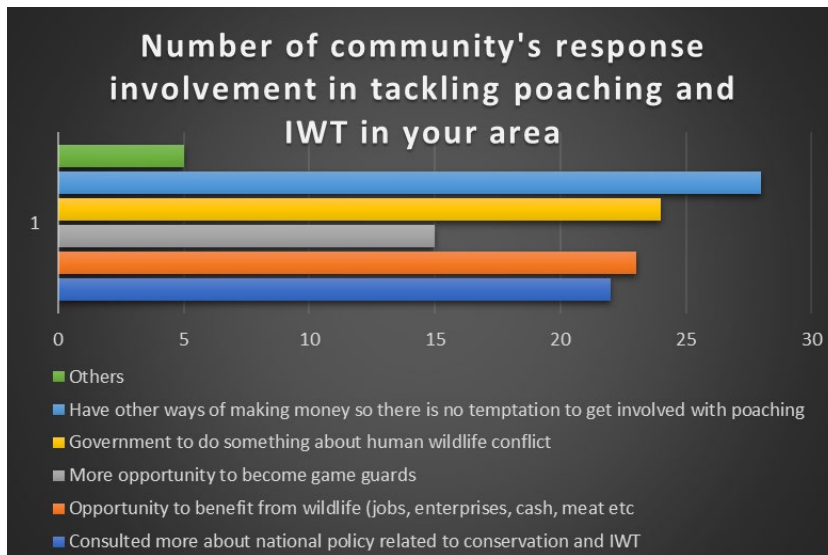


Figure 5: How respondents would like to be involved in tackling poaching and IWT.

Other respondents felt they would like to be involved in tackling IWT to benefit from wildlife resources in the form of jobs, enterprises, money, and meat. This was followed by those who would like to contribute to national policy related to conservation and IWT for the sustainability of the natural resources, and those who would like the opportunity to become game guards.

In trying to tackle poaching and IWT, 73% of respondents indicated that they have been involved in projects tackling poaching and IWT, including those led by COMACO, Frankfurt Zoological Society and Bio-Carbon Partners. The remaining 27% of respondents have not been involved as reported in Figure 6 below.



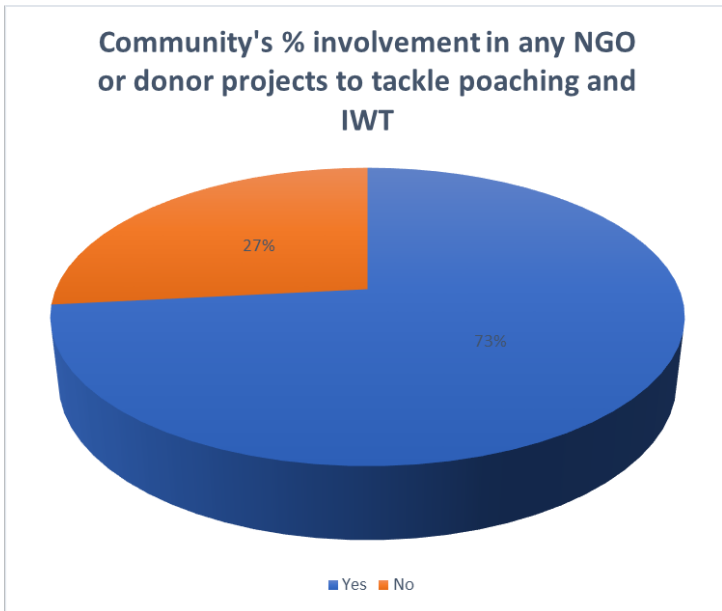


Figure 6: Community involvement in projects tackling IWT and poaching

In addition to this, the community have had different roles in these projects which include:

- Working alongside Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in projects to tackle poaching and IWT.
- CRB members usually help NGOs or donors to educate communities on topics related to poaching and IWT.
- Community members might be involved in law enforcement activities, such as employed as scouts.
- To make sure that the NGOs work according to the signed MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) and to participate by sensitizing other community members in meeting.
- To make sure the patrols are being conducted and reports are being delivered on time.

Communities tend to have different roles as projects progress, and this means engagement can get better or worse or stay the same. From the responses only 36 community members indicated that the level of engagement is getting better with 14 members indicating that it's still the same and 3 members indicating that the level of engagement is worsening, as shown in Figure 7 below.

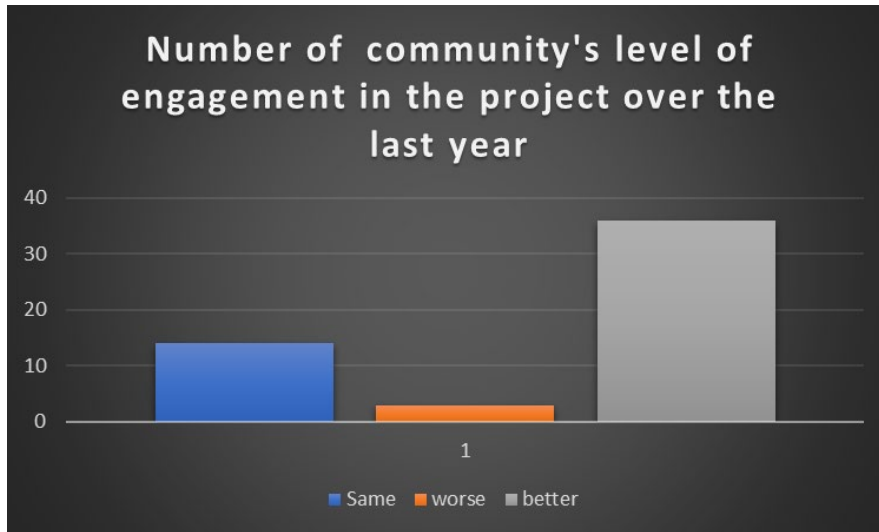
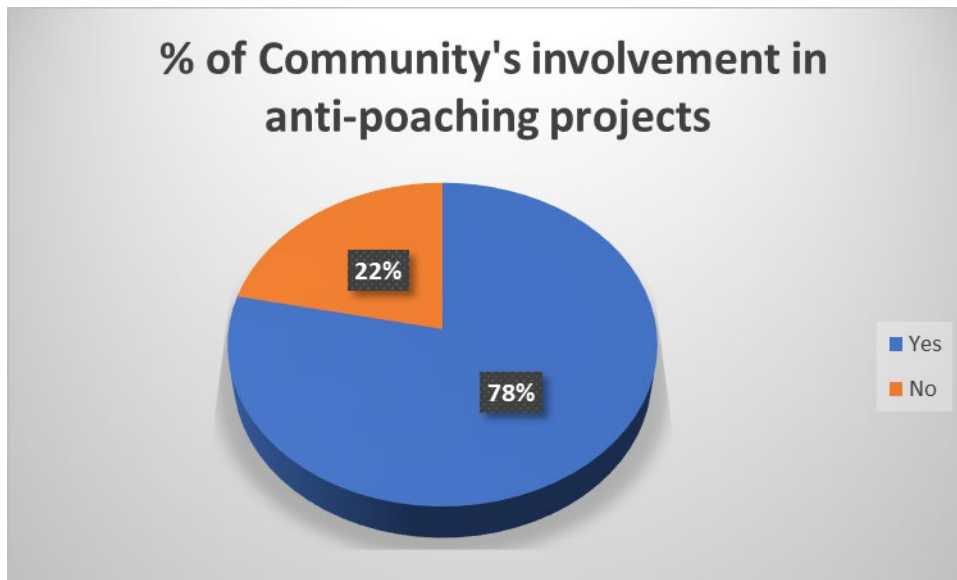


Figure 7: Number of respondents on how the level of engagement has changed in the project over the last year

The responses are suggestive that changes are due to:

- Partners such as Bio-carbon Partners have recently come on board and are now funding development projects, such as building schools, through CRBs.
- In some areas the government have finally paid the money owed to the communities, who have now seen the need to conserve natural resources.
- There is a lot of regional, national, and local engagement through lesson sharing which is changing the mindset of the communities through the Zambia CBNRM forum and other stakeholders.
- There is a lot of sensitization and awareness raising being done by the CRB members to improve the levels of engagement.
- More community members now understand the importance of conserving wildlife resources through wildlife conservation programmes.

This level of engagement has now led the community to want to be more involved in anti-poaching activities, with at least 78% agreeing as seen in Figure 8 below. The other 22% that is did not agree is because they are involved in other natural resources activities such as bee keeping.



*Figure 8: Percentage of Community involvement in more anti-poaching activities*

The respondents have various reasons to why they either want to be or don't want to be involved in anti-poaching projects:

- They are benefiting from the conservation of the natural resources, such as through employment or revenue from the government which they use for various projects such as the construction of schools and hospitals.
- They want to promote ownership and conservation of their natural resources.
- It is part of the mandate of a CRB to promote the conservation of the resources, so that more development is brought to the area.
- To reduce and stop poaching for future generations.
- For involvement in other alternative livelihood activities such as gardening and bee keeping.
- To help educate the community members on the importance of conserving the natural resources.
- Anti-poaching projects improves the biodiversity of the area and the ecosystem in general.

## **Government's intervention to reduce poaching and IWT**

Despite communities now being more involvement in tackling IWT and poaching, they still think there is more that the government could do to reduce poaching and IWT, including:

- Increasing the number of wildlife police officers in anti-poaching activities.
- Revamping and supporting CBNRM.
- Leading on sourcing and contacting NGO's to partner with.
- Capacity building in communities.
- They must start paying scouts a salary.
- Government should more closely collaborate with chiefs, CRBs and VAGs.
- Increase benefits to communities so that communities appreciate natural resource protection.
- Empower communities so that they are 100% involved in the conservation of natural resources.
- Share benefits on time with communities.
- Come up with better national policies that can support CRB's in conservation and revenue generation mechanisms.
- Increase support to rural communities through employment and help with alternative livelihoods, such as the promotion of tourism.
- Provide enough resources to the CRBs to enable them to sensitize their community members on the importance of preserving wildlife.

## **Conclusion**

There is still need for more women and youth involvement in tackling poaching and IWT. Since communities have a major role in helping to stop poaching and IWT it is essential that human-wildlife conflict is mitigated. Continual community involvement in tackling IWT should eventually lead to a change in the mindset of the communities to take conservation seriously.

The government has recognized the efforts of the communities in tackling IWT and is helping to increase partnership with different NGOs. These NGOs are helping the CRBs and supporting development projects in the communities. The involvement of CRBs in different regional, national, and local projects has had a great impact on the protection and sustainability of natural resources, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The communities however still need the government to do more, for example job opportunities, maintaining community engagement in conservation, involvement in policy formation, plus others that will ensure communities don't have to resort to illegal activities as means of survival.

**Suggested citation:**

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