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## 8.23 Zambia

### Protected and conserved areas in Zambia<sup>100</sup>

Zambia has 635 protected areas covering 286,161 km<sup>2</sup> of the land (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019x).

A land-locked country in southern Africa comprising forests, Zambia's agro-ecosystems and wetlands are the most important ecosystems to the national economy and rural livelihoods. Biodiversity conservation to date has been undertaken through the management of the existing protected areas system, and promotion of sustainable utilisation of natural resources in open areas.

The key changes in the status of national parks, forest reserves and game management protected area system since 2009 have been the creation of a new Lusaka National Park, degazetting of some forest reserves and the identification of gaps of representation of plant and animal species within the existing national parks and game management areas as far as possible by the reclassification conservation plan to guide conservation action.

### Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Zambia includes parts of six transboundary conservation areas, namely Kavango-Zambezi TFCA, Liuwa Plain-Mussumba TFCA, Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA, Malawi-Zambia TFCA, Mosi-oa-Tunya /Victoria Falls Transboundary World Heritage Site, and ZIMOZA TFCA.

### Policy context

A comprehensive report on legislation and policy related to protected area management, governance and equity was undertaken by the BIOPAMA programme. It identified 79 relevant laws and policies in Zambia (Tessema, 2019).

### Key species<sup>101</sup>

Zambia is home to over 12,500 species, of which almost 200 have been assessed as threatened according to the IUCN Red List. Almost 4,000 plant species and 563 micro-organisms have been recorded. There are 224 mammal species recorded, many of which are economically important through hunting and tourism, and 490 species of fish species. Zambia is also home to over 750 bird species, comparatively high for a landlocked country dominated by a single biome.

### Pressures and threats<sup>102</sup>

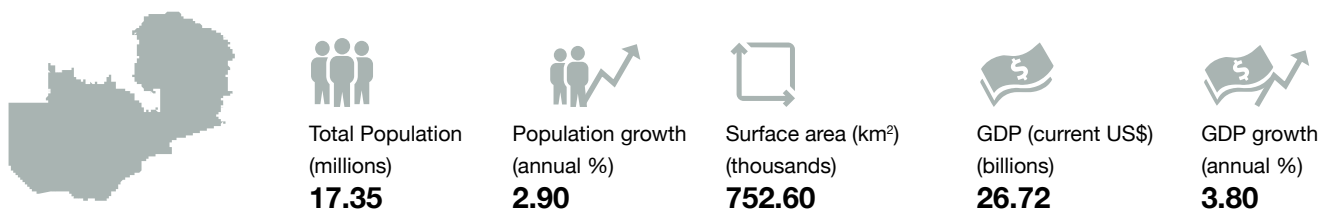
Zambia's ecosystems face major threats: degazettement of forest reserves, mostly for purposes of mining; deforestation and habitat degradation; human encroachment into protected areas; uncontrolled late bush fires; overexploitation of certain tree species, as well as mammals for the bushmeat and illegal wildlife trade, and overfishing of freshwater ecosystems; pollution from agriculture, mining and other industrial activities; and alien invasive species.

<sup>100</sup> The section draws on information contained in Zambia's Fifth and Sixth National Reports to the CBD (Republic of Zambia, 2015; 2019).

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<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

**Figure 8.45 Zambia Summary**



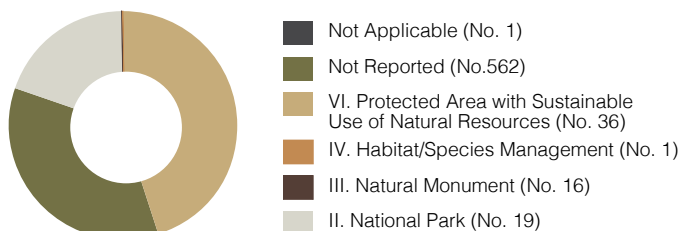
Source: The World Bank Group, 2018.

**Area Protected:**

**635 protected areas** covering **286 161 km<sup>2</sup>** of land

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, (2019x)

**Protected and conserved areas in Zambia in IUCN Management Categories**



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019x).

**Over 12 500 species**



**Coverage of protected areas in Zambia**

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	37.87%	37.80%

\* WDPA dataset      \*\* From National Report on Biodiversity  
Source: Republic of Zambia (2019); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019x).

**National designations of protected and conserved areas in Zambia**

National designation	No.	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Conservation Area*	1	Unknown
National Park	19	60 457
Natural Monument	16	74
Game Management Area	34	140 447
Forest Reserve	555	79 893
Bird Sanctuary	1	127

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019x).  
\*This site had no reported area in the WDPA

**Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in Zambia**

Global designation	No. of sites
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Natural or Mixed)	1
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	8

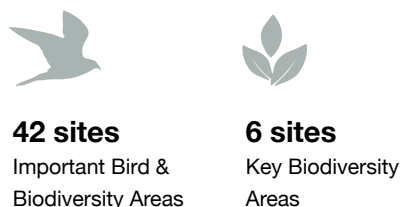
Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b).

**Protected and conserved areas in Zambia in IUCN Governance Types**



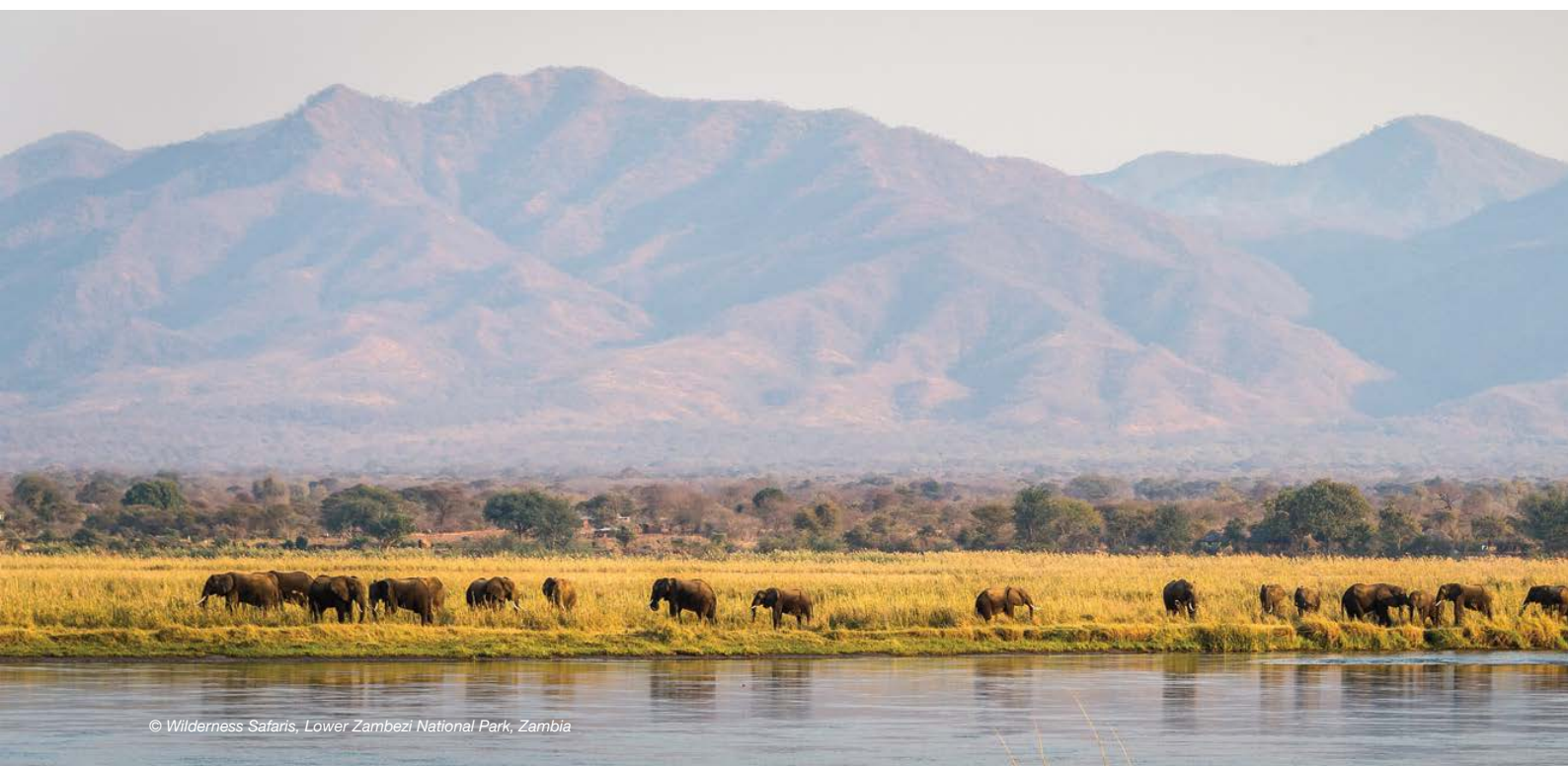
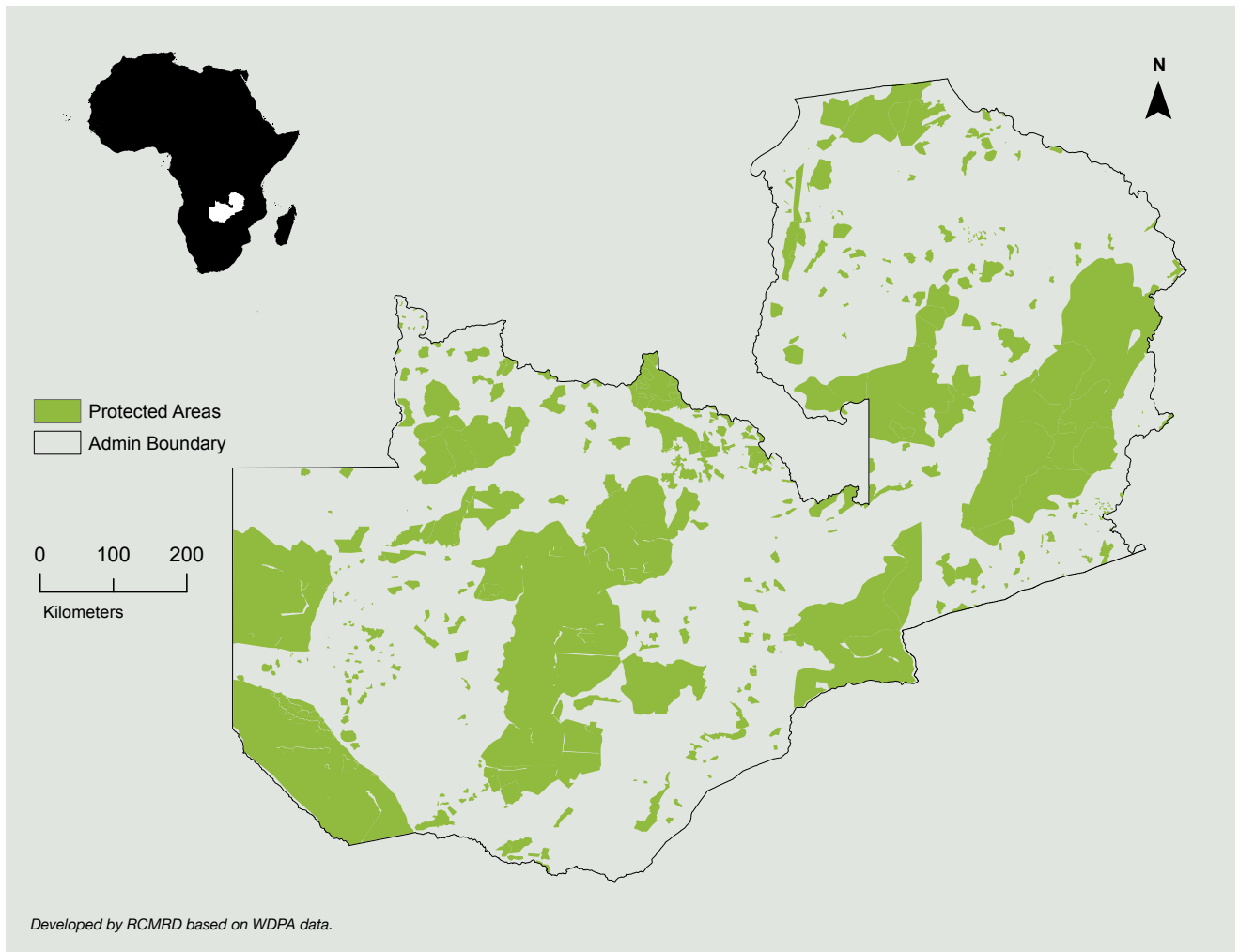
Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019x).

**Priority areas for conservation**



Source: BirdLife International (2019b, 2019b).

Figure 8.46 Zambia protected areas



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