

Detailed Implementation & Financial Report

Barotse Floodplain Land-Use Study January – December 2023

1. Project Overview

- Title: Socio-Economic and Ecological Land-Use Study in the Barotse Floodplain
 - Location: Senanga & Nalolo Districts, Western Province, Zambia
 - Duration: January – December 2023
 - Objective: Assess socio-economic land use, ecological conditions, and provide policy recommendations to guide sustainable grazing, fishing, and farming practices.
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2. Background & Rationale

- The Barotse Floodplain is ecologically vital, supporting fisheries, farming, and grazing, but is under threat from overgrazing, unsustainable fishing, and soil degradation.
 - Limited data had hindered effective policy and community decision-making.
 - This study aimed to bridge the gap by combining household surveys, ecological sampling, and GIS mapping, in line with Zambia's decentralization policy and conservation strategies.
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3. Activity Components

- Household Surveys: Conducted structured interviews with 300 households on land-use practices.
- Ecological Sampling: Collected soil and water samples at 15 sites.

- GIS Mapping: Developed maps of grazing, fishing, and farming zones.
 - Stakeholder Dialogues: Shared interim findings with traditional leaders and councils.
 - Policy Brief Development: Produced actionable recommendations for sustainable land-use management.
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4. Detailed Execution Phases

- Phase 1 – Planning & Tool Development (Jan–Mar 2023): Designed questionnaires, trained enumerators, and secured permits.
 - Phase 2 – Field Surveys & Sampling (Apr–Jul 2023): Conducted household surveys and ecological sampling across 12 villages.
 - Phase 3 – Data Analysis & Mapping (Aug–Oct 2023): Analyzed data, generated GIS maps, and identified critical hotspots.
 - Phase 4 – Dissemination & Policy Engagement (Nov–Dec 2023): Presented findings to District Councils and community leaders; distributed policy briefs.
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5. Implementation Timeline

- Planning & Tool Development: Jan–Mar 2023
 - Field Surveys & Sampling: Apr–Jul 2023
 - Data Analysis & Mapping: Aug–Oct 2023
 - Dissemination & Reporting: Nov–Dec 2023
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6. Outcomes & Impact

- Evidence-Based Policy: District Councils in Senanga & Nalolo adopted bylaws for sustainable grazing zones and regulated fishing seasons.

- Community Engagement: 300 households actively contributed to shaping new bylaws.
 - Environmental Insights: Soil tests revealed declining fertility in over-cultivated areas, prompting land restoration efforts.
 - Knowledge Transfer: Local leaders equipped with maps and reports to guide resource management.
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7. Key Partners

- WWF Zambia: Grant provider and technical backstop.
 - University of Zambia (School of Environmental Studies): Supported research design and data analysis.
 - District Councils (Senanga & Nalolo): Policy adoption and enforcement.
 - Traditional Leaders: Mobilized households and legitimized findings.
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8. Community Testimonials

“For the first time, we saw maps showing where overgrazing and poor fishing were harming the floodplain. Now we have bylaws to guide us.” — Sitali, Fisher & Farmer, Nalolo

“This study gave us evidence to back community rules. People now understand the science behind sustainable land use.” — Induna Imutakwandu, Traditional Leader

9. Financial Report – WWF Zambia Research Grant (\$40,000)

Budget Item	Amount (USD)	Description
Planning & Tool Development	\$6,000	Enumerator training, survey design, permits

Household Surveys	\$12,000	Data collection in 12 villages, allowances, transport
Ecological Sampling & Lab Tests	\$8,000	Soil & water sampling, lab analysis
GIS Mapping & Data Analysis	\$6,000	Software, mapping, data processing
Stakeholder Dialogues	\$4,000	Workshops, dissemination meetings
Monitoring & Evaluation	\$2,000	Tracking policy adoption, follow-up visits
Administration & Contingency	\$2,000	Coordination, communications, overheads
Total	\$40,000	Total Grant Funding

Summary

The Barotse Floodplain Land-Use Study provided critical data that translated into concrete community bylaws and policy shifts, ensuring sustainable grazing and fishing practices. The project successfully linked research to action, empowering communities to balance livelihoods with conservation of one of Zambia's most important ecosystems.

Approved by:



Esther Tekela

Executive Director, Karbalus Cooperative Society

Date: 15th January 2024