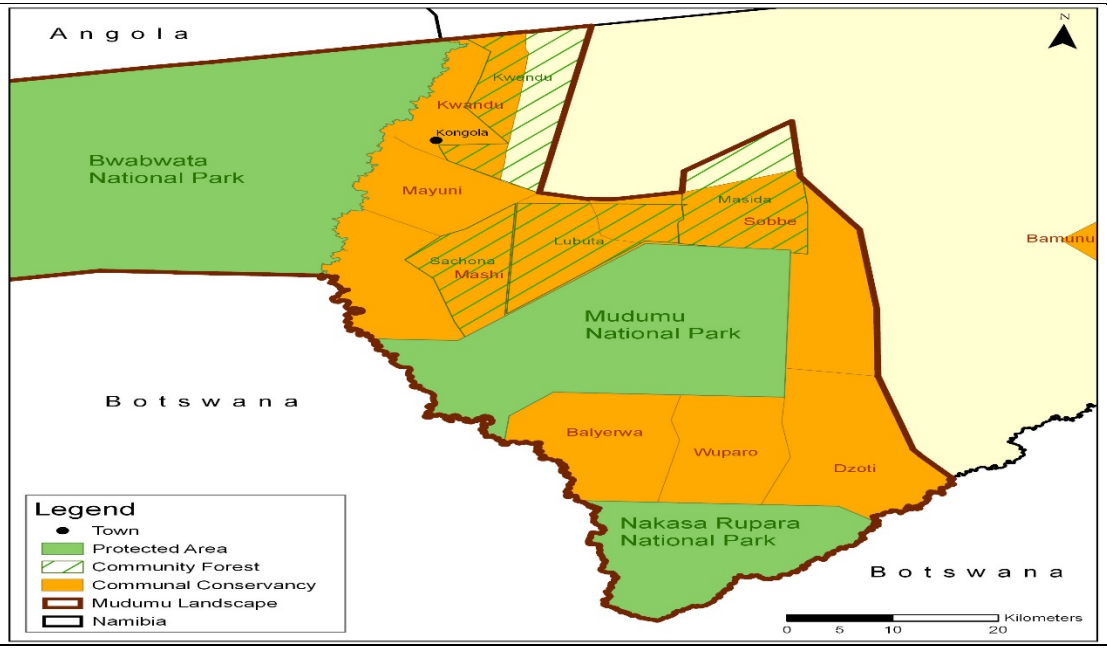
Landscape Name: Zambezi West



Location & size: The total size is 5,499 km². It borders Zambia and Botswana, Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara National Parks, covers 7 conservancies (Kwandu, Mayuni, Mashi, Sobbe, Balyerwa, Wuparo and Dzoti) and four community forests. The area is identified as one of the key wildlife corridors and dispersal routes between Botswana, Angola and Zambia and for this purpose, forms part of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area[1] (KAZA TFCA).

Population: Kongola and Judea Lyaboloma Constituencies form the core of the landscape with population densities ranging from 1.4 to 3.2 persons per km² respectively. Landscape forms part of the Zambezi Region where an estimated 55% of the population is in age group of 15–59 years with 61% of these urbanized. Younger people are urbanized with the elderly remaining/returning to the rural areas to continue with farming activities. (NSA, 2014). There areas is inhabited by Mafwe, Mayeyi, Hambukushu and Kwe communities. Kwe are regarded as vulnerable minorities.

[1] KAZA TFCA, is the world's largest conservation area, spanning five southern African countries; Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Landscape: Soils and topography: Soils are predominantly Kalahari sandveld mainly of Aeolian sand type mantle and tertiary calcretes and sediments. Flat plains and ancient longitudinal dunes presently covered by vegetation are also common features. The topography therefore is characterised by extreme flatness with no significant drainage system to either the Kwando or Linyanti rivers.

Rainfall: Annual mean is 348 – 871mm expected 90% of the time while lowest rainfall recorded is 288mm and the highest 1,005mm. Potential evaporation is estimated at >2,500mm per year. The average boreholes depths range between 20-50 meters indicating high water table by Namibian standards. Average yields from boreholes in the study area can be expected to be $4m^3$/hour at depths ranging from 22m to 61m.

Vegetation: Mopane woodlands indesprse with Burkea, Aristida and Terminalia combinations. Dominant species include *Colophospermum mopane, Burkea Africana, Terminalia sericea, Euclea divinorum, Diospyros lycioides, Ximenia americana* and *Croton gratissium*. Grasses are of variable quality, but are generally of low grazing value. The greatest value of this particular vegetation resource is as a source of durable construction wood and an important source of fuel wood.

Wildlife: Wildlife is largely concentrated in the 2 protected areas but increasingly is also distributed in the conservancies and areas outside the parks (Chase 2009). Major species include Cape buffalo, lion, leopard, spotted hyena, cheetah, Cape wild dog, hippopotamus, crocodile, sitatunga, meerkat, red lechwe, sable antelope, eland, giraffe, common impala, Burchell's zebra, wildebeest and spotted-necked otter. Sable antelope, giraffe and eland were re-introduced into the area.

Socio-Economics Profile: The Integrated Regional Land Use plan for Caprivi (now Zambezi) earmarked the area for small-scale commercial farming i.e. dry-land crop production and for mixed subsistence farming and controlled commercial grazing. Two farming units have been allocated to a private company - Namibia Agriculture and Renewables.

Land tenure: largely communal land administered by traditional authorities with the exception of the 2 national parks mentioned earlier.

Sources of livelihoods: agriculture - approximately 26.3% of the population depends on livestock and 52.9% on crop cultivation (NSA, 2012). Typically, households plant between one and four hectares of mostly mahangu, sorghum and maize through dryland cropping that is dependent on the rainfall for water. Regional farmers' association works for the interests of the farmers and is affiliated to the national farmers' union. Government institutions (schools and clinics), tourism establishments and conservancies provide job opportunities. According to the 2011 Zambezi Regional Profile the main source of energy for cooking, lighting and heating for households in the Zambezi Region was from wood, while only 14% made use of grid electricity for cooking purposes. The majority of households (61.5%) utilised candles for lighting purposes.

Wildlife and tourism: Rich wildlife resources, perennial rivers and lush vegetation makes wildlife-viewing tourism, trophy hunting and fishing activities major activities. Community members earn income from sale of crafts, thatching grass and through cultural villages. There are about 3 tourism establishments in the landscape area.

Climate change vulnerabilities: It is expected that flooding will become more, the onset of the rainy season will also become more variable and dry spells more prolonged. These will affect agricultural activities, making it difficult to decide on when to prepare fields and when to plant. Increased flooding will not only have an impact on agriculture production but will also have impacts on settlements, infrastructure provision and health. Increased flooding in the Zambezi Region will lead to more agriculture land being lost for longer periods, growing periods will be shorter and yields will therefore be lower. On the positive side, increased floods will lead to increased fertility of the floodplains as sediments and organic matter are carried by the floods.

Infrastructure:

The Trans-Caprivi Highway links region with the rest of the country as well as with Zambia, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. The C49 road was recently upgraded from Lisle -Linyanti-Kongola Singalamwe road (212km) to a bitumen road and links the landscape area with the regional nucleus of Katima Mulilo where the regional airport, Mpacha, is located. Air Namibia has four scheduled flights from Windhoek to Katima Mulilo per week from this facility.

The Rural Electrification Programme of the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), together with NORED, has implemented a number of rural electrification projects in the Zambezi Region including in the landscape under discussion. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) under the Directorate of Rural Water Supply, are responsible for providing water to rural communities.