

Press Release

New initiative taps into the power of nature to build resilience and protect biodiversity amidst climate crisis

September 8, LUSAKA—The three-year [Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas \(CAPA\) initiative](#), launching today in Zambia’s capital, will use [nature-based solutions](#) to support local communities in adapting to climate change while safeguarding critical ecosystems in and around protected areas in the Kavango-Zambezi and Greater Virunga landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in Belize and Fiji.

“CAPA will bridge the gap between protected areas management and climate change adaptation planning, while involving women and marginalized groups at all stages to ensure an inclusive approach,” said Anne Hammill, Associate Vice President, Resilience, at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Through the CAPA initiative, IISD, along with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with support from Global Affairs Canada, will work with local communities, traditionally marginalized groups, women, and national and local authorities to design and implement concrete gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive, nature-based solutions for adaptation that can be implemented right away.

WWF Zambia Country Director, Nachilala Nkombo, says “CAPA represents a valuable opportunity to enhance climate change adaptation measures in the Kavango-Zambezi landscapes. By working closely with local communities, we can develop solutions that not only address climate change impacts but also empower communities to actively participate in safeguarding Zambia’s natural heritage.”

CAPA will implement a wide range of activities in each site to achieve its objectives, such as

- establishing native tree nurseries to support reforestation efforts, restocking community game ranches with native wildlife to restore ecological balance, and initiating the establishment of community forests in Zambia;
- supporting restoration activities of agricultural lands adjacent to protected areas, through soil and water conservation, in Uganda;
- promoting sustainable fisheries and establishing marine protected areas while supporting the development of climate-resilient alternative livelihood options in two communities in Fiji;



Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas Initiative

- establishing financial protections for marine reserves in the event of natural hazards in Belize.

“Through the CAPA initiative, Canada reaffirms its commitment to climate action and supporting sustainable development in international contexts,” said Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Canada’s Minister of International Development, at today’s launch event. “We are proud to partner with organizations like IISD, WWF, and WCS in implementing gender-responsive approaches that ensure inclusive and equitable outcomes for all.”

“CAPA aligns with Zambia’s commitment to sustainable tourism development and the conservation of our natural resources,” said Honourable Rodney Sikumba, Zambia’s Minister of Tourism. “By establishing community forests and engaging with traditionally marginalized groups, we can ensure that local communities are at the forefront to drive the climate adaptation agenda, fostering long-term resilience in line with our global goals on adaptation commitments.”

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About the Partners

International Institute for Sustainable Development

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is an award-winning independent think tank working to accelerate solutions for a stable climate, sustainable resource management, and fair economies. Our work inspires better decisions and sparks meaningful action to help people and the planet thrive. We shine a light on what can be achieved when governments, businesses, non-profits, and communities come together. IISD's staff of more than 200 experts come from across the globe and from many disciplines. With offices in Winnipeg, Geneva, Ottawa, and Toronto, our work affects lives in nearly 100 countries.

World Wide Fund for Nature

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is the world's leading independent conservation organization with a global network in over 100 countries, collaborating with people at all levels to develop and deliver innovative solutions that protect wildlife and communities. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature.

Wildlife Conservation Society

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental organization committed to working with communities, governments, and other partners to safeguard biodiversity and natural resources through integrated land and seascape management underpinned by applied research. We run programs spanning the entire ocean and more than 3 million biologically critical square miles in nearly 60 countries.