

Zambia CBNRM Forum

Summary of interviews with Community Representatives and Policy Makers (NGO representatives, government officials) present at the ZCBNRM National Consultative Dialogue

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SUMMARY REPORT FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The interviews comprised respondents who attended the LeAP National Dialogue held on 18th-19th March 2020 as part of the 'Learning and Action Platform for Community Engagement against IWT' (LeAP) project. A total of 43 community representatives took part in the interviews during the CBNRM Annual General Meeting held on the 11th of September 2020. Analysis shows that most respondents are male (70%) compared to female (18%) and that most respondents are in the 41-46 age category followed by the 36-40 age category. A few respondents (12%) chose not to indicate their age or gender. There was low representation from youths and senior citizens, indicating that there is still need for more youth involvement in the fight against illegal wildlife trade and that more men are eager to engage in illegal wildlife activities as compared to women as observed in Figure 1. The respondents were from all parts of the country as represented in the National Consultative Dialogue.

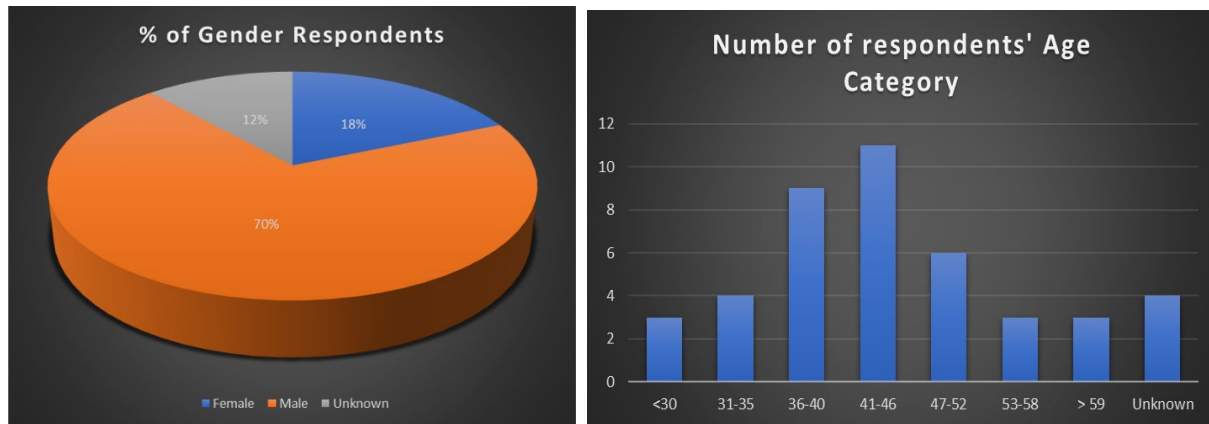


Figure 1: Gender and age category response to the IWT survey

Whilst it is key for the communities to be part of the fight against illegal wildlife trade (IWT), more women and youths should be part of this fight. All respondents indicated that they are aware of the big problem of poaching and the IWT in Zambia. Their responses included:

- “The high unemployment levels among the youths, which results in them resorting to poaching activities as an alternative means of livelihood”.
- “There are more organisations advocating against poaching and IWT in the country compared to the early 2000s, indicating that there is still a big problem”.
- “The animal population has drastically dropped compared to the earlier documentation and census reports, plus certain wildlife species have become locally extinct”.

- “According to investigation reports (from DNPW (Zambia Department of National Parks & Wildlife) and other organisations) shows that a lot of people are being caught with carcasses and trophies”.
- ‘There is a lack of sensitization and awareness on IWT, this is very evident during village sweeps conducted by DNPW’.
- “People [are] selling meat on the black market and there is also a lot of awareness from wildlife crime prevention and on the radio”.

Due to the increased levels of poaching, a lot of wildlife species are at risk such as elephants, buffalo, rhino, pangolins, leopards, impalas, kudus, bushbuck, and other small/large ungulates. Respondents indicated that this could be due to:

- “Increased demand and market for game meat products for consumption by community members and others”.
- “Species hunted due to certain traditional myths and beliefs such as for protection from wizards and for increases in wealth”.
- “Animal’s tusks and species such as pythons are hunted down for their fats and fibre which are believed to be medicines”.
- “Cat’s claws and skin are also alleged to be medicine”.
- “The shoe bill stork is hunted for its beauty, meaning it is now very rare”.

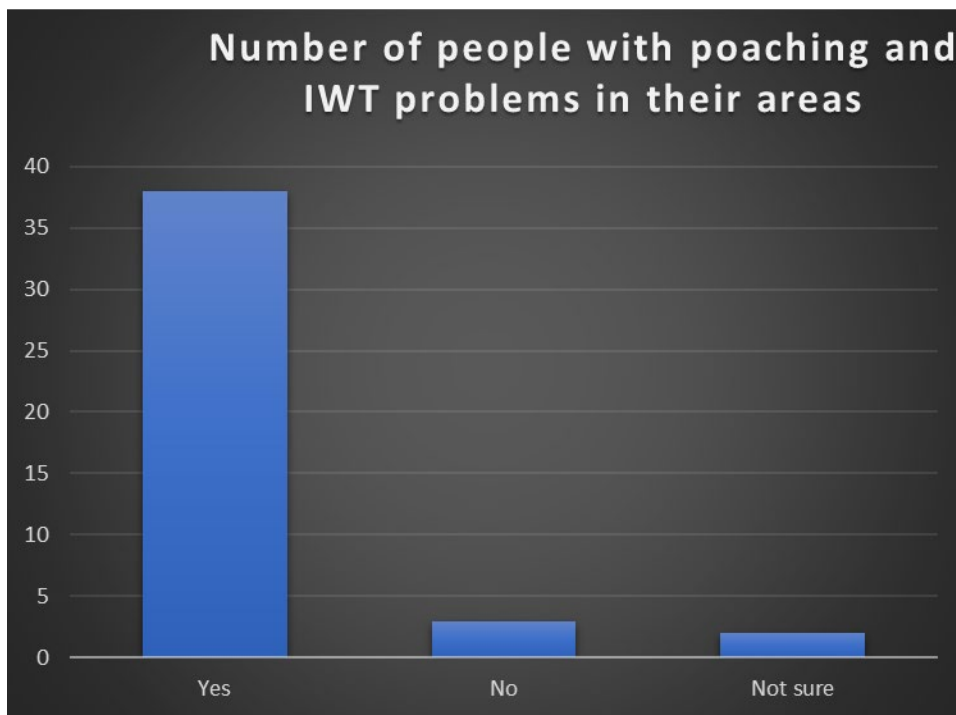


Figure 2: Number of individuals who feel they have a role to play in helping stop poaching and IWT.

Poaching and IWT is a problem that is experienced in almost all parts of Zambia and respondents indicated that they thought it was a particular problem in their area (see Figure 2). Responses included:

- “There has been an increase in the number of people selling wildlife products due to increased demand of these products from both local and international communities”.
- “Animal populations appear to be diminishing at a fast rate and communities have expressed concern through organisations such as the DNPW and Game Rangers International (GRI)”.
- ‘There is generally poor management and low investment as wildlife has not been prioritised in natural resources planning’.
- “As Lundazi town is near to the border with Malawi it is particularly linked to wildlife traders and many wildlife products are apprehended there”.
- “There is a lack of capacity building in the areas and as a result some local people resort to illegal businesses”.
- “There is often conflict between DNPW and the communities because not all communities see benefits of having wildlife in the area”.
- “There are high poverty levels and high numbers of HWC (Human-Wildlife Conflict)”.
- “Communities often complain about the high, unaffordable, prices in hunting quarters/concessions”.
- “There is not much being done as community members are not being helped with alternative livelihoods”.

This has caused many species to be at risk to poaching and IWT. Respondents explained that communities might resort to illegal activities because:

- “Poverty levels are high due to a lack of employment opportunities, so communities do not see the value in conserving wildlife”.
- “Bush meat is usually in high demand as a source of protein and is exchanged with cash as a source of income and also for other food, e.g. maize”.
- “There is a lack of proper information about the importance of wildlife and natural resources for communities’ livelihoods”.
- “Most communities are not aware about the legal processes of acquiring hunting licenses and these licenses are usually only affordable to tourists”.
- “Communities sometimes suffer from poor harvests due to climate change so resort to hunting for subsistence”.
- “Law enforcement activities are understaffed”.
- “There is a lack of coordination between relevant government departments”.

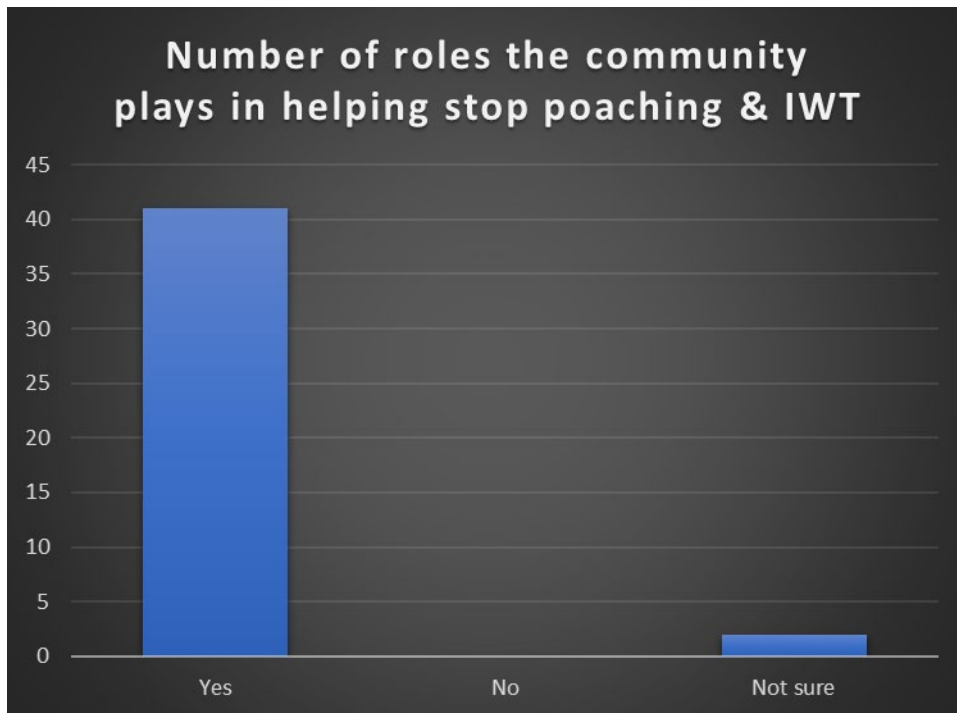


Figure 3: Role of the community in helping to stop poaching & IWT

Following the National Dialogue, the majority of community members feel they have a role to play in stopping poaching and IWT as reported in Figure 3. Responses include:

- “Communities have a role to play in helping stop IWT, helping to balance ecosystems and to avoid decreases in the populations of wildlife”.
- “Because CRBs (Community Resources Board), FZS (Frankfurt Zoological Society) and COMACO are doing sensitization meetings in the areas of South Luangwa National Park”.
- “It lets people know the importance and the value of wildlife, as wildlife brings development in the country and in the communities”.
- “It’s the duty of the community to develop poverty reduction and livelihood projects and also create awareness on poaching and IWT”.
- “It attaches economic value to wildlife because we benefit from safari hunting revenue from tourists”.
- “We interact with wildlife on a daily basis so understand the need to protect the resources, but also want recognition from the government that we are key stakeholders”.
- “Sensitisation meetings must be enhanced for communities in order for them to come up with alternative livelihood activities”.

In relation to the above, the government is likely to ask communities on the approach they should use to tackle poaching and IWT. In response, communities had different views as seen in Figure 4.

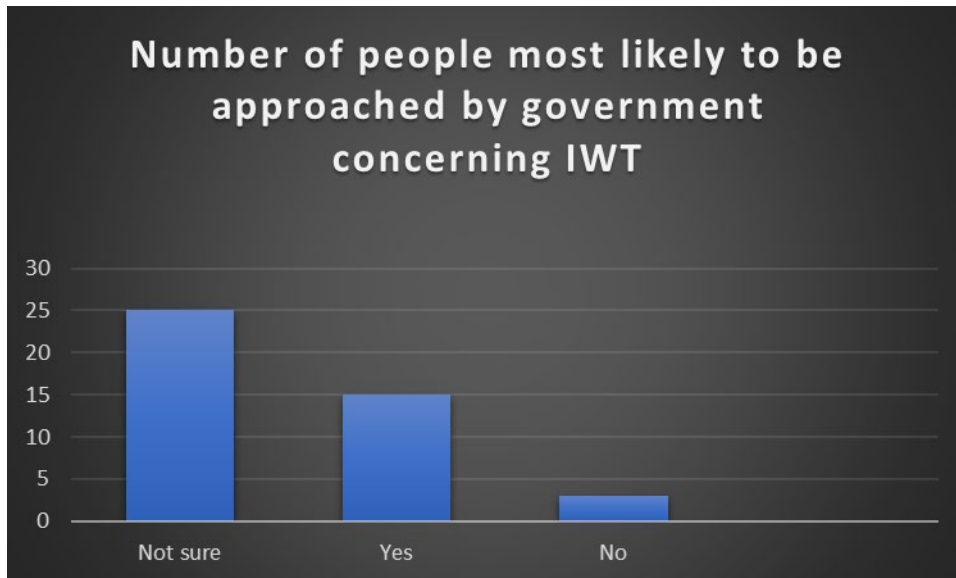


Figure 4: Number of respondents the government is more likely to involve on the approach to use to tackle poaching & IWT

Despite most community representatives not being sure if the government will involve them in anti-poaching approaches, their responses show they are eager to participate:

- “Poaching results from a lot of factors, including high levels of unemployment and a lack of knowledge on alternative livelihoods that the communities could engage in to sustain their families”.
- “If all stakeholders are involved at all levels of anti-poaching efforts then poaching and IWT will be a thing of the past”.
- “We are the people on the ground, so we are in a better position to support the government with what is needed to stop poaching”.
- “Because we sensitise and educate local people about the importance of their involvement in the management and conservation of wildlife and natural resources”.
- “Communities aren’t always consulted when designing strategies to stop poaching, despite the fact that helping to lift the living standards of rural communities will definitely reduce IWT”.

Government's recognition of the individual's role in the laws and policies it makes

In the fight against poaching and IWT, 51% of the community representatives feel that the government will not actually involve them in the making of policies and laws, 44% think they will be involved and 5% are not sure if their involvement would be considered (Figure 5).

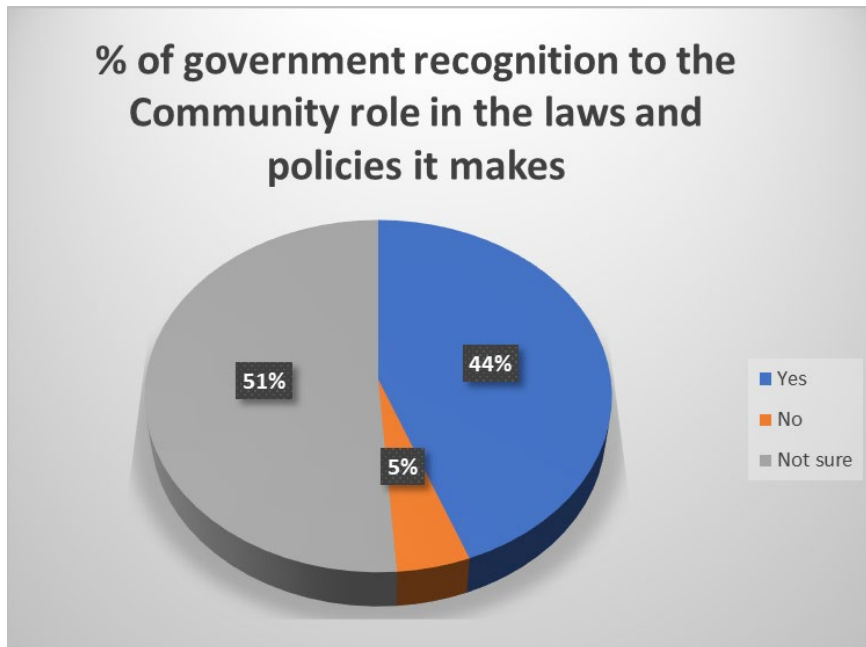


Figure 5: Government's recognition of the community role in the laws and policies it makes.

Responses include:

- "Because relevant ministries are more involved than community members are, though traditional leadership are being engaged too".
- "Civil Society Organisations play a significant role in policy processes and can contribute positively to the management of natural resources".
- "The government doesn't always consult the local communities, but it is important to recognise their role in laws and policy making because they are the ones who live with wildlife".
- "Others feel that communities are the ultimate owners of natural resources and that's why it's their duty to educate people on the importance of conservation - but also that the government should be involved in educating the community so that their opinion is incorporated into government decisions".

Overall, communities feel they would also like to be involved in tackling poaching and IWT as seen in Figure 6. The majority of community members would like to have other ways of making money so that there is no temptation to get involved in poaching. This was followed by those

who would like government to do something about HWC and those who would like to have more opportunity to benefit from wildlife (jobs, enterprises, cash, meat etc.). A few community members would also like more opportunities to become game guards.

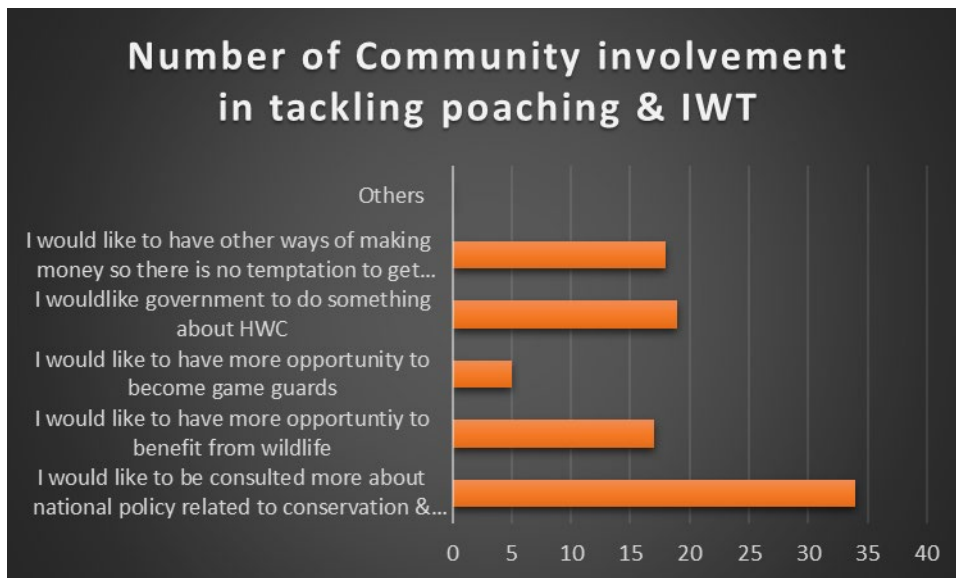


Figure 6: Number of community members who would like to be involved in tackling poaching and IWT.

The communities also feel that the government should do something to reduce poaching and IWT, making the following suggestions:

- “More sensitization, awareness and education should be done in communities around the country”.
- “Introducing alternative ways and activities that communities can take up in order to sustain their families”.
- “More collaboration with traditional leaders”.
- “Communities should be given rights/ownership of natural resources so that the principles of good governance are instilled in them”.
- “Employing more scouts and giving the community 100% revenue share including timely release of such funds”.
- “Enhance community engagement activities and increase funding towards resource protection activities”.
- “Evict all encroachers in the GMAs (Game Management Areas) and implement the CBNRM policy”.
- “In places where farming is a way of livelihood, government should support in helping the community with farming and fishing inputs such as feed and fertilisers”.

- “They should invest more in conservation including in the communities with high levels of IWT activity”.
- “Create more jobs and community bursaries, provide a space for dialogue on CBNRM and improve governance, particularly to mitigate the impact of climate change”.

The communities also indicated that they have worked with various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and donors on projects that involve tackling poaching and IWT. Of the respondents, 63 % have been involved in projects tackling IWT, as shown in Figure 7.

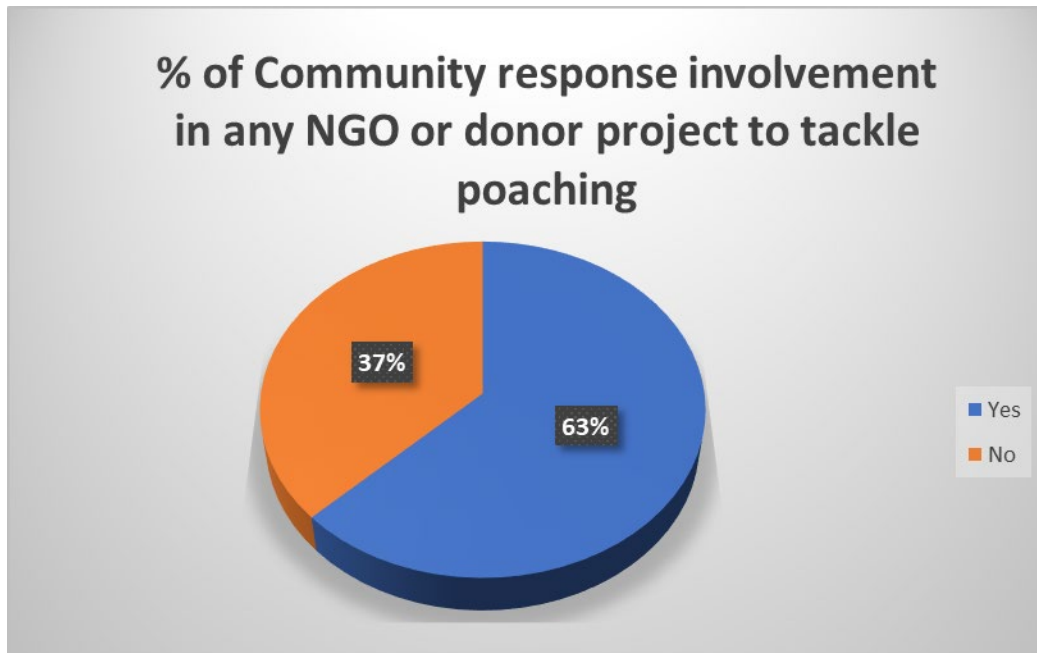


Figure 7: Percentage communities involved in NGO or donor projects to tackle poaching & IWT.

There are a number of projects that the communities are involved in:

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)

- Ecosystem management
- Recruitment of village scouts
- Advocating for proper management of wildlife and natural resources through local communities' management
- Information dissemination

Bio Carbon Partners (BCP)

- Conservation of trees

- Community-based natural resources management
- Conserving REDD+ zones and wildlife
- Planning in resource protection activities

IFAW

- Sensitised on the importance of natural resources and their benefits to communities.

Game Rangers International (GRI)

- Training of communities in anti-poaching activities.

GEF Small grants

- Goat rearing, village chicken rearing and Moringa growing.

Bangweulu Wetlands Project

- CRBs to promote conservation
- Project implementation
- Employing of village scouts

Zambia Carnivore Programme (ZCP)

- To make sure that the community livelihood projects are implemented by the communities

Panthera

- Wildlife monitoring and control.

Over the past year, the communities' level of engagement in projects aimed at tackling poaching and IWT has changed. As reported in Figure 8, 51% of community members indicated that the level of engagement has gotten better, whilst only 14 % indicated that engagement has gotten worse and 35% indicating that engagement is still the same.

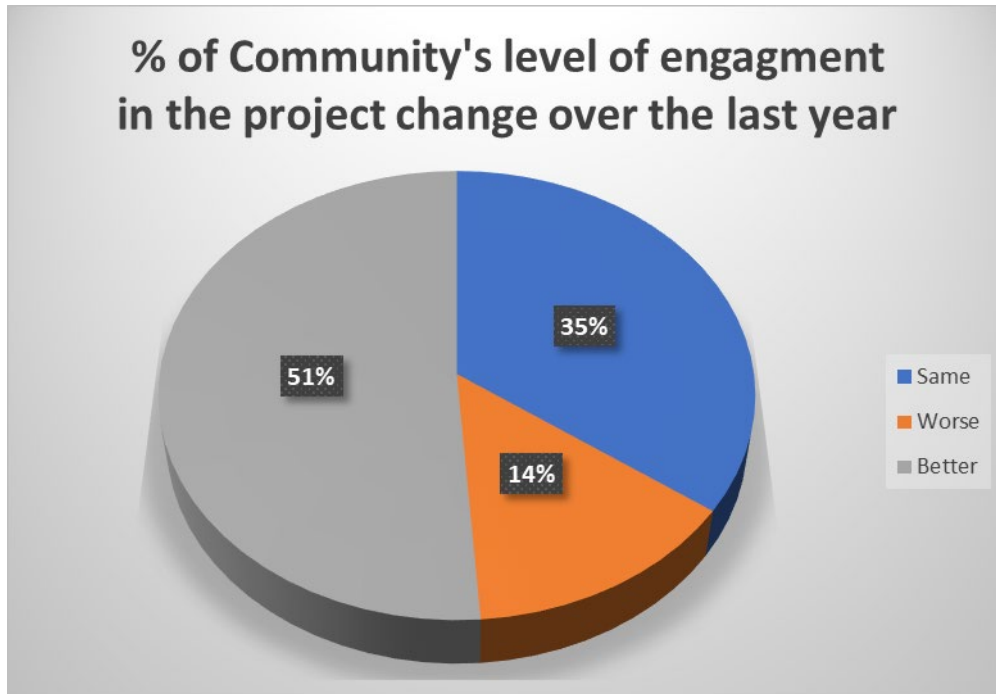


Figure 8: Percentage perception of the Community's level of engagement over the last year

Responses include:

- "Better ownership for the communities is needed".
- "Donors now have confidence in CBNRM and are supporting anti-poaching efforts".
- "Local communities have changed their perception towards wildlife and natural resources".
- "Due to good leadership and community engagement, scouts have been trained and there have been improvements in the management of National Parks".
- "In some areas the community is working hand in hand with DNPW by reporting information on poaching to wildlife officers".
- "Poaching levels have dropped by supporting bursaries in teaching".
- "The livelihoods of some communities have improved because of having access to employment as casual workers or village scouts".
- "The communities have seen more protection of wildlife and forestry management".

The communities also feel that they want to be involved in more anti-poaching projects and activities - 86% of the communities want to be involved as seen in Figure 9. This indicates that the communities are eager to conserve natural resources for the future generation.

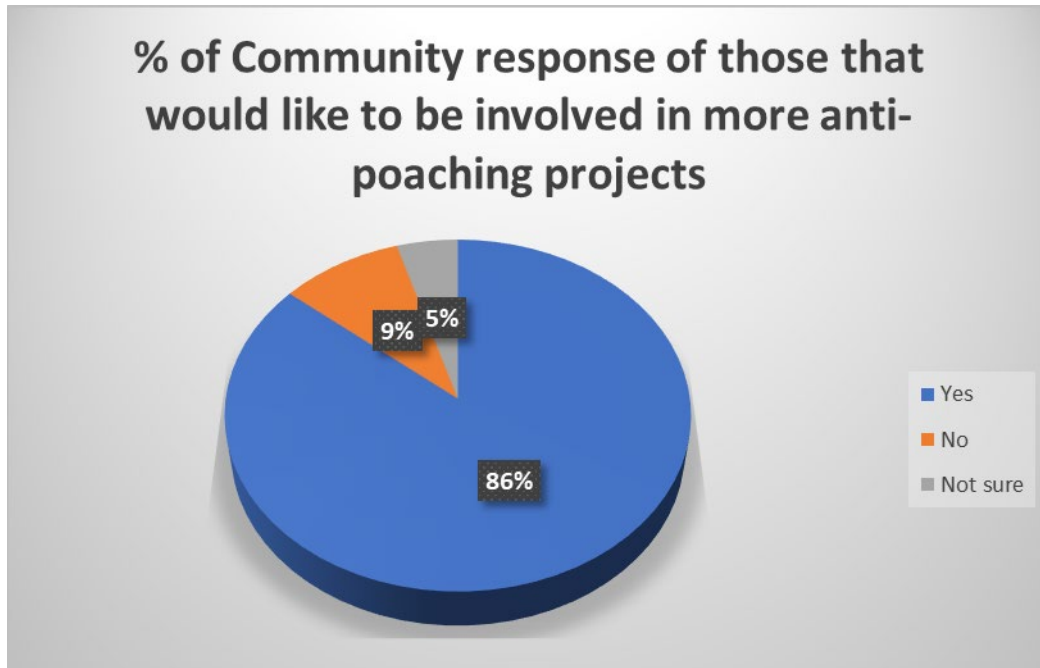


Figure 9: Percentage response of the community involvement to tackling poaching and IWT.

Responses included:

- “This is the only way poaching will be reduced”.
- “Because communities are agents of change and key stakeholders in tackling the problem of poaching and IWT”.
- “By doing so the communities will conserve more species for the future and this will also provide an opportunity to combat poaching if the communities are involved in anti-poaching projects”.
- “Wildlife plays a significant role in Zambia’s tourism sector and if well conserved it can provide jobs and reduce poverty”.
- “We benefit from wildlife, hence the need to get involved in anti-poaching activities”.
- “Communities now know the importance of keeping wildlife and would like to help increase the numbers of animals for the future”.

Summary Report of Policy makers (NGO representatives, government officials)

The results from this survey were reported based 31 respondents. These 31 respondents were chosen based on their level of decision making in the institutions they represent and their presence during the National Dialogue in March 2020. The respondents came from different organisations such as government ministries (Water, Forestry, Land and Tourism) and NGOs such as FZS, BCP, COMACO, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), African Parks and many more. The respondents occupy various positions ranging from Project Managers to Field Staff.

The respondents are aware of the poaching and IWT problem in Zambia - 90% of the respondents stated this, as seen in Figure 10 below.

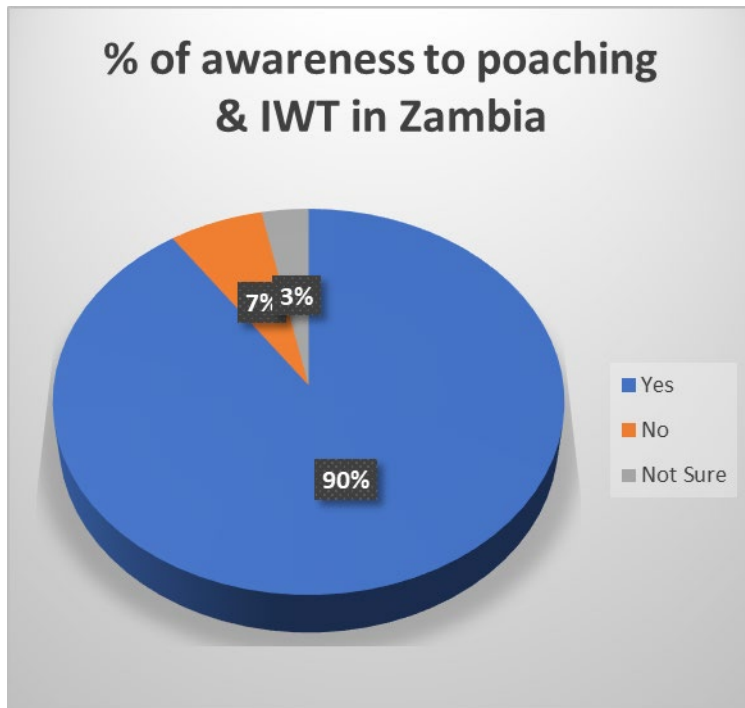


Figure 10: Percentage of stakeholder awareness of poaching & IWT in Zambia.

The respondents are aware of these activities because:

- There has been a drastic reduction of certain animal species and the number of prosecutions of poaching are indicative that there is a problem in Zambia.
- They also fear that certain species could become extinct if the communities are not educated on the importance of conserving wildlife and natural resources.
- There is inadequate funding towards resource protection and weak community engagement activities, which can lead communities to resort to poaching and IWT.
- Communities also feel the lack of ownership of the resources as they indicated that the resources are for the state and they are just care takers who are not remunerated handsomely, hence the engagement into these activities.

A lot of animals are at risk from poaching for their trophies, for protein, medicinal value and due to other traditional myths of enabling one to get rich like pangolins. This means communities have a holistic role to play:

- Communities are key stakeholders in wildlife management and contribute to reducing poaching.

- Communities need to be further sensitized for poaching levels to reduce, for example by recruiting more community scouts in different CRBs.
- The state has a bigger role to play to ensure that the benefits of revenue from wildlife will reduce poaching.
- Communities have firsthand information on IWT and poaching.

Figure 11 reflects the belief that most (65%) policy makers think communities have a big role to play in poaching and IWT. This suggests that they think communities should be involved in decision making and national level dialogues.

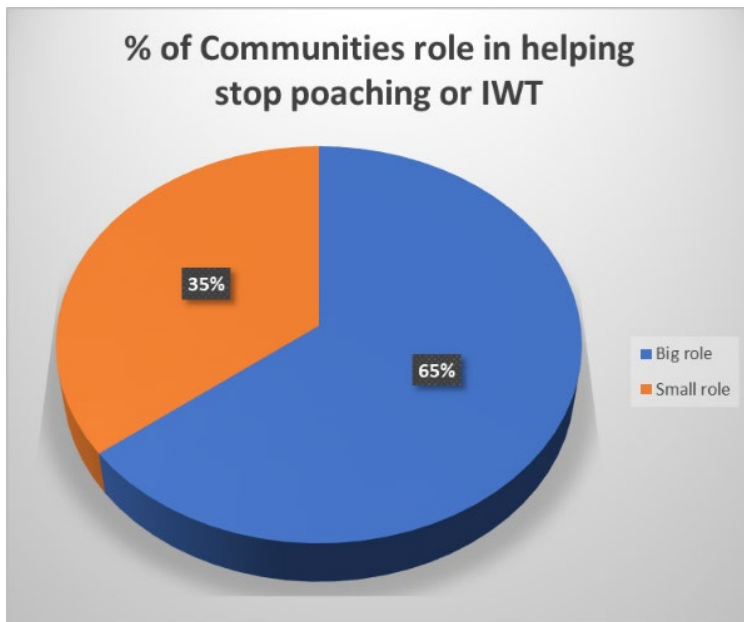


Figure 11: Percentage of Communities role in helping stop poaching & IWT

Following the National Dialogue, policy makers think communities are likely to be consulted about their views on poaching and IWT - with 88% are agreeing to this as seen in Figure 12.

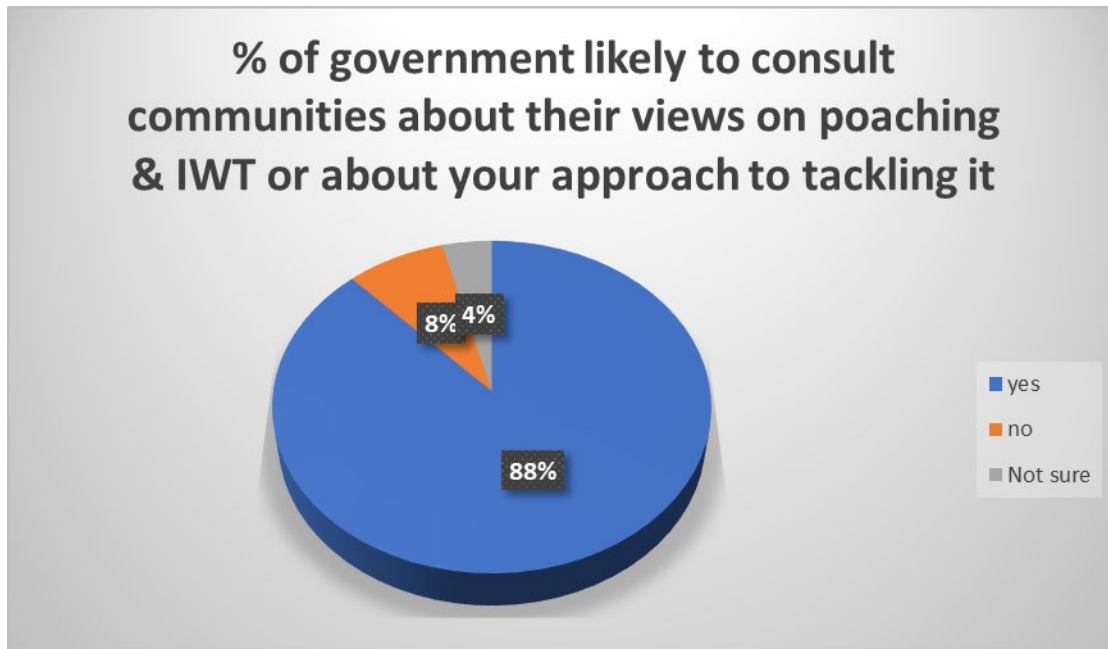


Figure 12: Percentage of communities likely to be consulted/recognized by government in the laws and policies it makes

Most respondents feel communities:

- Are the owners of natural resources and so they want to help them to know about their rights and about the wise use of natural resources for future generations.
- The respondents do a lot of sensitization activities in school and communities.
- The game management area plan is proof that the communities and the operators need to be consulted in the laws and policies that the government makes.
- Operators and local community involvement are key to the development of the laws and policies of the country.
- Wildlife is a source of income and employment and so are CRBs which play a role in decentralizing information that government has published.

In addition to this, the respondents have mixed feelings about current Zambian national policies and strategies that address poaching and IWT and their emphasis on community engagement approaches. A total of 39% of respondents are of the view that community engagement is adequately emphasised, with 35% feeling it isn't emphasised, as seen in Figure 13.

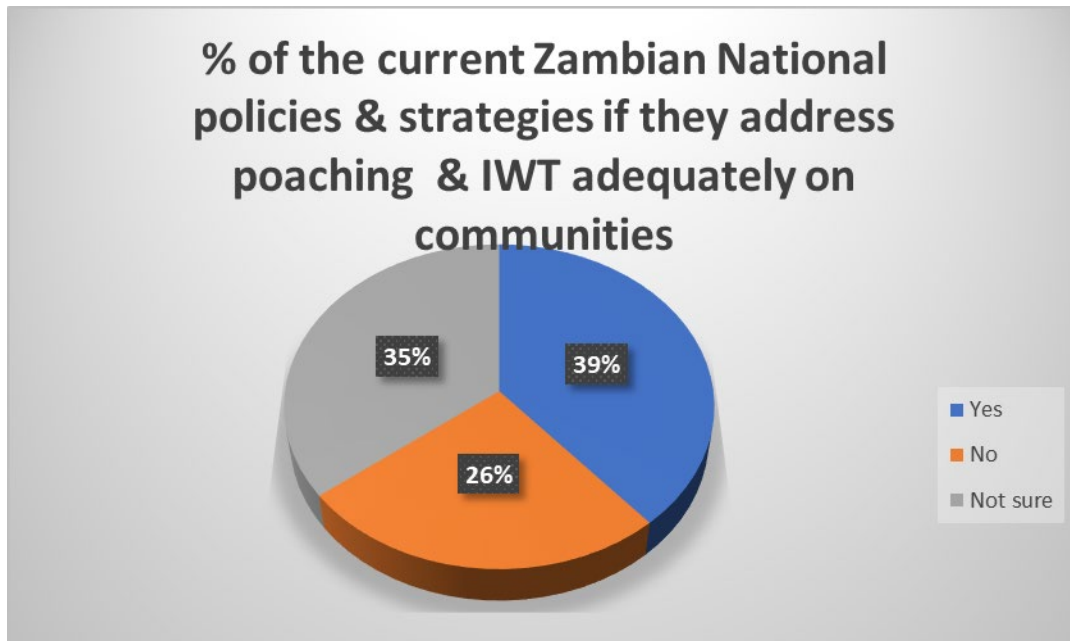


Figure 13: Percentage of the Zambian national policies and strategies that address poaching and IWT.

Examples of respondents mixed feelings:

- “There is no CBNRM policy in place”.
- “Some organisations have formed to help communities in wildlife management in their respective areas, which is emphasized in community project proposals and management plans”.
- “Communities have been empowered and they are the ones on the ground with the resources”.
- “Punishment of law breakers is not adequate and communities are not engaged to develop their understanding on poaching and IWT”.
- “The policies emphasize community engagement, however, it’s the implementation of policies that remains a challenge because communities are rarely involved”.
- “The benefit sharing mechanism needs to be strengthened”.

Following the National Dialogue, there were many lessons shared and learnt and some of these are summarised below:

- Equitable benefit sharing and community participation are key.
- For people to stop poaching we need to find other alternatives for community livelihoods.
- Knowledge on wildlife conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources needs to be strengthened.
- Strong community engagement from the grassroots is important.

- Government cannot achieve resource protection effort alone and there is a need to work with local communities living side by side with wildlife.
- Participation is key in management of natural resources.
- IWT is a threat to our national wildlife and requires involvement of all stakeholders to stop wildlife trade.
- Transparency and accountability are key to resources protection.

There are also a lot of upcoming opportunities to develop new or revised anti-IWT strategies, plans or policies to better reflect communities’ role in tackling poaching and IWT. These include:

- Dialogue on the upcoming CBNRM policy
- The Draft National framework strategy being spearheaded by DNPW and ZCBNRM
- “It is a crime” - weekly virtual talks led by Wildlife crime prevention.
- Wildlife value chain addition under the ZIFLP (Zambia integrated forest landscape project) project
- Community engagement meetings in all regions of Zambia led by FZS and the ZCRBA (Zambia Community Resources Board Association)
- Improvement on good governance and mitigation of the impacts of climate change.

Poaching and IWT projects respondents are working on with communities

The respondents are implementing several projects to tackle poaching and IWT in Zambia, with 47% of the respondents indicating that they are implementing such projects, as seen in Figure 14.

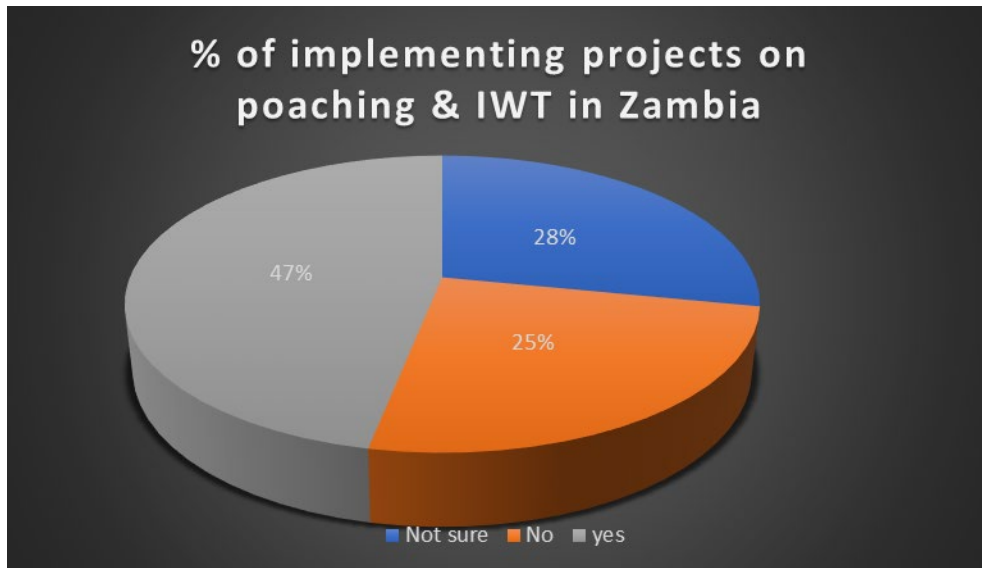


Figure 14: Percentage of project implementation related to tackling poaching & IWT in Zambia.

Below is a summary of the organisations the respondents represent and the projects they are working on to tackle poaching and IWT.

Table 1: Summary of projects and species the projects are focusing on

Organisation leading the project	Name of the project	Species at risk the project is focusing on
DNPW	Anti-poaching control	Hippos, pangolins, impalas, duikers, buffalos, etc.
FZS	North Luangwa conservation program	Rhinos, ungulates, and lions
ZCP	Liuwa carnivore restoration project	Lions, hyenas, wildebeest, and impalas
BCP	Sustainable forest management	Trees, lions, elands, and impalas
Game rangers international	Anti-poaching and outreach	All game species
COMACO	Community livelihood enhancement	Lions, impalas, kudus, and pangolins
Kasanka trust limited	Sustainable community involvement	Pukus, lechwes, impalas and bats
Conservation Lower Zambezi	Awareness and sensitization for sustaining community livelihood.	Elephants, lions, and impalas
African Parks	Anti-poaching and community engagement	Shoebill stork, lions, lechwes, wildebeest, zebra, sitatunga and fish

Some (61%) of the above listed projects include strategies to engage communities, as seen in Figure 15.

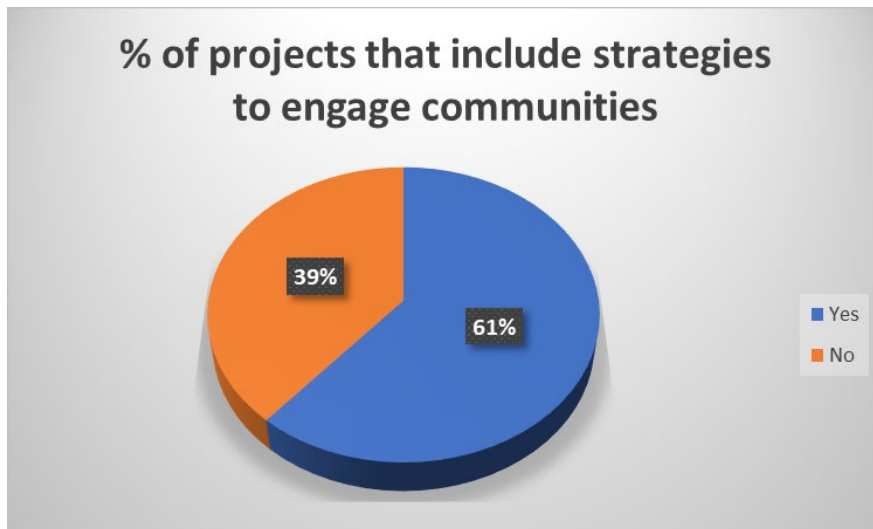


Figure 15: Percentage of projects that include community engagement strategies

There were also at least 10 types of community engagement strategies that the projects are using and these are summarized in Figure 16 below.



Figure 16: Number of Community engagement strategies projects are using.

Figure 16 illustrates that many of the projects that communities are engaged in carry out sensitization and awareness raising on conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. At least 7 of the projects now include the performance-based payments which help communities realize the importance of conserving wildlife. Others also encourage communities to develop preventative measures to deter wildlife to avoid conflict, such as Conservation Lower Zambezi who have educated communities on chili fences and in the making of chili bombs to deter elephants from their crops.

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 as the first line of defence, they need to be protected from human-wildlife conflict. Community involvement in tackling IWT should eventually lead to a change in the mindset of the communities to take conservation seriously for their benefit and also for the future generation.

The government has recognized the efforts of the communities in tackling IWT and is helping to increase partnerships with different NGOs like BCP, COMACO, FZS and others. These NGOs are helping the CRBs and taking developmental activities to the communities. The constant exchange visits amongst CRBs and the NGO involvement in different regional, national, and local projects has had a great impact on natural resource protection and sustainability even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite many communities still living in poverty, anti-poaching projects are helping to curb poaching and IWT. The communities still need the government to do more, ranging from job opportunities, better engagement, policy involvement and others to lessen their vulnerability to engage in illegal activities as means of survival.

Government is key to involving communities in decision making and so the issue of community benefits needs to be strengthened to provide a direct link between conservation and the resources being conserved.

Suggested citation:

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