



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the Year Ended 31 December 2022



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1 STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The report documents activities that were undertaken from January 2022 to December 2022 by the CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE. The report covers the series of activities undertaken in our different thematic areas and different projects among them; Third Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD), Mining community voices and alternative livelihoods preparedness, Disability inclusion in climate action (DICA), Participation at the conference of parties (cop) 27, Let the Truth be Told Campaign, Stop the Chop Campaign, Voices for climate Justice and Natural Resource Governance, and Youth Environmental Defenders (YEP). CEJ's programming and activities revolves around research, policy dialogues, capacity building, campaigns, lobby and advocacy, engagement of traditional & community members, alternative livelihoods, community mobilization of CSOs & communities, awareness & sensitization.

The year was characterized with a lot of activities around the Political, social, and economic spaces: Under the Political space, CEJ saw the new government launching the new national development plan which will guide the development agenda for the next five years which has also influenced certain decisions in our implementation plans as the Centre so as to align some of the objectives with the current national objective. The economy was projected to grow by 1.0% in 2021 and 2.0% in 2022, underpinned by recovery in the mining, tourism, and manufacturing sectors. The recovery in international demand and copper prices was positive developments, while a reduction in COVID-19 cases boosted activity in both the manufacturing and tourism sector. Under the Environmental sector, Zambia was promoting sustainable initiatives such as renewable energy which has seen the country diversify its energy mix from 99% reliance on hydropower production in 2011 to 80.6% in 2019. Solar energy currently accounts for about 90MW (3% of the total energy).

It has been a year of success and growth for CEJ. The communities, cooperating partners, mining firms and the government of Zambia, continued to offer their time, audiences, exhibitions, programs, research and experiences that respond to CEJ's ever-growing desire to learn more and contribute to community livelihoods sustainability, environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources. CEJ's activities continue to be guided by the five strategic directions established by the Board of Trustees and Management, which focus on Extractive Industries, Environmental protection, Sustainable Energy, Climate Change, Agriculture and Water access; engaging in dynamic and innovative partnerships and ensuring that CEJ is financially equipped to carry out its mandate. These directions were intended to guide CEJ's activities through our strategic plans which have since come to an end and we are in the process of developing the new strategic direction which will run from 2023 to 2027.

Fundraising for CEJ's activities remains critical to all its work. As an organization, we placed great emphasis on keeping our cooperating partners engaged and informed on the important work made possible by their support. Our 2022 activities were supported by the Bread for the World-Germany, WWF Zambia Country Office, Southern Africa Trust, and Advancing Land-Based Investment Governance (ALIGN).

Thank you to all the generous partners and organizations who see the value of working to preserve and protect our country's natural resources, the environment and community livelihoods. This year, CEJ celebrated its implementation and advocating for environmental justice with everyone.

Thank you!



Maggie Mapalo Mwape
Executive Director
Centre for Environment Justice

2 VISION AND MISSION

2.1 Vision

To become a “Centre for Environmental Justice” and action for sustainable development at Community, District and National level.

2.2 Mission

To empower, enhance and strengthen environmentally challenged communities, youth, children, women, and men by involving them in promoting environmental justice and sustainable management of natural resources.

3 PROGRAMMES

3.1 3RD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIALOGUE (EPD)

3.1.1 Background

The Third Environmental Protection Dialogue (3RD EPD2022) was held at the Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka, Zambia, from the 13th to 14th October 2022. The EPD was attended by more than 200 delegates both physically and virtually under the theme: Strong *actions for environmental sustainability*. The 3rd EPD was a follow-up of the successfully hosted First and Second Environmental Protection Dialogues in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2020, and October 2021, respectively.



Figure 1: The Minister of Green Economy and Environment (GEE), Honorable Colins Nzovu giving a speech as guest of honor during the official opening of the 3rd EPD.

The 3rd EPD, 2022 attracted a host of multi-stakeholder delegates who participated in the dialogue as institutions and as individual experts; Government Heads of Departments and agencies, Foreign Dignitaries and international development organizations, State Regulatory Agencies, Traditional Leaders and community groups, Civil Society Organizations, Youth and Women Groups, national and international Cooperating Partners, members of the diplomatic missions, Mining companies, Academia and the Media. The Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Honorable Colins Nzovu officially opened the 3rd EPD, 2022 and officiated at the event.

3.1.2 Key Achievements

The following were the resolutions of the 3rd EPD:

3.1.2.1 CLIMATE FINANCING:

- Strengthening the leveraging on public private partnerships,
- Climate change adaptation should not be viewed as costs or expenses, but rather, as re-shaping the economy of the future and forging the global economy of the 21st century.
- Climate Financing is taken as investments in people and nature-based solutions that support sustainable agriculture and tourism, access to safe water, and maternal and child health services, as well as wildlife and forest conservation.
- Cooperating with partners and government to utilize small granting approaches to tackle waste management and establishing training Centers for Zero Waste and Development
- Stronger partnerships to ensure Zambian communities benefited from green investments and the reduction of emissions as quickly as possible.
- Support access to climate finance for those most vulnerable, including young people and women and girls, to adapt to climate impacts.

3.1.2.2 CLIMATE POLICY ACTIONS:

- Government and all Stakeholders to remain focused on making COP27 responsive to the priorities and needs of the African continent, where climate adaptation and clean energy finance were top priorities of the meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh.
- Multi-stakeholder approaches to consider adequately addressing the legitimate concerns of vulnerable countries around the world, and not only making that transition fast but done in a way that brings everyone along including traditional leaders, women, girls, and communities to face climate change and act.
- Realization at all levels that women and girls, people living with disabilities and other marginalized groups, are feeling the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation more than any other social group.

- Countries and governments do everything within their power to give life to the many commitments of the previous COP in Glasgow considering scientists around the world were compiling evidence that was alarming and required acts now to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis.
- Zambian government should learn from other nations that are implementing climate policy actions including those that had set goals of reducing our own emissions by half before 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050.
- Zambian government should take note of the urgency of climate change considering the drought in 2021, when 1.2 million Zambians faced food insecurity due to drought and 17 of the world's 20 most climate vulnerable countries can be found in Africa where rising temperatures and less predictable rainfall had already changed growing and planting seasons.
- The need for local actions and the involvement of Chiefs and Traditional Leaders at the 3rd EPD2022 required delegates to act locally. This is despite governments playing the role of coordinating policies and negotiating internationally on behalf of the entire African continent.
- Leadership and guidance to the Zambian people were critical to ensuring broad public action in support of our climate conservation, adaptation, and mitigation goals.
- How and when Zambia adapted to climate change was critical and this meant protecting people and their homes, the ecosystems they depend upon, and their livelihoods which would spur job creation and investments that would survive floods in future due to climate change.
- The urgent need for effective mitigation and adaptation measures to the climate crisis makes climate change one of the most important existential issues not only for Zambia but also for the world at large.

3.1.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

- The provision of prosecutorial powers to the Auditor General Office.
- The expansion of the Auditor General's mandate to work with environmental auditors and investigative agencies in order to address concerns surrounding remittances and enhance stakeholder accountability by a number of mining firms for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).
- Government to consider incorporating Environmental Rights as a justiciable part of the body of human rights in the Bill of Rights.
- The strengthening of ZEMA's capacity to undertake regular and thorough environmental audits.



Figure 2: CEJ Executive Director, Ms Maggie Mapalo Mwape moderating a session during the 3rd EPD.

- Incorporate environmental crimes in the Penal Code Act in order that all malicious and criminality in environmental matters can be treated as crimes and not as civil matters in the manner they are currently being treated.
- Government to take urgent policy responses towards curbing the widespread cases of Lead Poisoning in various mining legacies to protect livelihoods, and ecosystems and increased financing in order to achieve important milestones.
- Government to take advantage of the time when National Policy on Environment (NPE, 2007) is under review to strengthen the rights of communities who are mostly rights holders and victims of environmental damage before placing those rights in the state as a duty bearer and custodian of human rights.
- Strengthening the prosecution powers of ZEMA and its inspectors in the issuance of the different enforcement orders of the Environmental Management Act such as environmental restoration orders, with publicity that such orders may require responsible persons or entities on whom they are served to take any measures that will assist in reducing or eliminating the risk of harm to the environment.
- Enforcement of section 22 of the Environmental Management Act requiring all government line ministries to develop and submit to ZEMA for approval, their environmental management strategies under the auspices of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). This provision of the law has never been enforced and not implemented from 2011 when the Act was enacted.



Figure 3: His Royal Highness, Chief Ishima of Zambezi District following proceedings of the 3rd EPD

- A rights-based implementation of the Eighth National Development Plan provisions recognizing the need for Government to embark on restoration and management of wetlands, headwaters and riverine, afforestation and reforestation as well as the establishment of commercial plantations and promote value addition to forest products in Zambia's ecologically sensitive areas and forests, to enhance integrated land use and environmental management.
- The significance of Green Economic recovery initiatives, and significance that communities, and influence of traditional leaders played in being contextualized to ensure environmental protection and sustainable development.
- Support from cooperating partners that declared commitment to support the EPD and its Environmental Sustainability pillar as enshrined in the 8th NDP, the Paris agreement, and SDGs.



Figure 4: High Commissioner to Zambia His Excellency Nicholas Woolley delivering a speech during the 3rd EPD.

- Classifying the EPF as an important remedial measure or mechanism to help safeguard the future safety and stability of the environment and natural resources which requires restoration in the face of economic and mining activities.
- Where possible, the environmental protection fund is dedicated to their catchment areas so that the security and future welfare of local ecosystems and surrounding environment should be granted.
- Consider the lead situation in Kabwe an environmental hazard and it is still spreading as there is still illegal mining and the mines pack their trucks in the neighborhood. Hence, there is a need for a proper conclusion when it comes to rehabilitation projects in Kabwe.
- Research and technology development programmes such as environmental compliance tracking, water catchment protection and conservation, pollution control and prevention must be realigned effectively to major policy shifts aimed at banning the unsustainable production and consumption of charcoal.
- Policy measures aimed at banning charcoal should be accompanied by measures to protect the livelihoods of those involved in the charcoal value chain through plans and financial support for alternative livelihoods.
- Intensify the Environmental Democracy and engagement of Parliamentarians and political parties in achieving environmental sustainability in Zambia.

3.2 MINING COMMUNITY VOICES AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS PREPAREDNESS.

3.2.1 Background

The Mining Community Voices and Livelihood Preparedness project was aimed at contributing to improved living conditions of the communities. The project has two components namely, promoting alternative livelihoods in order to guarantee food sufficiency at the household level and CSER model implementation with special interest placed on monitoring mining companies' investments in order to genuinely improve people's; livelihoods through the CSER model.

3.2.2 Key Achievements

During this reporting period, CEJ's advocacy and engagement of vulnerable communities have exposed unscrupulous dealings conducted by mining investors who are coercing and manipulating community members to sell their land at K2 (USD 0.11) per square meter for mining activities. CEJ brought this issue to the public and wrote a news article published in the Zambia Daily Mail Newspaper. As a result, the government got hold of the issue and launched an investigation. The following are the key achievements:

3.2.2.1 Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD)

This project supported the 3RD Environmental Protection Dialogue reported in subsection 2.1.

3.2.2.2 CSER Community Social Accountability for Maamba and Collum Coal Mine from 2020– 2021

Since 2018, CEJ has advocated for effective Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSER) as a means for mining investors in the Sinazongwe district to contribute to the well-being of the host communities through various environmental and social measures. The following two (2) mines were engaged in the reporting period:

1. Collum Coal Mine

CEJ conducted the CSER community social accountability visit to the mine and it was reviewed that the mine had only managed to put up a one (1) water tank at a school and had sunk a bore hole at the nearby village. This showed a lack of commitment to the company's CSER

2. Maamba Collieries Limited

The mine has managed to implement significant projects under its CSER from the year 2020 - 2022. The mine has deliberately identified a well-defined CSR Programme to address community needs and bring in socio-economic development for uplifting people's living standards. The CSR program has the following components:

- a) Education
- b) Health
- c) Infrastructure Development
- d) Sports
- e) Community Development

Although Maamba Collieries Ltd has established this CSR programme, community members still feel the programme must be driven by the community's needs when deciding what to implement. CEJ tried to engage the mine on several occasions, but the management from the mine turned down most invitations. Upon consulting the district commissioner about why the mine refuses to attend or participate in community-led dialogues, it was established that Maamba Collieries Ltd would not be in such spaces because some CSOs working in the district always write bad articles about the mine. CEJ resolved that the only way it was going to be possible to engage Maamba Collieries Ltd was through the auspices of the district commissioner.

3.2.2.3 Multi-stakeholder Dialogue – End of Project

The end of the project multi-stakeholder dialogue was aimed at bringing to the fore what the project has achieved in the last three years and equally identifying ways in which the project can address the growing demand for improved livelihood, strengthen community land rights advocacy and lobby for more government intervention in the land disputes with the mining investors in the district.

3.3 DISABILITY INCLUSION IN CLIMATE ACTION (DiCA)

3.3.1 Background

The DiCA Project is a Civil Society climate action meant to amplify grassroot voices for the socially excluded, particularly people living with disability, women, and youth. The project will be led by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) and be implemented in Chirundu. The main goal of the project is "building climate resilient communities and improved livelihoods for the disabled in sustainable water and food systems innovations. "

The approach is a combination of adaptation, resilience, and recovery-enhancing initiatives. The strategies will include.

1. Capacity and movement building for people with disabilities through community mobilization and campaigns to promote knowledge transfer on climate action for energy and food systems,
2. Voices of communities' storytelling on climate action for the socially disabled,
3. Lobby and advocate for sustained policy dialogues tailored towards disability climate action, energy and food systems, and
4. Promoting community innovations and interventions for the disabled such as recycling, organic seeds preservation, production of crops and livestock and conservation initiatives meant to improve livelihoods. Further, covid19 information sharing and support will be mainstreamed in all the planned activities during implementation.

3.3.2 Key Achievements

3.3.2.1 *Development of a Lobby and advocacy strategy for disability Inclusion in climate Action for inclusive water and climate-resilient food production system district level.*

To influence policy and legal frameworks, practices, and processes around climate change in the direction of impacting the lives of persons with disabilities, a comprehensive advocacy strategy has been developed. This is because the voices of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have been all but missing in the advocacy space around climate change. This strategy has clearly identified the key advocacy issues, the key stakeholders and the audiences and devised appropriate messages targeted at them. The advocacy strategy also prescribes measures to influence policy and practice change by duty bearers and seeks to foster an improved attitude to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change response programming.

3.3.2.2 Integrating climate voices of people with disabilities on water and food production systems advocacy into CEJ mobile app

CEJ believes that it is cardinal to continue monitoring the implementation of community climate change action, particularly enhancing community voices through social accountability platforms and monitoring tools that enhance reporting, feedback, and exchange of information and findings on emerging issues and to encourage interface and accountability among communities, government, and other stakeholders. The project has prioritized the development and usage of mobile and computer-based application platforms to support and facilitate monitoring and reporting challenges and achievement in regard to climate action at the community, district, to national levels. The project has thus integrated climate action into the CEJ/CSER mobile application which is sufficiently and flexibly used as a social accountability tool among communities and CEJ to track climate action within the food systems-water-energy nexus. The mobile once launched will be accessible on google play. View the app at <https://cejapp.org>



Figure 5: CEJ App interface

3.3.2.3 Participation at the Conference of Parties (COP) 27

CEJ Executive Director Ms Maggie Mapalo Mwape was part of the Zambian delegation that attended the COP 27 in Egypt. The key takeaways of the COP 27 were:

- 1) Establishing a dedicated fund for loss and damage
- 2) Maintaining a clear intention to keep 1.5⁰C within reach.
- 3) Holding business and intuitions to account
- 4) Mobilizing more financial support for developing countries
- 5) Making the pivot toward implementation

3.4 THE TRUTH BE TOLD CAMPAIGN

3.4.1 Background

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) with support from Pure Earth implemented “Truth Be Told Campaign” which was a six-month initiative meant to reveal critical issues surrounding Lead contamination in Kabwe district, central province. The initiative identified that as a part of identifying sustainable solutions to the Kabwe Lead issues, a multi-stakeholder approach is critical to address among other things the following objectives:

- a) Disclosure of the Kabwe Lead poison history.
- b) Finding lasting solutions to address and halt lead poison in Kabwe
- c) Fostering accountability for responsible parties in the Kabwe lead poisoning to take up the responsibility of facilitating the clean-up process aimed at amending the environmental impacts on humans, animals, and nature.

3.4.2 Key Achievements

3.4.2.1 Stakeholder engagement process and walkover

The project undertook a preliminary situational analysis and multi-stakeholder mapping and mobilization in Kabwe. The status and potential of lead poisoning in Kabwe appear to be of significant concern:

- a. The level of mineral processing activity in Kabwe from various sources
- b. The lack of dust suppression and control measures within the community and the town
- c. Previously known soil, ambient and blood lead levels
- d. There is a funded intervention program through the World Bank, Ministry of mines and ZCCM-HI that is being instituted.

3.4.2.1.1 The stakeholder engagement process and walkover highlighted the following conclusions:

- a) There is a need for stakeholder engagement and re-assessment of the World Bank project, to ensure that the financing is effectively used, as opposed to it being knowingly wasted and then looking for additional funds later.
- b) The issue of lead poisoning in Kabwe cannot be resolved without political will. In the absence of this, there will be accumulated liabilities. The inescapable is that the knowledge and extent of lead poisoning exist, and it will be impossible for parties in the future to state that acted in the

absence of knowledge of the workers and community health outcomes. The technical and legal description is ‘willfully negligent’.



Figure 6: Lead mine dumpsite Kabwe

- c) There is a need for stakeholders to acknowledge that there is limited or no environmental regulatory capacity in Kabwe. In the absence of these there needs to pause on activities, but it's an ideal that the gate keepers come to this realization themselves.
- d) Chelation therapy and interventions are of no value if re-contamination is a constant.
- e) Data is required to substantiate a number of the assumptions within this report.
- f) The stakeholders, from the scope and limited time of the work, are identified. The moral imperative is for the high stakeholders to acknowledge the risk, potential and actual liability, and makes concerted efforts to not make a dire situation worse.

3.5 STOP THE CHOP CAMPAIGN

3.5.1 Background

The “Stop the Chop Campaign) was supported by the Department of State of the United States Government and the Zambia United States Exchanges Alumni (ZUEA). The project was aimed at halting deforestation, degradation, and the unsustainable illegal timber trade. The overarching goal of this project is to reduce deforestation, and forest degradation, and help improve forest-dependent livelihoods through sustainable management. The project was initiated responding to the Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD) 2021 resolutions on forest ecosystem restoration held in October 2021 and the Glasgow Forest Leaders declaration of 12th November 2021 meant to end deforestation by 2030.



Figure 7: Community round table at Chief Muyombe's Palace

3.5.2 Key Achievements

3.5.2.1 *Muyombe Community Round Table Dialogue*

The community roundtable dialogue in Chief Muyombe’s area was implemented with a total attendance of 27 including women and representation for the youth. During the dialogue, communities identified the challenges they face in the energy, livelihoods, food security and forest conservation nexus.

3.5.2.1.1 Energy Challenges

Electricity supply has not reached many households in Mafinga District. Most households depend on Charcoal and firewood as alternative sources source for heating and cooking. This has contributed to the loss of forest tree cover as many households rely on the forest for the provision of energy. Community

members cannot afford to use renewable energy products such as solar and gas cookers because they are expensive to purchase and maintain.

3.5.2.1.2 Livelihoods and Food Security

Poor access to water for agriculture area settlement area has contributed to limited livelihood activities, thereby, leaving many community members to resort to charcoal production as a source of income.

Community members highlighted that food security continues to deteriorate and pointed out the following as underlying factors:

- Expensive farming inputs on the market and irrational supply of fertilizer and seed under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FSP).
- Lack of credit facility for small-scale farmers.
- Poor road networks thereby, impeding trade of agricultural crops.
- A Limited number of farmers on the FSP.

3.5.2.1.3 Forest conservation

Community members raised the following concerns on forest conservation:

- The role of the forest department in ensuring deforestation through their timber and charcoal licensing system, especially in that licensees abrogate the terms of the licenses.
- The community is aware of the importance of forests, but they are engaging in charcoal production due to a lack of alternative sources of income.
- Communities are willing to plant trees if governments and NGOs provide them with tree seedlings for them to engage in tree planting exercises.
- Community members were able to point out that where deforestation is rampant, the rainfall pattern is changing.
- There was a general view that most conservationists don't provide alternatives but just advocate for no tree cutting. Some community members were able to link soil fertility to forest conservation. Farmlands that still have trees on them have better soils compared to those that have no standing trees.

3.5.2.1.4 The role of communities in forest conservation

Headmen and chiefs are responsible for the management of natural resources in the jurisdiction. They control access to forest use and monitor how forests are being utilized by the community. It was noted that community members have a huge responsibility in protecting and safeguarding the forests because the forest is the source of energy, food, medicine, and livelihood.

3.5.2.1.5 Community recommendations and actions

1. The following recommendations were forwarded:

2. Government must enlist more community members in the farmer's input support programme. This will offset charcoal production because community members who have been producing charcoal to acquire income to purchase farming inputs, will no longer be involved in charcoal production.
3. Provision of tree seedlings.
4. The forest department must work with traditional leaders in promoting forest conservation and ensure that the charcoal license is revoked.
5. Government must ensure that the main road from Isoka to Mafinga is completed so that farmers can easily move their farm produce to the markets available.

3.6 VOICES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

3.6.1 Background

This project is supported by Southern Africa Trust (SAT) and its goal is to Promote better policy decisions on the use of natural resources and amplify citizen voices on climate action. This is to ensure that the voices of the marginalized and vulnerable people are heard and impact the development of policies affecting them to reduce policy and inequality. With a focus on natural resources, the project seeks to encourage dialogue and consultations to reduce conflicts in the management of natural resources in Zambia associated with policy and legal frameworks.

3.6.1.1 Key Achievements

3.6.1.1.1 Mining Community Rights Campaign

Through this project, CEJ carried out a Mining Community Rights Campaign in Serenje and Siavonga to ensure that mining communities are equipped with the knowledge and information needed to hold the government accountable for the governance of the mineral resources in their localities. During the dialogue in Sinazongwe it was noted from the meeting that there has been poor governance of mineral resources and the host community feels that their land rights are being violated in the way displacement and relocation have been conducted in the recent past. After a successful dialogue, CEJ managed to whistle-blow the issues captured in the meeting on media and the government responded to the issues by probing investigations on how the investors are buying land from the host communities and finally ceased the mining operations of the responsible mining company.

In the Serenje district of the central province, CEJ conducted a community mining dialogue with the community members of Kabundi village. CEJ was informed that there was a mining company operating an open pit mine within the school premises of Kabundi Secondary Boarding School. CEJ immediately

brought this issue to the attention of the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and the mining operations were shut down.

3.6.1.1.2 Youth Environmental Defenders Advocacy Training

CEJ implemented the Youth Environmental Defenders Advocacy Training with the aim to equip 100 youths with knowledge, tools, and resources in environmental policy, advocacy and climate justice. The training was designed to promote and amplify youth voices on environmental issues in Zambia, enhance youth participation, and foster youths to take lead in advocating for environmental protection and climate justice through campaigns, lobbying and advocacy, policy dialogue and sensitizing communities across the country. The training was held at the Mulungushi International Conference Center (MICC) and invited 3 experts to facilitate lessons on: Climate action and the role of youth, Environmental policies and safeguards and the role of youth, and Advocacy and Lobby.

3.6.1.1.3 Traditional Leader's Caucus

CEJ organized a Traditional Leaders Caucus aimed at convening 15 traditional leaders from across the country to highlight key issues related to land-based investments and natural resource governance, land rights and community compensations. The caucus was officiated by the Minister of Local Government & Rural Development.



Figure 8: Hon. Garry Nkombo giving opening remarks.

A position paper was developed, and one traditional leader was identified to present the paper to the main plenary during the 2022 Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD). Additionally, the position paper was shared with government line ministries and each traditional leader received a copy for future reference.



Figure 9: Delegates of the Traditional Leader's Caucus pose for a photo.

3.7 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS (YED)

3.7.1 Background

During the period under review CEJ launched a new initiative called Youth Environmental Defenders (YEP) on 14th January 2022. This is in recognition of the that CEJ believes that youth play an important role in protecting land and ecosystems from unsustainable industrial development, logging, and extractive projects. The program is aimed at amplifying youth voices in environmental and climate justice, implementing action-oriented initiatives, lobbying and advocacy, capacity building, mentorship and mobilization of youth and children as environmental defenders across the country. The program addressed 4 SDGs, which included SDG7 affordable and clean energy, SDG 13 climate action, SDG 15 life on land and SDG 17 partnerships for the goals.



Figure 10: Youths during the Launch of the Youth Environmental Defenders programme at CEJ Head Office

3.7.2 Key Achievements

3.7.2.1 Social Media Awareness Campaign

The YED conducted a social media awareness campaign through short, documented videos addressing environmental issues affecting the nation. The team also did a poster campaign where the youths shared pictures of themselves attached with a message of climate action.

3.7.2.2 Outreach Programmes

The environmental youth defenders conducted an outreach program at the University of Zambia (UNZA). The aim was to sensitize the young people on the importance of their participation in environmental protection and climate action. This outreach acted as a baseline to determine how much knowledge the young people from the university of Zambia have concerning matters of the environment and their willingness to participate in environmental issues.

3.7.2.3 Tree Planting Campaign (Chimurenga Changa Campaign)

The YEP launched a tree-planting campaign called the Chimurenga Changa Campaign. Tree Planting was conducted at St Francis and Clare Secondary School. The aim of this campaign was to interact with the environmental school club, encourage other children to participate in environmental protection and create more awareness and sensitization around the importance of tree planting. A total of 17 trees were planted and about 70 pupils participated in this tree-planting

session and awareness program. The environmental club only had 16 children as members. at the end of the tree planting session, the club membership had increased to up to 55 members.



Figure 11: A School Pupil Planting a Tre at Clare Secondary School.

3.7.2.4 Capacity Building Training

CEJ hosted a youth environmental defenders capacity building training on the 4th august, 2022. The objectives of the one-day training were as follows, to train 100 youths, equipping the youths with knowledge, skill and resources for climate justice and natural resource governance and to enhance youth participation and take a lead in advocating for environmental protection and climate justice through campaigns, lobby and advocacy, policy dialogue and sensitizing communities across the country. The training included youths from the rural parts of Zambia to enhance youth and children participate in those areas.

3.7.2.5 Youth Forest Indaba

A forest indaba was held with the theme” youths, building a green and resilient future with forests”. This project was supported under the Stop the Chop Project. This program hosted over 100 youth environmental defenders. It was highlighted during the session that deforestation in Zambia is

estimated at 276000 hectares per year. The youths ensured their commitment to protecting the forests of Zambia.



Figure 12: A session during the Youths Forest Indaba.

