



CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE



ACTION PAPER

2ND TRADITIONAL LEADERS CAUCUS

“STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL LEADER’S ROLE IN CARBON FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ZAMBIA”

DATES: Wednesday, 11TH OCTOBER 2023 | Time: 08:00 am – 2:30 pm



CONVENING PARTNERS:

Brot
für die Welt



Sweden
Sverige



FIRST QUANTUM
MINERALS LTD.



BCP™

BACKGROUND

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, THE CHIEFDOMS, AND **OTHER ROYAL HIGHNESSES IN THE COUNTRY**, NOT PRESENT.

MEETING DURING THE SECOND TRADITIONAL LEADER'S CAUCUS, HELD AT THE MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER (MICC) HERE IN LUSAKA ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER 2023.

CONVENED BY THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE (CEJ); AND SUPPORTED BY THE PARTNERS, BREAD FOR THE WORLD, FIRST QUANTUM MINERALS (FQM), UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP), SWEDEN THROUGH MUSIKA, AND THE BIOCARBON PARTNERS (BCP) WITH THE THEME BEING **“STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL LEADERS’ ROLE IN CARBON FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ZAMBIA.”**

CONCERNED THAT CARBON FINANCING INITIATIVES AND TRENDS MAY HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPACTS INCLUDING SOCIAL-ECONOMIC BENEFITS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

REALISING THAT IF NOT WELL MANAGED, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF EQUITABLE SHARING OF PROCEEDS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CARBON FINANCING AND TRADING INITIATIVES MAY AFFECT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES, THE AUTHORITY OF CHIEFS, AND THE COUNTRY NEGATIVELY.

DO HEREBY RESOLVE AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS ALONG THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFIED AREAS:

- i. IMPACTS OF FOREST FIRES AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS:**
 - a)** TRADITIONAL LEADERS ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES HENCE IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT WE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STOPPING THE SURGING FOREST FIRES AND ADDRESSING THE BIODIVERSITY LOSS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES.

- b) HOWEVER, THERE IS A NEED FOR RESOURCES AND BUDGET INCLUSION AS WE ARE LIMITED WHEN IT COMES TO RESOURCES AND MOST OF THE CURRENT WORKS BEING DONE TO GUIDE THE CURBING OF FOREST FIRES, INCLUDING POACHING, AND POOR FISH FARMING METHODS ARE BEING DONE VOLUNTARILY BY THE INDUNAS AND HEADMEN WHICH WAS NOT ENOUGH.
- c) THE PROBLEM OF FOREST FIRES IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED URGENTLY WITH FULL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT JUST LIKE THE WAY OTHER PANDEMICS LIKE HIV/AIDS, COVID 19, AND EARLY MARRIAGES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH.

ii. **UNPACKING THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONCEPT AND CARBON FINANCING:**

- a) WE DO REALISE THAT CARBON FINANCING IF MANAGED WELL CAN CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES. AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST TO ENGAGE IN THIS INITIATIVE.
- b) HOWEVER, THERE IS A NEED TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE POLICY MECHANISMS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS BEHIND THIS INITIATIVE, UNDERSTAND HOW THE CARBON CREDITS ARE DETERMINED, UNPACK THE TECHNICAL CARBON VERIFICATION PROCESSES, UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT INTERIM GUIDELINES ON CARBON TRADING AND HOW THE PRICING SYSTEM IS ARRIVED AT.
- c) THE CARBON TRADE SHOULD BE FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED. IF POSSIBLE OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES LIKE ZANACO, AND ZAMBIA INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL BANK (ZICB) ARE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.
- d) MEANWHILE WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THERE IS A CLEAR BENEFIT-SHARING MECHANISM AND THAT THE FUNDS ACCRUED FROM CARBON TRADING ARE ALLOCATED TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED PROBLEMS LIKE POOR ROAD NETWORKS, WATER AND SANITATION, HEALTH CARE, YOUTH, AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.

iii. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS, AND PARTICIPATION:

- a) WE NOTED WITH CONCERN THAT THERE IS LESS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN CARBON TRADING AMONG OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND DECISIONS ARE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY.
- b) OUR MANDATE AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS IS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATION CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVE ONCE ADEQUATE INFORMATION INCLUDING TECHNICAL TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR CHIEFS AND LOCAL PERSONS TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN CARBON TRADING AND THE AVAILABLE CARBON MARKETS.
- c) OUR APPEAL IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS SHOULD WORK WITH US IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING REGULAR SENSITIZATION, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON CRUCIAL ISSUES SUCH AS WHAT EXACTLY IS CARBON FINANCING, WHO THE PLAYERS INVOLVED ARE, AND THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL CARBON PROJECT AT COMMUNITY LEVEL.
- d) AND A CLEAR ROAD MAP FOR A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES ON CARBON FINANCING AND OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS.

iv. PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND INVOLVING TRADITIONAL LEADERS.

- a) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CAUSES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED AND MITIGATED BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE EVEN BEFORE WE FOCUS ON PROVIDING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS.
- b) WE REALIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IS HIGHLY CORRELATED WITH THE ROLE OF CHIEFS IN THE COMMUNITIES AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEIR INPUTS ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

- c) AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHIEFS SHOULD WORK HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE GOVERNMENT, LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OFFICIALS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS.
- d) FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS ARE ALSO A CHALLENGE IN IMPLEMENTING THESE SOLUTIONS. OUR APPEAL IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BUDGET FOR THESE SOLUTIONS AND INVOLVE CHIEFS. THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN OTHER GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES WORKING WITH CHIEFS ON ISSUES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND OTHERS.

v. ***PLASTIC POLLUTION AND DISTRACTION OF ECOSYSTEMS.***

- a) PLASTIC POLLUTION IS INDEED A DISASTROUS CHALLENGE AS IT IS CONTAMINATING OUR LAND AND SPREADING TO RURAL AREAS AT A FAST RATE.
- b) THE PROBLEM IS AFFECTING THE LIVELIHOODS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS INCLUDING OUR LIVESTOCK ANIMALS AND, IN SOME CASES, EVEN WILD ANIMALS THAT ARE NOW FEEDING THE TOXIC PLASTICS IN THEIR HABITATS.
- c) WE THEREFORE NEED A LASTING SOLUTION TO STOP THE PLASTIC POLLUTION.

vi. ***COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, NON-STATE PARTNERS, AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN CARBON FINANCING.***

- a) WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT CARBON TRADING IS AN INITIATIVE THAT THE COMMUNITIES CAN BENEFIT FROM BUT THERE IS A NEED FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, NON-STATE PARTNERS AND THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS.
- b) TRADITIONAL LEADERS WILL REQUIRE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WHO SPECIALISE IN RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL UNDERSTANDING OF CARBON FINANCING TO HELP THEM EDUCATE THEIR PEOPLE.

- c) WE NEED TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE FACTS AND TRAINING USING ADDITIONAL PLATFORMS SUCH AS THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS IN ORDER FOR US TO DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY ACCURATELY.
- d) ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALSO AN URGENT NEED FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS SUCH AS THE CAUCUSES AND EPD SO THAT THEY CAN REALIZE THE URGENCY OF THE ISSUES BEING RAISED.

vii. ***POLICIES AND UPDATED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK.***

- a) WE HAVE NOTED THE NEED TO REVIEW THE CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN ORDER TO SUIT THE CITIZENS OF ZAMBIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE. SOME OF THE CURRENT LAWS RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND WHICH MAY AFFECT CARBON TRADING SEEM OUTDATED BUT ARE STILL IN USE.
- b) WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT EVERY LEADING GOVERNMENT IGNORES THE IMPORTANT ACTION OF UPDATING THE LEGISLATIVE LAWS AND FRAMEWORK IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEFS.

viii. ***JURISDICTION OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN RESOURCES AND CARBON INITIATIVES.***

- a) THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE LACK OF JURISDICTION UNDER CUSTOMARY LAWS AND THE ROLE TRADITIONAL LEADERS HAVE IN DECISION MAKING ESPECIALLY WITH MATTERS CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.
- b) IN MOST CASES THE CUSTOMARY LAWS ARE SIDELINED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL WHICH HAS A NEGATIVE IMPACT AS CUSTOMARY LAWS REFLECT THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS' LAWS AND REGULATIONS BASED ON THEIR LANDS.
- c) PERMISSION AND AUTHORIZATION SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES BEFORE ANY CARBON INTIATIVES ARE IMPLEMENTED IN THEIR LANDS.

d) WHEN CARBON INITIATIVES ARE IMPLEMENTED, THE LAND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CUSTOMARY LAND AND UNDER THE PROTECTION OF CUSTOMARY LAWS.

ix. **BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISMS IN CARBON INITIATIVES.**

a) THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FINANCES GAINED FROM CARBON INITIATIVES. IT IS NOT KNOWN AS TO HOW MUCH AN INVESTOR BENEFITS AND WHAT GOES TO THE COMMUNITY.

b) HENCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A CLEAR BENEFIT-SHARING MECHANISM BE PUT IN PLACE. THIS SHOULD BE DONE ALONGSIDE THE IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT OF A CLIMATE CHANGE ACT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS BETWEEN THE CARBON TRADERS AND THE COMMUNITIES WHO ARE PROVIDING THE CARBON SINKS.

c) IN THAT SPIRIT, THE DELEGATES OF COP 28, SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND FULLY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING MECHANISMS SO THAT FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND BENEFITS ARE EFFECTIVELY DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITIES.

x. **ALTERNATIVE, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND CARBON INITIATIVES.**

a) THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES ALSO ALLUDED THAT THE CARBON TRADERS SHOULD BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR COMMUNITIES.

b) INVESTMENTS SUCH AS THE CREATION OF WATER DAMS THAT LOCALS CAN USE FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS, YOUTH, AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AWAY FROM CHARCOAL BURNING.

c) LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF CHARCOAL SUCH AS THE USE OF GREEN CHARCOAL, TREE PLANTING, WATER HARVESTING AND CONSERVATION FARMING MUST BE SUPPORTED.

PRESENTED, AT, LUSAKA, MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER (MICC), KENNETH KAUNDA WING, ON 11TH OCTOBER 2023 AND 12TH OCTOBER 2023.

S/N	TITLE
1.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SNR CHIEF CHISUNKA CHAIRPERSON OF THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS
2.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SNR CHIEF NKULA
3.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SNR CHIEF A. IMWIKO
4.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SNR CHIEF LUEMBE
5.	HER ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEFTAINNESS MUWEZWA 1
6.	HER ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEFTAINNESS MSORO
7.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF KABAMBA
8.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF MNUKWA
9.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF CHABULA
10.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF ISHIMA SANKENI
11.	HER ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEFTAINNESS MWENDA
12.	HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CHIEF BUNDABUNDA