

Wednesday, Serenje (9th July, 2025)



CEJ COMMENDS GOVERNMENT FOR INTENSIFIED CRACKDOWN ON NATURE-BASED CRIMES

The Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) has paid tribute to the government for its increased efforts to combat nature-based crimes, which often disproportionately benefit foreign actors at the expense of local communities and the environment.

This came to light during a training session with Community Environmental Social Auditors in Serenje District, Central Province, supported by Resilience Fund and its partners, including the U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

CEJ Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Haggai Nyambe highlighted the urgent need to address illegal logging, mining, and wildlife trafficking.

He explained that these crimes are typically driven by profit motives, with perpetrators showing little regard for the sustainability of natural resources.

Nyambe pointed out that instead of focusing on sustaining natural resources, those involved are primarily interested in making money, with no concern for long-term environmental preservation.

He gave the example of elephant poaching, where ivory is trafficked from Zambia through Tanzania to China, illustrating how such illegal activities often serve foreign markets.

He also emphasized that illegal mining operations not only cause significant environmental damage but also result in substantial revenue losses for the government—sometimes exceeding 50 million kwacha per day—and deprive local councils of much-needed funds.

The environmental consequences are severe, with unauthorized land occupation and encroachment displacing wildlife, creating conflicts, and undermining conservation efforts.

Nyambe called for continued vigilance and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure that the country's natural heritage is protected for future generations.

He stated that the CEJ's training session in Serenje is part of ongoing efforts to build community capacity and resilience in monitoring and reporting nature and environmental crimes, reinforcing the government's commitment to safeguarding Zambia's natural resources

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