

Lower Zambezi

Catch & Release Initiative

FACTSHEET

About LZCRI

THE LOWER ZAMBEZI CATCH & RELEASE INITIATIVE

The Zambezi River and its tributaries are critical habitat for freshwater fishes, and are home to species of conservation, economic and cultural significance. However, along the length of the Zambezi, fish are threatened by human activities. Despite the importance of the many freshwater fishes found in the Zambezi, the state of their populations are not well known.

To date there has been little or no concerted effort to monitor the Lower Zambezi fisheries, so little is known of the ecology and population status of fishes in the Lower Zambezi. As one of Africa's great wilderness areas, the stretch of the Zambezi flowing between Lakes Kariba and Cahora Bassa is a prime tourist destination with a particular focus on game fishing, centered around species such as tiger fish and vundu. The tiger-fish is a key predator in the Zambezi, and is of cultural and economic significance for local fisheries as well as being one of the most sought after freshwater angling fishes in Africa. Recreational fishing presents a valuable means of collecting data that can contribute towards fish conservation.

The Lower Zambezi Catch & Release Initiative (LZCRI) is an independent programme, set up to encourage sustainable fishing practice to ensure that our enjoyment of the area and its resources can continue in perpetuity. This vision of LZCRI is set up around three central tenets:

Respect • Record • Release

Respect – Instil in anglers an ethic of respect for their quarry and the environment in which they fish

Record – Instil a sense of ownership and participation, where anglers themselves contribute towards evidence-based management of their fishery by recording and submitting data on the fish that they catch

Release – Instil a strong catch-and-release ethic amongst recreational anglers, where best-practice based on the latest scientific evidence is followed to ensure minimal impact and the health and wellbeing of game-fish and their populations on the Lower Zambezi

Following this vision, the LZCRI aims to:

Inform and educate anglers about fish conservation, catch-and-release, best angling practice and the state of the fisheries on the Zambezi River

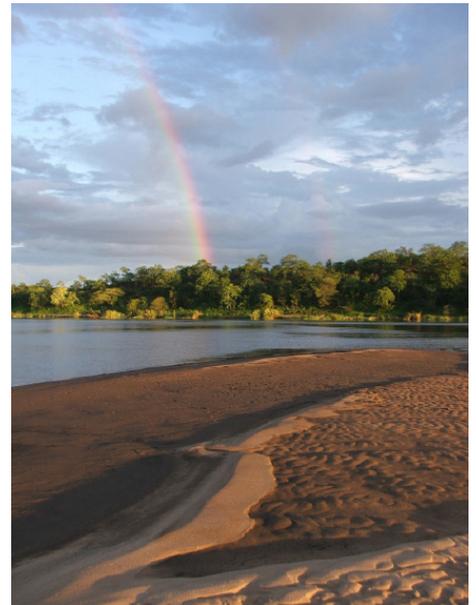
Encourage ethical and responsible angling amongst the fishing community on the Zambezi River

Enable anglers to record and submit catch data through training and the development of using innovative tools and technology

Collect, verify and analyse data that contribute to effective, evidence-based management of fisheries on the Zambezi River

More information is available at www.wildtracks-zambia.com/LZCRI

LZCRI is supported by:



How can you contribute?

As an angling community, we have a responsibility to protect the resources that we enjoy.

By keeping following good catch-and-release practices and keeping detailed catch records of the fish that you release, and participating in the LZCRI you can contribute towards ensuring the long term sustainability of the recreational fishery on the Zambezi so that it may be enjoyed for years to come.

Contact the LZCRI to find out more about recording your releases, submitting records and how you can get involved.

Respect • Record • Release

For more information on how you can participate in fish conservation on the Lower Zambezi visit www.wildtracks-zambia.com/index.php/LZCRI

RELATED MATERIAL

GUIDELINES - Catch & Release
GUIDELINES - LZCRI Logbooks