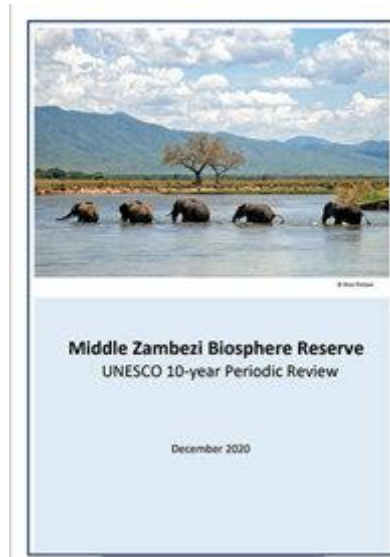


ZAMSOC ASSISTS WITH THE FIRST 10 YEAR REPORT ON THE MIDDLE ZAMBEZI BIOSPHERE RESERVE (2010 – 2020)

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY December 2020



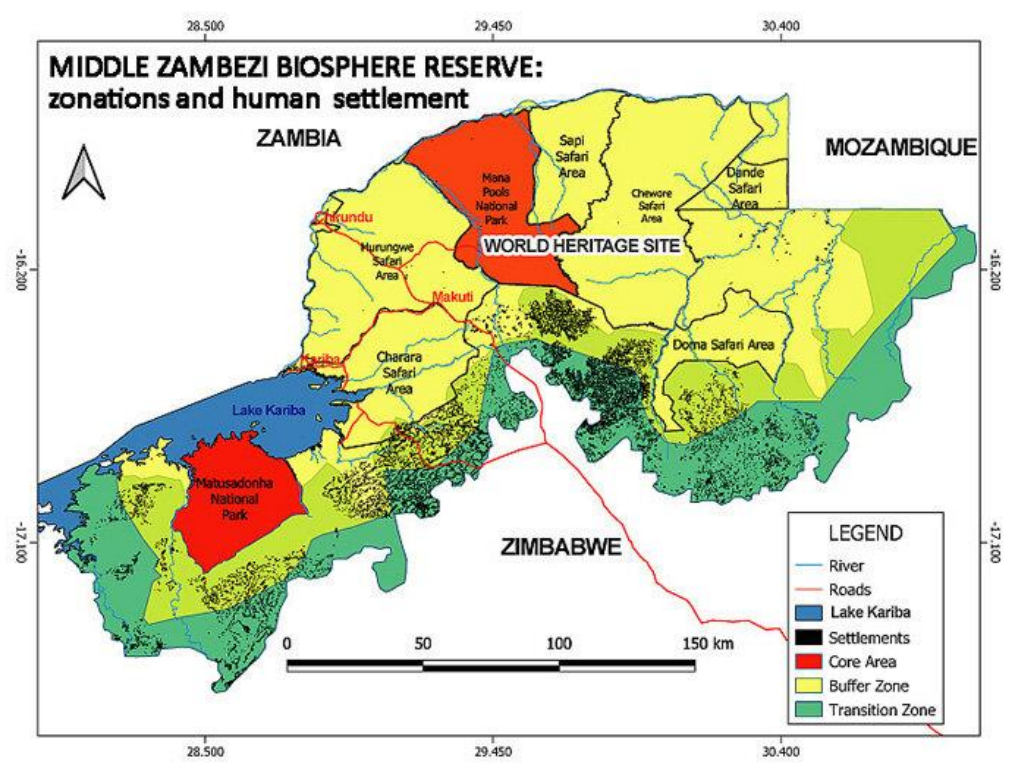
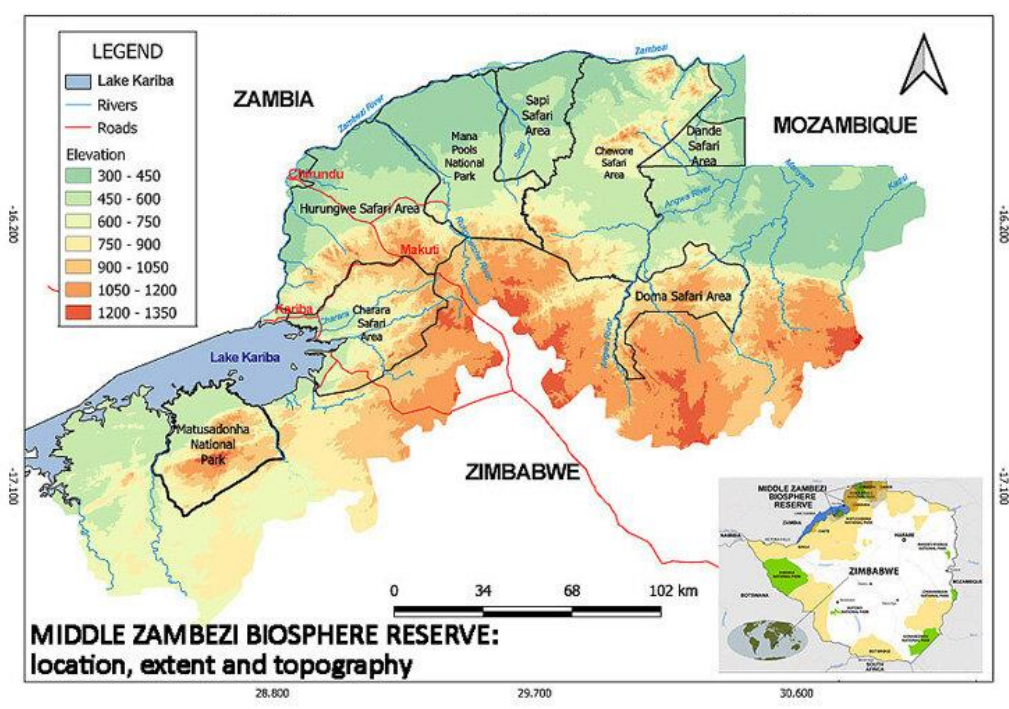
The Zambezi Society is proud to have played a significant role in assisting Zimbabwe's Man & Biosphere (MAB) Committee to compile and submit the first 10-year periodic review of the **Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve** which was designated in 2010 by UNESCO under its Man and Biosphere Programme. The review was submitted to UNESCO in December 2020 and is currently under review. We will share its contents on this website once approval is granted.

The 150-page document was compiled at the request of Zimbabwe's MAB Committee, after extensive desk reviews and consultations with relevant public and private stakeholders including ministries, regional authorities, local municipalities, conservation and development entities and local communities.

We are most grateful to the German National Commission of MAB who provided the funds for the outreach research portion of the review, and to UNESCO Zimbabwe for hosting a final stakeholders meeting in Harare in December 2020 prior to submission of the final version of the report.



Middle-Zambezi Biosphere Reserve final key stakeholders meeting held in December 2020
 The Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve (MZBR) is the first of its kind in Zimbabwe. It covers approximately 34,000 sq kms in the Zambezi Valley and surrounds, featuring riverine and terrestrial ecosystems unique to the subcontinent and includes two Core National Park Areas (Matusadona and Mana Pools National Park) and the eastern section of Lake Kariba, the world's largest man-made lake.



This periodic review report outlines a significant body of conservation and sustainable development work achieved across all sectors in this vast area during the period 2010 – 2020 despite some considerable economic and administrative challenges.

The pre-amble to the report highlights some important issues which need to be addressed in the next 10 years of Zimbabwe's first Biosphere Reserve. These include:-

- a clear need to strengthen the coordination and advisory capacity within the MZBR
- a clear role for a collaborative Biosphere Reserve team to provide coordination where needed, to help identify synergistic projects and to assist existing project owners to identify sources of funding.
- a pressing need to reignite efforts to build awareness, communication and synergies amongst key stakeholders in the Biosphere Reserve.
- the importance in the next few years to explore, in a collaborative manner, how to provide a supportive operating environment for all entities working within the area, through a coordinating role, and to encourage them to see the value of the Biosphere Reserve as a mechanism for information flow and a repository for data.
- the need for an active and committed team comprised of senior key stakeholder representatives (and chaired by one of them) to be convened to help lead the Biosphere Reserve into the future, with an emphasis on its “coordinating” rather than “management” role.

Here's a link to the full report: [Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve 10 year Periodic Review 2010 – 2020 – Dec 2020](#)