



**SUMMARY REPORT  
FIRST ZAMBEZI VALLEY TRAINING COURSE  
IN WILDERNESS CONCEPTS AND PRACTICE  
Facilitated by The Zambezi Society and the Wilderness Action Group**

**Held at RIFA Camp, Near Chirundu, Zambezi Valley  
17<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

Background

Since 2001, The Zambezi Society and the Wilderness Action Group have been collaborating in providing training in Wilderness Concepts and Practice to selected managers or custodians of valuable wilderness areas within the Zambezi river basin. By the end of 2005, 13 candidates from the public, private and community sectors in Zimbabwe had benefited from this training in South Africa and at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congresses.

This course

In September 2006, The Zambezi Society, with funding from the WILD Foundation (USA), organized the first Zambezi-valley-based full training course in Wilderness Concepts and Practice for 20 National Parks Authority officers (15 from Zimbabwe and 5 from Zambia). The participants included field officers at Warden, Senior Warden and Principal Warden level, officers involved in training, tourism and commercial management as well as policy-makers at middle and senior management level. Two facilitators from The Wilderness Action Group in South Africa, undertook the training. The course was held between 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September at The Zimbabwe Hunters' Association's RIFA camp, near Chirundu, in the Zambezi valley.

The course was split into two four-day sections - Basic and Advanced, divided by a one-day Field trip along the Zimbabwean bank of the Zambezi River in the Urungwe Safari Area.

This summary report

This report serves as an initial summary of the course, giving a list of the participants and their organizational positions, an outline of the course objectives and outcomes, the course participants' definition of wilderness in the Zambezi valley context; a selection of the comments received from the course evaluation, a list of the challenges facing wilderness in the Zambezi valley that were identified by the participants at the end of the course and the recommendations arising out of discussion of these challenges. A more detailed report will follow at a later stage.

List of Facilitators and Participants

**ZIMBABWE PARTICIPANTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION/RANK</b>
Mr Hardwork Chikumba	Warden (Operations), Mana Pools N. Park, Zambezi valley.
Mr Dickson Chitupa	Lecturer at Mushandike Natural Resources College, Masvingo
Mr Tawanda N Gotosa	Principal Warden, in charge of Matabeleland, Bulawayo.
Mr Elson Gwanyanya	Senior Warden, Matusadona National Park, Kariba
Mr Trumber Jura	Senior Warden, Zambezi National Park, Vic Falls
Mr Derrison Katenaire	Ranger 2, RIFA camp, Chirundu

Mr P T Kuvawoga	Warden, Scientific Services, Marongora Station, Zambezi valley.
Mr Trust A Mashingaidze	Training Officer, Parks HQ, Harare
Mr T B Matokwe	Lecturer at Mushandike Natural Resources College, Masvingo
Mr Never Muboko	Programme Officer TFCA (Northern Region), Parks HQ, Harare
Ms Revayi Mudzingwa	Warden, Vic Falls National Park, Vic Falls
Mr Givemore Mukaya	Senior Warden, Marongora Station, Zambezi Valley.
Mr Simukayi Nyasha	Principal Tourist Officer, HQ, Harare
Mrs Doris Tom	Principal Warden, Parks HQ, Harare
Mr Godwin Vhurumuku	Zambezi Society Field Officer, Matusadona National Park Black Rhino Intensive Protection Zone, Kariba

### ZAMBIAN PARTICIPANTS

NAME	POSITION/RANK
Mr Isaac Kashitu	Area Warden, Lower Zambezi N. Park, Chirundu
Mr Stephen Malungo	Ranger Operations and Technical Services, Central Region, Mazabuka
Mr Lackson Mwenya	Operations Manager, ZAWA, HQ, Chilanga
Mrs Rose Shabalu	Commercial Manager, ZAWA, HQ, Chilanga
Mrs Betty M Sikana	Human Resources Officer, ZAWA HQ, Chilanga

### FACILITATORS/CO-ORDINATORS

NAME	POSITION/RANK
Dr Bill Bainbridge	Course Facilitator, Wilderness Action Group, South Africa
Mr Drummond Densham	Course Facilitator, Wilderness Action Group, South Africa
Mr Dick Pitman	Director, Zambezi Society, Harare, Zimbabwe
Mr Duncan Purchase	Director (Projects) Zambezi Society, Harare, Zimbabwe
Mrs Sally Wynn	Course Co-ordinator, Zambezi Society, Harare, Zimbabwe

#### Course Objectives and Outcomes

At the end of the **Basic** section of the course, participants gained a good understanding of:

- the concept of wilderness as a protected area category
- wilderness definitions and the need for this form of protected area, and the legislative protection currently provided for it in South Africa and Southern Africa
- the principles of wilderness management and the need to develop special management skills
- the basic principles relating to visitor management in wilderness
- the need to educate the public about the values of wilderness
- the relevance of wilderness in Southern Africa with specific relevance to the Zambezi valley

After the **Advanced Course**, participants were able to:

- Appreciate the contributions to society of wilderness as a protected area category, its role in relation to other protected area categories in conserving wilderness resources, natural environments, biodiversity conservation and wilderness experience;
- Develop an understanding of the application of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum (WOS), and the principles Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and consider how these might be adapted to fit the Southern African context.
- Begin to prepare a basic zonation and management plan for a wilderness area to gain practical experience in wilderness planning.
- Have a good understanding of the challenges facing wilderness in Southern Africa and particularly the Zambezi Valley
- Have strengthened their capacity to improve their stewardship of the river's wild areas and wild values.

#### Course Participants' Definition of Wilderness in the Zambezi Valley

*"A Zambezi wilderness is a legislatively protected area of considerable size, slightly modified or capable of being restored for the purpose of conserving natural systems and biodiversity for provision of ecosystem services, with minimum human interference or disturbance and sustainably managed, with no roads, and providing social and cultural benefits for present and future generations".* RIFA Camp, Sept. 2006

### Course Evaluation Comments

The response to the course by the participants was universally positive. Most found it to be extremely valuable and practical and applicable to their work; many were inspired to incorporate the concepts into their future management planning and to encourage their superiors to embrace wilderness management principles and training in all aspects of Parks Authority work. A selection of their comments is given below:

*“The whole course was overwhelming and very educative and I look forward to more courses of this nature. The idea is very encouraging and valuable”*

*“The wilderness management course has enhanced knowledge of the vital concepts of the subject. This information is going to be used to redo our park plan.”*

*“The course is essential for protected area managers and policy makers in the region. Wilderness management should be a component of ALL protected areas and regional planning in modern landscape management.”*

*“The course has a lot for protected area managers more specially in Southern Africa. These kinds of short courses in wilderness management must be encouraged at all costs. As this is beneficial for both our biodiversity and communities.”*

*“This short course in wilderness management has been an eye-opener to protected area managers in Southern Africa, particularly in Zimbabwe and Zambia. I recommend that more managers should join the Wilderness Action Group to have these concepts strengthened in our respective countries.”*

*“I liked the course. It is to a greater extent helpful to protected area managers in general and protected area planners and researchers also. It made me understand the challenges facing the entire Valley and how we can develop our own definitions and management plans for different land uses to satisfy different stakeholders as well as the environment itself.”*

### Challenges and Recommendations

During the course various challenges facing the wilderness areas of the Zambezi valley were flagged for future discussion. At the end of the course these were debated at some length and recommendations made for future action – these are summarized below.

#### 1. TFCAs AND WILDERNESS

- a. Make Wilderness an agenda item on TFCA talks.
- b. There are existing Protected Areas in each country containing wilderness, and ways to align zonation across borders should be found.
- c. Review of Management Plans in Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya and Mana Pools/Lower Zambezi will provide opportunities to include Wilderness in TFCAs.

#### 2. TOURISM AND WILDERNESS

- a. The draft zonation model proposed during this course to be considered as a basis for a future Southern African version of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum (WOS) zonation models.

#### 3. MARKETING WILDERNESS

- a. Develop ways to publicise Wilderness and its values and integrate it into the tourism product (e.g. Zimbabwe’s current draft Tourism Master Plan) (Zambezi Society and Wilderness Action Group can assist here.)
- b. Need to use/tie into recent developments in Gona-re-zhou (GLTFCA) which recognize the values of wilderness
- c. Need to avoid focusing tourism marketing only on exclusive foreign tourists and engage the general public/independent visitors who also have a right to the wilderness experience.

#### 4. WILDERNESS POLICY

- a. Consideration to be given to development of Wilderness policy for incorporation into Protected Area management policies, TFCAs, Tourism and other relevant policies/legislation.
- b. Identify the policy-makers to attend Wilderness Awareness seminars in capital cities.

#### 5. TRAINING – FUTURE NEEDS

- a. Present another Wilderness Concepts and Practice course for Zambians and Zimbabweans and then from the participants of the two courses, select trainers for a Train the Trainer course.
- b. Participants to recommend others to attend the next courses.
- c. Possible sources of funding to be explored

#### 6. WILDERNESS NETWORK

- a. All participants will contribute to the African Wilderness Network (hosted by The Zambezi Society) as a collaborative process.

#### 7. PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

- a. Participants to consider and contact Zambezi Society/WAG to develop articles for international and local media to draw attention to the Zambezi valley's wilderness areas and to underline the need for more wilderness training in this region.

#### 8. WWC9

- a. Opportunities for representatives from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique to go to WWC9 and write and deliver papers at Congress will be explored by The Zambezi Society .

#### 9. SOURCE OF THE ZAMBEZI RIVER

- a. That a way is developed to get the source of the Zambezi River protected.