



Controlling an invasive aquatic plant for improved biodiversity and livelihoods



Country: Zambia

Donor: The Darwin Initiative, a UK Government grant scheme

Focal Area: Lukanga Swamp IBA <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lukanga-swamp-iba-zambia>

Duration: 3 years and 9 months (July 2017 to March 2021)

Amount of Financing: £299,016

Collaborators: BirdWatch Zambia, Centre for Agricultural and Biosciences International (CABI), Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), Department of National Parks and Wildlife (Zambia)

Project Description:

Impact: Control of invasive alien species from areas under aquaculture in Zambia increases the resilience of 2500 fishing households and conserve wetland biodiversity

Outcome: Biological control of *Salvinia molesta* in Lukanga Swamp enhances livelihoods and food security for 2500 fishing households, and restores 2000km² of suitable habitat for biodiversity and provision of ecosystems services

Expected Outputs

1. Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment guiding mitigation measures for biologically controlling *Salvinia molesta*
2. Fishing community members have increased the capacity and interest to participate in *Salvinia* control.



3. *Salvinia molesta* control in Lukanga Swamp improves habitat for wetland biodiversity including increased fish stock leading to increased food security for fishing community households
4. Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote biological control of alien invasive species in areas under aquaculture across Zambia for livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation
5. Project management, impact monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget

Activities

- Conduct EIA for biocontrol
- Raise awareness about project and mobilise communities for engagement locally
- Train participants, both institutional partners and community members
- Establish biocontrol agent (weevil *Cyrtobagous salviniae*) on-site, release it and monitor it
- Document biocontrol process
- Share project progress, successes, failures and lessons through various media
- Monitor, evaluate and report on project

Recent Project Status (last updated 4 October 2018):

Progress summary:

- Environmental Project Brief (EPB, a downscaled form of EIA) has been conducted and biocontrol project approved by Zambia Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA)
- Weevil rearing ponds on site are in the process of being constructed
- Import of weevil for use as biocontrol agent has been approved and procurement from South Africa started.
- Community has been mobilised and trained

Next Steps:

- Receive and release weevil into Lukanga Swamp

Last updated (date): 4 October 2018

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