



CLIMATE CROWD

Crowdsourcing to help people and nature in a changing climate

ZAMBIA: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

February, 2018

OVERVIEW

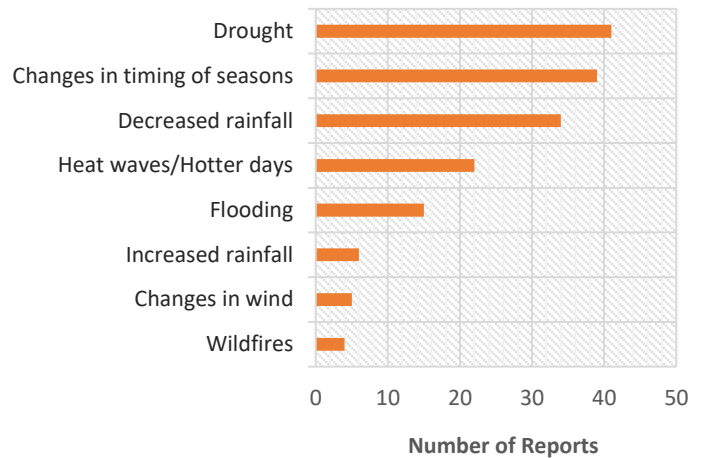
Climate Crowd is an initiative to crowdsource data on how people and nature are affected by changes in weather and climate. See our collection of [data](#), submit your own [observations](#), and explore adaptation [solutions](#).



We also work to identify trends in our data to help inform on the ground conservation and development activities. 58 interviews were conducted in southwest Zambia in communities along the Zambezi river and bordering Sioma Ngwezi National park. Facing years of drought and shifting rainfall patterns, followed by severe flooding in 2017, the farming communities of this region have begun pursuing alternative livelihoods and starting small gardens to cope with poor yields. Many reports indicate that the prolonged drought has directly impacted local wildlife by decreasing food and water availability. Increased competition between humans and wildlife for these scarce resources has also resulted in frequent instances of human-wildlife conflict.



REPORTED CHANGES IN WEATHER/CLIMATE



IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES



- Crop failure due to insufficient rainfall in past years, increased pests and damage from 2017 flooding (~90% of surveys)
- Reduced availability of freshwater (~74% of surveys)
- Decreased availability of wild foods including fish and fruits (~60% of surveys)
- Increased famine (~57% of surveys)
- Impacts to livestock (~45% of surveys), primarily due to lack of pasture (~34% of surveys), and to a lesser extent, disease and predator attacks
- Increased human wildlife conflict (~41% of surveys)
- Increased prevalence of disease among humans (~38% of surveys), particularly malaria associated with 2017 flooding (~22% of surveys)

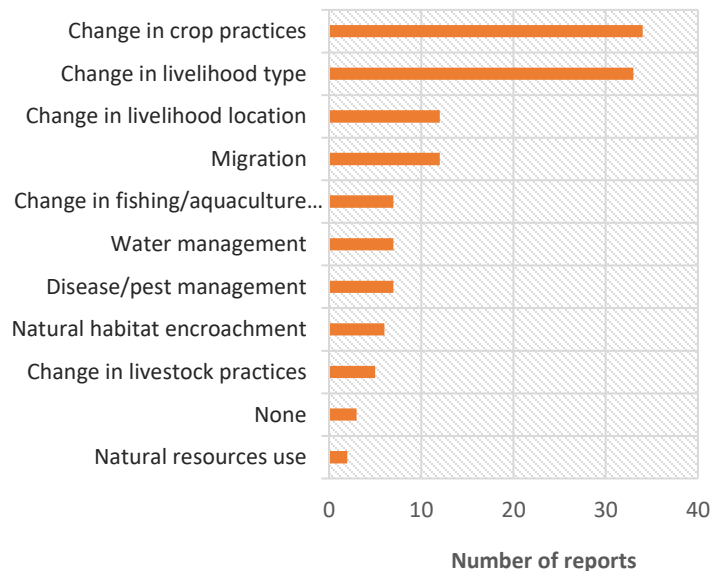
COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO CHANGES

- Establishing vegetable gardens (~41% of surveys)
- Diversifying or pursuing alternative livelihoods (~41% of surveys), including securing employment in nearby towns, logging, starting small businesses, and engaging in prostitution
- Applying conservation agriculture techniques (~34% of surveys)
- Relocating farms and households to other areas nearby (~33% of surveys) primarily to be closer to sources of water during drought, with some moving to avoid flood waters
- Traveling further to collect water and increasing reliance on the river for water needs (~31% of surveys)
- Migrating to Namibia (~28% of surveys)
- Switching to more resilient types or varieties of crops (~28% of surveys)
- Increasing reliance on government aid and support from NGOs (~20% of surveys)
- Constructing wells and pipes to access freshwater (~17% of surveys)



Photos: © Nikhil Advani/WWF-US
Citation: Climate Crowd, 2018. Zambia summary report. World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC.

RESPONSES TO CHANGES IN WEATHER/CLIMATE



IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY

- ~53% of reports mention direct impacts of drought on local ecosystems including death of trees, drying and disappearance of wild fruits, and wildlife moving out of the area
- ~40% of reports also mention human wildlife conflict as wildlife (particularly elephants) increasingly venture close to human settlements in search of food and water
- Siltation and degradation of riparian habitat along the Zambezi river associated with increased farming, gardening, and livestock activity by the river
- Habitat loss associated with increased logging and firewood access

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

To access other country summary reports, visit our [publications](#) page.

 wwfclimatecrowd.org

 climatecrowd@wwfus.org

 facebook.com/wwfclimatecrowd