



BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION FOR AFRICA

The BFA is committed to conserving Afrotropical biodiversity through the improvement of scientific knowledge and its incorporation in the planning process

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WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity refers to the total variety of all *life forms* and *processes* on Earth. It ranges in scale from genetic diversity, through species diversity, populations and communities, to whole landscapes.

WHAT IS THE BFA?

The BFA is a Zimbabwe-registered non-profit Trust formed in Bulawayo in 1992 by a group of scientists and environmentalists. The group works in collaboration with scientists and institutions in the south and central African region, UK and the USA.

It consists of a number of professional affiliates internationally recognised in their fields. Most are taxonomists or ecologists based in the region.

Among them, these individuals have many years of experience in their discipline and access to a wide knowledge base, much of which has not been formally published.

WHAT DOES THE BFA DO?

The BFA solicits funds from donors and others to carry out research into Afrotropical biodiversity, including field surveys and documentation of existing information. Its particular area of interest is south-central Africa.



WHITH WHOM DOES THE BFA WORK?

The BFA collaborates with many regional and international institutions, some of which are listed below. A close partnership has also been formed with the Zambezi Society, a conservation and advocacy NGO, for joint implementation of various projects within the Zambezi Basin.

American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA
California Academy of Sciences, USA
CESVI, Bergamo, Italy
Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge, UK
Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Harare
Harrison Zoological Museum, Sevenoaks, UK
Malilangwe Conservation Trust, Chiredzi, Zimbabwe
National Herbarium and Botanic Garden, Harare, Zimbabwe
Natural History Museum, London, UK
Natural History Museum, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Oxford Forestry Institute, Oxford, UK
Parks & Wildlife Conservation Fund, Zimbabwe
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK
World Conservation Union (IUCN), Regional Office for Southern Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe

AIMS OF THE BFA

In collaboration with the international scientific and donor communities, the BFA aims to:

- ◆ Carry out scientific research into tropical and subtropical African biodiversity,
- ◆ Preserve and expand biological collections held in museums and herbaria in the southern and central African region,
- ◆ Publish the results of such biological research,
- ◆ Educate society on the significance of biodiversity and its measurement, and the threats to its continued existence,
- ◆ Act as a consulting agency to market the skills of the group.



CURRENT PROJECTS

- Biodiversity assessment of the wetlands of the Zambezi Basin (in partnership with the Zambezi Society) [IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa]
- Continued facilitation of conservation of sites of botanical interest in the communal lands of NW Zimbabwe through District Councils and local communities [Zambezi Society/UK High Commission]
- Biodiversity and ecological assessment of the Cabora Bassa area, NW Mozambique (in partnership with the Zambezi Society) [Tchumo Tchato project/Ford Foundation, South Africa]
- The Zambezi Basin Initiative (in conjunction with the Zambezi Society and Fauna & Flora International), a strategic project aimed at gathering and synthesising existing knowledge on biodiversity, gathering of new information, and conservation actions within the Zambezi Basin
- Partnership with the Italian NGO CESVI in a project to enhance the capability of three District Councils in S Zimbabwe to manage natural resources
- Preparation and publication of a handbook on the natural history of the Matobo Hills area in W Zimbabwe
- Preparation of *Reptilia Zambesiaca*, an authoritative treatment of the reptiles of the greater Zambesian region
- Collaboration on writing of a biodiversity textbook to be published by Oxford University Press.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Multidisciplinary inventory of biodiversity and establishment of monitoring plots (SAVSKILL) in Kalomo, S Zambia
- Identification of areas of plant conservation interest in the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe, and development of appropriate conservation approaches in association with Rural District Councils [Zambezi Society/CIDA]
- Biodiversity inventory of the Haroni-Rusitu forests, SE Zimbabwe [SAFIRE, Harare]
- Botanical and ecological survey of part of the Zambezi Valley in Zimbabwe for a community conservation project [CIRAD, Harare]
- Ecological, large mammal and gamebird assessments of selected areas in S Zimbabwe as part of the Peace Parks programme [CESVI]
- Inventory of spatial datasets relating to biodiversity available in the SADC region [IUCN ROSA]
- Preparation of a fieldguide to the acacias of Zimbabwe [Oxford Forestry Institute/DfID]
- Editing of the 1997 AETFAT Botanical Congress Proceedings [Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Zimbabwe/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew]

Publications:

Various BFA and joint publications are available for sale. These include:

- Report on biodiversity monitoring in S Zambia (SAVSKILL)
- Assessment of biodiversity knowledge on the wetlands of the Zambezi Basin
- Sites of botanical interest in the Zimbabwe section of the Zambezi Valley
- Field Guide to the Acacias of Zimbabwe

Patron: Prof E.O. Wilson, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

The BFA is a Member of IUCN, the World Conservation Union