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28 April 2020 Lusaka

MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT ON COVID-19

Dear Valued Members & Friends of the Society

As you may all be aware, life is not the same anymore. There is so much uncertainty and concerns because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia is equally concerned about this outbreak. Everyone is affected in one way or another and the Society is no exception. Our programming, projects, income sources and our beneficiaries have been greatly impacted; And as the impact of the global and national economic challenges continue to hit us hard, pressure on our natural resources may also increase. This calls for us all to remain vigilant, relevant and continue reaching out to the masses with messages of hope and sustainability of the environment around us.

We have to do our best in providing actionable guidance on safety and prevention measures of COVID-19 to children/youths and the larger community, and particularly in the hard to reach areas and those in close proximity to protected areas and Zambia's natural heritage.

The health and safety of staff, Society members, beneficiaries and our supporters is of high priority and we have adjusted our operations in order to continue providing a service while staying safe.

We have restricted travelling and for our staff at the branches, to continue providing a service for our conservation works, rotational working teams have been instituted. Facilities for hand washing and other protective/ preventive measures have also been put in place for our staff.

Our teams are being encouraged to remain productive by working remotely through the use of technology and the internet including video conferencing, social media, radio, print media and other remote tools.

All Society activities and programmes that require physical contact and gatherings including the anticipated Annual General Meeting (AGM) are on hold until further notice. We remain operational and available to provide a service for Zambia's natural resources' wellbeing, while social distancing and ensuring everyone's wellbeing is maintained.

During this crucial period, we need your help in any way possible. Your ideas, innovations, material and financial support on how we can continue reaching out to the masses with conservation and sustainability messages are crucial, but also how our people can be reached and helped to stay safe and healthy.

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and keep the communication going using remote tools to remain of great service to our members, stakeholders and the conservation work. Our National Office and the Branches remain of service to you. We encourage you to make regular use of online banking for membership or other forms of payments. Make use of emails and other remote tools

(WhatsApp, Instagram, twitter, zoom, webinar etc.) for communication and interaction with the Society, community and other stakeholders for the wellbeing of everyone

For further information, you can reach us on the follow:

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Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Joseph M. Chikolwa

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President - The Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia