



PROJECT - AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE

# Zambia: The Luangwa Community Forests REDD+ Project



## CERTIFICATION



Verified Carbon Standard  
(VCS)



Climate, Community &  
Biodiversity Alliance  
(CCB)



Verra Standard



REDD+

## FIELD PARTNER

BioCarbon Partners

## VCS METHODOLOGY

VM0009

## OBJECTIVES

Conserving forest ecosystems on the banks of the Luangwa river and preserving wildlife and biodiversity.



**The Luangwa Community Forests Project is a large scale grouped REDD+ project implemented in Eastern and Lusaka Province, Zambia with an initial project area of 943,676 ha.**

The project's community objective is poverty alleviation for at least 10,000 households, specifically targeting vulnerable households and the poorest of the poor. The project also aims to promote infrastructure development and water provision. The biodiversity objectives is maintaining a massive wildlife corridor between five national parks in the catchment of Zambia's 4th largest river system. Conserving and maintaining vulnerable and endangered species through habitat protection and reduction in poaching. The climate objectives are to avoid deforestation in the project area and assist communities and biodiversity with climate change adaptation benefits through income diversification, improved farming techniques, crop diversification and maintenance of habitat corridors.

## How are carbon reductions calculated?

A baseline scenario was developed to estimate the amount of carbon emissions avoided by the project. This was developed using a methodology approved by the Verified Carbon Standard program of the environmental organization Verra: VCS Methodology VM0009.

## Timeline

**2015** Trees are planted on the areas concerned by the project, which will unfold during 60 years.

**2019** The project is registered as a carbon credit project.

**2021** The project enters under new project perimeter and VCS carbon credit registry.

**2075** End of the project.



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## Zambia: The Luangwa Community Forests

### ZAMBIA IN AFRICA



### PROJECT AREA



### Environmental Impacts

Zambia loses forest four times the size of New York City to deforestation every year. That's an average of 300,000 hectares of valuable wildlife habitat disappearing annually, mainly driven by charcoal production and unsustainable farming techniques. The Luangwa Community Forests Project works to address key drivers of deforestation. Through the project, 959,291 hectares of wildlife habitat are protected, habitats that connect 4 National Parks protected in one of Africa's most significant wildlife migration that includes African wild dogs, elephants and lions.

### Expected Outcomes

- Reduced encroachment in the project's area.
- Increased production of higher value and higher nutrition crops.
- Improvements in the income levels of rural households through the sale of surpluses.
- Reduced dependence on the agriculture subsidies and use of artificial fertilizers.
- Enhancement of the knowledge and skills of small-scale rural producers in rural production, processing and marketing practices.

### Socio-Economic Benefits

Forest ecosystems restoration also benefits local communities by reducing poverty, creating sustainable incomes, improving social services and encouraging conservation. The Luangwa Community Forests project will help 80,000 Zambians benefit from livelihood opportunities and community development. 1,232 small businesses linked to new markets are emerging and 600 households are receiving extra income through forest honey projects.

### BENEFITS

#### Carbon Sequestration

**Biomass and Forest Soil** In order to grow, trees absorb atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. They store carbon in their trunks, branches and roots, as well as in the forest soil.

**The Economic Sector** Wood products are extracted from the forest to give space to the most beautiful trees to grow. The carbon stored in these wood products is also valorized.

**Material/Energy Substitution** The replacement of a material or energy that emits more greenhouse gases by a wood material or energy indirectly reduces the emissions and contributes to the ecological transition.

#### Complementary Benefits

**Economic Development** The project provides employment opportunities for local communities.

**Soils Protection** The trees planted limit soil erosion.

**Development of Biodiversity** Diverse and indigenous species are planted, which promote the development of biodiversity.

**Securing a Forest Corridor** The project is located on a biodiversity corridor identified by the regional scheme of ecological coherence.

# 50,000

# 943,676

hectares (project area)