



## Forest and biodiversity protection, Zimbabwe

This forest conservation project is aimed at providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for poor communities in Northern Zimbabwe, a region now suffering heavily from deforestation, poverty, and drought.

### Location



The Kariba REDD+ project is located on Lake Kariba, connecting several National Parks and Game Reserves such as Chizarira, Matusadona and Mana Pools National Park (which is also a World Heritage Site), and Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia.

### Project



The collapse of Zimbabwe's agricultural production, as well as population growth, has led to significant forest degradation. This has impacted strongly on native ecosystems which could no longer be managed sustainably. 3.13% of Northern Zimbabwe's forest cover has been lost per year, wildlife populations have partially collapsed, and Zimbabwe now has one of the world's lowest Human Development Index scores.



This is where the Kariba project comes in. Its aim is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through a range of activities proposed by local communities and financed by project supporters. These include the establishment of nutritional gardens, honey production, and clean cooking stoves, forest fire prevention and enhanced wildlife conservation. There is also direct support in the provision of basic equipment needed for the administration and management of the project, such as computers, printers, bridge repairs and uniforms for community guards.

In addition, locals are supported in setting up their own sustainable businesses that allow a living in line with conservational requirements. This includes low-emissions brick making, mushroom, chilli and native fruit tree (such as water berry) cultivation, and the establishment of beekeeping, with honey sales potentially earning a family up to \$400 per year.

The idea for this project came directly from the local community, which has rooted the project strongly in the region. The project is supporting the local population in their transition to non-destructive soil and forest management. A significant portion of the project revenues goes to the locals, of whom most live below the poverty line.

## Project achievements



### Socio-economic impact:

- The project has led to significant strengthening of local conservation initiatives and self-governance
- Direct employment opportunities have been generated for about 60 local people for project operations such as community scouts, staff for fire prevention measures, nutritional garden establishment and water pump maintenance
- Assistance is given for the establishment of family-based micro-businesses such as honey production
- Most of the project population live below the absolute poverty line, and the project directly boosts local living conditions
- School fee subsidies are available through the project for the poorest quarter of the local population
- Thanks to the establishment of dedicated saving funds, continuity of the project beyond its carbon credit phase is secured
- To support education and environmental awareness, National Tree Planting day, Environmental Awareness day, and Save The Rhino day are celebrated
- Conservation farming and other non-destructive farming approaches are taught in the project's agricultural classes. This also leads to enhanced climate change awareness and adaptation capabilities of the community
- Through the exchange of personnel (farmers, guards, teachers) between project areas, knowledge transfer is encouraged.

### Environmental impact:

- The project will help preserve biodiversity corridors between four national reserve parks, which are crucial for endangered species such as the elephant, lion, zebra, buffalo, African wolf and impala. The project's contribution to wildlife conservation has been confirmed by CCBS validation at "gold" level for outstanding biodiversity benefits
- Game scouts will help to reduce wildlife poaching; this will also reduce the occurrence of wildfires which are often caused by poaching activities
- Through the introduction of conservation agriculture such as anti-erosion terracing techniques and low tillage farming, soil degradation is avoided
- Use of organic fertiliser (manure, poultry litter, dead organic matter) is given priority over chemical fertiliser
- Crop rotation (e.g. tomato – grains – maize) delivers a stable and diverse food supply, and preserves nutrients in the soil. Through supervision of the agricultural area, the wildlife corridors are respected
- Forest fires can be avoided and tamed through education and training on fire prevention and fire fighting.

## Checklist Project 300 990



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|--------------------------------------|---|
| ✓ Additionality and permanence:      | according to the rules of the CCBS and VCS              |
| ✓ 3 <sup>rd</sup> party validated:   | by Environmental Services Inc.                          |
| ✓ Transparency:                      | provided by Markit Environmental Registry               |
| ✓ Annual CO <sub>2</sub> reduction:  | 1,490,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e                            |
| ✓ Social and environmental benefits: | as documented in our database                           |
| ✓ Marketing material:                | high resolution pictures available, video in production |

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