



Kariba Forest Protection Zimbabwe

**Saving forests, protecting wildlife, and
changing lives**



Since its launch in 2011, the Kariba project has protected nearly 785,000 hectares from deforestation and land degradation, preventing more than 3.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere every year. The project continues to support regional sustainable development and the independence and wellbeing of local communities.

The Context

In recent decades, Zimbabwe has suffered from political and economic turbulence. With limited economic opportunities, desperate communities have delved deeper into the forests, clearing it for subsistence farming and fuelwood. More than a third of Zimbabwe's majestic forests have been lost. Creating further instability for people with already precarious livelihoods.

The Project

The Kariba Project protects almost 785,000 hectares of forests and wildlife on the southern shores of Lake Kariba, near the Zimbabwe-Zambia border. One of the largest registered REDD+ projects by area it connects four national parks and eight safari reserves, forming a giant biodiversity corridor that protects an expansive forest and numerous vulnerable and endangered species – including the African elephant, lion, hippo, lappet-faced vulture and southern ground hornbill. As well as this, the project implements numerous community-focused initiatives detailed below.

The Benefits

Kariba is a community-based project, administered by the four local Rural District Councils (RDCs) of Binga, Nyaminyami, Hurungwe and Mbire. As such, the project supports a range of activities beyond environmental protection, promoting the independence and wellbeing of these communities. Improved clinic amenities provide better healthcare, infrastructure including new roads and boreholes improve daily life, and school subsidies are offered to the poorest quartile of the population. Project activities in conservation agriculture, community gardens, beekeeping training, fire management, and ecotourism create jobs and facilitate sustainable incomes, benefiting the entire region.

To date, the project has trained at least 5,000+ local people who now generate profits from sustainable beekeeping



**USD
249,000+**

income generated by the local community from beekeeping, moringa tree and community garden



**18
Nutritional
gardens**

are increasing food security



**14
Health
clinics**

supported with safe drinking water



**18,000+
people**

have attended workshops on project-related activities, such as nutritional gardening and beekeeping



**37,000
people**

have access to safe drinking water, thanks to 147 boreholes being repaired



**22
Permanent
jobs**

created thanks to the project



**USD
57,000+**

spent on supporting health clinics and schools



**3,740,000
tCO₂e**

mitigated on average each year since the project started in 2011



**784,987
ha of forest**

is protected, promoting biodiversity and protecting local wildlife



**International
partnerships**

between local communities, national and international organisations and carbon experts to deliver sustainable, long-term benefits

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> | Figures correct September 2020

Official name: Kariba REDD+ Project | **Registry link:** <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/902> | **Registry ID:** 902

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