



Sustainability action · Project Forest and Land use

Zambezi REDD+ Forestry Project, Zambia

Improving the lives of African communities and conserving threatened Miombo forests and wildlife

Project

Known as the Rufunsa Conservancy, the area strategically protects 60 kilometers of the National Park's boundary by providing a buffer zone between the park and the communal areas, which have a growing human population and a thriving charcoal trade along the Great East Road, a major thoroughfare from Lusaka to Malawi and Mozambique.

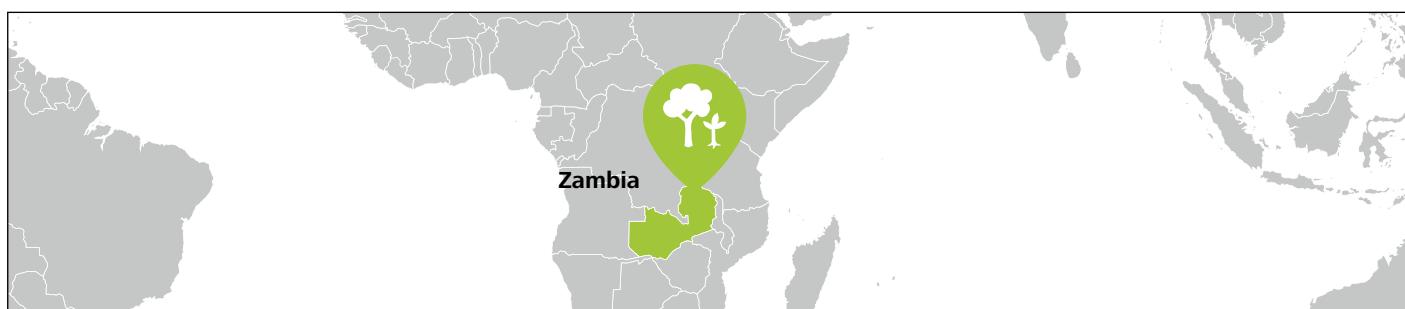
The project works with more than 8,000 local community members to improve land-use practices and conserve forests and wildlife.

A reserve of 39,000 hectares of valuable forest was established, creating a vital buffer for a trans-frontier wilderness area of global significance that is home to 23,000 elephants.

The project area also provides valuable habitat for other threatened species such as lions, leopards and sable and roan antelopes.

Deforestation rates in the project zone are about 11 times higher than Zambia's national deforestation rate, partly due to its proximity to the capital Lusaka with its large demand for charcoal. To earn a living, local communities depend on charcoal production and inefficient farming practices, both of which put significant pressure on shrinking forest resources.

Checklist	Additionality and permanence	3 rd party verified	Transparency	Social and environmental benefits	Marketing material
Project 301 741	To the rules of the VCS and CCBS	By Environmental Services, Inc.	Provided by Markit Environmental Registry	As documented in our database	High resolution pictures available



Location

The project encompasses approximately 40,000 hectares of primary Miombo forest directly adjacent to the Lower Zambezi National Park. The area has a growing human population and a thriving charcoal trade along the Great East Road, a major thoroughfare from Lusaka to Malawi and Mozambique.

Project achievements

Socio-economic impact

- Investing in education with construction of school buildings and funding teachers' salaries.
- Funding of materials for local health clinics.
- Working with local communities in 28 villages to introduce improved and diversified agricultural practices and training e.g. crop rotation, soil conservation, small-scale livestock, and poultry production.
- New drinking water supplies with digging of new wells.
- Eco-charcoal and honey production in sustainably managed set-aside areas of community forest, with charcoal being sold in the nearby capital of Lusaka, creating jobs and reduces pressure on forests.
- Bursaries provided for promising local students to work in the tree nursery.

Environmental impact

- Construction of tree nurseries, community training and planting initiatives helps recover degraded land.
- A safe refuge was created for threatened wildlife, protecting it from widespread poaching for bushmeat and trophy markets.
- Establishing conservation agreements with communities in return for project benefits.
- Supporting local officials and traditional authorities to protect the reserve.
- Project protects threatened species such as lions, leopards and sable and roan antelopes.
- Land management systems such as infrastructure, security, fire management and biodiversity monitoring were implemented.
- The project creates the basis for a sustainable future of wildlife tourism, close to Zambia's capital city, Lusaka.

