

# Zambia Katanino

Ensuring local responsibility for forest protection and management

Annual Update 2019



The Katanino Forest Reserve, situated in the Copperbelt Province, protects the watershed of the second largest river in Zambia – the Kafue River. The reserve stretches across two districts and is dominated (90%) by Miombo woodland, a home to a variety of animal species such as the pale-billed hornbill bird. Katanino has suffered severe forest cover loss due to charcoal production leaving the soil highly degraded. Between 2010 and 2018 almost half of the forest cover was lost<sup>1</sup>. This illegal charcoal trade provides a significant and rapid source of income for locals and migrants who came to the area to earn money after droughts in Southern Zambia and a recent closure of mines forced them to move and look for alternative incomes.

This project began in 2018 and our aim is to protect and restore the equivalent of **6,360 football pitches (5,300 hectares)** of the Katanino Forest Reserve through effective Community Forest Management. Developing successful alternative forest-friendly sources of income (tree nurseries and beekeeping) and establishing an effective community guarding system against illegal charcoal production are key project activities.



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<sup>1</sup> according to Global Forest Watch data.



## Our Goals

### Landscape transformation

This project is in its early stages and in 2019, the equivalent of 1000 football pitches (833ha) in the area surrounding the reserve (the buffer zone) were mapped and brought under restoration planning. We are now 16% of our way to the overall landscape restoration target!

Two restoration techniques - **Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)** and **enrichment planting** - give the forest here the best chance of success. ANR protects and nurtures wild seedlings to prevent them being trampled or cut and is complimented by **enrichment planting** which means extra trees are planed where needed e.g., if the indigenous species is not present anymore or will not regenerate naturally. Plans to establish a nursery to provide the mother stock for enrichment planting are under way as well as planned training in nursery management for planting and agroforestry.



*An aerial view of the landscape and vegetation*

### Communities managing their own forests

During 2019, community meetings throughout the reserve and buffer zone introduced the scale of the restoration ambition. 18 local farmers (2 women) across 5 communities have already begun their restoration activities covering 102.75ha (equal in size to 123 football pitches). A further 82 farmers are expected to sign their contracts in 2020.



*A community meeting in June 2019*

### Carbon Sink

Our expectation is that the area brought under restoration so far (833ha) will sequester 120,785tCO<sub>2</sub> over 20 years assuming no significant fires or drought. We will be monitoring biomass in monitoring plots to assess this progress.

### Biodiversity



*Bohm's bee-eater  
(Merops boehmi)*

The first bird survey will be undertaken in 2020 and their presence will be monitored as the forest recovers. The timing of annual monitoring surveys will coincide with the middle of breeding season when birds will be more active and easier to spot.

## 2019 At A Glance

While we have made progress, security operations inside the Reserve to evict illegal squatters and charcoal producers have delayed some of our activities planned for 2019. With the appointment of Community Forest Resource Guards to deliver law enforcement, we expect the security situation inside the Katanino Reserve to improve to be given the green light to work inside the reserve area.

### May – October

- The history of forest management in this area has made the community wary of false promises and WeForest is taking great care to manage community expectations. The team organised community meetings throughout 2019 to discuss the vision and restoration ambitions for Katanino.



*Household surveys to support the development of sustainable alternative and forest friendly incomes*

### July

- Forest patrols by Forest Department staff began. It is illegal to produce charcoal and the patrols to raise awareness among the local community.
- The group responsible for managing the reserve was formed (the Joint Forest Management Committee for Katanino Forest Reserve). It is a collaboration between the Local Forest Department, WeForest and Community Forest Management Groups – consisting of local chiefs, headmen and community members.

### August

- Village Resource Management Committees were created in all five zones of Katanino – they make decisions around resource use in the local community and will ensure local communities are protecting the forests.

### September



*Boundary clearance around the Reserve*

- Clearing the boundary of Katanino Forest Reserve took place after over 13 years without maintenance. It took the community about 3 weeks to clear the boundary with 4 groups made up of around 15 volunteers from the community!

### October

- On 29<sup>th</sup> October, the formal Memorandum of Understanding to co-manage Katanino Forest Reserve was signed between WeForest Zambia and Katanino Forest Trust.

- Ballot voting in local communities took place to obtain Free Prior and Informed Consent – this means that local communities involved in and impacted by the project have agreed that it should go ahead.



*Forest ranger training*

- 15 Community Forest Resource Guards were trained by the Forestry Department to deliver law enforcement in Katanino Forest Reserve and were officially appointed by the Forestry Department in November.
- The Forest Department led training for traditional leaders (village headmen, village elders and chief advisors) to ensure the local communities understand the law.

### **November-December**

- Selection and training took place for 5 community bee mentors in bee keeping, beehive installation, beehive maintenance, harvesting and processing of honey. They are farmers themselves so understand how to effectively support their peers when they need help!
- 10 community facilitators were trained in Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) & Forest Inventory methods. These methods form the basis of our surveys that develop baseline information and future monitoring of the ecological progress of forest restoration.
- A socio-economic baseline survey was undertaken to inform sustainable alternative and forest friendly value chains.
- 90 beehives out of our overall target of 500 to date were installed on 18 farms. The bee keeping scheme has been a big incentive for community buy-in to the project. Since the installation of beehives began, the team have had more interest from communities' members to get involved and set aside areas for restoring land in exchange for beehives and training.



*Training for the new bee-mentors who support beekeepers as they develop forest-friendly income generation.*



## Stories from the Field

### Bees keep forests standing

Mecca Kasumba is a 74-year-old grandmother from Oposhi. She has a 20 hectare farm, part of which she uses to grow maize, beans, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, ground nuts and watermelons. Some she keeps and others she sells, while the other part of her land is left as woodland. Mecca registered for the bee keeping livelihood empowerment scheme after community sensitization meetings at which women particularly were encouraged to register. Her farm was visited to assess the condition of the woodland and when it was certified as good old growth woodland with potential to support bee keeping, she set aside 2.2 hectares of her 20 hectare farm for the ANR programme and was given five bee hives.



*Mecca Kasumba and her family*

Like most families in the area, she has divided parts of her farm and given parcels to her children. Trees are cut for agricultural activities or for charcoal production and she has been facing increasing pressure from her children to open up the old growth woodland for charcoal production which she has resisted for a long time. When WeForest introduced the bee keeping programme, it was a huge relief to her because she can now earn an income and her grandchildren will in future see the benefits of keeping the trees standing.

### Breaking gender stereotypes in community forest law enforcement

Tabetha Chibuye is a 27-year-old single mother of two children from Chembo village in Serenje zone of Katanino. She grew up in the big towns on the Copperbelt and would go and visit her grandparents during school holidays in Katanino. She has fond memories of going to collect mushrooms, fruits and wild vegetables from the Forest Reserve during the school holidays when she visited her grandparents.



*Community Forest Guards  
Tabetha & Precious*

Over the years, she saw the devastating impact of forest degradation and deforestation in Katanino and wanted to be part of an initiative that would spearhead the process of restoring Katanino Reserve. When she saw an announcement that there would be recruitment of Community Forest Resource Guards to effect Law Enforcement in Katanino and that women were particularly encouraged to apply, she convinced her friend Precious Lombanya to go with her and register. Both of them were successful and appointed as Community Forest Resource Guards. Tabetha was appointed as a Team Leader and has been recommended by the Forestry Department for appointment as an Honorary Forest Officer. Law enforcement in traditional rural communities is usually a male job. Tabetha has broken this stereotype and is hoping her trailblazing will pave way for women to get involved in community forest governance.

**Congratulations Tabetha and Precious!**

## Coming up in 2020

- Throughout 2020 we aim to install another 3000 beehives on 600 farms.
- March: a baseline survey is planned to inform the forest management plan and guide silvicultural practices and plans for Katanino reserve.
- May: we are planning the set-up of infrastructure for the new tree nursery.
- The first bird survey is anticipated in 2020.
- Honey harvesting occurs twice in the year. The first harvest may be low since the beehives are still young, but the second harvest we expect to yield more.
- We also expect to register the adopted by-laws for forest governance with Masaiti District Council, to ensure they are formally recognised and can be used in traditional courts which will simplify and quicken the prosecution of offenders and act as a deterrent to would be offenders.

For more information on our project in Zambia Katanino

<https://www.weforest.org/project/zambia-katanino>

For more high-quality photos from Zambia Katanino [Click here](#)