

Copperbelt: Forests on Farms

Zambia

Mid-Year Update 2022

A 3644km tour of 533 of the farmers participating in the project found that more than three-quarters are fully following best practices. This is a great improvement on last year. As participation means conducting proper fire management, not having charcoal kilns in the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plots and not over-harvesting trees, among other things, refresher training is provided to participating farmers on a regular basis. In addition, patrols by the Forestry Department and rangers support farmers by raising awareness and improving implementation. If a situation is not resolved after a period of time, the regeneration plots are no longer included towards our goals.



Juliet B. joined the programme in 2015 together with her husband, dedicating part of their farmland to ANR and agroforestry and becoming passionate beekeepers! Sadly, her husband died in 2021, and Juliet is managing their two plots (one shown inset) on her own. Now the agroforestry systems are producing fruit that Juliet can sell, improving her income further.



A new initiative to strengthen community forest ownership and biodiversity conservation will focus on Imanda Forest, one of the largest examples of moist evergreen forest in the country. Our goal is to bring 400 ha under Community Forest management, and as part of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, voting was conducted in three communities adjacent to the forest after awareness-raising about the initiative. Out of 148 votes cast, 124 (84%) were in favour.



This is Imanda Forest. Though designated an Important Bird Area, it is not legally protected. Its borders are being encroached by selective logging for construction poles, wild honey collecting, cattle grazing and invasive vegetation.



36 farmers in Luanshya have been shortlisted for the vegetable irrigation programme and will undergo training in sustainable vegetable gardening. Edward K., a farmer from Luanshya, joined the scheme back in 2016. The treadle pump WeForest provided has made it easier for him and his family to dedicate a larger area to vegetable gardening, as using buckets to water to irrigate used to be very labour intensive.



Capacity-building workshops for the Farmers' Associations in the new districts – the DFA in Mpongwe and Chinchi in Ndola – focused on leadership, communication and financial management. This knowledge will be invaluable when they eventually manage and take full ownership of the restoration activities.



How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of individuals or families directly benefiting, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

Please visit our [Why and How](#) webpage for more information.