

# Katanino Zambia

Mid-Year Update 2023



## Project status

Year 4  
out of 10

5644 hectares  
under restoration

6.1 million trees  
protected and growing



**The Katanino Forest Reserve is regenerating well, which means that much less enrichment planting is needed than originally estimated.** As a result, much of the Katanino project's activity in the first half of 2023 has been focused on supporting farmers to take up and progress in the rich choice of forest-friendly alternative livelihood schemes on offer here.

Our restoration activities in the forest are almost all related to assisted natural regeneration: maintenance such as weeding and pruning, constructing firebreaks and law enforcement.

Monitoring our landscapes is crucially important in large-scale projects like Katanino, and in June, WeForest's Geospatial Data Analyst went to Zambia to provide training on GIS and remote sensing tools and exchange knowledge with the team.

Read on to find out more about what's been happening in the Katanino project.

The first six months of this year included the first training sessions on Assisted Natural Regeneration for the 200 farmers who joined the beekeeping programme for 2023, who have set aside at least 0.5 ha of land each for ANR.

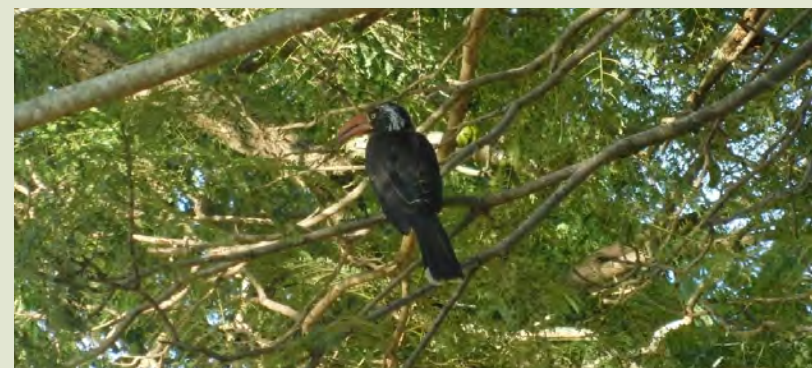


This little cutie (above) is one of the new kids born to the herd belonging to the Kebamba village goat producers. Ten kids have been welcomed by the 48 does and 10 bucks of the species *Capra hircus* (domestic goat). The project supports Katanino farmers to take up goat production as a forest-friendly alternative livelihood, not only for its income-generating potential but also because the milk and meat improves their own household nutrition and food security. Goat rearing has a significant economic importance in rural areas where climatic conditions are not favorable for cattle-rearing or other farming practices.



In the project's conservation agriculture (CA) scheme, maize is intercropped with legumes such as soybeans and nitrogen-fixing species. These farmers are taking part in a Farmer Field Day, which are held regularly in all five zones and are open to CA farmers as well as others still following conventional agricultural practices who are not yet in the scheme. At this event in Biwa village, Agriculture Extension Officer Benjamin Kateka from the Ministry of Agriculture, Masaiti District is responding to technical questions and advising the farmers on the best CA practices.

Farmers in the Pine Production Programme receive *Pinus kesiya* seedlings to establish woodlots where timber and fuelwood can be sustainably harvested and regrown – and of course, the trees sequester carbon as they grow. The farmers will intercrop the pine trees with groundnuts and sweet potatoes. The pine fields don't need to be quite as fertile as the other agroforestry areas, so fallow lands near the farmers' homesteads can be used to establish the lots (below).



A survey of the birdlife in Katanino Forest Reserve is planned for this coming October. Earlier in the year, Birdwatch Zambia (BWZ), one of the project partners, went to the forest with some of the Community Forest Resource Guards to carry out a pre-assessment to define sampling points to be revisited during October's survey. The bird survey will help measure the project's impact on biodiversity and bird populations in the reserve. The many species they spotted on their scoping tour included the broad-billed roller (*Eurystomus glaucurus*, above left) and the crowned hornbill (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*, above right).

Our Katanino project received a very important visit in May! A French Government delegation and staff from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment visited to find out about local community involvement in sustainable forest management activities. They met the Honorary Forest Officers from the community who are responsible for forest law enforcement, and visited a demo plot belonging to a Lead Farmer in the Conservation Agriculture programme, where minimum tillage and intercropping of maize with agroforestry trees is carried out.

The visitors were particularly interested in the forest inventories and surveys that we conduct and how this is spearheaded by the community, the mapping of water and forest resources, and community awareness-raising around forest restoration and conservation.



## 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 [What We Do](#) webpage for more information.



You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Katanino map](#), and check out the [photos](#) on Flickr.

[Here](#) you'll find all information about how to communicate about this project and your partnership with WeForest.