

Copperbelt, Zambia

Engaging smallholder farmers
in reversing deforestation



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Mid-year update 2024

Copperbelt, Zambia



Project status

Over 5100 hectares under restoration

More than 6.3 million trees protected & growing



In Zambia's Copperbelt, smallholder agriculture and charcoal production is driving deforestation of the native miombo woodlands. The growing population also uses the remaining forest patches for fuel and timber.

Our project here supports small-scale farmers to protect and restore woodlands on their farms, providing them with training and tools to diversify their sources of income. A newer component is the community-driven conservation of Imanda forest, a bird-rich patch of native miombo within our project area.

The Imanda Community Forest Management Group (Imanda CFMG) was formally recognised by the Forestry Department in January 2024. The newest of the project's farmers associations, the Imanda CFMG covers all the 21 villages within a 5km radius



The photo above shows Chief Ndubeni speaking at the Imanda CFMG Recognition Letter Handover Ceremony in March, during which he thanked the government and WeForest for supporting the community, as well as urging community members to desist from the illegal harvesting and collection of forest-related products from Imanda Community Forest Area. You can watch a video about the event [here](#).



of Imanda forest and Lake Kashiba and will be based in the Ndubeni chiefdom in Mpongwe.

Eight Honorary Forestry Officers – 5 men and 3 women – were successfully trained in forest monitoring and law enforcement with support from the Anti-Corruption Commission, and now will begin regular patrols of the Imanda Community Forest Area.

Since mid-January, Zambia has been experiencing its driest agricultural season in over 40 years, resulting in significant crop losses, increased livestock deaths and worsening poverty. While the drought is severe, the impact to date on our projects has been limited, and we continue to monitor the situation.

These newly recruited farmers in Kayenda posed for a photo with the WeForest project team after attending a training session in farm land use planning.



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

You can find an overview of all communications assets and guidance on how to communicate about your partnership with WeForest [here](#).