

# Katanino, Zambia

Supporting successful  
Joint Forest Management



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Mid-year update 2024



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## Project status

Over **5800 hectares** under restoration

More than **6.1 million trees** protected & growing



**Katanino Forest Reserve in the Copperbelt Province is a particularly beautiful example of the patches of indigenous miombo woodlands that are typical of this part of Zambia.**

After years of deforestation and degradation, WeForest is restoring the reserve to its former glory using Assisted Natural Regeneration and enrichment planting, while building local capacity so that management can be handed over to the communities.

Currently, Zambia is experiencing its driest agricultural season in over 40 years, resulting in significant crop losses, increased livestock deaths and worsening poverty. Our project areas towards the north are not in as severe a crisis situation as the southern provinces, though significant crop losses have occurred, impacting household food security.



At Katanino nursery, more than 250 000 pots have been filled by 100 seasonal employees – all women. They're preparing to raise no fewer than 320 000 tree seedlings, mainly for agroforestry. The women have also received training in nursery management.





The drought has highlighted the significance of the resilience strategies we promote on the family farms that surround the forest. Intercropping of maize with agroforestry trees, crop residue retention and mixed cropping with legumes implemented under our Climate Smart agriculture activities has resulted in increased resilience to the prolonged drought spells experienced. Maize crops did not completely dry off, and farmers have completed part of the harvest.

To restore the reserve, we're using Assisted Natural Regeneration, which does not require seedlings to be planted – so survival rates here have not been impacted by the drought. We do however have a small number of agroforestry plantings from 2024 that have been affected.

Law enforcement by community-led rangers is one of the ways we counter illegal charcoal production in project areas. 33-year-old Aubrey (left) used to serve on the Law Enforcement team under which illegal charcoal incidents plummeted from 296 in February 2020 to zero by April 2022! With the current drought situation there's a high risk of incident numbers rising again, as reduced hydroelectric power means that people are relying on charcoal for cooking, and charcoal production in provinces such as the Copperbelt has become very lucrative. However, law enforcement in the Katanino reserve, where there are boundaries, is straightforward, and our livelihoods programmes aim to provide sufficient income for families so they don't have to turn to charcoal production.



**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](#).**

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



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