



The Mukungule Project

Mid-Year Impact Report
January - June 2025



Mukungule, Zambia
Miombo Belt



Timeline:
2022 - 2026



Main implementing partner:
Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)



Targeted ecosystem:
Miombo woodlands



South Luangwa #7195
North Luangwa #7196

The termination of the USAID funding to the project has caused delays, however many activities were able to continue due to the continued dedication of communities and individuals involved.

Activity update



Improving forest governance and stewardship

- All ten Village Action Groups (VAGs) underwent an organizational skills assessment and audit, showing strong community conservation motivation, high agroforestry skills, and a willingness to share knowledge. Recommendations included tailored training for identified capacity gaps, resource mobilization, gender inclusion, and vocational skills.
- Two of the ten VAGs underwent an Organizational Capacity Assessment / Autonomy Assessment, with the full activity to be completed in Q3.
- All ten VAGs conducted Beekeeping Enterprise Group (BKEG) and honey value chain coordination meetings, resulting in the selection of a honey buyer, a plan for the harvest season and recommendations to improve coordination among the various honey value chain players.



Restoring and conserving at-risk forests

- **200 forest beekeeping plots** were mapped and verified, representing 365 hectares set aside for sustainable forest management.



**May 2025
Chishala VAG, Mpika District**

Case study

During the honey sampling exercise, broods and pollen can be seen in a nearly-empty honeycomb.



Case study

Two Mukungule BKEG board members attend the Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) and Full Autonomy assessments.



Introducing forest-friendly livelihoods and behaviors

- **The mid-year honey sampling exercise** was conducted, including an exchange visit with the Katanino project team. Unfortunately, many of the hives were empty, likely due to colony collapse, migration or environmental stressors. Some hives contained broods, indicating a possible recovery.
- **Post honey harvest meetings** were conducted to review the 2024 honey harvest. Outcomes included strengthened understanding of market dynamics, clarification on the USAID funding termination and project transition and enhanced alignment on next steps.



**April 2025
Katibunga**

Case study

Post-honey harvest meeting session in Katibunga VAG.

»» Looking forward

Activities for July - December 2025 include:

- Finalizing the Organizational Capacity Assessment / Autonomy Assessment.
- Conducting a coordination and planning meeting with all the honey value chain players across the project.
- Assessing annual performance of the Beekeeping Enterprise Groups.
- Recruiting a final 200 farmers and training them in Assisted Natural Regeneration management and beekeeping.
- Ensuring the assembly, distribution, installation and mapping of 1000 beehives.
- Monitoring the occupation rate and general colony health of beehives.
- Conducting training on market analysis and enterprise development.
- Conducting post-harvest meetings.

Stay up-to-date

-  Visit the [project page](#)
-  Explore the [interactive map](#)
-  Check out the project [photo album](#)
-  Look out for the annual project report in 2026

