



Katanino

Zambia

Mid-year report 2021

Supporting successful joint forest management

Working with the **Zambian Forestry Department** and the **Katanino Forest Trust**, WeForest is supporting local communities to become the guardians of their forest. The protection and restoration of the **4763 ha Katanino Forest Reserve** and its **5km buffer zone** will reverse the degradation it has suffered from charcoal production and support about **6.3 million trees**.

More than 940 farmers in the buffer zone will set aside at least half a hectare each in their farms as restoration plots and take up beekeeping and agroforestry to reduce pressure on the forest. So far this year, 73 farmers have joined the programme, bringing the total since December 2019 to 358, with 859.57 ha of land under restoration in the buffer zone. 1000 beehives have been installed this year, and new income-generating activities are starting: goat- and chicken-rearing schemes will be running by August, and the agroforestry programme is being developed.



Our goals for the Katanino project:

By mid-2021:

2381 kg of honey from the first harvest sold

25 495 seedlings were growing in the new nursery

3.75 ha of farmland set up as conservation agriculture plots

By 2030:

Protect and restore **5300 ha** and **6 360 000** trees in the Reserve and buffer zone, using ANR, enrichment planting & agroforestry

What's new in Katanino?

Recent highlights from the field

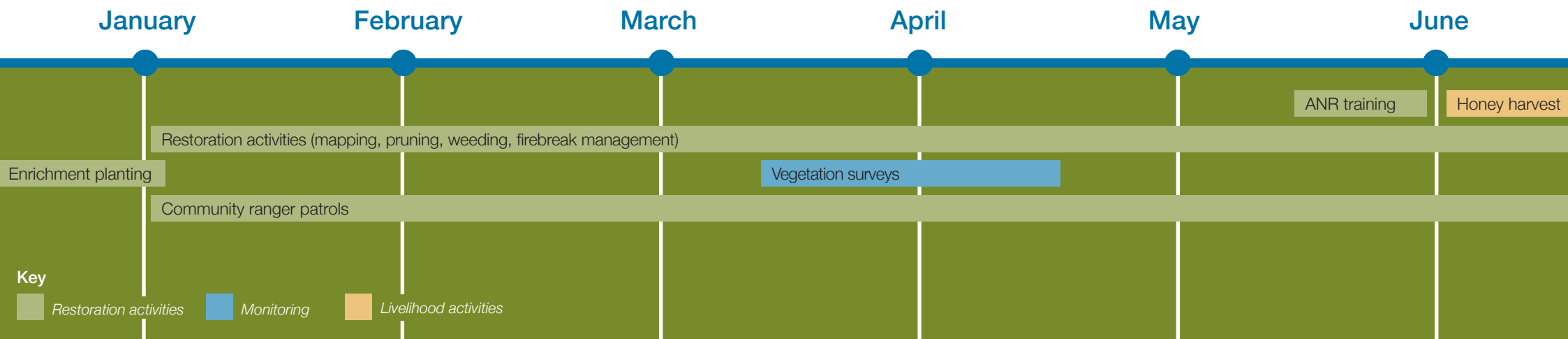
We've seen a successful start for the dedicated tree nursery, which is essential to grow 100 000 seedlings per year for enrichment planting inside the Reserve, as well as for the agroforestry programme in the buffer zone. This year the seedlings were delivered from local nurseries, including home-based nurseries in our nearby Copperbelt project; in future, our Katanino nursery will raise high quality seedlings on its own.

In January, the farmers sold the whole 2381kg of honey from the first harvest in December. The bee hives were re-baited by bee mentors in February to continue producing honey, and 1000 new ones were delivered and hung. The second harvest is underway, and is expected to produce double the honey (about 6000kg)!

After the project's new conservation agriculture programme started last December, work on the five demonstration plots



By mid-2021 the nursery had a staff of 2 people, and 25 495 seedlings are being nurtured there until they are big enough to be planted.





Every household that receives beehives to hang in the mature forest on their farms also receives training in ANR by WeForest Extensionists. One of the beneficiaries of the training told us how she stands to benefit from the programme: watch the video [here](#).

continues, with preparations for harvesting maize and soybeans underway. ‘Field days’ hosted by Lead Farmers attracted the interest of neighbouring farmers and will support recruitment in the programme. Our goal is for at least 75 farmers to be practising conservation agriculture by the end of 2021.

The Schools Outreach Programme started this year. It aims to support schools in establishing woodlots, orchards, vegetable gardens and conservation agriculture plots to contribute to nutrition. Meetings were held at Kamabaya and Mwanawasa Primary and Secondary Schools, and 165 indigenous miombo non-fruit trees were planted at Kamabaya. However, activity in this area has been somewhat derailed temporarily by Covid-19 restrictions.

In June, the Katanino project enjoyed worldwide attention when it was featured in the SER Conference’s “Field Trip Fridays”. Attendees enjoyed a virtual tour of the restoration sites and posed questions about challenges and successes. You can see an abridged version of the tour [here](#).



What's next?

- Finalisation of the Katanino Forest Management Plan following local stakeholder consultation will establish the formal guidelines for the ecological restoration of the Katanino landscape.
- The agroforestry programme to engage hundreds of households in the buffer zone is under development.
- Pine seedling production started this June at the nursery. Pine woodlots in the buffer zone will reduce pressure on the native forest.
- In the conservation agriculture programme within the buffer zone, crops will be harvested in the demo plots, and more new farmers will be recruited.
- The small livestock programme that will provide alternative income for farmers instead of charcoal production is being set up, and is expected to begin operations in August.
- Five agroforestry co-operatives have been formally registered.

In June, a successful third party audit took place and means the project is now verified to the **Forest Ecosystem Restoration** standard. This standard was developed by Preferred by Nature to enable projects to demonstrate alignment with and support for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and covers technical, environmental, social and economic criteria. You can download the certificate [here](#).



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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 beneficiaries, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

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

Check out our great new photos from the project on [Flickr](#), and keep up-to-date with the new-look interactive [Katanino map](#).