

# BCP Impact Report

Making Conservation of Wildlife Habitat Valuable to People  
2022



Environmental  
Finance  
Voluntary Carbon  
Market Rankings  
2022  
Winner

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# 10 Years of BCP

<p><b>2012</b> The birth of BCP, and Zambia's first REDD+ Project, The Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project (LZRP) is established.</p>	<p><b>2013</b> LZRP becomes Africa's first Triple Gold CCB validated project; the World's 3rd. BCP wins the USAID/CFP for \$14 Million for 5 years.</p>	<p><b>2014</b> LZRP achieves Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) verification.</p>
<p><b>2015</b> The Forests Act of 2015 enables Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) to control forest rights and have the ability to transfer carbon rights to third parties.</p>	<p><b>2017</b> BCP is the third highest scoring Certified B Corporation in the World.</p>	<p><b>2018</b> BCP signs 30-year agreements with 12 Chiefdoms under The Luangwa Community Forests Project (LCFP) covering 944,000 hectares.</p>
<p><b>2019</b> LCFP CFMGs become the first communities in Zambia to be granted carbon rights from Government and LCFP achieves VCS verification and CCB Triple Gold validation. LCFP becomes the largest REDD+ Project in Africa by hectares and the largest in the world by quantified social impact!</p>	<p><b>2020</b> BCP announced Runner Up in the 2020 Environmental Finance (EF) Rankings as world's "Best Project Developer - forestry and land use" and first cumulative payment from forest carbon fees made to LCFP Chiefdoms.</p>	<p><b>2021</b> LCFP grows to over 1 million hectares and wins Best Individual Offsetting Project+BCP wins Best Impact Report by Environmental Finance Voluntary Carbon Market Rankings. REDD+ brings in US\$8 million + directly paid to communities since the pandemic began.</p>
<p><b>2021 - 2022</b> A feasibility study for BCP's 3rd Project, Kafue-Zambezi Community Forests Project starts - Phase 1 is up to 2.6 million ha, with the potential to grow into an 8 million ha project by 2030 based on community and Government consent.</p>	<p><b>2022</b> BCP kicked things off for our 4th Project, the GLTFCA Limpopo feasibility study. LCFP expansion plans are underway, going beyond Eastern Province into heavily deforested areas. LZRP passes its 9th consecutive VCS verification, and LCFP it's 4th.</p>	<p><b>2022</b> BCP awarded Best Impact Report by EF Awards, and both LCFP and LZRP are announced World Economic Forum NCS Lighthouse Alliances. Roughly \$12 Million in carbon revenue and livelihood schemes issued to communities to date.</p>

# Welcome to our Journey from BCP's CEO - Nic Mudaly

6 The past eight years are on track to be the warmest on record, fueled by ever-rising greenhouse gas concentrations and accumulated heat. Extreme heatwaves, drought, and devastating flooding have affected millions and cost millions this year. Looking ahead post COP, a key priority for the African continent and Zambia must be on Climate Adaptation and scaling REDD+ finance to communities most vulnerable to the impacts of global warming.

As a global community we closed 2022 with an urgent call for loss and damage for developing countries and an increase in resilience to the impacts of climate breakdowns with promises to the poorer countries unfulfilled.



2023 kicked off with a range of articles questioning the integrity of REDD+ projects. BCP encourages improvements in REDD methodologies, but in a way that it does not hinder years of work and success with indigenous communities.

REDD benefits go beyond climate mitigation and have directly benefited communities in our project areas that are most impacted by climate change. We know that forests are our lungs and are critical in regulating our climate. We believe REDD is a critical tool to keep these forests standing. The carbon market has the potential to transform the landscape of forest conservation as a viable way to conserve existing dryland forests, working in parallel to offer indigenous communities' options to build resilience as they transition to climate-smart alternatives.



According to the IPCC sixth assessment report "The climate time-bomb is ticking... Our world needs climate action on all fronts – everything, everywhere and all at once." Climate change impacts and concerns us all. As developers of the first REDD+ project in Zambia, we have had the opportunity to see this remarkable opportunity evolve and change lives while keeping our forests intact.

Can indigenous communities do it with-out the presence of developers? We certainly hope so!

That's why our SOLI strategy focuses on strengthening our local institutions to guarantee permanence beyond the project lifetime. We value and see our community members as co-proponents of project development.

Africa can no longer be seen as the forgotten continent. We now have the opportunity to receive support from the Global North to protect some of the last remaining intact forests on the globe, which are rich in biodiversity and home to around 80% of known animals and plant species outside of oceans.

BCP recognizes the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest science and best practices as carbon-crediting programs evolve. We believe in the call for continuous improvements to the support, value, and integrity of REDD+ project implementation. High value and high integrity carbon offsets are a pre-condition for the growth of a vibrant and viable voluntary carbon market. We need every available tool working at full speed to underscore the urgent action required to limit global warming to 1.5%.

To support the transformation agenda, BCP is pleased to announce the introduction of our **Research and Development Department** with a clear plan of building integrity through transformation of data. Heading the team is one of BCP's longest serving team members, who has been integral to the development of our existing and future projects, Lucy Pieterse. Our first focus has been on enhancing our monitoring reporting and verification tools on existing projects, while all existing proposals have already aligned to the much anticipated consolidated jurisdictional methodologies. But let's hear from Lucy:



“

*Lucy Pieterse, Research and Development Manager:*

As long-standing avoided deforestation project developers, we welcome Verra's consolidated REDD methodology, and have been preparing for its release for some time by testing the VCS jurisdictional accounting tools. We understand the significance, and importance of implementing the newly released AUDef module with the highest possible scientific rigour, to ensure confidence in the voluntary market and consolidate the outstanding efforts of Verra and successful project developers, such as ourselves, in reducing GHG emissions.



**6** Ecosystem destruction continues to accelerate year on year. Unlike some credit types, REDD has the potential to benefit people TODAY, and we are able to demonstrate substance through our impacts. As the population of our warming climate grows there is an imminent need to intensify our adaptation to climate-smart initiatives. The actors and beneficiaries are our local communities, institutions, and partners, all of whom play a critical role in the BCP mission. Our projects have been our testament to a transforming green economy through carbon finance. Direct payments and livelihood restorations positively resulted in a steady increase in household income, job creation, and essential services, all while conserving some of the world's last remaining legacy landscapes that are home to critically endangered species.

Our 2022 impact report will take you on a trip through our projects, allowing you to hear firsthand from some of our beneficiaries.

This year, the LCFP achieved its 4th consecutive verification and 1st additional issuance since 2019. While LZRP has continued to deliver exceptional benefit to community climate and biodiversity and was verified for the 9th consecutive time! BCP was proud to have both our projects selected as NCS in Action. The NCS in Action are testimonials designed to highlight the benefits for people and nature associated with NCS projects and programs financed through the voluntary carbon market.

Climate finance is paving the way for nature-based solutions to make a real difference on the African continent, bringing the fight against climate change home to the countries who are being hit the hardest and have the least resilience to combat it. This is our chance to make a real difference for the communities on the frontline and to scale biodiversity efforts to protect Africa's wild spaces.



*Bigger and Better than ever - I invite you on a journey through our Impacts!*

*BCP CEO, Nic Mudaly.*



# Social and Economic Impacts of Climate Change

As the climate continues to change, millions of people (often the most vulnerable of society) face increasing challenges regarding extreme events, health effects, food, water, livelihood security, migration and forced displacement, loss of cultural identity, and other related risks.

**R**EDUCING  
**E**MISSIONS (FROM)  
**D**eforestation (and)  
**D**egradation  
**+** **THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST CARBON STOCKS**



The cost of adapting areas to rising sea levels



Forced relocation of towns and villages due to uninhabitable landscapes

Loss of the capacity to work due to extreme heat



Shrinking productivity of harvests will result in increased food insecurity



Increased likelihood of wars over access to limited resources



The prices of basic foodstuffs and consumer goods will rise

Fresh water will be in short supply in some areas



Extreme meteorological phenomena will cause widespread poverty



The acceleration in the spread of existing and new diseases

## Climate Finance: The Solution for Africa?

The Earth is now host to 8 billion people, and the methods we are using are not sustainable to keep feeding us all. Nor at the rate that we are going are they viable to preserve our planet and all of its other living creatures. Climate Change is extremely costly for countries in the Global South. Besides the damage to infrastructure, fisheries, and property; there's erosion, and loss of lives, which costs tens of billions of dollars worldwide each year. Money that the most vulnerable to these damages cannot recuperate.



We need only look at the devastation caused by flooding regionally over recent years, with the 2023 rainy season here in Zambia as no exception; with infrastructure damage and flooding across the country. The country watched aghast as roads, bridges, fields and homes were washed away. The UNDP has estimated that droughts and floods have cost Zambia approximately \$13.8b over the past 30 years.

For African countries to reach their nationally determined contributions by 2030, it is estimated that \$2.8tn will be required. The mobilization of domestic and international financial resources is a priority of the Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy approved by the African Union in February 2022, and it was top of the agenda for African countries at COP27.

According to the World Economic Forum, 18 of the top 25 countries deemed the most vulnerable to climate change worldwide are classified as fragile or conflict-affected. With 26% of people forecast to live in fragile countries by 2030, carbon offsetting is a viable way to conserve existing dryland forests and offer communities direct cash injections to build resilience against the harsh economic impacts of adverse weather conditions, such as flooding, severe drought, cyclones and landslides. If we think that between 2010 and 2017, what the World Economic Forum calls 'extremely fragile states' received an average of \$2.1 per person per year in adaptation financing, compared to \$161.7 per person for non-fragile states. Yet, Africa accounts for the lowest share of global greenhouse gas emissions annually (around 3% to 4%, according to different estimates), we disproportionately suffer from the effects of climate change.

Loss and damage is a matter of climate justice because climate change will continue to harm vulnerable communities the most. Yet the subject has historically been fraught with contention both inside and outside UN climate negotiations. While developed countries agreed at the COP27 UN climate summit in 2022 to create a fund for addressing losses and damages in particularly vulnerable nations, many questions remain around how it will work and how much money wealthy nations will provide. Carbon finance offers a way to change this narrative, and gives us in the Global South the opportunity to fight our own fight on the ground.

It is a robust, sustainable and durable financial model that takes on the issue of climate change on the ground in real time; it offers communities alternative methods of income that does not encroach on the forests; and, it is a way of addressing the alarming ecosystem decline and biodiversity crisis that we are also facing. We address climate change, reduce deforestation and offer sustainable use of ecosystems. A tool to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

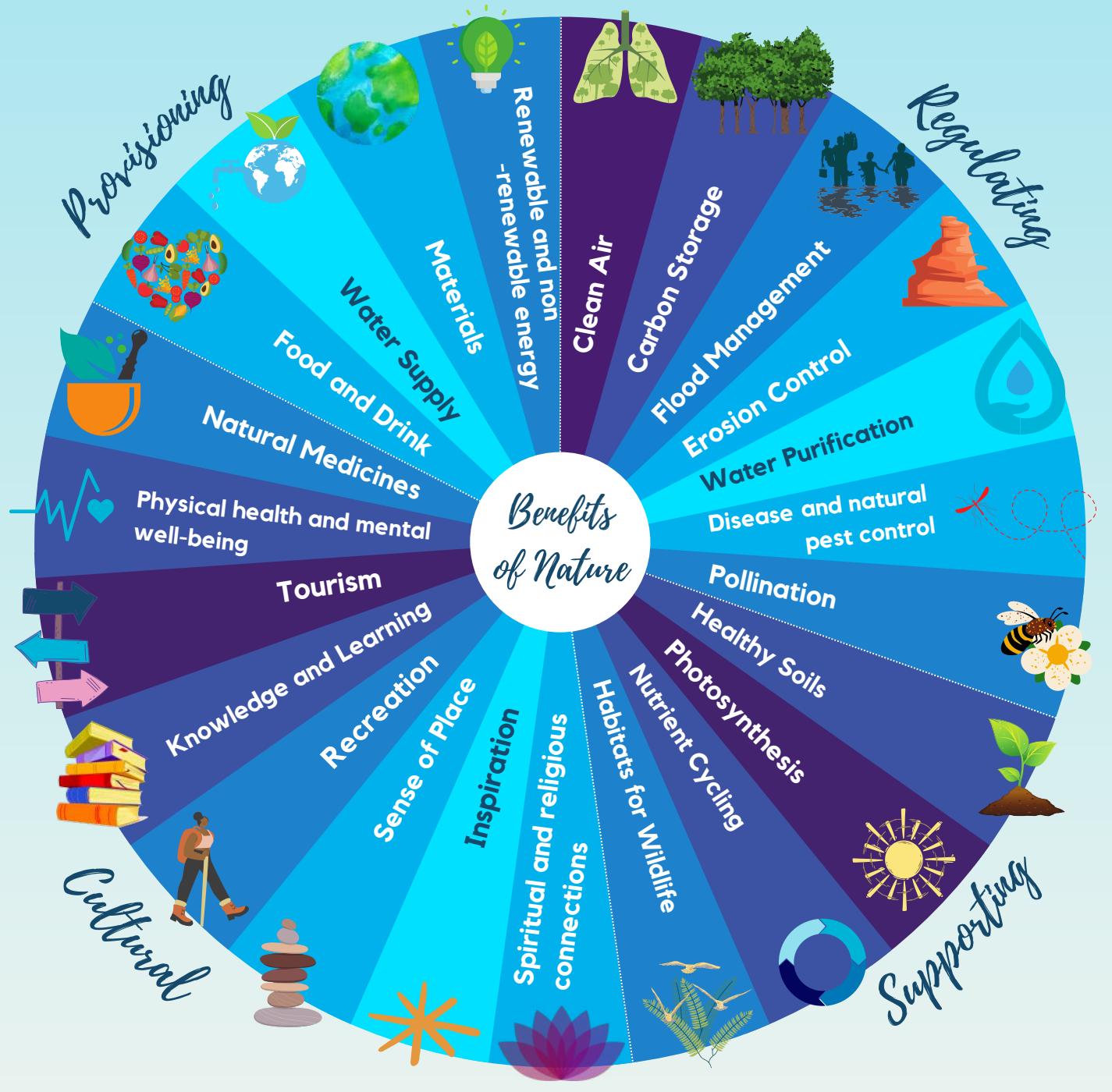
The REDD+ mechanism contributes directly to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 and 15, but we believe through the investments made by communities, achieves 16 out of the 17 SDGs.

*BCP as a company is once again Proud to be Climate Positive in 2022!*

# Why Does a Healthy Ecosystem Matter?

Healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems provide so many different services to humankind and our planet. Nature is essential for life on Earth. Nature provides us with water, clean air and food, and raw materials for medicines, industry and buildings. Our crops rely on insect pollination and the complex biological processes that create soil. Enjoying parks, landscapes and wildlife improves our health and well-being. All of these benefits from ecosystem services depend on a healthy environment. BCP is proud to be supporting, preserving and nurturing healthy ecosystems under both of our projects in Zambia.

Ecosystem Services are the direct and indirect contributions ecosystems (known as natural capital) provide for human wellbeing and quality of life.



# Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project (LZRP)

As the first REDD+ project in Zambia, the Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project pioneered the development of forest conservation projects in the country. The project is currently the first project in Africa to have achieved 9 consecutive and successful verifications against the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and was the first project in Africa (second in the World) to achieve CCB Triple Gold Verification against the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance Standards.

The project covers a 40,126-hectare buffer to the Lower Zambezi National Park, providing a vital buffer area to The Lower Zambezi National Park on a piece of private land known as Rufunsa Conservancy, protecting over 60 kilometers of the boundary. Sable and roan antelope are among many special species found in the LZRP Project area.

In cooperation with local community members in Bunda Bunda Chiefdom and The Soli Shamifwi Royal Establishment, the project develops sustainable land-use practices that conserve threatened forests and wildlife, while also investing in development for rural communities.



# Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project

**7,811**

Beneficiaries

**1,199**

Self-Identified Households  
Benefiting from Forest Carbon  
Fees



**40,726**

Hectares Protected under  
REDD+

**\$350,000+**

Carbon Fees and Livelihood  
Funds for Community Projects  
Disbursed since Inception

**35**

Lead Farmers trained  
in Climate-Smart  
Agriculture

**17**

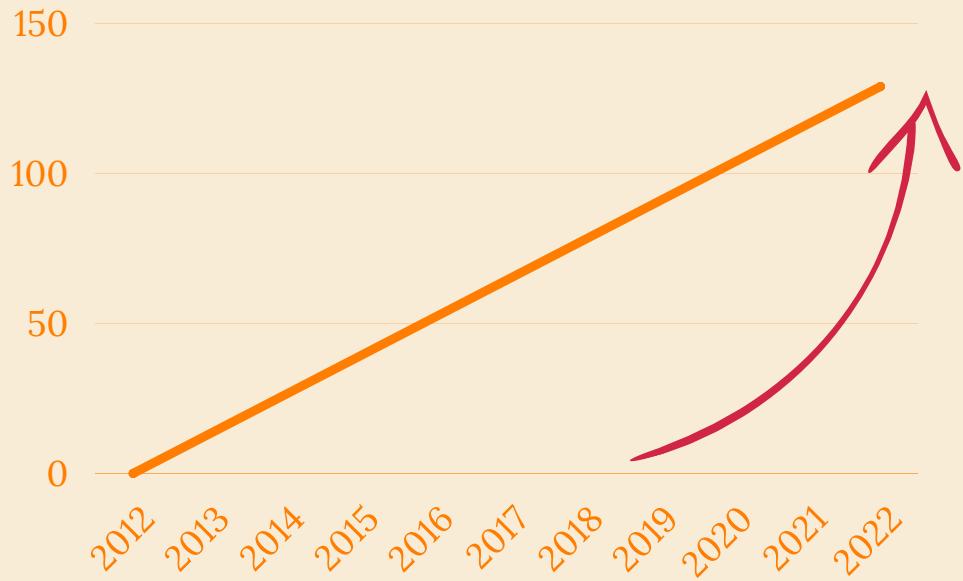
Community  
Scouts

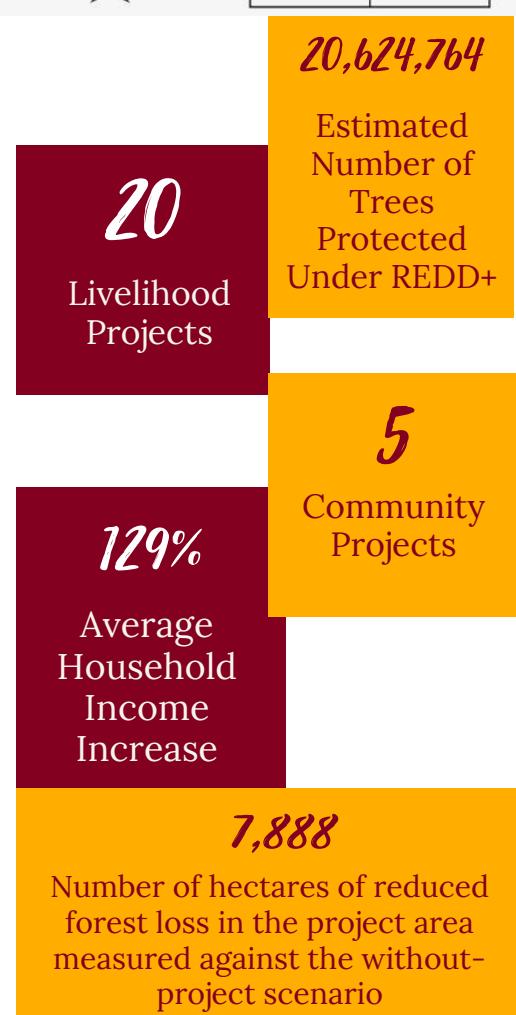
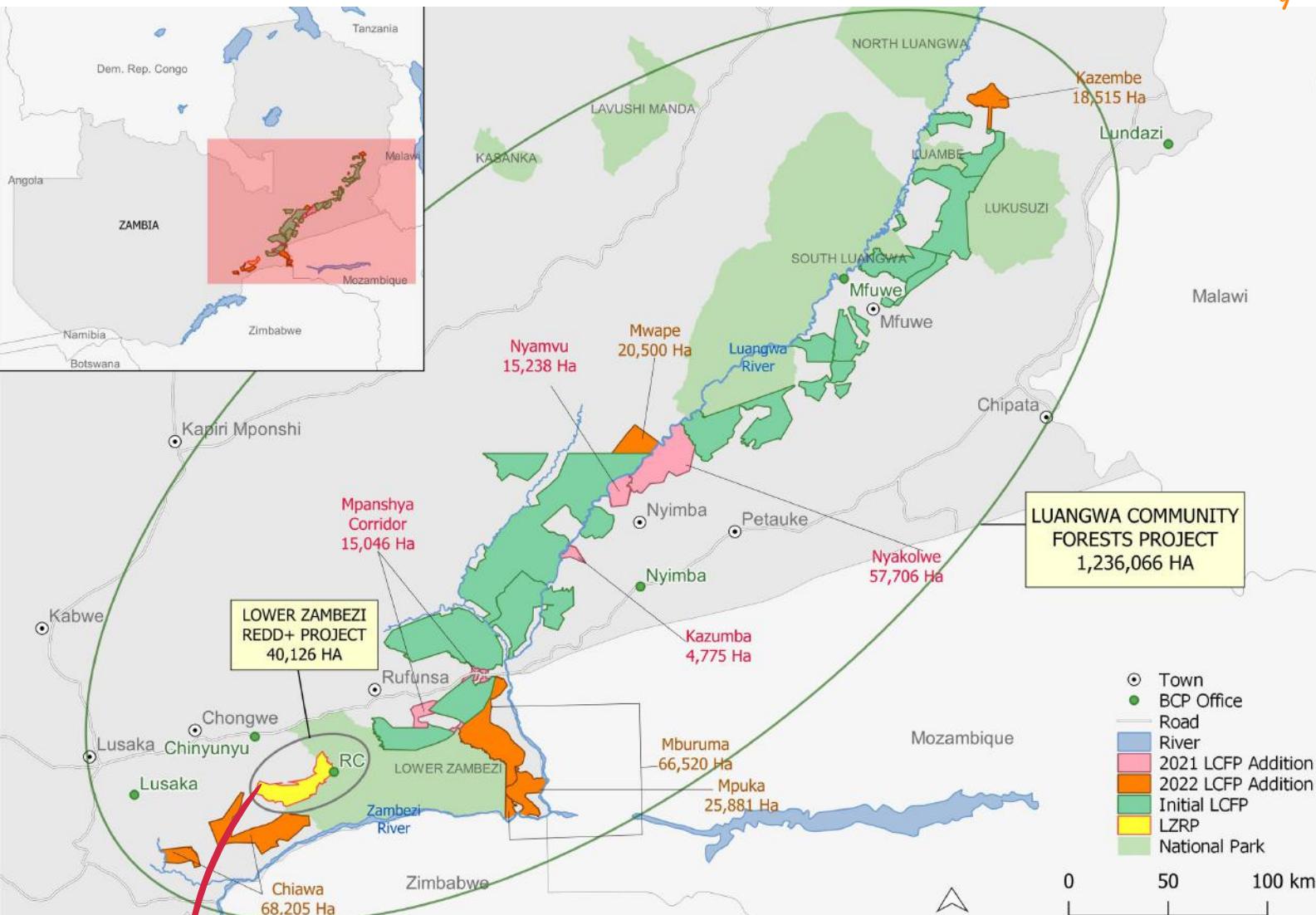


**1,925,068 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Net estimated emission reductions in  
the project area since inception

**129% AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
INCREASE BETWEEN 2012 - 2022**





# Luangwa Community Forests Project (LCFP)



Voted the Best Individual Offsetting Project in 2021, the LCFP is the largest REDD+ Project in Africa, and arguably, the largest in the World in terms of quantified social impacts. Having welcomed 5 new Chiefdoms to the Project in 2022, LCFP now protects over 1.2 million hectares of dryland forests.

The project partners with 17 Chiefdoms and is implemented on communal land within the Game Management Areas (GMAs) surrounding National Parks with a small percentage in private game ranches.

The Luangwa-Lower Zambezi ecosystem is one of the greatest wildlife strongholds remaining on Earth; home to African wild dogs, elephants, leopards, and lions.

The valley topography presents breathtaking beauty in the landscape while also keeping wildlife population density in the area high, resulting in a strong tourism industry that contributes significantly to Zambia's economy.

In 2021 our Government partners through the Forestry Department officially approved the establishment of the 15,000+ hectare Mpanshya Wildlife Corridor. This strategic corridor links two of Zambia's most important biodiversity areas of the Lower Zambezi and Luangwa ecosystems.

Preserving this corridor will support with wildlife gene flow for generations to come. This link is a direct result of Mpanshya Chiefdom's vision towards a healthy connected landscape that is carbon-financed, together with the Zambian Government's innovative approach to combating climate change through a green economy.

# Luangwa Community Forests Project Impacts

**222,894**

Beneficiaries



**1,236,033**

Hectares Protected under  
REDD+

**78**

Community  
Scouts

**487**

Lead Farmers trained in  
Climate-Smart  
Agriculture

**\$1,971,764**

Disbursed for Livelihood  
Projects since Inception

**10,137,575 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Net estimated emission reductions  
in the project area since inception

**142**

Livelihood  
Projects

**235**

Community  
Projects

**47,317**

Self-Identified Households Benefiting  
from Forest Carbon Fees

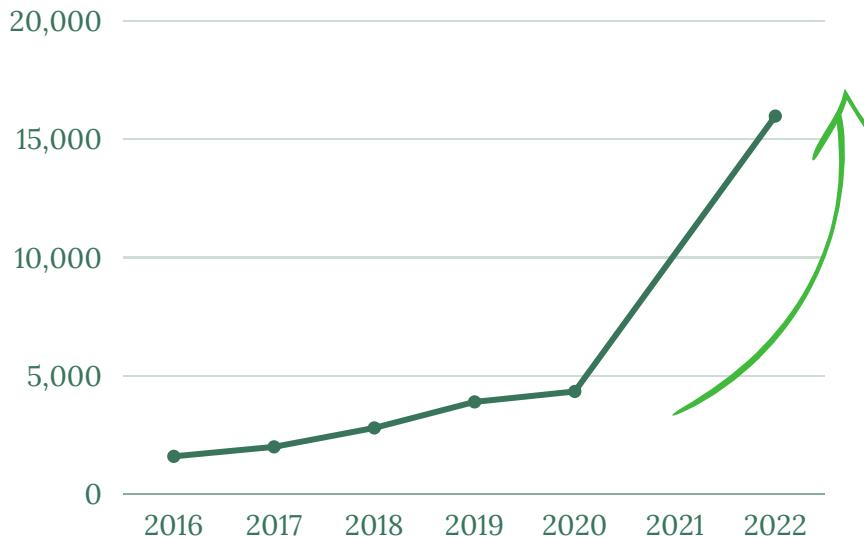


**Carbon Fees  
Disbursed since  
Inception**

**\$10.1 Million +**



## 220% AVERAGE KWACHA INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BETWEEN 2016 - 2022

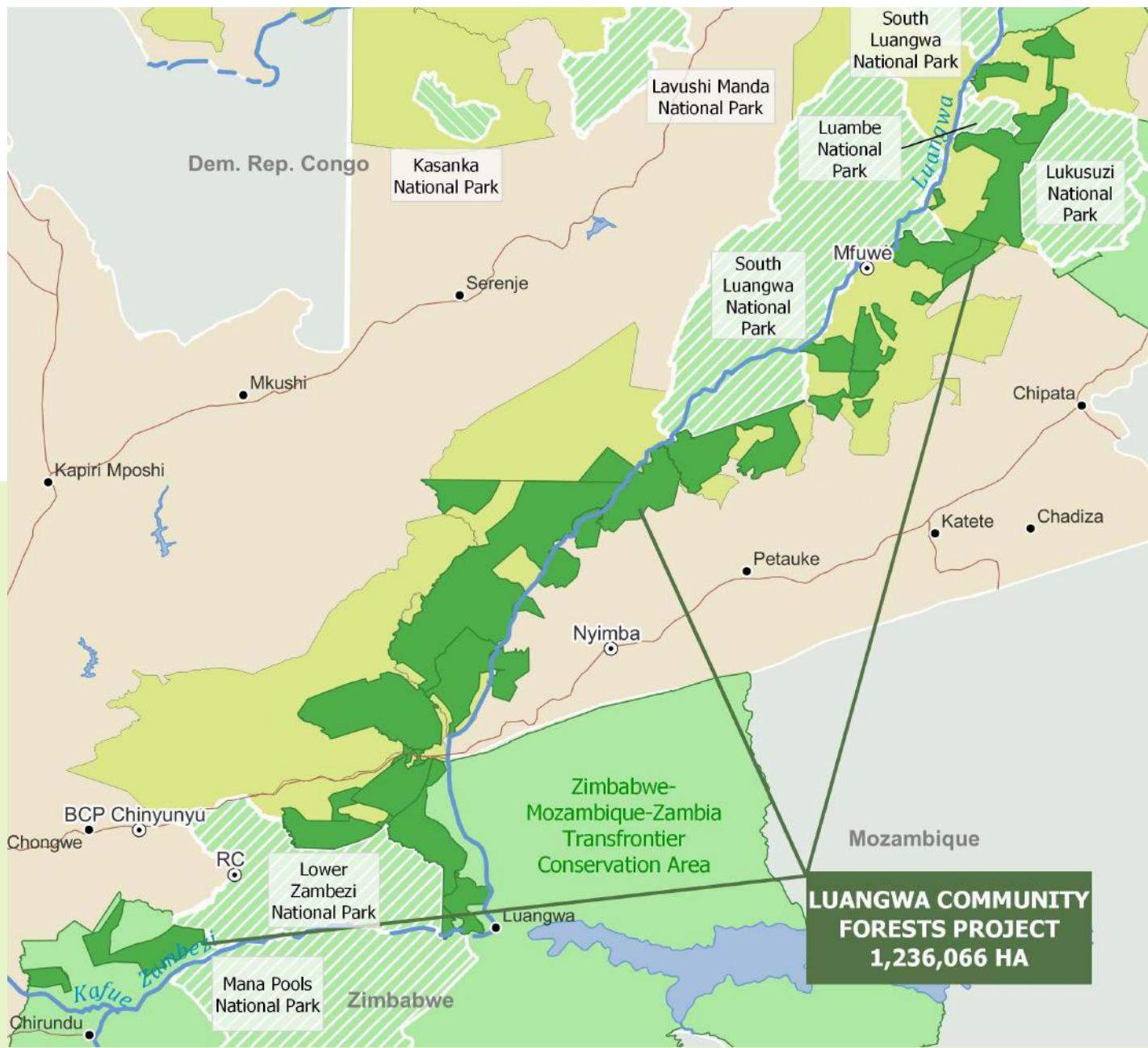


565,102,877 +  
Estimated  
Trees  
Protected

2000 +  
Revenue  
Generating  
Opportunities  
through Climate  
Finance

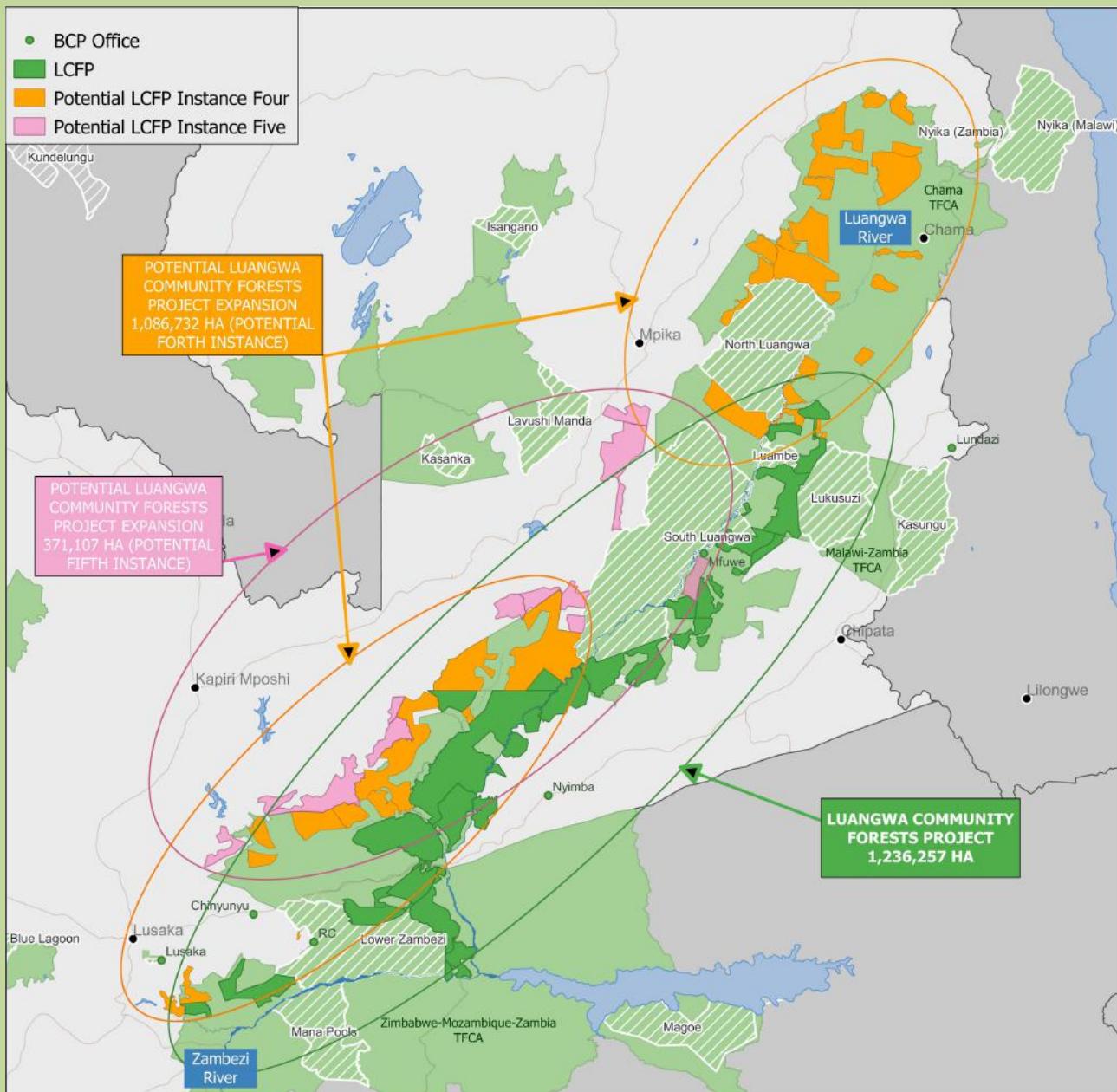
220 %  
Average  
Household  
Income  
Increase

106  
Village  
Action  
Groups



# LCFP Expansion- What Scaling Looks Like!

Our REDD+ model has proven itself as successful, sustainable and scalable. In our continued bid to protect Zambia's wild spaces, fight climate change, and bring life-changing benefits to communities who are at the forefront of the fight on climate change, we have ambitious plans to scale in 2023-2025.



- Total Number of Chiefdoms/CFMGs: 32
- Total Number of Additional Hectares: 1,657,460
- Total Hectares of LCFP Projected: 2,694,096
- Number of Districts: 12
- Districts: Lumezi, Nyimba, Kafue, Luangwa, Rufunsa, Chama, Serenje, Luano, Mpika, Chongwe, Mafinga, Mambwe, Lavushi, Chisamba.
- Number of Provinces: 4
- Provinces: Central, Muchinga, Eastern and Lusaka.
- Projected Beneficiaries: Up to 500 + households.
- Potential Emissions Reduction of 37mil Tons over 10 Years.
- Direct Job Creation: 82 (12 Community Scouts).

# BCP and BP Partner on REDD+ Project for Community, Climate and Conservation in Zambia

**BCP enters into agreement with BP under the KZCFP (Kafue-Zambezi Community Forests Project) to unlock benefits to approximately 400,000 people across 2.65 million hectares in Zambia.**

The proposed KZCFP targets the conservation of a significant part of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) wildlife corridor, anchored by the Kafue National Park (KNP) – Zambia's oldest and largest National Park at 22,400 km<sup>2</sup>.



The large-scale avoided deforestation project, to be validated using Verra's new consolidated REDD+ methodology, will be implemented in the watersheds of two of Zambia's most pivotal rivers: The mighty Zambezi River, and the Kafue River. Phase 1 of the project aims to conserve 2.65 million hectares of habitat for biodiversity landscapes, while delivering benefits to approximately 400,000 community members across 40 Chiefdoms.

BP is providing the upfront capital enabling BCP to develop KZCFP.

*BCP's CEO, Nic Mudaly highlights the need to act now:*

“

As the World races to meet targets of Net Zero Emissions and governments and businesses seek alternative energy sources, there is a critical need to preserve what remains. Ecosystem destruction continues to accelerate year on year. The delays in providing climate funding are hindering progress in tackling climate change. Early developers have the ability to scale up immediately, to do this, the call is on wealthy nations and industries to respond financially. As Africans we realize the move to renewables is a transition. High integrity offsets were designed to bridge the gap and provide immediate action to preserve and protect valuable ecosystems. Beyond a doubt REDD+ has the ability to generate multiple positive impacts beyond reducing GHG emissions, including protecting biodiversity, improving livelihoods, and equipping indigenous communities to enhance forest preservation.

Climate finance has proven itself as a sustainable method for community, climate, and conservation. We commend BP for supporting value and high integrity in our projects through active participation. As always, we could not be achieving this definitive step toward climate adaptation without the commitment and vision of companies like BP. ♡ ♡



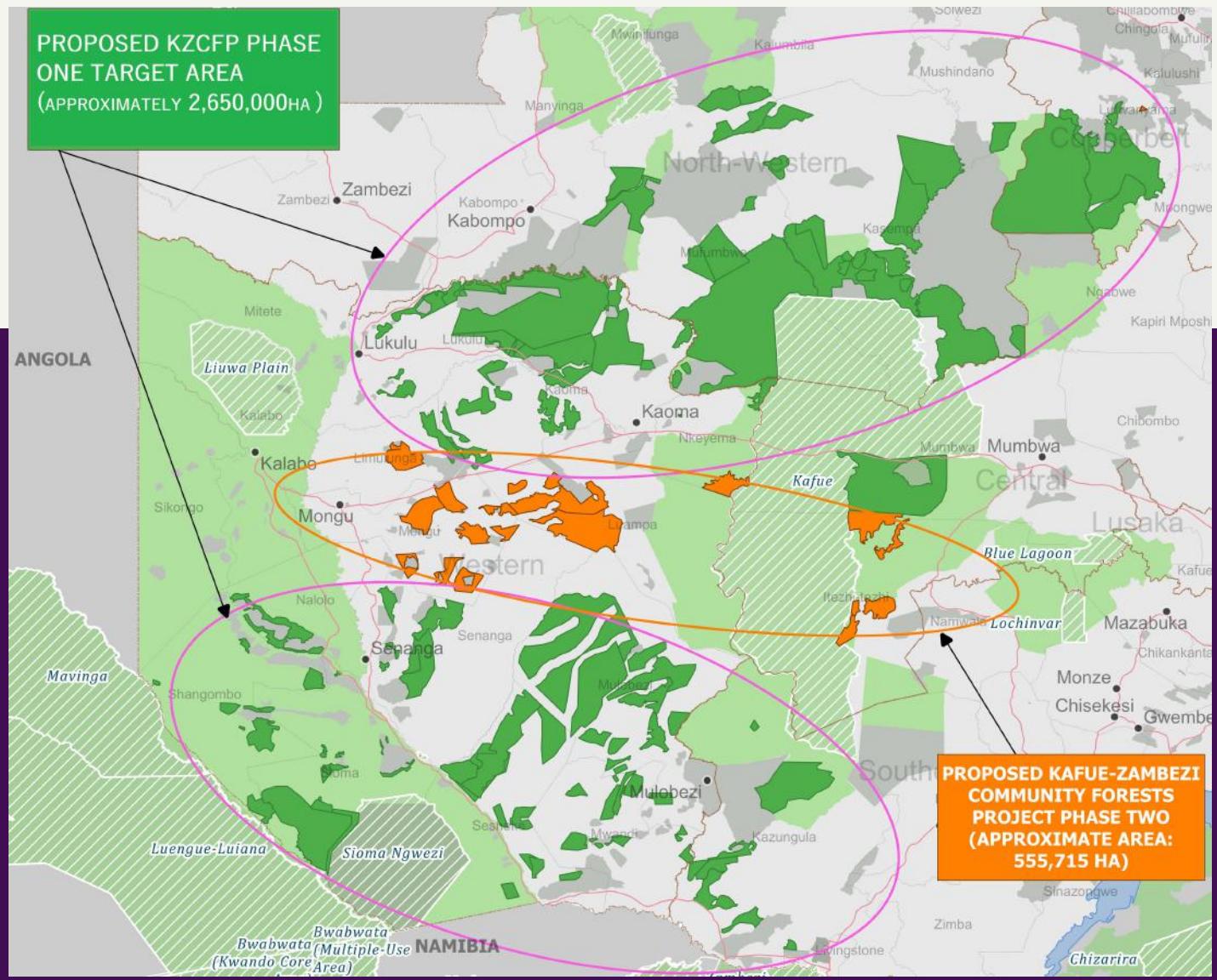
*Marisa Buchanan, SVP Low Carbon Solutions within BP's Trading and Shipping organization, emphasizes,*

“

BP is excited to support the development of nature-based solutions like the Kafue-Zambezi Community Forests Project. Nature-based solutions can play an important role in helping the world achieve its net zero by 2050 goals while preserving and restoring forestland and biodiversity, and enhancing livelihoods for local communities. ♡ ♡

# What This Could Look Like in Terms of Impacts

- The first phase is proposed to be 2.65 million hectares in 40 chiefdoms.
- Benefit 400,000 people.
- Reduce +/- 2 million tons of emissions per year once verified.
- \$30,000,000 initial investment.
- Create 300 + direct jobs.
- Over 2000 indirect jobs created.
- Diversify income through household and Community livelihoods projects, such as: Climate Smart Agricultural, Beekeeping, Cookstoves, Poultry and Small Livestock, Market Linkages.
- The proposed KZCFP has the potential to grow into up to an 8 million ha project by 2030; supporting Zambia's National REDD+ Strategy, NDC to the UNFCCC, Forests Policy of 2014, Forests Act of 2015 and Wildlife Act of 2015.



# Community Development Projects

One of the most fundamental reasons for the success of REDD+ is that revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits is owned, implemented and managed by the communities who receive it. Communities are empowered under locally elected Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs), who allocate funds based on the Chiefdom's Annual Work Plan to more localized Village Actions Groups (VAGs) who invest in localized community projects. The structures, policies, and the local CFMGs put in place as part of the implementation of REDD+ projects are going a long way to strengthen local institutions at a grassroots level.



The socioeconomic development that comes from carbon finance is supported by improved governance and a greater demand for accountability and transparency.

We envision a transition to increased participation from our community partners even beyond where we are today. In a sustainable future where forests are recognized and imprinted as community assets, the need for the protection of forests is emphasized and participation in development will start to shift to community groups.

This is why strengthening local institutions is such an integral part of BCP's 4-Year Strategic Plan.

We want to make REDD+ sustainable now and beyond BCP in all of our project areas, and we will do this by creating and building capacity in the communities in which we operate.

## *Delivering life-changing impacts through WASH, Education, Healthcare, and Infrastructure projects*

The revenue stream from REDD+ brings life-changing investments to communities to increase access to healthcare, sanitation, education, and infrastructure projects. This includes everything from boreholes to clinics and even a boat.



It builds resilience at a localized level to meet the basic needs of that community. After these basic needs are met, communities are able to focus on the additional development projects. Thus, creating a strong, robust and resilient local economy for our community partners.

# Connecting through the Airwaves in 2022!

During the rainy season, many of our community partners in Eastern Province are cut off from trading points and towns for months at a time due to poor road networks that become impassable when the rains hit.

So how do we reach our community partners?

Through the airwaves!



In 2022 our Engagement team launched the Luangwa Community Forests Project Awareness Hour through Mnkhanya Community Radio Program. With a reach of 23,000 people, this segment allows the teams to reach 5 of our partnering Chiefdoms (and beyond) each week.

Every week the team discusses a different topic in relation to how the REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanism works, and focuses on different themes that cut across the different impacts The Luangwa Community Forests Project is delivering, from climate change, and conservation efforts to community benefits. The last 20 minutes of each segment is dedicated for listeners to call or text in to the show.

Not only does this allow the team to engage with the callers and answer any questions directly, but it helps us to determine where the knowledge gaps are so we can continue to evolve and improve upon our community engagement.

# WASH

For so many access to clean, safe, and drinkable water is taken for granted. Yet, there are still communities in rural parts of Zambia where it is not so easily available.

Something so basic as limited or no access to clean water is a serious barrier to a fundamental human right, let alone the ability to prosper and grow the local economy.

*Climate finance is changing that.*

Revenue from the sale of carbon offsets is invested in boreholes, hand-pumps, toilet facilities, and water reticulation projects.

“Our lives have changed already in a matter of days. Before, the 15 households in this village walked a 6km round trip to fetch water from the nearest stream, which we shared with our livestock for drinking, bathing... everything we needed.

Imagine the time and energy we will now save – young and old – we will all benefit so much! I can put that energy towards selling our produce at the market to make more money for my family.

*Mailesi Daka, LZRP*

99



161

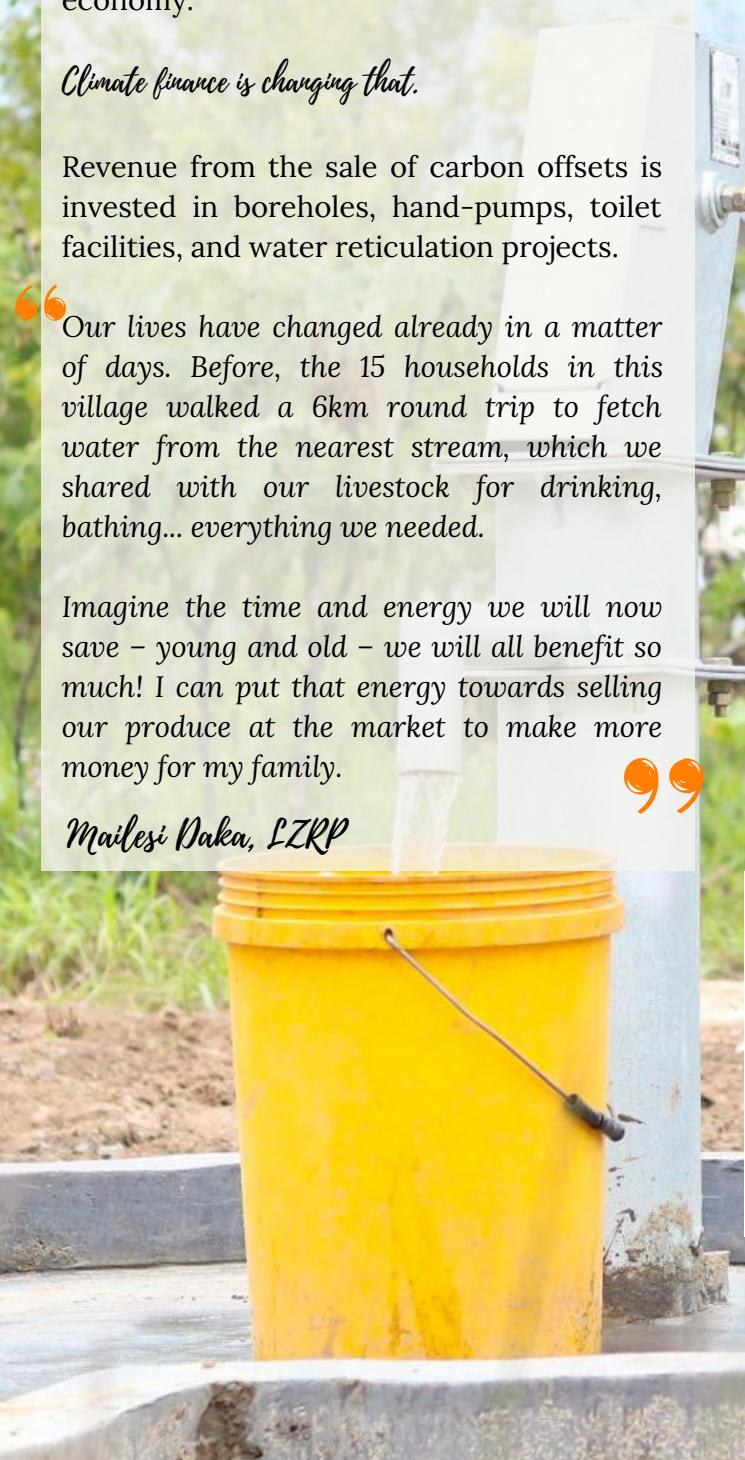
WASH Projects implemented across both BCP projects since inception

29,437

Beneficiaries of increased water quality and/or improved access to clean and drinkable water

15,312

Of whom are women



# Health

**16**

Health related Projects implemented across both BCP projects since inception

**20,166**

Number of people for whom health services have improved as a result of project activities

**10,417**

Of whom are women



*Maternity Ward built using revenue from REDD+ and Hunting Concessions in Malama Chiefdom.*

# Training



**3,247**

Total number of community members who have improved skills and/or knowledge from training provided as part of project activities

**1,186**

Of whom are women

# Well-Being



49

Social Projects implemented across both Projects since inception

128,197

Total number of community members whose well-being has improved as a result of these project activities

64,179

Of whom are women



\* Well-being is people's experience of the quality of their lives. Well-being benefits may include benefits reported in other metrics of this table (e.g. Training, Employment, Health, Education, Water, etc.), but could also include other benefits such as empowerment of community groups, strengthened legal rights to resources, conservation of access to areas of cultural significance,

# Education

39

Education-Related Projects implemented across both BCP projects since inception

39,378

Community beneficiaries who have directly benefited from access to education, or improved quality of education

18,615

Of whom are women



Bordering South Luangwa National Park, nestled deep in the forest, inaccessible during the rainy season due to the poor road network, and in the heart of Elephant territory, the residents of Malama Chiefdom are at the forefront of managing human-wildlife interaction on a daily basis.

66

For us, it is very real. We put up wire fences with tins on (to hear them coming) to prevent elephants from crop-raiding at night, but during the day we often find them near the school and on our commute.

The hippos and baboons are also big fans of our crops. And we have to be careful of being alone in the bush too far from the village because of the lions.

Many of us had to learn outside before the CFMG built this new classroom block. During the rainy season, it was miserable – our books got wet, we got wet... and during the winter months it would be very cold. It made it hard to concentrate and we did not feel motivated to attend school in such conditions.

Now we can learn freely indoors without time or space constraints.



Emmanuel Zulu, Malanga Primary School.

# Livelihood Projects



There is a clear link between social and economic deprivation and deforestation, in order to address deforestation, we have to look at the root cause of why it is happening. One cannot be addressed without the other.

When a family is food insecure due to severe weather conditions that have resulted in a poor harvest, or have used all of their savings from last year's harvest to care for a sick family member, and are left with nothing to pay for food, basic necessities and school fees, it creates a desperate environment where the immediate need to resolve chronic hunger becomes the only focus.

Globally, Forests are home to roughly 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, and 1.6 billion people depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy, medicines and income. The world is losing 10 million hectares of forests each year. Zambia remains one of the most forested countries on the continent, however it is losing forests at an estimated rate of 163,000 hectares annually.



*It becomes a matter of survival.*

Sustainable forest management is key, but in order to truly tackle deforestation it needs to be partnered with initiatives that offer communities alternative and viable income revenues that do not involve encroachment on the forests.

This is exactly what BCP's Livelihood Initiatives aim to achieve!

# Farming Smart for a Healthy Planet

66

Following Climate-Smart Agriculture changed my life, the lives of my family... and even that of my neighbors when they all started following this method! We don't face food insecurity, we are secure throughout the year. I have even used the surplus money to build my house, an outdoor seating area, and I have invested in a small poultry business

99

*Charity Mbawo, Mukhanya Chiefdom, Eastern Province.*



BCP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, has been working with farmers in an effort to address food security challenges through the farmer to farmer extension model. In an effort to respond to the country's vulnerability to climate change challenges, which directly affects food security in the country, BCP has invested in Conservation Farming practices that are Climate-Smart practices and technologies. With agriculture expansion as such a major threat to the forests, Climate-Smart Agriculture helps to provide food security and a sustainable future for some of Zambia's most nutrition insecure families.

## Benefits of Climate-Smart Agriculture:

1. Early Land Preparation using Minimal Tillage Practices to ensure a farmer is ready to plant with the first heavy planting rains and not prior.
2. Timely and more accurate outlay of input and seeding regimens and configurations.
3. Increased water capture and moisture retention during prolonged dry spells.

Tertiary and long-term benefits are improved soil structure and fertility, and the soil organic pool.

# Climate-Smart Impacts

<b>522</b> Lead Farmers trained in Climate-Smart Agriculture	<b>200</b> Of whom are women	<b>5,000 +</b> Hectares of farm land under Sustainable Agriculture Farming techniques	<b>100,944</b> Gliricidia Sepium trees planted since inception	<b>1,756</b> Faidherbia Albida trees planted since inception	<b>520</b> Farmer demo packs distributed in 2022
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Climate change's negative impacts are already so severely felt, in the form of increasing temperatures, weather variability, shifting agroecosystem boundaries, invasive crops and pests, and more frequent extreme weather events. So often the hardest hit are the smallholder and subsistence farmers, whose survival hinges on the health of their crops.

In 2022 BCP saw continued success in our Lead Farmer and Farmer-Led Field Days. Field days are important events that showcase the benefits of Conservation Farming practices and technologies. Field days also act as platforms to connect farmers to agro-dealers, support service providers, and crop buyers.

Last season, BCP piloted two important private sector activities - the first was a crop marketing exercise in Malama and the second was an input supply operation in Shikabeta. Both were positively received by farmers. 2023 will see BCP ramping up farmer links to tillage service providers and input and crop markets this year. BCP will help identify community members to act as input supply agents, and crop aggregators, as well as tillage service providers with the aim of bringing all three activities closer to the farm gate and increasing seasonal employment opportunities for community members.

# Horticulture

As part of our mission to support sustainable livelihood initiatives we work closely with our community partners through agriculture programs that supports with both training and equipment, one such initiative is Horticulture. Horticulture is an amazing addition to any farmers field because it acts as an extra income stream for our community partners, and provides households with enriched vegetables for a balanced diet.

The latest Chiefdom to take part in the scheme is Bunda Bunda, in LZRP, when in 2022 BCP launched the Mweshang'ombe Horticulture Project, where farmers were selected across different villages and were trained in horticultural production.

Starter packs with various horticulture seeds (rape, onions, legumes, cabbages and tomatoes) were distributed to those who completed the training and these vegetables have since started growing.

66 We have the land and space to diversify, what was lacking was the knowledge and training. Now that we have this, we can produce vegetables from our own gardens for our homes, and to sell at the market.

I was excited to use the money earned from selling my veggies to support my children to buy school books, and then put it back into my business to buy a hosepipe that will make irrigation much easier for me.

*Susan Mutenga, Bunda Bunda, LZRP*

140  
Farmers  
trained in  
Horticulture

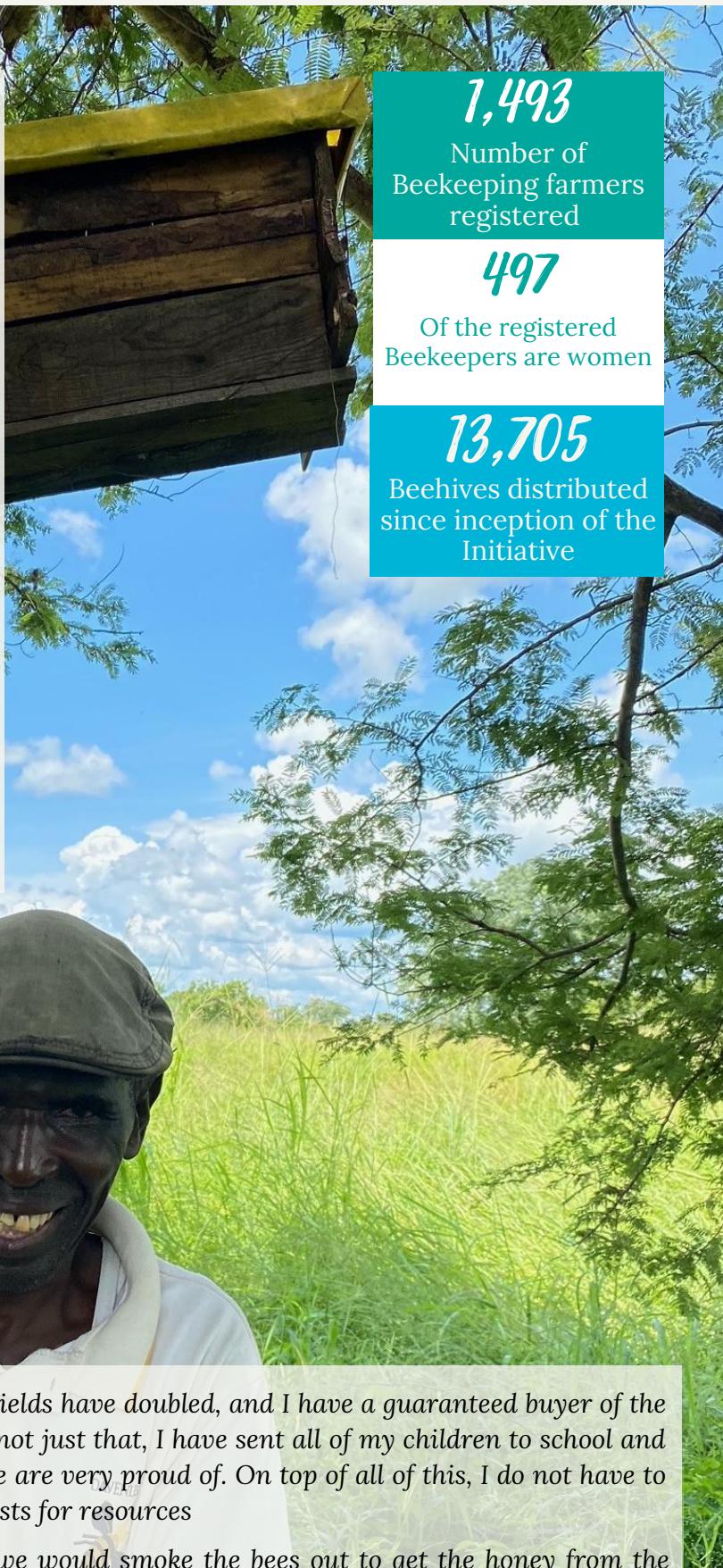
56  
Of whom  
are women



# Bee-Keeping

Historically, communities entered Game Management Areas (GMAs) in order to cut down trees for wild honey or strip trees of its bark in order to construct bark beehives. These methods are not sustainable, which is why BCP partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, and Nature's Nectar (a social enterprise aimed at producing Zambia's most sustainable honey in partnership with communities living directly near conservation areas and national parks) to offer communities an environmentally friendly and sustainable way to produce honey. Nature's Nectar provide the Beekeepers with the Kenya Top Bar Hives, and guarantee the purchase of the honey (which is even being exported on the international market), creating a cash incentive that is directly linked to conserving the forests.

*Honey Production is providing a sustainable income to families across both of our REDD+ Projects and enhancing lives in the sweetest way it can!*



66

Since I started this way of honey production, my yields have doubled, and I have a guaranteed buyer of the honey. From this income I have food security, but not just that, I have sent all of my children to school and my wife and I started a small grocery shop that we are very proud of. On top of all of this, I do not have to practice any kind of deforestation or enter the forests for resources

Before we were using the trees as beehives, and we would smoke the bees out to get the honey from the hives. But the yields were much lower than they are now as we have learned that the smoke is bad for the bees and stressful for them so it actually impacts the honey production. Not to mention, it wasn't good for the forests!

*Paul Zulu, Beekeeper from Nsefu Chiefdom, Eastern Province.*

99

# Poultry and Goat Rearing

Introducing Faustina, Marcel, Ruth, Brenda, Ayaless, Saphira, Rosemary, Royce, Joyce, and Loyce – The Poultry Farmers breaking barriers and paving the way in Mphata Village of Jumbe Chiefdom, Eastern Province.



9

Poultry keeping  
Projects/Groups  
across both Projects

24

Goat Rearing  
Projects/Groups in LCFP

390

Estimated Households  
benefiting from these  
projects

Each CFMG supports a number of Village Action Groups (VAG) in each Chiefdom, the VAGs are responsible for allocating funding at a localized level, and at identifying community members to run Livelihood programmes. One extremely popular means for community members to make a viable income is through poultry and goat rearing. Each of the groups is made up of 10-15 women from the community who have been selected by their fellow community members.

Empowering women not only benefits the women but their families and communities as well. These empowered women can help produce more economic output for their communities and act as driving forces to enact real change that gives women access to decision-making at a higher level.

**6** We feel empowered and excited to have the opportunity to run our own business. With the revenue from the first round of chickens sold we have invested in EVEN MORE, we improved infrastructure for the coop, and we have plans to start goat rearing with the revenue we forecast will come in based on our sales projections. To just live we need money to pay for education for our children, food for our families, and for seeds to plant with. But with this income, we can see beyond that, and can see a real sustainable business to help enhance our families' way of living in the long term.

*Rosemary, Mphata Women's Group, Jumbe.* 99

# Village Banking

One promising means to extend financial services, invest in rural livelihoods and village economies, and to unlock local circular economies for rural communities is through Village Loans and Savings Groups.

In order for climate finance and carbon offset projects to realize their potential in contributing to a more environmental and socially just future, the citizens of the global south, who are most vulnerable and negatively impacted by climate change, need to be given the freedom, resources, and power to make choices on how to secure their basic needs.

As part of the 2020 needs assessment process in Mwanya Chiefdom, financial support for establishing village banking clubs was motivated by community members and selected as a project by the CFMG, due to the success of the pilot project Village Banking has been rolled out across the Chiefdoms we partner with in both LCFP and LZRP, and BCP supports a total of **44** Village Banking Projects.



The transformational results so far have been:

- Communities have access to/possess meaningful resources, but have been lacking meaningful structures to pool these savings until now;
- Loans were used for a range of purposes including starting small businesses, supporting farming activities, and making home improvements;
- The default rates on loan repayments were extremely low or nonexistent in most groups; and
- There was a considerable multiplier effect on the initial investment (Impact Multiple of Money).

Using climate finance and Village Loan Savings Groups to offer financial services and build the bankable credit of marginalized communities represents a tremendous opportunity to empower rural communities (and women's) access to formal economies and revenue streams.

# The 'Forgotten' Gender in the Fight Against Climate Change



Too often women bear the brunt of economic disparities, social injustices, and feature marginally in policy and decision making globally. This is no exception when it comes to the harsh realities that climate change is having on the poorest regions across Africa.

With the poverty rate in rural Zambia at 78%, women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable due to lower human capital accumulation. Financial, social, and cultural barriers often mean that women do not have the same access as men. Women lack access to resources and funding as their work tends to fall under the informal economy and unpaid home duties. Especially in rural parts of Africa, boys take precedent over girls in the rights to education, based on beliefs that girls should assume the role of home-maker and manual labourer in the fields, and when coupled with early marriages and a high rate of teenage pregnancy, girls tend to miss out on the same opportunities given to boys, which creates a gap from an early age.

Governments throughout sub-Saharan Africa (and Zambia is no exception!) are working hard to combat the gender disparities that act as debilitating factors to break the cycle of poverty that so many women are confined to, yet breaking belief systems laced in traditions going back centuries will not happen overnight and will take even longer still to foster change at a local level.

Access to education, health care facilities, and socio-economic initiatives are key to development, however, they pale in comparison to food security. When a household is food insecure it is all-consuming. It impacts the family at the most basic level of a human's requirements to survive and makes anything beyond securing basic nutrition seem inconceivable. Chronic food insecurity and the pressure and trauma imposed by it transcends into all aspects of a family's life and creates barriers on a physical, mental, financial, and social level.

## *Climate-Smart Agriculture is key to addressing the issue of food insecurity in Africa.*

Conservation Farming is based on the interrelated principles of minimal soil disturbance (a critical break from traditional tillage practices such as ploughing, which turns over the whole surface area of a field – increasing wind and rain borne soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and decreasing surface water capture and leading to high evaporation rates), permanent soil covers with living or post-harvest crop residue cover, and crop diversification through rotation or intercropping. It helps farmers to maintain and boost yields and increase profits while reversing land degradation, protecting the environment, and responding to growing challenges of climate change. Minimal Tillage also enables a farmer to plant with the first heavy planting rains – a critical advantage. Every day a farmer is late planting she or he loses up to 1.8-2% of their end yield. This loss is not recoverable irrespective of the quality and volume of inputs used to nourish the crop, or the seed varieties used.

An estimated 60% of Zambia's population is dependent on subsistence farming, and it is estimated that subsistence farming accounts for 48% of the World's deforestation. Traditional methods of 'slash and burn' in Zambia, which drives the progressive clearing of land over time is incredibly damaging for the environment. While the use of outdated tillage methods is labor-intensive and time-consuming for the farmers. Women are the primary producers and processors of food in Africa, but lack of access to land and inputs means that they achieve lower agricultural yields and experience greater insecurity of income than men, impacting a huge 70% of women across Africa (because 70% of African women living across Africa are subsistence farmers according to the Africa Gender Index Report). Yet, despite well over half of women in Africa being involved in the agriculture sector, the Index Report found that women farmers in Africa receive only 5% of agricultural extension services. Women run small agribusinesses in the informal sector but find it hard to invest and grow their businesses. In more remote areas, African women are often trapped in subsistence or near subsistence farming and spend long hours each day doing unpaid domestic chores, often helped by girls. These are the women and families who are in danger of being left behind and trapped in intergenerational poverty, whilst other parts of society reap the benefits of development.

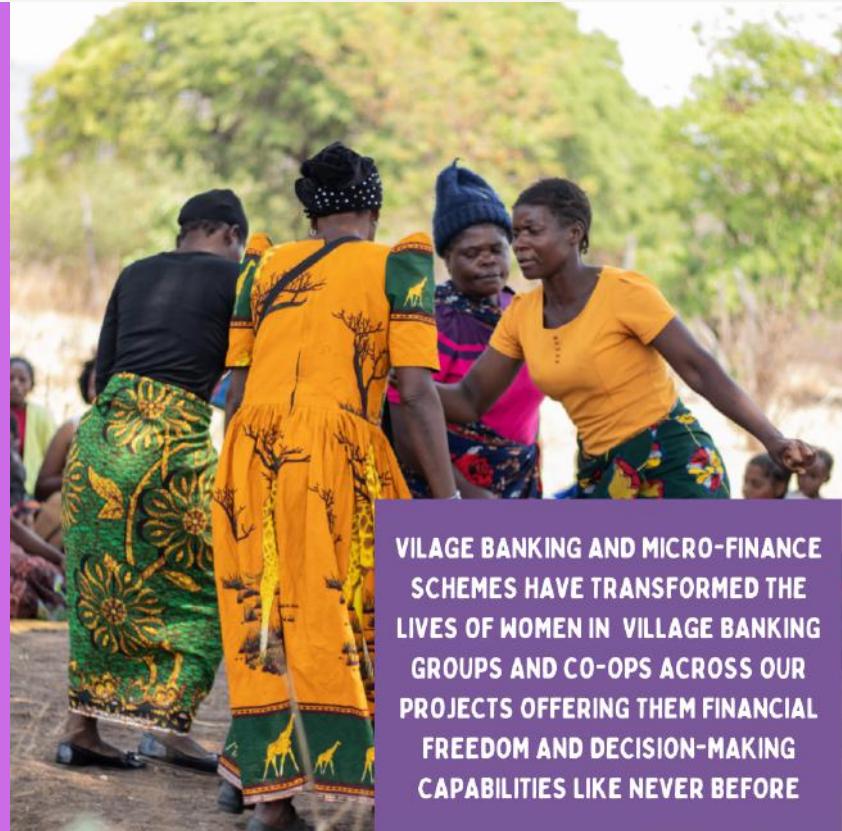
Conservation Farming minimizes tillage, follows the methods of crop rotation, and ultimately reduces time, labour, and the wear and tear of animals and machines substantially. From a purely output vs input standpoint, the most obvious and immediate result of Conservation Farming is an increased yield using less land. In the 2020/21 farming season maize grain yields improved to 4.9tons/ha against the baseline of 1.8tons/ha amongst the lead farmers that we are working with. Practicing this method of conservation farming also sees the longer-term benefits of improved soil nutrition and an increased soil organic pool.

Beyond the most immediate rewards, having to spend such substantially fewer hours on farming, yet producing a much higher yield (enough so that there is surplus to sell and trade) is changing lives. Especially those of women. Food security lifts the barriers put in place by chronic hunger while having a surplus of crops opens up a whole new area of trade and business opportunities. For labour-strapped households, the minimal tillage land preparation operation is spread over the post-harvest period up to those first heavy planting rains. This division of labour over the season is an important benefit for female-led households and or families who are caring for sick and infant family members.



# *Training Lead Female Farmers in Climate-Smart Agriculture allows women to join the modernization of agriculture in Africa.*

Across Africa, women generally have less access to credit than men, which is often due to a lack of assets to use as collateral and is a major barrier to investment. According to the results of the Index Report, the access to credit gender gap is 73.4%, and the ownership of a house and/or a land gender gap is an estimated 22.9%. Lack of finance for women farmers often keeps women trapped in poverty and subsistence farming – particularly in the face of climate impacts. By equipping women with the knowledge to farm smart it gives women the training and confidence to be decision-makers in cash crop agriculture. Empowering women gives them better resources and access to inputs and technologies, credit access, and revenue streams that give them greater opportunities to grow businesses, connect with supply chains, and eventually join the formal economy, accessing larger scale loans and business ventures.



**VILAGE BANKING AND MICRO-FINANCE SCHEMES HAVE TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN VILLAGE BANKING GROUPS AND CO-OPS ACROSS OUR PROJECTS OFFERING THEM FINANCIAL FREEDOM AND DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITIES LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

This creates a knock-on effect in terms of the value being placed on a girl's education, which according to UNICEF – when more girls remain in education there is a significant drop in teen pregnancies and early marriages – helping to break the inequalities which begin at childhood.

Conservation Farming minimizes tillage, follows the methods of crop rotation, and ultimately reduces time, labour, and the wear and tear of animals and machines substantially. From a purely output vs input standpoint, the most obvious and immediate result of Climate Smart Agriculture is an increased yield using less land. In the 2020/21 farming season maize grain yields improved to 4.9tons/ha against the baseline of 1.8tons/ha amongst the lead farmers that we are working with. Practicing this method of conservation farming also sees the longer-term benefits of improved soil nutrition and an increased soil organic pool.

In an effort to address household food insecurity, BCP continues to support the Ministries of Agriculture, and Communities across all of our Project areas to implement Climate-Smart Agriculture technologies. Together, we currently support 522 Lead Farmers, 200 of whom are women.

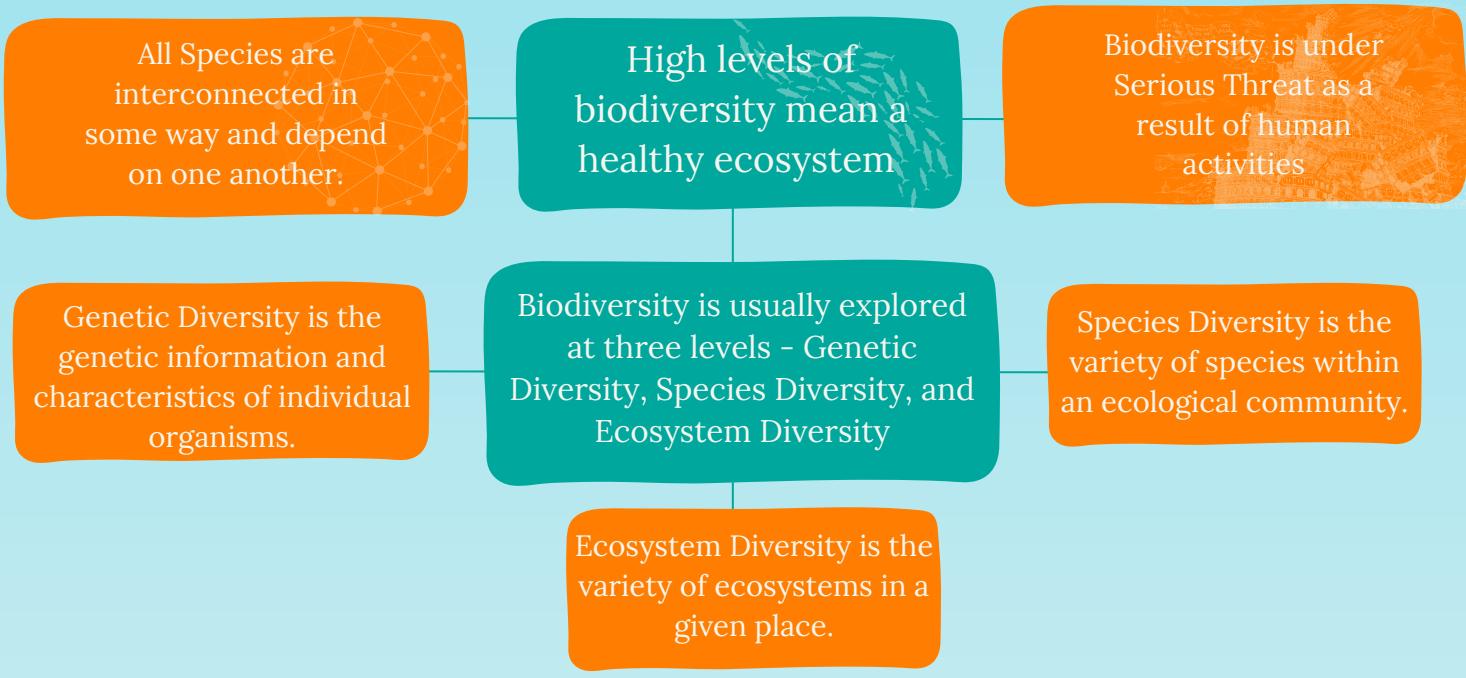
*We know that we need to do more.*

This is just the start, in 2023 we plan to scale our conservation farming initiative and to host wide-reaching Field Days, where we will encourage women specifically to host to learn more about the benefits of Conservation Farming, in our bid to help close the gender gap.

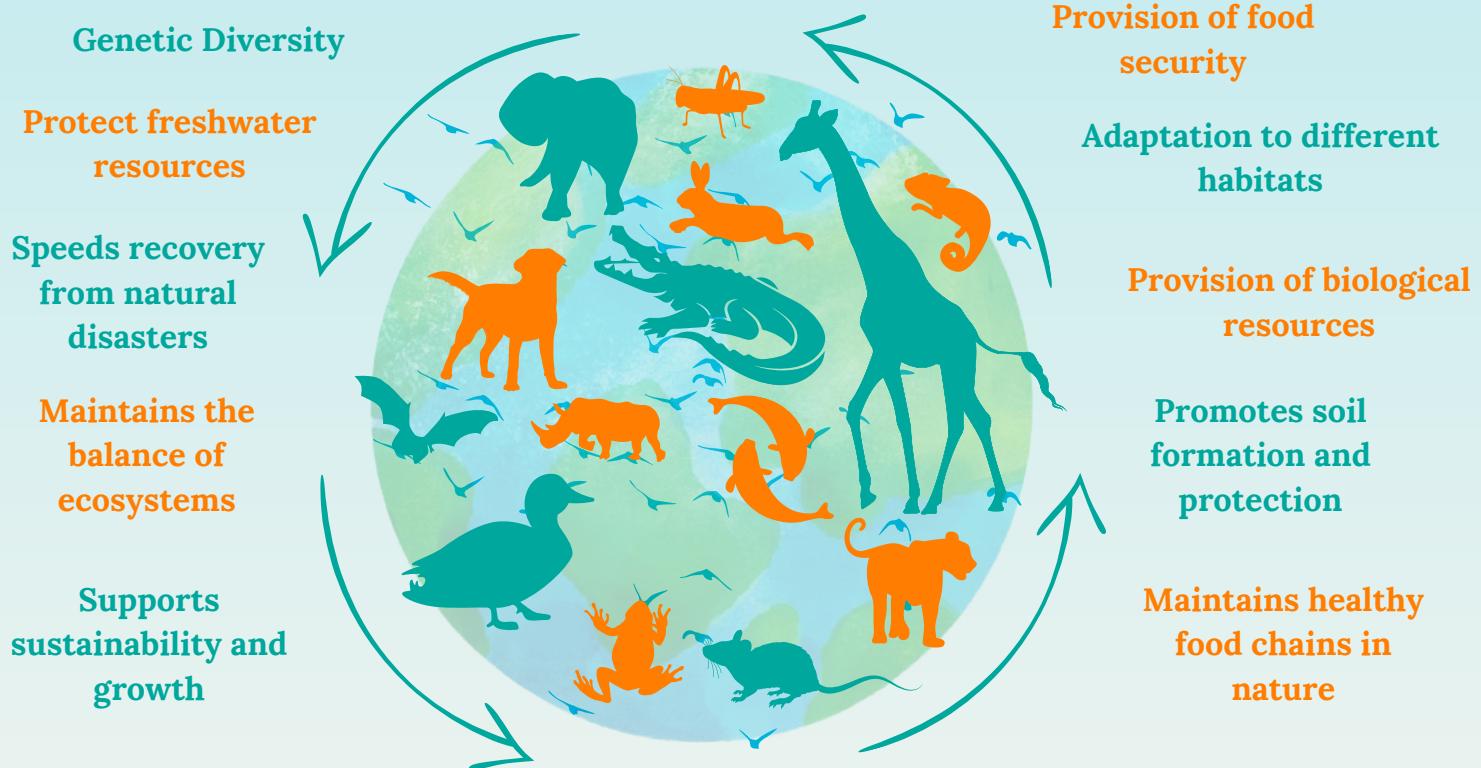
# The Significance of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is short for Biological Diversity, and is the term used to describe the variety of all life on Earth; from genes to ecosystems, and the ecological and evolutionary processes that sustain it.

## The Low-Down on Biodiversity



## Why is there a Need to Safeguard Biodiversity?



# The Main Drivers of Biodiversity Loss

From destructive land use to invasive species, scientists have identified the main drivers of biodiversity loss – so that countries can collectively act to tackle them.



## Changes in Land and Sea Use

The biggest driver of biodiversity loss is the way in which people use the land and sea. How we grow food, harvest materials such as wood or minerals from the ocean floor, and build our towns and cities all has an impact on the natural environmental and the biodiversity that lives there.



## Direct Exploitation of Organisms

Direct exploitation of organisms refers to how we exploit animals and plants for food and materials.



## Climate Change

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on our natural environment. Some species are dying out while others are having to move where they live due to changes in air temperature, weather patterns, and sea levels. As well as being a direct driver of biodiversity loss, climate change also worsens the other drivers.



## Pollution

Pollution has reached all types of ecosystems, even those in remote areas. Pollution comes in many forms, from nitrogen and ammonia caused by intense agriculture, to microplastics found in the deepest parts of the ocean.



## Invasive Non-Native Species

Invasive non-native species are those that arrive where they historically didn't occur, and out-compete local biodiversity for resources such as sunlight and water. This causes the native species to die out causing a shift in the makeup of the natural ecosystem.



## Indirect Drivers

The indirect drivers are the underlying causes of the direct drivers of biodiversity loss. The IPBES report, and others have identified these to be people's disconnect with nature and the consequent lack of recognition for the value and importance of nature. If people do not feel connected to nature, and therefore don't care for nature and see its importance, they are more likely to over-exploit and not take seriously the impacts of climate change, pollution and invasive non-native species. To find out more about how you can connect with nature, and encourage others to do the same, visit our pages on enjoying the outdoors.



The drivers of biodiversity and climate change have been identified, and we need to address these in a structural and urgent manner. Transformative change in society is needed to ease the pressures on biodiversity, reverse these losses of nature and to avoid severe damage to human wellbeing.

# Why the Biodiversity Crisis Is Just As Pressing As Climate Change Is On Humanity

Biodiversity is the pillar of life on earth, yet Science tells us that the biodiversity crisis is as urgent as the climate crisis. Despite constant efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide and this decline is projected to worsen unless we do more, and we do it now to protect the world's ecosystems. According to WWF, Zambia has lost 60% of its biodiversity since 1970, and between now and 1950, poaching has killed more than 90% of Zambia's elephant population. In the 1980s, estimated numbers dropped from a quarter of a million to just 18,000. The rhino population in Zambia once stood at 12,000, but 1998 saw rhinos declared extinct in Zambia. Despite a serious commitment in North Luangwa National Park to reintroduce them, the small herd that inhabits the area still needs round-the-clock protection from poaching.

Severe weather events as a result of climate change are on the rise, including droughts and flooding, both of which heavily impact a population that is largely reliant on subsistence farming for survival. These shifts in weather patterns present a significant threat to Zambia's biodiversity. Climate Change threatens the most vulnerable, and poverty drives deforestation as communities face food insecurity as a result of altered rainfall caused by climate change, thus turning to nature to survive. Forests are cut down to generate income from agriculture and charcoal. Wildlife populations are threatened as a source of food or as an alternative income to vulnerable people, with the international demand for items such as ivory, and pangolin scales higher than ever before. Zambia remains one of the most forested countries in Africa and contains phenomenally diverse and spectacular wildlife legacy landscapes. However, current land-use practices don't generate the resources necessary to effectively conserve these natural resources.

**Indigenous populations are at the forefront of the world's combat against climate change, and often bear the brunt of the repercussions made by law enforcement and policymakers for encroaching on the environment to survive. Yet, they are given limited funding, resources, or alternatives while the World attempts to decarbonize and alleviate the pressure on nature.**

Humanity needs biodiversity to exist. Every living entity depends on it. From genes to individual species, to populations of creatures, leading up to entire ecosystems such as forests, where life intertwines with the physical environment. Biodiversity is crucial in the fight against poverty, food insecurity, diseases, and pollution, and in our fight to combat climate change. Beyond needing to preserve biodiversity as our source of air, water, food, and medicines to survive, it also offers us nature-based solutions to climate change, such as BCP's own REDD+ model.

African species still migrate through large landscapes in Sub-Saharan Africa including endangered species such as elephants, lions, and wild dogs. The Luangwa-Lower Zambezi ecosystem is one of the world's last 10 remaining wildlife legacy landscapes on Earth. Thus, these wild spaces offer a substantial natural asset to economic development plans, especially for countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where vast and untouched wilderness offers exemplary opportunities for carbon finance, and tourism and ecotourism destinations.

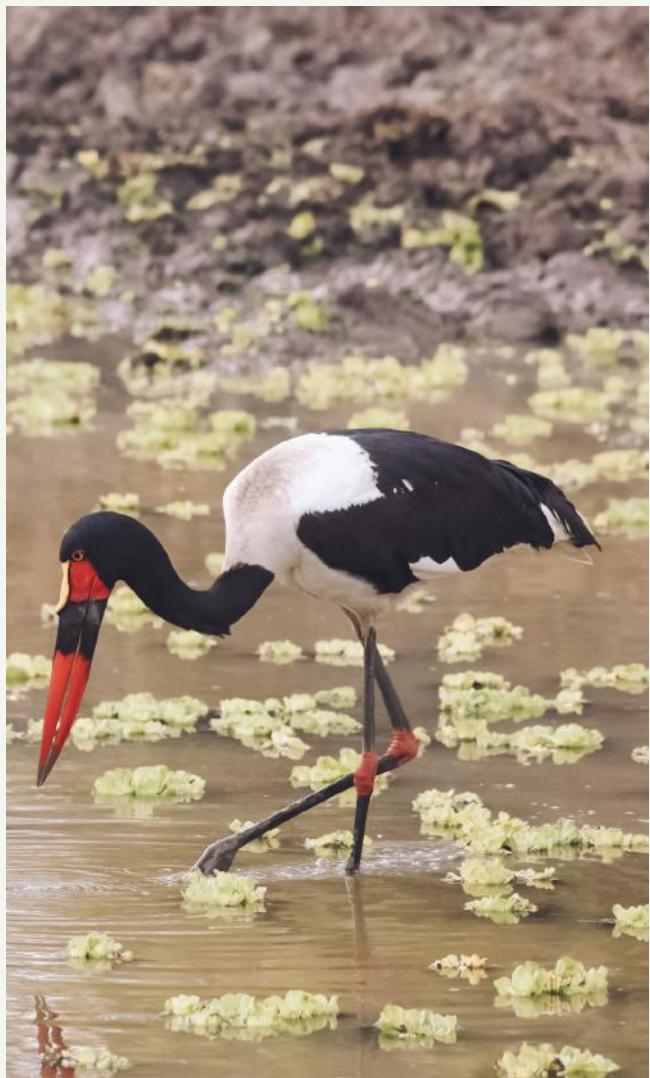
According to the World Bank, roughly 40% of Zambia's land area is home to protected areas. This includes 20 national parks, 39 game management areas, 432 forest reserves, and 59 botanical reserves. The opportunity that safeguarding these protected spaces offers for Zambia's overall economic development is great, and Zambia's government has taken solid measures in its commitment to conserve and develop biodiversity conservation through tourism. The revenue generated by the protected areas is an essential source of funding for biodiversity conservation. In terms of income, Zambia's national parks are not unlike other national assets, and contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation in surrounding communities, while stimulating trade with the rest of the country.

Conservation and enforcement measures work when communities are part of the process. When the two are polarized, communities are left alienated and suspicious of policymakers. The well-being of people and the environment are intrinsically linked, which is why empowering local communities have such a positive effect on conservation efforts. When more employment and livelihood opportunities are available, people are exposed to alternatives to deforestation, charcoal production, or the illegal wildlife trade for income.

Smarter ways to live off the land such as Climate-Smart Agriculture training and technologies allow communities to feel empowered and food secure and enhance local development and circular economies.

Carbon finance is a significant way to bridge the gap between humanity and nature. It offers a market-based approach to combat climate change and protects biodiversity. Trees store carbon, we measure the trees being protected and calculate the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that would have been released if these trees were cut down without our project. These avoided emissions are confirmed by independent, external audits against international standards.

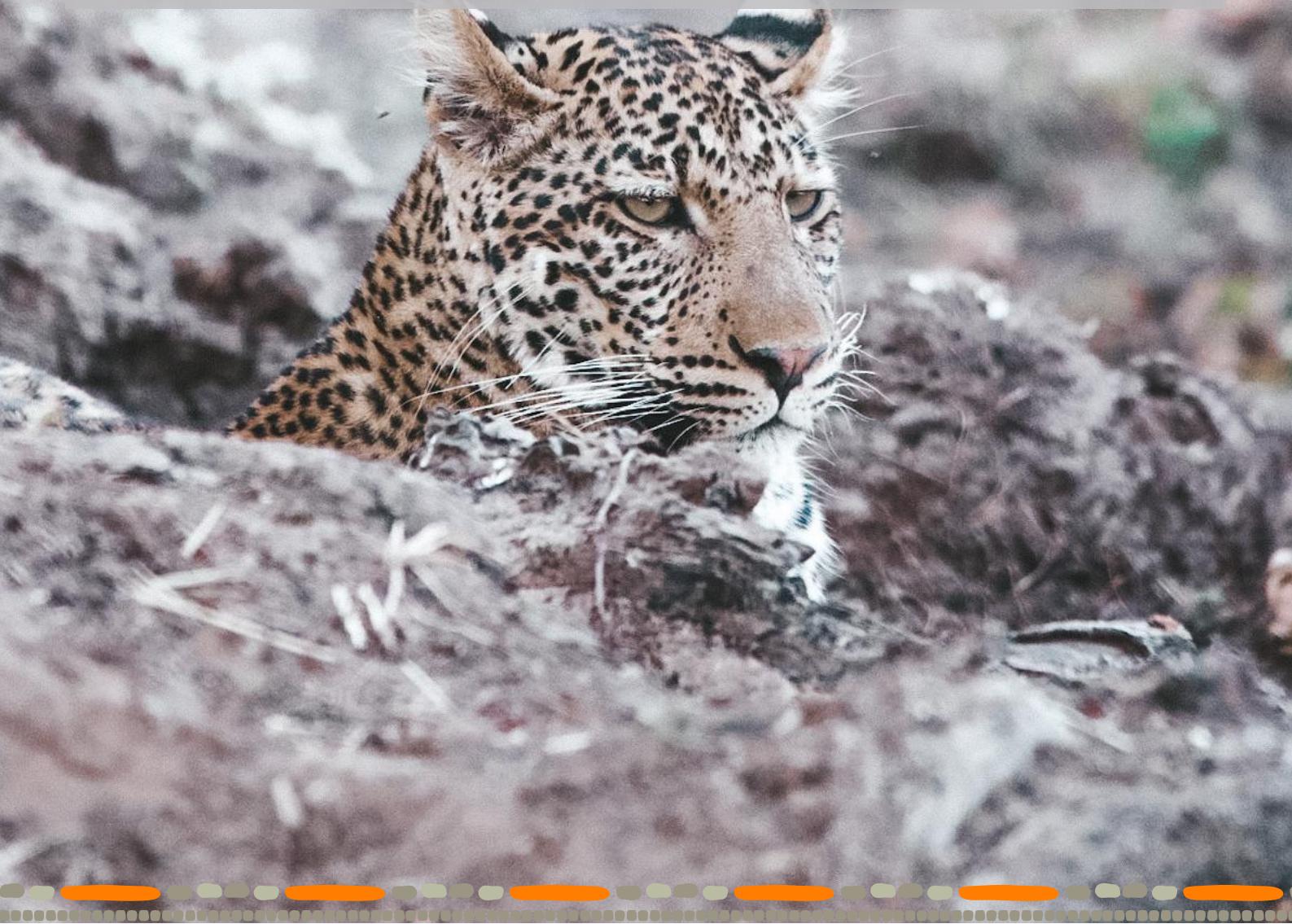
This allows us to generate and sell verified Forest Carbon Offsets that are equivalent to the number of tons of carbon dioxide emissions our projects have avoided. Revenue from the sales of these verified Offsets funds REDD+ conservation and development projects and provides an alternative source of income for local communities that depend on the forests.



By the end of 2025 BCP, through REDD+, is set to have scaled up biodiversity conservation to an estimated 5 million hectares within the Zambian landscape. The nature-based value creation at both a localized and national level is substantial, and a clear demonstration of how we need to view protecting the environment as a viable and sustainable revenue stream for indigenous communities.

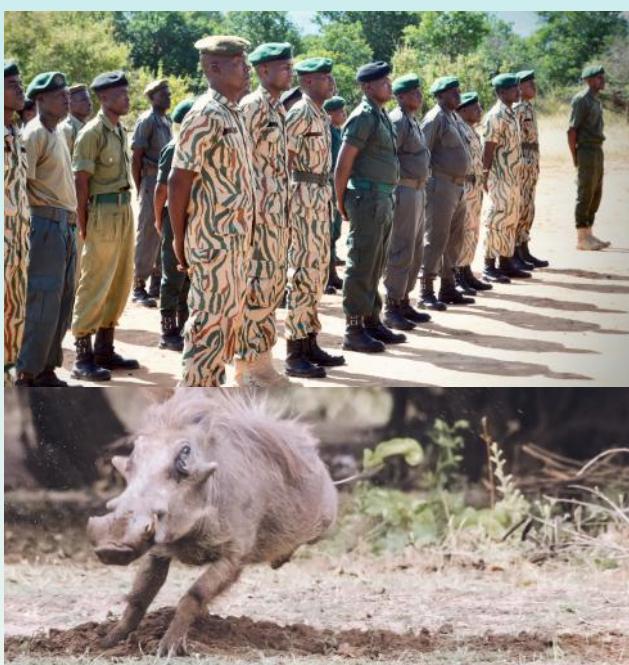
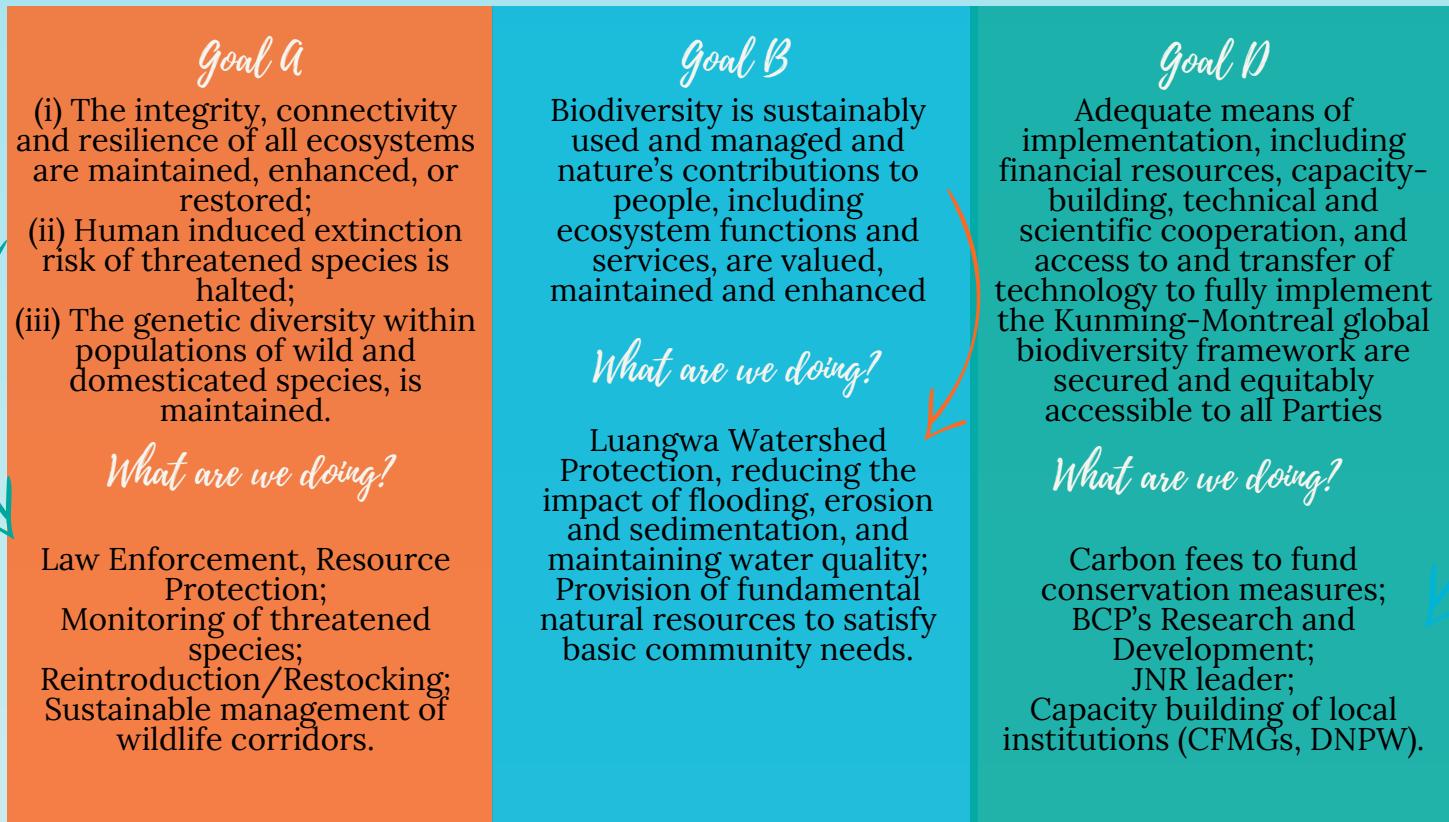
Historically humans have divided land with country borders and National Parks, which in some cases actually isolates wildlife populations, putting them at greater risk of extinction. Together with the Zambian Government and our Chiefdom Partners, by protecting threatened areas of biodiversity significance, we're helping to create one of Africa's largest wildlife corridors, by safeguarding the habitat linking 5 National Parks in Zambia to conserve biodiversity connectivity for Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. Our REDD+ project areas protect numerous wildlife species that are considered vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are at risk of extinction: African Wild Dogs, Temminck's Pangolin, Leopard, African Lion, African Elephant, Giraffe, Hippo, Grey Crowned Crane, Tawny Eagle, Vultures, and Southern Ground Hornbill.

BCP is passionate about our conservation efforts, resource protection, and ecosystem restoration, partnering with Forestry Department, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and conservation organizations such as Birdwatch Zambia and Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project, Lion Landscapes, Peace Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and Panthera, in our joint efforts to protect biodiversity in Zambia. BCP also works in harmony across a number of different private game reserves and supports Community Scouts through direct employment, and by supporting Community Forest Management Groups to train and retain Chiefdom Community Scouts to carry out resource protection. Additionally, BCP has a designated airwings unit to surveil the REDD+ zones from above.

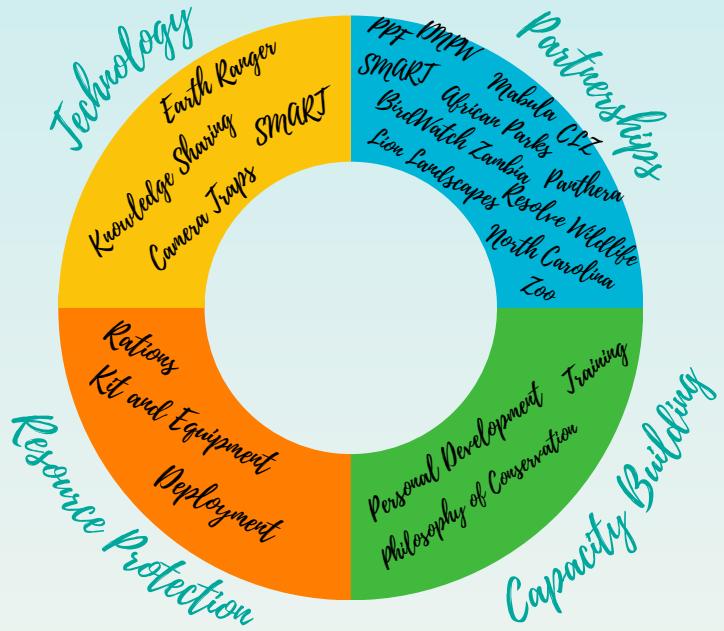


# BCPs Contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Framework

The Framework maps out what is needed to be done by 2030 to: Protect 30% of Earth's lands, oceans, coastal areas, inland waters, reduce by \$500 billion annual harmful government subsidies, and cut food waste in half. Under four overarching global goals.



## BCPs 4 Pillars of Biodiversity Protection



# A Roaring Success as Lions Return to Rufunsa Conservancy



For years and years, we have dropped everything at the mention of an indication that lions may have passed through the conservancy – from paw prints discovered, the faintest of roars heard on patrol or even an outline of what may look like one seen away in the distance.

But we have never been able to say for certain that these majestic and iconic African mammals have been in Rufunsa – Until 2022.

Now we have overwhelming proof – Spotted on camera trap, seen on patrol, husky roars heard from camp, and paw-prints-a-plenty to let us know they've been on the prowl.

After 10 years of preservation work, resource protection, teamwork amongst partners, and forest conservation under REDD+... lions are finally using Rufunsa Conservancy as a passage to roam through.

In recent years BCP, together with our conservation partners, has been able to observe an increase in a lion's potential prey base. When you combine this with increased resource protection efforts through scout patrols, aerial monitoring, camera trap footage; community development, and sensitization of forest preservation, it has created a robust enough ecosystem for the lions to once again make safe passage through.

The World Economic Forum places biodiversity loss as the fourth most severe threat humanity will face in the next 10 years, so news of ecosystem restoration such as this truly is a triumph for biodiversity in Zambia!

Stay tuned to our blog posts and socials as this exciting and epic biodiversity win unfolds...

None of this would be possible without our partners: The Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Department (Ministry of Green Economy and Environment – Zambia) Lion Landscapes, the private game reserves who work tirelessly to protect the wildlife corridors that allow predators safe passage through, Conservation Lower Zambezi for the tremendous work they do in the area, and Zambian Carnivore Program.

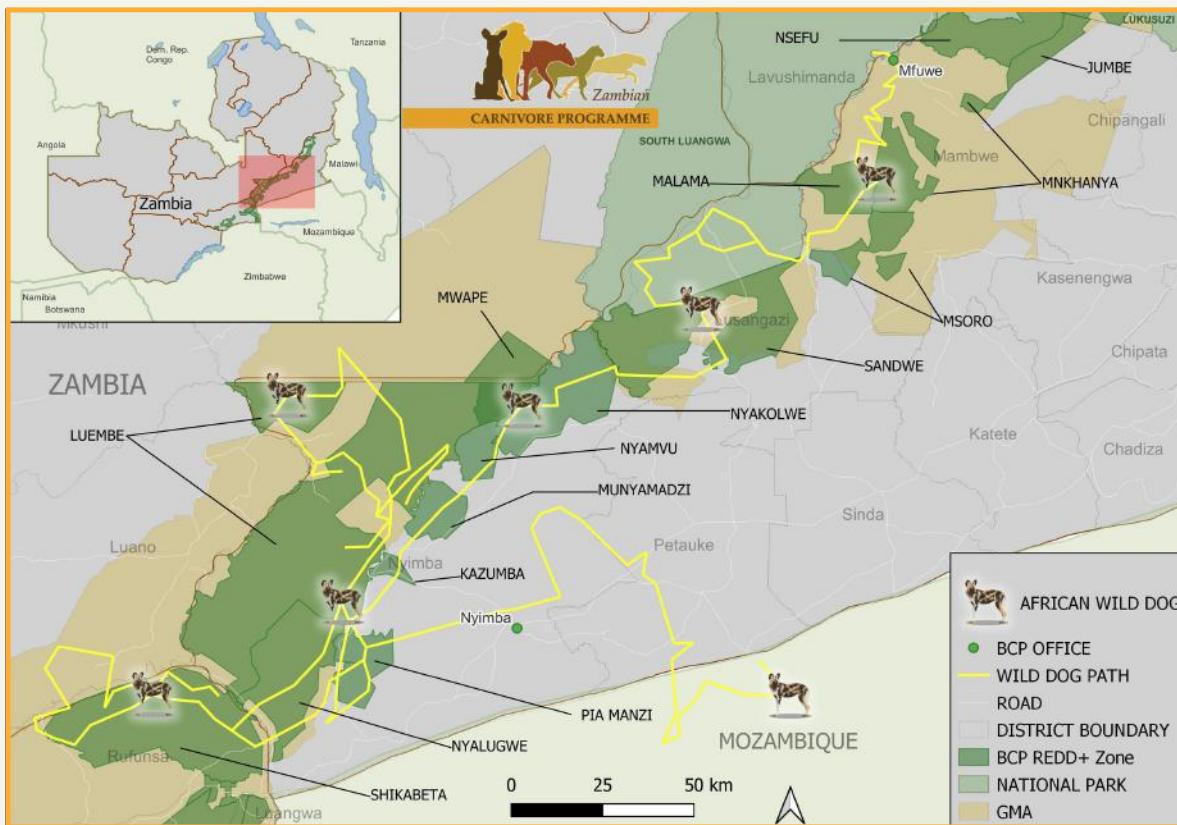


## Wild Dogs Are Crossing Borders using Zambia's Protected Wildlife Corridors

In 2022 The Zambian Carnivore Programme documented the first recorded dispersal of wild dogs from the Luangwa Valley into Mozambique and back into Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park, demonstrating the critical need to safeguard the wild dogs' habitat in the Luangwa to Lower Zambezi valleys.

In April ZCP recorded the dispersal of wild dogs from the Luangwa Valley into Mozambique! Most dogs leave their natal pack between 1 and 3 years of age, usually striking out in same-sex groups in search of forming new (by taking over existing) packs. Several females from the Luangwa's Luamfwa pack dispersed early in the rains and after several months in Southern Luangwa Valley, within 42 km of Lower Zambezi National Park, took an abrupt trip south into Mozambique. The dispersing group then returned and is now in... Lower Zambezi! This is the first documentation of dispersal between the Luangwa and mid-Zambezi Valleys and the parks to our knowledge, though it has long been suspected. While the Luangwa Valley still retains connectivity throughout, there were numerous human-impacted landscapes to cover on their transboundary journey. The longest recorded wild dog dispersal we're aware of is 600 km, and this group travelled 1610 km.





### The documentation of this dispersal is exciting for a number of reasons!

Wild dogs need large unfenced and protected tracts of habitat to survive, as well as a healthy prey base, and a healthy prey base needs a protected and healthy ecosystem to support it. This journey, largely through community forests is key to proving how REDD+, together with organizations such as the Zambian Carnivore Programme, private game reserves, and operators like Munyamadzi, and DNPW are all collaborating to create a safe and well-managed wildlife corridor so that the wild dog's habitat is being protected. It is also bringing hope for the future of this emblematic species, as it demonstrates the enormous potential of site (re-)colonization through long-distance dispersal.



Restoring safe corridors within the historical range of wild dogs represents an effective conservation strategy for the long-term survival of the species, and the REDD+ program is a sustainable way to achieve this.



“

At BCP, we understand that in order to address the issues of habitat destruction and degradation we have to ensure the communities sharing this space are being supported through sustainable projects. The LCFP is a partnership between Government, BCP, and our partner Chiefdoms in the Luangwa, Luano, and Lower Zambezi valleys, across over 1 million hectares of Zambia's rich biodiversity landscapes, that works to address key drivers of deforestation while benefitting local communities and supporting forest and wildlife restoration through funds generated from the sale of verified carbon offsets. As a result, LCFP is enhancing the quality of life households in one of Zambia's most impoverished regions through a partnership-based approach, while ensuring the ecological function maintenance of this protected area network through improved management.

Nic Mudaly, BCP CEO.



## Partnership Work is Key to Advancing Zambia's Conservation Technology

Zambia is home to a rich array of biological diversity and plays a critical role in global conservation efforts, yet these spaces are experiencing increased pressure due to a growing population and demand for land using unsustainable agriculture methods, combined with adverse weather conditions causing habitat loss. Resource and knowledge sharing are vital tools in safeguarding, growing, and conserving Zambia's wild spaces. In our continued efforts to work closely with the Department of National Parks & Wildlife, we are so happy to support DNPW's Mfuwe Office obtain 20 camera traps and accessories to help the Department scale in their efforts to track and monitor activities in the REDD+ zones and all other areas under their protection.



The Department of National Parks & Wildlife work on the frontline of spearheading conservation efforts across Zambia and is one of our closest allies, supporters, and partners in making conservation of wildlife habitat valuable to people. As we endeavor to continue supporting community-based resource management: compliance and monitoring we have proudly donated to the Department a TOYOTA Land Cruiser, and additional equipment for resource protection.

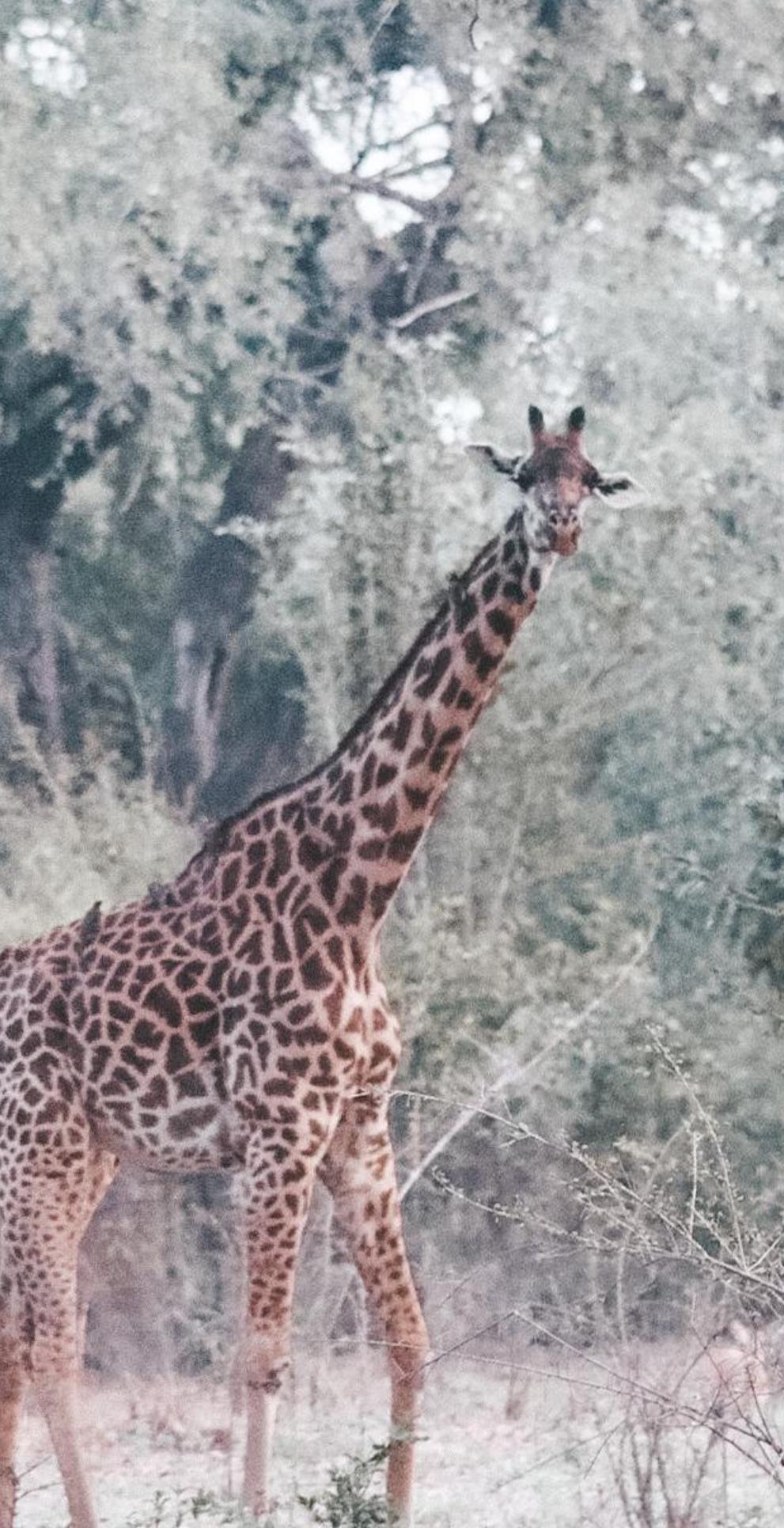


# The Unsung Heroes of the Conservation World

Community Scout operations in REDD+ Zones are paramount to safeguarding the wildlife habitat that BCP strives to protect, which has been made possible through our partnership with DNPW, our partner Community Resource Boards, and our conservation partners.



# Biodiversity Observations made in both Projects in 2022



**178**

*Southern Ground Hornbills*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in REDD+ zones

**73**

*Wild Dogs*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in REDD+ zones

**560**

*Elephants*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in REDD+ zones

**40**

*Lions*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in REDD+ zones

**252**

*Giraffes*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in LCFP

**294**

*Hippos*

Observed/recorded by  
BCP in LCFP

## BCP and BirdWatch Zambia Enter into Partnership to Monitor and Protect Vultures

As part of the partnership, BCP and BirdWatch Zambia have teamed up on a vulture tagging project to help fund equipment and field activities, identify large birds' nests, provide rapid poisoning response, share relevant avifauna data, and contribute to key biodiversity areas reassessments. Last month, BirdWatch Zambia and BCP successfully fitted tracking units on three White-backed vultures in Munyamadzi Private Game Reserve in the Luangwa Valley, to track their movements, with plans to tag 7 more in the coming months. This is just the start of an extremely exciting and promising partnership, which aims to contribute toward the protection of one of Africa's most threatened species of birds. The project will extend to Lower Zambezi in 2023.



Earning themselves a reputation as one of Africa's 'ultimate 'scavengers, vultures are a crucial species and play a vital role in the ecosystems they form a part of. With impressive stature and enormous wingspan, vultures are unlike any bird. They effortlessly soar through the sky, thousands of meters above the ground in search of their next meal. They provide ecosystems with defense against the likelihood of disease transmission by quickly locating and eating decomposing carcasses, which otherwise would turn into a breeding ground for bacteria.

They are also, however, one of the world's most threatened bird groups. Unfortunately, African vulture populations are declining at devastating rates of between 70% and 97% (92% or worse in 5 species) over a period of three generations (summarized most recently by Ogada et al. 2015), with seven formerly abundant species now globally threatened with extinction.



Vultures often fall victim to unintentional and intentional poisoning incidents, in which carcasses are baited with highly toxic substances to kill livestock predators. Unintentional because they feed on poisoned carcasses aimed at killing large carnivores (to prevent them from encroaching on peoples' land) or intentional because of poaching and killing based on traditional beliefs. Habitat destruction and encroachment of human activities have also contributed to sharp declines in vulture populations, leaving the species' future in a delicate balance.

Vultures occur in the forestland under BCPs protection and are considered a 'trigger species' for our projects under CCB (The Climate, Community & Biodiversity). CCB Standards identify projects that simultaneously address climate change, support local communities and smallholders, and conserve biodiversity. In the present case, vultures qualify as trigger species based on the vulnerability criteria, and the BCP projects could play a significant role in the global conservation effort for the species.

## Team BCP Charging for Zambian Conservation in 2022



Taking part in Fuch's annual Elephant Charge, Team BCP raised \$30,789 all towards conservation education in 2022.

Reporting back safe and sound (including the Charge car this year!) This was a first-time charge for #TeamBCP, with the event overall across all entries and donations from all of the teams that participated, raising over \$200k in 2022 for wildlife conservation in Zambia. An amazing achievement, and a clear indication of how important this cause is to Zambia, with most of the Chargers coming from within Zambia itself. To date, since the first Charge in 2008, Elephant Charge has raised a massive \$1,420,000, which has been distributed to effective conservation organizations working across the country. This year's charge took place in Mpanshya, just outside one of our protected REDD+ zones, which created an added level of excitement and pride to our participation this year.

Team BCP won first prize as the Top Fundraiser, second spot in the net distance, and finished in the top 10 overall in completing the Charge in the lowest kilometers. All in all – fantastic results for Team BCP!

Team BCP was blown away by the support received from its Board of Directors, and the generous donations made by each of those who supported the Charge this year.

This year's team was an all-BCP team represented by Carbon, Logistics, Conservation, and the Executive Management Team. Big Shout out to our Chargers – Nic, Igno, Marilet, Morris, Mike, Shakeem, Ruth, Lucas, and Lackson for Charging Hard in 2022!



# Sharing Our Journey with the World

## The NCS Lighthouses

The Conservation  
Coast  
Guatemala



Luangwa Community  
Forests Project  
Zambia



Mai Ndombe  
REDD+ Project  
DRC



Sumatra Merang  
Peatland Project  
Indonesia



Katingan Mentaya  
Project  
Indonesia

Rimba Raya  
Project  
Indonesia

At the beginning of 2022 The World Economic Forum launched the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance of NCS Lighthouses, and the LCFP was one of the first of 6 Projects to be announced as an NCS Lighthouse!

At the end of 2022, the announcement was made that LZRP made it into the second round of Lighthouses announced.

The NCS Lighthouses highlight Natural Climate Solution examples based on methodological and technological advances focused on mitigating environmental and social risks and generating positive environmental impacts and socio-economic benefits. They elevate the successful human, environmental, and climate stories behind these initiatives.

It is an incredible honor to be bestowed upon not one, but both of our REDD+ projects currently operating in Zambia.

An NCS Lighthouse

# What you need to know about Cop27



Hosted in November 2022, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt - we were at Cop27 in 2022 as part of the Zambian Government's delegation,

And here are the key outcomes that we want to help unpack for you:

- The launch of the African Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI) puts Africa center stage for the expected boom in the voluntary carbon market offset supply, with the aim for the continent to produce 300 million offsets a year by 2030, with a target revenue of \$6 billion, and the creation of 30 million jobs. Looking ahead to 2050, the goal is for the continent to be producing between 1.5-2.5 billion annually, with an annual revenue of \$100 billion, and 100 million jobs created across the continent. Zambia has committed to increasing benefits to communities as well as introducing reforms that will see the forest carbon sector contributing to the country's national budget. BCP is exceptionally proud to be supporting this initiative, which is in line with BCP's own ambitious goals for 2030, where we aim to be preserving 11 million hectares and contributing to an emissions reduction of 30 million tons annually.
- In a Historic 'win' for developing nations, the Loss and Damage Fund was adopted. Countries at the United Nations COP27 climate summit in Egypt have adopted a final agreement that established a fund to help poor nations cope with the extreme weather events caused by global warming. COP discussions reflected the strong support to establish a financial mechanism focused on loss and damage, the further movement towards a just transition, and also for local adaptation and resilience solutions that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable communities. Zambia, along with other developing nations is in full support of this Fund.
- On Africa's priority issue of adaptation, there is agreement amongst parties to accelerate working on identifying indicators and targets to facilitate support towards achieving the goal and assessing collective progress. This is an essential step toward the implementation of the Adaptation Goal and the agreement to focus on specific sectors.
- We were pleased to find an emphasis placed on Youth and Future Generation Day, which will help to widen the narrative around Africa as a hub of opportunities and innovative solutions. As this highlights how youth are collaboratively driving action and change, including issues of climate justice.
- Countries launched a package of 25 new collaborative actions in five key areas: power, road transport, steel, hydrogen, and agriculture. What you need to know.
- Antonio Guterres, Un Secretary-General, announced a \$3.1 billion plan to make sure within the next five years that everyone on the planet is protected from climate change by early warning systems.

- The UN published its official report, serving as a how-to-guide to ensure credible, accountable net-zero pledges by industry, financial institutions, cities and regions.
  - The Global Shield Financing Facility was launched by G7, which provides funding to countries suffering climate-related devastations.
  - The Global Environment Facility Fund announced a total of \$105.6 million in new funding to target the immediate climate adaptation needs of low-lying and low-income states. Read about the Fund here.
- The Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership was launched, which will unite action across governments, businesses and community leaders to halt forest loss and land degradation by 2030.



- US Climate envoy John Kerry unveiled the concept for an Energy Transition Accelerator (ETA) that would empower companies to buy carbon credits to support developing countries to accelerate the phase-out of coal power and renewable power expansion.
- The World's third largest emitter, India, released its long-term climate strategy, with a net-zero target by 2070.
- 150 countries (an increase of 50 over the initial signatories made during the UN's climate talks last year) have now committed to the Global Methane Pledge's Action to address methane emissions.
- It may still be some time before countries can offset their emissions with credits based on greenhouse gas-reducing projects elsewhere, under an international carbon market first called for in Article 6 of the 2015 Paris climate accord.



# A World-Class Team of BCPeople

At the heart of what we do at BCP, are our BCPeople. An exceptional group of phenomenal individuals, their knowledge, skills, expertise, zest for conservation, and passion for making a difference is what drives us to achieve our mission. With such an extraordinary team, is it any wonder that in 2022 BCP was once again awarded 'Best for Workers' and ranked in the top 5% out of over 5,000 B Corps across 80 countries and 155 industries!



At BCP we are all about our 'BCPeople'. Without whom, none of the milestones that we have achieved over the past 10 years would be possible. Our workers are the foundation from which BCP grows, and the backbone that gives us the stability, strength, and security to flourish. Here at BCP, we are a group of passionate and like-minded individuals all working towards the same common goal, which is to build a sustainable future for our planet. To do so, we understand that we have to adhere to a set of environmental and sustainable standards, to achieve this it is essential that as a corporation we look after our 'BCPeople'.

Being part of an independent and global movement such as B Corps makes us accountable, and acts as that added reassurance to our partners, buyers, and community stakeholders that we care. At BCP we have taken extra care to go above and beyond for our employees.

Amongst other things we offer a provision of health insurance to all employees, supported transport to and from our offices for staff who do not have access to vehicles, as part of our healthy green allowance we ensure there is a nutritious and sustainably produced meal on offer every day across all of our offices. Beyond that, we hold regular executive management site visits, HR workshops, and seminars and, send out surveys on a regular basis, to give our BCPeople an opportunity to give us feedback, boosting open communication and transparency.

 BCP HR Director, Nyembezi Nkunika Lopa.



# BCP's 4 Year Strategic Plan

## 1. Jurisdictional REDD+



The future of REDD+ is jurisdictional. BCP aims to become a technical support provider to Government in Jurisdictional REDD+, so BCP must be an expert in jurisdictional methodologies.

## 2. Mobilizing Investment at Scale



To develop an additional 7 million ha of forests by 2024, we need to raise up to US\$70 million to fund project development from 'zero' to first credit issuance. Our approach will rely on debt finance, reducing our development cost per ha to \$10, while remaining open to some grant opportunities.

## 3. Becoming a CBNRM leader



BCP will invest in partnerships and capacity building for BCP to become an expert facilitator of community processes. This includes strategies to help communities secure their rights and realize value from carbon, and partnership development with Governments and NGOs. With 95%+ of the forests we have signed long term co-management agreements with being community-managed, we must become experts in supporting community forest governance.



## 4. Developing Trusted Stakeholder Partnerships

BCP's ability to succeed is only as good as our ability to collaborate. We need to invest in a higher number of trust-based partnerships with all stakeholders. **Our mantra is "help others succeed".**



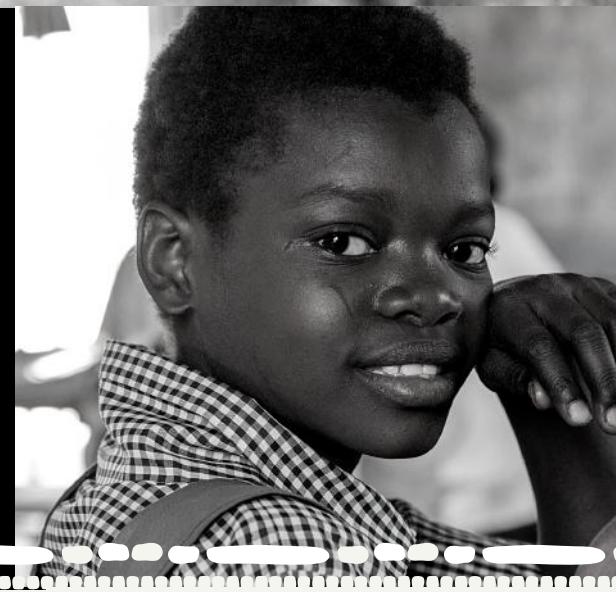
## 5. Restore Wildlife Populations

Combined with law enforcement support, wildlife re-introductions accelerate the wildlife species recovery. BCP's vision is for the Lower Zambezi-Luangwa Ecosystem to be on the restoration path by 2024 of key wildlife species.



## 6. Increase Household benefits

The success of our model depends upon households experiencing meaningful forest carbon value, and making the required changes to protect the resource. Our plan focuses on increasing household income and measuring these changes every 2 years. We aim to increase the number of direct and indirect community jobs created by our REDD+ projects to 95% of jobs created by 2024.





## 7. Strengthening Stakeholder Relationships



BCP's success in Zambia is only as strong as our partnerships. Their success is our success. Some key relationships have weakened, and this needs to change. REDD+ is no longer new and BCP no longer a start-up. With the right process, stakeholders will champion the project and will assist the project to reach positive outcomes.

## 8. Building BCP's Organizational Capacity



BCP will invest into product diversification (like Eco-Charcoal and new carbon methodologies), and geographically diversify.

## 9. Obtaining the Highest Credit Prices



BCP verifies projects to the highest standards ratings with a focus on social and environmental impacts. This strategy helps to achieve better credit prices and higher community benefits.

## 10. Become the Best Carbon Team in Africa



We aim to build the best forest carbon science team in Africa by 2024. This team will reside in Africa, and do this work in house. BCP will focus on innovation, methodological expertise and supporting Governments.



# Award Winning Offsets

## An NCS Lighthouse

The LCFP and LZRP were both listed as NCS Lighthouses by the World Economic Forum as exemplary examples of how REDD+ projects work.



Both of BCP's REDD+ Projects have been verified against the Verified Carbon Standard, The world's leading voluntary GHG program.

Both of BCP's REDD+ Projects have achieved The Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCB Standards) Triple Gold for exceptional community impact.



The 2021 Environmental Finance's Voluntary Carbon Market Rankings saw BCP take centre stage. The LCFP was voted the Best Individual Offsetting Project, BCP was awarded the Best Monitoring/Impact Report, and BCP was announced Runner-Up in both Best Project Developer, Forestry and Land-Use, and Best Project Developer Overall.



In 2022 BCP was announced the Best in the World once again for our impacts with our Impact Report awarded the Best in the World.



In 2022 BCP was been selected as the Energy Globe Award Winner in Zambia! We are excited to be one of the 2500 projects across 180 countries to be considered for these international awards.



We are proud to share that as a result of our continued dedication to our employees, and to upholding our environmental and sustainable responsibilities to better our planet, that BCP ranked in the top 5% of B Corps of over 5,000 companies globally, earning us the title of "Best for the World Honoree" for our rating of 150+.



Our goal is to align with the IFC Performance Standards and to support all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (BCP currently supports 16 out of the 17 SDG's).

# Partnership is in our Very Name!

BCP is a multi-award-winning leading Carbon Project Developer in Africa. Whom, together with The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MoGEE) and the 18 Chiefdoms it partners with in the Luangwa to Lower Zambezi valleys, is driving a new form of conservation finance that unites the community, wildlife, and climate positivity under the UN's REDD+ benefit-sharing model. We would not be able to do this without our partners.

This page is dedicated to them:



In cooperation with local community members in Bunda Bunda Chiefdom and The Soli Shamifwi Royal Establishment, BCP partners with:  
Mweshang'ombe Cooperative, Liyeyelo Cooperative, Chakanda Cooperative, and Chilimba Cooperative.



LCFP is implemented in partnership with the following Chiefdoms:  
Chitungulu Chiefdom, Nsefu Chiefdom, Jumbe Chiefdom, Mnkhanya Chiefdom, Malama Chiefdom, Msoro Chiefdom, Sandwe Chiefdom, Luembe Chiefdom, Nyalugwe Chiefdom, Shikabeta Chiefdom, Mpanshya Chiefdom, Mwanya Chiefdom, Chiawa Chiefdom, Kazembe Chiefdom, Mburuma Chiefdom, Mpuka Chiefdom and Mwape Chiefdom.



The Barotse Royal Establishment



Ministry of  
Agriculture



The Nature Conservancy



Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs  
A Smart And Value-Centered Public Service



Sable

GAME RANGERS  
INTERNATIONAL

PIA MANZI



Nyakolwe Game Reserve



CSL  
CONSERVATION  
SOUTH LUANGWA



# Zikomo Kwambiri from BCP!



An NCS Lighthouse



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