

Case 23: Z A M B I A

Promoting Climate Resilient Community Based Natural Regeneration of Indigenous Forests in Zambia's Central Province

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The Zambia's miombo woodlands are being degraded as a result of unsustainable land management and exploitation of natural resources. This degradation is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Such effects reduce the capacity of these woodlands to protect vulnerable communities from the increasingly negative impacts of climate change that are threatening their livelihoods.

Currently, restoration and livelihood development initiatives in Zambia do not adequately take into account climate change-related risks and adaptation needs. Furthermore, the capacity of Zambia's Forestry Department (FD) to plan and implement appropriate adaptation interventions is hindered by limited institutional and technical capacity. The Government of Zambia (GoZ) has responded to the challenges of ecosystem degradation and rural poverty by implementing restoration initiatives in participation with local communities.

Implementing Organization	Forestry Department, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Add : P.O Box 50042, Lusaka, Zambia
Funding Source	UNDP/GEF-funded
Implementing Period	06/2015 – 06/2020
Project site	Chitambo, Kabamba and Munchika Chiefdoms, Serenje and Chitambo Districts, Central Province, Zambia,

Key Words: Natural regeneration, Community based management, Improved energy Technologies, Climate Resilient, Participatory Fire Management, Forest restoration and livelihood improvement.



Community Forest Areas:
Boundary opening for one of the community forestry areas
In Serenje District



Agroforestry:
an agroforestry plot for one of the farmers under regeneration project

Background of the Project

The project is aligned with Zambia's **National Development Plan (NDP)**, which is the implementation strategy for the National Vision 2030. The NDP outlines national development policies and priority development areas towards achieving sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Moreover, this strategy focuses on the development of climate change adaptation programmes. Within Central Province, the NDP is focused on poverty reduction through economic diversification and increased investment in agriculture. The project will therefore support the NDP through the promotion of agro-forestry practices and diversification of livelihoods. In addition, the project will support two of the NDP objectives for Central Province as follows:

- ✓ Regeneration of depleted indigenous forests; and
- ✓ Environmentally-friendly technologies on energy sources.

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

The overall project objective is to promote climate-resilient, community-based regeneration of indigenous forests by enhancing the adaptive capacity of local communities to secure ecosystem goods and services that underpin rural livelihoods

The preferred solution to the climate change problem in Zambia is to reduce the vulnerability of local communities by:

Objective 1: enhancing the capacity of the FD and local communities to plan for adaptation to climate change; and

Objective 2: implementing adaptation interventions that increase the resilience of miombo woodlands using a community-based approach

Major Activities

Enhanced capacity of foresters and communities in Central Province to implement appropriate climate-resilient agro-forestry and natural regeneration practices in designated zones.

Robust fire monitoring and management protection plans and measures in place in all districts in Central Province to maintain desired regeneration targets and reduce fire frequency by 25-30% annually across the province, within a four-year burning cycle.

Energy efficient charcoal production and wood-saving technologies have successfully replaced inefficient systems in targeted areas of Central Province, helping offset pressure on the forests as the climate changes.

- ✓ Strengthening of capacities for planning and implementation of climate-resilient forestry practices.
- ✓ Protection of forest resources through implementation of fire management practices.
- ✓ Reducing pressure on forest resources through the introduction of efficient charcoal kilns and the creation of alternative energy sources.

Direct Outputs from the Project

Output 1: Between 30-40 VAGs formally recognised and constituted in Serenje district by Year 2, with clear resource rights and delineation of legally-recognised VAG boundaries and use zones

Output 2: Training delivered for at least 20 district forestry officers and 2,000 community members on site-specific appropriate climate-resilient agro-forestry and natural regeneration practices

Output 3: Climate-resilient agro-forestry and ANR practices are piloted over 15,000 hectares under management in Chitambo and Serenje districts

Output 4: Fire management plans developed and operational (based on independent verification) for Chitambo and Serenje district based on fire occurrence dataset and local inputs

Output 5: District forestry staff, relevant VAG members and local authorities trained on appropriate climate-resilient fire protection practices (boundary and firebreak management, early burning, etc.)

Output 6: 50 charcoal or sawdust briquetting machines or presses piloted across 20 VAGs.

Indirect Impact of the Project

- ✓ Strengthened technical and institutional capacity of foresters and communities in Central Province to implement appropriate climate-resilient agro-forestry and natural regeneration practices in designated zones.
- ✓ Robust fire monitoring and management protection plans and measures in place in all districts in Central Province to maintain desired regeneration targets and reduce fire frequency by 25–30% annually across the province, within a four-year burning cycle.
- ✓ Energy efficient charcoal production and wood-saving technologies have successfully replaced inefficient systems in targeted areas of Central Province, helping offset pressure on the forests as climate changes.

Challenges and limitations of the Project

- ✓ Limited technology for adaptation and sustainable management of Miombo woodlands
- ✓ Limited coordination between stakeholders involved in tenure and management of forest resources
- ✓ Limited – or unequal distribution of – finances for conservation of forests as a means of adaptation
- ✓ Limited institutional capacity to implement participatory natural resource management including CBNRM.
- ✓ Limited data to support monitoring and management of forests

Intervention of Central/Local Government and other stakeholders

Forestry Department (FD) – Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MLNREP)

- ✓ The FD and MLNREP will be responsible for the mapping and zoning under Output 1 and training of district forestry officers under Output 1.4. In addition, the FD and MLNREP will assist with the development of fire monitoring and management plans under Outcome 2.

Way Forward

The project will have to work in coordination with other adaptation and forest-related initiatives to build on their advances in overcoming the barriers. The project will contribute to overcoming these barriers using an integrated approach. Initiatives include even those that are agricultural related.

Reference Documents/Materials

- ✓ MLNREP (2012) Proposal for Special Funding to Improve Service Delivery and Exploitation of the Potential in the Lands, Forestry and Environment Sectors to Enhance Revenue Collection and Create Jobs (internal document).
- ✓ United Nations Development Programme (2014) PROJECT DOCUMENT: Promoting climate-resilient, community-based regeneration of indigenous forests in Zambia’s Central Province project
- ✓ Zambian Forestry Department and UN REDD (2012) Forest Management Practices with Potential for Redd+ In Zambia, Final Report

Resource Persons

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Alternative Energy Sources:
Improved mad stove for fire wood