



KARIBA REDD+ FOREST PROTECTION ZIMBABWE

Saving forests, protecting wildlife and changing lives

Since the Kariba REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) project launched in 2011, more than 18 million tonnes of CO₂ have been prevented from entering the atmosphere. The project has also supported the independence and wellbeing of local communities.

The Context

Zimbabwe has been torn apart by war, civil unrest, economic collapse and population growth. Over the past twenty years, desperate communities have delved deeper into the forests, clearing for farming and fuel for their rudimentary homes. As a result, more than a third of Zimbabwe's majestic forests are now gone.

The Project

The Kariba project ensures that 784,987 hectares of forest and wildlife on the southern shores of Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba are now protected. As one of the largest registered REDD+ project by area, it sits between the Chizarira, Matusadona and Mana Pools National Park (which is also a World Heritage Site), and Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia. By connecting these four national parks and eight safari reserves, this project area forms a giant biodiversity corridor, ensuring the protection of an expansive rainforest and numerous vulnerable and endangered species, including: the African elephant, lion, common hippo, lappet-faced vulture and southern ground hornbill.

The Benefits

Beyond protecting the environment, a range of activities support the independence and wellbeing of local communities. Better health care is implemented through improving clinic amenities, infrastructural development such as new roads and new boreholes improve daily life, while school subsidies are made available for the poorest quartile of the population. Project activities such as conservation agriculture, community gardens, beekeeping training, fire management and ecotourism create jobs and facilitate sustainable incomes that benefit the entire community.

So far, the project has trained 233 local people to generate profit from sustainable beekeeping.



85,000
people

are benefiting from project activities, enjoying better health and economic opportunities



40
%

people participating in the project are women, including opportunities in agriculture, education and project management



20,000
people

provided with safe water through borehole maintenance



71
trainings

set up for local people, building skills for local employment



1,730,865
tCO₂e

mitigated annually, directly contributing to climate change mitigation



784,987
ha

of land conserved or protected, encouraging the biodiversity of crucial wildlife

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Kariba REDD+ Project | UNFCCC/markit/VCS link: https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=100000000001275 | UNFCCC/markit/VCS ID: 1275