

Luanshya

Zambia

Mid-year report 2020



Engaging smallholder farmers in reversing deforestation

In Luanshya in Zambia's Copperbelt province, the miombo forest has suffered from mining and charcoal production. WeForest is working with local farmers to restore native woodlands, empower local communities and help cool our planet.

Forests are restored through the assisted natural regeneration (ANR) of plots of native miombo woodland on farms. We continue to support the local farmers' association (LFCA) to become financially independent: in return for agreeing to restore and protect woodland and harvest sustainably, farmers are provided with the training and tools they need to diversify their forest-friendly activities such as sustainable bioenergy, fruit and honey production. Women are supported to establish home-based nurseries. As a result, forest growth is accelerated and farmers receive a higher income.



Our goals for the Luanshya project:

2020 goals:

Protect and restore
375 ha
450,000 trees

90% of the areas of ANR
under sustainable management

By 2030:

Protect and restore
3,000 ha
3,600,000 trees
using Assisted Natural
Regeneration (ANR) and
agroforestry

What's new in Luanshya?

Recent highlights from the field

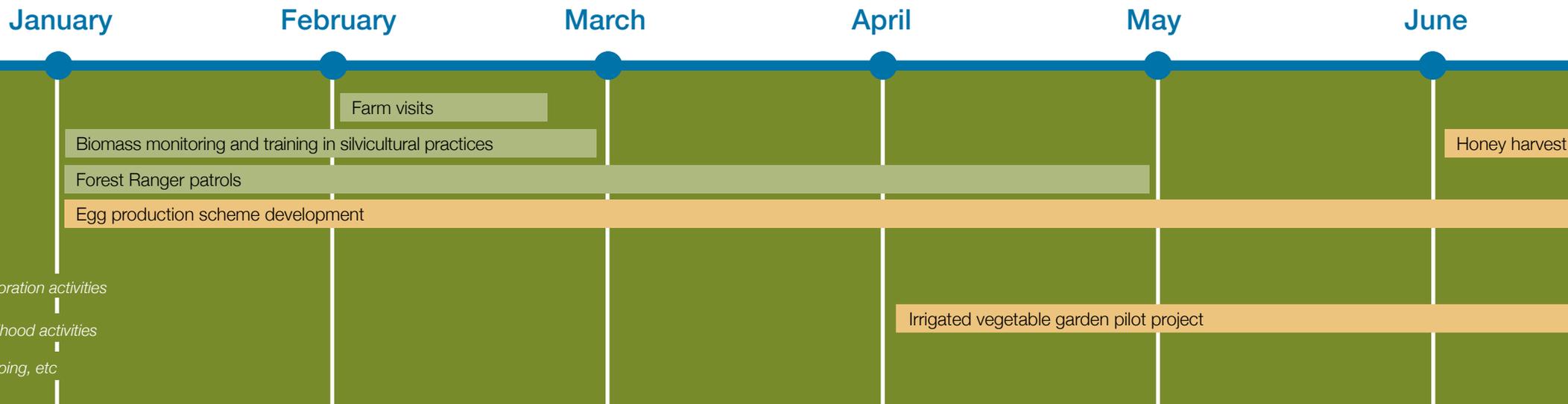
Beehives installed in farmers' woodlots allow them to earn a steady income from a healthy, flourishing forest. Moreover, bee pollination itself helps the forest regenerate. By selling honey, farmers can increase their annual farm income – which is \$300 on average – by \$80. We've partnered with local private sector companies to secure the sustainability of our honey production scheme: they've committed to buy the honey our farmers produce.

It seems bees are as environmentally minded as we are: they don't like plastic hives! Between January and April 2020, we replaced around 640 uncolonized plastic hives with wooden ones in the project area.

By February the hives were being rebaited with honey, which



A record harvest of four buckets of honey for David F. from Mipundu. Below: Newton S. presents the freshest honey of the season.



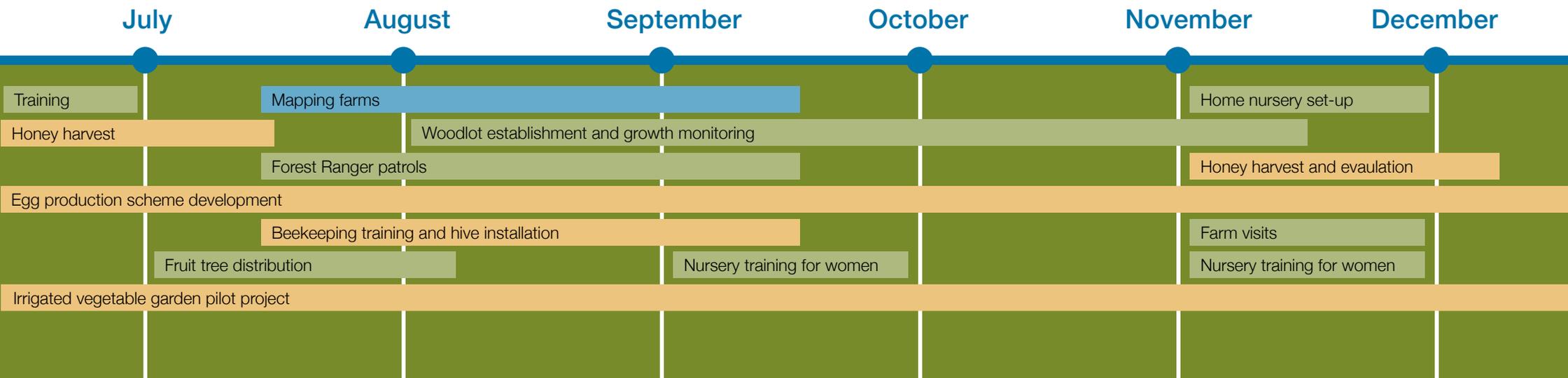
encourages bees to colonize them. Honey harvesting season started again in June and resulted in a record harvest of 17.5 tons of raw honey, meaning the 466 WeForest honey farmers earned a whopping 253,700 ZMW (\$14,000) between them.

Vegetation surveys showed an **average biomass increase** of 10% in our monitoring plots. This is good news! A 5% increase in miombo woodland is needed to achieve a mature forest within 20 years.

Owing to **COVID-2019**, some activities have been postponed or replaced. We delayed the planned training of 130 farmers. Group activities of more than 20 people are not allowed, and non-essential travel is discouraged. For smaller, 'essential' group meetings, social distancing is required, as well as hand sanitizing or washing with soap after every contact. Wearing masks in public has been obligatory since the end of March.



Social distancing measures were in place during the project's training sessions.



What's next?

- An additional 600 hives will be installed with around 120 newly recruited farmers.
- A selection of the women farmers trained in 2020 will be invited for nursery establishment and propagation training in September or October.
- The chickens provided by the project in spring should start laying eggs from August onwards. The local farmers' association (LFCA) is developing a plan to scale up the egg-rearing business.
- The irrigated vegetable garden pilot project is working towards an offtake contract for the production of cabbage, tomatoes and green beans grown by 42 producer groups.
- We're planning the extension of the Luanshya project to neighbouring districts in 2020.

A progress report covering the project's full year is published every February.



How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of beneficiaries, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

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

Stay up-to-date with our interactive [Luanshya map](#).

Check out new photos from the project on [Flickr](#), and don't miss our latest [Zambia video](#)!

