



ZAMBIA

LUANSHYA DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2018



WeForest

Making Earth Cooler



Farmers in poor countries often cause deforestation as trees are generally the only way for them to cook or earn an extra income through charcoal production.

WeForest is engaging with more than 800 small-scale farmer families to change this and make them stewards of their forests.

They receive forestry training, beehives, efficient fuel stoves, and subsidies for grafted fruit trees. Furthermore can they apply for specific permaculture or plant nursery training to diversify their skills and farm livelihoods.



SCIENCE-BASED MEASUREMENTS AND VERIFICATION

Forestry survey: January 2018

Socio-economic survey: The audit is currently being undertaken and will be published January 2019



LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

Trees funded: 1,885,430

Hectares directly restored: 1.571 ha

Total area positively impacted: 2.525 ha

Methodologies used:

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) is used to enhance the natural regeneration processes of forest restoration. The aim is not to replace the natural growth of trees by planting the trees, but to accelerate the processes.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The restoring forest has 70 different tree species, which means the tree diversity in the project ANR plots is very high, especially when comparing to the mature Miombo woodland elsewhere.

By practicing early burning where possible, the growth of a more diverse set of herbs and flowers is stimulated.

Also, through reforestation, the endangered African Crowned Eagle is now seen in the project area again.

A new tree

The avocado tree is a new tree specie that has been added to the area this year. Avocado trees are resilient and low-maintenance and a mature avocado tree can reach up to 10 meter and sequester 10 kg of CO₂ per year.



CARBON SINK

We are expecting to reach 227,823 ton CO₂ in 30 years with the trees currently planted. This equals to 145 ton per hectare.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The project currently employs 2 women working in the nursery, 3 trainers (1 female) and 6 beehive mentors.

A total of 54 female farmers have been trained and equipped with plants and grafting material.

522 farmers indicate they have seen their income increase through the project and 505 farm families indicate they have seen their income diversified through the project.

These numbers are only expected to increase as farmers are longer in the project: after all, as their forest is growing, so do the benefits.

SHORT STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Trees are the real heroes

They provide us with all their benefits for free. This tree is an old *Syzigium guineense*, also called waterberry as it can often be found near streams and rivers or in water-rich areas. It has edible fruits and though normally grows 10-15 meters tall, it can also grow up to 25 meters. This tree can be seen in a few of our project sites in Zambia and Ethiopia.



Photo: WeForest

Women learning Permaculture

After following a plant nursery training course at WeForest training center, Maggie N. started to grow fruit tree seedlings from seeds in her own nursery in her garden, grafting and selling them. She also engaged in developing a permaculture garden with the support of WeForest. During a recent visit she says: *Thanks to the WeForest training and equipment they provided, I've now learnt a valuable skill that I can bring into practice without investing or losing out on other sources of income. I hope to expand my nursery and permaculture as more people buy my products.*



Photo: WeForest

UPCOMING 6 MONTHS

During the next reporting period, the following activities will take place:

- Socio-economic interview with newly recruited farmers
- Forestry audit in January
- Tree planting between December and February
- Trainings
- Extensionist services
- On the long run are we working towards developing capacity to process honey locally.

MEET ALFRED, BEEKEEPER WITH WEFORREST



Photo: WeForest

During the July harvest, Alfred harvested honey from 3 of the 5 beehives that are installed in his forest restoration plot.

To protect the beehives from wildfires, the top bar beehives of WeForest are hung in the canopy of mature trees. Alfred's beehives produced an incredible average of 40 kg per beehives and a total of 122 kg harvested, equating to 16% of their annual cash income.

Needless to say, Alfred was thrilled to be given this opportunity and only more motivated to keep caring for his forest...

WeForest is an international non-profit that specializes in mobilizing companies to restore the World's forests and embark their stakeholders into a long-term journey towards environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, we need to start decreasing our global emissions by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by the second half of this century. While reducing carbon emissions is critical, research suggests that even if carbon dioxide emissions came to a sudden halt, the carbon dioxide already in the Earth's atmosphere could continue to warm our planet for hundreds of years. The challenge is to reduce future carbon emissions and actively remove the excess carbon from our atmosphere.

Forests are known as the best technology for that: they are an amazing carbon sink.

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THANK YOU

