

# Katanino, Zambia

## Mid-Year Update 2022

Agroforestry activities have been an important focus over the last six months. There are two agroforestry approaches in Katanino: 1) the Conservation Agriculture Programme, integrating trees with traditional crops, and 2) the Silvopastoral Programme, introducing trees into an animal farming system. At the same time as being a sustainable and profitable way for smallholder farmers to grow cash crops for food security, nutrition and consistent income, agroforestry systems improve natural resources such as soil and water by the presence of trees, which also sequester carbon as they grow.



This is the second season to engage farmers in the Conservation Agriculture Programme. Participating farmers receive agroforestry trees – including *Moringa oleifera*, *Leuceana leucocephala* and *Gliricidia sepium* – to grow among their crops of maize and soya beans. Last year's farmers have seen an improvement in yields of 40% compared to conventional farming. These Conservation Agriculture farmers are practising minimum tillage during a training session in Biwa zone. They also learn crop rotation and planting and pre-harvesting techniques to make sure their agroforestry systems are a success.





Farmers in the Silvopastoral Programme have planted agroforestry seedlings on their pasturelands, which will grow as fodder for the goats that the project will provide for meat production.



These families in the Silvopastoral Programme are gathering grass to make hay. Hay provides forage for goats during the dry period (May-November) when there is no fresh grass for them to eat. Hay is harvested in both Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plots on farmlands and inside the forest reserve, which significantly reduces the biomass that can help wildfires spread in the forest.





The survival of agroforestry trees planted under the Conservation Agriculture and Silvopastoral programmes will be assessed next month. Our goal is to eventually include all 941 farming families in the buffer zone (red) around Katanino Forest Reserve (white) in the agroforestry programme.



Here's WeForest Zambia Partnerships Manager Cassandra Lundu at the Conservation Careers Fair in Lusaka. This event brings together representatives from the conservation sector to provide advice and information to young people about conservation as a rewarding career.



## 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 individuals or families directly benefiting, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

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



You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive [Katanino map](#), and check out the [photos](#) on Flickr.