

### 2024 Project Update

# The Katanino Forest Landscape Restoration Project





Katanino, Copperbelt Province, Zambia Miombo Belt



Timeline: **2019 - 2029** 



Targeted ecosystem: Miombo woodlands



### Project management and M&E team



Main implementing partner: WeForest Zambia



**Dr. Fainess Lumbwe** Country Director, Zambia



**Gift Mazimba** MEL Manager



**Morton Shanzi** Project Manager



Hinji Mutondo Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

See the full team at: www.weforest.org/about-us/#our-team



North Swaka <u>#7191</u>

Imanda #7190

# **Project story**

The Katanino Forest Landscape Restoration Project is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of the Katanino Forest Reserve and its surrounding 5 km buffer zone, collectively referred to as the Katanino Joint Forest Management Area (KJFMA) in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province. In partnership with the Katanino Forest Trust (KFT), the project promotes sustainable forest restoration, conservation, and alternative livelihoods that alleviate pressure on natural resources.

Designated as a Joint Forest Management Area (JFMA), the Katanino Forest Reserve is co-managed by both the government and local communities. Governance involves multiple stakeholders and is the responsibility of the Katanino Joint Forest Management Committee (KJFMC), which is registered as the Katanino Forest Trust (KFT). The JFMC comprises representatives from relevant government agencies, as well as chairpersons of Village Resource Management Committees (VRMCs), which lead restoration and conservation efforts in the buffer zone, playing a crucial role in protecting the forest.



Unsustainable timber extraction and charcoal production.

Agricultural expansion, land encroachment, and natural resource exploitation are driven by population growth.



### Improve forest governance and stewardship through:

• Building local capacity for forest law enforcement and sustainable resource use.

### **Conserve and restore the Katanino forest** through:

- Strengthening Katanino Forest Trust's technical and governance capacity;
- Employing sustainable forest management techniques including enrichment planting, Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and onfarm forest restoration.

### Strengthen forest-friendly livelihoods and behaviors through:

 Reducing reliance on forest resources by supporting alternative livelihoods, including conservation agriculture, agroforestry, beekeeping and goat and chicken rearing.

# A long-term vision



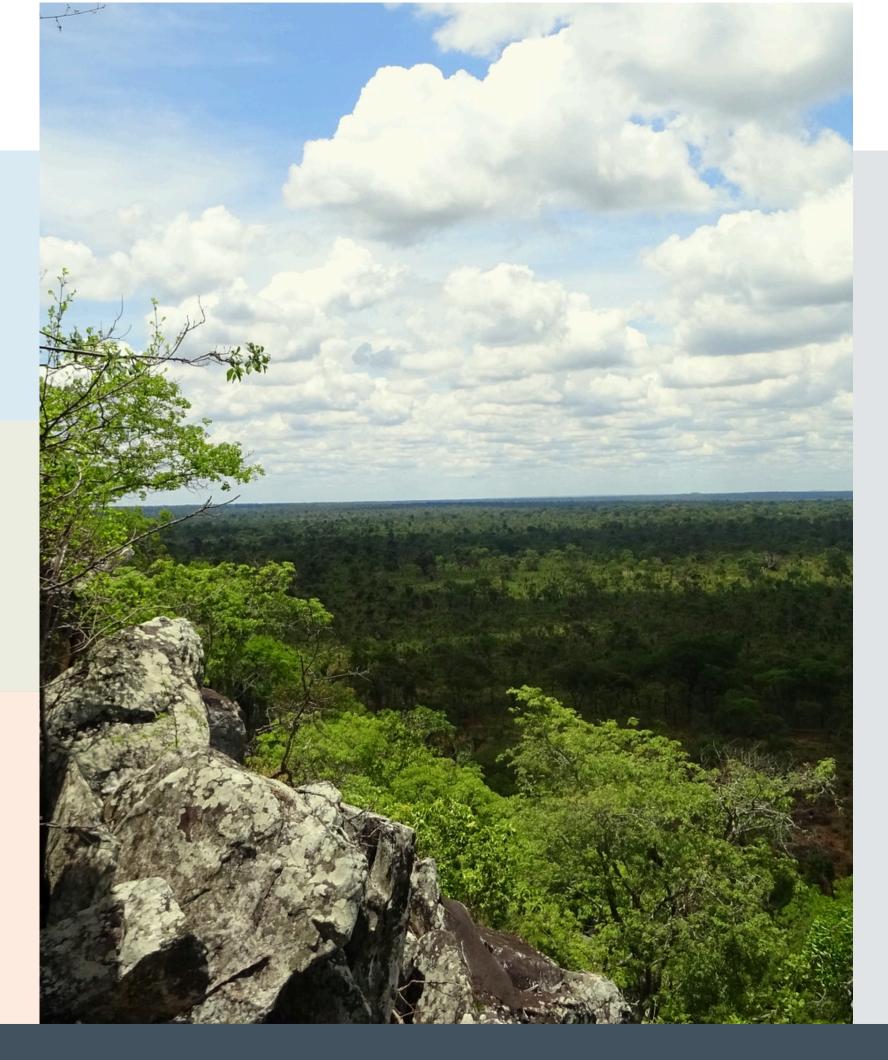
The restoration of Katanino will contribute to both climate mitigation and adaptation: increasing tree cover to sequester carbon while improving water retention and soil stability to help communities adapt to droughts and erratic weather.



Restoring Katanino will protect biodiversity and secure critical ecosystem services like water and soil health. Improved land management will enhance habitat resilience, ensuring the forest continues to sustain both people and wildlife.



Strengthened governance and forest-friendly livelihoods will ensure communities see the forest as an asset: one that provides resources while being sustainably managed. By integrating agroforestry, beekeeping, and livestock rearing, the project reduces deforestation-driven income reliance while securing long-term economic stability.



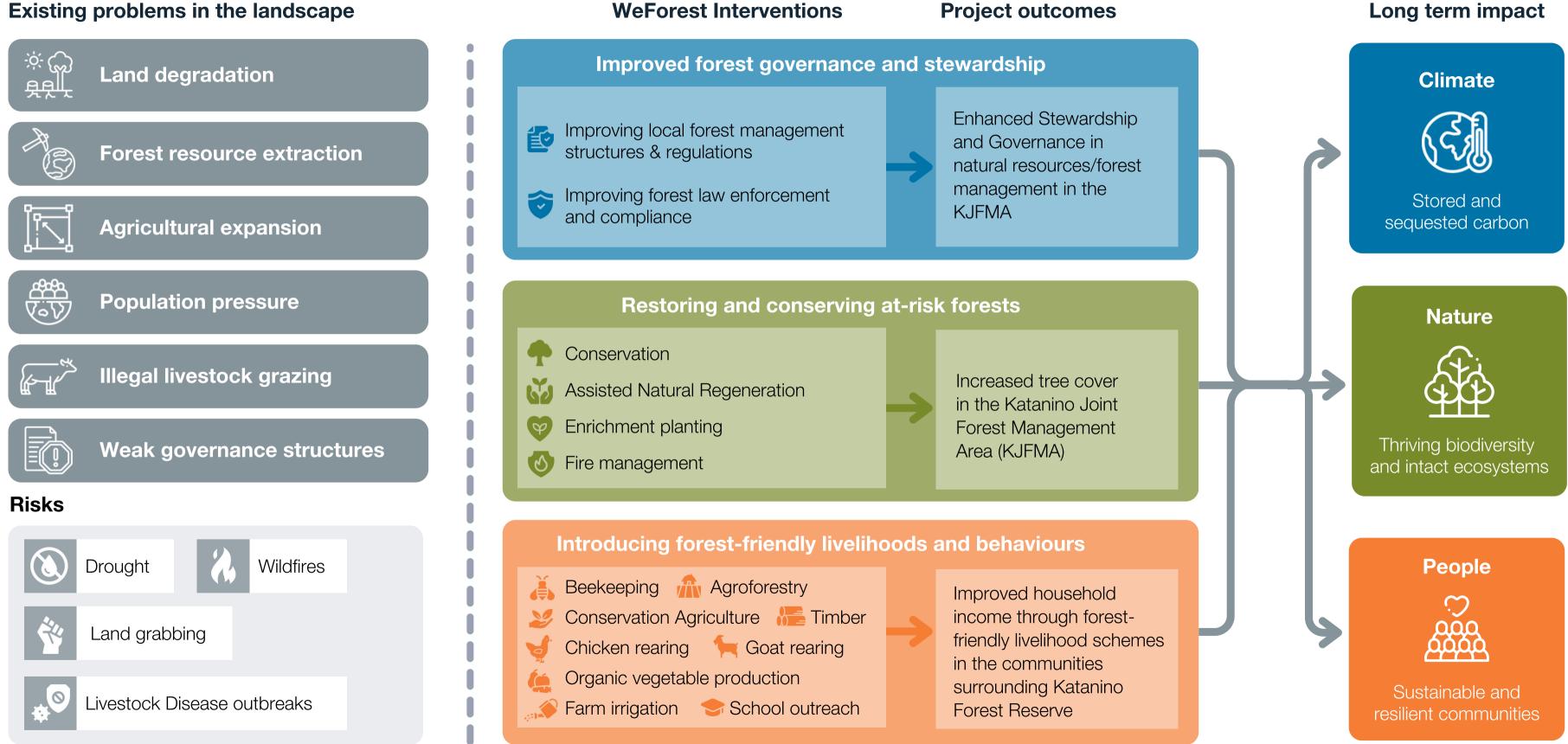
# Outcomes

By integrating these interventions, the project will:

- Strengthen stewardship and governance in forest and natural resource management.
- Increase tree cover within the Katanino Joint Forest Management Area (KJFMA).
- Enhance household incomes through sustainable, forest-friendly enterprises.
- The **long-term** impact of our work will benefit people, nature and the climate.

# **Theory of Change**

### **Existing problems in the landscape**



### **Project outcomes**

### Long term impact

The Katanino Forest Trust has experienced steady income growth over the past three years, with income doubling in 2024 due to increased honey harvests. The Joint Forest Management Committee (JDMC) plans to use the funds raised from honey sales to set up orchards, a great indication of JFMC's commitment to growing and diversifying its income streams.

The project was awarded as the best economic contributor firm in Masaiti District at the 2024 Labour Day celebrations held on the 1st of May under the theme "Building resilience: putting workers at the heart of Zambia's economic recovery". The celebration was attended by the Masaiti District Commissioner as the guest of honour.

## **2024 Major Achievements**



On December 24, 2024, during the National Tree Planting Day held in Biwa Zone, the project brought together community members, local leaders, and stakeholders to raise awareness about climate-resilient agricultural practices and their role in climate change mitigation. The event also marked a significant governance achievement—the official signing of the Katanino Forest Trust (KFT) Constitution.

The Constitution signing formalized KFT's governance structure and reinforced its legitimacy as a community-led institution overseeing the Katanino Joint Forest Management Area (KJFMA). In the photo, Mr. Chaile, Chairperson of the Bwengo VRMC, and Mr. Mwitwa, Chairperson of the Biwa VRMC, signed the Constitution on behalf of their respective communities. The document was set to guide the Trust's operations for the next five years.

The Constitution established clear roles, responsibilities, and procedures for the KFT and its affiliated Village Resource Management Committees (VRMCs). It strengthened accountability, set out internal controls, and provided a transparent framework for community decision-making and benefit sharing. Its ratification demonstrated the VRMCs' and KFT's shared commitment to good governance, participatory forest management, and sustainable resource use.

This milestone occurred at a pivotal time, as the KFT was beginning to assume greater autonomy and responsibility in managing law enforcement, fire response, and livelihood interventions. The Constitution laid the groundwork for stronger institutional capacity, improved resource mobilization, and more effective collaboration with partners such as the Forestry Department, local councils, and development organizations.

#### **Case study**

# 2024 activity update



**Improved forest** governance and stewardship

- The Katanino Forest Management Plan was finalised and submitted to the Forestry Department headquarters for review and possible approval.
- The Katanino Forest Trust constitution was signed into effect by the Katanino Forest Trust and Village Resources Management Committee Chairpersons before being submitted for filing to the registrar of societies.
- The Sustainable Charcoal Production and Conveyance (SCPC) monitoring protocol was reviewed and adopted by the Forestry Department.

**Restoring and** conserving at-risk forests

- **18** Camera traps were deployed in the reserve, and the footage captured revealed the presence of diverse wildlife.
- **180,434** agroforestry and pine seedlings were planted across households and schools.
- **1,855** hectares in the 5km buffer zone were brought under sustainable forest management and climate-smart agriculture.



Introducing forest-friendly livelihoods

- **31,583** kgs of honey were harvested from 1628 beehives.
- 493 households raised a net income of ZMW 768.8 (USD 36.61).
- 5 local schools adopted conservation agriculture and agroforestry.
- 425 farmers, of which 219 were female, attended Conservation Agriculture field days.
- **919** beehives were hanged in the 5 Kmm buffer zone of the Katanino forest reserve.



### **Progress tracker**

	2019					
Anticipated CO2 sequestered in the future from project activities						908,633
	0	200,000	400,000	600,00	0	800,000
Hectares planted, conserved and restored						6,176
	0	2000		4000		6000
Number of trees conserved and restored						6,552,095
	0	2,000,000		4,000,000		6,000,000
Number of households positively impacted	ې ممم مممم					Achi
	0	200	400		600	800
Trees planted to date	7,312	3		dy species project to date		
		Total: 3	74,513			
	For forest conservation and restoration For forest-friendly livelihoods					

2029

1,000,000

Target: 941 +ieved: 2,722







In June 2024, the project was honoured to host a familiarisation visit by the Principal Forestry Officer (PFO), Mr. Godfrey Musonda, accompanied by the WeForest Zambia (WFZ) Country Director. The visit provided an opportunity to highlight progress made under the Katanino Forest Landscape Restoration Project, including ongoing efforts to strengthen local forest governance and finalize the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and community by-laws.

During the visit, discussions were also held on WFZ's plans to expand forest restoration work to Miengwe and Songwe Welala, with the PFO expressing strong interest in supporting the initiative. This dialogue laid the groundwork for the development of a project concept note for Miengwe, which has since been incorporated into the 2025 work plan.

Mr. Musonda commended the project team for their achievements and reaffirmed the Forestry Department's commitment to supporting both the implementation of the Katanino FMP and the ratification of local by-laws. His support underscored the importance of continued collaboration between WFZ, the Forestry Department, and local governance structures in scaling up forest and landscape restoration efforts in the region.



In 2024, 113 illegal activities were recorded within the Katanino Forest Reserve—a fourfold increase compared to 29 cases in 2023. These infractions included unlawful livestock grazing (34%), harvesting of Lusala (30%), bamboo harvesting (20%), NTFP collection (10%), and fishing and other minor activities. This surge is largely attributed to severe food and income shortages faced by 69% of households in the buffer zone and surrounding areas following the prolonged 2023/2024 drought, which also led to water scarcity for livestock.

This trend underscores the urgent need for stronger enforcement mechanisms. The absence of ratified by-laws has made it difficult for VRMCs to apply formal penalties, creating enforcement gaps. To address this, the project will implement a mobile phone geo-targeting picture application (Timestamp) in 2025 to improve real-time tracking and documentation of illegal activities. Furthermore, the project will continue engaging with the local council and the Forestry Department to expedite the ratification of by-laws, which are essential for legal enforcement and sustainable management.

In addition, six late-season wildfires were reported between June and October 2024, with one severe incident involving crown fires that impacted approximately 49.19 hectares (0.99% of the reserve), notably within the Serenje and Biwa FMUs. This particular fire also damaged a third of the nursery fence and destroyed 5% of planted seedlings.

Investigations suggest these fires were human-induced, often linked to cattle herders seeking to regenerate fresh grazing and hunters targeting small animals. To strengthen fire resilience, the project will establish and train community-based fire response groups composed of residents living near the reserve. These teams will be equipped and empowered to act swiftly in mitigating wildfire risks and protecting biodiversity. Additionally, to reduce the need for burning, the project will explore incentivized hay harvesting as a sustainable alternative.

Collectively, these challenges emphasize the critical importance of building community resilience, strengthening governance structures, and enhancing law enforcement and fire preparedness as core elements of forest protection moving forward.

# Looking ahead to 2025

The Katanino Forest Landscape Restoration Project, which commenced in 2019, successfully concluded its implementation phase in 2024. As the project transitions into its next phase, 2025 will mark the beginning of the Monitoring and Evaluation phase, focusing on assessing progress, measuring impact, and informing future decision-making.

Key activities planned for 2025 include:

- An external audit to be conducted by Preferred by Nature to assess performance against agreed standards and verify project outputs.
- An internal Mid-Term Evaluation to review progress against the project's long-term objectives, identifying implementation bottlenecks, and recommending course corrections where necessary.
- Capacity strengthening for VRMCs and cooperatives through quarterly mentorship sessions
- Enhanced data tracking on key KPIs, and improved documentation of forest governance, livelihoods, and restoration outcomes.

2025 presents a timely opportunity to reflect on achievements, consolidate learning, and position KFT and its stakeholders to sustain forest and landscape restoration gains beyond the lifespan of direct project support.



In 2024, the project hosted a monitoring and learning visit from One Tree Planted, our key partner under the AFR100-supported agroforestry initiative. The delegation included Mr. Samuel Ofori, AFR100 Project Manager based in Ghana, and Mr. Filbert Raj, Project Manager from Rwanda. They were accompanied by the WFZ Country Director and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Manager.

The visit featured field stops at Mushili Secondary School, conservation farming sites, and satellite nurseries established across project zones. These visits showcased the project's progress in promoting community-led agroforestry, school-based tree planting, and climate-smart agriculture.

Under the One Tree Planted-supported AFR100 project, the Katanino project aims to plant a total of 525,050 seedlings by 2025. The delegation expressed satisfaction with the strides made so far and acknowledged the strong community engagement and local ownership evident across all sites visited.

In the photo is the joint team comprising representatives from One Tree Planted, WeForest Zambia, community members, VRMC leaders, and village headpersons, demonstrating the collaborative spirit that underpins the success of the agroforestry component.

## **Supporters & Partners**

### 2024 project partners

**The Katanino Forest Trust** collaborating on various initiatives, including livelihoods, forest management and governance activities

Wildhive and Co honey offtake

**The Copperbelt University** collaborating on research initiatives, this year on enhancing productivity and climate resilience of small holdings.

### Forestry Department, Masaiti and Kapiri

**Mposhi** collaborating on implementing forest law enforcement, stakeholder partnership building and promoting sustainable forest management.

**Ministry of Education** collaborating on the school outreach programme.

**The District Council, Masaiti** instrumental in the formation, review and approval of the by-laws and constitution for the Katanino Forest Trust.

**AFR100** TerraFund funds the Agroforestry and tree planting programme of the project.

Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Veterinary collaborating on conservation agriculture, chicken, goat and vegetable production and other livelihoods initiatives.

**Community-Based Natural Resources Management Forum** collaborating on building the governance capacity of the Village Resource Management Committees and the JFMC.

**Ministry of Health** collaborating on the health and safety needs of staff and volunteers.

### With thanks to our supporters in 2024, including:

Atlas Copco



### **Contact us**

Visti www.weforest.org or for more information or email: contact@weforest.org



# How we measure and forecast our impact

### **Baseline**

For the sake of simplicity, the progress bars in this report show a baseline of zero. This represents the concept that the area covered by WeForest forest and landscape restoration (FLR) activities was zero; thus the associated trees conserved and restored, carbon stored and households impacted through WeForest intervention was also zero.

In reality, when a WeForest project begins, our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team undertakes a detailed survey on forest structure and regeneration through establishing Permanent Monitoring Plots, and conducts an extensive questionnaire on livelihoods, to establish meaningful baseline values. You can read more about our full MEL activities <u>here</u>.

# Hectares planted, conserved and restored

#### Progress up to 2024

Verifiable cumulative total since the project began of all mapped intervention sites, also known as polygons, of:

**1)** Conservation forest areas, such as forest reserves

**2)** Restoration forest areas, such as Assisted Natural Regeneration and planting areas

3) Agroforestry areas on community/farm land

### End of Project Target

Target number based on the potential area of land able to be conserved, restored and planted in the project area under the known and expected conditions at project start. However, it is subject to change based on unforeseen opportunities or challenges that may arise.

# Anticipated tons of CO2 to be sequestered through project activities

#### Progress up to 2024

Extrapolated tons of CO2 calculated from the measured areas of different types of land use (for example forest or agroforestry) under "Hectares of forest planted, conserved and restored" to date, and the average amount of projected long-term CO2 per hectare provided from literature review for each land use type in their locations. Although totalled, please note the methodology for calculating these CO2 projections are specific to land-use type, and span a period corresponding to the expected time taken for the trees to reach maturity, which varies between locations.

### End of Project Target

As above, but using the target (and not current) number of hectares planted, restored and conserved and their respective area totals as a parameter for calculations. As this parameter is subject to change, the associated CO2 target may also change over time.



### Number of trees conserved and restored\*

#### Progress up to 2024

Extrapolated number of trees calculated from the measured areas of different land use types (for example conservation areas, restoration areas or agroforestry) under "Hectares planted, conserved and restored" to date, and the average tree densities observed for each land-use type when mature, known through our MEL activities or scientific literature.

#### **End of Project Target**

As above, but using the target (and not current) number of "Hectares of forest planted, restored and conserved" and their respective area totals as a parameter for calculations. As this parameter is subject to change, the associated trees conserved and restored target may also change over time.

\*Estimations based on average numbers per hectare

### Trees planted to date (2024)

#### Total

Actual counted number of planted seedlings and saplings of woody (tree and shrub) species in the project to date.

#### **Trees planted for forest-friendly** livelihoods and behaviors

Only woody species directly planted for livelihood improvement. This also includes woody fruit, fodder & timber trees, and woody cash crops, exclusively planted on community or farm land.

#### **Trees planted for forest** conservation and restoration

Only woody species that were directly planted for ecological reasons, aiding restoration of the natural forest ecosystem.

### Woody species in project to date (2024)

### Total

Actual observed number of woody (tree and shrub) species: • Regenerating in the conservation/restoration zones (i.e. in the

- Permanent Monitoring Plots) and
- Planted, either for restoration or livelihood improvement
- Growing as mature trees in the conservation/restoration zones (i.e. in the permanent monitoring plots).
- Please note, these numbers are not exhaustive and the true species richness is likely to be higher.

#### Tree species for forest-friendly livelihoods and behaviors

Only woody species directly planted for livelihood improvement. This also includes woody fruit, fodder and timber trees, and woody cash crops, exclusively planted on community or farm land.

#### Tree species for forest conservation and restoration

The woody species observed in the project area that are not used for livelihood improvement purposes. Where species are used for both livelihood improvement and restoration (which is sometimes the case, as we use native species as much as possible), they have been counted under 'forest-friendly livelihoods and behaviors'.

### Mammal and bird species sighted to date

Numbers are included where we have a good level of biological monitoring, for example using camera traps or audio devices - please note that numbers are unlikely to capture the full species richness of the project area and that the absence of reporting does not imply the absence of species.

### Other notes

WeForest works in close cooperation with local partner organisations, institutions, community-based organizations and local people. Therefore, our impact can never be fully separated from the work of our partners. WeForest acknowledges that the presented impact numbers cannot be solely attributed to our work, but is also supported through the hard work contributed by all our local partners.

# Terminology

#### Conservation

Where native forest canopy cover is still intact, we focus on protecting the forest from any threats and disturbances, such as overgrazing, unsustainable wood extraction and fire.

#### Restoration

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR): Where there is reduced forest cover but high potential for natural regeneration, we aim to accelerate natural recovery, typically through preventing soil degradation, reducing competition with weeds, and protecting young trees.

#### Tree planting

Where there is reduced forest cover and little regeneration potential, we actively plant native trees at a density that corresponds with the regeneration potential.

#### Agroforestry and tree crops

Where agricultural landscapes exist, WeForest promotes the planting of trees for livelihood improvement. These trees can be used either for direct consumption or sale (fruits, timber, fuelwood) or to support other crops or livestock (agroforestry). Native tree species are prioritized but, where necessary, non-native species may be used.