

Zambia: Creating a wildlife corridor

The Luangwa Community Forests Project

Background

Zambia is known for its impressive natural wonders and diverse wildlife. As a country considered to be among the safest on the continent, Zambia is therefore a popular tourist destination for experiencing the best of Africa's environment. Unfortunately though, Zambia loses around 300,000 Ha of its forests every year. This land is around four times the size of New York City and therefore the number of available habitats for such wildlife is rapidly dwindling. Deforestation is a big problem in the country and has worsened in recent years following the country falling into a power crisis in summer 2015. As 95% of Zambia's electricity is generated by hydropower, a dry season can be catastrophic. In 2014-15, rainfall was less than 50% average measurements. Since then, unemployment has risen and many people are returning to traditional cooking and lighting methods. This puts a further pressure on local forests. Furthermore, the increased unemployment heightens the risk of locals turning to illegal logging or ivory poaching to generate income. Without protection and sustainable management, Zambia's forests will continue to deteriorate.

The project

The Luangwa Community Forests Redd+ Project, covers a total of 766,000 ha of forest land in its first phase with the aim to cover around 3 million Ha in the second phase. The aim of the project is to solve and reduce the causes of deforestation rather than simply prohibit it. These drivers are predominantly poverty, unsustainable incomes, poor services and lack of education about the environment. The project therefore works alongside communities, supporting local infrastructure, schools and employing locals so that those nearby can benefit from conservation. The project also includes sapling nurseries to start rebuilding forest cover and has established an eco-charcoal project which aims to provide sustainable fuel to the capital. By linking small, rural communities to the government and local markets, the project significantly mitigates the drivers of deforestation.

Project type:	REDD+
Location	Luangwa-Tal, Zambia
Project start date	May 2015
Projektstandard	VCS VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD
UN Agenda 2030 goals	
	

