



KARIBA REDD+ FOREST PROTECTION ZIMBABWE



Saving forests, protecting wildlife, and changing lives

Since its launch in 2011, the Kariba REDD+ project has prevented more than 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from emission into the atmosphere by preventing deforestation and land degradation in an area of nearly 785,000 hectares. The project also continues to support regional sustainable development, and the independence and wellbeing of local communities.

The Context

Zimbabwe has been torn apart by war, civil unrest, economic collapse and population growth. In recent decades, desperate communities have delved deeper into the forests, clearing for subsistence farming and fuelwood. As a result, more than a third of Zimbabwe's majestic forests are now gone.

The Project

The Kariba REDD+ Project protects almost 785,000 hectares of forests and wildlife on the southern shores of Lake Kariba, near the Zimbabwe-Zambia border. One of the largest registered REDD+ projects by area, it sits between the Chizarira, Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks (also a World Heritage Site), and Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park. The project connects these four national parks and eight safari reserves, forming a giant biodiversity corridor that protects an expansive forest and numerous vulnerable and endangered species – including the African elephant, lion, hippo, lappet-faced vulture and southern ground hornbill.

The Benefits

Kariba REDD+ is a community-based project, administered by the four local Rural District Councils (RDCs) of Binga, Nyaminyami, Hurungwe and Mbire. As such, the project supports a range of activities beyond environmental protection, promoting the independence and wellbeing of these communities. Improved clinic amenities provide better healthcare, infrastructure including new roads and boreholes improve daily life, and school subsidies are offered to the poorest quartile of the population. Project activities in conservation agriculture, community gardens, beekeeping training, fire management, and ecotourism create jobs and facilitate sustainable incomes, benefiting the entire region.

To date, the project has trained at least 1,119 local people who now generate profits from sustainable beekeeping.



85,000
people

benefiting from project activities, enjoying better health and greater economic opportunities



19
health
clinics

have been supported by the project since 2011



40
%

of project participants are women, partaking in areas including agriculture, education and project management



20,000
people

provided with safe, clean water through borehole maintenance



215
trainings

set up for local people in improved agriculture (143), beekeeping (38), and tree planting (34)



3,000,000
tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually, from 2011 to 2016



784,987
ha

of land conserved or protected, promoting biodiversity and protecting local wildlife

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Kariba REDD+ Project | Markit link: https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=100000000001275 | Markit ID: 1275

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