



**KARIBA  
REDD+**  
Project







**Kasvisva School, Nyaminyami RDC.** The Kariba REDD+ project has supported the Kasvisva school with educational material such as white boards, individual chalk boards for children, as well as writing material



*“Conservation Farming brought by the Kariba REDD+ Project was the only way to alleviate poverty and hunger in rural Africa and improve food security for the local people.”*

**Chief Chundu of Hurungwe District**  
Kariba REDD+



**Givas Chisaka**, who is part of the Carbon Green Africa Project Monitoring Team, is carrying out a plot monitoring field visit in Nyaminyami RDC

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The “beehive” or local community developing along with the Kariba REDD+ Project



An aerial photograph of a lush, green forested valley. A river winds through the valley floor, and the forest covers the surrounding hills. The image has a blue color overlay.

**Part I**  
**Mudzi**  
*(tree roots)*

## Living in line with conservational requirements and adapting to climate change

The Kariba REDD+ Project is rooted in the vision to fight poverty, hunger and deforestation. These impacts are achieved by actions to adapt to climate change, reduce forest loss and avoid desertification. The true agents of change in achieving these ambitions are the people from the communities living within the project area.

Located in four Rural District Council (RDCs) in Northern Zimbabwe, the Kariba REDD+ project site stretches over more than 1,000,000 hectares, including 785,000 hectares of forest land (or 7,850 km<sup>2</sup>) and 250,000 hectares of community agricultural land (or 2,500 km<sup>2</sup>).

The driving forces behind the project activities are the local communities in Binga, Nayminyami, Hurungwe and Mbire, on the southern shores of Lake Kariba. Their work has led the project to be recognised as a finalist in the 2014 UNCCD's Land for Life Award and UNDP's Equator Prize 2014.





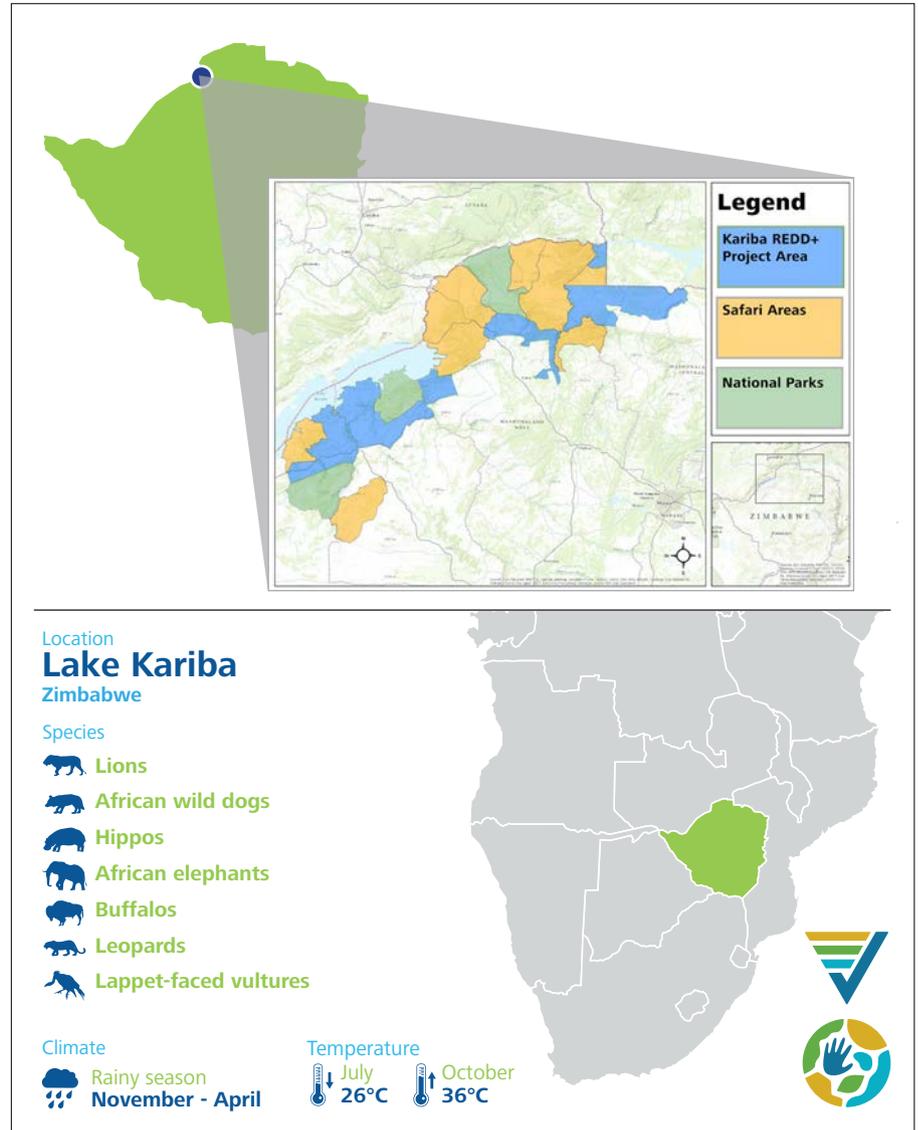
The breathtaking Zambezi Escarpment



Field team measure trees to collect data on carbon stocks.



The Kariba REDD+ Project connects three National Parks and eight wildlife reserves to form a giant biodiversity corridor in Northern Zimbabwe. Thanks to its outstanding biodiversity and climate change adaptation benefits, the project has been registered and verified by Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Community, Climate and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS) at Gold Level, the highest level of accreditation.





The Riverine Forest



## Protecting the environment, biodiversity and climate

The community-based Kariba REDD+ Project directly supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It preserves numerous vulnerable and IUCN Red List species and connects three of Zimbabwe's national parks, among them the Mana Pools World Heritage site.









## The case for community-led emission reduction projects

Wildlife conservation is crucial for safeguarding local biodiversity and livelihoods, and for climate change adaptation.

For instance, many plant species have adapted seeds that must pass through an elephant's digestive system before they can sprout. In fact, as much as a third of West African tree species in West African forests rely on elephants for their dissemination. These trees are part of the forests that cover around one third of all global land area, and are home to 80% of earthbound biodiversity. Losing forests would mean losing the chief guardians of our watersheds, which are the land ridges that act as "funnels" for 75% of our freshwater worldwide.

While many speak out against hunting, there are limited options beyond hunting operations and safaris for many rural people living in wildlife areas, particularly in those areas inhabited by the "Big Five" (lion, leopard, elephant and Cape buffalo). The use of smart finance, such as in the case of Kariba REDD+, not only supports the protection of endangered wildlife, but helps build economically viable, healthy and sustainable communities. It also helps to ensure that remaining wildlife can continue roaming in the wild.

Thanks to anti-poaching and biodiversity monitoring initiatives run by local people, the Kariba REDD+ Project area today boasts a vibrant range of wildlife that wander along the Matusadona and UNESCO World Heritage-listed Mana Pools National Parks. To date, wildlife surveillance data of the project area shows that population levels for 12 species have improved since the project launched in 2011.





**Part II**  
**Dzokurima**  
*(farming)*





## New economic alternatives and stronger infrastructure

One of the aims of Kariba REDD+ is to create opportunities and income by assigning greater financial value to forests and wildlife when healthy and thriving, than when they are illegally logged or shot down.

The local villagers within the project area have been busy setting up their own businesses that allow them to live in line with sustainable development. They take pride in native fruit tree cultivation and conservation farming, and participate in regular trainings that revolve around crop and pest management, composting, and fire awareness. Here are just a few examples of the ways that the Kariba REDD+ project is improving lives for people in the project area:



### Elinah Muley's House

Elinah Muley is a 43-year-old widow who was encouraged to start a Kariba REDD+ moringa plantation and work for herself rather than waiting for donations. She grew 47 moringa trees, and after four months started selling the dried leaves with average sales per month of US \$28.00 to \$36.00. She has since saved enough income to buy materials and labour for her own house.



### The Tashinga Garden

The Tashinga Garden consists of 31 members; all women, some of whom are widows, single mothers, and/or disadvantaged. They have started to help child orphans (most of whom live with their disadvantaged grandparents) within their community. Garden members provide orphan families with nutrition from the garden and cook regularly for the local infants school.

## Improving infrastructure, upskilling and livelihoods

Within its first years of operation, the Kariba REDD+ Project succeeded in improving agricultural productivity by 30% and stopping soil erosion on the agricultural land of participants. By doing so, it continues to support sustainable economic growth and sustainable industrialisation, as well as more resilient infrastructure.





# Kariba REDD+ Project

TASHINGA COMMUNITY GARDEN

NYAMAKATE



HURUNGWE  
RURAL  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



CarbonGreen  
AFRICA



ENVIRON  
MENT  
AFRICA



The community members in Hurungwe take pride in their work around their Nutritional Garden (Tashinga), and participate in regular trainings that revolve around crop and pest management and the importance of looking after the environment







**Part III**  
**Nyuchi**  
*(beekeeping)*



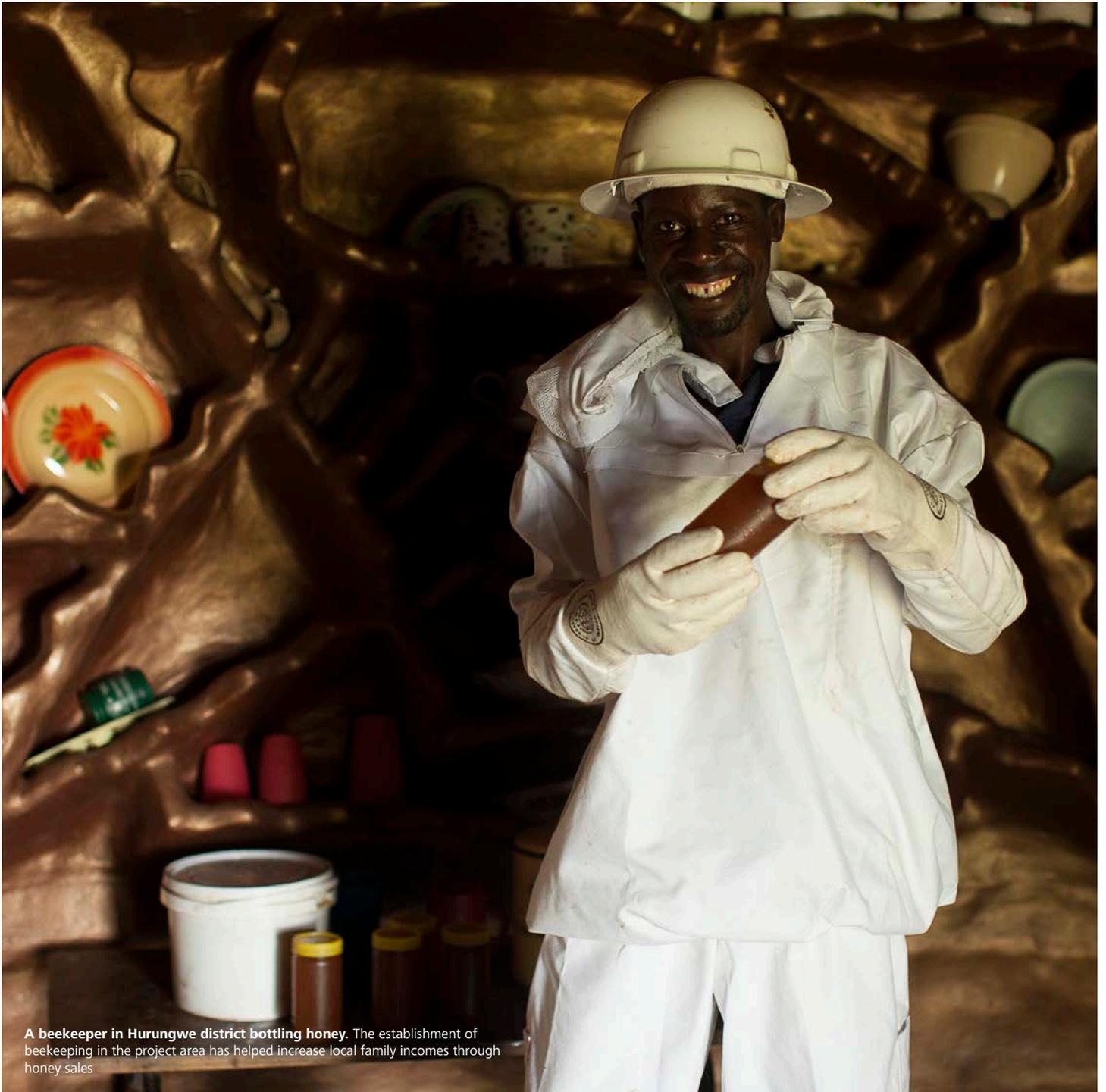


## A stronger, more resilient community

The people of Hurungwe, Nyaminyami, Binga and Mbire have seen new, productive opportunities brought to their communities by the Kariba REDD+ Project.

The local population can now spend their time on education in recently renovated school buildings, and as well as agricultural activities the project has overseen the establishment of sustainable beekeeping activities, with honey sales contributing to family incomes and further educational opportunities.

The role of women has been especially promoted, particularly in areas of education and project management of community gardening.



**A beekeeper in Hurungwe district bottling honey.** The establishment of beekeeping in the project area has helped increase local family incomes through honey sales



## Supporting education, female empowerment and continuous community development

The Kariba REDD+ Project directly ensures healthier lives, and promotes lifelong learning. It also contributes to gender equality by creating livelihood opportunities for women in agriculture, education, and project management.







Children in Mbire district have been able to benefit from improved educational material.







## About South Pole

South Pole is a leading provider of global sustainability financing solutions and services, with over 250 experts in 18 global offices. For more than a decade, South Pole has worked with a wide range of public, private and civil sector organisations to accelerate the transition to a climate-smart society. The company's expertise covers project and technology finance, data and advisory on sustainability risks and opportunities, as well as the development of environmental commodities such as carbon and renewable energy credits. South Pole has mobilised climate-finance to over 700 projects in emission reduction, renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable land-use. We act today "for a better tomorrow".

For more information, visit [southpole.com](https://southpole.com) or follow the company [@southpoleglobal](https://twitter.com/southpoleglobal).





## About Carbon Green Africa

Carbon Green Africa (CGA) is a Zimbabwe based company established to facilitate the generation of Carbon Credits through validating REDD projects in Zimbabwe, through its local team and network of partners. CGA's core competency is having the capability to enable successful conservation projects according to the rules of the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Community, Climate and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS) at Gold Level, and whilst also being able to make the project financially viable for all parties involved. This is a new yet working model in the carbon management arena, CGA has established very good association with a variety of entities to ensure the model work.





