



# Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

Improving lives through Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

## International Women's Day 2022: 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'

### **2022 International Women's Day Theme**

The theme of this year's International Women's Day campaign recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all'.

Unfortunately women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, especially in rural areas where they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Those charged with the responsibility to secure water, food and fuel for cooking and heating face the greatest challenges, especially during extreme climatic events. Additionally, women often face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity and those of their households. When coupled with unequal access to resources and to decision-making processes, rural women are disproportionately affected by climate change.



### **Reducing vulnerability, improving lives**

The Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is a Government initiative in the Ministry of Green Economy & Environment, supported by the World Bank and partners. Its aim is to improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Eastern Province while

supporting them to sustainably manage land, forests and wildlife. ZIFLP is assisting rural communities to better manage the resources of their landscapes so as to reduce deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion; enhance benefits they receive from forestry, agriculture, and wildlife. Importantly to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

### **Gender focus**

ZIFLP's focus is on increasing women's participation in decision making, access to, and control over household and community resources as they relate to the environment. Secondly, promoting improved livelihoods through better management of natural resources such as land to increase agricultural production that translates to increased food security and incomes as well access to forests for household needs and livelihoods opportunities.

### **Equality through forestry**

The Community Forest Management approach promoted by the project supports the conduct of democratic elections for community forest management committees, empowering women to have voice and representation in local development issues. The project promotes women's involvement in local decision making through local planning processes by way of devolving authority to manage and harvest natural resources to community and household level, as well as promoting opportunities to develop sustainable enterprises, access markets and generate sustained income.



### **Increasing capacity, developing new skills**

ZIFLP through the community forestry process is increasing the capacity of the community forest management groups to realise new values from the forest. Generating revenue requires new skills in financial management and simple book-keeping, skills which are transferable to promoting women's micro enterprises within the community. District accountant's have been supporting the forestry officials with the skills transfer to community groups, women in particular.



### **Strengthening capacity including women in leadership roles**

ZIFLP is also assisting the Forestry Department to better carry out their functions and to manage selected forest reserves for which they are responsible. This includes undertaking forest resource assessments, engaging surrounding local communities and developing plans for the shared management of critical resources for the local communities and of national importance. Women forest officers from Provincial and District level are at the forefront of these processes.



Women officers are also taking a lead in ensuring that our forests are safe from unsustainable use through forest law enforcement training conducted by the Zambia Forestry College with support from ZIFLP.



### **Building a sustainable future**

ZIFLP is addressing social norms and increasing women's participation in decision making, access to and control of resources, equitable access to economic benefits of natural resources and strengthening other areas of gender inequality.

Promoting gender equality at all levels will result in improved environmental management of natural resources, improved livelihoods for communities in the districts of Eastern Province while addressing the climate change challenges of today's society to build a more sustainable future for all.

**Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project** is a five year initiative which aims to provide support to rural communities in the EP to allow them to better manage the resources of their landscapes so as to reduce deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion; enhance benefits they receive from forestry, agriculture, and wildlife; and reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

The ZIFL-Project is a product of cooperation between the Government of Zambia and the World Bank



For further information, please contact:

#### **ZIFL Project Implementation Unit**

1940 Building, opp High Court

PO Box 510169, Chipata, Zambia

Visit us at: [www.ziflp.org.zm](http://www.ziflp.org.zm)