



# Ministry of Green Economy & Environment

## Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

Improving Lives through Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

### Banki Community safeguard their remaining forest in an area of high demand for forest resources

#### **Community Forests: Rights & Responsibilities**

Local communities can now gain new rights to control access and use of their surrounding forests. Through the Forests Act, 2015, the Director of Forestry may recognize, with the consent of the Chief of the area, persons living in close proximity to or having strong traditional or livelihood ties to an area of forest. The Director may enter into an Agreement with the community group to transfer authority to control access, use and management of a designated forest area following consultation with the Chief and the local authority. The Agreement covers rights to harvest and trade in forest products, including: collection of medicinal herbs; harvesting of honey, grass and grazing of animals; collection of forest produce for community based industries; operating eco-tourism and recreational activities; establishing plantations; harvesting of timber or fuel wood; and many others as set out in the Agreement. Following negotiating and agreeing with neighbouring communities and traditional leaders on the community forest boundary, the community develop and implement a simple forest management plan with forest rules that set out how to manage the forest in a way that balances protection, development and use.

#### **Support to community forestry**

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 livelihoods of rural communities in Eastern Province while supporting them to sustainably manage land, forests and wildlife. The projects provides support to the Forestry Department with expanding the community process in the Province.

#### **Banki Community Forest Management Group**

Banki CFMG is one of the 27 established community forest management groups under the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project. The community forest management group is located approximately 30km North-west of Kasenengwa District in Chief Madzimawe's Ng'ongwe ward. The community forest area being protected by the CFMG is surrounded by 25 villages and is 195 hectares in size. The CFMG was recognized in February 2020 and entered into an agreement (signifying the transfer of user rights to the community) with the Director of Forestry in January 2021.

To get to the level where they are today, the CFMG with support from ZIFLP have undergone the full 7 steps of community forest management process.



During CF step 6, they developed an annual workplan and have conducted a range of activities from patrols, marking the forest boundary with concrete beacons, conducted early burning to reduce the fuel-load in the forest and therefore risk from late season fires. Banki CFMG has also been a beneficiary of the ZIFLP Community Forest Management Emissions Reduction Performance Incentive Scheme. This aims to allow them to fulfil the obligations entered into with the Director of Forestry to control access and protect the forest. Financial management training was also conducted by officers from the Forestry Department. Joint monitoring has been conducted twice with the CFMG reflecting on their management plan, annual workplan, forest protection activities, functioning of the executive through meetings and record keeping as well as management of finances. This joint monitoring, evaluation and lesson learning is key to ensuring the equitable functioning of the group.



### Enterprise Development

To help them sustainably manage their forest resource, Banki CFMG applied for and were awarded a grant to venture into beekeeping and honey processing. The grant amount was ZMW1,775,427 equivalent to \$88,771. With this support the group has managed to:

- Procure and hang 1,000 beehives.
- Procure honey processing equipment including honey pressers, drums, buckets and packaging bottles.
- Procure harvesting tools i.e. smokers, hive tool/knife match box and a bee brush.
- Protective clothing's such as bee veils, gloves, gumboots and helmet /hat.
- Construction of a honey processing with solar powered water reticulation system.



The group also developed a business plan and underwent technical training by the Technical Service Providers COMACO engaged by the Project.

Honey Production - In the just ended honey harvesting season the group harvested 845 kg of honey which they sold to COMACO one of the honey processors in the Province. Now in production and generating revenue other members of the community are now expressing interest to be trained as beekeepers now that they have seen evidence of the intervention.

### Promoting fuel efficient stoves

Members of the community were trained in the construction of energy efficient fixed mud stoves by the Department of Energy through ZIFLP. This is an effort to reduce pressure on the forest given the scarcity of forests in the local area. In 2019, 50 households were trained, with a further follow up training in December 2021 where 46 households from Banki participated. Under the energy efficient cookstove incentive scheme the builders through the CFMG have been paid K10,629 with more stoves under construction.



### Restoring household forest assets

Individual households with their own areas of forest, generally around homesteads and field margins were identified and trained by the Forest Research Division of the Forestry Department, initially through assisted natural regeneration, but also other forest regeneration techniques including coppicing, root suckering, air layering use of truncheons.

### An integrated approach to scale up

Interventions supported in Banki range from forest management at community and household level through assisted natural regeneration, enterprise development and energy efficiency. Together these aim to reduce the pressure on the remaining forests while increasing their productivity and therefore value to the community. As only one cluster of villages in a densely populated district, the challenge is to secure financial resources to expand and replicate the integrated approach across an agricultural landscape to both reduce emissions and improve livelihoods.

The **Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project** is a GRZ initiative which provides support to rural communities in the Eastern Province 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.

ZIFLP is a product of cooperation between the Government of Zambia, the World Bank & partners.



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