



Ministry of Green Economy and Environment **Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project**

Improving Lives Through Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources



Government engages with Traditional Leaders in Eastern Province on the recently Approved Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Programme.

The Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) has developed the Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Programme (EP-JSLP) as a long-term Results-Based Climate Finance (RBCF) aimed at advancing the Government's objectives to develop and implement low-emission sustainable development strategies that can be replicated in other provinces to scale up emissions reduction efforts nationally, and transition to comprehensive landscape accounting as envisaged under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The EP-JSLP has since been formally approved and permit granted by the Ministry of Green Economy through the Forestry Department in line with the Forest Carbon Stock Management Regulations, 2021 12 (1) and (2) to commence operations on 1st January 2024.

As part of stakeholder engagement and consultations, ZIFLP, Private Sector, Civil Society and Implementing Partners led by Eastern Province Permanent Secretary Mr. Paul Benjamin Thole, conducted engagement sessions with all 56 Traditional Leaders from all the chiefdoms in the Eastern Province to give the Chiefs more insights into the Jurisdictional Program. The Traditional Leaders were grouped into clusters by region and five engagement meetings were held in Petauke, Katete, Chipata, Mambwe and Lundazi.

The discussions in these meetings included all Programme requirements, roles and responsibilities expected of the Chiefdoms as benefits through the Benefits Sharing Plan (BSP) will be performance-based and chiefdoms will be required to conduct specific measurable mitigation interventions to be eligible to benefit from the anticipated non-carbon benefits and carbon revenues.

The discussions also included aspects of the required adherence to social safeguards through soliciting Free Prior informed consent (FPIC) from communities and the Traditional Authorities, to ensure they engage with the Programme of their free will based on transparent sharing of information before undertaking the Emissions Reduction Program for maximum buy-in.



Chiefs from Nyimba, Lusangazi and Petauke during the Petauke consultation meeting



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Critical to these engagements were aspects of socialising the Chiefdom Emissions Reduction Performance Agreement (CERPA) contents with the Chiefs. The CERPA serves to incentivize and reward Green House Gas emissions reduction activities and actions across the Chiefdom through assigning roles, performance criteria and responsibilities as well as a system for monetary rewards through a results-based benefit-sharing mechanism for participating groups and community level beneficiaries in conjunction with the EP-JSLP.

Key issues requiring clarifications from the consultations included among others;

A) The issues of the existing carbon projects as regards their fate in the new program considering that these have been in operation for some time and have signed long-term agreements with communities. The Permanent Secretary for Eastern Province and his team clarified that the new Program will not stop the existing projects from operating except the old projects will operate using a program-wide approach and will trade their carbon under the EP-JSLP using a common methodology and Benefits Sharing Plan at landscape as opposed to project-based approaches. This is also the direction the VCS projects will transition to by 2025 and to that effect, collaboration efforts have been ongoing through the Harmonization Technical Working Group aimed at addressing the operational details and building on the strengths of all stakeholders concerned.

B) Issues of benefits vis fears of reduced or no benefits at all especially for communities that are already benefiting from the existing carbon projects arose prominently. The PS and team addressed this by assuring the Traditional Leaders, that the ER Program will be applying the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) which includes avoided deforestation and Soil carbon. As such for communities without large expanse of standing forests, there is an opportunity to derive carbon benefits from other land use categories just as for those with existing forest resources. This entails added resources for those who have been beneficiaries of carbon revenues from avoided deforestation from the Project-based carbon interventions.



Chiefs from Chipata, Kasenengwa and Chipangali during the Chipata consultation meeting



Chiefs from Nyimba, Lusangazi and Petauke during the Petauke consultation meeting



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Permanent Secretary for Eastern Province, Paul B. Thole (center) with Chiefs during the Chiefs consultation meeting in Mambwe District

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C) The engagements also discussed Governments' resolve to promoting the Private sector in its quest for the development of low-carbon development pathways emphasizing that the works done so far by existing carbon Projects is commendable and Government will be leveraging their experience and resources to ensure that the interventions under the EP-JSLP are a success and if implemented well leveraging on all available resources (Government and Private), there is adequate anticipated benefits to go round all stakeholders and that working together is the only way of ensuring this success.

D) Further emphasis was placed on the fact that the world is moving towards landscape approaches to addressing climate change initiatives moving away from project-based approaches that guarantee holistic resolution of climate change risks and impacts.

These consultations are one of the many engagements to come as the rolling out of the recently approved ER Program for Eastern Province which is being piloted as a case study for potential expansion to the rest of the Country. The traditional Leaders also emphasized the need for enhanced sensitization of the ER Program to all areas of the province to ensure the general public becomes aware and enlightened of the Program as it borders on actual livelihoods of the people from both the carbon and non-carbon benefits that contribute improvement of local livelihoods.



Chiefs from Nyimba, Lusangazi and Petauke during the Petauke consultation meeting

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About Zambia Integrated forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP)

Zambia Integrated forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is an initiative supported by Government in partnership with the World Bank at a total cost of \$32.8 million

The project aims to provide support to rural communities in the Eastern Province (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.



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