

Introducing BCP

Making African forests valuable to people

Who We Are:

At BCP (BioCarbon Partners) we work hand in hand with rural communities to protect vital forests. By keeping trees standing, communities benefit. Together we create long term binding agreements that protect Zambian forests for future generations by creating jobs, improving healthcare and education opportunities from the sale of certified Forest Carbon Offsets.

We believe the best way to drive change is being on the ground. As a dedicated team of professionals, our level of commitment to the rural communities and forests in Zambia is distinct. We live and work alongside the communities we partner with. Headquartered in Mfuwe Zambia, we are a majority African-owned and operated social enterprise.

BCP is currently implementing 2 major projects in Zambia:

- The Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project
- The Luangwa Community Forests Project under the USAID-funded Community Forests Program

Our Approach:

We see a great opportunity for people, forests and Zambia by empowering local communities to play leading roles in protecting their forest.

Our method is unique, combining an entrepreneurial innovative spirit, with a core philosophy of caring for people and the environment to find long term sustainable solutions to deforestation. We use the REDD+ method to develop successful projects that protect vital ecosystems and bring positive impacts to Zambian communities. In partnership with communities and the Zambian government we aim to facilitate Community Forest Management agreements for REDD+ implementation by following national and international standards for both of our projects.

We start by building trust with communities that rely on the forest, by using the UN developed and internationally recognized principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), ensuring that communities have knowledge and are involved in project development from the start. This key partnership helps make our project more relevant, and therefore more effective in conserving the forest.

What is a Social Enterprise?

BCP is a Social Enterprise – the funds we generate from the successful protection of forest is invested back into our projects bringing positive social and environmental impacts

Our hybrid business model includes a lean efficient commercial structure to market and sell Forest Carbon Offsets and a grassroots model that brings community level impacts.

Our Projects:

The Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project

Starting in 2012, BCP successfully piloted the Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project (LZRP) - protecting 39,000 hectares of dry-land African forest. Enabling 8,300 people in 9 villages in the Rufunsa District to better manage and conserve an important buffer area next to Lower Zambezi National Park. Known as the Rufunsa Conservancy, this area of private land strategically protects 60 kilometres of the National Park's boundary

The Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project is the first, and currently only, Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) project in Zambia. It was also the first project in Africa, and second in the world, to achieve gold level validation with the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) Standard for our community level impacts.

The Community Forests Program

In 2014, BCP signed a Cooperative Agreement with USAID to implement the Community Forests Program (CFP). Under the CFP, BCP aims to expand forest protection activities across 700,000 hectares in Lusaka, Eastern and Muchinga Provinces. The CFP is currently working with Community and Government partners in seven Chiefdoms.

The CFP is a five-year-long program running from 2014 to 2019, designed to benefit at least 10,000 households and to promote improved forest management activities across 2 million hectares in the biodiverse Zambezi and Luangwa Valley ecosystems. By 2019, BCP aims to have developed the long-term Luangwa Community Forests Project, a REDD+ project that will continue to operate independently under a sustainable social enterprise model.

Our Vision for the Future:

Our vision is to support the development of a conservation corridor that protects vital ecosystems, extending from Zambia's Lower Zambezi to Luangwa Valleys. Thereby linking two Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas across 3 countries (Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi) – through REDD+ projects that **create value for conservation by recognizing, empowering and benefiting local communities.**

