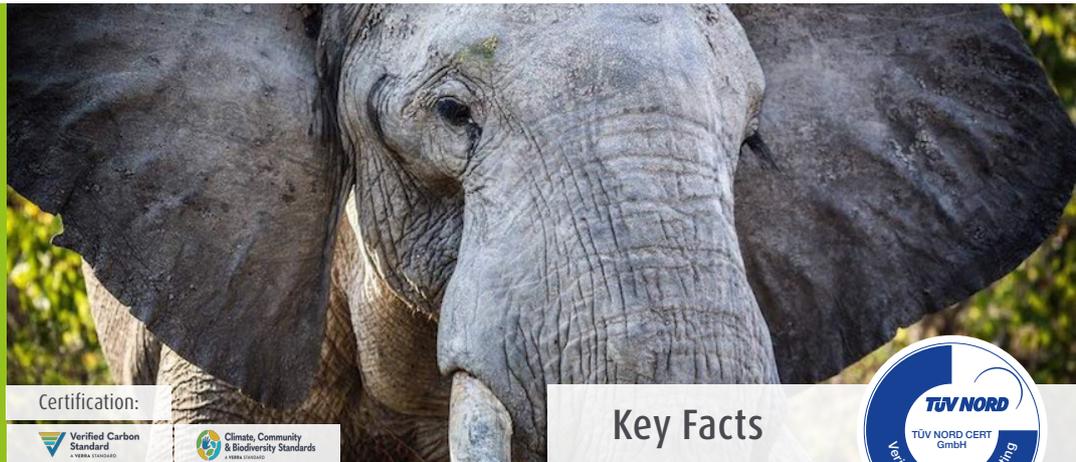


## Zimbabwe: The Kariba REDD+ project

Protecting forests and providing sustainable livelihoods



Certification:



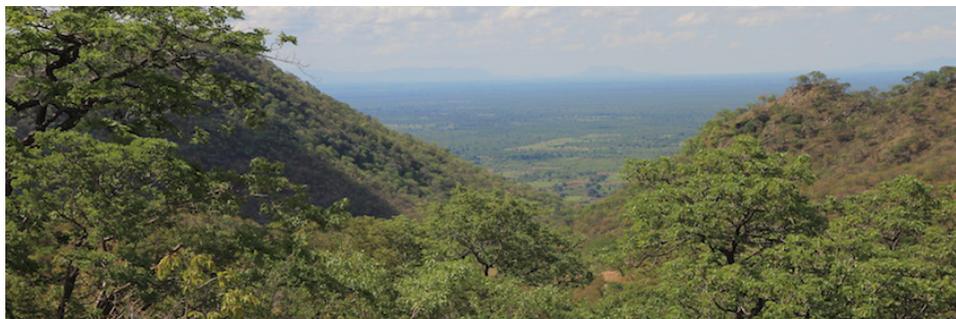
### Key Facts



## Background

Until the 1990s, Zimbabwe was one of the strongest economies in Africa. Today, the relatively small country faces serious social, political and environmental challenges. Many indicators demonstrate the severity of the situation: 72.3 percent of the population in Zimbabwe live in poverty. While estimates of the unemployment rate vary widely, many sources claim that up to 90% of the population might be without a formal employment. The environmental issues are just as alarming. In 1990, more than 57% of Zimbabwe was covered with forest, providing a safe habitat for an abundance of wildlife. However, until 2015, the country lost 36% of its forest cover. The main drivers of deforestation are unnatural fires caused by poachers, encroachment of agricultural land and logging activities by local communities, who mostly use the firewood for cooking and heating purposes. It is estimated that on average a household burns the equivalent of one small tree per day to cater for their cooking and heating.

As the pressure on forests and wildlife grows, effective forest protection becomes more and more important. But this is only one part of a viable solution. Since many people depend on the forests for their livelihood, alternative and sustainable income opportunities are equally necessary. Without the revenues from carbon funding, activities to mitigate deforestation would not be implemented.



## The Project

The Kariba REDD+ Project is located in northwestern Zimbabwe. It lies partly along the southern shore of Lake Kariba and spans four provinces. To reduce deforestation within the project area of approximately 1.4 million hectares, the community-based project implements a series of activities that are designed to significantly improve livelihoods of the locals – for example, improved agriculture, beekeeping, fuelwood plantations and fire management. In addition, a significant share of the project's carbon income will be invested in general activities that promote and guarantee project sustainability. The project's *Community and Project Sustainability Fund* is structured to benefit local communities, specifically the poorest members of society. The fund will be used to improve health and education in the project area with its long-term activities.

### Location:

Northwestern Zimbabwe

### Project type:

REDD+

### Total emission reductions:

»» 6,550,000t CO<sub>2</sub>e p.a. ««

### Project standard:

VCS & CCBS

### Project start date:

July 2011

## Sustainable Development

By supporting this project you'll contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

While focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, all our projects also generate multiple co-benefits. These are supportive of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



**Good health and well-being**

Project revenues will be bundled in a community fund. As part of the project, local health clinics will be financially supported to enable building improvements as well as improvement of the medical stock. Funding is also used to subsidize salaries of health workers where necessary.



**Quality education**

In addition to funding of healthcare institutions in the project area, local schools will also receive support through the project. This includes improvements on school buildings and also a scholarship program to subsidize pupils's fees, enabling them to go to school.



**Gender equality**

About 40% of the project participants are female. Thus, the project contributes to improve gender equality in Zimbabwe.



**Decent work and economic growth**

The project introduces alternative and sustainable ways of forest use. Project initiatives comprise bee-keeping, production of alternative building materials and sustainable firewood plantations.



**Responsible consumption and production**

The Kariba REDD+ Project includes a program aimed at improving rural agricultural productivity by providing equipment and maintenance. Local farmers receive training in sustainable land use and conservation agriculture techniques.



**Climate action**

The project helps to avoid an estimated 6,550,000 tons of carbon emissions per year.



**Life on land**

The project protects an area of 785,000 hectares. It provides and conserves valuable habitat for many threatened species. Additional benefits from avoiding deforestation include reduced soil erosion and improved water availability.



## Technology brief – how it works

Carbon circulates in a cycle, consisting of the atmosphere, the plant, plant litter and the soil. Carbon dioxide drawn from the surrounding atmosphere is the main input of any plant's photosynthesis process. The outputs are water, oxygen and carbohydrates. The latter are built into the plant's fibre thereby fixing carbon in the plant's biomass. Ultimately, the carbon re-enters the atmosphere from decaying biomass litter or soil respiration.

Deforestation breaks this cycle with multi-fold negative effects. First, burning biomass directly increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Secondly, it reduces the biosphere's absolute capacity to fix carbon. Thirdly, the removal of plant cover accelerates the rate at which carbon fixed in soils is respired into the atmosphere. Lastly, the erosion of soils impedes the long-term recovery of vegetation on degraded areas. This is a particularly challenging issue in tropical climates where soils are mostly poor in nutrients.



## Project Standard



The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) is a global standard for the validation and verification of voluntary carbon emission reductions. Emissions reductions from VCS projects have to be real, measurable, permanent, additional, unique, transparent, and third-party verified. Assessed against the background of the total volume of emission reductions, VCS is the globally leading standard for voluntary carbon offsets.



The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards were launched in 2005 to foster development of, and investment in, site-based projects that deliver credible and significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits in an integrated, sustainable manner.

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