

Zimbabwe

The project is in a very rural area of northern Zimbabwe, on the southern shores of Lake Kariba. The project site stretches over 786,000 hectares of forest land and 250,000 hectares of community agricultural land. The area is home to 200,000 people



Problems the community faces

Zimbabwe has suffered from war and a lot of other problems. Most of the population have a very low income.

There aren't enough jobs in Zimbabwe and the population has grown a lot. One way that people have tried to survive is by starting small farms in places that do not have very good land. This leads them to cut down trees and other plants to grow crops.

Droughts are increasing which makes growing food much more difficult.

What's the project doing?

Trying to find ways that the farmers can make an income out of products from the forest so that they want to protect the forest and the wildlife in it.

Improving people's ability to get water easily, get a good education and be able to get health services.

The local communities manage the project and suggest the activities.

The farmers are using a mulch (something like compost, leaves or bark to cover dry soil) around their crops so that they grow better and produce more food and they don't have to keep clearing more land.

They have set up community gardens next to boreholes so that they can get water easily to grow even in the dry months and produce more food.

They are keeping bees which gives them an income and is a reason to protect trees as the beehives are put in the trees.

They are planting trees so that they can collect firewood. They also plant a tree called Moringa which produces seed pods and leaves that can be eaten and used for medicine.

They have set up patrols to look for poachers and have caught a lot of them.

People's stories

The 'Garden of Mothers'

The Tashinga Community Garden (known as the 'Garden of Mothers') is a women's group who grow food for themselves and their children but also give most of the food they produce to local orphans, providing a nutritious and reliable source of food. The remaining harvest is sold to raise funds towards the orphan's schooling.





They grow organically and use mulch and crop rotation. This means that from year to year they change the crop grown in the different patches of their land as it is better for the soil and pests don't build up.

The women teach local children about the environment, nutrition and sustainable farming, ensuring these good practises are passed onto future generations.

Media Chiyangwa's story

"My name is Media Chiyangwa. I started gardening in 2012, when this project was introduced here. During previous years, before knowing about it, I was poor both financially and mentally but now I am rich. I have been trained in how to use surrounding resources and my own hands in order to be independent. I use manure to feed my vegetables and control pests naturally using chilli, garlic, liphobia etc.

I am selling my vegetables throughout the year. I am travelling as far as Chirundu, Kariba etc. where green veggies are scarce. I also cook for my children and donate to the infants feeding schemes at our nearby school."



Mr Chiguta the trainer

Mr Chariot Chiguta was one of the very first lead farmers to be trained in conservation farming by the project .

To date, Mr Chiguta has trained and helped 161 farmers in conservation farming and 61 farmers in beekeeping. He also helps new farmers to find places to sell their honey. When we asked, Mr Chiguta told us that his vision is to continue helping farmers to be more productive and to take care of their environment.

Mrs Tenda's water pump

Mrs Tenda is a widow who supports a family of five on her own. She is also a member of the Kariba Nyambudzi Nutritional Garden. She found watering her section of the garden by hand was time-consuming. Mrs Tenda was able to use profits from her sales of food from the community garden to save for a water pump. Since buying the pump, she now has more free time and is able to spend more time at home looking after her family.

Partner - South Pole