Sustainable development and environmental protection are creating lasting impacts at the Kariba project, thanks to dedication, perseverance and your support.

The climate crisis raged on in 2020. Global temperatures soared and emissions continued to rise, despite the pandemic. At the same time, commitment to tackle climate change gained momentum. Only with the support of ambitious, forward thinking organisations has the Kariba Forest Protection Project been able to keep delivering momentous environmental and social benefits to communities most at risk from the climate crisis.

**KEY WINS 2020**

A timely and proactive response to Covid by collaborating with government officials and NGOs helped ensure locals avoided the worst of the virus. Conservation farming also made significant progress with the endorsement and support of the Zimbabwean government.

**KEY FACTS**

- Prevented 3.62 MILLION TONES of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere this year
- Protected 784,987 HECTARES of forest in Northern Zimbabwe
- Project crediting period: 2011-2041
Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

1. NO POVERTY
   USD 249,000+ generated for community members from beekeeping, moringa tree and community garden sales

2. ZERO HUNGER
   18 Nutritional gardens are increasing food security in the project area

3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
   14 health clinics
   Supported with safe drinking water

4. QUALITY EDUCATION
   18,000+ people have attended 430+ workshops on project-related activities, such as nutritional gardening and beekeeping to date

5. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
   37,000+ people have access to safe drinking water

6. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
   22 permanent jobs created thanks to the project

7. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
   USD 57,000+ spent on supporting health clinics and schools

8. CLIMATE ACTION
   3,620,000 tCO₂e mitigated on average annually since 2011

9. LIFE ON LAND
   784,987 hectares of forest protected
   16 threatened or endangered species protected

International partnerships between local communities, national and international organisations and carbon experts to deliver sustainable, long-term benefits

*figures correct as of last monitoring period 2016-2019
The project is designed to look for solutions that will bring lasting impacts, ensuring the forest is protected and communities are thriving, long after the project ends. Expanding conservation farming is vital, as it both mitigates the effects of climate change and helps communities adapt.

Deforestation is the second largest contributor to the climate crisis.

It’s hard to overestimate the importance of protecting the humble tree...

- During the rainy season, their roots help protect against soil erosion and act like giant sponges to create a natural buffer to floods.
- In the dry season, they provide shade and help the soil retain moisture.
- They also provide natural resources, a home for wildlife and regulate local temperatures and protect watersheds.

Maybe we should be asking, what don’t trees do?
There is growing awareness in schools and among farmers about climate change and what can be done to tackle it. With varying rainfall throughout the project area, people were motivated to prepare nutritional gardens using climate-smart techniques.

**Renewable energy access for rural health clinics** helps to address the widespread lack of basic facilities. Providing clinics with cement, water access and clean energy, has been highlighted by community members given the multiple knock-on effects.

The team installed a solar panel at the Kasivu Clinic, so water can be boiled and materials sterilised using affordable electricity, keeping doctors and patients safe.
The unpredictable weather over the past couple of years has pushed farmers to look for new ways to grow crops. Conservation farming techniques, such as using mulch, help retain moisture in the soil during drought. This keeps soil nutrient dense, so less land is cleared, while crops can withstand dry spells! Win, win.

Pfumvudza is a type of conservation farming taught by the project to increase yields and keep soil healthy to counter the need to clear land when nutrients are depleted.

Now, Pfumvudza has been recognised by the Zimbabwean government. Thanks to the national scheme there are new demo plots and more resources. With the support from Kariba’s existing champion farmers, at least 3 x more farmers in the project area will be trained to use this approach!

Reports of elephants destroying a house and crops, a pack of lions killing cows and hyenas attacking goats and cattle: living side by side with wild animals creates challenges. The good work of the rangers has kept communities safe, but this highlights the importance of preserving natural habitats so communities and wildlife can continue to live peacefully.

1.7 tonnes of food produced /hectare with conservation farming

1.7 tonnes of food produced /hectare with conservation farming
Coordinating an emergency covid response. While rural communities are less at risk from the pandemic, many of the local health clinics are underprepared for a health crisis.

To support government efforts, the project joined forces with NGO, Miracle Mission, to donate sanitizers, gloves, masks bandages and other medical & health supplies to Musambakaruma and Kasvisva clinics in Nyaminyami District.

Coordinating an ongoing response to the pandemic with food hampers containing nutritious meals for patients distributed to the Chunga Clinic; Siabuwa Hospital; Sinansengwe Clinic.

The project has also supported local authorities to urgently resolve a serious water crisis at Musamba clinic.
Meet Steria Peturu.

Ms Peturu takes care of her grandchildren who have been orphaned by the aids pandemic over the years.

Since being introduced to the Kariba project, she says: “I know all will be well. We have a very nutritious garden which has very high yield, which has been made possible through all the training I received. We are now selling our vegetables daily along the Chirundu Highway and are taking enough money home each day to buy food for the whole family.”

Meet Maxwell Dube.

Mr Dube is one of the project’s star farmers and thanks to his success has donated the 64 saplings to be planted by the Early Church Ministries. These efforts are spearheading the reforestation programme in the project area.

He is now working closely with the project to establish tree nurseries in each Ward, if not village, within the project area. This will drive reforestation efforts and significantly reduce costs of purchasing saplings.

Meet Jenica Kanzambara.

Ms. Kanzambara is a member of Kubatana nutritional garden in Mbire. With the proceeds of the garden she was one of 7 garden members who managed to buy a goat each! 3 other garden members bought kitchen utensils.
Meet the team

Kariba Project Manager
South Pole

Sara Betancur

Carbon Green Africa
South Pole's local expert project partner

What’s next?

- Sign-up to our next Carbon Credits Masterclass to learn how to finance climate action
- Share these stories on social using these cards pw: celebrating*Kariba
- Visit southpole.com/projects to discover many more projects!

All that’s left is a big thank you to all the Kariba team, who have risen to the challenge this year and continued as strong as ever. Special mention to Carbon Green Africa, who are always on hand to provide their expert advice at a moments notice.