

ZAMBIA

Ecosystem-based Adaptation
2021-2025

Supported by the
Least Developed Countries Fund



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Benefitting the livelihoods of 3,900 people with climate-resilient agricultural techniques, including practices such as beekeeping, aquaculture, and vegetable gardening



Developing climate risks assessments and raising the awareness of climate change impacts and risks for 100,000+ people



Improving the management of 1,000 ha of forest and 2,500 ha of agricultural land in the Bangweulu wetland system, and 600 ha of forest, 10,000 ha of wetland, and 750 ha of agricultural land in the Lukanga wetland system



PROJECT TITLE:

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ZAMBIA THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION INTO PRIORITY ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING WETLANDS AND FORESTS

EXECUTING ENTITY:



Green Economy and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

KEY TARGETS:

18,000+

Hectares of ecosystems and agricultural land with improved resilience to climate impacts

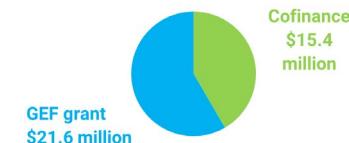
6,500

Individuals trained to identify, implement, and monitor adaptation strategies and measures

3,900

Individuals benefitting from climate-resilient agriculture

FUNDING:



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Department of Forestry; Department of Fisheries and Livestock; Department of Community Development; Department of Agriculture; and the Town Councils of Chibombo, Ngabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Samfya, Lunga, Chifunabuli, Chilubi, Luwingu, Lupososhi, Kanchibiya and Lavushi Manda Districts.

INTRODUCTION

- Of Zambia's population of 14 million, 60% reside in rural areas and are largely dependent on ecosystems for livelihoods. Wetland and forest ecosystems in particular provide a wide variety of products for rural communities, including fuelwood, timber, fruits and nuts.
- These ecosystems also protect communities from the impacts of extreme weather by providing a defence and buffer, termed **ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)**.
- A project is aiming to improve the resilience of local communities living near wetlands and forests in Zambia by strengthening their capacity – as well as that of local and national governments – to implement ecosystem-based adaptation interventions.
- The project is taking place in 2 major wetlands of the country (see Project Location).

TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- **Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)** is central to the project's activities. It refers to the strategy of protecting or restoring ecosystems to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on people.
- As such, the project is **restoring wetland and forest ecosystems** in degraded areas, which involves improving the management around Bangweulu wetland system (1,000 hectares of forests and 2,500 hectares of agricultural land) and around the Lukanga wetland system (600 hectares of forest, 10,000 hectares of wetlands, and 750 hectares of agricultural land).
- To strengthen the resilience of local communities, the project is identifying and promoting **alternative climate-resilient livelihood strategies** and techniques, such as beekeeping, aquaculture, and vegetable gardening.
- The project is training local and national

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- In Zambia, climate change is expected to increase the number of extreme weather events and to decrease the amount of rainfall, which will have the knock-on effect of reducing crop yields.
- Floods and droughts have increased in frequency, leading to losses that amount to around 0.4% in economic growth per year.
- These effects are expected to lead to increased food insecurity, water shortages, loss of property, and reduced energy supply due to the lower availability and hydropower generation.
- Combined with the increasing demand for natural resources, climate impacts are also harming the health of wetlands and forests, which leaves local communities even more vulnerable due to the ways in which these ecosystems provide climate defences and adaptation benefits.

- authorities on how to restore and protect ecosystems to generate climate adaptation benefits, which will **strengthen technical and institutional capacity** for EbA in the country.
- **Assessments and mapping** of climate change risks to the country and its ecosystems are being conducted. Policy revisions, tools and platforms are being developed to support an integrated approach to environmental management.
- To increase knowledge and awareness of ecosystem services and the benefits of EbA, the project is developing a communication strategy to collect and disseminate best practices on EbA, conducting an **awareness-raising campaign** that aims to reach 101,450 people.
- A **long-term research programme** is being established on ecosystem services and EbA within national research institutions.

PROJECT LOCATION



The project is being implemented in the Lukanga and Bangweulu wetlands in the Central, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces of Zambia

RESOURCES

- [UNEP project page](#)
- [Story: The race to save Zambia's wetlands](#)
- [Video: The race to save Zambia's wetlands](#)
- [Press release: Zambia turns to nature to tackle climate change](#)
- [More climate adaptation resources & multimedia](#)

CONTACT

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