



COMMUNITY FORESTS PROGRAM (CFP)

USAID has awarded a cooperative agreement to BCP (BioCarbon Partners) to implement the Community Forests Program (CFP) in Zambia. The USAID/CFP is the flagship piece of USAID/Zambia's Global Climate Change (GCC) project under the Presidential GCC Initiative, and is designed to exemplify and support the Government of Zambia's (GRZ) Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) strategy by establishing the largest REDD+ program to-date in Zambia. USAID-funded CFP activities will be based primarily in Eastern, Lusaka and Muchinga Provinces, and will focus on establishing project areas within the Zambezi to Luangwa Valley ecosystem. The program will be jointly implemented by BCP, Forestry Department (FD), and Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) formally known as Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), along with a variety of other key implementing partners – including local institutions and organizations. The CFP aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, reduce poverty, and conserve biodiversity values in this ecosystem of global biodiversity value.

The USAID/CFP will focus on three major objectives:

1. Reducing carbon emissions from deforestation through participatory natural resource management of biodiverse forests;
2. Poverty reduction through improvements in smallholder farmer agricultural productivity, development of non-timber forest products, and expansion of markets through income generating activities;
3. Support to the GRZ to develop a legal framework and pilot project to demonstrate the viability of REDD+ as a replicable forest management strategy.

In line with USAID's development objectives, USAID/CFP will work to build the capacity of local partners

and encourage partnering of governmental, non-governmental, academic, and private sector organizations involved in the program. National level Ministries including DNPW, FD, the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs (MOCTA) and other relevant institutions are critical to the success of USAID/CFP. In addition to coordinating with US Government-funded partners in the target areas, USAID/CFP will engage civil society, private sector, local government and communities in all its project sites to develop innovative conservation financing models to support community-based natural resource management in targeted landscapes. BCP has already established relationships with diverse international and Zambian organizations through our initial pilot project in the Lower Zambezi ecosystem, and will continue to expand, and seek new partnerships in support of USAID/CFP implementation.

USAID/CFP's approach to achieving these objectives engages Zambian men, women, and institutions at national and community levels through experiential and formal learning, and transparent sharing of information. Expected outcomes include the preservation of globally significant forest landscapes conserved through REDD+, an enabling environment (policy and legal, and capable institutions at all levels) for REDD+; a model for REDD+ implementation and sustainable forest / land management; and improved and sustainable economic security and income in pilot communities.

For more information about the CFP please contact:

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