



COMACO
Community Markets for Conservation



Highlights

- 234,453 Families of small-scale farmers
- 2,114 Transformed poachers
- 102,358 Fuel efficient cookstoves
- 35,957 Beehives
- 112 Cooperatives

Who We Are

"COMACO has taught me the importance of conserving the environment, Planting trees allows me to have healthier soils, and put food on the table for my family." - Victoria Phiri

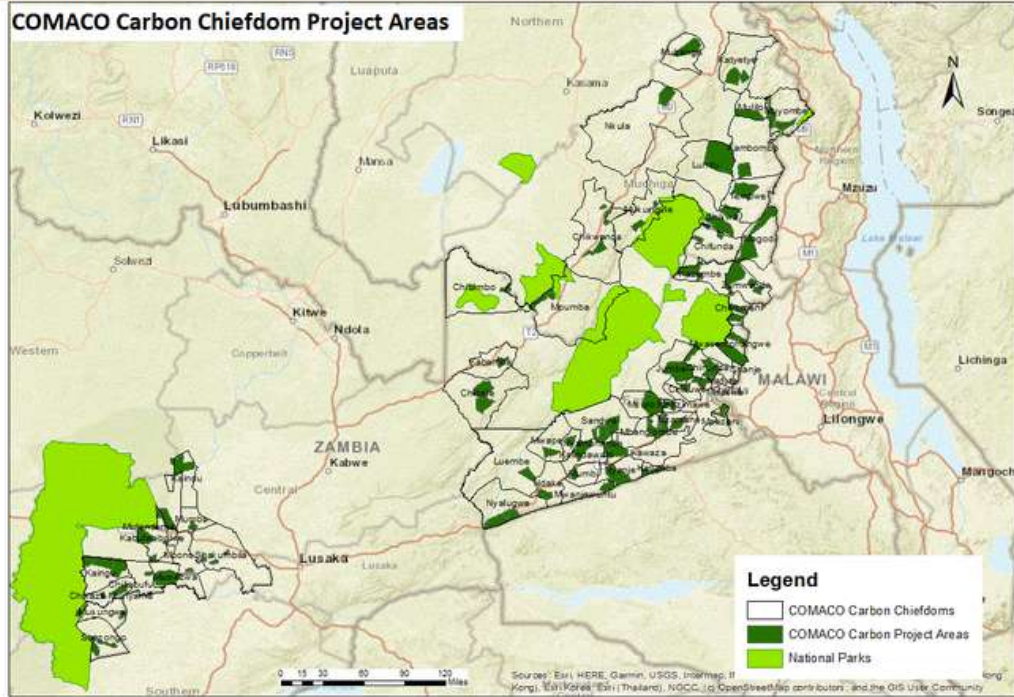
Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) is a social enterprise that supports nature conservation and small-scale farmers in Zambia. We promote improved agriculture practices through the adoption of agroforestry practices that increase food crop yields and market opportunities for 234,453 families of small-scale farmers. COMACO turns the crops it purchases into a range of value added food products under the brand *It's Wild!*. Profits made from sales are filtered back into the same communities for continued effort in protecting Zambia's natural resources.





CARBON PROJECT

"Through the carbon project we have been taught the importance of conservation. In Zumwanda chiefdom we have received carbon money with the help of COMACO 3 times. These payments have shown us the value of our resources and we are protecting more than ever before. Through these payments we now that we now have clean water, hammer mills, and oil expellers and much more.. Not only are our natural resources conserved, but our farmers are now food secure." Standwell Chirwa - Zumwanda Chiefdom



- 4.8 Million USD** distributed to communities
- 1.58 Million Ha** of land conserved
- 4 Provinces** a part of the carbon project



Standwell Chirwa
| Zumwanda, Chiefdom |

COMACO's carbon project was launched in 2015 with 9 chiefdoms in the Eastern Province. Over the span of 7 years we have paid out over \$4.8 million USD to communities for their emission reductions. What started with 9 chiefdoms in one province has now expanded to 35 chiefdoms spread across 4 provinces.

Communities who have receive funds dedicate their carbon money to projects that benefit everyone. Investments include such needs as: boreholes, hammer mills, oil expellers, seed inputs, beehives, forest guard salaries, vehicles, bicycles, meeting costs and much more.



From the inception of the project to now we have seen the annual rate of deforestation from these forests has reduced from 3% to 2.1%.



AGROFORESTRY FARMING WITH GLIRICIDIA



"Before joining COMACO my life was hard, in such a way that I could produce very little from my fields. I struggled to feed my family. After joining COMACO and learning about farming with Gliricidia trees to improve yields, my life has really changed. I now only use Gliricidia and natural methods of fertilizer such as compost and no longer chemical fertilizer. Today I produce enough food to feed my family, send my kids to school, and even sell the surplus crop as a way to make income." - Methadio Banda, Kawaza Chiefdom

	60 million Gliricidia sepium planted in 2021/2022		234,453 farmers registered with COMACO		103 cooperatives supporting small-scale farmers
---	--	---	---	---	--

COMACO promotes agroforestry through the adoption of *Gliricidia sepium*, a fast growing, Nitrogen-fixing tree. The adoption of this species allows farmers to grow crops free from chemical fertilizer and pesticide, saving the farmer money while replenishing soil health.

Farmers have seen the results with the quality and quantity of their crop yields. Our research shows that farmers have significant cost savings from avoiding chemical fertiliser costs while enjoying yields that are 2-3x more than conventional farming practices without fertiliser. In comparison to a field that has been planted with chemical fertilisers, the results show that there is less than 10% difference as compared to field with Gliricidia.



Methadio Banda
|Kawaza, Chiefdom|



BEEKEEPING HONEY HARVESTING



"Beekeeping has changed my life for the better, it has helped me to stop poaching. I have learned how to harvest honey from my hives and am able to sell it to COMACO as an additional source of income. The best part is that through beekeeping I am also conserving the forests in my area. I found that I have such a passion for this that I have been selected as the beekeeping mentor in my area to help teach others the benefits I have learned." - James Mwanza, Jumbe Chiefdom



35,957
beehives



7,000
beekeepers



67%
occupation rate



James Mwanza
|Jumbe, Chiefdom|

We work with over 7,000 farmers in the Luangwa Valley in beekeeping, to help protect the Valley's forested landscapes. It also helps to improve household nutrition and income. Since the beekeeping project began, we have helped distribute 35,957 hives to our registered farmers. 67% of these hives are occupied with honey production potential of over 200 tons per annum.

Beekeeping helps communities to understand how valuable trees are as a source of sustainable income. Farmers are trained in assembling beehives, baiting, and harvesting and bulking for market. The quality of honey we sell is popular with consumers and returns good value back to the farmer. Over the next three years we hope to distribute over 70,000 hives targeting close to 20,000 farmers.