



Implementation Brief

Miombo Woodland Restoration & Anti-Poaching Awareness (2022–2023)

1. Project Overview

- **Objective:** Restore degraded Miombo woodland and engage youth in community-led anti-poaching awareness to safeguard local biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.
- **Location:** Central Province, Zambia.
- **Timeline:** January 2022 – December 2023.

2. Background & Rationale

- **Significance of Miombo woodlands:** Approximately 40 % of Zambia's forest cover comprises Miombo, which supports rural livelihoods and biodiversity, yet faces degradation from charcoal production, agriculture, and deforestation.
- **Anti-poaching urgency:** Regional strategies emphasize enhancing community-based awareness and enforcement to reduce poaching and safeguard habitats.

3. Activity Components

a) Restoration

- Established a native species nursery producing seedlings of **Brachystegia**, **Julbernardia**, and **Isoberlinia**.
- Youth were trained in assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, and regular site maintenance.

b) Anti-Poaching Awareness

- Youth volunteers conducted community outreach campaigns across seven villages, using posters, drama performances, and local meetings.

- Awareness messaging emphasized the ecological value of Miombo woodlands and legal consequences of wildlife crimes, reflecting best practices in community engagement.

4. Detailed Execution Phases

Phase 1: Site Preparation & Nursery Establishment (Jan–Mar 2022)

- **Actions:**
 - Identified degraded Miombo sites for restoration.
 - Established a community nursery producing seedlings of *Brachystegia*, *Julbernardia*, and *Isoberlinia*—dominant Miombo species.
 - Trained 30 youth in nursery management, seed collection, and restoration best practices.

Phase 2: Assisted Natural Regeneration & Planting (Apr–Oct 2022)

- **Actions:**
 - Deployed youth teams to plant over 5 ha of native Miombo in degraded areas.
 - Used **Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)** techniques, including weeding and protection from fires and grazing—an approach proven effective in Miombo landscapes.

Phase 3: Anti-Poaching Awareness Campaign (Jul–Dec 2022)

- **Actions:**
 - Conducted outreach in seven local villages: using drama, posters, school talks, and community meetings.
 - Aligned with conservation strategies emphasizing improved governance and community awareness to curb poaching

Phase 4: Monitoring & Evaluation (Jan–Jun 2023)

- **Actions:**
 - Monitored survival and regrowth of planted areas.
 - Tracked biodiversity indicators (e.g., sightings, understorey growth).
 - Analyzed local poaching reports to assess impact.

Phase 5: Reporting & Knowledge Sharing (Jul–Dec 2023)

- **Actions:**
 - Compiled and published a comprehensive project report.
 - Documented and shared visuals—including before/after photos, youth engagement activities, and restoration progress.
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5. Implementation Timeline

Phase	Timeframe	Activities
Planning & Nursery Setup	Jan–Mar 2022	Nursery establishment with partner input; youth recruitment and training
Restoration Planting	Apr–Oct 2022	Assisted planting across 5 ha; local youth-led maintenance sessions
Anti-Poaching Campaign	Jul–Dec 2022	7 awareness events; 1,000 materials distributed; school outreach
Monitoring & Evaluation	Jan–Jun 2023	Biodiversity monitoring, poaching incident tracking, participant feedback
Final Reporting	Jul–Dec 2023	Drafting & dissemination of a summary report and photo documentation

6. Outcomes & Impact

- **Restoration:** Successfully restored **5 hectares** of Miombo woodland using native species nursery output.
- **Youth Engagement:** Trained **30 youth** in regenerative techniques and environmental stewardship.
- **Anti-Poaching Results:** Awareness efforts contributed to a **~40 % reduction in reported poaching incidents** in the targeted areas.
- **Biodiversity Gains:** Early monitoring showed improved understorey regeneration and increased sightings of indicator species (e.g., bird and small mammal activity).

7. Key Partners

- **District Forestry Office:** Provided technical nursery set-up and seed selection support.
- **Traditional Leaders:** Facilitated community participation and local communication.
- **Local Youth Groups:** Central to propagation, planting, and awareness roles.

8. Youth Interview Excerpts & Community Testimonials

Local Forestry Officer:

“ANR requires significant community effort, but it’s cost-effective and works well in Miombo landscapes... everyone sees success and is pleased.”

— *Charles Chalwe, District Forestry Officer*

Youth Patrol Member—Lusceiy’s Beneficiaries:

“After joining the tree-planting and patrol groups, I witnessed a bare field transform into green woodland. Protecting our wildlife fills me with pride.” - Kelvin Banda

Smallholder Farmer:

“Participating in ecological surveys helped us understand how our farming impacted our land. With newly adopted grazing bylaws, I feel empowered—our land recovery is our own doing.” - Mirriam Simfukwe

Approved by:



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