

Zambia for agroforestry, biodiversity, and climate (Z4ABC): Enhancing the sustainability, resilience, and productivity of agricultural, forestry, and wildlife-based value chains in Zambia, while simultaneously improving the livelihoods of local communities, ensuring food security, and conserving biodiversity.



Objectives of the project

The project aims to support the development of climate-smart, productive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture, forestry, and food systems in Zambia, in order to help achieve the country's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Specifically, the project aims to:

- Enhance climate change resilience and improve farmers' livelihoods in the Lower Zambezi – Luangwa – Nyika (ZLN) corridor by developing value chains for specific agricultural, agroforestry, forestry, and food systems.
- Improve the relevance of Agriculture and Knowledge Innovation Systems (AKIS) in the ZLN corridor with respect to climate change.

Background

Despite experiencing rapid economic growth, Zambia is confronted with severe socioeconomic and environmental development challenges. The country struggles with widespread rural poverty, high unemployment rates, unequal access to natural resources, land and forest degradation, and biodiversity loss. It is worth noting that approximately 80% of the population depends directly on natural resources for their fuel, food, income, raw materials, and medicine. Agriculture constitutes the primary source of livelihood for 60% of households. However, the country is also grappling with increased droughts and floods that have impacted food and water security, water quality, energy, and rural communities’ livelihoods. Moreover, farming systems face various challenges that impede productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience while limiting their involvement in agriculture, forestry and wildlife-based value chains.

The Z4ABC initiative is aimed at promoting sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient agriculture, forestry, agroforestry, and wildlife-based value chains. It seeks to support local livelihoods, enhance food security, and biodiversity conservation.

The project will target various beneficiaries, including farmers, local smallholders, and transporters belonging to women, men, and youth in selected landscapes. The Z4ABC project adopts a value-web approach that considers the integrated use of various products/services and their aggregate values for achieving its project objectives (refer to Figure 2).

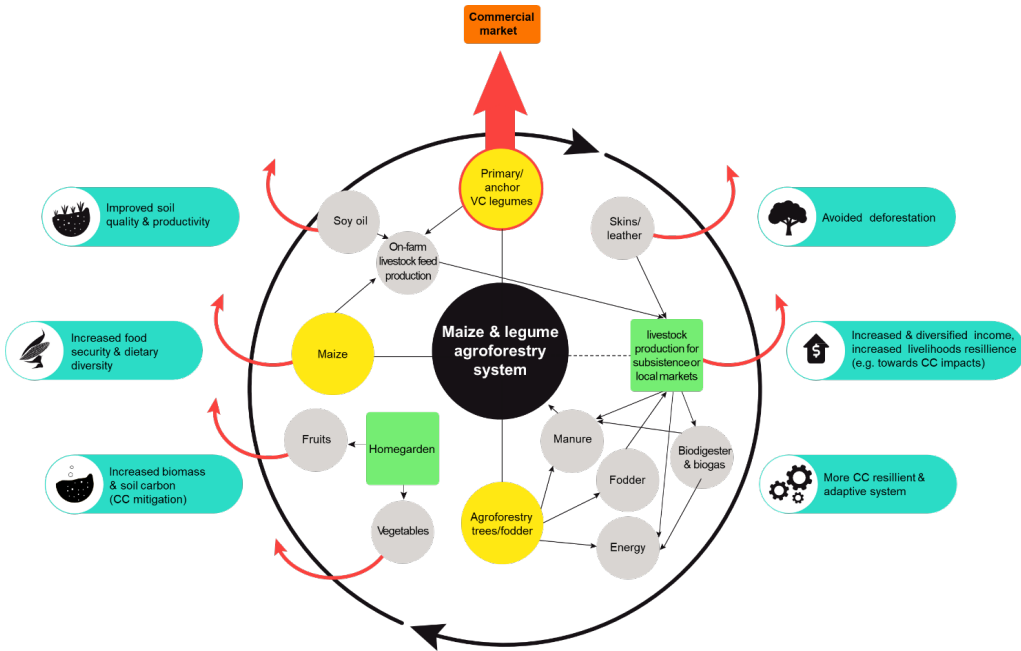
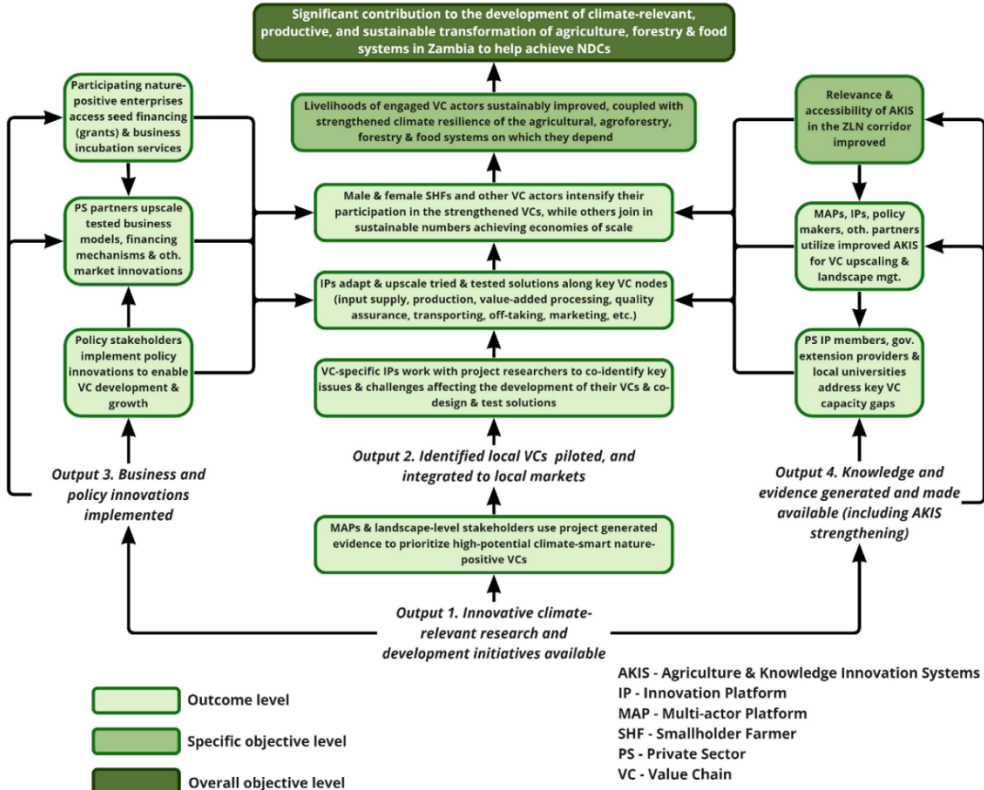


Figure 2. Example of a value-web approach for a Maize & legume agroforestry system

Theory of change



Key activities

- Collaborating with local communities and value chain actors to identify and develop nature-based value chains, with support from multi-actor platforms.
- Providing grants and other resources to promote sustainable innovations and practices in value chains, and to scale up successful initiatives.
- Supporting business incubation and marketing activities that connect local producers with private sector partners and ensure the quality of products meets market standards.
- Conducting capacity building, training, and awareness-raising activities at different levels, such as within AKIS.
- Organizing participatory workshops for scenario modelling and policy dialogue around land use.
- Collecting multidisciplinary data before and pilot projects to evaluate the performance and impact of value chain interventions.

Governance of the Z4ABC Project

The Z4ABC project is governed by the National Action Steering Committee (NASC), which is responsible for providing strategic and governance oversight. The NASC comprises representatives from several ministries, including the ministries of Green Economy and Environment (MGEE), Agriculture, Tourism, Local Government, and Rural Development, as well as the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Zambia and COMESA. The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) functions as the NASC's

national secretariat, while implementation partners like LUKE, HAMK, and VITRI also participate in NASC meetings. Moreover, the NASC has a technical working group that advises and supports NASC members on project-related activities.

Implementing organisation

The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is leading the project.

Project partners

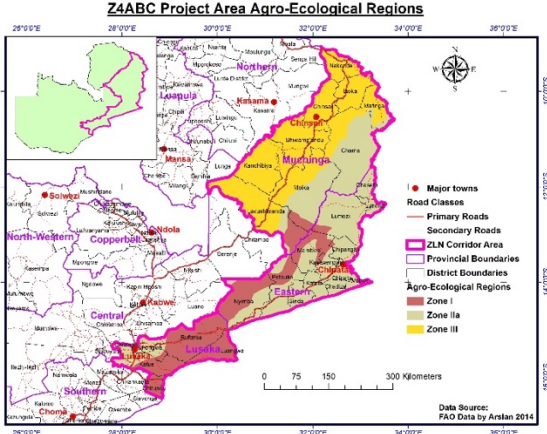
Two local universities, the University of Zambia (UNZA) and Mulungushi University (MU), have been involved in the project alongside The Natural Resource Institute Finland (LUKE), the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI) at the University of Helsinki, and Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK).

Other stakeholders

Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tourism, and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

Region

The implementation of the Z4ABC action is planned for Zambia's ZLN corridor, encompassing the Lower Zambezi, Luangwa, and Nyika areas, with a focus on the provinces of Lusaka, Eastern, and Muchinga.



Funding

EUR 4 150 000 (or USD 4 679 540)

Duration

The project will run for a duration of 4 years, from April 2022 to March 2026.