



Trees for Zambia

Volunteer Document:
1 July - 21 July 2012

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Join an exciting reforestation project at the mighty Victoria Falls! Through our Trees for Zambia project, Greenpop will be planting over 5,000 trees in Livingstone, in an effort to fight the drastic deforestation in the area – **and you can be part of it!** We offer you the chance to join us for three weeks to plant trees, educate children about conservation, learn about environmental issues through a range of workshops, and explore this beautiful corner of Africa!

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the next best time is now!



About Greenpop

Greenpop's mission is to green under-greened areas and combat deforestation in Southern Africa. We plant trees on behalf of companies, groups, travelers and individuals wanting to invest in a greener future and improve the lives of communities in areas affected by lack of resources. On top of planting trees, we strive to make eco-consciousness accessible, fun, and popular so that a greener movement is inspired.

Greenpop started in September 2010 and has since planted almost 9000 trees in over 140 beneficiary schools, crèches, orphanages, old-age homes, community centres as well as deforested areas. Creative tree-care programs have been implemented and children, community members, and volunteers are getting their hands dirty, learning a lot and loving it. Greenpop is inspired by the exciting projects we have coming up and the bright green future we see for Southern Africa.

Awards

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Western Cape Provincial Government competition for Best Business Plan for Social Enterprises in South Africa - winner
- LeadSA competition run by Cape Talk in association with the Dischem Foundation - winner
- Enviropaedia Eco-Logic Awards - Finalist in 2 categories – Biodiversity and Water Conservation

Trees for Zambia - Problem Statement

Deforestation

There is rampant deforestation going on around the Livingstone area in Zambia. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FOA), Zambia now suffers the 2nd highest deforestation per capita in the world. The Forestry Department in Livingstone put the rate of deforestation at 5% annually and believes it has a bearing on the local weather system. This leaves local communities vulnerable, as possible knock-on effects are reduced agricultural production, threats to food security, increased incidence of drought and flooding, loss of wildlife, and reduced fresh water availability.

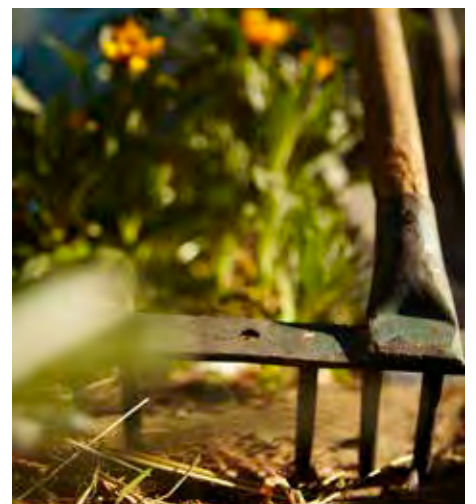
The Cause of Deforestation

There are two main causes of deforestation; tree cutting for timber and charcoal, and poor soil management.

Tree cutting: Since electricity is expensive in Zambia, it is unavailable to many people. Charcoal is therefore the primary power source for all domestic heating and cooking. Wood and charcoal make up approximately 70% of Zambia's national energy demand, and the country is losing approximately 8,000 hectares of forest a year because of this.

Poor soil management: Continuous ploughing, the practice of slash and burn, maize mono-cropping and excessive use of acidifying fertilisers have led to land degradation and the abandonment of thousands of hectares of farm land in Zambia. Exploitive farming systems such as these are unsustainable and lead to soil erosion, loss of soil structure and soil micro-organisms, acidification, oxidation of organic matter and compaction. This land degradation leads to desertification. In addition, since farmers are forced to abandon their land after their yields fail, they move into forest areas and cut down trees to start new farms.

All these issues are compounded by the fact that there is not a large culture of replacing trees among those who cut down trees in Zambia. Biodiversity has thus been compromised, adding further stress on the ability for those inhabiting this area (the animals and humans) to adapt to climate change. There are not enough trees to hold down the soil, lessen erosion and replace valuable nitrates.



Zambia has the second highest deforestation rate in the world



Trees for Zambia: Our Mission

In July 2012, we are launching Trees for Zambia, a project that will see 5000 or more indigenous and fruit trees planted in the Victoria Falls World Heritage Site, a lion rehabilitation area, a rural village on the outskirts of Livingstone, and at local schools and subsistence farms. Our goals are as follows:

Mission

1. Start reforestation to **replace the pioneer trees**, allowing for new growth and regeneration of rich soil content
2. **Develop a culture of planting trees** within communities through conservation education, and by teaching people how to plant and look after trees
3. **Educate children** on their natural environment, and help feed them by planting fruit trees at under-privileged schools
4. **Promote conservation farming methods** in the local community that will stop erosion and soil degradation, and create more cost-efficient farms
5. Start a micro tree nursery enterprise at a selected number of subsistence farms, so that we can **provide farmers with an additional income** by buying trees from them
6. **Create an exciting and stimulating program** of practical work, lectures and workshops for international volunteers, through which they can educate themselves and be actively involved in environmental issues



Your Role

To make Trees of Zambia a success, we fully rely on the support of volunteers. **As a volunteer, you will play a vital role in the project by helping us plant trees and involving the local community in the conservation of their environment.**

You will be planting trees in the Victoria Falls World Heritage Site, which is a rainforest that overlooks the incredible Victoria Falls – a very impressive setting! You will also plant trees in Dambwa Forest, a beautiful area just outside of Livingstone that is a release site for a lion rehabilitation program, as well as in Mukuni Village, a charming rural village on the outskirts of Livingstone. On top of that, you will be planting fruit trees at schools around Livingstone, together with local children, and on subsistence farms.

An essential part of our project is education. As a volunteer, you will be involved in educating children on the importance of their natural environment, and on how they can play an active role in preserving it. This is an amazing opportunity to immerse yourself in the Zambian culture, to learn from this unique cultural exchange, and to give local children some vital knowledge about the importance of trees.

You will also have the chance to assist in hosting workshops for conservation farmers, through which we will promote conservation farming methods. Not only will this make farms more environmentally friendly, it will also make them more profitable.

Every Wednesday, you will be given the opportunity to take part in talks and discussions about issues such as climate change, deforestation and sustainability. Workshops will also be conducted on propagation, seed harvesting and various other areas within forest ecology. These lectures and workshops will be hosted by professionals in the field, local NGOs, local community leaders, as well as representatives from the UNDP and UNEP.



Highlights

Project Highlights

* Help **plant over 5000 trees in Zambia**; the country with the second highest deforestation rate in the world

* Be part of the team that helps **preserve Zambia's fragile biodiversity**



* Attend **lectures and workshops** on a variety of environmental subjects, hosted by notable local and international speakers

* **Offset the carbon emissions** of your flight to Africa by having a hand in planting so many trees!

* Stay on the banks of the **Maramba River**, only 4km from the **Victoria Falls**, one of the seven wonders of the world!

Project Highlights cont.

* Enjoy some of the many **exciting activities** Livingstone has to offer, such as white water rafting, lion walking, elephant back safaris, and bungee jumping!

* Participate in our **opening and closing celebrations** with local musicians and entertainment



* Enjoy the company of dozens of **volunteers from all over the world**

* **Help teach** **Zambian children** about their natural environment at local schools



The project will be an exciting conference of action, sharing, and learning!

Daily Schedule

This is an example of a day on the project. It's just a guideline, and schedules are subject to change. Schedules on Wednesdays will be slightly different, as you will get the opportunity to attend lectures and workshops on environmental subjects.

07.30 Rise and breakfast

08.00 Briefing on the day's activities

08.30 Leave with group to pick up planting supplies, tools and trees

09.00 Arrive at planting site; introduction to the community, the area, where trees will go

09:20 Tree planting demonstration and overview of tree types

09.30 Begin planting

12.00 Break for lunch

13.30 Continue planting

15.30 Finish planting, delivery of environmental education material

16.30 Return to camp & free time

18.30 Dinner

19.30 Workshops and educational talks

Orientation Program

Upon arrival, you will be taken through a project orientation session that covers the following:



Familiarise

1

Explanation of the surrounding area and your living facilities

2

Introduction to the project team

3

Detailed introduction to the project and your tasks

Learn

4

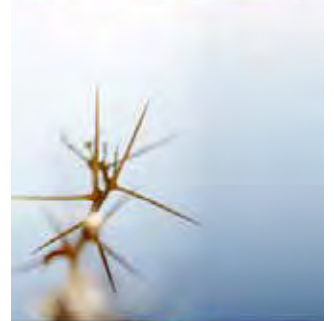
Introduction to deforestation challenges and possible solutions

5

Run-down of your daily itinerary

6

Responsible tourism tips to keep in mind on your stay



Accommodation

The Trees for Zambia volunteer team will be hosted at a riverside lodge (the Maramba River Lodge) just outside Livingstone, about 4km from Victoria Falls. You will be sleeping in a beautiful tented camp area, with two people per tent and a central area for eating, chatting etc. You will have access to clean ablution blocks, as well as to the lodge's other facilities, including a swimming pool, chill deck, bar and curio shop. Accommodation upgrades to chalets are available, but have to be pre-booked.

Meals

Volunteers will be served three well-balanced, delicious meals a day – meat and vegetarian options will be available. Meal times will be dependent upon each day's activities.

(Example of meals: oats, cereal and fruit for breakfast; rolls/sandwiches and various salads for lunch; dinner will include meat/vegetable stews, barbecues, pastas, rice dishes, etc.)

Please note that you will be asked to help out with preparing dinner once or twice a week.

Support



Throughout your placement you will have the support and guidance of our experienced Greenpop coordinators. They are part of our greater support team, which will provide you with competent 24-hour field support and assistance.



Weekend Activities

Known as the adrenaline capital of the world,

Livingstone has plenty of fun activities to offer! You will have weekends off, so that you can either rest, or do some of the following activities:

- **White-Water Rafting on the Zambezi River**
- **Victoria Falls Bungee Jumping (111m)**
- **Abseiling**
- **Gorge Swing**
- **Zambezi Sunset Cruise**
- **Elephant Back Safaris**
- **Game Drive**
- **Helicopter Flights over the Victoria Falls**
- **Microlight Flights over the Victoria Falls**
- **Zambezi Canoe Trip**
- **Livingstone Town tour**



Requirements

No specific prior experience is required for the project. As long as you are over 17 and in good health, we'd love to have you on board! Please note that the project does involve some physical work, such as digging holes and planting trees.

"If there's any planting happening on the African continent with Greenpop, count me in!" ~ Nina, Volunteer on Greenpop Platbos Reforest Fest

Start Dates & Getting There

The project runs between 1 July and 22 July, 2012. We encourage volunteers to join us for the full three weeks, since this will allow you to really get stuck into the project and make the most of your stay. However, we are open to taking bookings for one or two weeks as well. Please note that the start dates are as follows:

1 July 2012 8 July 2012 15 July 2012

We will meet you at the airport! You should fly in to Livingstone International Airport on the Sunday, where you will be picked up by one of our representatives. You'll then be taken to Maramba River Lodge, where you will meet the rest of the team. At the end of your stay, you will have to fly out again on a Sunday (so either July 8, July 15, or July 22). We will take you back to the airport.

Project Prices:

1 week:	2 weeks:	3 weeks:
GBP 395	GBP 750	GBP 1095
USD 625	USD 1185	USD 1730
EUR 465	EUR 875	EUR 1275

Project Cost Includes:

1. Three **wholesome meals** a day
2. Tented accommodation in a **beautiful riverside campsite** (options for chalets available)
3. **Airport transfers**
4. **Transport** to and from planting activities
5. **Lectures and workshops** on sustainable living, tree identity and planting
6. **Presentations** by reputable guest speakers
7. **Celebration** event on the final day
8. **Certificate of involvement** in planting 5000+ trees
9. A **lion walk at Lion Encounter** (this normally costs USD 130)
10. Entry to **Victoria Falls**, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the world

Project Cost Excludes:

1. All items of a personal nature, such as curios, gifts, clothing (work and other)
2. Flights to and from Livingstone International Airport
3. Email and telephone calls made during your placement
4. Any excursions over and above your planned itinerary
5. Personal insurance cover for the duration of your placement

Booking

Process & Further Information



For more information about the project, just send an email to zambia@greenpop.org, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can!

If you want to join us, let us know as soon as possible and we'll put a provisional booking in place for you. We'll send you all the documents you need, including pre-departure information that will help you plan for the trip, forms that need to be filled out, and an invoice. You will have two

weeks to pay a deposit (GBP 100), which will confirm your placement. You will then have until 60 days before the project starts to pay the balance.

We'll be always available to answer any questions you have!

Book soon - limited spaces available.

Videos



Greenpop Videos

We've made 18 videos of our work so far, from school planting days and reforestation festivals to reverse graffiti and a sketch animation. Click the link below and you'll be taken to the GreenpopTreevolution YouTube channel - watch and enjoy! <http://www.youtube.com/GreenpopTreevolution>

Thank you. See you in July!



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