



Lubambe Plants Trees for Conservation & Ecosystem Restoration

29 December, 2022.

The 2023 national tree planting exercise was launched by Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Collins Nzovu on 15 December, 2022, under the theme **plant a tree and save the earth**.

During the launch, the Honourable Minister challenged mining companies operating in the country to partner with the Zambian Government and protect the country's forests.

In line with the Hon. Minister's appeal and in line with the company's environmental policy to mine responsibly, Lubambe Copper Mine Limited (LCML) planted 500 *Faidherbia albida* trees, locally known as the Musangu trees in crop fields, as well as in abandoned fields, on 23rd December, 2022.



Lubambe SHE and Training Manager Gideon Sinkamba with Lubambe Agricultural Coordinator Nchimunya Nachilime planting a Musangu tree

The tree planting exercise was carried out in collaboration with community farmers who are vital in promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture in surrounding communities.

During the tree-planting exercise, Lubambe Safety, Health, Environment and Training (SHET) Manager, Gideon Sinkamba, said trees were important because they help keep our climate stable, absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, as well as regulate water supply and improve its quality, in addition to providing a home to more than half of all species found on land.

Mr. Sinkamba said the mine will continue to support government's efforts to combat deforestation. He advised employees to be part of this initiative even in their individual capacities, as protecting and restoring forests has never been more urgent.

Why Plant the Musangu Tree?

- It is a fast-growing legume tree that is easy to find and can easily be incorporated into the country's farming system.
- It is effective and efficient in combating deforestation on farmland since both environmental improvement and farming can go hand in hand and;
- Has great nutrients which are beneficial to the soil.

In March this year, Lubambe planted three hundred solid core bamboo trees, botanically known as *Oxytenanthera Abyssinica*.

According to recent data from the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the deforestation rate in Zambia is currently around 250-300 thousand hectares a year, leaving experts concerned that Zambia's trees could be gone completely by the year 2030.

Additionally, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) estimates that over 1 billion people live in and around forests, depending on them for fuel, food, medicines and building materials. And all of us use wood in our daily lives; in fact, global demand for timber products is expected to more than triple over the next three decades.

WWF further estimates that the impact has already led to the loss of about 40% of the world's forests. An area the size of a football pitch is still being destroyed every second.

More information on the forest situation in Zambia and around the world can be obtained on:

https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/forests_practice