



cbaSCALE+

Community-based Adaptation: Scaling-up Community Action for Livelihoods & Ecosystems

Taking nature-based, gender-responsive, and inclusive community-based adaptation to scale in Southern Africa

Project at a glance

Project implementers:

CARE Deutschland (Germany), CARE Mozambique, CARE Zambia, CARE Zimbabwe, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Regional Partners: Associação dos Jovens e Amigos de Govuro (AJOAGO), Alliance for Nutrition and Reconstruction (ANR), Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Associação para promoção de desenvolvimento da Mulher (MAHLAHLE), Nutri Aid Trust (NAT), Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE)

Project funder:

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

Implementation period:

September 2023–August 2029

Project sites:

Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Project goal:

CBA SCALE+ works with local authorities, communities, and policy-makers in Southern Africa and beyond to scale up community-based adaptation (CBA) approaches that are nature-based, gender-responsive, and fair.



Supported by:



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

January 2025

Project Description

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, approximately 40% of the global population is now “highly vulnerable” to the harsh realities of climate change. Southern Africa’s ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure face significant risks due to climate change, and the region has already experienced widespread losses and damages. People have always lived with a degree of climate-related risk; still, those risks are changing and increasing, and the increasing uncertainty is heavily impacting people’s livelihoods in Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

A number of projects have promoted CBA across Southern Africa to try to reduce local vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. However, there has been limited institutionalization of these approaches, and the potential of CBA has been constrained by a lack of resources for implementation.

CBA SCALE+ works with local authorities, communities, and policy-makers across the three countries to address these gaps.

Project Outcome

Inclusive, gender-responsive, and nature-based CBA to climate change in the targeted communities in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe acts as a stimulus for scaling up locally, nationally, and internationally. **The project will create evidence-based approaches to support policies and funding to help about half a million people in 100 communities manage climate risks.**





“What is CBA?”

CBA is a community-led process that empowers people to build their resilience to the impacts of climate change. In CBA SCALE+, our approach to CBA



prioritizes equity and justice in adaptation planning and implementation,



focuses on **enhancing local capacities**,



is informed by **local and Indigenous knowledge and scientific information**,



enables meaningful participation of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and



improves people's access to the resources and services they need to adapt.

Key Activities

Modelling CBA approaches

The project will facilitate community adaptation planning processes to identify CBA actions that are inclusive, gender responsive, and nature based. Once CBA priorities are identified, the focus will shift to implementation, both through direct support from the project and by facilitating access to resources and services that enable the implementation of CBA actions. Importantly, efforts will be made to integrate CBA priorities in local development plans that drive resource allocation to help ensure that the actions are institutionalized and sustainable over the longer term.

Enabling environment for CBA

To facilitate the implementation of CBA actions at scale, effective policies and plans must be in place, resourced, and implemented at the subnational and national levels, with the informed support of decision-makers and active dialogue at the regional level. The project will facilitate this enabling environment for the implementation of CBA action by addressing community priorities and strengthening accountability and resources to support CBA over the longer term.

Sharing learning and evidence

The project will gather and share insights from its work at local, subnational, and national levels, highlighting effective strategies and lessons learned. By making this knowledge accessible, it will help the broader adaptation community adopt and expand CBA approaches. Ultimately, this will build a stronger foundation for scaling up CBA efforts and create better conditions for their success, both regionally and globally.

