Project Overview

Creating space for lions
Securing habitat
Protecting wildlife
Generating income for communities
Creating space for lions
Lion Carbon is a scalable and sustainable biodiversity conservation model, which links payment to local communities in return for long-term habitat and wildlife protection agreements. Payments are generated through the sale of verified forest carbon offsets through an avoided deforestation mechanism known as REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation).

Most of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity is in areas where people live in the greatest poverty. New land-use models are urgently needed that give biodiversity value to those that determine it’s conservation i.e. poor rural communities.
Who we are

Lion Carbon is a partnership between BioCarbon Partners - a forest conservation company operating in Zambia, and Lion Landscapes - an Oxford University based lion conservation organisation.

- BCP manages REDD+ forestry carbon operations.
- LL monitors biodiversity and helps design wildlife conservation interventions.
Why REDD+ Carbon?

Deforestation is a **global problem** accounting for about 15% of the world’s emissions.

Deforestation is also a key threat to the world’s biodiversity

Approximately **428 million people** depend on African dryland forests

**To combat climate change, protect biodiversity and reduce poverty cost-effectively, we need to protect forests.**

**REDD+ is a global mechanism that provides an income to local communities for the protection of their forests.**

To protect standing forests, we need to make them worth more to local people than felled wood, charcoal and other land-uses.
Why Lions?

Numbers of wild lions are plummeting. Recent estimates indicate that there are less than 20,000 left on the planet, and most of these are threatened by habitat loss, poaching and persecution.

As a wide-ranging pinnacle carnivore, lions are a flagship-umbrella species for biodiversity in Africa; their presence indicative of biodiversity conservation success, their loss indicative of a diminishing ecosystem.

For lions to survive, they, their prey and their habitat must be sufficiently valued by local people and governments.
Why Lion Carbon?

We believe there is inherent value in functioning ecosystems with rich biodiversity but the poorest communities in the world should not be the only ones to pay for their protection. Income from Lion Carbon REDD+ offsets give local communities performance based income for the protection of both forests and wildlife.

- **Alleviating poverty**
- **Giving standing forests and living wildlife a value to local communities**
- **Protecting biodiversity**
- **Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources**
- **Creating space for lions and other wildlife**
Why Zambia?

Highest deforestation in Africa
Zambia loses forest four times the size of New York City every year.

Critical ecological position as one of the last remaining strongholds for threatened or endangered wildlife species including lion, elephant & wild dog

Only 28% of Zambians have access to electricity
We are working to create one of the **largest** biodiversity corridors in Africa

- connecting four Key Landscapes for Conservation
- securing one of the last 6 remaining lion strongholds on the planet
Project Area  The Lower Zambezi/Luangwa ecosystem

Past connectivity for lions (Lower Zambezi and Luangwa Parks were connected).

Present connectivity for lions (connectivity between parks is breaking).

Least cost path remaining for lions wanting to move between National Parks is directly through BCP areas.

University of Oxford, WildCRU
Project Area The Lower Zambezi/Luangwa ecosystem

Current Challenge
Approximately 67% of the Lower Zambezi/Luangwa ecosystem consists of General Management Areas (GMAs) shared with resident communities. GMA natural resources are managed by legally mandated Community Resource Boards (CRBs).

- CRBs have inadequate training, equipment and incentives
- Current income for GMAs (legal hunting or photo tourism) insufficient to fund CRB activities
- Local communities do not benefit from the protection of wildlife and habitat

Lion, prey and forests are depleted by poaching, unsustainable hunting, and habitat fragmentation through the unsustainable production of charcoal and increasing unplanned human habitation.
GOAL: To demonstrate a scalable and sustainable biodiversity conservation model

OBJECTIVES: To reduce the main threats faced by lions and other wildlife (poaching and habitat loss):

• **Directly**, through increasing local and regional capacity for the sustainable management of wildlife and forests (management planning, anti-poaching and monitoring)

• **Indirectly through** providing communities with alternative sustainable incomes, ownership and decision-making power

This combined approach of giving biodiversity value to local people and increasing their capacity to sustainably manage that biodiversity drives a positive feedback loop that is the core of Lion Carbon strategy.
The REED+ process:

**Step 1:** Communities select forest they want to protect through long term binding legal agreements.

**Step 2:** The carbon that is stored in the community protected forest and NOT released into the atmosphere is measured and verified through the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

**Step 3:** VCS issues verified Forest Carbon Offsets based on the performance of the community in protecting their forest.

**Step 4:** We sell Forest Carbon Offsets to businesses.

**Step 5:** Revenue from the sale of Forest Carbon Offsets is invested back into the local communities and long-term forest and wildlife conservation activities.

Businesses purchase Forest Carbon Offsets to offset their pollution.
Lion Carbon activities (Theory of Change)

A Lion Landscape: supporting lions, their prey and people

- Develop alternative sources of energy and protein for people
- Provide education on the sustainable use of natural resources and the value of healthy ecosystems
- Mitigate damage by wildlife to human livelihoods and lives
  - Inform policy for the management of forests and wildlife
  - Monitor the status of habitat and wildlife populations
- Build local capacity to enforce natural resource use laws
- Performance payments for ecosystem services to communities
  - Payments for ecosystem services to government wildlife departments
  - Wildfire and habitat valued by local communities
  - Local and regional capacity to manage natural resources
  - Political will towards wildlife conservation

Generation of ecosystem services income through REDD+

Core project activities
- Partnership activities
LC Pilot Project – 390km² Rufunsa Conservancy

- 100% of the carbon offsets produced are sold
- 5,031 Community beneficiaries from REDD+ offset sales, more than half of which are women.
- 28 anti-poaching rangers employed
- When the project started in 2012, no lion had been reported in the Conservancy for over a decade and sable and roan were rarely seen, and only as single animals.
- Now big herds of 20+ are recorded on scout patrols, and lions have returned to the conservancy.
- The return of lions is the ultimate testament to a growing prey base and level of security in the area.
Luangwa Project

• 30 year habitat protection agreements have been signed with local chiefdoms over 1 million hectares

• Once verified, largest REDD+ project in Africa

• Currently 170,986 community beneficiaries from REDD+ carbon sales and growing

• Over 662 million trees protected

• Third highest B Corp rating on the planet in 2017

• The first project in Africa to obtain the triple gold Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) standard
Moving forwards

10,000,000 hectares, 1,000,000 community beneficiaries and double the number of lions in our areas in 10 years

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Now</th>
<th>10 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Hectares</td>
<td>1,064,620</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tons of carbon sold</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community beneficiaries</td>
<td>170,986</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status of lion</td>
<td>Depleted and decreasing</td>
<td>Doubling of lion numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status of project</td>
<td>Donor dependent</td>
<td>Financially independent</td>
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Financing

Funds needed for the direct lion conservation activities (wildlife management, anti-poaching and monitoring) will be increasingly matched and then exceeded by funds generated from the sale of REDD+ carbon offsets as part of this project, until operations are entirely self-sustaining (estimated to be in 2021/22).

Community and government agreements, and the mechanisms to manage all REDD+ forest carbon operations have already been developed by the BCP team through a US$14 million USAID Community Forests Program grant given in 2014. This includes the verification and sale of REDD+ forest carbon offsets, and mechanisms for the distribution of income from these sales to local communities.
Thank you

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