

# COMACO — Community Markets for Conservation (Zambia)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Zambia

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

## Summary

COMACO pays Zambian smallholders above-market prices for conservation-farmed produce in exchange for surrendering snares and firearms; a 2011 PNAS study found significant wildlife recovery and soil-carbon gains vs non-COMACO areas, though income gains proved harder to demonstrate

## Key dimensions

| Dimension                                               | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced             | 2/3   |
| Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced    | 3/3   |
| Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control | 1/3   |
| Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced             | 0/3   |
| Governance, certification & transferability             | 3/3   |

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

## Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[Community Markets for Conservation \(COMACO\) / Wildlife Conservation Society](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[PNAS \(2011\): Community Markets for Conservation \(COMACO\) links biodiversity conservation with sustainable improvements in livelihoods and food production](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[Conservation Science and Practice \(2020\): COMACO, from snares to plowshares](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

[COMACO / It's Wild! — About Us](#) — accessed 2026-07-10

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