

Friends of Chibombo Peoples Climate Action (CPCA) Achievements in 2025; What we are doing in 2026



Farmers learning about Managed Natural Regeneration

Friends of Chibombo Peoples Climate Action Advisory Group

January 2026

1. Introduction

At our meeting on 11th Feb we plan to have a live zoom link with Changu so that Friends can ask her questions.

We hope this report will enable interested Friends to develop their knowledge and understanding of what the project is trying to do beforehand to inform any questions they may want to ask.

The good news about 2025, unlike 2024, was that Chibombo Peoples Climate Action (CPCA) members were able to grow enough cereals (their staple foods) to meet their needs. They believe that using Sustainable Organic Agriculture (SOA) and Climate Smart methods contributed hugely to this. 2025 has been a year of massive learning and training for the project; they are increasingly confident that they are finding out what they need to do in the changing climate and working with their partners to share this knowledge with their communities.

In the UK, the Friends of Chibombo continue to grow and are hugely generous. The Promises Auction at the end of the year was a particularly good way to involve many Friends. We are also really pleased that we now have a [film](#) on our website which will be officially launched at our Friends meeting in February

2. Achievements 2025

- Trained over 500 farmers in different aspects of sustainable organic agriculture (SOA)
- 36,000 saplings germinated and planted in 2025
- Monitoring and data collection launched; 55% survival rate of tree saplings (a good rate in the light of the considerable challenges they face)
- Introduction of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)
- Eat to Plant, Plant to Eat (E2P,P2E) project launched in 22 villages
- 10 beehives buzzing
- Reducing the need for using wood as fuel

2.1 Training in Sustainable Organic Agriculture (SOA)

At the beginning of 2024, UK Friends of CPCA funded five young people to go on a short course in SOA. That was the start of a huge transformation! The young people who attended the course are now part of the training team and known as the SOA champions.

In 2025 CPCA trained nearly 500 farmers in 6 aspects of SOA.

250 farmers learned about sustainable organic agriculture 'to transform practice from reliance on chemicals to making organic fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and herbicides'.

100 farmers in flood prone areas were trained in **crop rotation & intercropping**



Farmers on training courses



50 farmers who have been ploughing for the past 5 years received **education about soil and water conservation**. The aim is to encourage saving rain water for use in the dry season and during droughts.

90 farmers who previously used weedkillers learned about **biodiversity and weed and pest control** to reduce the usage of weedkillers like Roundup. This should also encourage manual weeding or crop coverage. It has the potential to create casual jobs weeding for many people that are in need.



Demonstrating making bokash, an organic fertiliser, at a training session

The different training sessions were carried out by a combination of the SOA champions, Changu, the project co-ordinator, members and passionates (household reps who work with members) and the local agricultural officers (either directly or in a monitoring role).

2.2 Tree planting and forest restoration

Initially CPCA were working with local headmen to develop 5 new tree planting areas. However at the beginning of 2025 due to drought the areas did not have access to water and were therefore not suitable for new saplings.

Instead nearly **30000 saplings were distributed and planted** in places where there is access to water though boreholes eg local schools. Planting had to be done rapidly as the rainfall pattern was unstable. Despite the challenges of life at this difficult time, the community at large, local leadership, partners and the aligned district offices pulled together in order to get the saplings planted at the optimum time.

6000 further saplings were grown for Eat to Plant, Plant to Eat - see 2.3 below.

2.3 Launch of monitoring and data collection

CPCA was keen to develop a monitoring and data collection programme this year. Despite the demands of other programmes, they managed to look at 8000 saplings of which 55% survived. They believe that fires, lack of water and local people cutting down trees for household purposes led to non- survival.

2.4 Introduction of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)

'Giving hope of having a healed environment and thriving forests.'



**Farmers learning
about Managed
Natural
Regeneration**

It was exciting to hear about the introduction of FMNR. FMNR encourages farmers to protect and nurture existing tree stumps, root systems, and regrowth promoting rapid restoration of degraded landscapes which were previously burnt or destroyed. It is a sustainable and cheaper alternative to labour intensive tree replanting. It restores degraded landscapes, enhances soil fertility, and mitigates the effects of climate change. It empowers farmers to become stewards of their land, fostering resilience, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices. It also includes building stoves which do not require as much wood.

Stakeholders such as local headmen have taken a key role.

'Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us, don't ever get tired of teaching us, where we go wrong, correct us.'

Senior Headman Mululu, whose area includes Lunjofwa forest which now lies bare of shrubs

'I thought we were only going to learn about tree planting but we have learnt how to regenerate our whole environment'

Senior Headman Musopelo

The Ministry of Green Economy has set a target for regenerating 116 square miles of forests in Chibombo by 2027 and for CPCA to regenerate 7.7 square miles; CPCA are already working on 10% of their designated area

CPCA are now teaching land owners that shrubs can be pruned, leaving one or two stems tied together. Each land owner is tasked to prune an area. This activity and process increases a sense of ownership and lifelong stewardship of the environment.

The Ministry of Agriculture has set a standard that there must be at least 40 trees in a hectare¹ where crops are produced.

2.3 Eat to Plant and Plant to Eat project

' This isn't just about trees — it's about food security, soil improvement, community pride, and restoring the bond between people and trees.'

Changu - CPCA co-ordinator

The trees lining village roads have been cut down, leaving the earth exposed and the air dry. The aim is to plant fruit bearing trees to provide shade and food for people living nearby.

So far 22 villages are involved. Each village along a road was given fruit tree saplings to plant and are responsible for managing the trees until they are fully grown.

A campaign in agroforestry has been conducted alongside distribution of fruit tree saplings . The project is working through Headmen and local committees

The funding requested was for £2000 for 20,000 seedlings and 20,000 polypots to put them in. We committed £570; over 6000 lemon, avocado, guava and mango seeds were germinated and distributed by the end of the year to be planted.

¹ A hectare is 2.471 acres or 10,000 square metres

2.4 Bee keeping

'Many are looking forward to sweeter results.' Changu

CPCA see beekeeping as a good way to generate income and improve the environment. We have previously funded beehives which have not been successfully maintained but would like to fund a successful beehive project. They requested £2000 to buy 100 beehives; we agreed to support a pilot project for 10 beehives and encourage them to evaluate the pilot and apply for a further project this year if successful, based on learning from the pilot. We sent extra money and recommended they use this for training and safety equipment.

In November they reported that there were bees in all 10 hives which they had purchased.

2.5 Reducing the need for using wood as fuel

'Firewood saving stoves use less wood and emit less smoke, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released in the air and respiratory diseases.'

Firewood remains the most reliable source of fuel for families but is in increasingly short supply. In 2023 we funded a briquette making machine, so that people could use briquettes as an alternative to using firewood. Unfortunately, production came to a halt in 2024 due to lack of raw materials after the severe drought.

In 2025 there was a good supply of raw materials such as grass, maize, soya, groundnuts and stalks. CPCA offered training through the existing farming cooperatives to encourage the production of briquettes with the aim of increasing the number of local households and businesses that are opting for briquettes rather than traditional charcoal, hence saving trees.

We funded a model project to build 100 firewood saving stoves to encourage more households to use them. 57 households now have firewood saving stoves in 5 villages. They are grateful that they no longer have to go long distances to look for firewood; they also know how to get twigs from shrubs after trimming their bushes for the managed natural regeneration programme. The twigs are enough for their stoves.

'Hours of enduring breathing smoke from the open fire which usually resulted in persistent coughing is now history.'

3. UK Friends of CPCA Fundraising in 2025

3.1 Money raised

Year	Amount
2020	150
2021	2219
2022	7961
2023	11494
2024	9928
2025	7703

Fig 1

The income we raised in 2025 is 2000k lower than in 2024 . One reason for this is that we lost an advisory group member who did a lot of fundraising. We have continued to meet the needs identified by CPCA despite this.

3.2 How we raised funds

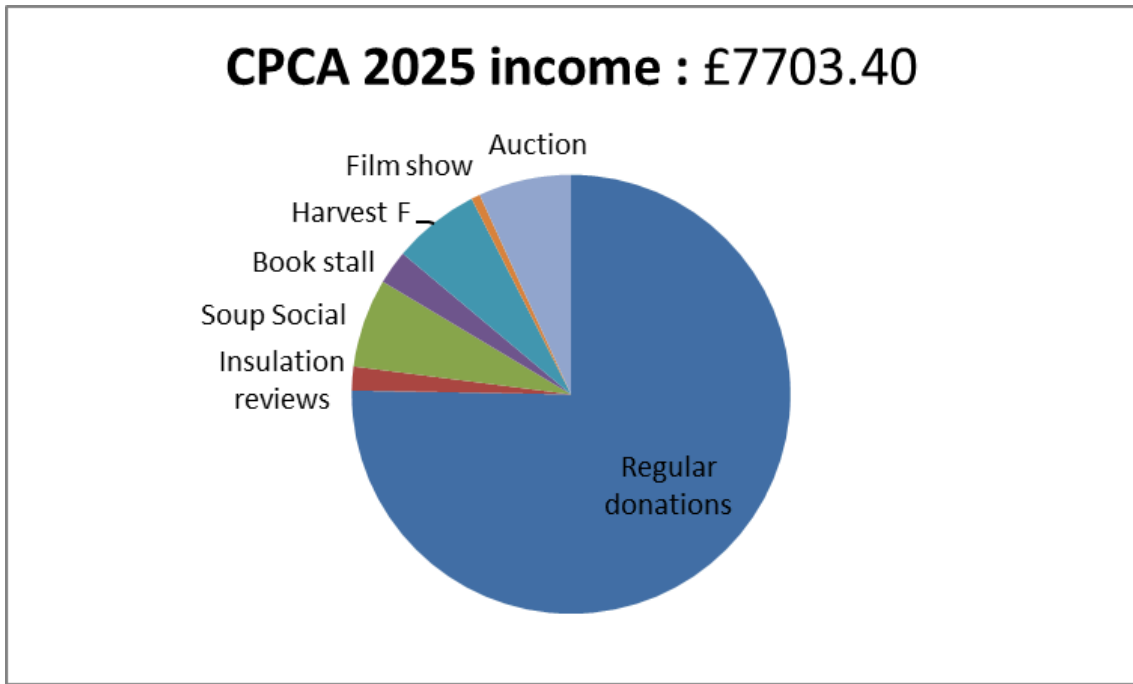
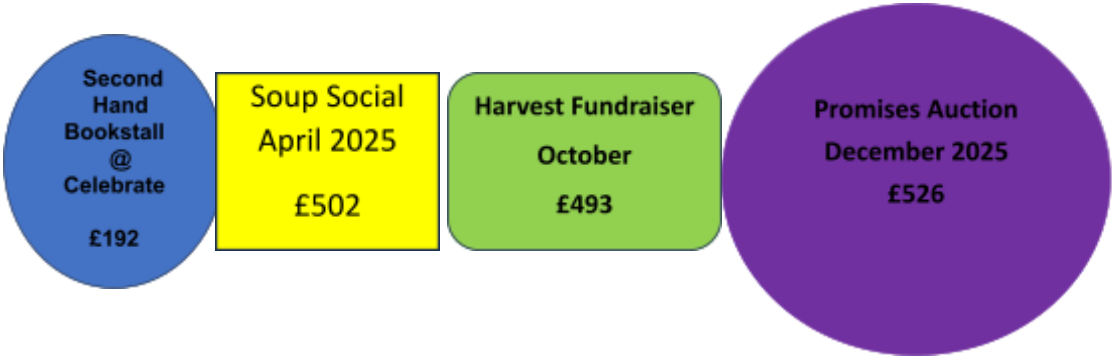


Fig 2

Our income from regular donations is now £445 a month.

Fundraising initiatives in 2025 included:



4. Expenditure in 2025

We started 2025 with a surplus of £3775, raised £7703 and spent £7308 in 2025

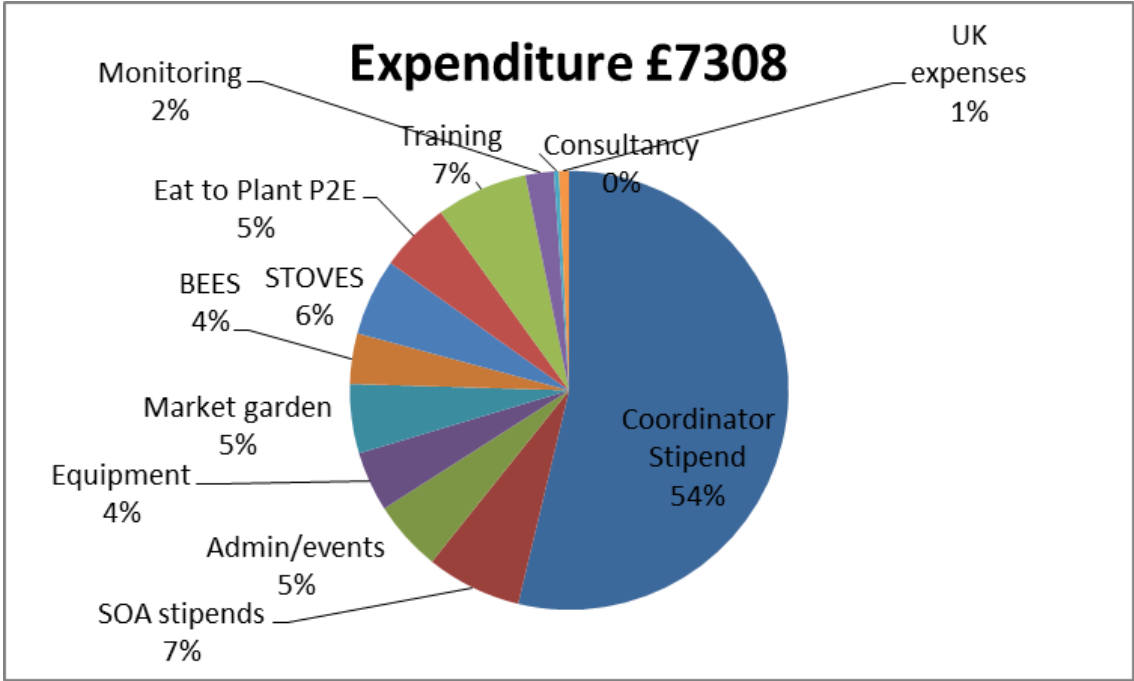


Fig 3

Much of our expenditure in 2025 was on the stipends we pay to the co-ordinator. We paid £3260 which covers 14 months, up to February 2026. We also supported CPCA to pay stipends to the 3 Sustainable Organic Agricultural champions when they are short of funds which may be when crops fail due to weather conditions (£520). Administrative costs and hospitality at training events have absorbed a further £285 while the purchase of a new mobile phone and a power bank cost £327.

Details of expenditure on Bees (£275), Stoves (£420) and E2P P2E the exciting Eat to Plant; Plant to Eat project (£385) can be found in section 5
We have contributed £155 to costs associated with monitoring and data collection which is focussing on the survival rate of tree saplings which have been planted. A strength of the work is collaborating with local government and non-governmental organisations, chiefs, headmen and other key players committed to reducing climate change and saving the environment.

5 CPCA's priorities and plans for 2026

We are delighted that this year's initial priorities build on a lot of work done last year, much at no cost to us beyond the running costs we already contribute. Any extra required is in brackets.

5.1 Continue educating farmers on Sustainable Organic Agriculture including crop rotation, intercropping, good soil tillage methods, Agroforestry and practicing soil and water conservation through drip irrigation and good soil tillage methods.

5.2. Campaigning for healthy, balanced biodiversity, weed and pest control.

5.3. Community engagement - Involving the community in the planning process so as to foster a deep sense of ownership and lifelong stewardship.

5.4. Monitoring and data collection (5 bicycles - £500) - CPCA want to make this a bigger focus in 2026. They have asked for 5 more bicycles so that members can reach more places

5.5. Bee keeping (£400) For safety training and equipment . We await information on whether CPCA want to develop beekeeping further after the pilot project.

5.6. Continue teaching & supporting alternative household energy by making briquettes and construction of firewood saving stoves and briquette braziers.



Last year CPCA did a pilot. They told us they would need funding this year if the pilot proved successful. However they were advised by an old man from another area to use ant hill soil rather than cement. They tried this out and discovered that the stoves do not crack as they do when using cement; they are also cost free!

‘ .. we have learnt how to use soil from anthills and for a greater sense of ownership, we will be asking home owners to provide their own metals such as old chain sprockets from bicycles and motorcycles.’

There are 14 villages in the District; stoves were built in 5 last year. This year they plan to train committee members on the village Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) committees in the 9 other villages to make the stoves. Committee members regularly visit households. The idea is that they will be able to share their knowledge and enable householders to build the stoves ensuring community management and local ownership of services.

5.7. Continue Eat to Plant, Plant to Eat (E2P,P2E) (£820)

It is good to see that CPCA want to continue this project.

The funding requested is for shade nets, mango seed and recycled reusable sacks instead of plastic plant pots,

We are delighted that CPCA found an alternative to using single-use plastic pots to hold saplings and plants. The sacks can be bought second hand eg they may be empty flour or maize bags. They can be reused as long as they are not exposed to the sun.

CPCA will continue to work in the 22 villages already engaged in E2P, P2E and work with a further 8 villages. There is interest further afield, weather willing, they are planning to give saplings to areas the other side of Chibombo.

5.8. Food security (£350)

CPCA are promoting climate smart agriculture with 2 nutritious crops - cassava and sweet potatoes

Cassava is not a common crop in Chibombo unlike other provinces in Zambia. It is both easier to grow in the existing climatic conditions and also more nutritious than much loved maize.

In December we gave CPCA £300 for a Cassava demo plantation. They will plant at least 2 hectares and plan to take cuttings for propagation to distribute to local farmers. It is anticipated that it will have a great impact on local communities.

They have been using their recent learning by preparing the land by making ridges which amongst other things should improve drainage and prevent flooding.

CPCA also want to plant an acre of sweet potatoes and propagate and share the vines with local farmers to improve self reliance

6. Advisory Group

Francis Creighton, Judith Emanuel and Jane Ward continue to serve on the Advisory Group. We would welcome two new members. We would especially

welcome people who are willing to help with comms including updating the website, social media etc

7. UK Friends of CPCA Fundraising in 2026

Once again we are in good financial health. We started the year with over £4000 in the bank. Our monthly income from regular donations is £445.

We have an exciting offer for fundraising:

A one woman show - 'Meet Susie Miles and her captivating stories of moving, dangerous and naïve encounters in the era of apartheid' (Spring) Susie is a white English woman who lived in sub-Saharan Africa from the early 1980's for many years and has written and performs in an entertaining and thought provoking show about her experiences.

If anyone would like this in their area and can find a venue and help with the organisation, let us know.

Our ask of you:

- Support our fundraisers and tell other people about them.
- Share the wonder of what Chibombo Peoples Climate Action are doing Whether you invite 2 friends for a coffee and show them our film and website or organise a more ambitious fundraiser - it will help!
- Can you pledge to raise money for us? Friends are asking for donations in lieu of birthday presents, a loan or offer a professional service?
- Make a donation

£10 will buy 4 reusable, recycled sacks for holding plants rather than single use plastic polypots.

£50 will enable CPCA to plant an acre of sweet potatoes which is a climate smart and nutritious crop. The vines will be shared with households improving self reliance

£100 will pay for a bicycle to enable a CPCA member to monitor tree nurseries and develop a database showing details of plant health and survival. This is an important part of the project learning

A regular donation of £1 a month will keep CPCA going for 1 day a year

We will try to support any fundraising events. To make this possible, please consult us about dates in advance! If you can offer something, however large or small, please contact us at chibomboclimate@gmail.com

Website <https://chibomboclimate.wixsite.com/> **E-mail** chibomboclimate@gmail.com

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