

Background

Natural forests play a vital role in sustainable development, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. There were ~32 million hectares of forest and woodland in Tanzania in 2012. Despite the importance of these forests, they are being cleared at a rate of ~1.3% per year. Most deforestation occurs on village land and is driven by demand for agricultural land.

Forest-based enterprises such as charcoal production and timber harvesting in sustainably managed forests have the potential to generate employment and incomes for rural communities and to incentivize communities to choose to allocate some of their land for natural forest conservation.

Community-based forest management (CBFM) is the policy tool designed to promote sustainable management of forests on village land.

Since 2012, working in 35 villages in Morogoro Region, the project partners have piloted a model of CBFM that integrates sustainable charcoal and timber production. The project has resulted in improved forest management, rural employment and community-led development projects.

From 2019, the focus for the project is to scale-up the model beyond the original three districts and to strengthen mechanisms to sustain the model.

CoForEST Project Overview

Overall Project goal: Sustainable, pro-community natural forest management that transforms the economics and governance of forest product value chains and contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The CoForEST project is designed to contribute to Tanzania's development vision by supporting domestic value chains in forest products including sustainable charcoal and timber.

The project seeks to achieve the project goal through three inter-connected outcomes:

► **Outcome 1: Scaling-up CBFM and piloting a sustainable financing mechanism**

The capacity of national, regional and local authorities and community members is strengthened to implement and scale-up CBFM in ways that diversify livelihoods and reduce deforestation.

► **Outcome 2: Dialogue on supportive policies and sustainable financing**

A supportive policy framework and financing mechanism for community-based forest management and sustainable natural forest-based enterprises is in place.

► **Outcome 3: Research, monitoring and learning**

Research and learning institutions in Tanzania are generating new knowledge about enterprise-oriented CBFM and are integrating this in student learning.

What is community-based forest management?

Under Tanzanian law, communities have the right to establish village land forest reserves (VLFs). The community is then responsible for managing the forest and may collect and retain revenues from forest products. Revenue from harvesting permits is used to pay for reserve management and community development projects.

What are sustainable forest-based enterprises?

The CoForEST harvesting model aims to sustain the biodiversity and other ecosystem services provided by natural woodland. By combining our understanding of miombo woodland ecology and standard forestry methods, the project has piloted sustainable timber and charcoal harvesting. After an area is harvested, natural regeneration is encouraged through careful fire management and exclusion of other disturbances such as livestock and agriculture.



Project Area

The project will operate at national-scale with district-level support for CBFM provided in seven districts: Kilosa, Morogoro and Mvomero in Morogoro Region; Lindi and Nachingwea in Lindi Region and Kilolo District in Iringa. An additional district will be added in 2021.

Project Duration

The CoForEST Project will operate for three years from December 2019 until November 2022. The CoForEST project follows on from the Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector project (2012 – 2019).

Find out more about CoForEST

For more information about the project, please visit:

www.tfcg.org/what-we-do/develop/sustainable-charcoal/

Community-led development projects financed using revenues from sustainable harvesting in village forest reserves

Project Partners

The **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** is Switzerland's international cooperation agency. The project is financed by SDC.

info@deza.admin.ch www.sdc.admin.ch

The **Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)** is a national NGO whose mission is to conserve and restore the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania. TFCG is the lead partner in facilitating the implementation of the CoForEST Project.

tfcg@tfcg.or.tz www.tfcg.org

The **Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA)** is a national network of community groups involved in participatory forest management. MJUMITA is responsible establishing a self-sustaining CBFM model in Morogoro Region and for supporting communities to advocate for policies that are supportive of CBFM.

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The CoForEST Project is being implemented in collaboration with:

- the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government,
- the Division of Environment in the Vice-President's Office,
- the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism,
- Local Government Authorities in seven districts,
- Regional Secretariats in five regions
- Sokoine University of Agriculture,
- The Tanzania Forestry Research Institute
- the Africa Forest Forum.



The CoForEST Project

Conserving Forests through sustainable forest-based Enterprise Support in Tanzania



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Embassy of Switzerland to Tanzania and Zambia

Swiss Agency for Development
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