



TANZANIA ECOBOMA

A Climate Resilient Model for Maasai Steppe Pastoralists

ECOBOMA aims to improve and increase the capacity of vulnerable Maasai Pastoralists in Arumeru District by adapting and increasing resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. The project also contributes to Tanzania's poverty reduction strategy and improving the livelihoods of communities through the application of the ECOBOMA model. As one of five eco-villages under the EU-funded GCCA, the project is aligned with SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION.

KEY INFORMATION:

Sector:	Climate Change
Lead Partner:	Istituto Oikos
Other Partners:	Arusha District Council, Meru District Council, Nelson Mandela AIST, Oikos East Africa
Budget:	€ 1,796,262
Duration:	2015 - 2019



BACKGROUND:

The livelihoods of pastoralists in dryland areas, such as the Maasai, depend entirely on the availability of fragile ecosystem services. In the Maasai Steppe, there is clear evidence that climate change has already dramatically affected the ecosystem. This is supported by data showing a marked decrease of rainfall in the last 20 years, which has coincided with increasing land conflict between communities.



MAIN ISSUES:

- Intense grazing and decrease of suitable pastures
- Declining water points for livestock and humans
- Rising demographic trends within pastoral societies
- Poor information on the impact of climate change

Specific dam management committees were formed and are accountable for the correct management of the dams. An intense rangeland ecological monitoring program is feeding communities with sound information on availability and quality of pastures in order to reduce the vulnerability of the herds.

ECOBOMA has rehabilitated 4 existing earth dams used as livestock water reservoirs. Communities participated in the identification and rehabilitation.

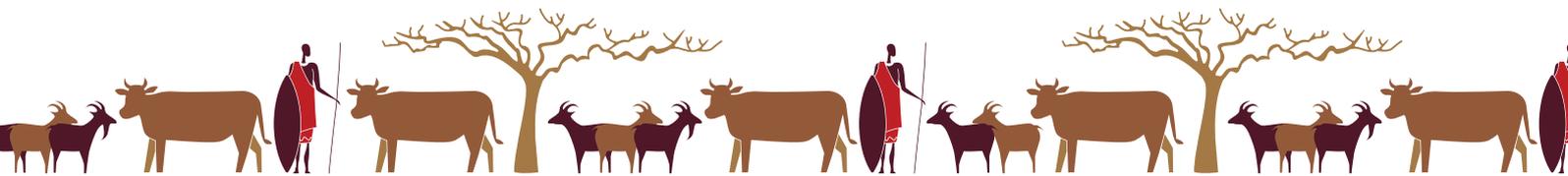
A group of women and youth was trained to become leather artisans: the group processes leather and sells final products.



Patily Labarani, Water and Environmental Committee Member, Lemanda Village, is passionate about protecting the forest that surrounds this natural spring. Community forests provide firewood, medicinal plants, bee keeping opportunities and prevent soil erosion.



Funded by
the European Union



PROJECT DETAILS

Covering a geographical area of circa 280 square kilometres the **Overall objectives** of the project are to increase vulnerable Tanzanian communities' capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and contribute to poverty reduction in rural areas.

Specific objective is to improve livelihoods and resilience of the Maasai communities of Northern Tanzania through the application of the **ECOBOMA model**: a low cost, culturally acceptable, replicable model of holistic solutions to vulnerable pastoral systems.

Target groups include:

- 2,000 families of pastoralists and agro-pastoralist (about 250 boma) to engage in the project
- 500 women and youth to be empowered
- 6,000 children attending 8 primary schools in the target area to be inspired and engage in activities
- Local authorities at 4 villages and 7 sub-villages and traditional leaders to manage activities
- Scientific journalists from national and local media to publish/broadcast content

The aim is to empower marginalised pastoral communities, and increase the capacity of local government authorities in Arusha and Meru District Councils in addressing the challenges of climate change. Poverty reduction efforts is also an aim.

The project design is the result of a collaborative and participatory contribution from Istituto Oikos and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, two highly experienced partners in the field of pastoralist community development, ecological monitoring and wildlife protection.

The overall methodology is the utilisation of a participatory climate change vulnerability assessment and also the prioritisation of the guidelines of the 'Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis' (CARE, 2009).

Expected Results

- Access to ecosystem services protected and improved
- Economic asset of pastoralist communities developed
- Local government capacity to cope with CC increased
- Knowledge about climate-related vulnerabilities and impacts and CC adaptation solutions increased
- Installation of two meteorological stations at Mkuru Training Centre and at Oldonyosambu secondary school and data collection and analysis
- 6000 pupils are participating to a climate change and risk management awareness campaign
- Information sharing and study tours with the eco-villages (GCCA Tanzania projects)

Achievements:

- Rehabilitation of four earth dams (more than 40,000 m3) and promotion of proper management involving local communities
- Data collection for ecological monitoring to assess vulnerability and promote grazelands conservation
- Establishment of community forest areas
- Establishment of environmental patrols by the village authorities in collaboration with the District Environmental Officers
- Planting indigenous species (e.g. commiphora), as fencing in bomas and dams, as protection from soil erosion and wind and prevention against wildlife/livestock intrusion
- Consultation with international and national experts on grazeland conservation efforts
- Biogas assessment in order to install biogas plants in bomas as alternative energy source and first pilot plants implemented
- Creation of a cooperative (women and young men) to tan leather
- A task force of 16 district officers trained on climate change and continuous capacity building to the local Government stakeholder
- Study tour of local college to explore best methodology for livestock keeping
- Smart agriculture techniques established and drought resistant crops planted by farmers, although weather constraints remain challenging

- Communication strategy in place and ad-hoc awareness campaigns with the organization of a "Climate Change Solutions' week" to target media, students, businessmen, scientific community and general public
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the two districts and other partners
- Gender mainstreaming in all activities
- Website www.ecoboma.org established

Next Steps:

- Further training to district technical staff
- Installation of biogas plants
- Reiteration of climate-smart solutions for climate change adaptation
- Ecological monitoring and data analysis to map vulnerability, raise awareness and propose solutions to local communities
- Continue awareness campaign for schoolchildren/pupils
- Continuous awareness raising to a broad audience and information sharing with eco-villages
- Training to Community Animal Health Worker's (CAHW) at village level
- Revision of Village Land Use Plans to include climate-related issues



ECOBOMA

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