



Supporting Communities in the East Usambara Mountains to Adapt to Climate Change

The Integrated Approaches for Climate Change Adaptation in the East Usambara Mountains is one of five projects which falls under the EU funded Global Climate Change Alliance. The project encompasses the EU eco-village approach, and strives to increase and diversify incomes, and strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The eight targeted communities are located near to high biodiversity forests in the East Usambara Mountains and depend on the ecosystem for their livelihoods, which are increasingly becoming threatened due to climate change.

KEY INFORMATION:

Sector: Climate Change
Lead Partner: ONGAWA 'Engineering for Human Development'
Other Partners: TFCG 'Tanzania Forest Conservation Group'; Muheza District Council
Budget: € 1,364,449
Duration: 2015 - 2019



BACKGROUND:

Climate models for the project area predict an increase in annual average temperatures, and rainfall is expected to be less reliable with a longer and hotter dry season from June to October. This in turn will have a negative impact on eight communities targeted: Kwemsoso, Mgambo, Misalai, Kazita and Shambageda, in Misalai ward, and Kizerui, Zirai and Kwelumbizi in Zirai ward. The communities, which surround Nilo Nature Reserve, are located in a high biodiversity area, and rely on the Zigi River, which experiences a flow that has varied significantly during the last decades, with increasing flow peaks and decreasing minimum flows.



These trends, coupled with increased downstream demand for water, higher pollution due to unsustainable agricultural practices and a lack of income generating alternatives hindering forest conservation, pose a threat for the future. However, the project has made significant progress engaging river committees to develop

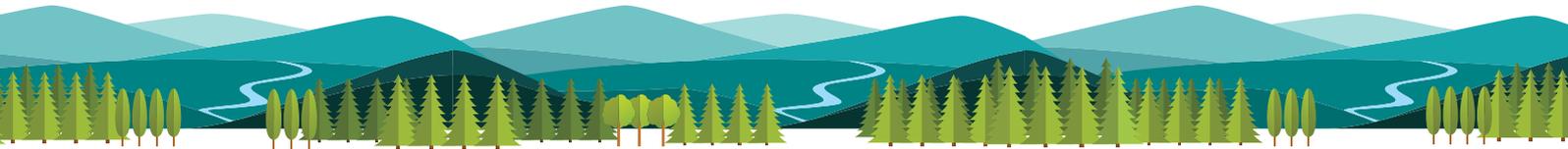
action plans. Fuel efficient stoves, which reduce pressure on firewood, are being widely adopted, and school children are learning about how to adapt to climate change, and care for the environment and share this knowledge with their families.



Jestina Dismas Masimba of Kwemsoso village. The project has introduced a bylaw, which fines villagers if they don't install improved stoves into their homes. These stoves put less pressure on forests as they radically reduce the need for firewood.



Funded by the European Union



PROJECT DETAILS

The project covers an area of 56 square kilometers. The main climate change related activities being implemented in order to reduce the vulnerability of villagers are as follows:

- Improve access to basic services (water, sanitation and energy) through low-cost and climate-change-adapted solutions
- Put in place the organizations and mechanisms to manage natural resources in a sustainable and integrated way
- Help small-scale farmers to shift from unsustainable agricultural production models to climate-smart agricultural practices
- Support communities to incorporate new market-driven enterprises and business initiatives based on the management plan of forest resources
- Increase capacity of schools to provide skills to students to understand and increase their resilience to climate change
- Increase capacity at District, Ward and Village level to cope with the negative effects of climate change by incorporating adaptation measures in planning tools and mechanisms
- Develop improved governance at village level including a guarantee by all relevant actors of accountability towards all villages and the incorporation of a gender approach

In addition to the project partners, the project counts on the help of the following associate:

- University of Leeds

Expected Results

- Integrated eco-villages model extended to eight communities, including efficient management of natural resources, climate-smart agriculture techniques, improved water supply and sanitation services and sustainable technologies
- Institutional capability to assess, plan and implement climate change strategies is enhanced in eight villages
- Knowledge Management System is improved
- All 27 farmers groups trained on spices nursery set up and being managed
- 1640 households now using new fuel efficient stoves.
- More than 17,900,000 TZS already loaned by the new 16 Village Saving and Loan Association established by the project
- 6 school tree nurseries established producing over 50,000 seedlings.
- 664 girls and 677 boys enjoying new school sanitation facilities



Achievements:

- 5 piped water supply systems serving 6,185 inhabitants have been designed and approved, procurement of construction materials has been completed, and 3 local contractors are engaged
- 80 village artisans trained on appropriate local technologies for improved latrines construction
- All 3 River committees have identified the conflicts in their sub-catchments linked to water and land management and are systematically monitoring and facilitating its solution
- Farmers from Mgambo, Kwemsoo and Misalai have started earning an income from butterfly farming



Next Steps:

- Training on soil and water conservation measures provided to all 27 farmers groups
- A sector wide document including Water, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Land, Education and Health is being prepared
- Guidelines have been developed for Muheza District Council to mainstream climate change adaptation in their budget plans
- Mgambo and Kazita Village Land Use Plans are being finalized



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