

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project is being implemented in the Uluguru and East Usambara Mountains of Tanzania over a five years period 2016 - 2020. These mountains, which give rise to the Ruvu and Zigi Rivers respectively, form part of the Eastern Arc chain, and are amongst the most important catchment areas in the country. The forests in these catchments are recognised as globally important stores of carbon and centres of species diversity and endemism. They also provide critical watershed services, the continued functioning of which is being compromised by a host of human-induced pressures and poor land-use practices that are causing rapid land use change and land degradation.

The situation is made worse by high levels of poverty and population growth; inadequate infrastructure for providing clean water to communities, low levels of compliance with water-use regulations and a lack of co-ordination amongst the various institutions and programmes operating in the catchments. Sustainable Land Management (SLM) offers a comprehensive approach to management and governance of land and water resources and holds the potential to make significant and lasting differences both in the short and long term. The project is implemented in more than 20 villages in the two catchments

GEF, UNDP and the Government of Tanzania finance this project. The project is implemented through the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MOWI) as main implementing partner leading about 20 institutions participating in the implementation. The Project Steering Committee, comprising members from various government institutions provides overall guidance and strategic direction to the project.



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Sustainable land and natural resource management alleviates land degradation, maintains ecosystem services and improves livelihoods in the Ruvu and Zigi sub-catchments of the Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

This project has been organized under two components

- **Component 1:** Building institutional capacity and strengthening co-ordination amongst Water Basin Authorities and other relevant stakeholders
- **Component 2:** Implementing practical Sustainable Land Management (SLM) interventions to address land degradation in forests, rangelands and farmlands, with the overall purpose of securing watershed services and improving livelihoods.

Component 1 provides for several areas of project support, including:

- a. Development and implementation of Integrated Land Use Management Plans (ILUMPS) and Village Land Use Plans;
- b. Establishing or strengthening multi-sectoral stakeholder committees whose role will be to coordinate dialogue and action amongst stakeholders, and raise awareness about SLM;
- c. Forming and strengthening Water User Associations and capacitating them to perform their roles effectively;
- d. Improving compliance and enforcement; and,
- e. Increasing the funds available for SLM.

Component 2 will target the widespread adoption of SLM practices within agricultural and livestock production systems and the conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forests in the two river basins. Key areas of project support include working with selected communities and relevant basin management authorities to:

- a. Reduce human-induced pressures (e.g. illegal harvesting and mining and unwise use of fire) and promote sustainable forest management and forest restoration both within and outside of protected areas;
- b. Develop and test sustainable livestock management technologies;
- c. Increase household food production and incomes through uptake of SLM and Sustainable Rangeland Management practices, and the development of diversified, alternative sustainable livelihoods.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

This is a five-year project commenced from 2016, therefore to date, there are good number of achievements, which include;

- a. Basic data for sediment load and mechanism for monitoring has been established at selected points in both catchments.

> In Ruvu catchment: sediment loads measurement points identified are Mbezi/Kihole, Ruvu/Kibungo, Ruvu/Darajani, Mgeta/Duthumi, Mtali/Mtali, Mgeta/Mgeta, Ngerengere/Mgude, Matombo/Matombo, Mfiziyo/Kibangile, Ruvu/Kidunda, Kingurwila/Kingurwila.

> In Zigi catchment: Sediment loads measurement points identified are Zigi/Kisiwani, Zigi/Miembeni, Zigi/Lancon, Zigi/Longuza and Muzi/Msakazi. In addition, Lancon Estate rainfall station is used to supplement data needed for analysis and interpretation.

- b. Total of 151.38 ha of degraded forest in protected areas have been restored in Uluguru nature reserve through improved law enforcement and sensitization of community surrounding the area.
- c. In Amani forest nature reserve, a total of 115 ha have been restored from illegal mining at the root of Zigi River.
- d. Basic data on Food production levels have been established for Zigi and Ruvu Catchment,
 - > In Ruvu, production levels range from 2.5 to 3.0 tons/ha.
 - > In zigi catchment production level stands at 2 tons/ha.
- e. Alternative income generation activities appropriate for communities have been identified and implementation started.
- f. Drivers of land degradation contributed by livestock keeping have been identified. These include absence of areas specifically designated for livestock keeping, poor quality pastures, diseases, low genetic potential of most of traditional stock, low investment, lack of processing facilities for livestock products and by-products, lack of water and infrastructure, and frequently recurring spells of droughts which is contributed by climate change.
- g. Baseline data on technologies for sustainable livestock management have been established including mapping of potential rangelands for development and livestock populations in the project area.
- h. Land use planning processes for acquisition of rangelands upon which sustainable rangeland management will be applied is ongoing.
- i. On land cover changes, there has been eviction of livestock keepers from areas illegally used such as forests and river line in Morogoro and Mvomero districts, improvement in awareness and law enforcement through use of Water Users Associations (WUA), District Facilitation Teams (DFTs) which has improved land cover in protected areas including the 60m buffer along the river line
- j. Participatory Land Use Management (PLUM) teams for