



Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative

Annual Report 2017-18



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REMARKS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Deforestation is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions and sustainable forest management has become a priority strategy to mitigate climate change. This is reflected in the Sustainable Development Agenda, which stresses the need to promote sustainable forest management in order to halt forest loss, as well as by the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 initiative, whereby Tanzania has committed to restore 5.2Mha of forest by 2030.

Tanzania has enormous potential to lead in these movements. The country's community-based forest management (CBFM) framework has already brought 2.4M ha of forests under the legal custodianship of rural villages. Some are generating significant income from forest product sales, which creates the financial capacity and incentives necessary for local people to manage their forests responsibly. Investment in strengthening and expanding this CBFM model has the potential to transform Tanzania from a net deforestation contributor to a global leader in forest stewardship.

Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative (MCDI) is among the pioneers of CBFM-expansion in Tanzania. Since it supported its first rural community to secure rights to sustainably manage their local forests nine years ago, MCDI has worked with local government authorities and other partners to facilitate the expansion of CBFM to over 413,700ha of forests in eight districts. Nearly half of this area is certified under MCDI's Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™ CO12607) group certificate, the first and the only one of its kind in Africa. Moreover, through a focus on sales of hardwood timber, 21 of the 43 villages that MCDI supports have been empowered to generate TZS 1.54 billion (\$762,000) to reinvest in forest management and to fund local development.

In 2017-18, MCDI broadened the opportunities available for rural communities to generate income from sustainably managing their forests, through introducing sawn timber production using a portable sawmill as a means to add value to local hardwoods. The organization sees this as a key strategy which will enable villages to reach a higher degree of financial autonomy in managing their forests and is working with local forest managers to develop business plans so that they can become more savvy in managing their forest revenues. Also in 2017-18, MCDI undertook a review of its own strategy and sustainability plan for the next five years. The organisation has set itself some ambitious targets, to more than double community timber revenues and to increase its own financial sustainability through increasing earned revenues from 6% this year to 28% by 2020.

The success of MCDI's approach at incentivising bottom-up conservation of forests is apparent. Communities are choosing to expand the areas of forests on their land under sustainable management, this year by 14,913ha in four villages, and MCDI received requests for support from seven more villages wanting to join its community forestry scheme. At the same time, local people in are actively engaged in combating forest fires, planting trees, engaging in alternative 'forest-friendly' livelihoods, such as keeping bees, and monitoring tree and forest health.

All the while, MCDI's programme of participatory wildlife monitoring in community forests continues to expand. This year, it began supplementing data collected during regular monitoring visits by communities with camera traps to detect more elusive and nocturnal wildlife. It turns out that, in addition to local people in the communities MCDI supports, elephant, leopards, hippos and elephant shrews are also regular users of the forest. This demonstrates how MCDI's holistic opportunity-driven approach to tackling forest degradation in Tanzania is bringing about mutual benefits to both local people, wildlife and trees in the areas where it works. The NGO's ambitions and achievements reflect broader consensus and efforts in Tanzania to bring forest and wildlife conservation to the forefront of national priorities.

Dr Felician Kilahama
Board Chairman

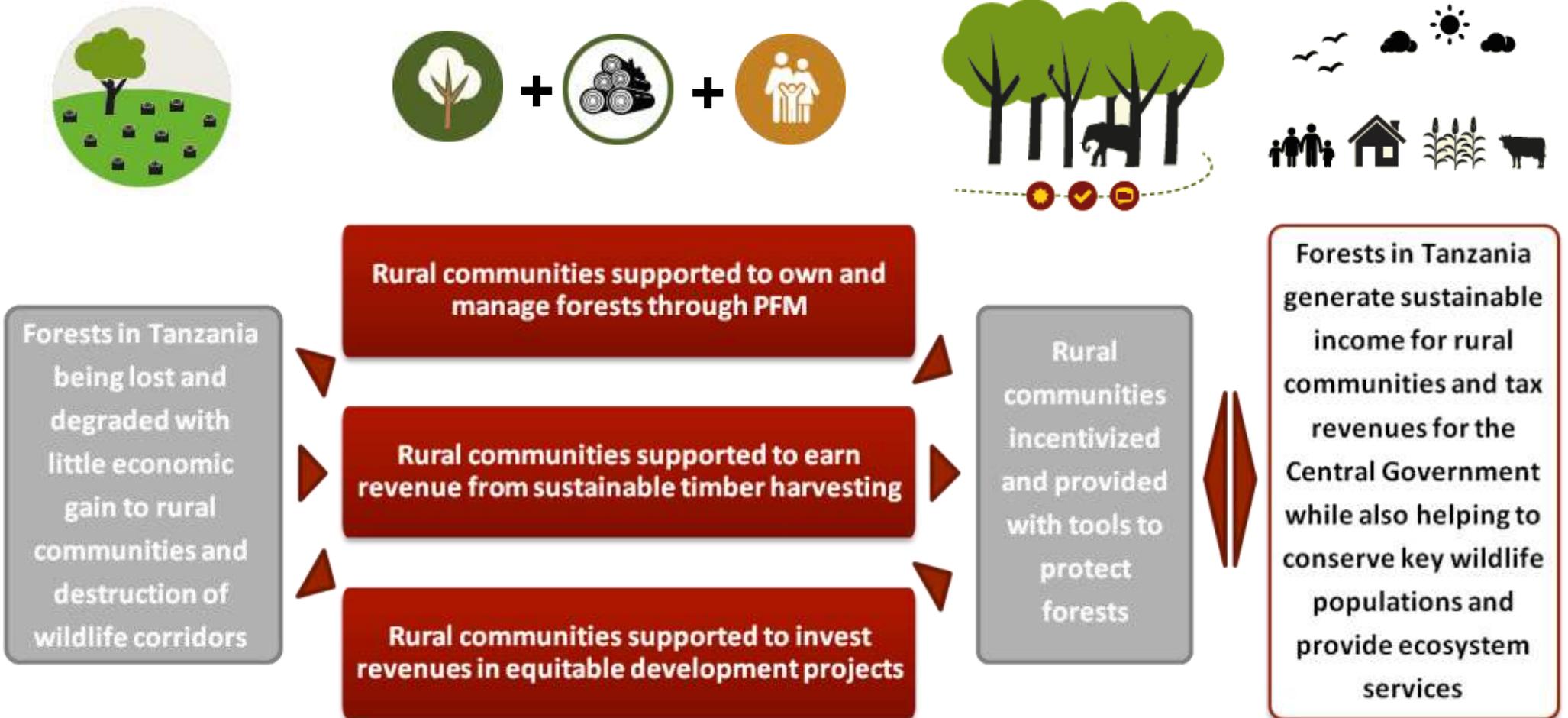


THEORY OF CHANGE

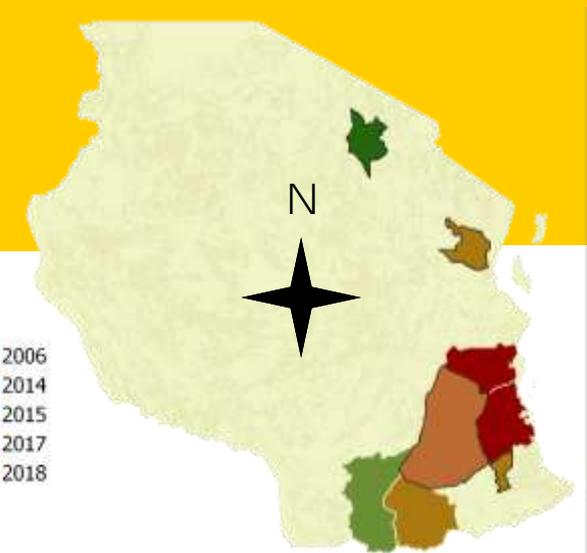
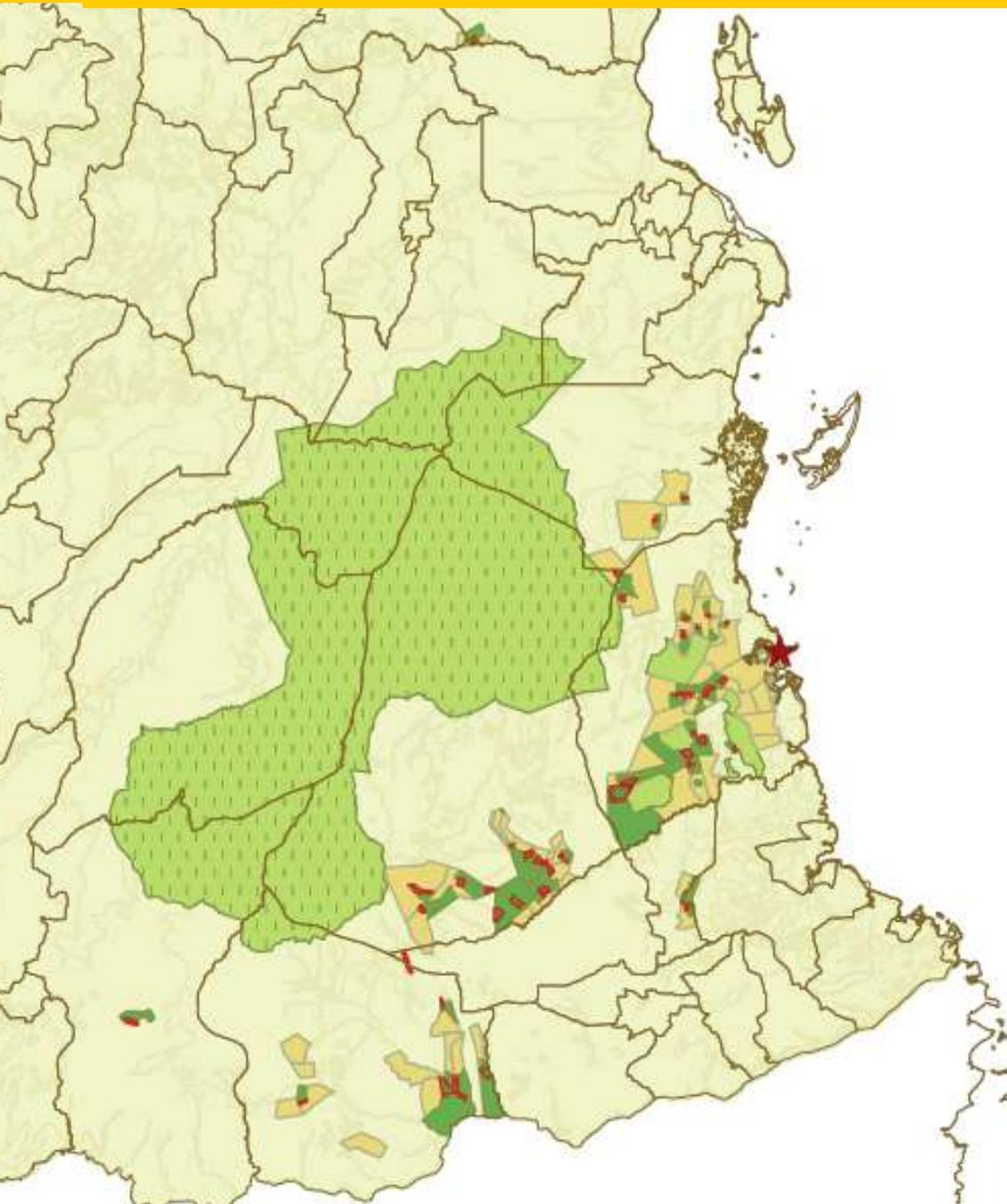
Situation now

Key interventions

Outcome and Long-term goal



GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES



In 14 years since 2004, MCDI has supported 43 rural communities in 8 Districts to set up locally protected forest reserves of over 413,700ha.

The forests that these rural communities, with support from MCDI, local government authorities and partners, are working to manage comprise a patchwork of miombo woodlands and East African coastal forests. With up to 44% of coastal forest plants (including the critically endangered *Erythrina schliebenii*) existing nowhere else, these are a global hotspot for biodiversity.

Floristic endemism peaks in SE Tanzania, where MCDI's work is focused, and conserving local forests is crucial to retain safe routes for the movement of Africa's charismatic wildlife in this increasingly fragmented landscape.





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

EXPANSION

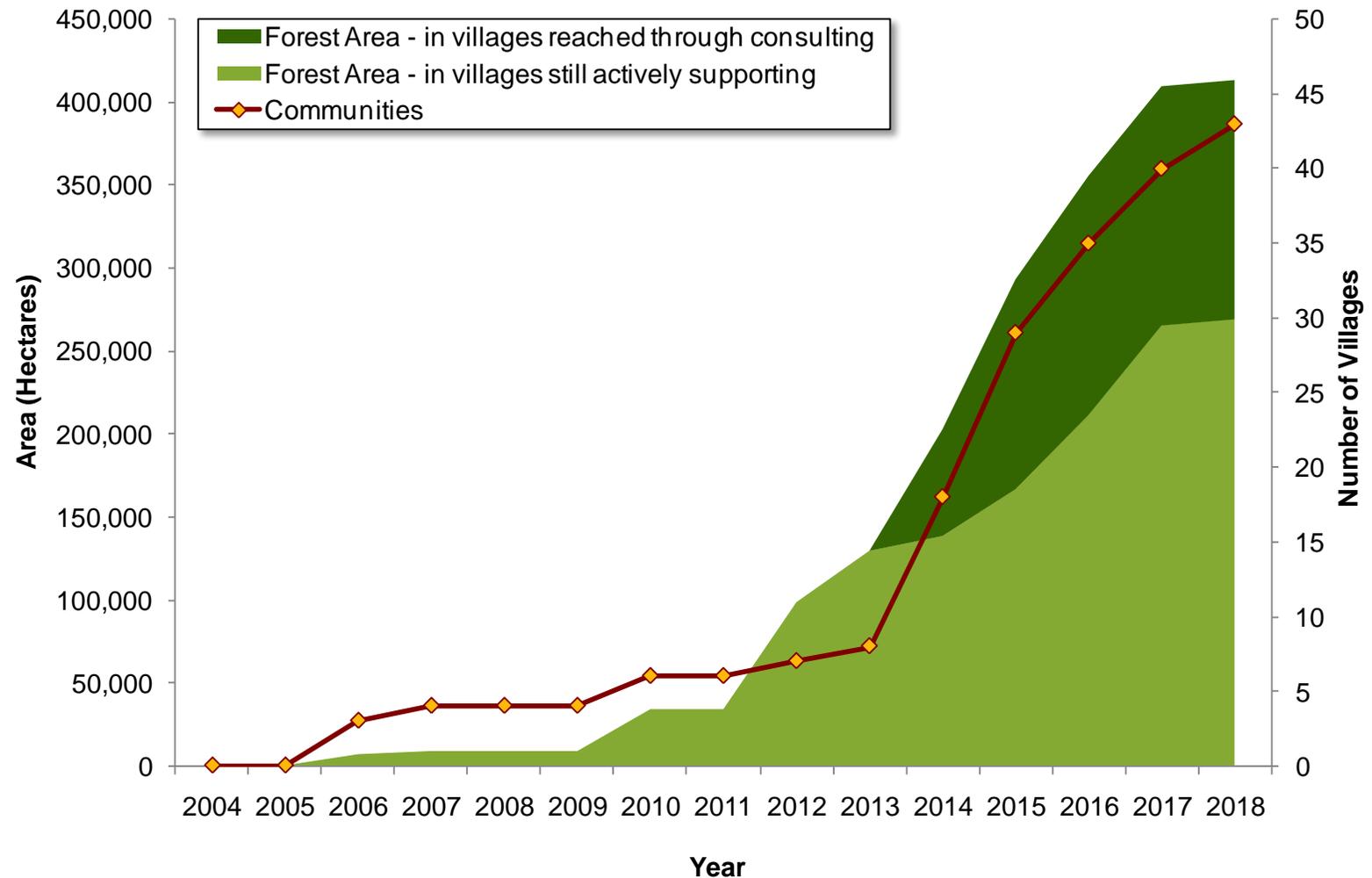
MCDI expanded its support to 3 more villages this year, helping them to protect 2,097ha of forests - 201ha of which for pure conservation

- Mungere village set aside 361ha
- Selela set aside 1,208ha
- Kipindimbi now sustainably manages 929ha, with a Land Use Plan developed and forest management plan and bylaws approved at Village- and Ward-level (just District-level approval remaining)

4 more villages asked for support to expand the area of sustainably managed forests on their land, by a total of 14,913ha

- Likawage expanded by 11,859ha
- Ngea by 1,166ha
- Nyamwage by 237ha, and
- Tawi by 1,651ha

MCDI still has pending requests from 7 villages wanting to set up forest reserves to protect over 29,000ha of forests





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT CONTINUING SUPPORT

MAPPING LAND USES

Where possible, new village forest reserves are established to link up with existing forests under sustainable management. This maximizes connectivity between these habitats to allow safe passage for wildlife. This year, MCDI worked with **Tanzania's Forest Service Agency (TFS) and Kilwa District Council** to re-survey the boundaries of four Village Forest Reserves that share boundaries with National Forest Reserves (NFRs). The following adjustments were made to improve connectivity:

- **Nanjirinji A's two Village Forest Reserves were expanded, one by 3,227ha (from 61,274ha to 64,551ha) and the second by 189ha (from 18,963ha to 18,987ha), to align with the boundaries of the adjacent Malehi NFR.**
- In Likawage village, the Village Forest Reserve boundaries were extended to align with those of Rungo NFR, thus increasing the locally protected forest area by 50ha, an increase from 31,005ha to 31,055ha.
- **Ngea's Village Forest Reserve was expanded by 18ha, from 3,312ha to 3,330ha.**
- In Mandawa village, the Village Forest Reserve was reclassified as synonymous with Ngarama NFR. Mandawa is exploring other options to continue with CBFM.

Communities often (sensibly) decide to protect forests at the periphery of their villages so that they are far from the settlement and therefore will limit restrictions felt by local people. Unfortunately, this can also lead to disagreements over land ownership between villages. This year, MCDI worked with the government and five local communities to help local people reach agreement on the location of their shared village boundaries:

- In Kipindimbi, Ngea and Mitole villages, to reach formal agreement on the management of Lake Maliwe (map right);
- In Likawage and Mandawa, directly involving 19 local men and 7 women. Mandawa has since written a letter to Likawage to request a portion of land for sustainable forestry, either through CBFM or Joint Forest Management.





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

MANAGING FIRE

The forests where MCDI works are prone to fires. When fires occur every four-to-five years, these are a natural process which is important for the proper ecological functioning of local Miombo woodlands. However, increasing human pressures mean that these blazes have become an annual occurrence in southern Tanzania, where people light fires to clear new farms or to improve visibility along paths through the bush. In these instances, the repetitive pressure from fires can actually stunt forest regeneration. MCDI supports villages to manage this through a controlled program of early burning.

PLANNING FOR FIRE

MCDI supports village natural resources committees to develop forest fire management plans which identify key areas at risk from fire in their forest reserves and identifies protocols for how these will be managed. This year, it provided training to over 106 forest managers 14 villages to support them to review and update these plans. Participating villages: Kikole, Kisangi, Likawage, Nainokwe, Ngea, Mchakama, Liwiti, Nanjirinji A, Nanjirinji B and Namatewa in Kilwa District; Tawi and Nyamwage in Rufiji District; and, Sautimoja and Machemba in Tunduru District.

FIRE MANAGEMENT THROUGH EARLY BURNING

With MCDI's support, fire management through early burning was initiated in three villages where grasses were dry enough to do so: Nainokwe, Nanjirinji A and Sautimoja. Timetables for early burning during starting in mid-July (in response to grasses drying out) were put in place for the remaining villages.



COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

PLANTING TREES

BRINGING ONE TREE BACK FROM THE BRINK

Since a previously thought extinct tree, *E. schliebenii*, was rediscovered in the local forests of one rural community, Mchakama, MCDI, in partnership with WWF-Tanzania, has been working with the village natural resources committee to safeguard and support the species to recover. This year, local people were supported to raise and plant 7,500 *E. schliebenii* seedlings in the conservation zone of their village forest reserve.

Later, MCDI and local people went back to monitor how these little trees were doing. It was found that 90% of the seedlings planted were still surviving. The remaining 10% (788 seedlings) had died due to insufficient water or because they had been uprooted by wild animals (baboons have a particularly bad reputation for this).

ENRICHMENT PLANTING

In partnership with YAMAHA Corporation and the International Tree Foundation, MCDI has enabled two villages, Nanjirinji A & B, to set up a joint nursery for Mpingo (East African Blackwood). Initially, germination was very low, about 5%, possibly due to premature seed collection. However, after going back to the drawing board with some more training and collecting more seeds, the partners with communities were able to successfully raise and plant out 3,600 seedlings.

In addition to engaging with the private sector, non-profit partners and communities to plant trees, MCDI also worked with local government authorities to transport a mix of 250 Mkongo (*Azalia quanzensis*) and 150 *Albizia Kartepa* seedlings from Kilwa District Council nursery to a community forest in Nainokwe village, where they were planted out.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES - SCHOOLS & WOMEN'S GROUPS

A local women's group in Mungere village (Monduli District), where MCDI expanded this year, were facing problems with watering the seedlings in their nursery. In response, they were supported to install a water tank and irrigation system and have since successfully raised 3,000 seedlings of three indigenous species (*Psidium guajava*, *Anona muricata* and *Azadirachta indica*).

In addition, MCDI supported the planting of 9,427 seedlings in three local primary schools, a secondary school, community dispensary and village office. 6,917 seedlings (79%) survived, while the remaining 21% died from insufficient water or because they were grazed/trampled by cattle.





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

FOREST LIVELIHOODS

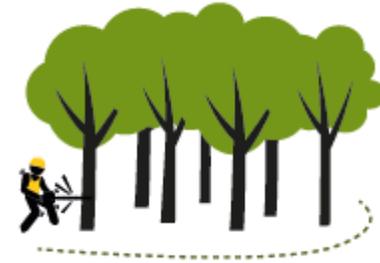
BEEKEEPING

Although MCDI focuses on timber as the most lucrative source of revenues to provide financial capacity and incentives for communities to conserve forests, it also supports local people to develop alternative forest-friendly livelihoods. This year, seven local people in Kisangi village were trained to identify suitable sites for beekeeping in their village forest reserve. They installed 23 beehives for honey production in these areas.



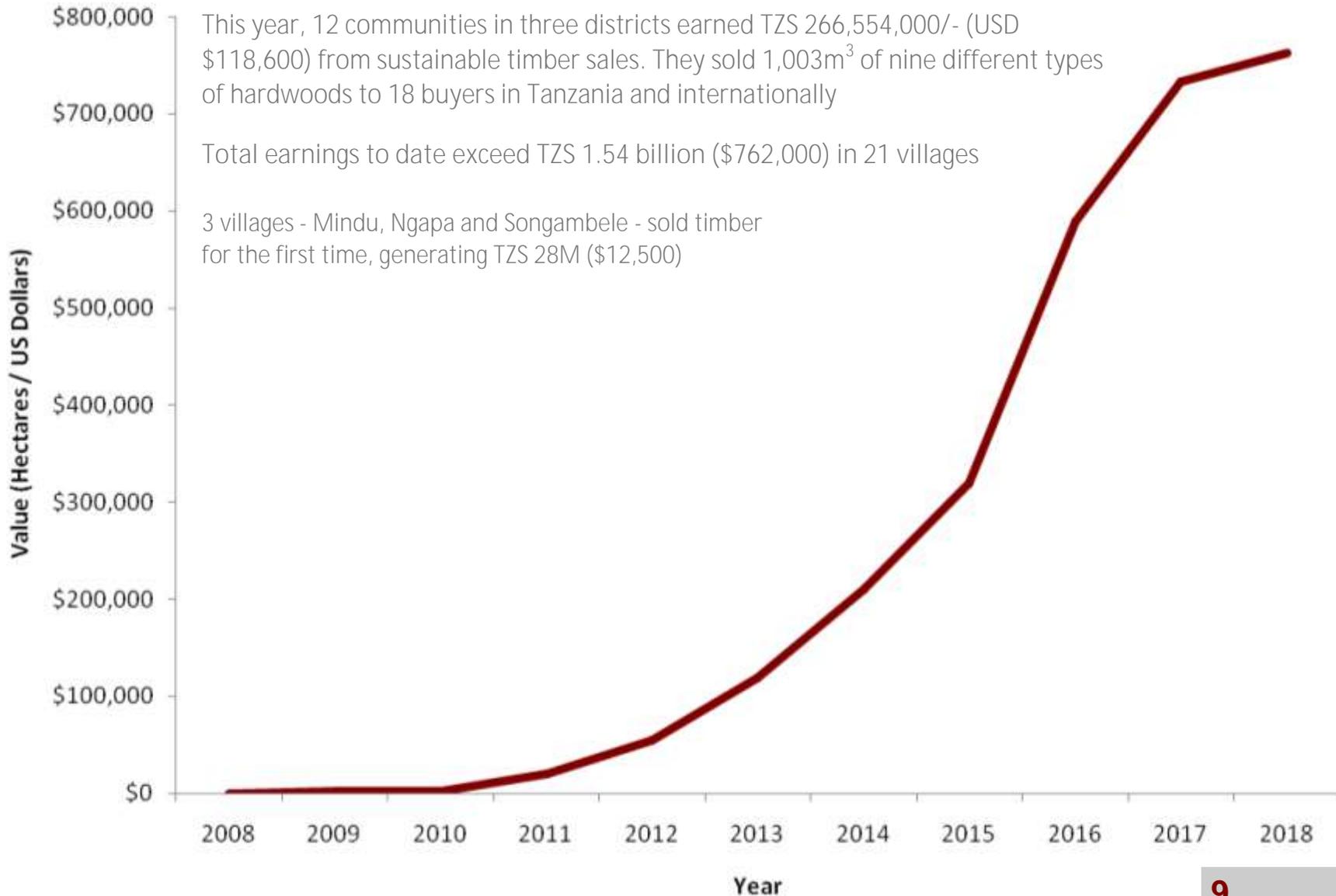


SUSTAINABLE TIMBER



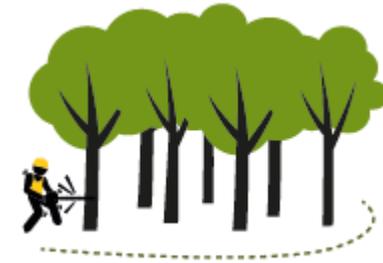
CONSULTING SERVICES

MCDI is often outsourced to provide community forestry support services. This year, technical training was provided to four village natural resources committees in two Districts, Rufiji and Ulunga. They were supported to review their harvesting plans and set new quotas for timber harvesting. 63 local people were trained to harvest timber safely and sustainably; to accurately calculate the volume of trees and logs; and, to enter into effective negotiations and contracting with potential investors. A timber marketing workshop was also held to link communities with 15 prospective buyers.





SUSTAINABLE TIMBER



TANZANIA'S FIRST - COMMUNITY-OWNED SAWMILL

MCDI opened up a new and lucrative source of revenue for villages managing their forests through Tanzania's first community owned sawmill. The mill, funded by The Addax and Oryx Foundation, is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™ CO12607) and will be transported between villages to meet local demand.

This will create jobs and enable communities to sell their hardwoods directly into national and international markets, where there is potential to secure a higher prices and some buyers are willing to pay a premium for FSC-certified timber.

The launch of the sawmill took place on 13th October 2017, led by the District Commissioner for Kilwa. The first village to benefit, Ngea, used the sawmill to produce 28m³ of sawn Mninga and Mkongo timber while two more villages, Liwiti and Likawage, were helped to select and mark trees for felling, thus readying them for sawn timber production later in 2018.

With the support of WWF-UK, MCDI was also able to procure a solar kiln to use alongside the new sawmill. This arrived in June 2018 and is set to dry its first load later in the year.





FOREST CERTIFICATION



The mark of
responsible forestry
FSC™ C012607

For the 9th year running, MCDI is continuing to support villages, currently 13, to manage their forests to meet the Forest Stewardship Council's international standards. The NGO passed its annual audit assessment and remedied the two major requests for corrective actions which were raised in response to non-compliances. These stemmed from under-reported illegal logging and forest fires which were observed in one or more FSC group member forests.

During the audit, which took place in a sample of four villages (Namatewa, Nainokwe, Ngea and Tawi), an additional 4 minor requests for corrective actions and 2 observations were raised and resolved, as follows:

1. Group Administration Manual revised to include procedure for adding new community forests to the FSC group scheme.
2. A rule put in place for forest reserve boundaries to be repainted after every three years.
3. 124 previously unqualified forest management committee and village council members in four villages provided training on logging supervision and First Aid (18 people in Namatewa); forest governance (90 people in Namatewa and Mchakama) and GPS use (34 people in Machemba and Sauti Moja).
4. Six verified forest patrols were undertaken by the most recent group member, Namatewa.
5. Forest patrol forms revised to include sections for reporting illegal activities both inside and outside village forest reserves.
6. Five incidences of illegal logging were reported and, where possible, wood confiscated and/or perpetrators fined in 5 villages (Liwiti, Nainokwe, Nanjirinji A, Namatewa and Tawi).





GOVERNANCE & CAPACITY BUILDING

FINANCIAL PLANNING

In order for CBFM to be sustainable in the long-term, it is important that rural villages become financially autonomous in managing their forests

To facilitate this, MCDI worked with the 521 members of village councils and natural resources committees in 13 (FSC-certified) communities to create detailed financial plans for the coming year. These include projections for revenues to be generated, costs incurred and profits to be made. These will be reviewed annually and feed directly into MCDI's own bottom-up sustainability planning

In addition, 10 villages were audited by Kilwa District Council. Financial statements with findings and recommendations were shared with local leaders



ACCOUNTABILITY

In order to secure local support for CBFM, it is crucial that growing profits from sustainable timber sales are spent fairly and transparently to bring benefits to entire communities

MCDI provided refresher training to the village natural resources committees in 13 villages on writing annual reports, work plans and budgets and how to effectively present these back to the community. In Selela village (Monduli District), this training was provided for the first time to 28 locally-elected representatives of the village council and forest management committee.





MONITORING & RESEARCH

BIRD MONITORING - MCDI has continued to assist rural communities to monitor birds and rare, threatened and endangered mammals in their forests. This year, it focused on building the capacity of local forest management committees to use GPS units to improve the accuracy of the data they collect. 38 local people in 2 villages, Tawi and Nyamwage, were trained to take and search for coordinates/waypoints, to use GPSs to navigate and save routes through the forests, and to take geo-located photos to improve wildlife monitoring.

CAMERA TRAPS - This year, MCDI also started supplementing its participatory monitoring of wildlife along transects with a series of 5 camera traps, donated by the United States Forest Service. After being placed in two village forests, Ngea and Liwiti, for 4 weeks, 98 positive IDs were captured, including at least 5 species. In addition to detecting wildlife, the camera traps also proved useful for identifying disturbances in local forests, such as illegal grazing of livestock (photo bottom left).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE - MCDI undertook a survey of 500 local households in five villages set to benefit from value-added sawn timber production in coming years: Nainokwe, Liwiti, Likawage, Ngea and Mchakama. This data will be used as a baseline against which to monitor improvements in local livelihoods and economic wellbeing as a result of increased sustainable timber revenues and employment opportunities that are expected to ensue.





MONITORING & RESEARCH

TREE DISTRIBUTION AND HEALTH

Various environmental factors can have an influence on tree species distribution and health within a forest. However, for many Tanzanian hardwoods, the exact factors which are most important along with the effect these have is not well known. MCDI is working with YAMAHA Corporation to try and shed some light on this. This year, they sampled twenty-six 40m x 40m plots of in 2 villages, Kikole and Nainokwe, to measure the diameter, height and wood density of different trees. 42 different species of tree were measured, including a number of key hardwoods that are priorities for the musical instruments that YAMAHA manufacture: Mpingo, Msenjele, Mpangapanga, Msolo and Kingonogo. 52 soil samples were also collected in order to analyze the interactions between soil type and tree structure and distribution.

GROWTH, REGENERATION AND CARBON STORED

With partners from the University of Edinburgh, MCDI re-sampled 10 permanent plots in community forests, national forest reserves and unreserved land as part of their ongoing research into tree growth rates, regeneration, biomass change and carbon storage.





COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Funded by Communities in 2017-18:



Funded a school learning trip for final year primary children | Provided bursaries for 20 high-performing primary school students to attend secondary school | Installed electricity in a village primary school | Built a teachers house and bought bricks to build a new school classroom | Purchased school supplies and desks



Built more than 15 new wash facilities for two village primary schools | Repaired 9 village water boreholes and funded installation of an electric water pump



70 expectant mothers provided with maternal support | 15 local people supported to get treatment at the district hospital | Built a house for village nurse | Provided health insurance to 10 vulnerable people



Built a village grain store | Contributed towards purchasing a village grain mill | Co-funded a project to raise goats for the local primary school



Built 3 village offices with furniture and electricity, a village guesthouse and a marketplace to support local trade



58,800 beneficiaries



ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT

INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

MCDI invested in building the capacity of four members of its management team through attending various national and international training courses:

- MCDI's CEO and Group Certificate Manager attended an African Conservation Leadership Network workshop in Nairobi.
- The organization's Ruvuma Landscape Program Manager attended a 3-week international seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration in the USA.
- The IT and Communications Officer participated in a Climate Change workshop in Nairobi, as well as a Timber Trade workshop in Uganda.

COLLABORATION & LEARNING

MCDI participated in the following meetings and workshops:

Lobbying and Government Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting with the Prime Minister• Ministry of Natural Resources Stakeholders meeting (called by the new Minister)• NGO dialogue meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism• Meeting with Lindi Regional Commissioner• Validation Workshop for National Forest Review in Morogoro• Meeting with TFS, Kilwa District and National Land Use Commission
Private Sector Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest Investment Forum
Forest Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community-Based Forests consultative meeting at FAO
Management Approaches: Forests and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Validation workshop: comparative analysis of similarities and differences between PFM and WMAs• Science and Power in Participatory Forestry Projects Stakeholders' Forum• WWF Global Forest Practice meeting
Charcoal and Biomass Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 3rd national biomass energy workshop• National Workshop on Biomass Energy in Dodoma (Tanzania's capital)• National Task Force on Charcoal sub-sector

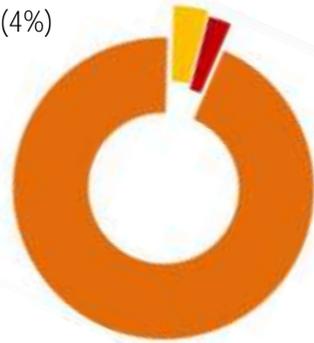


FINANCIALS

INCOME: TZS 1,268,858,832

- Grants: TZS 1,191,009,149 (94%)
- Earned revenues: TZS 46,954,189 (4%)
- Other: TZS 30,895,494 (2%)

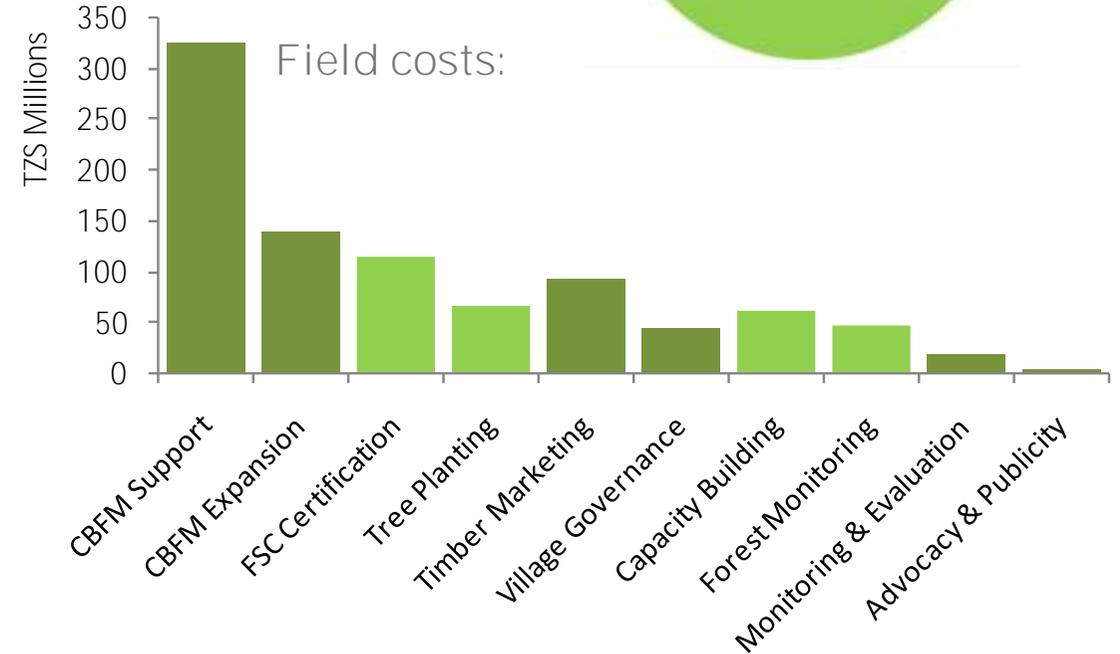
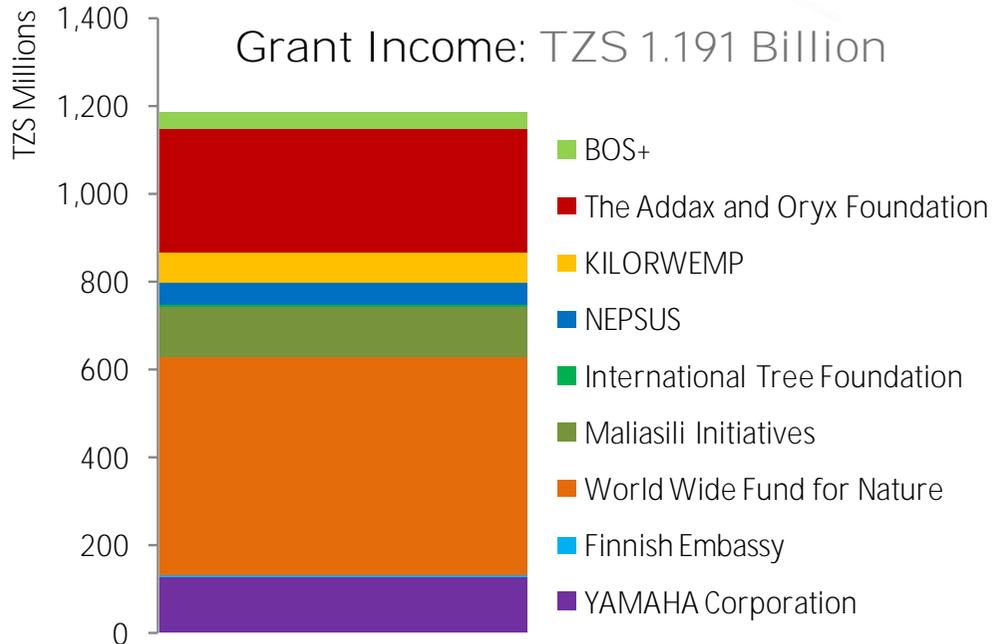
USD 545,609



EXPENDITURE: TZS 1,129,212,121

- Fieldwork: TZS 907,603,730 (80%)
- Admin: TZS 102,296,891 (9%)
- Staff: TZS 119,311,500 (11%)

USD 485,561





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, MCDI is thankful to the Tanzanian Government for providing legal framework which allows communities to manage their forests and for enabling the NGO to support them in this endeavor. Secondly, MCDI is thankful to all of the rural villages it supports - for sharing its collective commitment to realizing the greater value that healthy forests can play in driving rural development and livelihood improvement, at the same time as preserving key ecological processes and wildlife populations. Without this support and collective vision, the achievements in this report would not be possible.

To all of MCDI's partners and supporters, thank you:



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