



Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative

Annual Report 2018-19



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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 empowers rural communities to be legal custodianship of reserved forests in their village lands. Some CBFM communities 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 thirteen years ago, MCDI has worked with local government authorities and other key 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 (SA-FM/COC-002151) group certificate, the first and still the only one of its kind in Africa. Moreover, through a focus on sales of hardwood timber, 20 of the 43 villages that MCDI supports have been empowered to generate TZS 1.8 billion (\$ 818,182) to reinvest in forest management and to fund local development.

In 20178-19 MCDI continued to broadened the opportunities available for rural communities to generate income from sustainably managing their forests, through sawn timber production using a portable community owned 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 knowledgeable in managing their forest revenues.

The success of MCDI's approach at incentivizing bottom-up conservation of forests is apparent. This year MCDI received requests for support from 10

more villages wanting to be supported to implement CBFM. At the same time, local people 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 program of participatory wildlife monitoring in community forests continues to expand. This year, it continues 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 Organization'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



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

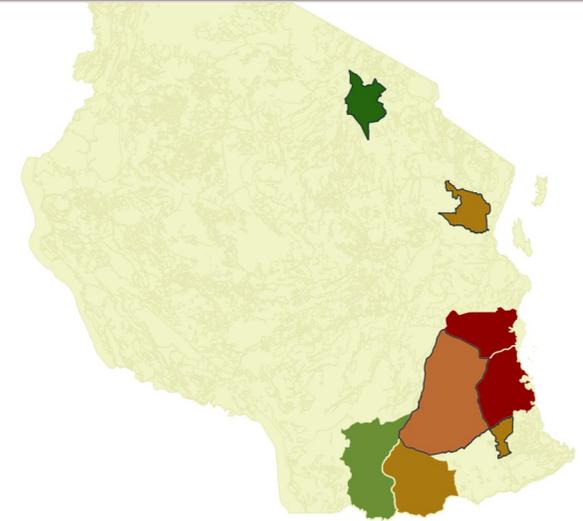
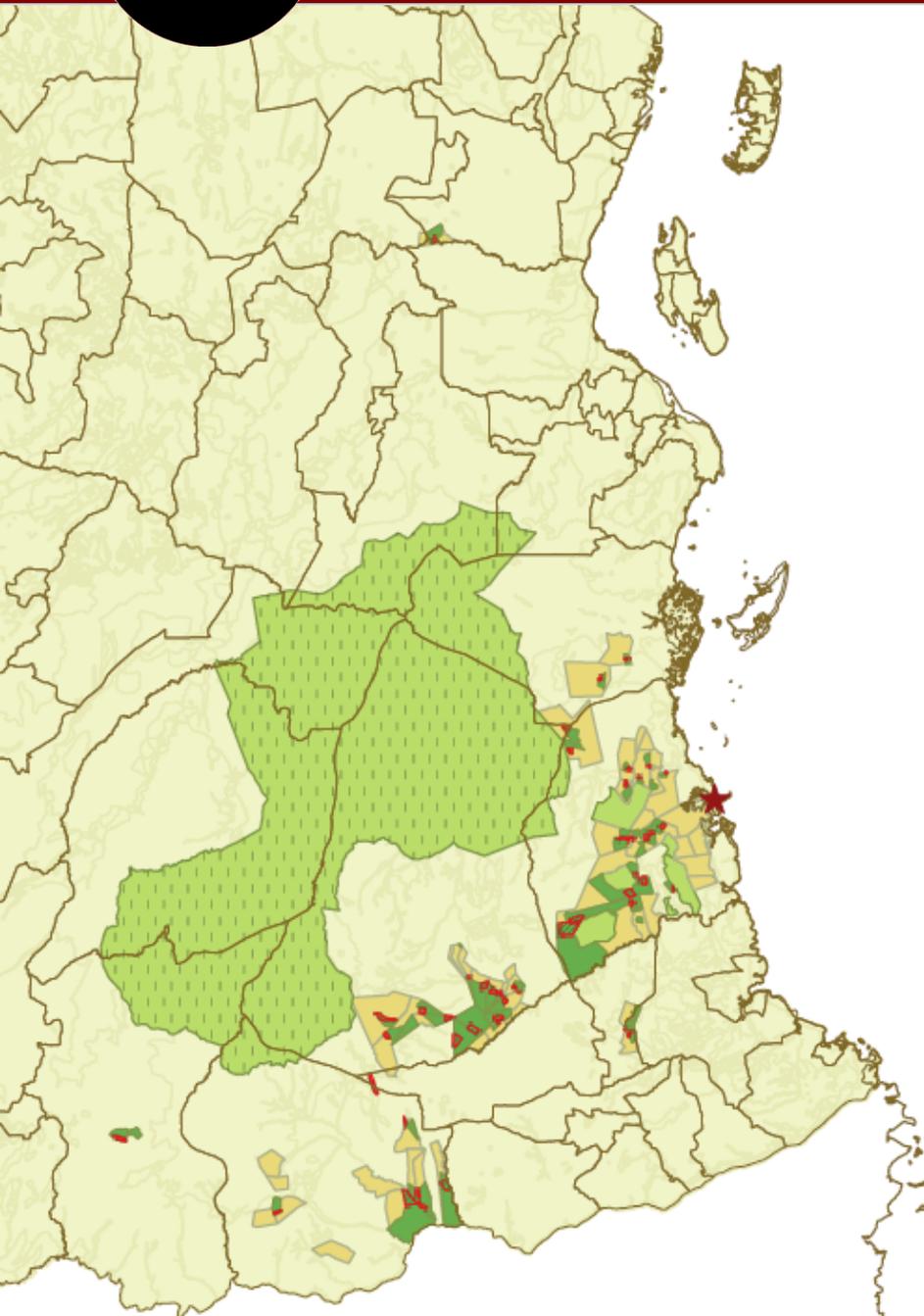
Sustainable Development Goals achieved as a result of rural communities and MCDI partnership

Sustainable Development Goals achieved by rural communities thanks to the revenues earned through Community Forest Management





GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES



MCDI is based in Kilwa Masoko, situated in the Kilwa district- south-eastern Tanzania.

Our work is predominantly based in the Lindi Region, encompassing five districts:

Kilwa, Ruangwa, Nachingwea, Mtama and Liwale. Lindi is one of the most densely forested areas of Tanzania, it consists of coastal forest that is unique to this part of the world, as well as Miombo woodlands.

To date, MCDI and its partners have supported 43 villages across 8 districts to sustainably manage 413,767ha of their forests.

Legend

- ★ MCDI Head Office
- District
- Village Land
- Village Forest Reserve
- No-Take Zone
- National Forest Reserve
- Selous Game Reserve



COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

EXPANSION



During 2018-2019, MCDI supported expansion of 929ha of VLFR for Kipindimbi Village which was declared by Kilwa District Full Council.

For FSC certificate expansion, MCDI provided support for Mindu village to obtain the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, expanding the FSC certified area by 3,713 ha. With the addition village, the total VLFR area with FSC certification has increased to 188,901ha in 14 villages.

Having FSC certification enables communities to gain higher revenues for their timber and ensures eco-friendly products and forest management practices.

Finally, a high conservation zone in Tawi village increased from 10% to 17%, adding coastal forest to the No-Take Zone (NTZ). Currently the NTZ covers 88,220 ha, approximately 13% of each village's total village land forest reserve (VLFR) area.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



15 LIFE ON LAND





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

BENEFICIARIES

During the the year, funds from sustainable sawn timber revenues have been used to improve livelihoods in many of the villages supported by MCDI. For example:

- In Ngea, a new village office and new water facilities have been built, and forest management has been improved through enhanced forest patrolling.
- In Liwiti, housing for teachers and a new classroom have been constructed for the village's primary school.
- In Mchakama, a solar panel for the village dispensary has been bought and installed, and toilet facilities have been built in the primary school.
- Liwiti village provided birthing kits to 45 expecting mothers.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

57,600 beneficiaries



COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

FOREST PATROLS

If harvesting is not controlled, biodiversity hotspots are being threatened and lost revenues for both communities and the government. To avoid illegal and dangerous activities taking place in the forests, rural communities patrol forests on a monthly basis to ensure that harvesting is controlled and forest habitats are protected.

- At least two regular forest patrols take place every month in every village.
- MCDI facilitated 290 forest patrols in 14 FSC villages in Kilwa, Rufiji and Tunduru districts. As a result, 290 pieces of illegal harvested timber were confiscated. Seven incidences of illegal logging were reported and documented.
- Animal traps were found, reported and destroyed inside Sautioma VLFR.

As a result of these forest patrols, illegal extraction or clearance of forests has decreased, enabling communities to have access over their forests resources. This contributes to communities' development in multiple ways.





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

TREE PLANTING

Tree planting is an important part of forest conservation. It serves several purposes, such as forest restoration and the conservation of wildlife habitats. Furthermore, it helps the environment by reducing the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as well as reducing soil erosion and water evaporation, thus protecting and improving water quality. Tree planting is used as a tool to enhance food security through intercropping timber species with fruit trees.

This year, MCDI have supported communities to:

- Plant a total of 25,000 seedlings of indigenous species, especially Mnungunungu (*Erythrina Schliebeni*). This species was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in Mchakama in 2012, since then 18,000 seedlings have been planted.
- Plant a total of 7,000 Mpingo (*Dalbergia Melanoxylon*) seedlings.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



In addition, on National Tree Planting, MCDI jointly with WWF and Kilwa District Authority, conducted an event at Kilwa Masoko's Secondary school, as a means to raise awareness of the benefits of planting trees and the dangers of deforestation. A total of 6,000 seedlings were planted that day. Furthermore, seedlings were planted in the VLFRs of Mchakama and Nanjirinji "A" and "B". Over 390 seedlings of Mvule (*Milicia Excelsa*), 160 of *Erythrina Schliebenii* and 980 of Mpingo were planted. MCDI also left 630 mixed seedlings in the villages at the communities' disposal to plant at their houses and farms. This included fruit trees such as mango, guava and papaya, and commercial trees like teak.



COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

CULTURAL SITES

Within village boundaries, communities have special places where they express their cultural heritage which are usually passed from one generation to the next. These sites are important for communities as they are a way for people to practice and share their culture, such as value systems, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles.

Communities are working to identify these cultural sites and manage them, within VLFR's, these areas have been identified and mapped. It has been established that harvest is banned within 60 meters of the site location, thus protecting its cultural heritage for generations to come.

So far, seven cultural sites have been identified in five villages. For example:

- In Likawage, Baobab trees have been protected as people use them as praying spots.
- In Ngea, two sites with ancient burial sites have been protected.





COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

GENDER EQUALITY



Through a research funded by the Darwin Initiative, MCDI is providing guidance on how villages can achieve gender equality. Activities have been carried out in 14 villages so far. This includes a workshop that involves the whole community, consisting of games and music, combined with the emission of culturally appropriate messages on key gender issues. Through this project, 1,052 people have been reached, both male and female. MCDI continues to mainstream gender in our work.

So far, data about gender representation in Village Natural Resource Committees is available from seven villages. From it, we can say that on average, female representation in VNRC is around 33%. However, the surveys and training also suggest that being a formal member of the VNRC does not mean equal participation in decision making.



SUSTAINABLE TIMBER

In 2017, The Addax and Oryx Foundation funded a FSC certified mobile sawmill to be owned and used by communities. With it, they would be able to produce value-added sawn timber that would be sold at a higher price than standing trees.

Thirteen FSC certified villages have signed an agreement to own, manage, use and maintain the portable sawmill. In addition, the same villages have also agreed to the same terms with for the solar kiln . The use of such facilities will increase the revenues communities earn from the timber sales, enabling them to gain more financial autonomy and management over their forests, which will translate into benefits for local development. The project directly contributes to SDG 1, poverty alleviation, by helping communities to generate and equitably manage income from sustainable timber sales.

SAWN TIMBER





SUSTAINABLE TIMBER

Ngea was the first village to benefit from the sawmill and this year two new villages have benefitted from using the sawmill: Liwiti and Likawage.

Ngea, which was supported to process sawn timber in 2017, has sold 243 pieces of sawn timber worth TZS 6.8M (\$3,000). Through this initial sale alone, the village's earnings exceed those generated from three sales of standing trees in the previous year (worth 6.2M). Since then, Ngea has generated TZS 29M (\$12,847) from sawn timber.

Liwiti's first sawn timber sale was to a Dar es Salaam based company. The company purchased 8m³ of sawn timber worth TZS 17.2M (\$7,400), more than double the value that the village would have earned from selling three times the volume of standing trees, worth TZS 7.9M (\$3,466).

Another company placed an order for 2,500 pieces of sawn timber, worth TZS 57.5M (\$25,000), this is over **five times** the revenues that villages received from the same volume of standing trees. With these increased revenues, the village has been able to invest in a second harvest with all costs covered by the village, thus demonstrating **SUSTAINABILITY**.

In addition, ten villages were supported by MCDI in order to sign timber sales contracts.





SUSTAINABLE TIMBER

During 2018-19, a total of 863.44 m³ of timber has been harvested, this timber resulted in revenues of TZS 220,400,870 (\$95,827). It is through these revenues that communities are able to achieve good governance, sustainability and improved livelihood and wellbeing.



In order to improve our capacity and capabilities, we recently created a new position at the organisation and hired a Marketing and Sustainability Manager, whose main objective will be the promotion of sustainable timber sales in both national and international markets. This will help to generate sustainable incomes for communities and thus accomplishing MCDI's long-term goal of self-sufficiency.



GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governance and accountability are two of the main pillars necessary for communities to achieve successful CBFM and self-sufficiency. Simply managing the forests is not enough, there are activities regarding costs, profits, revenue investment and record-keeping which are derived from the exploitation of resources that need to be addressed. In order for this to be accomplished, MCDI has worked along partners and communities to enhance capacity building, as a result:

- In Liwiti, Likawage and Nainokwe, 83 Village Council members have been provided with governance training and financial planning guidance, improving their capacity to govern forest revenues effectively. Liwiti and Likawage were the second and third villages to benefit from sawn timber production.
- Thirteen FSC certified Village Councils and VNRCs were supported in reviewing their village timber business plans, which were later approved by entire Village members during the Village General Assemblies. These business plans last for five years and include estimates of projected revenues and costs.





MONITORING AND RESEARCH



Biodiversity monitoring: Twenty-one forests (seven community-managed forests, seven forests located on general (open-access) land and seven National Forest Reserves) have been surveyed in order to address the impacts of CBFM on forests quality and biodiversity. The project is still ongoing in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh and includes a baseline biomass study as well as the creation of a degradation map, based on radars. The analysis will be repeated in 2020 in order to gauge any change.

Socio-economic monitoring: Fourteen villages (seven CBFM and seven non-CBFM) are being surveyed to determine what benefits CBFM brings to communities and what factors influence profits and economic sustainability under this type of forest management.



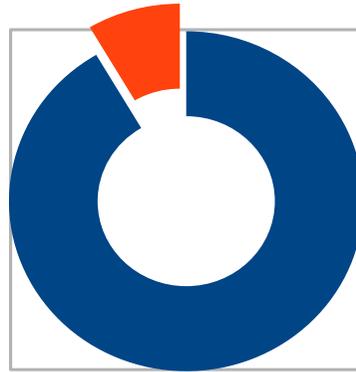
Wildlife monitoring: Thirty mammal species have been seen in FSC-certified villages. Amongst them, 15 ungulates, including the African Elephant and Hippopotamus; five large cats, including Leopard and Lion; the endangered African Wild Dog; four primates and five rodents. This year, MCDI has focused on building the capacity of local forest management committees to use camera traps to improve the accuracy of the data they collect. Seventeen local people in Mchakama and Nainokwe were trained on setting up Camera traps in VLFRs to improve wildlife monitoring.



FINANCIALS

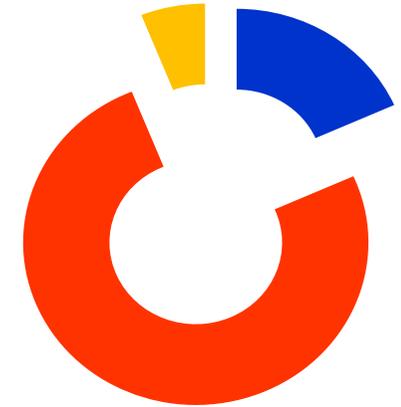
INCOME: TZS 2,194,677,159

- Grants: TZS 2,008,518,117
- Other: TZS 186,159,042

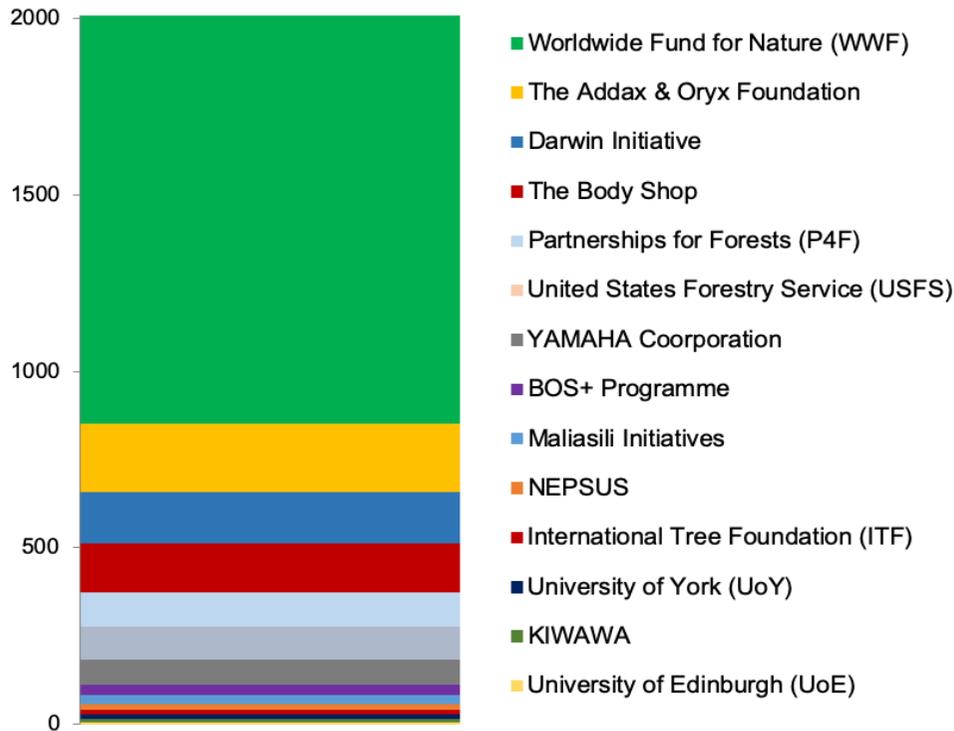


EXPENDITURE: TZS 1,914,508,115

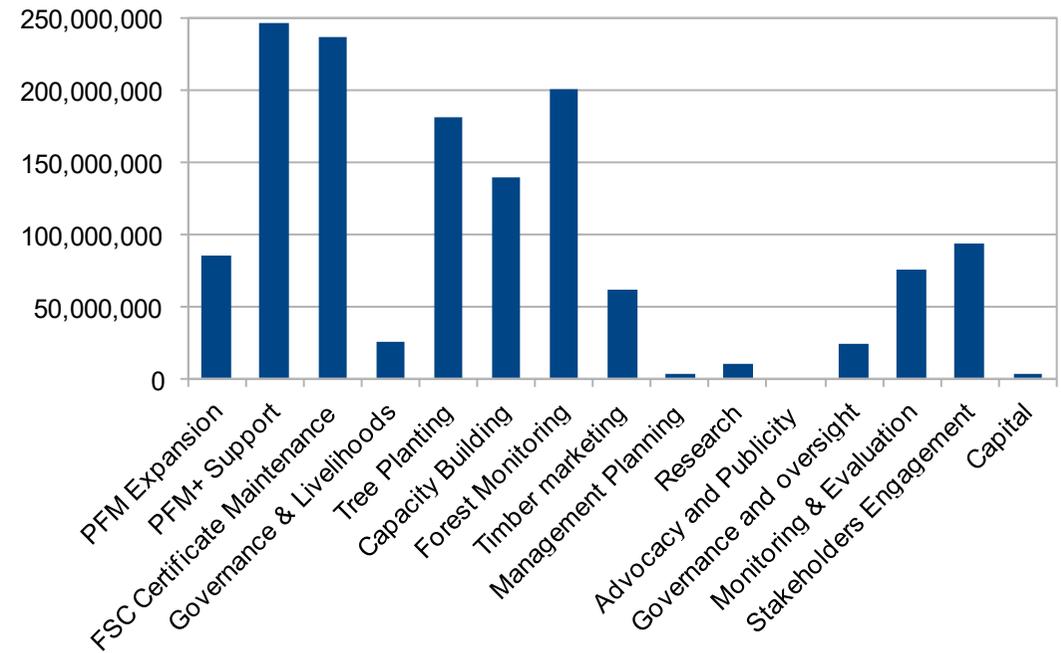
- Fieldwork: TZS 1,388,851,863
- Admin: TZS 190,248,800
- Staff: TZS 335,407,452



Grant Income: TZS 2.008 Billion



Field costs:





PARTNERSHIPS

Firstly, MCDI is thankful to the Tanzanian Government for providing legal framework which allows communities to manage their forests and for enabling the conservation organizations 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.

We also recognize and appreciate the generous support of all MCDI's Development Partners listed below:





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