



Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative

Volunteer Opportunities



WHO WE ARE



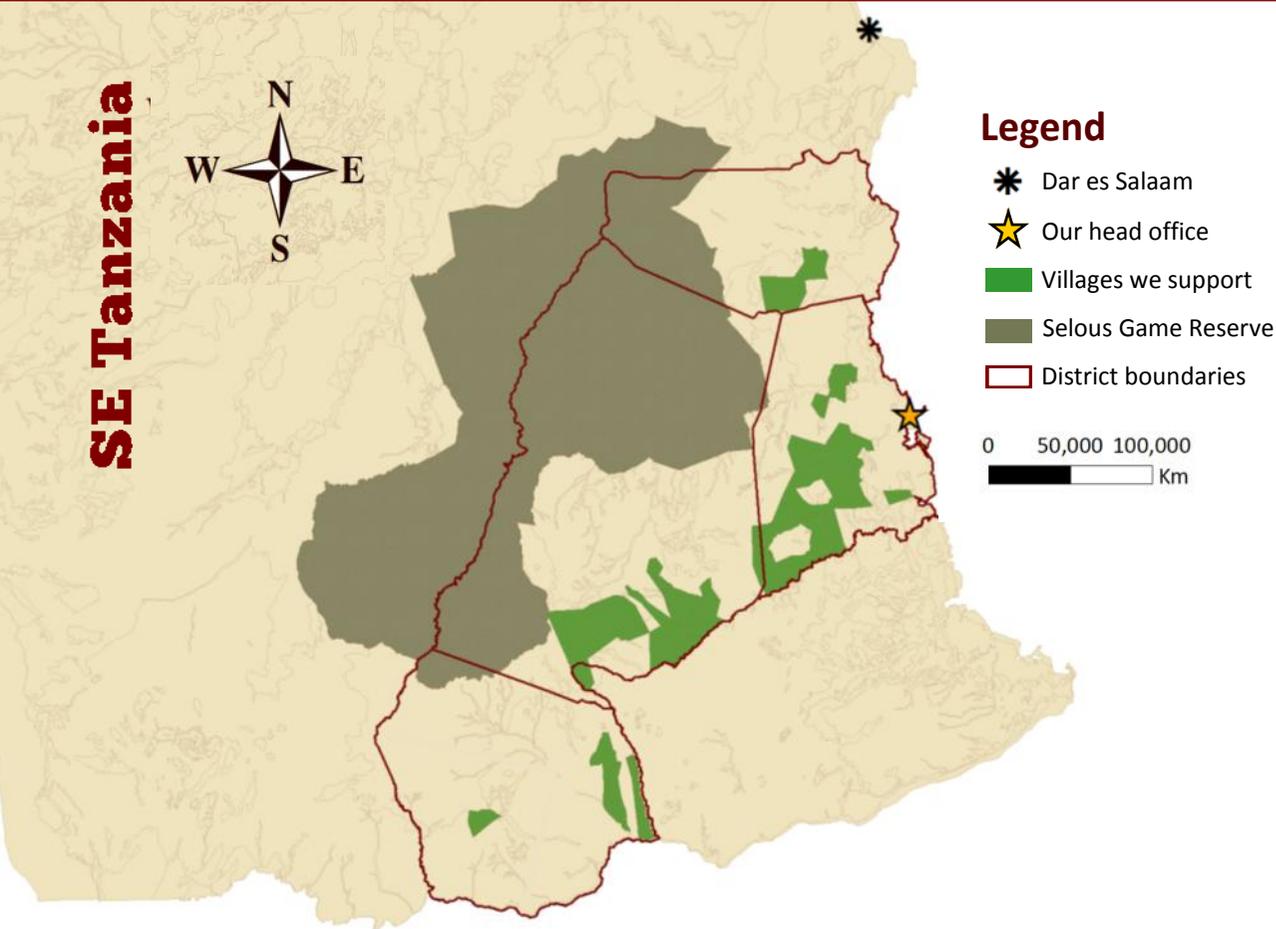
Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative is an **award-winning** Tanzanian NGO that is working to conserve forests and alleviate poverty in Tanzania.

Working closely with local government, we empower rural communities to own, manage and economically benefit from their forests through sustainable timber harvesting. The income that villages generate from timber is used to fund the management of their forests, as well as local development projects that improve livelihoods and alleviate poverty. These benefits create incentives for local people to protect their natural forests, together with the unique wildlife contained within them - *for their own benefit, for future generations, and for the world.*

“Before, local people weren’t aware of the importance of forests, now they are more conscious because of education in the village... I know the value of the forest, so I will protect it.” - Hadija Makokoto, Nainokwe Village



WHERE WE WORK



The villages and forests

We work with more than 40 rural villages in south-east Tanzania. Their local forests comprise a patchwork of **miombo woodlands** — *arguably the most important wildlife preserve in the world* — interspersed with pockets of **East African coastal forests**, a biodiversity hotspot of global importance.

The town

Our head office is located in the idyllic coastal town of Kilwa Masoko. Situated on a peninsula, Kilwa is headed with mangrove forests on the one side and two expansive beaches bordering the Indian Ocean on the other. We are 320km (about a 4 hour drive) south of Dar es Salaam.

Things to do

There is a tourist office in town that can arrange safaris to the nearby Selous Game Reserve and Mikumi National Park. They also organise day trips to other sites, including some nearby hippo pools and the ancient Arabic ruins on Kilwa Kisiwani, a small island and World Heritage Site off the coast, as well as mangrove tours, snorkeling and fishing trips. There is a local ATM where you can withdraw cash using Visa or MasterCard.

WHAT WE DO

We have a number of exciting programmes and activities that you can get involved with:



Community Forest Rights

We support communities to establish village forest reserves by mapping their forests, as well as developing and securing approval of forest management plans



Tree Planting

We support community tree nurseries where indigenous timber seedlings and rare endemic plants are raised for planting in local forests.



Forest Certification

We certify community forests with the Forest Stewardship Council™ as meeting the highest international standards of responsible forest management



Governance & Capacity Building

We provide training and support to communities to ensure that benefits from forest product sales are shared equitably in each village



Timber Sales & Marketing

We support communities to harvest sustainable timber from their forests and link them with buyers, in Tanzania and internationally



Biodiversity Monitoring

We support communities to monitor wildlife in their forests to ensure that these serve as havens for conserving Tanzania's unique biodiversity



INTERNSHIPS

As an international intern, we need you to be pro-active, independent and have a clear idea of what you want to get out of your time with us. Your work will make a valuable contribution to help us achieve our goals, and will involve a combination of desk-based activities and some optional field work. We are looking for skilled and dedicated individuals to support us in the following areas:

-  **External Communications** — Working to develop effective and impactful external communications to promote our work, including website and social media content, annual reports and quarterly e-newsletters.
-  **Fundraising and Donor Reporting** — Helping put together quarterly and annual progress reports to our donors, board and key stakeholders, as well as to develop funding proposals to secure more money to support our work.
-  **Marketing** — Assisting us to find buyers and develop materials to market timber on behalf of communities.
-  **GIS Mapping** — Helping us to process and analyse spatial data, and develop effective maps to use in our communications.
-  **Capacity Building** — Working closely with our Tanzanian staff to review and help improve their ability to write in good English.
-  **Data Entry and Analysis** — Helping to enter data from forest inventories and biodiversity monitoring, analyzing and reporting on trends over time.
-  **Systems Management** — Helping us to file and manage content on our central database.
-  **Fieldwork** — Supporting us with fieldwork activities, such as forest inventories, biodiversity monitoring, forest boundary painting and community capacity building.

RESEARCH PLACEMENTS

We welcome postgraduate students and other researchers from overseas who are working on projects that are clearly aligned with our vision, mission, and **strategy**. This way we ensure that the findings can be applied to help us to reach our objectives. Individual research projects should be discussed and agreed upon with a member of our team beforehand. They might include topics like:

- Forest structure and timber distribution
- Properties of lesser known timbers in local forests
- Abundance, distribution and markets of non-timber forest products
- Socio-economic benefits of community forestry



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Conditions

We welcome international interns and research students who are willing to spend at least one month with us.

We don't expect a financial contribution from our volunteers - an investment of your time and skills while you are here is all we ask. This said, we do not have the resources to help finance your individual research projects (if you have one) and so these will need to be covered separately.

You will also need to arrange and finance your own international and in-country transport to get to us, as well as a visa to cover your time here.

For more information please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website.

*Prices quoted based on the following exchange rates from Tanzanian Shillings, and subject to variation:
USD \$1 = TZS 2,185
GBP £1 = TZS 2,655
EUR €1 = TZS 2,391

Local living

Accommodation in Kilwa Masoko is affordable, but is an additional cost to bear in mind. Our staff can provide advice on this and help to arrange accommodation for your arrival. Options include local guest houses at \$10-25 per night*. For longer stays, you can rent a room locally for as little as \$90 per month.

Food is also cheap - we recommend budgeting a minimum of \$10 per day to cover the cost of local food and water.

How to apply

If you're interested in an internship with us, please send your CV and brief (maximum one page of A4) cover letter to the following email:

enquiries@mpingoconservation.org

You should indicate the types of experience you are interested in, how long you plan to stay and (if relevant) a research proposal.



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