



Supporting Conservation of Eastern Arc Mountains to achieve SDGs in Tanzania

KEY MESSAGES

- Conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains (EAMs) has the potential to contribute significantly to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through ensuring continued flow of ecosystem services and support to alternative livelihood activities.
- Investing in EAMs as a strategy to achieve both direct and indirect SDGs would potentially result into multiple benefits for both the environment and surrounding communities.

Introduction and Background

The phase out of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gave rise to a new development agenda – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, decided by the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York, at the Sustainable Development Summit, of September 25-27, 2015. The Agenda consisted of a set of 17 Goals – called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets that would end poverty, fight inequalities and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The new Goals and Targets were agreed to come into effect on 01/January 2016. The Goals are characterized as integrated and indivisible with three-balanced dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

Since the Goals are global in nature and universally applicable, each Government (Tanzania being a member) was required to localize the Goals by setting own national targets considering national circumstances and priorities, but also incorporating the Goals into national planning machinery, at policies and strategies levels while insuring that 'no one will be left behind'. In Tanzania, for example, the Five-Year Development Plan II (FYDP II) already integrated several SDGs such as Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9

and 17.

This brief explains how a forest conservation initiative can contribute significantly into national level efforts to attain Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The brief illustrates how the conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains (EAMs)–through grant support to 204 projects produced important results and impacts linked to SDGs. The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) received a grant from the Government of Norway to implement a five-year project (2011-2016) aimed at, among others, realizing effective conservation and sustainable outcomes for the EAMs ecosystem and improved social welfare of the adjacent communities. To implement the project, EAMCEF issued and managed sub-grants to District Authorities in 11 priority Districts and nine (9) forest target sites within the EAMs ecosystem. Projects in Protected Areas, PAs (8 Forest Nature Reserve and 1 National Park) aimed at improving the ecological functions of the ecosystem and to strengthen the management capabilities of the responsible institutions – 40 projects. Community-based conservation and Development projects (CBCD) aimed at improving rural livelihoods and social welfare of forest adjacent communities through implementation of 146 projects. Other support was directed to applied biodiversity and climate change researches.

Potential linkages to SDGs

The five-year project (2011-2016) implemented by EAMCEF produced convincing results and impacts that justified for continued support into phase two of project implementation, 2016-2019 at a budget of US\$ 3,125,000. Based on the Results and Impact of phase one projects, potential linkages and contributions to attainment of SDG Targets within the EAMs and at the National level can be exemplified through, at least SDGs - 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 13, and 15.

Goal 1 – No Poverty versus EAMCEF Projects

1 NO POVERTY



RELATED TARGETS

- By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definition
- By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources...ownership and control over land...natural resources, appropriate new technologies...

EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- The overall work of EAMCEF activities is not only to conserve the forest mountains ecosystem, but also to improve lives of the surrounding communities through support to alternative income generating activities (IGAs).
- EAMCEF provided project grants to 146 community-based conservation and development projects focused at improving rural livelihoods and welfare of forest adjacent communities.

- Through IGAs, communities have managed to increase household income, improve quality of life, double food production and thereby reduce poverty.
- Also, income realized from casual labour for undertaking forest management operations had contributed to increased individual incomes.
- The project promoted equal participation of men and women of all ages, including the youth and disadvantaged people in all project activities, but also hand in hand with land use planning activities the project facilitated issuance of Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to over 1650 villagers – thereby strengthening and securing bundles of rights to land and land resources.

Goal 2 – Zero Hunger versus EAMCEF Projects

 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>RELATED TARGET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year. • By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to...non-farm employment. • By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystem that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather...and that progressively improve land and soil quality
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EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- The project intervention, especially through establishment of conservation agriculture has resulted into increased crop production due to water and soil conservation measures – thereby ensuring availability of food all year long.
- Other agricultural activities supported by the project – such as improved seeds, spice farming, sunflower and soya beans, fish farming and tree planting – have increased incomes of small-scale food producers, resulting into multiple benefits.
- Introduction of local chicken and dairy livestock keeping has been important in improving the quality of diet.
- Non-farm employment opportunities such as participation of local communities in ecotourism activities and Protected Area management (e.g. boundary clearing, patrols, construction of trenches) are important sources of seasonal income to surrounding communities.
- Introduction of conservation agriculture (CA) techniques in the project area has been a game changer especially for local communities living in highlands and steep slopes of Muheza District, Morogoro Municipality and Morogoro District.
- The project trained 329 villagers (139 women and 190 men) on soil and water conservation techniques, putting up to 863 Ha of land under CA, with production increase of up to three times.

Goal 5 – Gender Equality versus EAMCEF Projects

 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>RELATED TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere • Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels and decision-making in political, economic and public life
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EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- The project, in its implementation of community projects ensured an overall engagement of 48% of women including girls. On other cases, the project supported 100% women groups such as for stove construction, spice tree farming and mushroom farming.
- The project also supported disabled and people living with HIV/ Aids in Mufindi District
- The project supported participation and benefit sharing in project implementation by people of different ages and categories including women, girls, the elderly and vulnerable groups
- The project facilitated the creation and proper functioning of the Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in each target district comprising of politicians (Councillors) and technical personnel that includes women representatives.

- Short-term gender-based employment opportunities especially in Protected Areas management activities ensured a balanced inclusion of men and women, over 3,500 villagers benefited from the employment opportunities

Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation versus EAMCEF Projects



RELATED TARGETS

- By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- By 2030, protect and restore water related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- The EAMs are the catchment forests for most rivers serving the downstream users in neighbouring and remote areas, including the main city of Dar es salaam – supporting domestic and industrial supply of water for up to 25% of Tanzania's populations in towns of the following Regions; Iringa, Morogoro, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Dar es salaam, and Coast. Major rivers fed by EAMs watershed services include; the Great Ruaha River, Kihansi River, Pangani and Hale Rivers, Wami River, Kilombero River, Rufiji and Ruvu Rivers.

Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy versus EAMCEF Projects



RELATED TARGETS

- By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.
- By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- by 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
- By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries...

EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- The project supported introduction of modern energy services through introduction of biogas technology for domestic cook stoves – saving up to 50% amount of firewood sourced from neighbouring forests. The project trained 97 villagers and 25 masons in Kilolo District, Iringa Region and supported installation of 12 biogas plants in selected households.
- Indirectly, since most of the dams used for hydropower plants are fed by waters originating in the EAMs, conservation of the forests ensures continued availability of water and thereby renewable electricity. Up to 90% of Tanzania's hydroelectric power is produced from major dams at Kidatu, Mtera, Kihansi, Nyumba ya Mungu, Pangani and Hale – all of which receives water originating from the EAMs.
- In terms of energy efficiency, the project introduced energy efficient stoves and biogas technology to reduce consumption of firewood. The project trained 1, 531 local artisans (ToTs) on construction of energy efficient stoves, up to 14, 016 households are now using such stoves – considerable reducing by more than 50% the amount of firewood, saving forests.

Goal 13 - Climate Change versus EAMCEF projects



RELATED TARGET

- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- Awareness activities within EAMCEF projects involves conservation education, including aspects of climate change adaptation through climate compatible activities, such as conservation agriculture, tree planting, etc.
- EAMCEF supported forest-climate change-related researches on carbon storage potentials of the forests, and indicators of climate change.

Goal 13 - Climate Change versus EAMCEF projects

15
LIFE
ON LAND



RELATED TARGET

- By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland water ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands...
- By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and sustainably increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- Take urgent and significant actions to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
- Promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote access to such resources, as internationally agreed.
- Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

EAMCEF Projects – Link and contribution to SDGs

- Goal 15 is basically the heart of EAMCEF project. The goal of the project being 'enhanced conservation of the forests within the proposed EAMs World Heritage Site in Tanzania' entails a set of actions linked to SDGs Target 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, and 15.7. The project has managed to achieve the following, in this case:
- Supported preparation of forest management plans
- Regular maintenance of forest boundaries of up to 1,500 KM
- Enhanced forest cover through replanting of degraded areas, fire controls and rehabilitation of mining areas illegally dug in the forests
- Strengthened forest patrols and reduced forest encroachment for farming, hunting, and mining activities.
- Benefits arising from tourism and ecotourism activities, and from sales of confiscated products and equipment are shared to surrounding communities. Up to TZS. 450,000,000.00 were shared with local communities
- Provision of short term and paid employment opportunities to local communities through joint patrols
- Intensive forest patrols to fight against illegal activities, including filing of cases in court.

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