

Conserving Zanzibar's Natural Forests



Men and women work together in Zanzibar to replant mangrove forests that protect nearby farm land from saltwater inundation. Ensuring the effective participation of women and men in all aspects of forest maintenance and management is essential to the conservation of Zanzibar's fast-disappearing forests.

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The forests of Unguja and Pemba Islands in the Zanzibar archipelago lie less than 40 kilometers from the Tanzanian mainland and form an important part of the East Africa Coastal Forests Eco-region. The area is considered one of the world's top 200 "hotspots" for biodiversity.

Today, natural forests are mostly found on rocky land or areas left behind during the establishment of coconut and clove plantations. Despite their global biodiversity and climate-regulating values, these forests are rapidly disappearing due to local people's dependence on forest goods (especially wood for fuel) and an absence of ready alternatives to logging or clearing land for agricultural fields and infrastructure. This pressure is exacerbated by insecure land tenure and forest rights, which reduce people's motivation for sustainable use.

For these island forests to survive, incentives for sustainable forest management and mechanisms for their fair and effective governance must be quickly put in place. This is the purpose of *Hifadhi ya Misitua Asili (Conservation of Natural Forests)*, or HIMA. The four-year (2010-2013) project, which is supported by the Governments of Zanzibar and Norway, will explore how carbon finance can be used to tackle

the underlying causes of deforestation and create an enabling environment for the sustainable management of forest goods and services.

Working in partnership with local civil society, government institutions and research organizations, the project is being implemented in seven districts of Unguja and Pemba Islands. More than 27,000 hectares of upland and mangrove forests will be secured during the pilot phase. Successful activities will then be scaled-up to conserve a total of 60,000 hectares. Experiences, lessons and methodologies developed by HIMA will inform the Government of Zanzibar's strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). They will also be shared with policymakers and development practitioners across Africa and the rest of the world. HIMA's overarching goals are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Zanzibar;
- Generate local benefits that provide forest-dependent communities with direct, equitable incentives for forest conservation.

The project takes a pro-poor, gender-sensitive approach to REDD finance. HIMA will result in secure property rights and equitable rewards to forest-dependent communities in return for sustainable use and conservation. With its focus on gender equality, the project will ensure that productive forest ecosystems and REDD revenue schemes benefit women and men equally; and that any potential costs to community members are identified and avoided or effectively minimised.

Core Project Activities

Developing equitable and effective Community Forest Management strategies

Business as usual has failed to preserve Zanzibar's forests and their contribution to local livelihoods. HIMA is promoting a new form of Community Forest Management (CFM) that is pro-poor, gender-sensitive and sustainable. HIMA is working with government staff, local authorities and community stakeholders to shift the emphasis in community forest management from strict conservation to the sustainable harvesting of forest products.

Strengthening stakeholder capacity

Effective REDD is characterised by the importance of participation, poverty reduction, the equitable sharing of benefits and empowerment, particularly of women. HIMA is working to ensure that women and men from forest-dependent communities play strong roles in formulating, executing and monitoring the Government of Zanzibar's REDD policies and programmes.



HIMA's capacity-building activities, target key government institutions and community-based organisations/local NGOs, include long-term professional training and traditional-style workshops as well as collective reflection and experiential learning. Both the content and process of learning through HIMA are designed to overcome the tendency of male elites to dominate forest management and related income-generating activities.

Designing and implementing replicable, equitable and cost-effective REDD

HIMA is addressing the drivers of forest loss in order to ensure that it results in real and lasting emissions reductions rather than simply delaying or shifting them from one place to another. Measures to achieve this include: improved land-use planning and enforcement, on-farm tree-planting (e.g. woodlots and agro-forestry); alternative income generating activities; new building materials/processes; and the adoption of new energy sources.

Of particular importance to the global viability of pro-poor REDD, the project will also test replicable and equitable approaches to the relationship between communities and sources of carbon finance. HIMA's model will draw on experiences in agricultural marketing, where innovative enterprise-based solutions have been developed to overcome the weaknesses of traditional marketing cooperatives.

Validating carbon, community and biodiversity benefits

HIMA's contribution to reduced greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation will be verified under internationally accepted standards in light of the evolving national and international framework on REDD. Its social and environmental benefits will be certified under the well-recognised Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards.

Disseminating lessons learnt, promoting best practices and advocating a pro-poor approach to REDD

As one of the first REDD projects in Africa, HIMA will highlight key lessons on REDD and gender; practical mechanisms for the equitable sharing of benefits; and the potential of carbon finance to simultaneously reduce emissions and poverty.

With the support of CARE's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN), it will disseminate the project's lessons learnt through national and regional forums and relevant international networks.

Community members collectively create maps to be used in developing locally driven reforestation plans for Zanzibar's forests.

CARE Tanzania's primary implementing partner is the Zanzibar Department for Forestry and Non-Renewable Natural Resources. Other collaborating agencies/partners include Terra Global Capital; CARE International's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network; CARE Norway; the Department of Environment; three umbrella organizations of Village Conservation Committees (Jozani Environmental Conservation Association, South Environmental and Development Conservation Association, and Ngezi-Vumawimbi Natural Resources Conservation Organization); Sokoine University of Agriculture; and the Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam.



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For more information about CARE's pro-poor approach to carbon finance,
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