

Conserving Zanzibar's Natural Forests



Women are at the centre of CARE's approach to restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems. They are involved in all aspects of HIMA – including design, implementation, monitoring and adaptive management. This provides both men and women with opportunities to reassess gender roles and take steps towards greater equality.

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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 the new pilot project, known as **Hifadhi ya Mimitu ya 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; and
- **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 is providing 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. Conventional protectionist approaches were never practical, and Community Forest Management Agreements (COFMAs) haven't so far been effective. Therefore, HIMA is beginning with a participatory review of barriers to sustainable forest management. This will result in the formulation of a Community Forest Management (CFM) Manual for Zanzibar to strengthen existing CFM projects and ensure that new ones are pro-poor, gender-sensitive and sustainable. HIMA will then work with government staff, local authorities and community stakeholders to shift the emphasis in 17 existing COFMAs (covering 17,000 hectares of forest area) from strict conservation to the sustainable harvesting of forest products. During this pilot phase, an additional 12 "benefits-oriented" COFMAs (covering 10,650 hectares of forest area) will be established.

Strengthening stakeholder capacity

CARE's approach to REDD is characterised by the importance we place on rights, poverty reduction, the equitable sharing of benefits and empowerment. Accordingly, HIMA is cooperating with another CARE project (Women Empowerment in Zanzibar, or WEZA) to ensure that women from forest-dependent communities play strong roles in developing the CFM Manual and formulating, executing and monitoring the Government of Zanzibar's REDD policies and programmes. HIMA is also undertaking a holistic approach to building local CFM and REDD capacity. Activities, targeting 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 avoid leakage (i.e. displaced emissions) and re-set islanders' reliance on forest goods to sustainable levels 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. A large-scale initiative to switch domestic fuel use from charcoal and fire wood to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), implemented in partnership with the private sector and Department for Commercial Crops, Fruit and Forestry (DCCFF), will be one of HIMA's most innovative activities.

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 heavily 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 certified 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.

HIMA will also be part of a new initiative led by the CCB Alliance and CARE International's Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN) to develop social and environmental standards specifically suited to REDD and national (vs. project-based) carbon accounting/crediting.

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

HIMA is the first REDD project in Zanzibar and amongst the first in Africa. Therefore, experiential learning and the sharing of key lessons is critical – especially with regards to human rights; replicable activities to address the underlying causes of forest loss; practical mechanisms for the equitable sharing of benefits; and the potential of carbon finance to simultaneously reduce emissions *and* poverty.

The Katoomba Group and PECCN will bring experiences and major messages from HIMA to international policymaking processes. The Katoomba Group, which is an international network covering payments for environmental services, will also help disseminate the project's lessons learnt through national and regional forums.

Social and environmental standards for forest carbon

CARE and the CCB Alliance are developing standards that can be used by governments, NGOs, financing agencies and other stakeholders to design and implement REDD and other forest carbon programmes that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and generate significant social and biodiversity co-benefits. These standards are designed to work for the new global REDD+ regime expected to emerge out of ongoing UNFCCC negotiations, that is for government-led programmes implemented at national or state/provincial/regional levels, and for all forms of fund-based or market-based financing.

For more information, go to: www.climate-standards.org/REDD+

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CARE Tanzania's primary implementing partner is the Zanzibar Department for Commercial Crops, Fruit and Forestry. 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); Tanzania Gender Network Program; Sokoine University of Agriculture; and the Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam. Terra Global Capital contributed to the project design.



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