



Lessons From the Reversing Land Degradation Trends and Increasing Food Security in Degraded Ecosystems of Semi-Arid Areas of Tanzania (LDFS) Project

Tanzania is endowed with enormous land-based terrestrial resources including minerals, wildlife, forestry, protected areas, water catchments, extensive rangelands, seascapes, mountain ranges and peaks and rich biodiversity of both national and international importance. These spectacular landscapes are surrounded by complex land use systems forming unique human-terrestrial interconnections. Nonetheless, the human-terrestrial existence faces a multitude of planning, administration and management challenges. Recognizing unprecedented pressure and conflicts being exerted on the available and limited land and land resources coupled with lack of adequate planning capabilities, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania established the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC).

The Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of Tanzania (LDFS) project it is a pilot programme that will contribute to national, regional and global agendas. It is a five-year project with an extension of one year (2017-2023) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and implemented by the Vice President's Office (VPO). The goal and development objectives of this five-year project is **to improve food and**

nutrition security in the targeted villages and reverse land degradation trends and increase food security in semi-arid areas in Tanzania through sustainable land and water management and ecosystem-based adaptation. The project is based on the premise that to achieve food security and resilient livelihoods, key aspects of natural resources degradation must be addressed.

To achieve its objective, the LDFS is structured into three interrelated components that foster an integrated approach including:

1. Strengthening institutional capacity by training local and district level officials and villages to jointly manage resources through joint land use planning at the landscape level
2. Increasing the productivity and efficiency of existing natural resource uses by improving soil health through soil and water conservation practices; and
3. Reducing dependency on single commodities or livelihood sources by introducing climate-smart farming and agroforestry practices and adopting new pathways for income generation by organizing farmers in producer groups and supporting the development of small businesses.

What is Land use planning

Land use planning is defined as the systematic assessment of land and water potential, alternatives for land use and economic and social conditions, to select and adopt the best land-use options (FAO, UN).

What Happened?

The LDFS project has conducted and completed participatory village land use planning in all 15 villages in the four districts in Tanzania mainland namely Magu, Kondoa, Nzega and Mkalama and 8 shehias in Micheweni district.

STAGE 1 of the land use planning process is preparations at district level which involves, among other things, establishment of a District Participatory Land Use Management (PLUM) team, and organization of a District PLUM workshop to prepare an action plan for PLUM.

STAGE 2 is Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) which involves, among other things, formation of a village land-use management (VLUM) committee, assisting villagers in analysing and evaluating land use and environment problems and opportunities and preparation of a community action plan for land-use management.



Participatory Village Land Use Planning in Tanzania

STAGE 3 is the preparation of existing village land use maps.



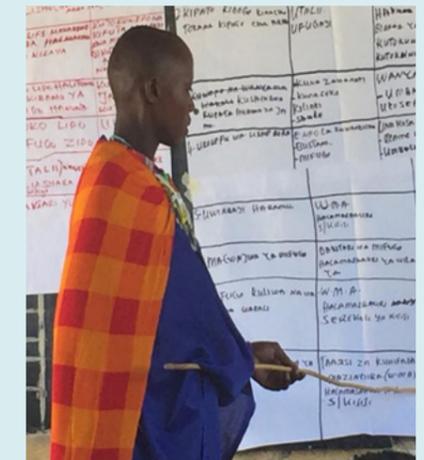
Local communities doing resource mapping on the ground and through satellite images

STAGE 4 of the land use planning process involves analysis of spatial data, drafting a Village Land Use Plan and by-laws, presentation and approval of Village Land Use Plan and by-law demarcation (sign boards) of planned land uses (e.g., agriculture, forestry, settlement, grazing, water sources, socio-economic services, wildlife etc).



Local communities doing resource mapping on the ground and through satellite images

Four districts are in **STAGE 5** of village land use planning which is the demarcation, surveying and registration of private lands as well as preparation and issuance of Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) to different land users. The target is to issue 2,100 CCROs for 7 villages each 300 CCROs in four districts.



Community members involved in formulation of community action plan



The expectations of this approach are as follows:

- **Village land-use plans are implemented** and, since they are created by the village communities themselves, reflect their needs and are better **adapted to local conditions**;
- **Land disputes are minimized and the interests of the various stakeholders** (men, women, youth, crop producers, pastoralists, etc.) are likely to be balanced and respected, since the plans have been created through dialogue;
- **Land productivity will increase and benefit the various stakeholders** since the plans reflect the stakeholder's interests and are actually implemented.



Successes from Participatory Village Land Use Planning Thus Far:

- The village land use planning has resulted in increased land conservation
- Land use planning processes, areas of various uses were identified and demarcated e.g., in Munguli Village Hadzabe community land which was once encroached by farmers is now demarcated and conserved.
- The process also enhances stakeholders' engagement, different resource users were actively involved in decision making.
- Land use planning has also proven to establish the grounds for **successful implementation of the project activities** such as farmers field schools (FFS).
- **Strengthening of security of tenure through provision of Certificate of Customary rights of Occupancy (CCROs)** to individual farmers and community groups. CCROs which were granted increased the security of tenure and respect of the land uses. The CCROs will help the farmers and pastoralists to improve their livelihood as it will be used as collateral to obtain loans to increase production in agriculture and generate non-farms business.

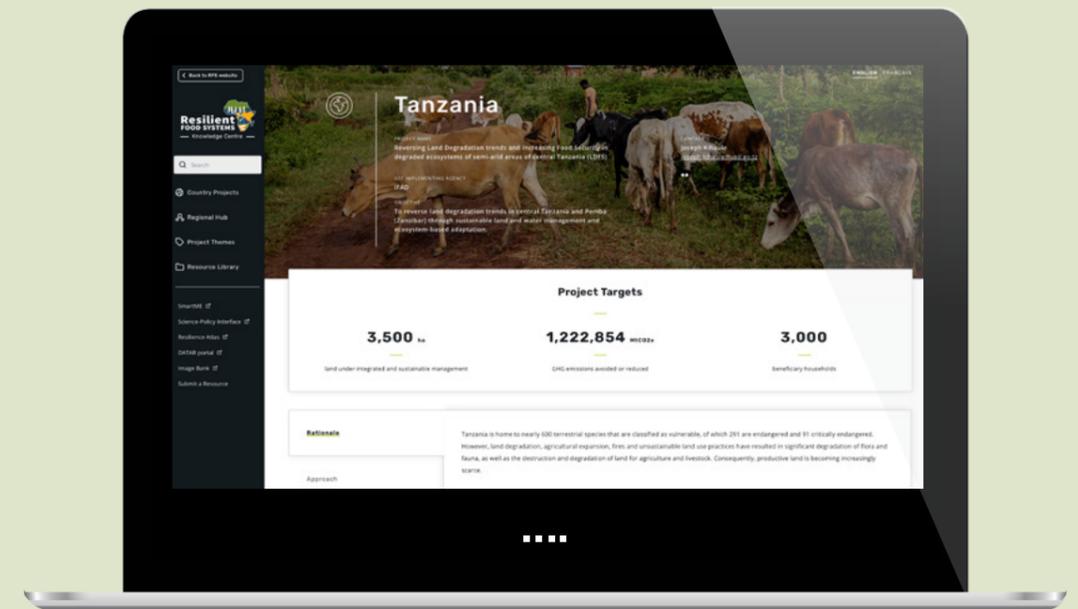


In villages/shehias implementing the LDFS project, the participatory land use planning process forms the basis for community-based natural resources management (i.e.; forest, wildlife, water) which is key to conserving vulnerable ecosystems and supporting local livelihoods. For many pastoralist and farmers communities, these measures have helped to secure seasonal pastures/farms to maintain communal access to rangelands/farmland that perpetuate internal equity and cultural values and prevent conflict between farmers and livestock keepers.

More on the Project

The Reversing Land Degradation trends and increasing Food Security in degraded ecosystems of semi-arid areas of Tanzania (LDFS) is a five-year project with extension of one year (2017-2023) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and implemented by the Vice President's Office (VPOs). The project's goal and development objectives are: **to improve food and nutrition security in the targeted villages and reverse land degradation trends and increase food security in semi-arid areas in Tanzania through sustainable land and water management and ecosystem-based adaptation.** The project is based on the

premise that to achieve food security and resilient livelihoods, key aspects of natural resources degradation must be addressed. The project is implemented in five districts namely Magu, Nzega, Mkalama, Kondoa and Micheweni. The estimated population in the five districts is 1.9 million people, or about 247,000 households. The total population of the selected villages is over 69,000 individuals with almost 13,000 households. The project's interventions will reach 30,000 direct beneficiaries and will turn 9,000 hectares into conservation and climate-smart farming and sustainable management, as well as 500 hectares of degraded land into reforested area.



More information on the project can be found on the Project's Website Page
<https://knowledgecentre.resilientfoodsystems.co/kc/country-projects/tanzania>