

Case Study: Inclusive Green Growth Initiative (Cocoa Value Chain Analysis) Kilombero District, South-Western Tanzania

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KEY MESSAGES

- When communities benefit from nature in concrete terms, they will conserve the source of their livelihoods. The cocoa value chain, significantly contributed to increasing forest cover while providing concrete benefits to people in the form of food, water, energy sources and diversified sources of income
 - Sustainable use is local, national and at times global, and it takes cooperation of the various actors in the value chain to succeed. Cooperation between local authorities, business actors, farmers and pastoralists is required for success of the cocoa value chain.
 - Sustainable use requires minimizing tradeoffs between competing interests of user groups. A reduction in tradeoffs happens when user groups recognize that using nature without limits impacts other users.
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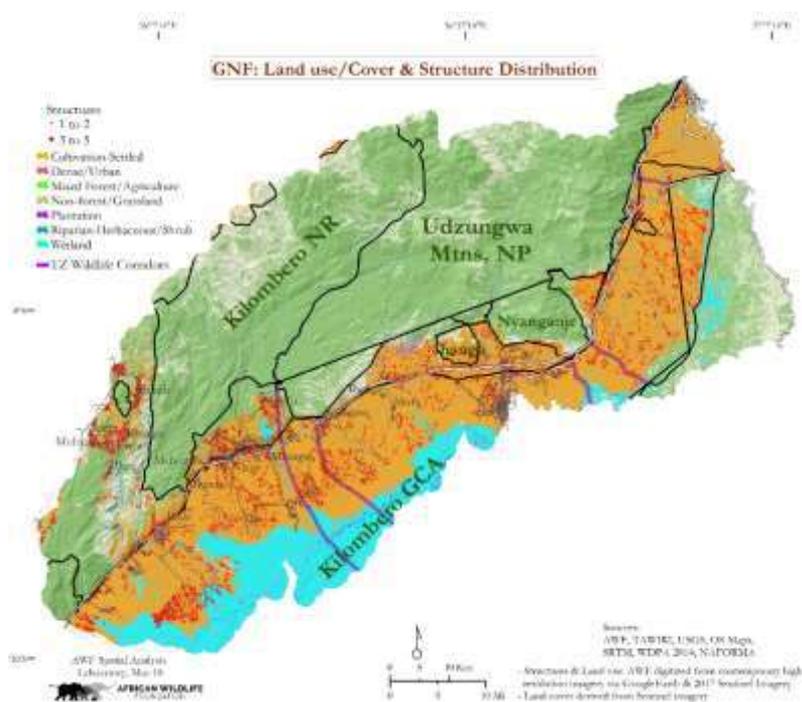


Principle links to the post-2020 GBF goals:

- A. Increased area of forest cover and minimized threats to species Restoration of degraded land
- B. Nature is valued through green investments
 - Increased ecosystem services
 - Improved livelihoods and poverty reduction
- C. Increased benefit-sharing
- D. Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the Global Biodiversity framework

Background

Located in Morogoro Region, south-western Tanzania, Kilombero district is situated in a vast floodplain, between the Kilombero River in the south-east and the Udzungwa-Mountains in the north-west. Kilombero district hosts iconic natural resources such as waterfalls, Wildlife, and wetlands. The rainforests are a crucial water source for the Kilombero and its economy. Kilombero's main economic activity is agriculture including banana and cocoa production; thanks to the rainforests and water



sources which are crucial to the activities and economy. However, the farmers still relied heavily on traditional farming practices that not only affected their yields and profits but also degraded the natural resources which posed a great threat to conservation efforts.

As part of an inclusive green growth initiative, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in partnership with public and private companies engaged 2,000 farmers in 13 villages in Kilombero through an effective complementary process of a cocoa value chain that aimed to increase the community's cocoa production while conserving nature and improving the quality of

ecosystem services at a coordinated landscape level.

Underlying assumptions

- Farmers will adopt the climate-smart agricultural practices especially Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- Consensus between farmers and buyers on purchasing cocoa at premium prices if they adopt organic farming practices.
- The adjacent ecological areas will be restored.

Key stakeholders

Public sector

- Kilombero District Council
- Mbingu Organic Cocoa-Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Society (MOCOA)

Private sector

- Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) Ltd
- Kokoa Kamili Limited

SDG Linkages

Natural asset



Direct benefits/actions



Indirect benefits



Key Beneficiaries



Interventions

- Promotion of proper cocoa production husbandry which helps combat soil erosion.
- Provision of improved seedling varieties as inferior seedlings contain toxins that inhibit natural soil functions.
- Training on best harvesting practices that ensure proper oxygen circulation in the soil.
- Supporting extension services for smallholder farmers to improve their understanding of measures to avoid deforestation and desertification.
- Promotion of alternative sources of livelihood away from practices like illegal logging.
- Promotion of agroforestry practices especially intercropping with plants that provide some shade (e.g. bananas) leads to more consistent cocoa production. Such a combination has been proven to give the highest land equivalent ratio and farmers have the potential to increase the total yield value on a single plot of land.

Key outcomes/impacts

- Protected and restored the ecological integrity of the Kilombero Nature Reserve at the transition to the Ruipa wildlife corridor.
- Enhanced local capacities in sustainable farming practices, nature conservation-based agriculture, green growth and access to technology.
- Improved farm revenue of 2,000 smallholders in the Kilombero District from ecologically sustainable practices related to the conservation and restoration of the Kilombero Nature Reserve (KNR).
- Demonstrated practical approaches for other clusters of the SAGCOT and other growth corridors in Africa to successfully adapt inclusive green growth practices.
- Decreased human wildlife conflicts in the region significantly

Drivers that were reduced or changed

- Use of traditional farming practices
- Tears along the river line
- Attitudes impeding diversification, adaptation and resilience

Inclusivity of women and youth

- 32% of 2,000 smallholder farmers are women in this IGG project and were involved in agricultural advisory services and cocoa nursery establishment.
- 27% of 2,000 smallholder farmers are youth (18 to 35 years) who now have increased awareness and accountability for natural resources management.

Key challenges

Threats driving degradation:

- The restoration of Namwai Forest at the interface of the Kilombero Nature Reserve (KNR) and Ruipa Wildlife Corridor was challenging due to political interference. A lack of political will hampered the opportunity to restore the Namwai forest, once named the largest forest at the interface of KNR and Ruipa Wildlife Corridor.
- Over-exploitation of natural resources due to the use of traditional farming practices that threaten natural ecosystems.
- Population growth pressures in the region as agro-pastoralist communities settle in the region clearing forest land for settlements.
- Conflicts between pastoralists and indigenous communities who understand the importance of conservation as the land-use pattern for pastoralists requires more land.
- Over-reliance on agriculture especially use of inappropriate crop varieties that degrade soils poor leading to poor yields and extensification. Such unsustainable farming systems cause deforestation, disrupt wildlife corridors and increase human-wildlife conflict.

Social and economic challenges:

- Aligning farmers, private businesses, and political leaders to see the benefits of sustainable development as opposed to traditional methods and practices.
- Attempting to define an equitable benefit-sharing model between different interest groups with private companies pushing for greater autonomy.
- Finding common ground for partnership and negotiating tradeoffs between cocoa producers and buyers was difficult due to unequal power dynamics
- National government tends to prioritize issues that may not be relevant for local communities.

Lessons learnt

- Agroforestry can help enhance conservation significantly. Including bananas in cocoa production spreads the farmers' risk. If one crop fails or is decimated by a disease, they can still get a harvest from the other. Farmers in the surveyed area reported that the shade from bananas also decreases their cocoa's susceptibility to drought and extreme weather events.
- Sustainable use practices contribute towards poverty reduction and overall local economic development
- There is no conservation without communities – Involving local groups is key to protecting biodiversity
- There is a need for better-informed stakeholders including political leaders to buy in to the concept of sustainable use and a growing need to get the partners to commit to sustainable use from the onset.
- Building local capacities in sustainable and resilient farming practices and nature based-solutions is essential for sustainable use.