Faith-Based Restoration in Tanzania

Project @ glance

Faith-Based Restoration was a one year pilot project funded by WWF Innovation Fund
The project mission was to engage faiths as key partners in conservation

The project mission was to engage faiths as key partners in restoration. The project aimed to restore about 400 Ha of Faith owned land.

This project brings a highly underrepresented stakeholder group - faith communities - into national landscape restoration strategies in Tanzania for the first time, through a pilot project in the Ruvuma landscape. Faiths are a critical community stakeholder group, and are already planting millions of trees a year globally and across East Africa

There is an unseized opportunity to bring faith groups – who hold vast assets in the form of land, influence, human resources and sustained dedication to care for nature, underpinned by their faith teachings – into restoring connectivity in critical landscapes. This project:

1. Brings multi-faith actors into Tanzania's restoration strategy for the first time, as a model for faith involvement in restoration in AFR100
2. Tests a new capacity-building tool, WWFFaith Tree Growing Guidelines and M&E
3. Forms unusual but strategic partnerships between faiths, government, private sector and WWF
4. Brings potentially thousands of hectares of faith owned land into restoration
5. Unlocks faith-based networks, human resources, and commitments to restoration
6. Bridges silos of gender, age, economic status through multi-faith approaches to community engagement

Achievements and Impact

- Over 15 FBOs join restoration efforts and strengthen capacity to grow and manage trees
- 213 Ha brought under restoration through tree planting and assisted natural regeneration natural forests owned by faith groups in Ruvuma landscape
- With over 100,000 trees grown in the faith owned land in the RLS
- Faiths come forward with 4,000 ha of their land to restore'
- Faith and restoration network for Ruvuma landscape formed

Key Lessons

Working with FBOs facilitates increased access and engagement of vulnerable groups especially women and youth.

Geographical Coverage and Partners

This project was implemented with the support of WWF in partnership with Christian and Muslim faith groups, Local government authorities and the Tanzania Forest Services Agency's (TFS) national and regional offices.

Recommendations

The involvement of local communities and government authorities during the implementation of activities such as tree planting and awareness campaigns is key in creating ownership and sustainability.

Future direction

Scaling of faith-based restoration to address forest degradation challenges.

- Scaling up the approach in other projects by involving faith groups in the projects from the inception stage
- High potential in TZ to partner with faith actors and communities on tree growing, faith-based sustainable agriculture & natural regeneration of their lands

Approach and Innovation

- Engages faiths as key partners in conservation
- Training of trainers with FBOs on best practices of growing and managing Trees.
- Inclusion of faith voices in advocacy on forest conservation and protection at regional and national levels
- Promoting faith-based agriculture (Farming God's Way and Islamic Farming)

This project supports WWF'S Commitments to the Tanzanian Government.

Restore 50% National Target

5.2 Million Ha

AFR100

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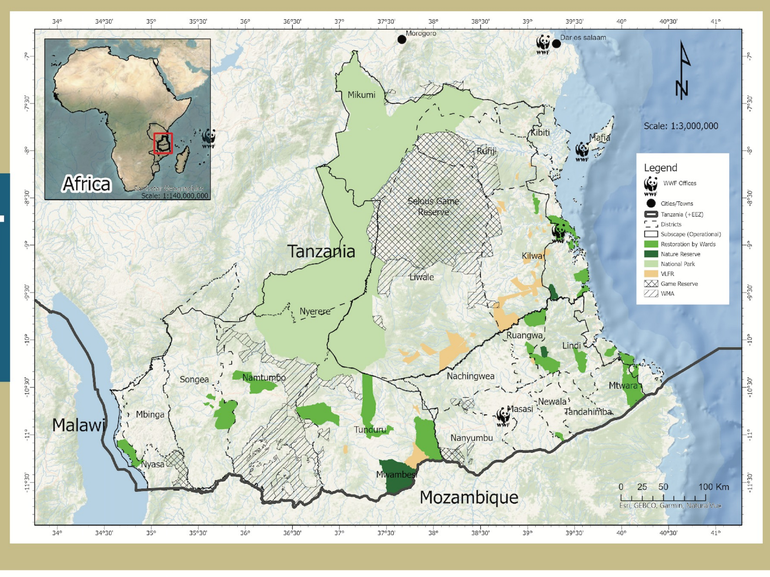
PROJECT AREA