

# Conserving forests through sustainable forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania



**Project full name:**  
Conserving forests through sustainable forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania (CoForEST)

**Priorities:**  
Strengthening State Institutions

Improving Youth Livelihoods

**Phase III:**  
2019 - 2023

**Total budget:**  
CHF 3'463'069

**Implementing partner:**  
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG)

**For more information:**  
Clara Melchior,  
Programme Officer -  
Employment and Income  
Tel: +255 22 2666008  
Email:  
[clara.minja@eda.admin.ch](mailto:clara.minja@eda.admin.ch)  
Web:  
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/daressalaam>  
<http://tfcg.org/sustainablecharcoal.html>

## Project Overview

In Tanzania, as in many countries in the region, natural forests are disappearing. Deforestation contributes to a wide range of environmental problems including climate change, biodiversity loss, flooding, reduced dry season river flows and landslides. Most deforestation occurs on village land, and agriculture and charcoal production are its main drivers.

An estimated 85% of Tanzania's energy needs are met through biomass use in the form of charcoal and firewood. While the use of alternative sources of energy is progressing, it is expected that biomass, which is low cost and locally available, will remain the main source of energy for at least 20 years. Charcoal is also a source of livelihoods for approximately 300,000 people.

Since 2012, Switzerland has been supporting a community-based forest management (CBFM) model with sustainable natural forest based enterprises, such as charcoal production and timber harvesting. This model has proved effective to incentivize communities to retain forests on village land by improving incomes to producers, formalizing production and generating revenues for community development projects. It has achieved broad recognition and support at both national and sub-national levels.

The aim of this third and last phase of CoForEST is to support building the capacity of the Government of Tanzania to expand and mainstream the CBFM model. It also looks at strengthening synergies with the African Forest Forum and the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, two partners supported by the SDC's Global Program Climate Change, who have the expertise and the potential to shape national forest policies and to scale up the experience.

## Overall Goal

Sustainable and equitable pro-community natural forest management that transforms the economics and governance of forest product value chains, and contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### PHASE I & II KEY RESULTS

- 30 villages established Land Use Plans, Forest Management Plans and by-laws, registering over 140,000 hectares of woodland as village land forest reserves. Approximately 10% are designated as charcoal units with sustainable harvesting guidelines.
- The 21 producing villages are on average collecting approximately USD 1,000 per month as royalties from charcoal and timber. Part of this income goes into improving social services and infrastructure. Close to 2,000 charcoal producers have each earned average additional incomes of USD 13 per month. Both amounts are significant when compared to villages' budget and average income in rural Tanzania.
- Women participation increased in land and forest governance, and in forest-based enterprises.
- On average, annual deforestation has been reduced by 59% from 2010/14 to 2016/17.

## Expected outcomes of the phase

- Both technical and financial capacity of national, regional and local authorities, and community members is strengthened to implement and scale up CBFM in ways that diversity livelihoods and reduce deforestation.
- A supportive policy framework and financing mechanisms for CBFM and sustainable natural forest-based enterprises are in place.
- Research and learning institutions in Tanzania are generating new knowledge about enterprise-oriented CBFM and are integrating this in student learning.

## Beneficiaries

- Rural communities including men, women and children
- Policy makers and government at all levels, in particular, the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.