

**Conservation of the montane rain forest through  
rehabilitation of degraded agricultural landscapes, water  
sources and degraded road sides at Yoghoi and Mayo  
village in Lushoto district, Tanzania.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACTION  
**Weltweit e.V**

**FIELD REPORT**

**Project supported by:** Stiftung Ursula Merz

**Project implemented by:** Environmental Conservation Action, Yoghoi Pentecoste  
Church and Ngulwi Development Initiative

**January, 2021**



## **1. Background**

The third year activities on conservation of the montane rain forest through rehabilitation of the degraded agricultural landscapes, water sources and road sides in Yoghoi and Mayo villages/Shembekezo in Tanzania have continued in the year 2020 as they started in 2018. Community groups, Environmental Conservation Action, Yoghoi Pentecostal Church and Ngulwi Development Initiative for Traditional healers in Lushoto were responsible for the implementation of project activities in 2020. Funding came from Weltweit e.V. from Germany with the support of the Ursula Merz Foundation to implement the activities.

## **2. Objectives & Activities of the project:**

The overall objective of this project was to contribute to the conservation of the natural forests and land through restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes, water sources and roadsides in Yoghoi and Shembekezo/Mayo villages. Specific objectives of the third project year included:

- To support beekeeping activities by providing additional 60 beehives
- To raise awareness on beekeeping and tree nursery activities.
- To raise 5 thousand seedlings

Preparation for the third and the final year started in December 2019 and the activities started January this year, 2020. The following activities were undertaken.

They include:

I) Construction of the 60 beehives and beekeeping seminar to the groups.

Beekeeping activities that had already started in the previous years continued in this final year by making and distributing of 60 beehives to the groups from Lushoto traditional healers and Yoghoi Pentecoastal Church.



*The photos show the production of the first batch of beehives. It was overseen by Dr. Shunda, who is the ward councilor in Lushoto and also a lecturer at Muhimbiki National hospital, department of traditional medicine.*

II) Continuation of the tree nursery activities which were established in the two villages of Yoghoi and Mayo. In the last project year all the nursery support was concentrating on Yoghoi where a total of 20,000 seedlings of *albizia*, *grevilea*, *Cyprus*, and *pinus* species were raised and the main activities included, site preparation, manure collection, irrigation and weeding of the nursery.



*The Yoghoi Pentecoastal Church Group raised tree seedlings almost contiously in the last three years in their nursery behind the church*

The matured seedlings were transported to the people's farms and other areas of planting in Mayo and Yoghoi villages. Others were collected by students of schools around the villages. The planted farms and names of the farmers with their GPS coordinates are shown as attachments to this report.

- iii) Sensitization and awareness creation on tree planting and beekeeping.* The project conducted one seminar, a further training on tree nursery activities and a sport event with Yoghoi Pentecostal Church and with the Lushoto traditional healers on beekeeping and environmental conservation



*In an official training with the Ngulwi Development Initiative and their group of traditional healer, the Yoghoi Group shared their experiences of tree planting and beekeeping.*

#### **a. Project progress**

The exercise on tree planting with the Yoghoi Members and schools went well. Hopefully the majority of the planted trees are also surviving despite of the previous season which had little rains as observed.

Yoghoi Pentecostal Church under Priest Yohana Mtangi has done a very good job on both beekeeping and tree planting.



*All the beehives from the previous year are already hung in plots of land where trees haven been planted the year before.*



*The Yoghoi Pentecoastal Church Group alone raised ca. 45.000 tree seedlings in their nursery over the course of the last three years.*

Additional 60 beehives were made and 40 were distributed to Lushoto traditional healers in Ngulwi area under Ngulwi Development Initiative while other beehives (20) went to Yoghoi Pentecostal Church Group.

Ngulwi Development Initiative has shown a very good collaboration in working with the Traditional healers in Lushoto as well as the Yoghoi Church Group which is our most active group we have been working with in the last three years. The Yoghoi Church Group is already interested to undertake much of the activities on the beekeeping and since they have geographically located the farms where trees have been planted we can motivate each farmer to take care of the planted trees by giving each a beehive to hang on the respective farms.

#### **b. Links with other organization**

The aforementioned links with schools already worked. The schools already linked with the project after receiving the seedlings. The link with the traditional healers is working through the Ngulwi Development Initiative mainly on beekeeping. Meetings and a seminar and training on beekeeping were held before and during the third year of the project funding.



*The group of traditional healers organize through the Ngulwi Development Initiative and supervised by Dr. Shunda receive beehives after a training*

### **c. Project completion**

The project activities have already been completed and now the main activity will be to monitor the on site beehives and the planted tree. Yoghoi Penetcostal Church in collaboration with its church members is monitoring the planted trees on the farms and beehives while Ngulwi development cooperation is managing the monitoring of the beehives that were distributed to the traditional healers. With the beehives already placed on the trees near the water sources and along the community farms, there will be a need for more awareness creation and monitoring of the beehives, eventually to be followed by further workshop. The local leaders of the project will continue to meet regularly to discuss the monitoring results and future/ way forward for the project. It is now important that the newly trained beekeepers progress in the skill of beekeeping and harvest their first successes. Similarly the planted seedlings need to grow and their long term effect of erosion, water cycles, and soil fertility need to be felt. Once the positive outcome of the project effort becomes visible to the communities, it builds the best basis to start new and possibly bigger conservation activities together with the villagers and authorities.



#### **d. Expenditures**

In the third phase, the project has spent about 9,340 Euros equivalent to 24,000,000 Tanzanian Shilling to finalize the project activities on beekeeping, tree nursery and awareness creation and monitoring.

The remaining ca. 660 € were planned to cover the flight coast for a monitoring visit of Weltweit. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this has to be postponed.

#### **e. Challenges**

The main challenge that was a result of the global COVID 19 pandemic resulting a reduced group meetings as well as increased activities of meeting individual beekeepers and farmers. It was also the year for the election hence becoming difficult to meet everybody at particular place and time.

Other challenges remains as before such as the challenge field reporting by photos and as a result some activities are not well covered on the photos for the project reporting.

Similarly there was a challenge of the difficult terrain in Shembekezo plus the rainy season which made it difficult for transportation of the materials such as those used in making the beehives.



*Trees January 2021 that came from the project nursery in the first project year in 2018*



*Priest Mtangi is thankful for the support his community received from the Ursula Merz Foundation and proud of what he and his Pentecoastal Chruch Group achieved.*