

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 Shembekezo Environmental Conservation Group

November, 2019



1. Background

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 2019 as they started in 2018. Community groups, Environmental Conservation Action, Yoghoi Pentecostal Church and Shembekezo Conservation Group in Tanzania in collaboration with the Weltweit e.V. from Germany implemented the activities.

2. Objectives & Activities of the project:

The overall objective of this project were to contribute to the conservation of the natural forests and land through restoration of degraded agricultural landscape, water sources and roadsides in Yoghoi and Shembekezo/Mayo villages. Specific objectives of the project include,

- To scale-up tree nurseries to yield 30.000 seeds at Yoghoi and Mayo tree nurseries respectively (15.000 in the second year).
- To support beekeeping activities by providing beehives
- To raise community awareness on forest conservation and restoration of the degraded water sources.

From January this year, 2019, the second phase of the project has been implemented where the following activities were undertaken. They include:

- I) Continuation of the tree nursery activities which were established in the two villages of Yoghoi and Mayo. Each tree nursery at Yoghoi has yielded

10,000 seedlings making a total of 20,000 seedlings of *albizzia*, *grevilea*, *Cyprus*, and *pinus* species in which the main activities included, site preparation, manure collection, irrigation and weeding of the nursery.



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



ii) Construction of the forty beehives which were distributed equally to the two groups.



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



a. Project progress

The exercise on seedlings distribution from the two tree nurseries and planting has been going on up to the time of this reporting. This is the good time for planting as it is already raining towards the end of the year, which is November and December. Of the two groups Yoghoi Pentecostal Church has strongly continued to support the coordination of the activities on the ground.



With the 40 beehives already installed, 20 in Yoghoi and 20 in Kizanda/Shembekezo village. The aim of the activities for the next year are to produce and focus more on the construction of the beehives. Yoghoi Church Group which is our more active 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. If there are sufficient beehives a new group with close collaboration of our conservation initiatives made up of the traditional healers in Lushoto district is ready to receive beehives to hang on the traditional forests they own and that is still intact. This would help considerably to protect this forest.



b. Links with other organization

Apart from the schools already linked with the project after receiving of the seedlings, now there is a link with the traditional healers from the district who want a collaboration on conservation through beekeeping. An informal meeting has already been held with this group and a seminar and training on beekeeping awaits at the beginning of the third year of the project funding. There are about 100 registered traditional healers who awaits for the activities.

c. Description of the activities for the next period

The following activities will be undertaken in the third year of the project funding. They include:

Monitoring of the planted 50,000 seedlings while giving a little support to Yoghoi Church Group to progress with the tree nursery activities to yield other 10,000 seedlings, where the main activities will involve collection of the necessary materials, site preparations, watering of the tree nurseries, weeding, and transportation of the seedlings and eventually planting in the desired areas.

Construction of other 40 beehives for the church group members who have planted trees on their farms to conserve the soils fertility and water retain ability. Other beehives will be for the traditional healers in Lushoto district to support the conservation efforts of the rainforest. 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 to be followed by workshop and a meeting to discuss the progress and future way forward for the project. The project will also prepare a group visit among the two villages for knowledge sharing on environmental conservation and beekeeping.

There will be further activities for awareness creation. Different sports activities among the villages will be an important part for consideration, as they are the best method to reach out for the next generation.

d. Expenditures

In the second phase, the project has spent about 10,000 Euros equivalent to 26,000,000 Tanzanian Shilling to continue with the project activities that included expanding the tree nursery activities, beekeeping and awareness creation. Other activities will continue when there is the third phase of the project funding.

e. Challenges

A new challenge emerged in the second year of the project implementation particularly of the other group managed by Mr. Magogo who is a retired botanist but also a politician, leading the Mayo Ward. Unlike the Yoghoi Church Group which distributed the seedlings as planned, the Mayo group distributed the seedlings more on demand and partly driven by political pressure. Hence more tree seedlings than originally planned went to the schools in the Ward and it became more difficult to locate the farms with planted trees. The planted trees still fulfil the overall purpose of conservation of forests and farm soil and water sources, but it makes it much more difficult to monitor those by the project manager.

Other challenges were also noted in the first year of the project funding though they had little effect on the project activities. For example, there is a lack of understanding on the importance of the project logic on imagery (photos) representation of the project activities. The two groups tended to pay more attention on the field activities rather than the recording of the activities by photos and as a result some activities are not well covered on the photos for the project reporting especially the actual planting areas. This year we wanted to introduce another important tool for monitoring: GPS data that is linked to google earth images. Kajo Stelter from Weltweit e.V. brought a Garmin handheld device when visiting the project in September. The project leaders of Yoghoi and Shembekezo Group are now schooled in how to operate it. For Europeans who are brought up with computer, smart phones etc. the device may be self-explaining but for our local project leaders with considerably lesser exposure to electronics the operation of the Garmin device poses more difficulties than we expected. We have therefore gathered the GPS data of the farms where trees have been planted in Yoghoi but those are only labelled on paper, as can be seen in our attachment. The analogue data now needs to be processed digitally and the process of schooling of the local project leader will continue next year.

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.

