

Biodiversity Conservation, Improved Livelihoods, Health & Food Security in Western Tanzania: A PHE Approach

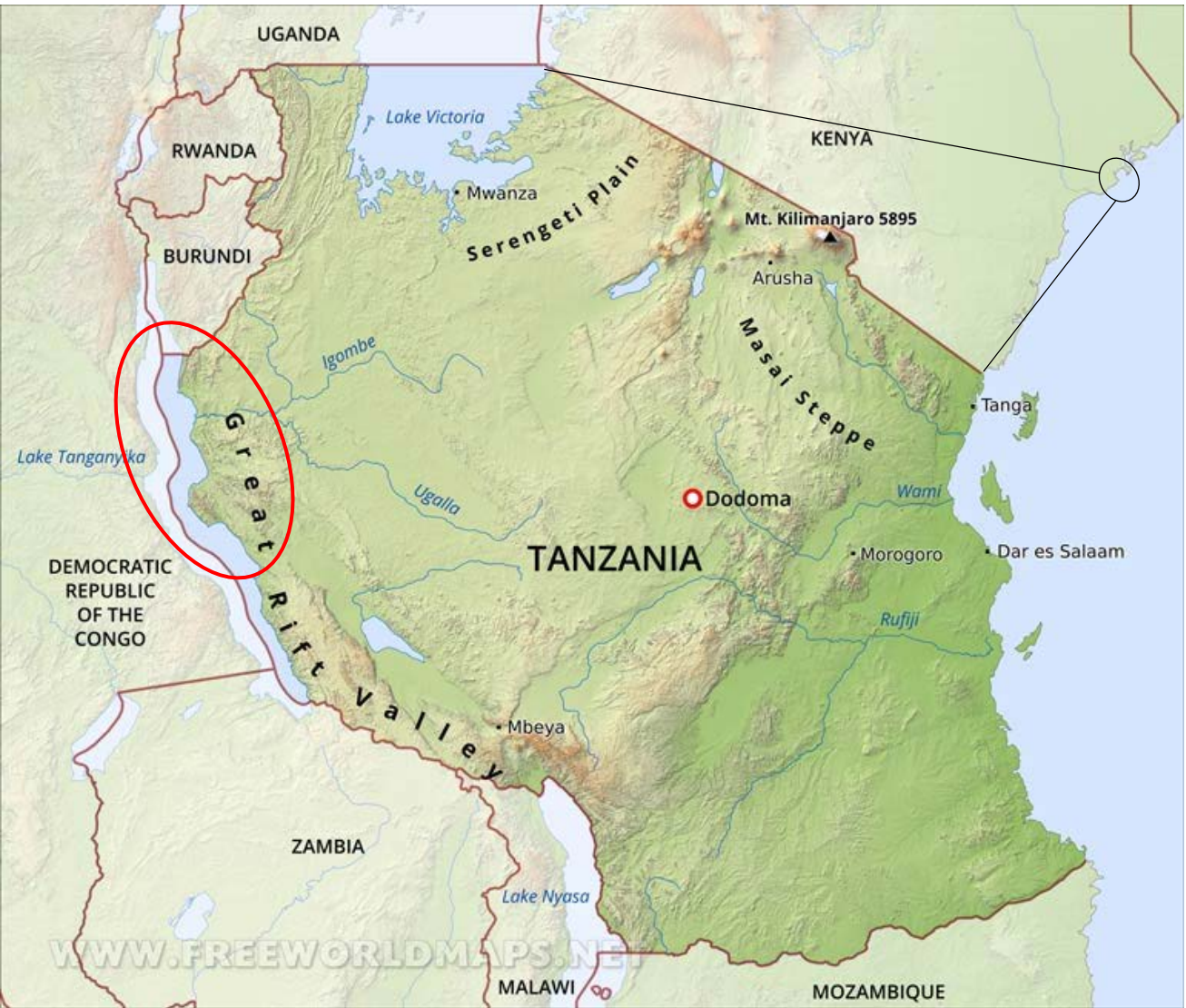
The Nature Conservancy
Kimberly Holbrook

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Conservation Projects and Protected Areas of Western Tanzania
Ecosystems of the Greater Gombe Ecosystem and Greater Mahale Ecosystem



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Why work in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem?

Over 250 species of endemic fish



Home to 93% of Tanzania's chimps



17% of the freshwater in the world



Primary source of income & supports 60% of protein needs for local people



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Threats & Challenges

- Majority of the region unprotected - 75% of the chimpanzee population on general land
- Unsustainable fishing practices dominated by open access and unsustainable agricultural and farming practices
- Inadequate access to primary and reproductive health services
- Rapidly growing population (4.8% per year) and 50% of population under 15 years
- Few economic opportunities and families that survive on less than \$150 per year
- Weak local governance and low literacy rates
- Climate change



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Tuongane Project

Tuongane is a Swahili word for “Let’s Unite”. It unites The Nature Conservancy, Pathfinder International, district governments, and local communities into an integrated project that simultaneously and holistically addresses complex issues of population, health and environment (PHE).



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Tuungane Project

This project that empowers communities to create healthier families, forests, and fisheries in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME), in western Tanzania.

Goal: Conserve the GME as a diverse, functioning ecosystem sustaining healthy and resilient human and natural communities.



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Pilot Project Objectives

- Communities and individuals practice positive behavior changes that support healthy families, forests, and fisheries (via Model Households, Model Villages, and Model Farmers)
- People have improved and environmentally sustainable livelihoods
- Increase in adoption of climate smart agricultural practices that support food security for local communities



Pilot Project Activities (FY17)

- Recruit Model Villages
- Improve Local Poultry Farming
- Improve Beekeeping
- Facilitate Farmer Field School Trainings and support Model Farmers
- Train and Support Community Agriculture Workers



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Pilot Project Results (FY17)

Model Household and Livelihoods

- 413 Model Households registered in Nkonkwa village, a number 27% higher than our initial target of 300 households
- Nkonkwa declared to be a Model Village, where >70% of village members agree to adopt PHE practices
- 2 villages (Rudoma & Katumbi) completed poultry farming training and 4 villages are completing demonstration pens this week
- 106 traditional beekeepers from 13 locally registered groups in 5 villages trained on modern beekeeping methods



Pilot Project Results (FY17), cont.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security

- 904 farmers from 16 villages trained in Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques
- 39% (357) of trained farmers have adopted improved agricultural practices
- Farms that received agricultural inputs exhibited better crop plant stands than farms that used conventional inputs, which helped encourage CSA adoption and hosting of Field School demonstration plots



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Pilot Project Results (FY17), cont.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security

- 81 Community Agriculture Workers (CAWs) trained in data collection and delivery of agricultural extension services
- Mutual linkages between the CAWs and the Government Agricultural Extension Officers was created as a result of the CAW trainings.
- The 81 CAWs are now promoting CSA practices among fellow smallholder farmers in 81 sub-villages; farmers now able to measure important indicators related to CSA



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Lessons Learned

- Use of drama and story telling has been very successful in communicating PHE messages
- Training of CAWs has resulted in better information sharing and collaboration between villages and local government
- Adoption of climate-smart agriculture increases with training and resources
- Use of traditional indigenous knowledge in promoting beekeeping has increased community enthusiasm and acceptance



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Asante sana!
Thank you!

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