

CONCEPT NOTE

The Land Use Dialogue in Kilombero, Tanzania 2019

The Challenge:

The Kilombero landscape is at risk due to increasing land use demands. To balance ecological integrity with increased agricultural productivity and community livelihoods, a participatory and integrated approach is needed. A landscape level multi-stakeholder platform has been established to reconcile the different interests at stake and establish synergies between the various initiatives active in the region.

The Context:

The Kilombero Valley Landscape is made up of the Kilombero Valley enclosed by the Selous Game reserve to the east and the Udzungwa Mountains National Park to the northwest. It covers Kilombero, Kilosa, Ulanga, Malinyi, part of Kilosa Districts and Ifakara Town Council. The area is known for its fertile floodplain with high agricultural productivity and conservation value. Adjoining the floodplain is a permanent wetland which supports a large inland fishery. Despite the floodplain being classified as a RAMSAR site in 2002, the wetlands continue to shrink due to pressures from rice production and pastoralism.

The Udzungwa Mountains forest and surrounding plantations and natural forests are valued internationally for biodiversity conservation as well as a wild life corridor, each providing ecosystem services to the local communities. Udzungwa Mountain National Park is home to 400 bird species, 2500 plant species, and 6 primate species including the endemic Iringa red colobus and Sanje Crested Mangabey. 41 % of species found inside the park are listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Additionally, the forest provides a priority elephant and wildlife corridor between Ruaha National Park to the west and Selous Game Reserve to the east. The surrounding buffer zone of evergreen forest, largely under community management, is being increasingly cut as land and forest resources elsewhere become scarce. Due to agricultural expansion, deforestation and livestock grazing, several key wildlife corridors have been cut off and fragmented, increasing the risk of wildlife population instability and human-wildlife conflict.

While the Kilombero Valley Landscape is key for conservation, it is also a primary site for land-based investments in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). SAGCOT Ltd. is a public private partnership aimed at identifying investment opportunities to promote agricultural production. The agricultural area is dominated by large scale commercial farms including the Kilombero Valley Teak Company, Kilombero Sugar Company, and the rice producing Kilombero Plantation Ltd. While companies engage in smallholder outreach and training, there remains instances of community unrest especially around historical land claims and development benefits.

Smallholder farmers largely rely on rain-fed irrigation driven by two rainy seasons and annual flooding. So far, irrigation schemes rarely serve smallholders and remain a key opportunity for scaling up agricultural production in the area.

Current initiatives and regulations provide constraints and opportunities for smallholders. For example, there is a need for innovative technologies and engagement models to support watershed restoration in the Government-mandated 60-meter buffer zone around waterways. Communities may need support through production alternatives, multi-use riparian areas, and payment for ecosystem services. Additionally, a current initiative to transition farmer sugar cane associations into cooperatives aims to increase eligibility for loans, establish efficient use of farm infrastructure, and maintain regular elections.

The landscape is expected to experience increasing land use demands as the local population continues to grow due to high levels of migration from other parts of Tanzania; the primary road is improved providing easier and reliable transport of goods; and agricultural investments increase supported by the SAGCOT partnership.

The Land Use Dialogue:

The Land-Use Dialogue (LUD), is a global initiative coordinated by The Forests Dialogue secretariat and key local and global actors. The LUD initiative maps, applies, and evaluates the practical “landscape approach” to provide tangible improvements on the ground. The landscape approach is a conceptual framework that seeks to develop an integrated and holistic view of the landscape, balancing multiple objectives through engaging private and public stakeholders. The LUD is modeled on TFD’s experience as a neutral multi-stakeholder platform adopted to meet local contexts and landscape needs.

The Tanzania Kilombero Land Use Dialogue is designed to provide constructive dialogue as the basis for exploring and reconciling stakeholder perspectives and priorities in the landscape and programmatic support to identified solutions. The dialogue promotes shared learning in the landscape, identifies common ground between multiple stakeholder interests, and promotes national and international knowledge exchange. It seeks to identify existing institutional foundations, national and sub-national policies, local institutions and technological innovations to support environmental and development initiatives.

The first LUD platform was launched in the Upper Itajai Valley in Brazil in April 2016, followed by the launch of the LUD Tanzania in the Ihemi cluster (one of the SAGCOT clusters) in October 2016. The Kilombero Landscape LUD seeks to build on the momentum of the existing Kilombero Multi-Stakeholder Platform to support inclusive green growth in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania.

Building on Existing Initiatives:

The Government of Tanzania through the National Land Use Planning Commission in collaboration with African Wildlife Foundation are promoting multi-use landscapes at the smallholder farm level through Village Land Use Planning and farmer training ranging from business principles to climate smart agriculture. A Kilombero Learning Platform, launched by Shared Value Foundation in early 2017, seeks to make agriculture and forestry production in the area more inclusive through the use of multi-stakeholder processes. Through this process, stakeholders in the landscape have identified priority challenges to be addressed including communication between the investors and communities; transparency especially in contracts; poor village governance and accountability; and restricted youth involvement. In March 2019, a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) was established for the Kilombero Valley including members of Government, Civil Society Organizations, private Sector and the Community. Through the LUD process, the MSP and Kilombero Landscape stakeholders will work with TFD to build inclusive implementation plans through dialogue by incorporating macro-level land use decision making perspectives on environmental and social landscape priorities.

Prioritized Actions:

- Maintain forest and wildlife corridors
- Reduce land conflict between stakeholders
- Support community food security and economic resiliency
- Restore the watershed and draw livelihood activities outside the watershed
- Ensure land-based investments are inclusive and sustainable

Expected Dialogue Outcomes:

- Convening a neutral and sustained platform for reflection on stakeholder responses and implementation of priority actions;
- Developing insights into reconciling the challenges of land and water use, intensification of forestry and farming, maintaining forest and wildlife corridors, improving local livelihoods and development outcomes;
- Identifying implementable short and long term priority actions required to reconcile differing uses, priorities and interactions across the multitude of actors throughout the landscape;
- Visioning future projections of the landscape under various land use trajectories;
- Considering the interactions between global commodity supply chains, land use governance, and local level land use decision making processes in global landscapes;
- Supporting the production of case studies and learning for application elsewhere.

Partners:

National Land Use Planning Commission of Tanzania

<https://www.nlupc.go.tz>

The National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) is a Body Corporate established by the Act of Parliament No 3 of 1984, later repealed by the Land Use Planning Act, Cap 116 for the essence of facilitating efficient planning and orderly management of land uses throughout the country. NLUPC has been a key partner in establishing the Multi-Stakeholder Platform for the Kilombero Landscape, launched in March 2019 in Morogoro, Tanzania.

African Wildlife Foundation

www.awf.org/

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is one of the largest international conservation and development organizations that solely focused on Africa with a mission to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa. AWF's mission is to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever. AWF has multiple programs in the Kilombero landscape targeting wildlife and habitat conservation and sustainable resource use by smallholder farmers.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature

www.iucn.org/

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. TFD's Tanzania Dialogue initiative is being developed in collaboration with IUCN's SUSTAIN Africa initiative.

The Forests Dialogue

theforestdialogue.org

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) is a neutral, international, multi-stakeholder platform established in 2000 to help address conflicts and challenges about important forest related issues. TFD is governed by an international Steering Committee reflecting the breadth of interests in forests, and its secretariat is hosted by Yale University. TFD has developed and facilitated 15 dialogue initiatives comprising more than 60 country-level and international dialogue.