FACTSHEET

FAITH-BASED RESTORATION IN TANZANIA
JANUARY 2024



PROJECT OVERVIEW

This **Faith-based Restoration in Tanzania Project** brings a highly under represented stakeholder group - faith communities - into national landscape restoration strategies in Tanzania for the first time, through a pilot project in the Ruvuma landscape.

Faith groups are a critical community stakeholder group already planting millions of trees a year globally and across East Africa but are not contributing systematically to restoration, as most do not plant in accordance with best scientific practice. There is an unseized upon opportunity to collaborate with faith groups – who hold vast assets in the form of land, influence, human resources and sustained dedication to care for nature underpinned by their faith teachings – into restoring connectivity in critical landscapes such as Ruvuma.

The **Ruvuma hosts the largest swath of the eastern Miombo eco-region, a true 'living landscape'**, bridging vast protected areas in Mozambique and Tanzania and connecting the largest populations of lion, wild dog and the globally important elephant.

This project supports **WWF's commitment to the Tanzanian government to help restore 50% of its national target of 5.2 million hectares, for the benefit of People, Nature and Climate.** This project unlocks significant areas of faith-owned lands for restoration (using native species), to restore connectivity between protected areas and ensures the health of the regionally important Ruvuma and Rufiji River basins/catchments through capacity-building based on WWF's new faith tree growing guide launched at COP15, and by engaging with faiths in novel partnerships with the private sector, government agencies and NGOs.

FAITH-BASED RESTORATION IN TANZANIA PROJECT

QUICK FACTS

Programme Duration:
1 year (July 2023 – June 2024)

Donor:
WWF Network

Project Lead: WWF-Tanzania

Project beneficiaries:
Faith groups, Central and Local Government Authorities, Local communities, Civil Society Organizations, Private sector



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This project includes WWF Tanzania, the Beliefs & Values Programme (BVP), the WWF-CARE Alliance, the Forest Practice, Freshwater Practice and Trillion Trees. This innovative pilot of faith-based restoration will serve as a model for other FLR landscapes in Tanzania and the 9-country WWF FLR In Africa Initiative to scale up restoration to 13.5million ha of degraded landscapes by 2027 as our contribution to AFR100.

PROJECT THEORY OF CHANGE

Activities

1. Support **formation of FBO network** for restoration;
2. Test new WWF/UNEP faith tree-growing guide with FBOs to **build capacity** on restoration;
3. FBOs **raise awareness** on restoration in their faith communities in Ruvuma;
4. FBOs **identify faith lands** for tree-growing, prioritising key watersheds;
5. Faiths begin **tree growing** according to restoration best practice principles

Outputs

1. **FBO network** for restoration formed;
2. FBOs have **good understanding** of restoration; FBOs can **grow trees** according to best practice;
3. Vast **faith communities mobilised** for restoration;
4. **FBOs commit** to restoration of own lands, prioritising key watersheds;
5. **Strong partnerships** ensure faith tree growing serves restoration targets

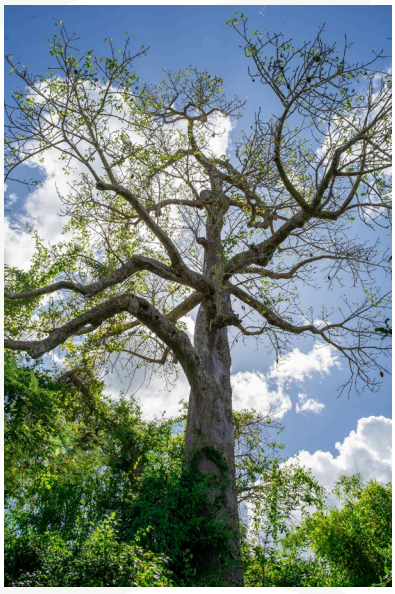
Outcomes

1. **FBOs are new partners** in restoration efforts for connectivity in the Ruvuma landscape
2. FBOs **grow trees** on faith-owned lands in Ruvuma through innovative partnerships
3. Pilot **informs approach to scaling up/ fundraising** in Tanzania, regionally and globally

Impact

Faith-based **tree growing on faith lands creates additional connectivity and watershed protection in Ruvuma,** supporting national restoration target





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