

PROJECT TITLE	Udzungwa: a forest for all — An environmental protection and development co-operation project.
DURATION	2012 – 2017
AREA OF INTERVENTION	Southern Tanzania — The project has been implemented in 10 villages and 18 schools bordering the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP) in the District of Ifakara (Morogoro Region).
PROJECT LEADER	Mazingira Association
PARTNER	Associazione Nadir, DSF – Docenti Senza Frontiere, Istituto Comprensivo Aldeno Mattarello, MUSE – Science Museum of Trento, UEMC – Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre, TFCG – Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
BACKER	International Affairs Unit of the Autonomous Province of Trento
BACKGROUND	<p><i>Udzungwa: a forest for all</i> aimed to improve environmental awareness, implement educational activities and enhance sustainable development in the Udzungwa Mountains Area.</p> <p>The main purpose of the intervention was to support the local community in the transition towards sustainable development, in consolidating environmental awareness and strengthening the socio-economic fabric of the local community, guaranteeing a balance with environmental conservation and protection.</p>
BENEFICIARIES	<p>Indirect beneficiaries: the entire population neighboring the eastern side of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (about 200.000 people).</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries: about 2100 students per year; 54 teachers and 8 headmasters who took part in the courses on environmental issues; 345 participants to the training courses on sustainable agricultural practices and energy efficient technologies; 8 female groups; village chiefs and all families living in the 12 villages involved in the project; 89 eco-tourists who visited the area; 27 members of the local staff; about 440 students of 5 schools in Trentino.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<p>1. Introduction of alternatives to replace restricted forest resources that are no longer accessible by implementation of agroforestry systems and tree-planting activities.</p> <p>2. To contribute in the reduction of harmful emissions of firewood and charcoal by promoting the diffusion and use of efficient energetic systems.</p> <p>3. To actively participate to the process behavioral communication change of new generations by implementing environmental education program in 18 schools and integrating it with school exchanges and specific interventions.</p>

4. To contribute to raising awareness of the local community regarding the topics of environmental conservation.

5. To integrate various promotional departments with the UMNP to promote the Park and eco-tourism trips in the area which allows socio-economic promotion, education and sensitization within the local community and also acts as an educational and information center for the international community.

6. To cooperate with groups of women/entrepreneurs in order to facilitate their access to the job market and the development of income-generating activities.

7. To contribute to raising awareness of the Trentino community to the themes of environmental conservation, sustainable development and international cooperation.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

1. Reforestation and diffusion of EET (tree nurseries, agroforestry, mud stoves, briquettes, Mayon Turbo Stoves and healthy cooking methods)

2. Environmental education and training (environmental education programs in schools, teacher training courses, local awareness-raising)

3. Local economic development (women's empowerment, eco-tourism, promotion of income-generating activities)

4. Raising the awareness of Trentino community (educational courses in schools, awareness-raising events and other dissemination and communication practices)

METHODOLOGY OF MONITORING

A participatory approach has been implemented involving both stakeholders and beneficiaries during decisional, planning and implementation phases.

RESULTS

Adoption of sustainable methods:

Sustainable green practices such as tree nurseries, agroforestry woodlots cultivated with the alley cropping method, woodlots for firewood production, efficient energetic systems) have proven useful for the community.

Positive Behavioral Communication Change:

Enhancement of human capabilities developed over time together with the community by increasing awareness conservation and environmental protection. The participatory approach of local community has increase capacity building, sensitization and empowerment among the local population.

Women Empowerment:

Professional skills developed by female groups of entrepreneurs

Project Learning:

Mazingira strongly believes that increasing human capital and providing actual goods and services to locals are fundamental to sustain their community and create sustainable opportunities for them.