

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>Construction of a Visitor Information Centre (V.I.C) in the Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP)</b> — As a pole of promotion of environmental awareness and socio-economic sustainability in the region.
<b>DURATION</b>	<b>2013 – 2018</b>
<b>AREA OF INTERVENTION</b>	<b>Southern Tanzania</b> — Kilombero District (Morogoro Region)
<b>PROJECT LEADER</b>	<b>Nadir Association</b>
<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>Mazingira Association, MUSE – Science Museum of Trento, DSF – Docenti Senza Frontier, TANAPA – Tanzania National Parks, Natural History Museum of Denmark</b>
<b>BACKER</b>	<b>International Affairs Unit of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Waldesian Church, Åge V. Jensen Foundation</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>UMNP is one of the main drivers of local development in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania, so it is important to promote and strengthen it, encouraging the creation of the conditions necessary for the development of sustainable tourism in the area. It is also necessary to raise the awareness of the local community about the fragility and peculiarity of the environment that the Park helps to protect and directly involve it in the conservation and enjoyment of the benefits from local tourism.</p> <p>In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, a Visitors Information Centre has been built, which helps tourists to get to know the Park and the conservation problems of the area.</p>
<b>BENEFICIARIES</b>	Indirectly, the intervention will benefit the inhabitants of more than 30 densely populated villages that surround the UMNP.
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<p><b>1. To facilitate interaction between the Udzungwa Mountains National Park and the local population</b> by consolidating a new model of awareness of the importance of forests and therefore the public attitude towards the Park through the creation of a Visitor Center at the entrance to the park.</p> <p><b>2. Educating the new generations about environmental conservation</b>, respect for nature, sustainable use of resources, importance of forests and their benefits.</p> <p><b>3. To increase the number of tourists in the area in order to generate an economic spin-off</b> that improves the living conditions of the local community.</p>
<b>IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES</b>	<p><b>1. Construction of the Visitor Information Centre</b> of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park.</p> <p><b>2. Interior design, design and implementation</b> of the V.I.C cultural plan.</p>

**3. Program of educational visits** with schools at the VIC and creation of didactic and promotional material for the promotion of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

## METHODOLOGY OF MONITORING

The evaluation was carried out in real time by the architects, the engineer and the project coordinator thanks to their constant presence on the site.

As for the activities following the construction of the visitor centre and the effects of the work for the Park and the community, the Nadir Association and TANAPA prepared questionnaires to be distributed to tourists and visiting students to assess the impact of the centre itself.

Important information on the success of the project come also from the TANAPA archives, which every year record the number of tourists visiting the Park.

## RESULTS

**1. Increased environmental awareness on the part of the population**, with consequent improvement in socio-economic conditions in the medium to long term.

**2. Increase in the level of environmental education** in school-age children (primary and secondary schools)

**3. Increase in the number of visitors to the Park**

**4. Increase in the number of jobs within the Park's activities** (guides, educators, etc.)