

Enhancing Capacity for Equity in Climate Resilient Development in Tanzania: A CCCEP Legacy Project

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Background

Research on 'climate compatible development' undertaken at Leeds during Phases 2 and 3 of the ESRC funded [Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy](#) (CCCEP), and since (as part of the [GCRF-AFRICAP](#) and [EU Horizon FOSTA-Health](#) projects), informed the design of a 3 year USAID funded '[Connecting Amani and Nilo \(CAN\) Forest Project](#)' in the East Usambara Mountains of Tanga Region in northeast Tanzania. This project was implemented by the [Tanzania Forest Conservation Group](#) (TFCG) from 2023-2025, and aimed to promote livelihoods that are more resilient to climate change in Tanzania. This summary describes the follow-up CCCEP legacy project involving the validation and transfer of key research findings through dialogue between researchers and local stakeholders in the East Usambara Mountains.



Aim

This CCCEP Legacy project aimed to deepen the integration of research findings in climate resilient development practice through direct engagement with actors designing and implementing programme activities in the East Usambara Mountain landscape. The envisaged outcomes of the project were:

- Capacities of NGOs and development partners, local government extension officers, community-based trainers and villagers strengthened to apply and evaluate approaches to climate resilient development and achievement of inclusive and equitable benefits from such programmes.
- More inclusive and equitable distribution of project benefits among the most vulnerable to climate change in Tanga region.

Collaborative Planning and Training

TFCG and University of Leeds teams co-developed project activities, which focused on participatory dialogue and training informed by the research outcomes with key actors operating within the Amani-Nilo landscape of the East Usambara Mountains in Tanzania. Focus was given to strengthening climate change resilience through the design and implementation of more inclusive and empowering participatory processes, greater exposure to local livelihood aspirations, critical reflection on women's empowerment and expansion of spice cultivation, and the role and sustainability of groups and cooperatives.

The project team co-developed and delivered:

- 1) A series of 5 briefing notes in English and Swahili on Climate Resilience, Livelihood Aspirations, Women's Empowerment, Groups and Cooperatives, and Participatory Research.
- 2) A workshop, held in September 2024, involving 60 participants, including UK and Tanzanian government researchers, NGOs, local government representatives from Muheza District, wards councillors, village leaders and community members from Amani, Kisiwani, Kwezitu, Misalai and Zirai wards.
- 3) Training of 127 Village Savings and Loans (VSLA) group members from East Usambara Mountain communities on sustainability, conflict resolution, market linkages, climate resilience, and gender equality.

Participatory Methods

Village representatives exhibited the outcomes of collaborative research they undertook in collaboration with the University of Leeds that had used photovoice methodology. Villagers presented their livelihood aspirations and the associated developmental challenges they face. This stimulated dialogue among local leaders, government authorities and NGOs as to how these voices will feed into practical actions, local development planning and project design. Additionally, role-play drama was used during VSLA group training to engage communities and enhance understanding of group sustainability, conflict resolution, gender equality and social inclusion.



Project outcomes

The project has significantly enhanced the capacity of researchers and practitioners to tailor research findings for local impact. This was achieved through district-wide dissemination of research findings, co-development, and embedding these findings into community training. Over 180 community members and local government authority representatives now have a broader understanding of climate change impacts and resilience. Additionally, their ability to apply and critically evaluate participatory methods for more inclusive and engaging research and training has developed. Many of the members of the community involved in participatory research and dialogue have been empowered to communicate their needs and aspirations to their leaders. The project has also increased awareness among 127 VSLA members, NGO staff and District officers of the contextualities of gender equality, social inclusion, and good governance through experience sharing. Stakeholders have also gained a deeper understanding of local livelihood aspirations and needs through the sharing of research findings. Collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders have been strengthened, reducing the risk of programming contradictions. This has also created opportunities for new partnerships and co-developed research initiatives.

Project impacts

The impacts of the project include enhanced networking and trust built between researchers, communities, practitioners and government actors, leading to new project co-development opportunities and wider dissemination of research. There is increased potential for improved governance and conflict resolution within communities and more sustainable VSLA groups with the District Council, stimulated by the workshop, now providing more technical support to VSLAs to enable more effective and inclusive community organisations. There is also increased capacity for more coherent, equitable and sustainable climate-resilient development through direct engagement between researchers and practitioners implementing the Amani-Nilo Corridor Strategy. Also, with Trianon and GFP spice companies present at the workshop, they are more aware of farmer group needs and aspirations in their work supporting farmers to navigate spice markets, meaning there is increased potential for local livelihood aspirations to be met. Continued collaboration between researchers, practitioners, local government, companies and communities in the landscape in the coming years will enable the monitoring of such impacts.

Project learning

Key learning from the project highlights the importance of investing in research dissemination and validation, including direct dialogue with research participants. Participatory methods like photovoice, drama, and role play have proven valuable in engaging and empowering local communities. The project has underscored the need for more inclusive practices to address gender and social inclusion in development projects. Supporting local government and NGOs in providing training, informed by context specific research, on governance and conflict resolution has also been identified as crucial.

Future Directions

This project has contributed significantly to networking and trust building between University of Leeds researchers, practitioners, District and local government authorities and communities in Tanga Region. This has created opportunities for co-development of and collaboration in new projects. Since completion of the project, stakeholder interest in forest-local climate linkages, as expressed during the district workshop, has contributed to the development of an online app and new research on forest-local climate in southern Tanzania. Collaboration between the University of Leeds and TFCG continues through a new partnership with NABU and Nature Tanzania to deliver further research-informed training on gender equality and social inclusion and participatory governance in support of climate-resilience in

Tanzania as part of the '[AfricElle](#): Women as Champions for Agroforestry, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation around Protected Areas in Africa' project funded by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany. This CCCEP Legacy project has also informed design of the [Voices4JRT](#) project funded by UK Foreign and Commonwealth & Development Office implemented by University of Leeds and [ClimEat](#).

For more information and project outputs, visit the [University of Leeds](#) and [TFCG](#) websites.



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