

Biodiversity has been the major surviving bread for poor people in Tanzania. Despite knowing the significance of watershed protection, climate regulation and disease prevention, poor people continue with hunting and cutting down trees. In fighting to reduce this, poor people have been engaged on sustainable utilization practices that have seen to bring the bright future toward conservation. However, the approach has been challenged by lack of commitment toward conservation. Despite being able to generate income from ecotourism, collection and selling of non-timber forest products and other sustainable utilization practices; still poaching and deforestation has been increasing. It has been observed that, people normally welcome income generating activity as a complement to destructive activities rather than a substitute. Someone who generates income from ecotourism can still hunt wildlife or make charcoal as additional source of income.



VISION

Developed rural community for biodiversity conservation

MISSION

Increasing income and food security with maintained biodiversity

OBJECTIVES

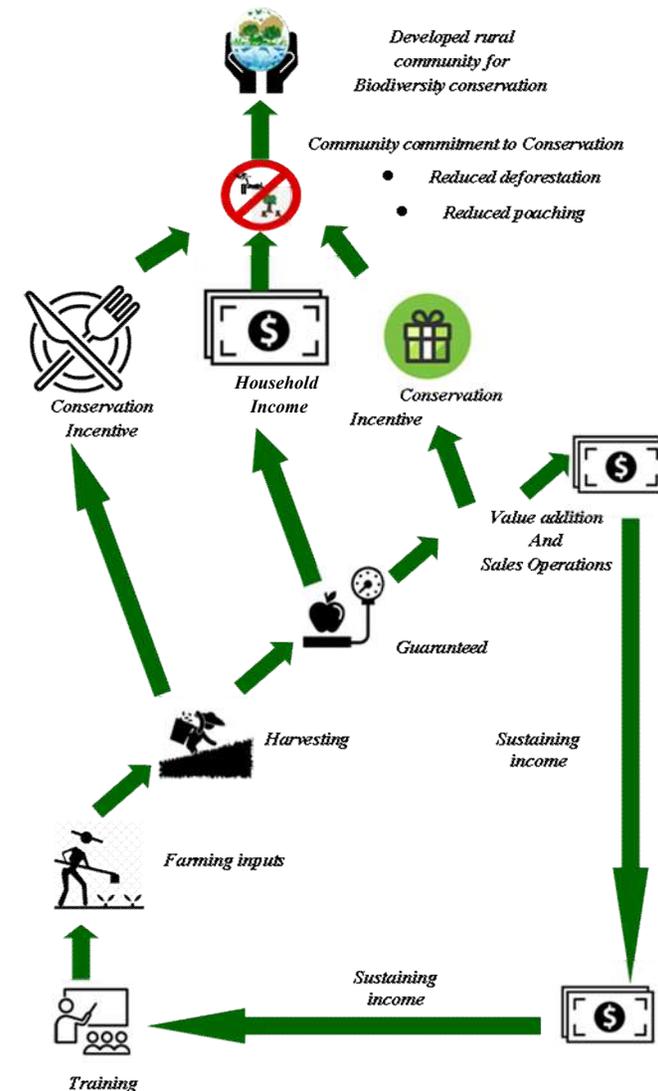
- To improve crop productivity per household
- Reduce ecosystem degradation through sustainable agriculture
- Enhancing rural communities to generate income from environmental friendly income generating activities
- Adding value on the commodities produced by local communities
- Using fair price as an incentive for biodiversity conservation



OUR APPROACH

ECOWICE approach focuses on improving livelihood to rural people who substitute destructive activities with income generating activities. Someone who practice destructive activities is changed to become a food commodity producer.

The process is achieved through provision of training, farming inputs, monitoring support, harvesting services, and a guaranteed market into food processing and sales operations.



OUR PROJECTS

Species conservation

Our approach has been applied to conserve various species through research, monitoring, community awareness, advocacy and livelihood improvement. We have been conserving various bird species, primates, antelopes and other threatened species.



Human-wildlife co-existence

The good management of elephants in the recent years has increased the elephants' population in Mikumi national Park which raises the concern for escalating conflict with the local community.

In the last six years there has been more cases of people being injured by elephants while others have died. More than 138 hectares of crops have been destroyed by elephants which do not only compromises farmers' food and economic security but it also impedes elephant conservation initiatives. ECOWICE support the community in adapting and mitigating the situation through: Conservation education and awareness raising, elephant monitoring and livelihood activities which are resistant from elephant destruction

Conservation agriculture

Villagers adjacent wildlife and forest protected areas normally practice subsistence agriculture characterized by farmland expansion and the use of agro-chemicals to increase crop productivity. This has resulted to increased deforestation and loss of soil organisms. ECOWICE support farmers to increase crop productivity through promoting agro-forestry, that is for potential for restoring forest, and increasing soil fertility. Farmers are encouraged to practice minimal to zero tillage and reduce the use of agro-chemical that help to conserve soil.

FIGHTING DEFORESTATION

Deforestation is not only a threat to wildlife species but also human lives. Many wildlife species are now under threat to extinction due to the loss of habitat while climate change has affected crop and livestock productivity to many rural people. The community engage in cutting down trees for making charcoal as the way of gaining quick cash. When they seek to increase crop productivity, they end up clearing forests to expand their farms as result, many hectares of forests has been lost.

ECOWICE seek to resolve this through supporting the community to engage on alternative income generating activities such as beekeeping, poultry and goat farming and agroforestry

FOOD SECURITY

Due to climate change, poor farming knowledge and conflicts with wildlife, the community end up with poor harvests from their farms that make them fail to obtain enough food. Also due to lack of financial opportunities, they fail to secure income for buying food when they face with poor production. This has driven the community to engage in destructive activities such as poaching, illegal fishing and charcoal production.

ECOWICE help the community to increase food security through support for improved seeds, conservation agriculture and income generating activities.

INCOME GENERATION AND COMMUNITY BANKING

Due to remoteness nature and poor infrastructure, rural community fail to secure good markets that can help them to earn more income from the produce. Normally they end up selling to local traders at poor price. This has discouraged many farmers and most of them end up doing illegal activities for the purpose of earning more income.

ECOWICE buy commodities produced by the community that are transported to processing center in Morogoro municipal to produce high quality products. The products are then sold to shops and supermarkets which enable them to earn income. The earned income is sustained through savings and loans which sometimes help when they face challenges of crop raiding by elephants.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE



S.LP 2405 MOROGORO
www.ecowice.org
savewild@ecowice.org



OUR PARTNERS

