

Advancing REDD + in the Kolo Hills Forests, Tanzania The Kondoa Irangi REDD + Project

Protecting a Critical Landscape for Tanzania's Wildlife and People

Forest Conservation



Community Benefit



Carbon Credits



Wildlife Conservation



The African Wildlife Foundation is the leading Africa-based international conservation organisation with more than fifty four years of experience facilitating practical, field-based solutions to global and local sustainable natural resource management challenges. AWF identified 38 priority landscapes of significant ecological value across sub-Saharan Africa, and is currently operating in 23.

AWF is supporting conservation work in sixteen countries in east, central, west and southern Africa. Climate change is a core cross-cutting theme integrated into each of AWF programmes. AWF is directly engaged in climate mitigation and adaptation and sees REDD+ as a vital tool for forest conservation and to provide benefits to forest dependent communities.



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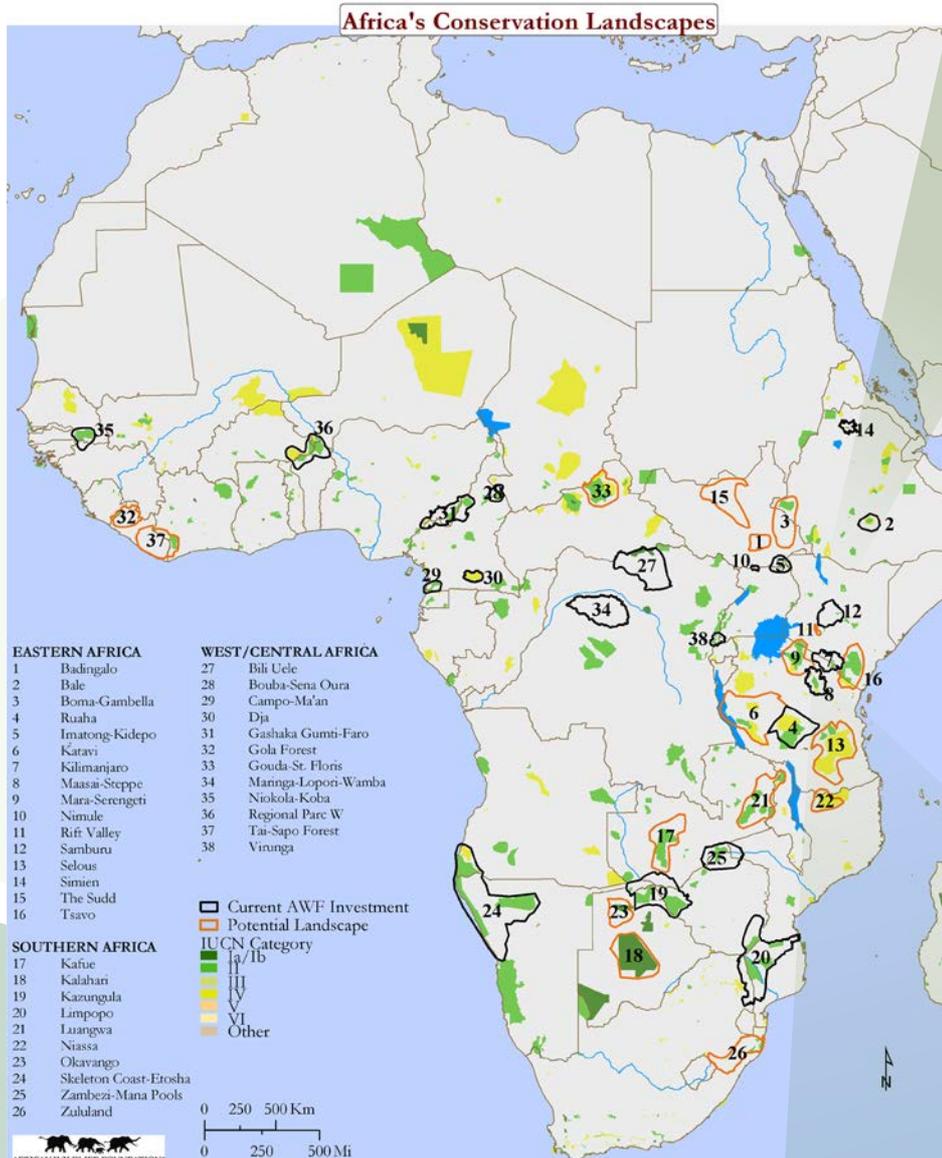


Figure 1: AWF Priority Conservation Landscapes



Figure 2: Kolo Hill Irangi escarpment.

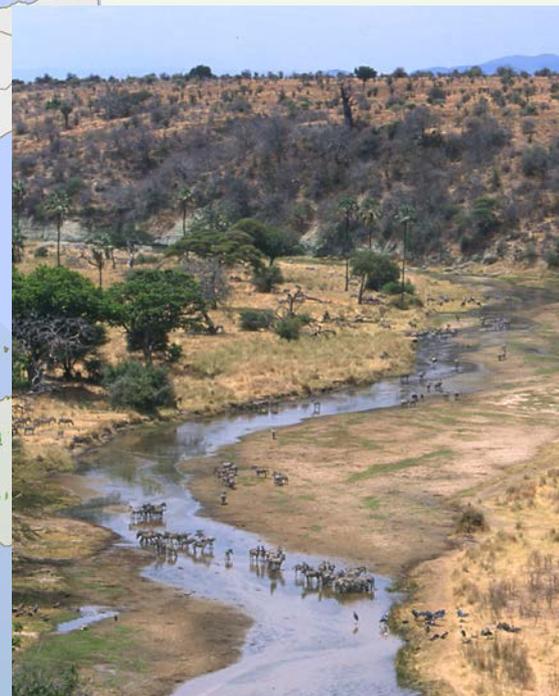


Figure 3: Tarangire river in Tarangire, National Park.

KOLO HILLS

The Headwaters of the Tarangire River
 –the lifeline of Northern Tanzania’s Wildlife
 and Wildlands

AWF AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AWF acknowledges the severity and complexity of climate change and has identified six priority areas of work, which include mitigation and adaptation and overall aim of increasing the resilience of landscapes, wildlife and people:

1. Improve understanding and monitoring of climate change impacts on Africa’s wildlife, habitats and people.
2. Help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.
3. Promote landscape scale adaptation.
4. Mitigate terrestrial carbon emissions through landscape scale conservation, sound forest management and rangeland rehabilitation through appropriate carbon payment mechanisms.
5. Build the capacity of stakeholders to understand and manage climate change.
6. Help ensure financing mechanisms create the right incentives.

MAASAI STEPPE LANDSCAPE

The Maasai Steppe Landscape (MSL), approximately 35,000 km², is located in northern Tanzania and home to over 350,000 people, mostly pastoralists. The area is predominantly covered by lowland wooded savannah and grassland, and is renowned for supporting the world’s second largest density of faunal biomass after Ngorongoro. The landscape hosts a large population of elephant, approximately 3,500, large migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra and locally threatened species such as oryx, hartebeest, greater and lesser kudu, gerenuk and eland. The MSL is also home to predators such as lion, leopard, and the endangered African hunting dog. The area is known as one of the world’s last surviving large intact wild landscapes comprised of national parks, controlled hunting areas, wildlife management areas, forest reserves, wetlands and community lands. The Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Parks are ecological anchors in the landscape. The MSL together with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park form the northern tourism circuit, which makes the largest contribution to Tanzania’s tourism income, approximately 18%, to the national gross domestic product.

KONDOA IRANGI CARBON PROJECT, TANZANIA

The Kondoa Irangi project, also referred to as Advancing REDD+ in the Kolo Hills Forests (ARKFor), is located in Kondoa District, north-central Tanzania. The REDD+ project area covers approximately 56,291 hectares. This project was developed as a result of concerns raised by the Kondoa District Authority, which reported an increase in deforestation and degradation trends in the project area. In response, AWF, with support from the Tanzanian Government and the Royal Norwegian Embassy, established a REDD+ project. This project is currently under validation by the Plan Vivo Foundation (www.planvivo.org).

The project area includes 21 villages and government and community land. Three government forest reserves are included in the project area: the Salanka (8,337 ha); the Isabe (4,249 ha); and the Kome (4,047 ha). These reserves are government lands falling under the jurisdiction of the Kondoa District Council, a key partner in this project. The hills and escarpment, both inside and outside of the government forest reserves, are dominated by Miombo (*Brachystegia spp.*) woodlands. The topography is characterized by two distinct physical features: vast plains and the Kondoa Irangi Hills (Kolo Hills).

The Kolo Hills and the Irangi escarpment form the headwaters of the Tarangire River Catchment Basin. The project area covers a significant portion of the headwaters of the Tarangire River, the main source of water for Tarangire National Park during the dry season. Land use practices in the Kolo Hills have a direct consequence on the watershed and the quality and quantity of the water in Tarangire River.

On-going degradation of forests and forest soils is likely to reduce the ability of the forested areas to intercept and absorb rainfall, which will have negative implications on groundwater recharge and result in shorter and more intense stream flow. This would have a negative affect on the water flow to the national park, putting the wildlife at risk. The Kolo Hills Forests are themselves important ecologically and host a diversity of species that depend on the forest.

The project area is dominated by two ethnic groups, Rangi and Alagwa, whose main economic activities are crop cultivation and livestock production. The population of people in the project areas is about 62,000 while households are about 14,000.

REDD+ provides an opportunity to help protect this ecologically significant forest, mitigate carbon and improve the lives of forest dependent communities in a remote landscape.

THREAT TO THE FOREST

The communities are dependent upon the forest for firewood for cooking and heating, and wood for building construction. In addition, charcoal makers depend heavily on the forest and land is also cleared periodically for shifting agricultural expansion. The major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are charcoal 36%; timber 32%; building poles 26%; and firewood 6%. The annual rate of deforestation is 0.46% and forest degradation rate is 5.2%. This severely threatens the existing 1.76 million tons of Carbon (tCO₂) in target forests of 22,030 ha; and 0.81 million tCO₂ in the 34,200 ha of the surrounding areas or leakage belt. The forest products were historically harvested unsustainably without any forest plans or land use plans.

The Kondoa Irangi REDD+ project is working to:

- Halt deforestation and degradation on approximately 22,000 hectares of core forest through forest conservation and development of alternative livelihoods for forest-dependent communities.
- Market and sell carbon credits to support the conservation of this critical forest and support community livelihoods.
- Reduce CO₂ emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through improving land and forest management by enforcing land use management and participatory forest management plans.
- Develop the capacity of local communities and government in understanding and addressing REDD+ issues and forest management.
- Share project learning and promote networking to improve forest management and conservation policies and practices for the benefit of improved climate change mitigation.

Accomplishments:

- ✓ Validation by Plan Vivo Foundation.
- ✓ Capacity building for REDD+, including training of trainers, completed.
- ✓ Farmers trained on conservation farming.
- ✓ Twenty two villages developed and approved village land use plans, five of which were submitted and registered at the ministry level.
- ✓ Thirteen villages formed a Joint Forest Management (JFM) Association and drafted a general JFM plan for two government forest reserves.
- ✓ Twenty one Village Forest Scouts trained on forest law enforcement and forest management.
- ✓ Demarcation of forests.
- ✓ Introduction of sustainable livelihood strategies and Programmes, such as fuel efficient stoves.
- ✓ Agricultural extension work aimed at increasing crop production in the agriculture zoned regions to reduce deforestation for crop production and slash-and-burn agriculture.
- ✓ Establishment of a benefit sharing mechanisms that favors the community.
- ✓ Provision of lessons learned on REDD+ projects to national government.

REDD+ INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Kondoa Irangi project will lead to 784,592 tCO₂e over a 30 year period, 26,153 tCO₂e /year.

AWF is seeking partners to invest and purchase the carbon credits. Please join us in our efforts to protect this important forest.



Forest Conservation

AWF is seeking partners for the Kondoa Irangi Project: For more information please contact:

Kathleen H. Fitzgerald
Vice President, Conservation Strategy
kfitzgerald@awf.org

Andrea Athanas
Program Design Manager, Agriculture & Energy
aathanas@awf.org

www.AWF.org
www.planvivo.org

