

# Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector



**Project full name:**  
Transforming  
Tanzania's charcoal  
Sector (TTCS)

**Domain:**  
Employment and  
Income

**Phase II:**  
2015 - 2019

**Total budget:**  
CHF 6'200'000

**Location:**  
Morogoro Region

**Implementing partner:**  
Tanzania Forest  
Conservation Group  
(TFCG)

**Other partners:**

- Tanzania Forest Community Network (MJUMITA)
- Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation (TaTEDO)

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## Project Overview

Tanzania's dependence on biomass to meet its energy needs is tremendous. Ninety per cent of Tanzanians use wood fuels as their primary source of energy and millions of Tanzanians depend on forests for their livelihoods. Over 2.3 million tons of wood charcoal were consumed in 2012 and this is predicted to double by 2030.

Due to weak sector governance, tree harvesting for charcoal production is practiced in an unsustainable and inefficient way, causing devastating effects to the environment.

Switzerland and its partners aim at transforming the sector by improving rural livelihoods, social services and climate resilience in 3 districts in Morogoro Region (Kilosa, Mvomero and Morogoro Rural), creating an enabling environment and a supportive policy framework through sustainable and well-controlled commercial models (value chains) for charcoal and other forest products in forested areas of Tanzania, where pressure on resources increases.

### PHASE I KEY RESULTS

- 8 villages in Kilosa District have successfully established and registered their Land-Use and Forest Management plans and By-laws.
- 60,000 hectares of woodland (25'000 inhabitants) have been registered as village land forest reserves. Approximately 10% of this land is designated as charcoal units with sustainable harvesting guidelines.
- 678 charcoal producers have each earned on average an additional income of **US\$ 336** per year and each of the 8 villages have on average collected **US\$ 27'204** per year in royalties from charcoal trade.

## Overall Goal

Pro-poor and climate-resilient transformation of charcoal (and other forest product value chains) economics and governance

### TTCS INNOVATION

*The project introduced a market system based on Tanzanian forest law that allows villages to effectively market products directly from their village forests and collect revenues for local development as an incentive for sustainable management of their village forests.*

*A 25-year rotational harvesting system was introduced in designated forest units for charcoal, which allows regeneration in the 24 years after harvest. The TTCS project also introduced Improved Basic Earth-Mound Kilns (IBEKs) which increase carbonisation efficiency of charcoal from 36% to 42%. The use of IBEKs increases thus the volume of charcoal produced, but also its quality (the charcoal burns longer, has a better calorific value and is more compact for transportation).*

## Main activities (results) of the phase

- Sustainable Land Use Management and Community-Based Forest Management
- Higher incomes for both men and women through efficient production and improved marketing of charcoal and other forest products.
- Generation of substitutional incomes for women and men farmers from climate smart agriculture, agroforestry and microfinance.
- Increased government capacity to provide technical support and governance and public participation in reviewing policies, laws and regulations on tree-based biomass energy and other forest product value chains.
- Monitoring of Deforestation to build national capacity and contribute to national and international REDD+<sup>1</sup> strategy implementation.

## Beneficiaries

Charcoal producers, timber harvesters, smallholder farmers and bee keepers in 30 villages (80'000 inhabitants); local government authorities in Kilosa, Mvomero and Morogoro Rural; charcoal traders and consumers in Tanzania; and other government authorities (regional and national) and policy makers

<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation scheme