

TANZANIA

MANGROVE TRACK RECORD



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



**WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL
WORKS TO SAFEGUARD
AND RESTORE ONE MILLION
HECTARES OF MANGROVES
ACROSS 10 AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, PRESERVING
BIODIVERSITY WHILE
BENEFITING APPROXIMATELY
TWO MILLION PEOPLE**

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BACKGROUND

Wetlands International has been operating in Tanzania since 2017, focusing its activities on the Rufiji Delta, which hosts East Africa's largest mangrove forest, spanning 53,255 hectares.

The mangrove ecosystem in the Rufiji Delta is a vital habitat and a hotspot for bird migration, with at least 437 bird species reported there, including 13 that are globally threatened. A variety of fish species including juveniles of commercially important groups are found in the mangroves, which also shelter animals including crocodiles, hippos and baboons. Sea turtles nest on beaches secured by mangrove roots, and crabs and shrimp thrive in the shallows.

We're working to halt and reverse the degradation and unsustainable exploitation of this invaluable ecosystem, collaborating closely with local and national stakeholders on a wide range of mangrove conservation and restoration activities, building social and ecological resilience in our target areas. As we create partnerships, raise awareness and develop effective strategic approaches to the challenges we face, we're beginning to scale up our impact across Tanzania and the wider region.

In a nutshell, our achievements in Tanzania are as follows:

- **53,000 hectares of mangroves with improved conservation status** through participatory management planning, community patrols, capacity building, and targeted restoration efforts.
- **560 hectares of mangroves directly restored**, and an additional 119 hectares indirectly, using the Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) approach to promote natural regeneration and enhance biodiversity.
- **More than 4,185 people supported** by the creation of sustainable alternative livelihoods, such as beekeeping, poultry farming, aquaculture, basketry, and rice farming outside the delta, reducing reliance on unsustainable mangrove resource extraction.
- **National-level mangrove platform created**, enabling efficient and effective mangrove conservation efforts at scale. Built strong relationships with national and local stakeholders, including the Tanzania Forest Service and district authorities, to ensure coordinated mangrove management and conflict resolution around resource use.
- **Contributed to the update of the 1991 Rufiji Mangrove Management Plan**, integrating community co-management and addressing climate change challenges.
- **Enhanced patrolling and enforcement efforts** by equipping the Tanzania Forest Service and village natural resource committees with tools.

**'WE'VE
WITNESSED
THE DAMAGE
WHICH
MOTIVATES
US TO DO
EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO
PROTECT OUR
MANGROVES'**

Ali Ramadhani.
Rice farmer in northern delta

TARGET AREA IN BRIEF

Region:
Rufji Delta

Population:
30,000

Governance:
57,000 ha

Mangrove area:
53,255 ha

(41% of total mangrove extent in Tanzania)

Total restorable area in Tanzania:

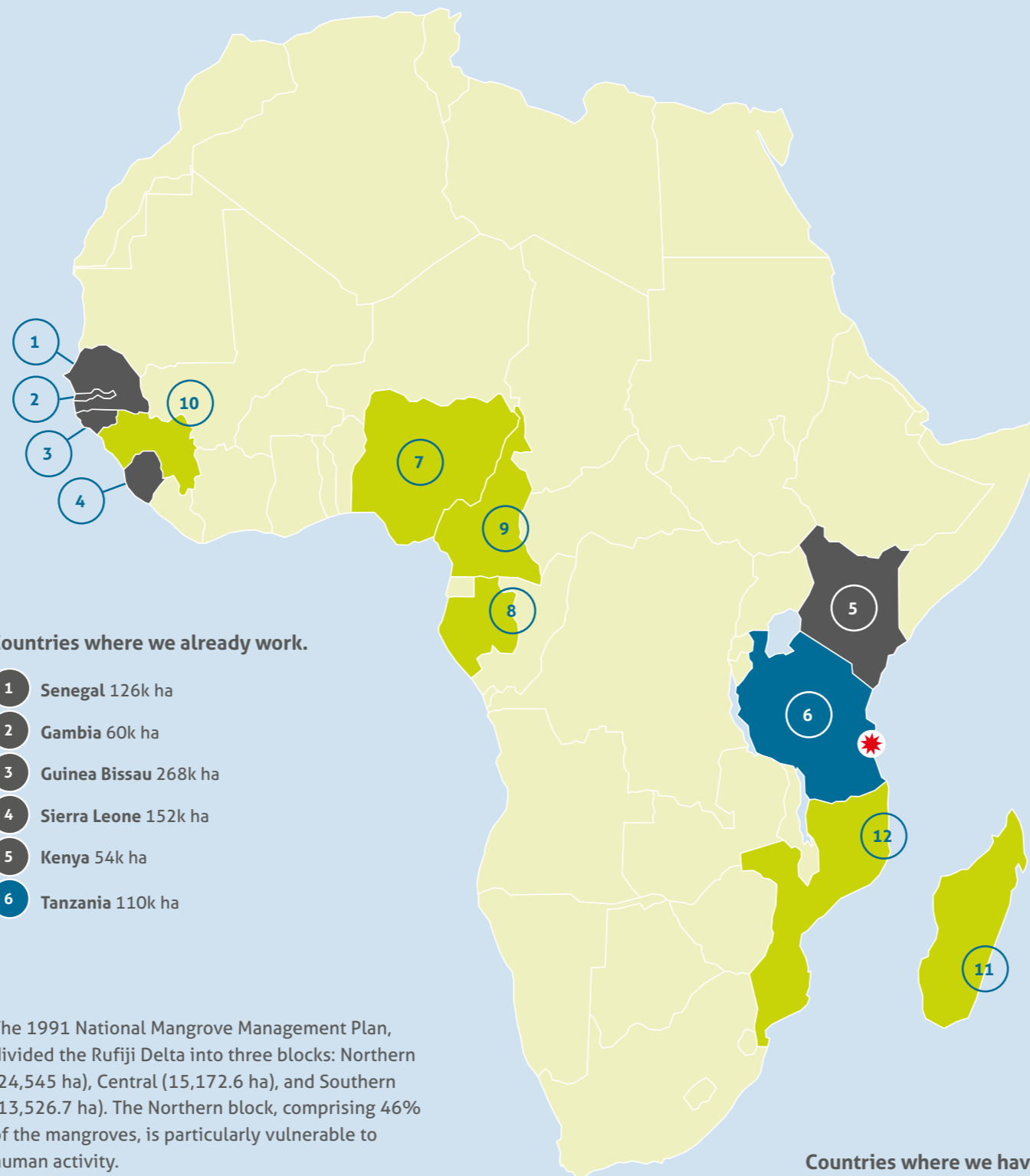
5,895 ha

At least 60% (>57,000 ha) of the mangroves in Tanzania are within protected areas, including the Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve. The land is owned by the Tanzanian state, and managed by the Tanzania Forest Service.

Context

The mangroves of the Rufiji Delta, about 200 km south of Dar-es-Salaam, have historically supported local communities who utilised them sustainably. However, in recent years, the mangroves have suffered significant degradation due to heavy exploitation, outdated management plans and ineffective conservation policies.

Mangrove forest management in Tanzania designates mangroves as forest reserves, a practice that began with the German colonial government in the 1890s and continued under British colonial rule, which restricted local access and use. Although a ban on cutting mangroves was introduced decades later, enforcement proved difficult due to limited resources.



Countries where we already work.

- 1 Senegal 126k ha
- 2 Gambia 60k ha
- 3 Guinea Bissau 268k ha
- 4 Sierra Leone 152k ha
- 5 Kenya 54k ha
- 6 Tanzania 110k ha

The 1991 National Mangrove Management Plan, divided the Rufiji Delta into three blocks: Northern (24,545 ha), Central (15,172.6 ha), and Southern (13,526.7 ha). The Northern block, comprising 46% of the mangroves, is particularly vulnerable to human activity.

Mangroves in the Rufiji Delta generate over \$10 million annually from resource use (e.g. timber extraction). They support 80% of Tanzania's prawn harvest, and protect against tropical storms, flooding, and shoreline erosion. The Rufiji Delta and surrounding seascape is also the primary national hotspot for blue carbon storage area, holding significant carbon in biomass and sediments (Status of Mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean Region, 2022).

Countries where we have the ambition to work.

- 7 Nigeria 844k ha
- 8 Gabon 174k ha
- 9 Cameroon 197k ha
- 10 Guinea 221k ha
- 11 Madagascar 277k ha
- 12 Mozambique 302k ha

THREATS TO TANZANIA'S MANGROVES

- **Conversion of mangrove areas into other land uses** – Illegal rice farming has been the main driver of mangrove loss in the delta, where the conversion of mangrove areas for rice farming expanded from 5,344 ha in 1999 to 12,642 ha in 2015. After four or five seasons, these farms are abandoned, and others are established.
- **Overexploitation of mangroves** – Unsustainable logging as well as illegal clearance for grazing and damage to mangrove plants by cattle are still driving reductions in mangrove area.
- **Infrastructural development** – Development work, for example on the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station, poses a threat by changing water flows, which impact the salinity levels and tidal patterns that mangroves depend on. Sedimentation and pollution can also negatively impact mangroves and their resident biodiversity, along with coral reefs and seagrass beds downstream of the delta.
- **Large-scale salt production** – During the last few decades, extensive areas of mangroves in Tanzania have been cleared for salt production.
- **Policy, governance and management failures** – Community-based management has not yet been robustly implemented for mangroves in Tanzania. Weak policy enforcement, low capacity of state institutions, along with a lack of participatory awareness and community involvement all contribute to the ongoing decline and deterioration of mangrove resources.
- **Competition from invasive species** – *Deris trifoliata*, a prolific invasive climbing plant species brought into the delta by a shift in water flows, covers, chokes and kills mangroves.
- **Climate change impacts** – Increasingly strong and frequent storms, erosion and the spread of invasive species not only affect the regeneration and species composition of mangroves, but also pose significant risks to the livelihoods of residents who depend on agriculture.

OUR IMPACTS IN RUFIFI DELTA, TANZANIA




Wetlands International has a clear vision: Mangroves and their biodiversity are healthy, improving the livelihoods of millions of people and protecting them against the dangers of climate change.

Our interventions will achieve the following impacts:

- **More educated, resilience communities** with alternative livelihoods that depend less on unsustainable use of mangrove resources.
- **Improved food security** with safeguarded fish and crustacean stocks.
- **Increased biodiversity** with protected habitats for nesting and migratory birds.
- **Maximised potential for carbon sequestration**
- **Increased protection** against extreme weather, flooding and increasing salinity.
- **Resilient downstream ecosystems** such as mudflats, seagrasses and coral reefs.
- **Reduced stakeholder conflict** around resource use and management.



MILESTONES

	Target	Archieved
 Mangroves with improved conservation status (ha)	53,000	53,000
 Magroves restored (ha)	3,000	684
 People benefiting (indirect & direct) Of wich: People livelihoods changed (direct)	30,000 5,000	21,000 4,185



Fan made out of palm by Umoja na Maendeleo group members.

OUR STRATEGY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

There are four main components to Wetland International's approach:

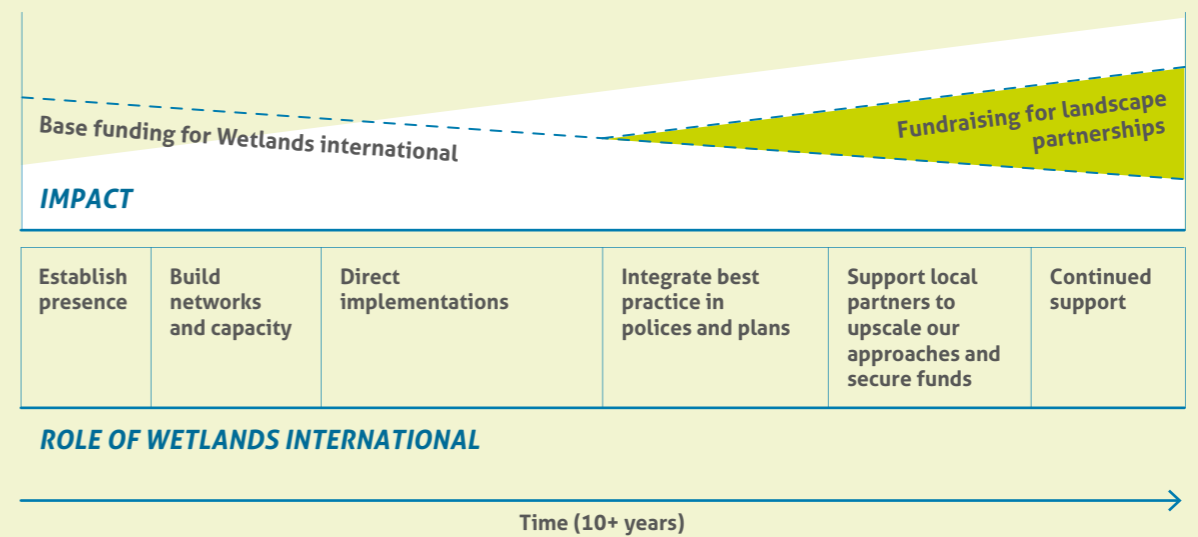
1. We develop and upscale mangrove **conservation and restoration** efforts.
2. We develop and upscale sustainable measures that improve **community livelihoods**, working closely with local people.
3. We build an **enabling environment** within which **communities and other stakeholders can effectively collaborate**. We also build and disseminate a knowledge base.
4. We work at a **national and landscape scale** to ensure **systemic change** for sustainable mangrove management.

This approach is the fruit of decades of experience in implementing projects on the ground all over the world and informs everything we do. Conservation and restoration are linked strongly with livelihoods, through close collaboration with community groups, and both areas are strengthened by activities conducted as part of the enabling environment component. Activities in these three components ultimately contribute to processes at national and landscape level, informing policy dialogue, sharing and promoting best practices, and underpinning coastal zone planning.

Our activities under each component in Tanzania are described in more detail below.

Upscaling our impact

The success of Wetlands International's approach depends on effective upscaling. While our direct activities yield results locally, we focus on enabling others to replicate these efforts on a larger scale. Through awareness-raising, training, technical support, and fundraising, we empower local communities and NGOs to adopt and share our approaches, amplifying our impact. Over time, our role shifts from direct implementation to supporting others in taking the lead, ensuring sustainable and locally-owned solutions at scale.

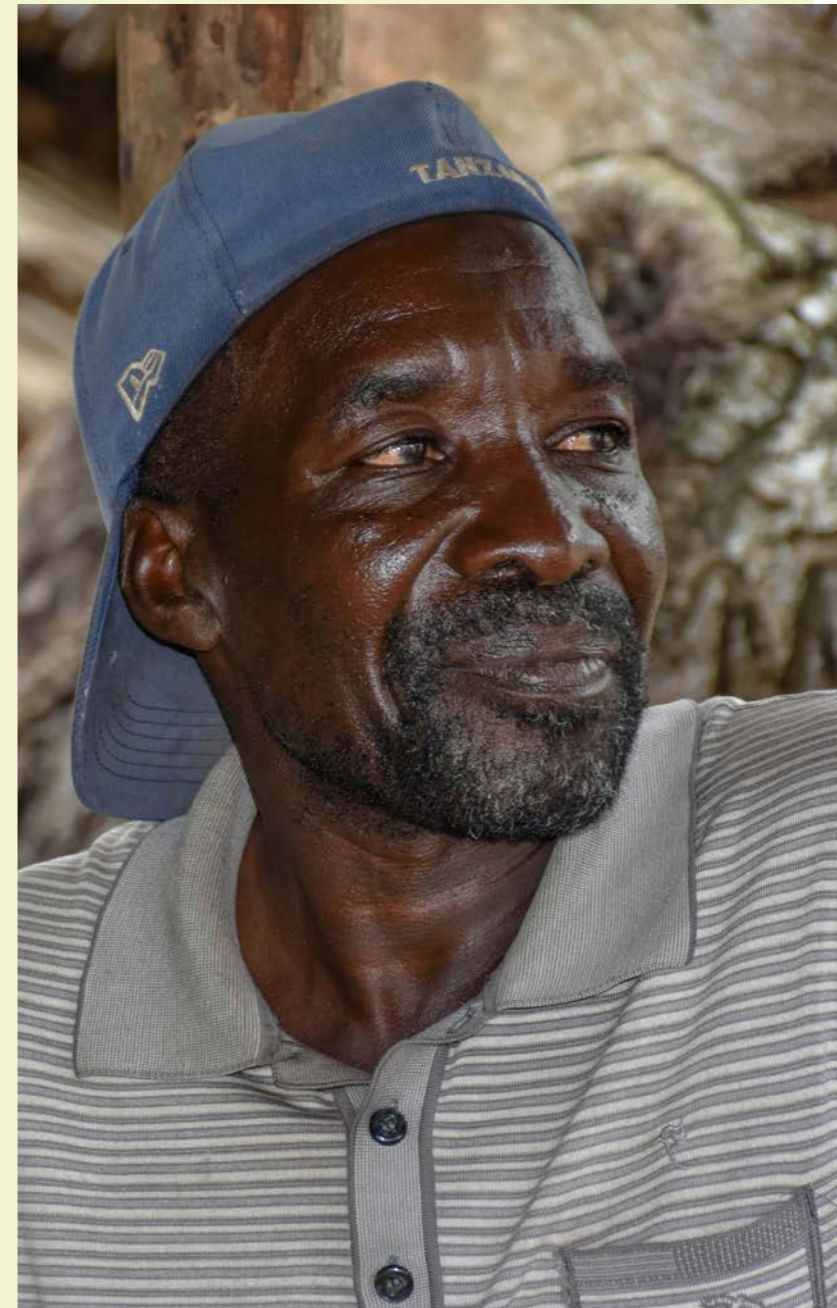




Hydrological restoration and first signs of natural mangrove restoration in the Northern Delta.

1. CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Throughout the Rufiji Delta, communities are conserving and restoring mangroves, while benefiting from training and livelihood support.



'IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT I AM COVERSANT ENOUGH WITH THE GLOBAL MANGROVE WATCH PLATFORM'

And ready to transfer this knowledge from the Training of Trainers we had.

Ahmada Mahamudu Ngokoro
Farmer/Former Chairperson of Mchinga Village, Tanzania.

Restoration of mangroves in Tanzania

We use the **Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR)** approach in Rufiji, focusing mainly on natural and assisted regeneration and enhancing local site conditions. We do this by improving area hydrology, sediment and nutrient conditions and by creating sustainable livelihoods in communities, who in turn help in site identification, restoration and monitoring efforts. CBEMR has significantly higher success rates than conventional planting and is cost-effective and efficient in the long-term. It also enhances biodiversity, and forest and coastline resilience. We are therefore globally advocating for its adoption as best practice and for policies in Tanzania and other countries to support scaling up CBEMR.

Tanzania has a **high mangrove restoration potential**, with more than 5,895 ha available, but there have been relatively few initiatives to date. Wetlands International has recently focused on extensive community-based mangrove restoration in the Rufiji Delta: to unlock its full potential, we've been piloting, testing, and implementing **restoration in various types of degraded sites**, using a variety of measures, all based on CBEMR principles. By December 2023, we had directly restored 564 hectares of mangroves. Additionally, our upscaling efforts have led to the restoration of a further 119 hectares in Tanzania, mostly in Rufiji.

The majority of the areas restored so far – with the strong involvement of local communities – have been abandoned rice fields. In Womba in the northern delta, for example, we facilitated CBEMR through low-density enrichment planting. To encourage **natural regeneration** and increase the diversity and density of mangroves in the abandoned rice farms affected by illegal logging, we introduced the mangrove species *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* across a total of 10 ha.

Meanwhile, in collaboration with the Msindaji village community in the northern delta, we worked to create ideal conditions for the natural regeneration of mangroves in an abandoned salt mining area. Although salt mining in the Rufiji

Delta is conducted on a relatively small scale, it is one of the main drivers of mangrove loss. Our restoration intervention involved digging a meandering 300 m trench to **improve the hydrology** of the area. The trench now directs water flows, regulating water levels, enhancing drainage and spreading nutrients. This restoration approach will cover a total area of almost 10 ha (see figure).

Demonstrating how **upscaling** is key to our restoration strategy, two of the NGOs that we've trained – Women Against Poverty and Mwambao Coastal Community Network – have themselves restored 14 ha of degraded mangrove areas following the CBEMR approach in the Kigamboni Tundwi Songani area. We're gathering additional data and information on this indirect restoration as part of our **monitoring** efforts.

In parallel with this work in the field, we've been **supporting the updating of the Rufiji Mangrove Management Plan**. The previous plan – from 1991 – did little to address issues on community co-management of the mangroves, or emerging challenges such as overharvesting, invasive species and climate change. The updated plan provides guidance on biodiversity conservation, tourism, research and education, and identifies measures for strengthening Village Natural Resource Committees,

the bodies responsible for mangrove conservation and restoration.

Capacity building for Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) officials and community groups has been a focus of our work under this component. The Rufiji Mangrove Management Plan and forest laws of Tanzania prohibit illegal logging and clearing of mangroves – but **enforcement** is key. Mechanisms such as joint forest management provide opportunities for local communities to participate in law enforcement activities: we've been establishing, equipping and training **community patrols to monitor and report illegal activities**. We also provided TFS with drones and tablets, enabling them to work with community conservation committees and conduct targeted patrols to address deforestation alerts.

In collaboration with **Mangrove Action Project**, we built the capacity of 60 stakeholders on **Community-based Mangrove Restoration**. These participants included community leaders, schoolteachers, TFS officials, forest training school instructors, local NGO's and community-based groups such as village natural resource committees. We also trained representatives from Kenya Mozambique and Madagascar, as well as our Wetlands International East Africa staff.

The training also focused on the issue of **encroachment by rice farmers** in the western end of the delta. Together with local rice farmers, participants explored options for combining rice production with the restoration of coastal mangroves. In 2023 we conducted a follow-up training session for practitioners and local authorities on the use of the data and monitoring platform **Global Mangrove Watch**.



In the mangroves of the Rufiji Delta to conduct baseline surveys.

'IF MANGROVES WERE NOT THERE, THERE WOULD BE MAJOR SOIL EROSION AND PERHAPS THESE BEACHES WOULDN'T EXIST'

'Hence these unique forests are key at district and national levels.'

Col. Ahmed Abbas Ahmed,
Kibiti District Commissioner
(served in Kibiti up to 2022)



Unsustainable logging threatens the mangroves of the Rufiji Delta.

2. COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

We're supporting communities to create alternative sustainable livelihoods that can be upscaled on a national level, relieving the pressure on mangrove resources locally and then across far wider areas.



Rufji's mangroves are critically important to Tanzania's fishers.



Mr. Yusuf at a CBEMR training.

'NO TREES, NO LIFE. THE FOREST CAN COME BACK IF WE WORK TOGETHER'

We can change and reverse the challenges facing the delta. It might not be 100% but we have to try and it can be achieved over time. There is need to conserve the mangrove forest in the delta for its importance as; it creates healthy breeding sites for fish; farming sites for rice and also provides building poles and timber – all of which translate to income for the communities that depend on them.'

38-year-old **Jumanne Yusuf Ikumbi**, a father of 4 and the village chairman Nyamisati village, in Kibiti district, a town about 180 kms from Dar es Salaam. Mr. Yusuf has been working tirelessly to raise awareness on the issues facing the delta and their effects on the mangroves he has grown with.

[More of Mr. Yusufs views](#) 



We've piloted several initiatives to create **sustainable livelihoods** to support the well-being of communities in the Rufiji Delta and reduce destructive practices. These initiatives – which include beekeeping, poultry farming, aquaculture, basketry and weaving, and tie-and-dye fabric production – not only contribute to conservation but also provide incomes to community members, a win-win situation.

For example, in Nyamisati village, we're working with the Jikwamue Women group to support their **beekeeping** venture in the mangrove areas. This group of 10 women initially started its initiative with five beehives in 2021. With Wetlands International providing training and materials (25 modern beehives), they're now equipped to conduct mangrove beekeeping. In Mfisini, we're equipping 32 women with the

knowledge and skills to undertake modern **tie-and-dye** techniques and providing them with start-up materials to establish a business, begin production, find a market and make sales.

We extended **micro-finance training** for 40 local micro-business operators (VICOBA), covering subjects like financial literacy, business planning, access to capital, entrepreneurial development, and record-keeping. This training lays the foundation for sustainable enterprises, fostering a positive impact on both individual livelihoods and the broader communities.



Members of Jikwamue Beekeeping Group in Rufiji, Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods.



We're also working to improve **value chains** to maximise the benefits of sustainable livelihoods. For example, we've rehabilitated a 10-tonne cold storage plant for fish products in Nyamisati, which will enable fishers to increase the value of their sales.

Finally, the expansion of rice farms in the Delta needs to be halted to take the pressure off the remaining mangroves. To do so, we're taking a dual approach. On the one hand, we facilitate patrolling to address illegal expansion. A second approach is to **provide alternatives** – so we're piloting rice farming outside the delta on abandoned land. Following our dialogue efforts, the Kibiti District Council has allocated farmers land outside mangrove areas.

'WHEN YOU CONSERVE FORESTS, THEY WILL SERVE YOU'

'We got to know about Wetlands International when they came into the delta and talked about the mangroves. For us, the mangroves are our life. We discussed with them about alternative livelihoods options and we settled for weaving/basketry and batik. We need to be trained on these skills.'

Rukia Bongo
– Treasurer, Umoja na Maendeleo group - (13 members – 10 women and 3 men) in Nyamisati Village



Team having discussions regarding the Mkamungu area, one of Tanzania's restoration sites in the Nyamisati.

3. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

We're bringing mangrove stakeholders together into constructive networks and working to educate young people, creating an enabling environment for mangrove conservation and restoration by building capacity, raising awareness, and resolving conflicts.



Mathew Ntilicha of Tanzania Forest Services with Wetlands International team at one of the mangrove restoration sites in Rufiji delta.

'WE STARTED WORKING WELL WITH WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL ON DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES – ALL FOR CONSERVATION OF RUFJI DELTA MANGROVES'

Mathew Ntilicha – Manager, Tanzania Forest Service (served in Kibiti up to mid-2022) – Kibiti District



Handing out t-shirts to the Environmental Club for Pombwe Pry School.

'I WANT MY CHILDREN TO GROW IN WISDOM AND VALUE THE WEALTH WE RECEIVE FROM MANGROVES'

I would love to go back in time and show them how it used to be but I don't have the power.' That's why, raising awareness among both men and women about their roles in wise use of mangrove resources, is one of the top priorities of Wetlands International. Through a series of meetings and training, where communities come together to identify problems, solutions and alternative sources of livelihood, the programme seeks to reduce the pressure on the mangrove resources. The programme encourages mixed gender decisionmaking and activities so that women, like Maimuna, can voice their thoughts and actively participate in decisions towards wise use of their shared resources.

Maimuna Ramadhani,
39-year-old, resident of the Mchinga village in the Rufiji Delta

In Tanzania, we've established a **National Mangrove Network**, comprised of NGOs, government actors and the private sector. We also support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to increase their impact on the ground: our **Mangrove CSO network for the Rufiji Delta** brings together 35 participants from local conservation groups for training. We're working with them to improve mangrove biodiversity and livelihoods of people who depend on the mangroves. This network also raises awareness about mangrove values and engages in public and private sector policy dialogues.

We collaborated with the **University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Marine Sciences** to build the capacity of 34 stakeholders through a training - of trainers' workshop on mangroves and their conservation in the Rufiji Delta. Participants were mainly headteachers from primary and secondary schools, along with ward education coordinators from the Delta.

This will lead to the gradual establishment of **mangrove school clubs**, which will directly involve schoolchildren and their teachers in the protection and conservation of mangrove biodiversity. The goal is to reach some 25,000 community members in this way.

We've developed **baseline studies** on the area's ecological and socioeconomic contexts, aiming to determine the value of the mangrove ecosystem services in the Rufiji Delta for both people and nature. From these studies, Wetlands International developed a Technical Brief discussing the status, opportunities and challenges of mangrove conservation and management in the delta. Possible solutions have been identified, and numerous recommendations for adoption by

diverse players are presented. We've disseminated key information from this baseline study during ongoing policy discussions, which have been instrumental in shaping decisions in the landscape.

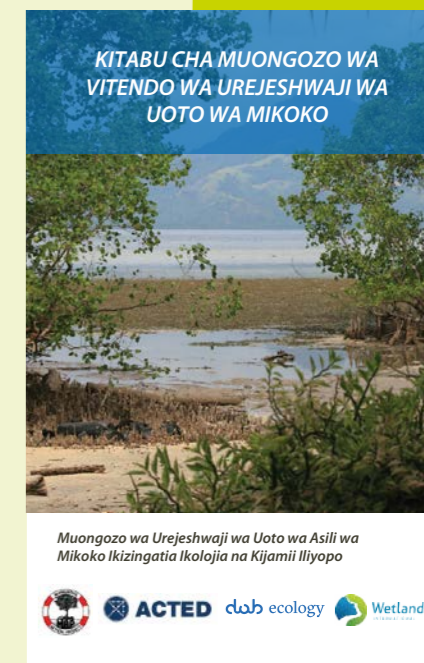
In early 2022 we produced a report on the profiles of pastoralists and rice farmers, aiming to find solutions to the issue of encroachment in the mangrove areas of the Rufiji Delta. One of its recommendations was to hold a **dialogue among key stakeholders**, to find common ground. In November 2022, we hosted a workshop attended by the Kibiti District Commissioner, TFS, the District Executive Director, department heads for Kibiti and Rufiji Districts, farmers' representatives, livestock keepers' leaders, district policymakers, and NGOs. Thanks to this broad participation, various resolutions were reached to ease the conflict. Notably, it was clear that stakeholders lacked familiarity with the management plan and its zonations, so raising awareness in this area was made a priority. In addition, participants discussed how to develop alternatives for farming outside the pristine mangroves of the Rufiji Delta.

We organised a second visioning workshop with key stakeholders from the Kibiti and Rufiji districts, facilitating the development of a shared vision and taking concrete steps toward crafting a landscape strategy and proposition for the region. Diverse voices, from rice farmers advocating for sustainable practices to indigenous Maasai communities championing responsible grazing, contributed to the dialogue, emphasising shared interests in holistic landscape management. We also held consultative meetings with Kibiti District officials on how to mainstream the landscape vision into

district planning processes to ensure it is owned by the District Council. The Tanzania team have developed a **Mangrove Restoration Handbook** and translated Swahili leaflets on **best practice mangrove restoration** from 'To Plant or Not to Plant'.

Finally, with data from the **Global Mangrove Watch** platform (created by Wetlands International and partners), we've created the most detailed and accurate mangrove cover and mangrove change maps for the African continent ever produced. We've run training and follow-up sessions for officials in the Rufiji Delta on how best to use this and other Global Mangrove Watch tools.

Through our extensive awareness-raising efforts, demonstration pilots, stakeholder engagement and support to local communities in sustainable mangrove conservation and restoration in the Rufiji Delta, we've significantly elevated our profile and visibility as a credible organisation. As a result, we've been invited to participate in various decision-making and advisory processes at both sub-national and national levels. For instance, we now hold a seat on the steering committee of WWF's newly launched mangrove project. Additionally, local organisations such as HUDEFU and Women Against Poverty have invited us to assess progress in their mangrove restoration initiatives. This is important for mobilising engagement to upscale ambition in the region, and shows increased recognition and appreciation of the successful application of our mangrove restoration approaches.



Mangrove Restoration Handboek in Swahili

4. NATIONAL AND LANDSCAPE SCALE

We're strategically targeting key sectors to upscale our impact across Tanzania and beyond.



Fiddler Crab.



'A REGIONAL PLATFORM PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT SPACE'

A space for upscaling and replication of the best applicable practices across the two regions in Africa. Moreover, it will help foster relations across the key mangrove actors by ensuring there is an exchange and flow of knowledge and information, provision for networking, and creation of awareness and sensitisation about these fragile ecosystems. As the world advances in technology and innovation to support the management of information concerning mangroves, this platform can provide an enabling environment to showcase such functionality.'

Diana Kishiki,
Mangrove Focal Point Officer with Kenya Forest Service



We work at a **national and landscape scale** to ensure sustainable mangrove management, supporting mangrove conservation, restoration and wise use and preventing mangrove destruction from large-scale developments. Incorporating mangrove conservation into development plans can help to ensure that the impacts are minimised and that the ecological integrity of these important ecosystems is maintained. Initiating meaningful dialogue with river basin authorities to ensure the inclusion of mitigation measures in development plans is key.



Wetlands International has been contributing to **national** platforms including the **African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)**, to share our knowledge and to encourage upscaling and collaboration with national stakeholders. We also partner with the **Western Indian Ocean Mangrove Network (WIOMN)**, to share lessons learned from Rufiji Delta with stakeholders across the wider region.



In September 2022, Wetlands International East Africa, together with WWF and IUCN, published **The State of Mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean report**. This is the first report to comprehensively quantify and map mangrove blue carbon, drivers of change, and the restoration potential for mangroves in the region. It's based on an analysis of Global Mangrove Watch data, following a systematic and standardised approach adopted and endorsed by the world's five main conservation organisations. The report has been disseminated widely among policymakers and practitioners across the region, including in Tanzania, as well as globally.

In the same month, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, TFS and Wetlands International, in collaboration with other stakeholders, convened a high-level conference to identify key issues in the conservation and restoration of **blue carbon ecosystems** for sustainable provision of services to people and nature. Called Living Blue, the conference also aimed to build synergies among different stakeholders in the protection and management of blue ecosystems.

We've been working with IUCN and WWF to organise **South-South exchange visits** between stakeholders in Africa's Western Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean regions. These visits give specialists from different countries the opportunity to discuss best practices in site selection, community engagement, livelihood diversification, and sustainable coastal protection and restoration methods. Governance, strategy development and policy are also on the agenda. One of our aims is to inspire regional upscaling of Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR). There have also been discussions about establishing an **Africa-wide Platform for Mangrove Conservation**.



Group photo of the Phase II South-South Collaboration.

Our advocacy efforts have further contributed to:

The update of the **Rufiji Delta Mangrove Management Plan**, by facilitating the engagement of stakeholders including the local community for effective implementation. This plan serves as a tool to administer and control mangrove conversion, ensuring protection of essential functions and guiding ecosystem management for biodiversity, tourism and education. It also identifies measures for strengthening Village Natural Resource Committees, responsible for mangrove conservation and restoration. The previous plan was developed more than 30 years ago (1991) and did not adequately address issues on co-management of the mangroves, invasive species, climate change and other challenges.

The establishment of the **National Mangrove Platform**, which facilitates the exchange of knowledge and information among key mangrove stakeholders, aiming to coordinate actions and upscale best practices for mangrove conservation and restoration nationwide. It also aims to garner public support for policies promoting mangrove conservation, such as the Rufiji Delta Mangrove Management Plan.

The creation of the **National Wetlands Stakeholders' Platform**, which assists the government in reviewing policies and legal frameworks, with a focus on effective wetlands management, including mangroves.

Moreover, we trained **20 policymakers on Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR)** to enhance their understanding, promote knowledge-sharing, and address policy gaps in mangrove restoration and conservation.



District Commissioner Colonel Joseph Kolombo receiving the summarized and translated mangrove management plan from Principal Conservator Frank Sima. Spectating the action is the District Administrative Secretary.

'THIS PLAN WILL SUPPORT IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ECOSYSTEM'

'Before trade in mangrove forest products such as poles and timber was banned in 2016, it used to contribute about 90% of our income. This plan will support in the sustainable management of the ecosystem and its services in addition to guiding and aiding the resumption of trade in mangrove products to uplift our livelihoods.'

Omari Muomboka, community member



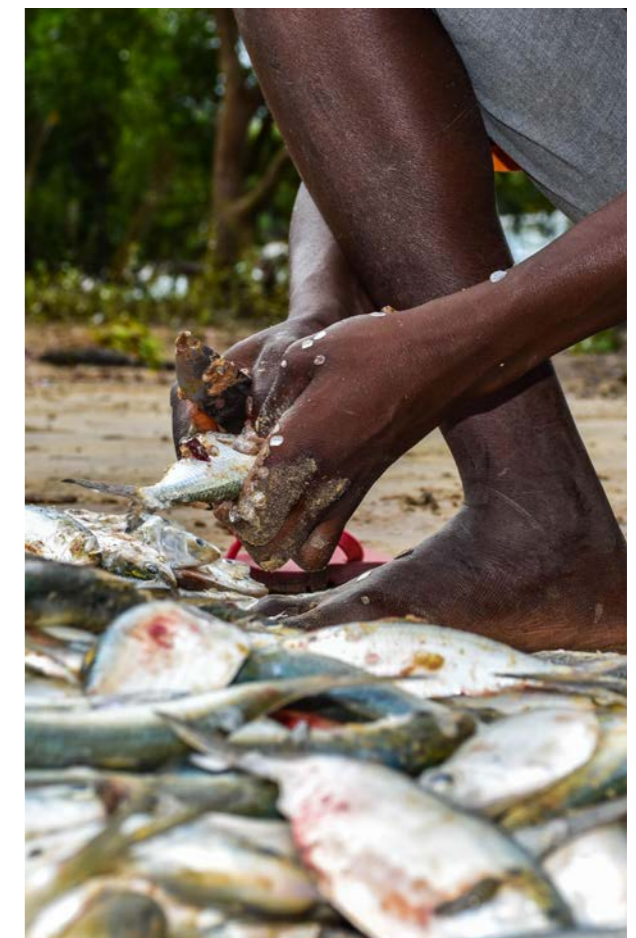
Wetlands International staff at Mawanda Restoration site.

NEXT STEPS

Pressure on the Delta remains extremely significant, and we need further support to continue and expand our work towards a more sustainable and resilient mangrove ecosystem. Our Global Mangrove Watch alerts show that rice farms continue to be expanded into pristine mangrove areas. In addition, the first effects of the hydropower developments in the Rufiji River are being felt in the field, where decreasing freshwater flows are increasing salinity in rice farms and mangrove areas.

In the next phase of the project, we aim to consolidate our work in the north, while expanding our scope to the wider delta. Your support can help us deliver priority activities including:

- Ensuring continuous implementation of the management plan by building the capacity of TFS, community organisations, and NGOs. We need to provide more tools and set up more collaborations.
- Anchoring the improved, alternative and additional livelihoods we've piloted. Further consolidation could entail assisting with processing and manufacturing, ensuring access to small-scale finance, and support in reaching wider markets.
- Driving continuing long-term landscape-level dialogue with stakeholders to address the root causes of key threats, for example by ensuring the hydrology and sediment balances in the Rufiji River, and limiting the negative impacts of rice farming and hydropower.
- Large-scale mangrove restoration in the Southern part of the Rufiji Delta



Scaling and cutting fish for sale.



A channel dug to restore the hydrology previously disrupted by salt harvesting in Msindaji, Rufiji Delta.

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