



PHOTO CREDIT: USAID Resilient Community Governance

# TANZANIA

## USAID RESILIENT COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE PROJECT

### BACKGROUND

The USAID Resilient Community Governance Project is a five-year (2020 - 2025), \$2.88 million project to conserve land, wildlife, forests, and water resources in the Lyamba Iya Mfipa ecosystem in the Rukwa Region. The project, implemented by the Tanzanian organization Lawyers Environment Action Team, addresses primary threats to biodiversity, and builds the resilience of communities and ecosystems in a cluster of 18 communities in the Sumbawanga and Nkasi District Councils in the Rukwa region. The project focuses on developing and implementing inclusive land-use plans, building the capacity of communities to hold institutions entrusted with managing natural resources accountable, and enabling communities and local government authorities to holistically manage natural resources.

## CHALLENGE

Tanzania's Lyamba Iya Mfipa ecosystem, rich in biodiversity and a critical habitat for endangered red colobus monkeys and other species, is facing increasing threats from activities that compete for land. Communities also depend on this ecosystem, but lack inclusive land use plans and land security to sustainably manage it for their own benefit. Women and youth in particular are often marginalized in natural resource decision structures.

## GOALS

**Citizen management:** The USAID Resilient Community Governance Project realizes its objectives through a series of citizen-centered interventions that improve the capacities of communities and their respective local government authorities to holistically manage natural resources. Locally led, inclusive natural resource management systems and land use planning culminate in land tenure for villagers, with a focus on empowering women and youth within their communities.

**Training:** The USAID Resilient Community Governance Project provides information and training that empowers village-based decision making and holds the government more accountable to provide services, such as forest protection and land titles, that promote community and ecological resilience.

The project's goals also include::

- Development and implementation of inclusive land-use plans, by-laws and other natural resources management processes and tools.
- Improved capacity of communities to hold institutions entrusted with managing natural resources accountable.
- Improved capacity of communities and local government authorities to manage natural resources.
- Ensuring community awareness and knowledge of natural resources governance, social accountability monitoring, and climate change.

## CONTACT

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Further information is available at [www.usaid.gov/tanzania](http://www.usaid.gov/tanzania) and USAID/Tanzania social media sites.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2020 - Present)

- More than **22,000 people** with improved economic benefits
- More than **16,000 land tenure certificates** issued to communities
- More than **11,000 people** with reduced vulnerability to climate change
- **128,000 hectares of land under improved management** via locally led village land use plans

