



## At a glance

The Sustainability and Inclusion Strategy for Growth Corridors in Africa (SUSTAIN-Africa) was created to implement climate-resilient landscape development in Tanzania and Mozambique. The model for change used in SUSTAIN combines consensus building and joint action on the ground with learning for policy framing and scale-up, to transition from business-as-usual to economic trajectories that combine growth with ecosystem resilience and social prosperity. The project began in 2014 and is set to last for ten years. Having reached the midway point of implementation, we have started to see promising results.



### Water security

New Water Use Associations: 8  
Investments in water services: USD 230,000



### Climate resilience

Area of land under sustainable management: 103,409 ha  
Carbon sequestered: 658,286 t  
Landscape and restoration plans: 35



### Business and investments

Landscape partnerships: 18  
Farmers linked to markets: 2,246  
Women in savings groups: 69 percent



### Policy and learning

Supportive bylaws: 24  
Households with secure land rights: 1,231  
Sensitisation and training on inclusive and green practices: 36,454 people

The **SUSTAIN Partnership** is composed of IUCN, the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL), the African Wildlife Foundation, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, and Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP), with the MICAIA Foundation.

# Results and learning from SUSTAIN Phase 1

## Governance and institutional strengthening

### Results

SUSTAIN's work on governance improved the functioning and inclusion of local governance structures, such as Water Use Associations, Catchment Committees, Village Land Use Committees, and Natural Resources Management Committees. SUSTAIN has also built capacity and strengthened governance in Forest and Farm Producer Organisations. Besides empowering local structures, SUSTAIN built linkages between these structures, culminating in their convergence through multi-stakeholder dialogues for optimising trade-offs between land, water, ecosystem, and business uses in the wider landscape.

### Learning

- ❖ Local institutions stimulate economic development and livelihood security while also controlling forest conversion, food security, water abstraction, and pollution.
- ❖ Partnerships involving multiple stakeholders catalyse institutional change and, together with multi-stakeholder platforms, help ensure equitable participation and contributions to decision making.
- ❖ Sustainability capacity, together with champions from business and government, leads to mainstreaming sustainability principles into the development process.

## Integrated natural resources management

### Results

Implementation of integrated natural resources management has led to a total of 103,490 hectares of land being placed under sustainable management, two areas of forest being put under improved protection in Tanzania, and one protected area in Mozambique becoming better resourced. Water availability and quality has also increased, due to improved governance as well as monitoring implemented under SUSTAIN. The shift to climate-smart agriculture in SUSTAIN landscapes is leading to increased productivity whilst strengthening ecosystem connectivity. Diversification of crops, as well as nature-based business development, is increasing food security and incomes for local communities.

### Learning

- ❖ Sustainable production in smallholder farms is key to achieving food security and prosperity, as well as habitat protection and ecosystem restoration.
- ❖ Climate-smart agriculture technologies can be simple to adopt AND effective at improving resilience and livelihoods. Partnerships between value chain actors help with technology transfer.
- ❖ Upfront investment in forming and/or strengthening local institutions, especially producer organisations, enables smallholder inclusion into value chains and improves smallholder access to capacity, finance, and markets.

## Business engagement and market opportunities

### Results

SUSTAIN has engaged with businesses, both within the landscapes where they operate and at the national level, to integrate sustainability into business policies, practices, and value chains. Landscape partnerships involved bringing multiple actors to the table, assessing their needs and interests, and then forming partnerships that addressed mutual goals. At the national level, SUSTAIN collaborated with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania and ENAM Business School in Mozambique to develop guidance and build capacity of businesses on sustainability.

### Learning

- ❖ Businesses with international linkages are useful allies to promote sector strategies for sustainability, though proposed solutions need to be practical and material.
- ❖ It is as (or more) important to engage with small and medium businesses as it is with larger ones.
- ❖ The establishment or strengthening of market linkages for smallholders enables the transition to inclusive and green development pathways.



Driven by investment, business, technology and the dynamism of its people, Africa is changing at a rate perhaps unmatched in recorded history. Of the 20 fastest growing economies in the world, nine are in Africa. Photo © Maria Ana Borges

## Sustainable investment

### Results

SUSTAIN's work on sustainable investment is still at an early stage of development. The main result under Phase 1 has been the establishment of a partnership with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania and the Tanzanian Bankers' Association to adopt and implement sustainable finance principles for the banking sector. The intent is for these principles to help mainstream sustainability into lending and investment. In SUSTAIN landscapes, there has also been piloting of investment mechanisms for ecosystem services protection. Finally, SUSTAIN has established village savings schemes in both Mozambique and Tanzania.

### Learning

- ❖ The finance sector needs to own the sustainability conversation.
- ❖ Scale is extremely important when it comes to finance.
- ❖ Leveraging finance and investment for growth that fosters ecosystem stewardship and social prosperity is a long-term endeavour.



Mining accounts for 60% of foreign exchange earnings in Southern Africa, yet its impacts on people and nature need to be carefully managed. Photo © IUCN/SUSTAIN-Africa

## The future

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A second phase of SUSTAIN is under development and is expected to begin in late 2020, subject to final approval. SUSTAIN 2 aims to build climate-resilient people-centred development by improving coordination and inclusion in governance structures and processes at different levels; by strengthening capacity, practices, and knowledge linked to sustainable land, water, and business management; and by increasing investment in ecosystems and inclusive and green businesses.

The main changes from SUSTAIN 1 to 2 will be:

- Tightening of intervention areas for impact.
- A people-centred inclusion component to ensure the programme's goal of social prosperity.

- A fit-for-purpose partnership for delivery that enables partners to work within their areas of expertise.
- Knowledge management and communications that reinforce learning and build a community of practice for climate-resilient development.
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning that enables sustainability of results and learning.

During Phase 2, we will also plan for the long-term sustainability of SUSTAIN results. This involves building up a pipeline of co-investment, working with local organisations and communities to ensure local ownership, and capturing and disseminating learning to encourage replication and scale-up.

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### For more information:

- 🔗 SUSTAIN-Africa website: [www.sustaininitiative.org](http://www.sustaininitiative.org)
  - 🔗 Feature story on SUSTAIN-Africa: <https://digital.iucn.org/water/sustain/>
  - 🔗 Video library: [www.sustaininitiative.org](http://www.sustaininitiative.org)
  - 🔗 Twitter: [www.twitter.com/IUCN\\_Water](https://www.twitter.com/IUCN_Water)
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Women directly contribute to reducing poverty, reinvesting on average up to 90 percent of their income back into their own households. Photo ADPP/SUSTAIN-Africa