



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Why we exist

Tanzania is home to some of the most biodiverse, magnificent, and pristine ecosystems on earth, which remain unspoiled, resilient, and thriving thanks to the stewardship and conservation commitment of Tanzanian communities.

Operating on the fundamental principle that human well-being is inextricably linked to the health of the environment, TACCEI champions community-led solutions.

We do this by empowering communities to protect their ecosystems, sustain their livelihoods, and build long-term climate resilience.

Goal 1

Promote Community-Led Conservation & Ecosystem Restoration.

Goal 2

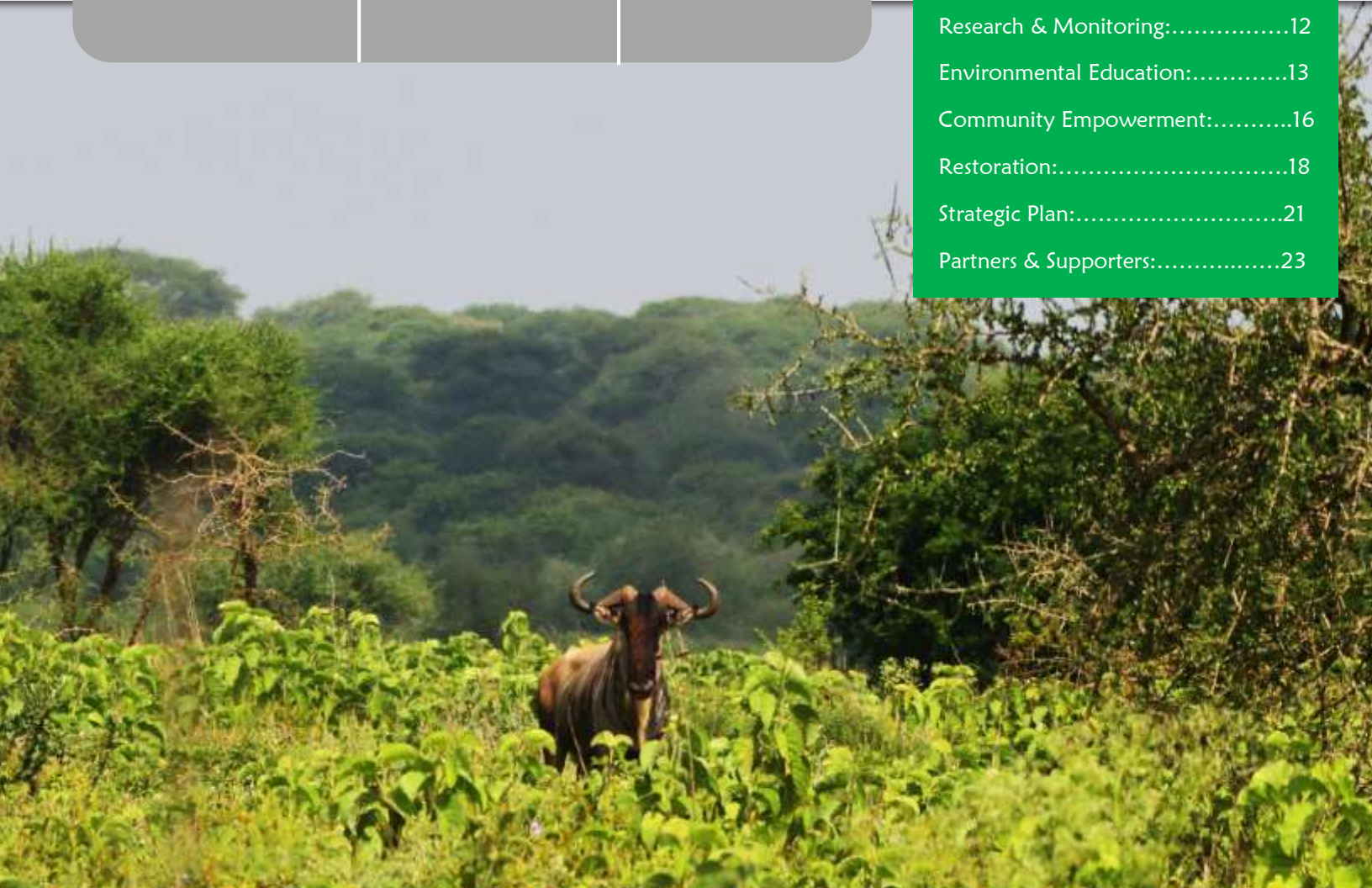
Enhance Livelihood Diversification, Education & Health Access.

Goal 3

Strengthen Climate-Resilient Livelihoods.

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2025 In Numbers



Community-based conservation

4,500+

Livestock protected from carnivore attacks

20,000+

Community members reached & trained through environmental education

15+

Fortified livestock enclosures constructed

3

Conservation tournaments (Mazingira Cup) conducted (5 secondary schools and 10 villages mobilized and participated)



Community Empowerment

30+

Homestead gardens supported

300+

Women empowered through VSLAs & entrepreneurship

100+

Million Tanzanian shillings made by women VSLA groups



Climate Adaptation

20,000+

Tree seedlings planted

10+

Acres of degraded land restored across our working area

3

Vegetable gardens established in public schools to improve children's health





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Forewords



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

Reflecting on 2025 at TACCEI, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering partnership. Together, we made extraordinary strides to protect the vital Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem and empower the communities who call it home. Your belief in our vision is the driving force behind every milestone, and your investment has directly fueled our success on the ground.

With your vital backing this year, we developed a comprehensive new Strategic Plan and Theory of Change to guide our work through 2030. These foundational blueprints will sharpen our focus, maximize the impact of your generosity, and ensure our programs remain deeply responsive to the evolving needs of this landscape.

Because of you, our community-led conservation efforts truly flourished. Your support allowed us to protect over 4,500

livestock from carnivore attacks by constructing 15 fortified enclosures, directly securing local livelihoods. Our environmental education initiatives also reached new heights: the Mazingira Cup tournament mobilized over 10,000 participants across 10 villages and 5 secondary schools, while our Cinema for Conservation initiative used film to inspire households living adjacent to protected areas. Furthermore, we advanced our fight against climate change through the strategic, cost-effective management of four community tree nurseries.

I hope you feel a deep sense of pride as you read through this report, because these accomplishments are as much yours as they are ours. Thank you for standing with TACCEI, with the local communities, and with the incredible wildlife of the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation,

Justine Robert Lukumay



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Executive
Summary

Executive Summary

In 2025, the Tanzania Conservation and Community Empowerment Initiative (TACCEI) proved that biodiversity conservation and community empowerment can advance hand in hand across the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem. A cornerstone achievement was formulating our new 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, a blueprint designed to institutionalize community-led governance and long-term ecological resilience.

Driven by an integrated approach to ecosystem health, we expanded community-managed tree nurseries to scale landscape restoration. This year, we substantially deepened youth engagement across all programs and advanced economic empowerment by delivering seed capital to women's entrepreneurship groups, ensuring inclusive local ownership.

Our fieldwork heavily prioritized human-wildlife coexistence, partnering with pastoralists to introduce sustainable conflict-mitigation strategies that protect critical livestock. Crucially, we strengthened our climate adaptation partnerships to combat accelerating environmental pressures across the landscape.

Finally, we proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of FEMI, our dedicated, long-term partner, honoring their three decades of shared vision and impactful collaboration across the globe. Backed by these global alliances, TACCEI remains committed to our long-term vision. Moving forward under our new strategic plan, we continue building the self-sustaining, community-led systems required to guarantee a resilient future where Tanzania's biodiversity and its people prosper together.

Summary – Breakthroughs 2025

Governance

Major Breakthroughs 2025

Our first-ever Strategic Plan and Theory of Change represent a breakthrough in TACCEI's governance. This foundational blueprint establishes a clear roadmap for 2026–2030, anchored by three interconnected pillars: biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and community empowerment.

Partnership

Major Breakthroughs 2025

In 2025, our deepened collaboration with FEMI served as a powerful catalyst for organizational growth, enabling a major restructuring of our management systems. This strategic overhaul has streamlined leadership, optimized resource allocation, and enhanced our field-level efficiency.

Amplifying this momentum, we significantly expanded our global alliance by partnering with the **Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)**, which selected TACCEI to serve as the In-Country Focal Point for the Youth Adaptation Network. These breakthroughs equip us with the robust management and strategic networks required to scale our community-led conservation and youth-driven climate adaptation impacts.

Sports for conservation

Major Breakthroughs 2025

In 2025, we achieved a breakthrough by pioneering sports as an innovative vehicle for community engagement and environmental awareness. By organizing three dynamic tournaments for local schools and communities, we mobilized more than 10,000 participants, creating an unprecedented platform to share a vital message. This sports-based approach has shattered traditional barriers to engagement, transforming crowded community fields into vibrant classrooms for ecological literacy and ensuring our climate resilience message resonates deeply across generations.

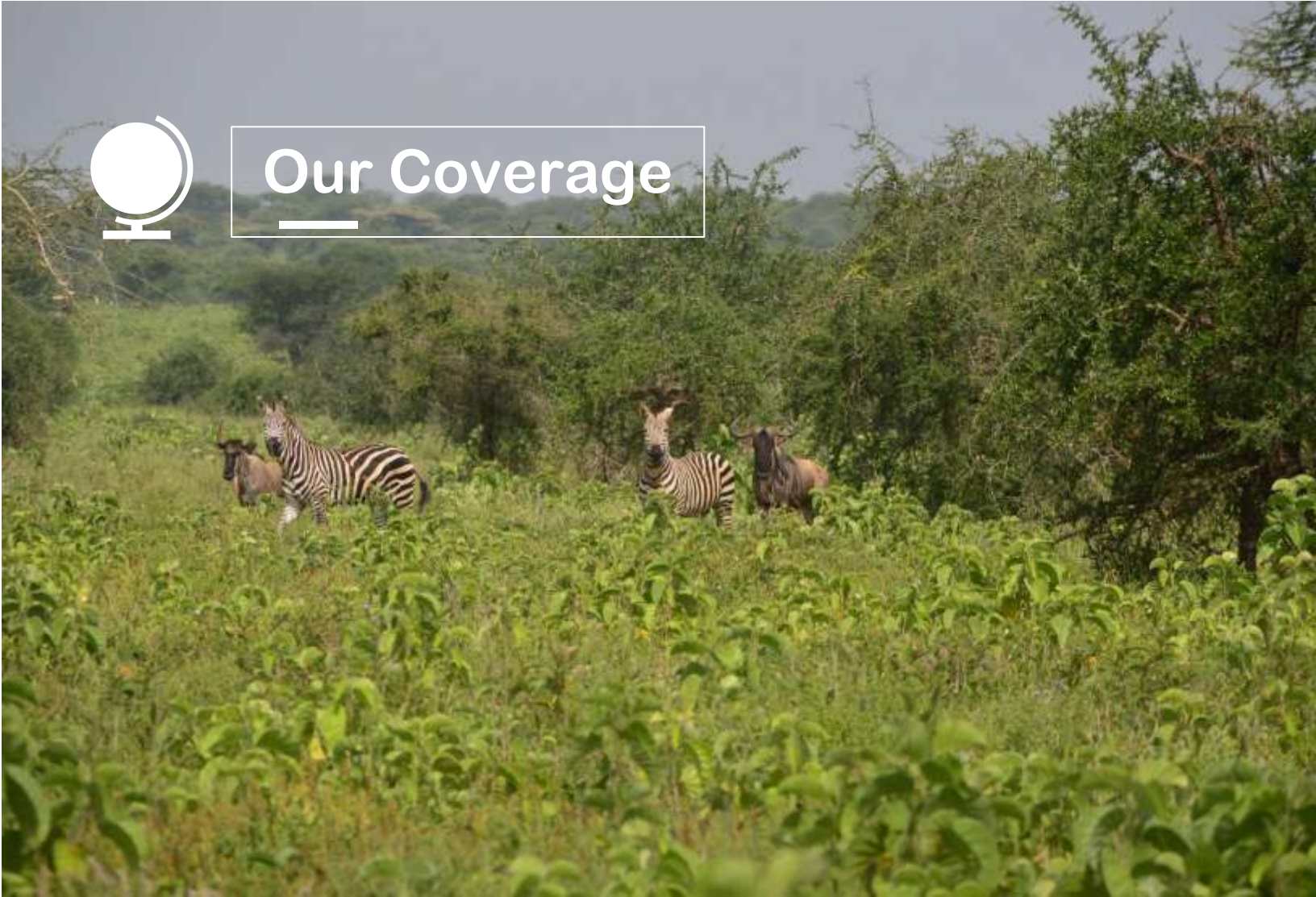


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Where we work

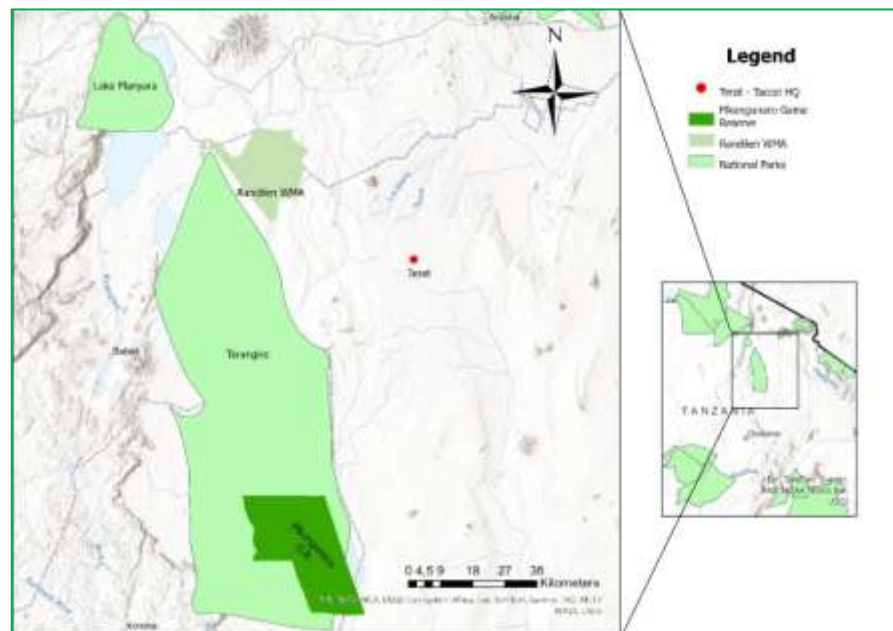


Our Coverage



TACCEI works on the frontlines of conservation across the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem (TME) in northern Tanzania, collaborating closely with local communities, authorities, and stakeholders. The TME spans 16,521 km², with over 60% of this territory existing outside core protected areas. Because the majority of this landscape lies outside national parks and is shared with local communities, community-led conservation is essential.

Our operational footprint spans an interconnected network of key conservation sites, including Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, Mkungunero Game Reserve, and the Simanjiro, Mto wa Mbu, and Lolikisale Game Controlled Areas. We actively engage across the Burunge, Randilen, and Makame Community Wildlife Management Areas, as well as the critical Kwakuchinja, Kibaoni, and Manyara Ranch wildlife corridors that serve as essential migratory pathways





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Key
Breakthroughs



4.1 Community-based Conservation



Our community-Based Conservation Program bridges the vital link between thriving pastoralist livelihoods and robust biodiversity protection. By placing local communities firmly at the center of our work, we ensure that those who share their landscapes with wildlife are the primary stewards of their protection. Through direct interventions like fortified enclosures, community-led rangeland restoration, and empowerment, we actively transform potential human-wildlife conflict into a shared responsibility.

Program goals and functions

This program bridges generations of traditional ecological knowledge with proven conservation strategies. By putting local communities at the helm, we transform potential conflict zones into resilient, shared landscapes where strategic investments deliver both tangible biodiversity protection and sustainable empowerment. The program delivers through three core sub-programs:

**Human-wildlife
coexistence**



**Research
&
monitoring**



**Environmental
education**

Key Breakthroughs

Human-wildlife coexistence

In the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem (TME), human-wildlife conflict presents a significant challenge to both local livelihoods and wildlife conservation efforts. Across the landscape, 75% of households experience livestock losses due to predation, contributing to an annual herd loss rate of 1.4%. The cumulative financial impact of this depredation is estimated at US\$141,847, representing an average annual loss of US\$633 per affected household.



Our intervention

Fortified Livestock Enclosures

Our fortified livestock enclosures are made from chain-link fencing and native *Commiphora* stems.

These structures are designed to offer effective protection against predators such as lions, hyenas, and leopards, significantly reducing livestock losses and retaliatory killings, thereby strengthening local support for conservation efforts.

In 2025, we continued to promote harmony between people and wildlife. Practically, TACCEI supported the construction of **15 livestock enclosures**, protecting **over 4,500 livestock** from carnivore attacks.



"Before receiving the fortified enclosure, I woke up one morning to find that eight of my sheep and goats, including my primary breeding ram, had been killed in a single night because our traditional boma was too weak to withstand predators. Since the installation of this new enclosure, I haven't lost a single animal. The peace of mind it provides has truly transformed my perspective, making it possible for us to live harmoniously alongside wildlife."

Stephano Kabuti, Pastoralist and project beneficiary from Terrat



Key Breakthroughs, Research & Monitoring

Throughout 2025, TACCEI advanced its biodiversity research by systematically monitoring key wildlife populations across the ecologically vital Simanjiro Plains and villages bordering the Randilen Wildlife Management Area (RWMA). Deploying a robust, multi-methodological approach, our research teams paired motion-triggered camera traps with systematic line-transect surveys to map species distribution and habitat occupancy. By surveying three distinct transects across the plains, we gathered critical baseline data on wildlife presence, mortality indicators, and human activities.



In 2025, the camera trap results continued to indicate **low capture** rates of **striped hyenas** across the three transects. The study also noted that this species primarily occurs **near water bodies** (such as ponds and dams) and **carcass sites**.

Our comprehensive transect surveys revealed a landscape under **intense pressure**, capturing evidence of widespread anthropogenic threats, including **active poaching** and **extensive charcoal burning**. These escalating human activities, compounded by a combination of natural and human-driven mortality factors, are actively disrupting baseline wildlife populations and fracturing critical ecosystems.

By documenting these urgent challenges directly on the ground, TACCEI has secured the vital **empirical data** necessary to drive **community-led mitigation** and pioneer **immediate interventions** where they are needed most.



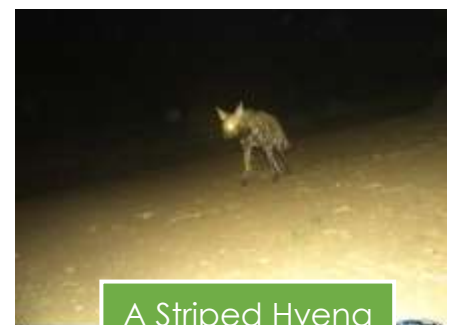
Some of the 2025 camera trap pictures from the field



A Leopard



A Porcupine



A Striped Hyena



Key Breakthroughs, Environmental Education

Our Environmental Education Program transforms awareness into direct, community-led action. In 2025, TACCEI mobilized over 20,000 community members and students to recognize, confront, and solve critical environmental challenges.

Through dynamic platforms like the **Mazingira Cup**, immersive conservation **film screenings**, and hands-on **restoration workshops**, we empowered communities to directly address the ecological challenges affecting their landscapes.



Film screening

In 2025, this impactful program reached over 10,000 students and community members across 20 partner schools and villages. By bringing immersive environmental storytelling directly to the grassroots level, we have successfully dismantled long-held misconceptions and turned passive onlookers into active conservation advocates. This visual medium has ignited a profound cultural shift, inspiring thousands of rural youth and elders to step forward as proactive guardians of their shared ecosystem.



"The visual format really grabbed my attention and helped me understand complex environmental details much better than a textbook ever could. Now, I see our natural resources differently and feel inspired to protect them every day."

Student, Terrat Secondary School



Mazingira Cup, Scoring for Conservation



The Mazingira Cup transformed conservation into a community-wide celebration, directly reaching over **10,000 people** across **ten villages** and **five secondary schools**.

While the tournament provided essential sports gear, including jerseys, balls, and training materials, it was the grand prizes that fundamentally shifted local mindsets.

By awarding **fortified livestock enclosures** as top tournament prizes, the event directly connected wildlife protection with community security. This innovative approach bridged the gap between conservation and daily livelihoods, permanently shifting perceptions and proving that human-wildlife coexistence is a win for everyone.



"On behalf of our team, I thank TACCEI for the Mazingira Cup. Winning the sports gear was exciting, but the fortified livestock enclosure prize transformed our lives. It protects our cattle from predators, showing that wildlife conservation benefits our families. TACCEI gave our village peace of mind and a future to thrive alongside nature."

Team Captain, Komolo Village Team





Capacity building Workshops

In 2025, we organized the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, the event that stood as a premier capacity-building milestone, uniting over 100 dynamic young leaders from across the country to drive grassroots climate adaptation, environmental education and community awareness. By securing this national leadership mantle, we have solidified our platform as a vital engine for youth-led climate policy, transforming enthusiastic young advocates into skilled architects of local sustainability and community-wide climate resilience.



"Attending this workshop was a game-changer for me. I am incredibly grateful for the practical skills, deep climate knowledge, and powerful network of peers I gained. Having the opportunity to actively learn about and contribute our voices to shaping Tanzania's upcoming five-year NDCs roadmap made us feel truly valued. We didn't just sit in a classroom; we were empowered as actual decision-makers for our country's climate future."

Workshop Participant, Youth Action Day, 2025



Community Empowerment

At TACCEI, we believe that sustainable conservation is impossible without economic security. By directly addressing poverty, the root cause of environmental degradation, our **Community Empowerment Program** replaces destructive activities with eco-friendly **entrepreneurial ventures**. By promoting sustainable business practices and the rollout of our innovative, **climate-smart homestead gardens**, we are equipping local families with resilient, green livelihoods. This powerful approach does more than just protect ecosystems; it places local communities at the very center of conservation, proving that when people thrive, biodiversity thrives alongside them.



At TACCEI, we drive community resilience through an innovative, self-sustaining group rotation entrepreneurship model. Each year, an initial cohort of ten groups receives one year of intensive monitoring, business mentorship, and a financial seed loan of TZS 1,000,000. At the end of the cycle, these groups reinvest their original loan capital back into a standby pool to fund the next cohort.



In 2025, this community-led rotation triggered phenomenal economic growth, with each group saving an average of TZS 11,000,000. This proven model demonstrates that targeted micro-investment combined with community accountability unlocks sustainable wealth, long-term financial independence, and sustainable natural resource management.



“Before joining the women’s savings group, I relied on a small, seasonal income that could barely support my family. After TACCEI’s entrepreneurship training, everything changed. I learned how to plan a business, manage my savings, and keep proper financial records, skills I never imagined I could master.”

Nairukoki, Project Beneficiary



Through this transformative program, the Maasai community is taking proactive ownership of its future by addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By integrating traditional ecological knowledge with innovative, climate-smart solutions, local families are establishing sustainable livelihoods that support household well-being and promote long-term economic resilience.





Restoration & Climate Change Adaptation

Through our Restoration and Climate Change Adaptation Program, we actively empower community members to enhance their capacity to develop sustainable livelihood options that alleviate poverty and conserve biodiversity. By integrating hands-on training with the establishment of tree nurseries, active tree planting, and climate-smart homestead gardens, this initiative equips local families with the tools to build ecological and economic resilience. Ultimately, the program creates a self-sustaining model where community-led environmental restoration directly secures climate-resilient livelihoods, safeguarding vital ecosystems for future generations.

In 2025, our climate-smart homestead gardening program expanded its impact, providing over 30 households with the vital resources and technical training needed to achieve long-term resilience. By transitioning to these adaptive, environmentally sustainable farming practices, local families successfully fortified their food security and insulated themselves against climate-induced shocks. In 2025, the program served as a self-sustaining health and financial model that yielded surplus organic produce, allowed households to diversify their income streams, and fostered group-based economic independence.





“Before TACCEI’s support, providing for my family was a constant struggle. But through my garden, everything changed. Today, I am proud to fully support my children’s education and invest in our future. From the income generated, I have bought a goat, ten chickens, and have even begun building a modern house for my family.”

Vaileth, Project Beneficiary



In 2025, TACCEI made astounding progress in restoring degraded landscapes and tree planting. With support from our partners, **Paint the Globe Foundation**, **Global Exploration**, and the **Global Landscape Forum**, our community-managed tree nurseries raised over 20,000 tree seedlings that were planted around water sources, public spaces, and other degraded areas across the landscape.



“Our school compound used to be very dry, dusty, and hot, but partnering with TACCEI has brought a wonderful change to Loswaki Primary School. The trees we planted are thriving, and they have completely transformed our environment as well as serve as a practical example that teaches our pupils the value of taking care of our environment daily.”

Shauri, Teacher, Loswaki Primary School.



In 2025, **TACCEI** solidified its position as a key institutional driver of climate action by officially joining the **Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)** as the in-country focal point for the Youth Adaptation Network. This international partnership underscores our growing influence in mobilizing youth-led climate resilience initiatives across Tanzania. Embracing this role, our Executive Director was selected to attend the high-level Climate Leadership Academy in Nairobi, Kenya. This intensive professional training equipped our leadership with advanced, cutting-edge strategies in climate adaptation, policy engagement, and sustainable ecosystem management, further strengthening TACCEI's capacity to design and execute impactful, community-led conservation frameworks through 2030 and beyond.



“Attending the Climate Leadership Academy in Nairobi was a transformative milestone for both my leadership and TACCEI's strategic vision. Engaging with Africa's top climate experts equipped me with advanced adaptation frameworks to elevate our grassroots work. This experience has sharpened our institutional capacity, directly strengthening how we design and deploy community-led conservation models across Tanzania to ensure lasting, resilient impact.”

Justine Robert, Executive Director, TACCEI.



Furthermore, this strategic partnership served as a powerful catalyst for our advocacy efforts, enabling us to successfully convene the milestone **Youth Action Day**. This high-impact event united over 100 passionate young changemakers and grassroots leaders from across the nation, creating a unified front for youth-led climate action.

Through targeted, immersive climate adaptation workshops, participants gained a deep understanding of complex environmental policy frameworks. The forum successfully equipped and empowered these youth to raise their voices, demand accountability, and actively contribute local perspectives to national-level climate discussions, specifically driving youth inclusion within Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This initiative has effectively bridged the gap between community-level realities and national policy formulation, ensuring the next generation has a permanent seat at the table.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2030



Fostering Resilience, Conservation, & Prosperity



New Strategic Plan, 2026 – 2030

2025 marked the successful formulation and launching of TACCEI's new five-year Strategic Plan (2026–2030), a comprehensive roadmap themed "**Fostering Resilience, Conservation, & Prosperity.**" Over the next five years, this plan outlines a clear institutional trajectory to transition from project-based facilitation to long-term ecosystem stewardship. Driven by three interconnected medium-term goals: **strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods, promoting community-led conservation** and **enhancing climate change adaptation.** By focusing on horizontal expansion into critical wildlife corridors and institutional capacity strengthening, the plan establishes a sustainable, community-owned model that ensures local systems can independently maintain ecological and economic progress by 2030. We extend our deepest, unwavering gratitude to **FEMI** and the **University of Radboud** (Prof. Sara Kinsbergen and Dr. Zunera Rana), whose exceptional support, collaboration, and dedication were instrumental in shaping this transformative document.



Celebrating 30 Years of Shared Vision and Impact

A deeply meaningful highlight of our year was celebrating the 30th anniversary of the FEMI Foundation, a milestone Jubilee event held in Kenya to honor three decades of advancing sustainable development and local empowerment. As proud partners of FEMI since 2023, we were deeply honored to have two of our TACCEI colleagues attend this inspiring gathering. Standing alongside fellow global changemakers, our team reflected on our shared journey of fostering ecosystem conservation and resilient livelihoods across East Africa.



We are grateful to our supporters who make our work possible

We offer our sincere thanks to the growing network of generous partners, donors, and visionaries whose support drives our mission forward.



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