



TANZANIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

TECOSO

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TECOSO HISTORY

Before and up to the 1970's the rich and dense Tropical Rain Forests found on top of The Kilimanjaro geared up a significant rain forest ecosystem in the surrounding areas. The Kilimanjaro forest grew undisturbed and the land resource in the area was all ever-green with timely and heavy short and long rains throughout. Spring rain periods were common due to balanced ecosystems that prevailed in the area. Traditional irrigation systems operated effectively due to sustainable river flows that supplied irrigation water for local communities. However, a destabilizing scenario cropped up in the early 1980's with indiscriminate and uncontrolled tree cutting taking place for among others, adaptation to climate change, demographic factors and economic reasons. The growing demand of timber for commercial purposes grew high. This trend affected badly the environment of the Kilimanjaro and the surrounding areas. Nevertheless, the forest fires aspect came in as a top agenda in the area. The need to have some control efforts on the growing degradation trend of the natural environment of the Kilimanjaro was felt. A few nature conservation pioneers in the area came up with TECOSO as a concept and an organization.

VISION: To ensure that communities in Tanzania use sustainable environmental development methods and alleviate poverty.

MISION: To promote natural habitat and ecosystem management that supports gender parity and quality and raises socio economic standards in disadvantaged communities

The Tanzania Environmental Conservation Society – TECOSO is a registered Non-Governmental Organization – NGO with registration No. 9735 dated 24th April 2008 from the registrar of non-governmental organizations for The Government of Tanzania

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the efforts on enhancing conservation efforts and sustainable management of the natural environment at local and national levels.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To increase land productivity through introduction of appropriate environmental conservation measures such as afforestation and reforestation programmes.
- To enhance capacity of the community to conserve and manage the natural environment in a sustainable way.
- To enhance a gender sensitive environmental conservation processes through collaborative networks with other development actors at local, national and global levels.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness on the value and the role of the forest on water availability.
- To enable communities manage tree planting to control and degradation.
- To assist improve land use practices for restoration of soil fertility naturally.

Planned activities

1. To mobilize and create awareness to communities on livelihoods, health of the people and nature conservation for sustainable development.
2. To facilitate communities identify root environmental problems and develop effective problem solving techniques by using various methodologies.
3. To facilitate communities develop and utilize links with both the local and central governments on environmental conservation for sustainable livelihoods.
4. TECOSO wants to improve the life of local disadvantage communities through knowledge theoretically and practically, crop production, value chain, capacity building, entrepreneurship and promote their talents and skills in order to overcome 5 social problems.

- (i) **Unsustainable development**
- (ii) **Lack of Accountability and transparency**
- (iii) **Poor gender sensitivity**
- (iv) **Poor health**
- (v) **Poor access to information**

For sustainable development in order to alleviate poverty

ESSENCE OF TECOSO

The Tanzania Environmental Conservation Society – TECOSO is a non-governmental organization – NGO registered under the societies Act CAP 337 R.E. 2002 operating in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions with a wider vision on sustainable livelihoods from sustainable environmental conservation for rural communities in Tanzania. Generally, TECOSO’s vision is on sustainable livelihoods derived from the mission on sustainable environmental conservation for rural communities in Tanzania as illustrated in the revised TECOSO Strategic Plan 2015 - 2025.

TECOSO is very keen in accountability and transparency. The direct and indirect communication channels are key for enabling breeding of the necessary conditions for transparency and accountability within the organization and also when facilitating implementation of various interventions with communities and other stakeholders at field level. Accountability and transparency within TECOSO is therefore carefully built in and maintained by the communications flow within the administrative and implementation links of the organization as illustrated in TECOSO’s organizational chart. See Figure 1.

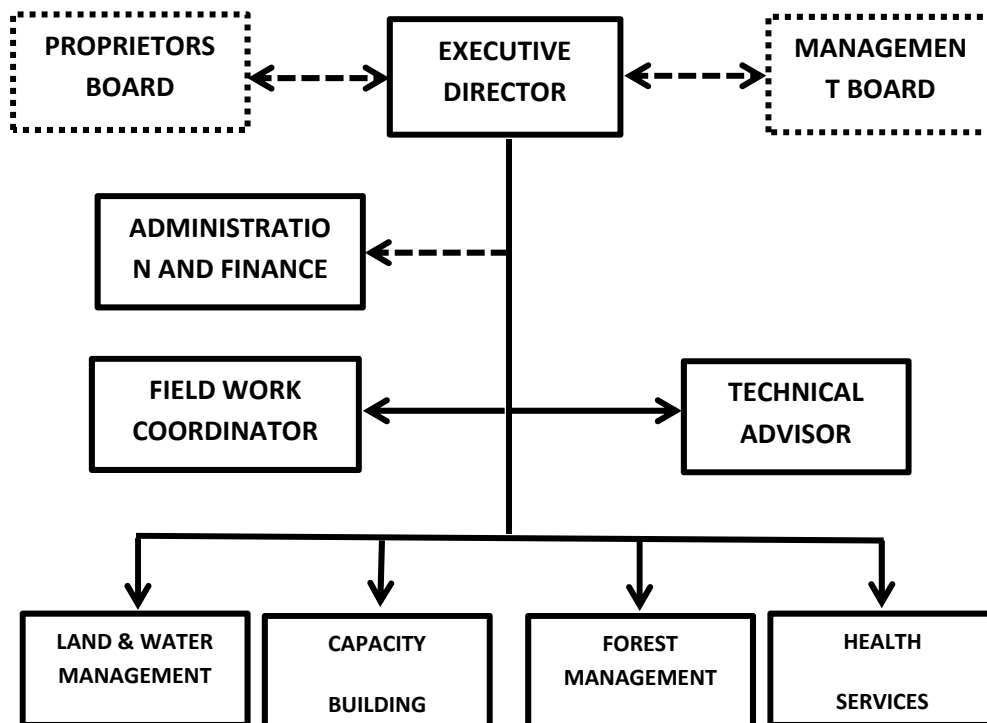


Figure 1: TECOSO Organizational chart

TECOSO PACKAGE

TECOSO manages a number of realistic, socially acceptable, economically viable (cost effective), technically feasible and environmentally sound interventions that are subsidiary to land (including the forest) and water management, as well as, environmental conservation initiatives. Moreover, TECOSO shelters a number of interventions on nature and environmental conservation; advocacy and lobbying; primary health care, as well as, interventions with educational background parallel to interventions with economic and social goals for communities in general. TECOSO package that throw light also into TECOSO delivery mechanism, as well as, TECOSO methodology and approaches is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: TECOSO package



TECOSO delivery mechanism

TECOSO uses gender sensitive strategies / approaches and or methodologies to implement TECOSO package. TECOSO's delivery mechanisms include:

- a) **Organizational Development of the youth, adults and elders**

Organizational Development of communities is done by forming groups (for both men and women) preferably in peer groups for them to engage effectively in experience sharing sessions.

b) Experience sharing amongst the land users and other stakeholders

Experience sharing is done through story-telling, audio visual, field visits discussions and interviews of issues related to livelihoods, the environment, the economy and culture.

c) Sustainable land management and nature conservation initiatives.

It is evidently clear that all natural resources are provided on land by nature therefore sustainable land management is done so as to have impact on nature and the environment.

d) To engage in research

Research on and documentation of culture and environmental conservation will effectively enable knowledge building amongst communities. Documentation and effective sharing of experiences and the indigenous knowhow on environmental conservation will accelerate and sustain knowledge building.

TECOSO ACHIEVEMENTS

KILIMANJARO REGION

PHASE I

1. In 1998 TECOSO requested 10,000,000/= million Tshs from SNV and handed over to District Commissioner Rombo to support Environmental activities.
2. Rehabilitation of Nduweni Tree Nursery and Planting Indigenous tree species/seedlings at Kamdawi Bashubashuni , Mamenda, Tarakea and Woma river banks: Funded by finish Embassy Tshs. 5,000,000/=
3. Conduct Seminar for Rombo District Authority
 - i. 13 Villages bordering Mt. Kilimanjaro
 - ii. 20 Wards bordering Mt. Kilimanjaro
 - iii. 5 Divisions of Rombo Districts
 - iv. Heads of Departments and all the Councilors of Rombo District 2006 ON
 - a) Forest fire awereness and creation
 - b) Combating fires on Mr. Kilimanjaro
 - c) Formed forest fire disasters preparedness team (FFDP)
 - d) Rehabilitation of Kamdawi Bashubashuni water sources, Mamenda Valleys, Tarekea and Woma River banks also adjacent areas. More than 200 Acres was covered with indigenous tree seedlings. These project was funded by compact UNDP Tshs. 17,000,000/=
4. Construction of Uraroni water Dam – furrow Irrigation for fruits – Hass Avacado, vegetables and fish farming. The project was funded by JICA JAPAN 105,000,000/=
5. Established a tree Nursery at Mashati Simbalo for lower Rombo Aforestation Program Funded by HIVOS – 11,000,000/= Tshs.

ARUSHA REGION

TECOSO has planted variety of trees in different Institutions in Arusha, Mount Meru University, Osiligi Secondary School, Oltrumet Hospital, Ngaramtoni Primary School and in 2 water Sources in Ekenywa Village.

Rehabilitation of Korongoni Water Source Njiro and the surrounding areas.

Planted trees at: -

- Njiro Primary School
- Njiro Secondary School
- Naura Secondary School
- Korona Secondary School

In collaboration with TASO Leaders **TECOSO** planted trees at

TASO Main Arena

TASO Main Road

TASO Kibo Road

TASO Congo Road

TASO Area Reserved for Forest

Another plot at Nanjara for theory and practical demonstrations of different technologies and also training nursery management and planting out. **SHAMBA DARASA** at Nanjara. Also acquired permanent plot for Intergrated Bee Kepeeng Project (IBKP) at Nanjara.

Acquired a permit from Ministry of Health to provide health services for the community.

Table 1: Kamdawi Bashubashuni Water Source and Mamenda Valleys

Area	Tarakea Nduweni, Rombo district
Problem	Forest encroachment by local communities Thus: a) Deforestations in the area b) Area became dry – no water c) Soil erosion – poor production and productivity of land d) Poor natural regeneration of vegetation cover including the forest e) Trachoma diseases and Malnutrition
Number of people affected	More than 10,000 people men and women
Methodology / Approach	Participatory approach TECOSO members
Number of people supported (coverage)	More than 100,000 people men and women
Objectives outcome	(i) Forest cover improved (ii) Water increased (iii) Soil erosion controlled (iv) Increase in flora and fauna (v) Food and income secured and (vi) Hence, poverty alleviated
Comments & way forward	Continuous monitoring and evaluation for effective environmental management.

It has to be noted that TECOSO has rehabilitated more than 200 Acres at the **Kamdawi Bashubashuni Water Source and Mamenda Valleys** in the foot of Mountain Kilimanjaro which need to be developed through proper environmental management and conservation as it can be seen in Figures 2 and 3 respectively.

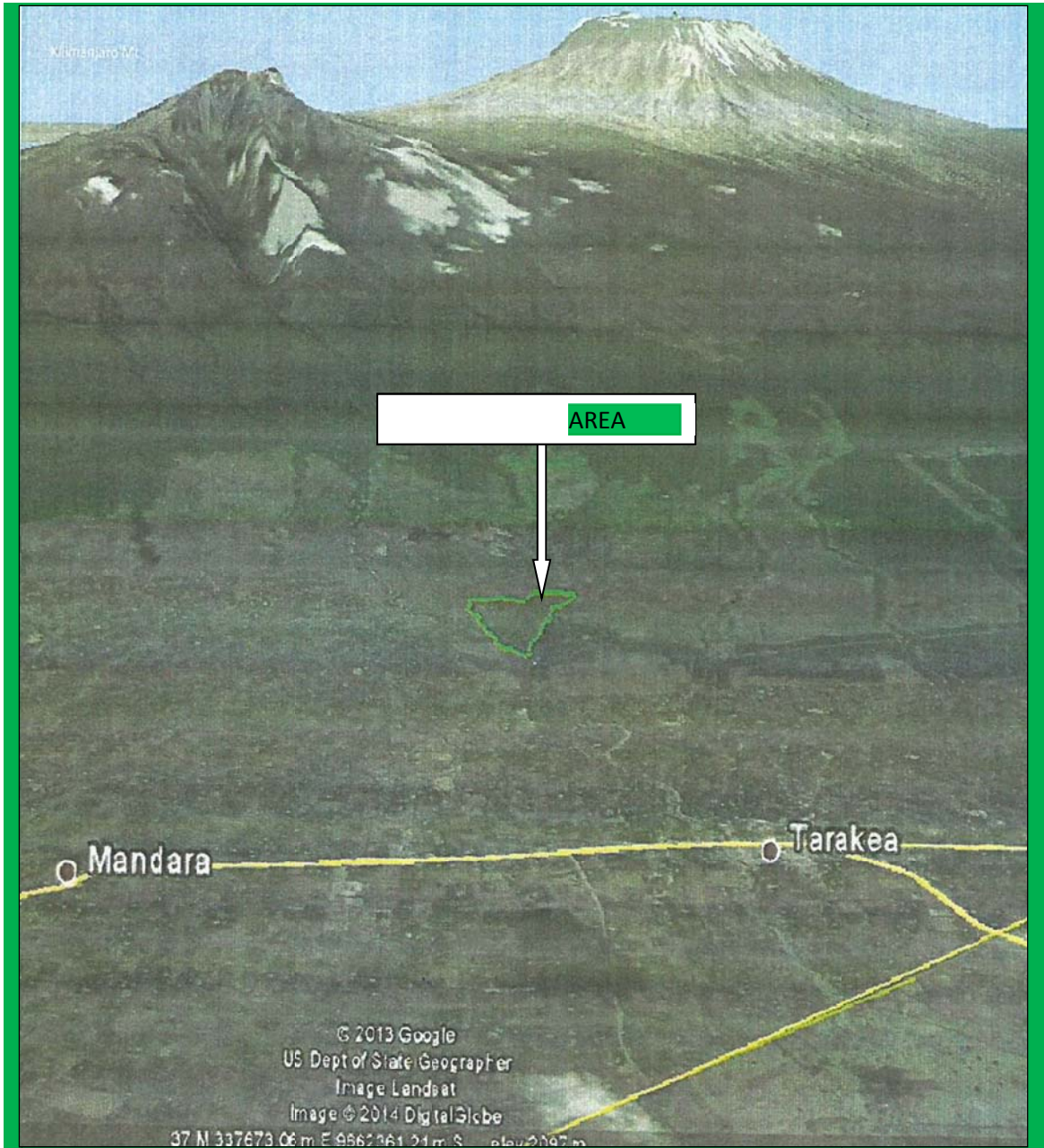


Figure 2: Rehabilitated 200 Acres at the Foot of Mountain Kilimanjaro

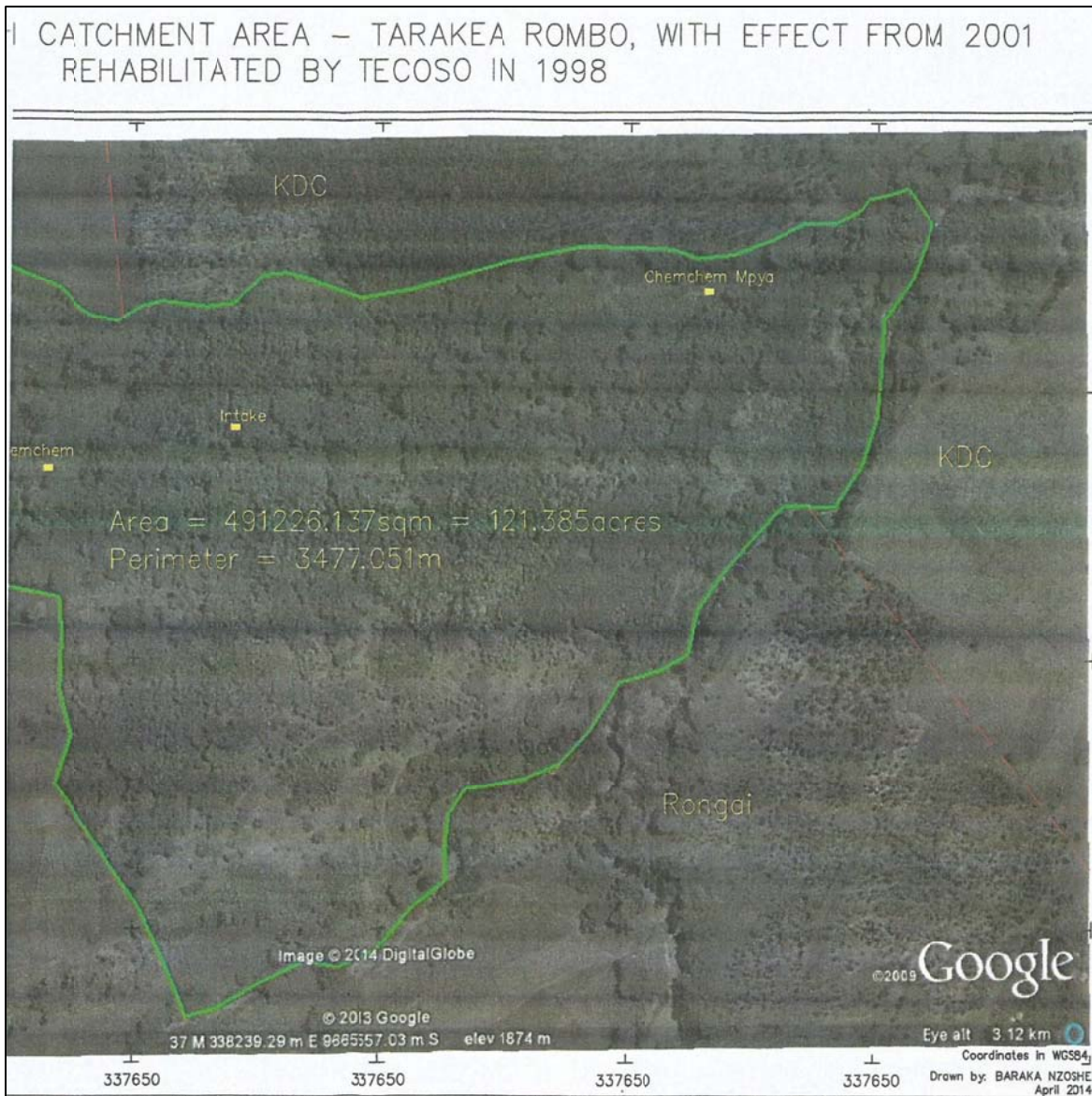


Figure 3: Kamdawi Bashubashuni Water Source and Mamenda Valleys

TANGIBLE RESULTS

Since its establishment, TECOSO's skills and talents in managing the environment has grown immensely.

1. Kamdawi Bashubashuni Water Source and Mamenda Valleys.

TECOSO has rehabilitated more than 200 Acres

Area	Tarakea Nduweni, Rombo district
Problem	Forest encroachment by local communities Thus: f) Area became dry – no water g) Soil erosion – poor production and productivity of land h) Poor natural regeneration of vegetation cover including the forest i) Trachoma diseases
Number of people affected	More than 10,000 people men and women
Donor and applied amount	UNDP (17m TZS)
Duration of the project	January – December 2006
Methodology / Approach	Participatory approach TECOSO members
Number of people supported (coverage)	More than 20,000 people men and women
Progress	a) Forest cover improved b) Water increased c) Food and income secured d) Soil erosion controlled e) Increase in flora and fauna
Comments	Continuous monitoring and evaluation for effective management.

ENVIRONMENT

TECOSO assigns high priority on gender mainstreaming in all efforts related to environmental conservation management and sustainable development.

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

Tree planting and awareness creation is an endless activity and should be carried out throughout the generations. Therefore, training of Primary and Secondary School Children, Various groups of people especially women, youths, Institutions and Tourists to plant various kinds of trees and care tree

plants will ensure an everlasting sustainability of the environment and good health for the future generation.

2. Uraroni Water Dam for Furrow Irrigation and Fish Farming.

Before, Uraroni area was depending totally on rainwater for crop farming. Given the global climate change conditions, rain fed crop farming resulted into food and income insecurity for the local people. TECOSO organized construction of Uraroni dam to support communities in improved irrigated crop farming and fish farming. Construction of Uraroni dam was planned and organized as follows:

Area	Uraroni village, NanjaraReha ward, Rombo District – Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania
Problem	Food and income insecurity
Number of people affected	7817 (3506M), (4311W)
Donor and applied amount	JICA (105mTShs)
Duration of the project	2004 – 05
Methodology / Approach	Contractual work / Community participation
Number of people supported (coverage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Primary beneficiaries: e.g. 7817 men and women from 1342 Households in Nanjara Reha ward. b) Secondary beneficiaries: e.g. traders from local and external markets. c) Other land and water users from nearby villages, districts, regions, countries.
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Irrigation water, and water for domestic use doing well. b) Waterborne diseases well controlled. c) A total of 20 TECOSO members trained in horticulture for food and income. d) Increase in production and productivity. Before dam construction: 1 acre 1000 Kgs of maize After dam construction: 1 acre 1500 Kgs of maize
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Dam requires continuous monitoring and periodical maintenance for quality control b) Trained farmers requires advanced / update training (increased production and productivity) for food and income c) Dam require fencing for protection

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The following results are expected to be achieved:

- Enhanced community awareness and knowledge regarding the value of forests, importance of conservation in Kilimanjaro and Arusha Regions
- Improved community participation in conservation
- Illegal cutting of trees minimized
- Increased areas of land conserved and/or planted with trees to improve the water cycle and rainfall in the environment.
- Increased the number of tree nurseries developed and demand for seedlings for the communities planting trees satisfied by 50% by the year 2025.
- Standard of living of the communities improved by worldwide acceptable economic indices.
- Gender discrimination in relation to environmental abuse, minimized, land degradation and environmental pollution curbed.
- Water sources restored and river banks re- activated to enhance water availability.
- Primary health care of the communities improved.

TECOSO PRAYER

Oh Lord, who is full of Love, Sympathy and Dignity you created the word and gave it a wonderful environment for all the living creatures.

The beautiful environment which you made for the living creatures have being destroyed mainly by human activities and natural catastrophes.

Oh Lord, give us this day talent and power to rehabilitate the already badly destroyed environment.

- **Where there's weakness, give us hope and strength.**
- **Where there's torture give us sympathy.**
- **Where there's doubt give us hope.**
- **For the benefit of our communities and the whole nation of Tanzania. AMEN.**

TECOSO SLOGAN

- **Good environment is the basic fundamental requirement of all living creatures.**
- **Good environment is the source of sustainable development in Tanzania.**
- **Good environment will make us to:-**
 - **Love each other.**
 - **Respect each other.**
 - **To create classless society.**
 - **To cooperate.**
 - **To help each other.**