

This case study is one of several produced by the **CLARA** network to coincide with the publication of the IPCC Special Report on Land. We're showcasing **CLARA** member climate solutions which demonstrate the **rights-based, low-emission development pathways** needed for reducing emissions while **promoting livelihoods** and **ecosystem integrity**.

This case study is based on one of over 60 participatory assessments carried out with communities in 22 countries through the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI).

# Ending land rights discrimination against women key to promoting biodiversity conservation in Tanzania

Recognition of customary land rights is encouraging community conservation, but women must have the same rights to decision-making

## Organisations and individuals involved

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## Location

Kahe, Moshi and Siha Districts of the Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania.



SIMONE LOVERA FOR GFC/CCRI

**THE ECONOMIES AND** traditional ways of life of the Indigenous Peoples in the Kahe, Moshi and Siha Districts rely heavily on farming and livestock rearing (cattle, goats and chickens), as well as hunting and gathering. The communities are therefore highly dependent on land for food security, livelihoods and the preservation of their culture. They constitute the most vulnerable segments of society and have been migrating to new areas where there are resources for their livelihood activities. Women are major food producers and therefore particularly at risk in terms of threats to food security.

The communities have established tree nurseries as part of their long-term conservation plan. Native trees have been planted around water sources, farms and adjacent to forests. The trees will provide building materials, fuel, medicines and animal fodder and will also contribute to encouraging local rainfall and cooling, and provide habitat for wildlife. The indigenous communities have also returned to traditional organic farming for their agricultural production, to promote income generation, soil regeneration, environmental conservation and human health.

Tanzania has a dual land tenure system, in which both statutory and customary land tenure are recognised, and this governs use of land. Democratically-elected Village Councils are responsible for developing village plans and making decisions on environment, health, community development, education, land, water and community forests. However, the current land tenure system still discriminates against women, which limits their involvement in conservation.

The communities identified a number of major causes of biodiversity loss in their territories: the expansion of conventional farming using intensive agrochemicals; illegal deforestation for commerce, charcoal-making and brick-building; and climate change.

The communities need a diverse range of support mechanisms to increase their resilience and capacity to conserve their environment. This includes raising awareness locally about environmental conservation and the impacts of climate change, supporting inter-generational learning of traditional knowledge and skills, advocating for women to be able to own land and participate in decision-making, and financial support.

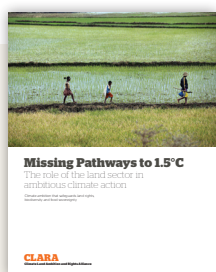
# Testimony

## Marselian Temba, an organic farmer from Siha District

"I've been farming organically for many years, irrigating my farm with water from the River Lawate. Siha District Council gave us fast-growing exotic trees to plant, they were supposed to conserve the environment and water resources. But they are doing the opposite! Their roots can spread 50-70 metres from the tree and suck up all the water, and they are contributing to the drying up of the river. They're not indigenous trees. We didn't know this would happen so we cut them down, and we're replacing them with indigenous seedlings."

## 'Missing Pathways' to climate action

Last year, CLARA published the report 'Missing Pathways', identifying areas of global mitigation ambition rooted in land rights, restoration, agroecology, and food system change.



### The climate actions that are needed to support the efforts of this community are...

for the role of women in community conservation to be recognised, and for discrimination against women in terms of land tenure rights to end. The conservation efforts in Tanzania show the positive impacts of secured statutory and customary rights of tenure, but these must be universalised. The communities also require support to protect traditional knowledge and the transfer of it to younger generations, and their conservation efforts require financial support. The conclusions drawn in this CCRI case study are similar to those in the Missing Pathways report, highlighting the relationship between security of tenure and ecosystem restoration.

**Transformational change in land management starts with respecting rights.**



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