

TANZANIA

U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with the Tanzania Forest Service, the USFS facilitated the designation of a mangrove research forest in the Rufiji Delta.

U.S. Forest Service experts have partnered with a number of Tanzanian non-governmental organizations to support village land use mapping efforts in remote reaches of Tanzania that are under heavy threat from deforestation, and include some of the largest wild chimpanzee populations in East Africa.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Home to a number of the world's most iconic, natural treasures (Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, Lake Tanganyika, and Ngorongoro Crater, among others), Tanzania features tremendous ecological diversity and some of the largest tracts of Miombo forest in East Africa. Roughly 38% of Tanzania is forested (around 86.5 million acres / 35 million hectares) and, of that forest land, nearly 90% is Miombo woodland. Other forest types include mangrove, montane, acacia, and coastal woodland. Nearly a third – about 42 million acres / 17 million hectares – of Tanzania's forests occur outside of protected areas on lands with loosely or ill-defined management regimes; these are the areas of Tanzania in which deforestation and forest degradation tend to be the highest.

The U.S. Forest Service has worked in Tanzania for over a decade, partnering with the Tanzania office of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to work extensively with the Government of Tanzania and other in-country parties, such as the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Jane Goodall Institute, African Wildlife Foundation, Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative, and The Nature Conservancy/Africa.

U.S. Forest Service support has centered on a broad range of natural resource management issues, including watershed assessment, ecosystem restoration, land use planning, wildlife management, and fire suppression and prevention. Recent collaborative efforts in Tanzania have revolved around climate change issues – namely capacity building for forest carbon assessment and related topics in national forest inventory – and field-based resource mapping in partnership with forest communities.



A U.S. Forest Service specialist provides training on the use of global positioning systems (GPS) to a community-managed, sustainable timber operation in southeast Tanzania. Photo by John Kerkering, U.S. Forest Service.



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