

Case Study: Permaculture Project in Zanzibar

PROJECT PROPOSAL:

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SKILLS FOR ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTALY FRIENDLY INCOME GENERATION IN ZANZIBAR.

Locations: Zanzibar
Start Date: 01 March 2018
End Date: 31 Dec 2020
Duration: 34 months
Beneficiaries: 84 youths, 10 multipliers, 28 Ecopreneurs & communities
Est. Budget in TZS: \$636,500,000 (AUD \$382,527)

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BACKGROUND:

Zanzibar today is facing a number of challenges:

- A high number of unemployment, especially of youths.
- A low production agricultural sector with low quality produce and minimal produce processing, packaging and marketing.
- Population challenges including increasing population density, leading to deforestation, land degradation and non-appropriate waste management.
- Ecological challenges including the expected effects of climate change (irregular weather patterns causing droughts and floods, and a rising sea level leading to saltwater intrusion).

These are significant challenges to the development of sustainable livelihoods in Zanzibar.

Lack of skills and knowledge in various fields aggravate these obstacles. Most of the local Zanzibari population is actually not benefitting of the growth of the tourism sector, due to their lack of soft skills such as hospitality, accounting, language skills etc.

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Agricultural items exported from Zanzibar are limited to very few commodities (mostly cloves and seaweed). Other potential export commodities include spices, vegetables, fruits, and marine products, which so far have registered insignificant export proportion.

Agriculture is the most important source of employment in Zanzibar. It employs about 60% of Zanzibar's labor force and almost 75% of the rural population. An average of 70% of the population depends directly or indirectly on the agriculture sector for their livelihood. However, productivity is low and mostly caters for subsistence use. Food self-sufficiency, better nutrition and improved farm income are not met by many farmers due to a lack of good agricultural practices.

However, there is local as well as international demand from high quality and organic products produced in a fair and sustainable manner. Many hotels are demanding products that are not available in Zanzibar and would prefer to buy them locally. The international market is increasingly demanding special products only available in tropical climates including "Superfoods" (e.g. moringa, baobab, papaya seeds, turmeric) as well as products reflecting the "Flavours of Zanzibar" such as vanilla, nutmeg, cloves and cardamom.

Likewise, there is a continuing demand of trained employees on the island, especially in the tourism sector. Employers are looking for people with a combination of hard and soft skills.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The only way for Zanzibar to protect its natural beauty and sustain its resources, while at the same time lifting it's population out of poverty, is to develop activities and models that will generate profit by protecting and enhancing the environment and depleting natural resources, rather than by destroying them.

Permaculture, a design system to create sustainable living environments that are in tune with people and nature, is scientifically recognized as a practice of "Agroforestry". Instead of clearing land for agriculture, Agroforestry promotes the interplanting of trees and vegetables, creating forests rather than eroded desert lands.

A core application of Permaculture is to design and implement "Tropical Food Forest Systems" that enhance the environment, while producing food to increase food security and the growing of marketable produce.

Permaculture, through its land design approach, will also help to increase resilience for climate change. Through its practices of water and soil management it is expected that local farmers will be better equipped to deal with floods as well droughts. By catching rainwater the threat of increasing salinity due to a rising sea level can be mitigated.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

The following needs have been identified through a combination of observation, surveys, interviews and focus groups comprised of workers in the agricultural sector, employers in the tourism sector and community leaders:

- Poor and inadequate education in the agriculture sector specifically in green jobs limits productivity and acquisition of skills in the growing green economy.
- Insufficient access to knowledge and information can hinder the development of entrepreneurial ventures by the youth.
- Distinct need to improve young women's access to agricultural skills education.
- Need to organize and bring youth together to improve their capacities for collective action.
- Integrate youth empowerment approaches to build self-confidence, leadership and life skills to enable them to make positive life decisions and become economically productive members of the society.
- Soft skills valued by employers such as teamwork, strong work ethics, integrity, communication skills, problem solving and managing emotions should be addressed.
- Employees need access to on-the-job-training to ensure that their skills match the job.
- Youth-adult partnerships in the form of mentorships need to be a core priority.
- Green job training need to be adapted to ensure that graduates' skills meet the needs of the labour markets.
- Knowledge of sustainable farming techniques needs to spread to villages and communities.
- Value and importance of organic sector needs to be acknowledged by the general public.
- Green businesses need to produce environmental friendly products.
- Green businesses need support to enter a market niche in the regular economy.

STRATEGY:

In response to the realities mentioned above, this project aims to generate opportunities for young people in the agriculture sector, in particular through green jobs by building capacity and practical knowledge as well as connecting project beneficiaries to real work experiences.

The project will train individuals already involved in farming activities to become Permaculture ambassadors or "Multipliers". The project will also raise "Ecopreneurs" who initiate and run their own green businesses. There are thus three distinctive streams:

- Youths
- Multipliers
- Ecopreneurs

An intensive Practical Permaculture Design Course, followed by an apprenticeship and additional training will be given to 2 cohorts of 14 recruited youths per year (84 all together).

The cohorts will alternate between groups of young women and groups of young men, aged between 18 and 30. They will be recruited from different parts of the islands, including both rural and urban areas.

This program will focus on teaching skills and knowledge including the principles and ethics of permaculture, soil building, rain and waste water management, natural building, nursery operations, beekeeping, vermiculture and herbal medicine.

Participants will be able to apply for a set of jobs with guaranteed employment. Extra training will focus on starting their own projects and spreading their learnt skills.

This program will ultimately be facilitated by the Multipliers, who will aid the youth participants to implement their skills.

Multipliers

An intensive Practical Permaculture Design Course, followed by an apprenticeship and special training course, will be given to 10 Multipliers.

Participants will be from different parts of the islands, including both rural and urban areas, and will already be trained in the agricultural sector.

This program will focus on teaching skills and knowledge including the principles and ethics of Permaculture, soil building, rain and waste water management, natural building, nursery operations, beekeeping, vermiculture and herbal medicine.

Multipliers will plan their own activities, developing a model that will enable them to continue these activities independently after the program. The Multipliers will also be partnered with the youth participants.

Ecopreneurs

An intensive Practical Permaculture Design Course followed by an apprenticeship, a 6-month Entrepreneur training course and 2 months of Ecopreneur workshops will be given to 28 ecopreneurs.

The program will target individuals who are interested in the environment as well as business making. They will be from different parts of the islands, including both rural and urban areas. The ideal participant will already be active in the entrepreneur sector and demonstrate passion and willingness for developing eco-friendly business models.

This program will focus on areas including natural human medicine, natural cosmetics, food processing and upcycling.

Each participant will be eligible for a project kick-off fund to start their ecopreneurial activities. They will also receive ongoing support on product development, marketing and sales.

PROPOSED

OUTCOMES:

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Outcome	Criteria for success
<p>Immediate:</p> <p>Youth (especially young women) will be given the practical opportunity to learn new skills, especially in understanding the permaculture concept and vision, and shown the potential employment available in this sector.</p>	<p>Youth will become motivated and increase their interest and employability in working in the sector.</p>
<p>Short Term:</p> <p>The public sector, private sector (including hotels) and the community will see the benefits offering green-job services (such as landscaping, waste management, recycling/composting, natural building, natural fertilizers, etc.).</p> <p>They will become aware of the employability of youth in this sector.</p>	<p>Green-jobs employment will increase. More people will benefit from the project as permaculture knowledge is spread by the Multipliers.</p>
<p>Mid Term:</p> <p>Youth knowledge and capacity in technical, entrepreneurial and soft skills will increase.</p>	<p>Youth confidence in initiating “green entrepreneurship” will increase.</p>
<p>Long Term:</p> <p>More people in the agriculture and tourism sectors will know about and understand the importance of green economy and permaculture concepts.</p>	<p>Environmental, social and economic growth and sustainability will be viable and achievable in Zanzibar.</p>