Plan Vivo Project Idea Note (PIN) template & Guidance

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What is a Project Idea Note?
The first step in registering a Plan Vivo project is to submit a Project Idea Note (PIN), which allows the Plan Vivo Foundation to assess the applicability of the Plan Vivo Standard and System to the project, to facilitate project design by providing guidance, and to give projects a platform to attract support through inclusion of approved PINs in the pipeline of the Plan Vivo project register.

Before writing and submitting a PIN, applicants should ensure they have consulted the Plan Vivo basic eligibility checklist (see next page) and the latest version of the Plan Vivo Standard to check that the Plan Vivo System is applicable to their project.

Approval and Registration
Evaluation of a PIN involves a desk-based review by the Plan Vivo Foundation. For a PIN to be approved it is necessary that the proposed project demonstrates its potential to enhance ecosystem services, promote sustainable livelihoods and protect biodiversity over the long-term. The key elements of demonstrating eligibility are:

a) Organisational Capacity
The Project coordinator and any partner organisations have the organisational capacity to undertake a long-term community-led project.

b) Eligible land-tenure and carbon/ES rights
The project applies to land over which the target communities have ownership or long-term user rights, and which represents no less than two thirds of the total project area.

c) Suitable land-use activities
Project activities are eligible under the 2013 version of the Plan Vivo Standard and are/will be designed to promote sustainable land-use and livelihoods, maintain or enhance biodiversity and produce quantifiable ecosystem benefits such as, but not limited to, carbon sequestration.

How to Apply
The report should use the summary table and subsequent headings to present the requested information. An indication of the desired word count is provided in the contents table. Applicants can reference supporting documentation where necessary. Applications (and any question relating to applications) should be submitted to the Plan Vivo Foundation at:
info@planvivofoundation.org

The applicant should include in an email a statement that they have read and intend to apply the Plan Vivo principles in their project (see 2013 Plan Vivo Standard, p.5, available at www.planvivo.org/governance-of-the-standard). The application fee must be paid in full prior to PIN registration (for up-to-date information on fees see www.planvivo.org/tools-and-resources/costs-and-resource-needs).

Confidentiality
The Plan Vivo Foundation evaluates PINs and publishes approved PINs on the Plan Vivo website. If the applicant considers any part of the PIN to contain confidential or sensitive information, the Foundation should be notified of this and instructed to remove such information before its publication.

Key eligibility checklist for a prospective Plan Vivo project

1. Start date

Projects will typically use the 2013 Plan Vivo Standard from the outset. However, it is also possible for a project that is already operational to become an approved Plan Vivo Project, provided it can meet the requirements of 2013 Plan Vivo Standard. No retroactive crediting is possible for activities already implemented.

2. Project participants

2.1. Producers

- ☑ Must be small-scale farmers, land-users or forest dwellers with recognised land tenure or user rights (see below)
- ☑ Must be organised, or in the process of being organised, into cooperatives, associations, community-based organisations or other organisational forms able to contribute to the social and economic development of their members and communities and democratically controlled by the members
- ☑ Must be able to use existing farmland, forest, woodland or other land type for project activities without undermining livelihood needs
- ☑ Producers should not be structurally dependent on permanent hired labour, and should manage their land mainly with their own and their family's labour force

2.2. Project coordinators

- ☑ Must be an established legal entity that takes responsibility for the project and meeting the requirements of the Plan Vivo Standard for its duration
- ☑ Must have a strong in-country presence and the respect and experience required to work effectively with local communities and partners
- ☑ Must be focused and have the organisational capability and an ability to mobilise the necessary resources to develop the project
- ☑ Must have the capability to negotiate and deal with government, local organisations & institutions, and buyers of ecosystem services
- ☑ Must have the ability to mobilise and train participants, implement and monitor project activities, carry out technical functions
- ☑ Must recognise that the decision of producers to participate in project activities is entirely voluntary
- ☑ Must recognise that producers own the carbon/ES benefits of the project activities they choose to undertake
- ☑ Must ensure that the benefit-sharing arrangement is fair and equitable and that payments are made in a transparent and traceable manner
- ☑ Should not draw on more than 40 percent of sales income for ongoing coordination, administration and monitoring costs, save in exceptional circumstances where justification is provided to the Plan Vivo Foundation and a waiver formally agreed

3. Land status

Land that is not owned by or subject to user rights of smallholders or communities may be included in the project area if:

- ☑ It represents less than a third of the project area at all times
- ☑ It was not acquired from smallholders/communities in order to develop the project
- ☑ It bestows clear benefits to the project on a landscape level
- ☑ It is managed under an executed agreement between the owners/managers and the project participants

4. Land tenure/ user rights

☑ Land tenure or user rights must be secure and stable so that there can be clear ownership, traceability and accountability for ecosystem service benefits such as carbon reduction or sequestration, and the ability to commit to project interventions for the duration of PES Agreements

5. Project activities

☑ Must enable communities to plan and take control of their resources in a sustainable way that promotes rural livelihoods and other environmental and social co-benefits

☑ Must be able to generate ecosystem service benefits through one or more of the following project intervention types under the Plan Vivo System:

- **Ecosystem restoration** (e.g. assisted natural generation)
- **Ecosystem rehabilitation** (e.g. inter-planting naturalised tree species)
- **Prevention of ecosystem conversion or degradation** (e.g. REDD+)
- **Improved land use management** (e.g. minimum till agriculture)

☑ Must be additional, not liable to cause leakage, and provide foundations for permanence, as described in the Plan Vivo Standard

☑ Must involve the planting and/or promote the restoration or protection of native or naturalised plant and tree species. The use of naturalised (i.e. non-invasive) species is acceptable only where such species are:

- Preferable to any alternative native species owing to compelling livelihood benefits;
- Specifically selected by communities for this purpose;
- Not going to result in any negative effects on biodiversity or the provision of key ecosystem services in the project and surrounding areas

☑ Must encourage the development of local capacity and minimise dependency on external support

6. Expansion ambitions

☑ Must be based on an commitment to initiating activities on a pilot basis, gaining experience, and identifying improvements ('learning by doing')

☑ Must be based on practical capabilities 'on the ground', not on high-level targets imposed from above

Summary Information

Project Title	Securing ecosystem services and community livelihoods in the Mahale – Tongwe West Corridor
Project Location – Country/Region/District	Tanzania/Kigoma Region/ Uvinza District
Project Coordinator & Contact Details	Frankfurt Zoological Society Tanzania Country Programme P.O. Box 14935 Arusha, Tanzania Africa Regional Office: Box 14935 Arusha, Tanzania Main headquarters: Bernhard-Grzimek-Allee 1 60316 Frankfurt Germany Contact Person Title/Position: Michael Thompson Grants Manager, Tanzania Programme Phone Number +255 788 499 082 Email Address: michael.thompson@fzs.org
Summary of Proposed Activities (Max 30 words)	1. Promote conservation of the Greater Mahale ecosystem 2. Enhance community livelihoods through incentivising nature-based interventions 3. Promote sustainable agriculture practices and farmer managed natural regeneration that leads to carbon sequestration
Summary of Proposed Target Groups (Max 30 words)	Rukoma, Ikubulu and Lubalisi villages (population c. 19,403) working through village government and existing village land use plans and participatory forest management structures to reach target farmers

Part A: Project Aims & Objectives

A1 Describe the project's aims and objectives

- The problem(s) the project will address

Project Aims:

This project will build on existing village participatory forest management work (PFM) in community managed forest areas in **Rukoma, Ikubulu and Lubalisi** villages in Uvinza District, Western Tanzania, to increase carbon sequestration, water catchment protection and biodiversity conservation in a key wildlife corridor within the Greater Mahale Ecosystem. This will contribute to the long-term security of income and environmental resilience of these communities.

Project objectives:

1. To support delivery of the Uvinza District and Tanzanian Forestry Department's efforts to enhance sustainable conservation in the three villages
2. To generate an equitable distribution of benefits that contributes to the long-term security and resilience of rural community livelihoods.
3. To mobilize farmers to create and maintain on-going monitoring systems of carbon

credits and associated payments, by providing training and enabling forestry activities that are suitable to their needs

4. To empower village members in Rukoma, Ikubulu and Lubalisi to sustainably manage and equitably benefit from their own natural resources including defining and enforcing agreements for the conservation of natural habitats and wildlife.
5. To increase carbon sequestration and reduce CO_2 emissions by planting trees and implementing improved forest management systems
6. To build the resilience and the adaptive capacities of rural smallholders to respond to climate change.

Part B: Proposed Project Area

B1 Description of Project Location

Map 1 below shows the location of the project villages and the boundaries of the nearby protected areas including the Tongwe West District Forest Reserve and Mahale National Park. The project village lands are located within a key wildlife corridor connecting the two. The project will be implemented in Rukoma, Lubalisi and Ikubulu villages. This village land covers a total of some 534 km^2 and links the Mahale National Park (at 1,650 km^2) with the adjacent Tongwe West Forest Reserve (at 3,650 km^2). Village land use plan maps of the three villages are attached in appendices 1-3.

The village lands support rich and varied vegetation types. This provides an existing high potential carbon stock. These include:

- Low-altitude semi-evergreen forest (e.g. Xylopia-Pycnanthus Anthocleista – Blighia, Syzygium (780–1300 m);
- Gallery forest (*Ficus vallischoudae*; *Erythrophleum* or *Croton sylvaticus*, *Hochst*);
- Montane forest (*Afrocarpus*, *Myrsine* and *Nuxia*, *Croton megalocarpus* and *Parinari* from 300–1800 m);
- *Julbernardia seretii*, *Troupin* forest at higher levels;
- Montane bamboo 'forest' (*Sinarundinaria*);
- *Brachystegia boehmii* woodland (this is the most common woodland vegetation type, found from 900–1800 m);
- *Combretum-uapaca* and *acacia* wooded grassland;
- Fire-degraded wooded grassland at low altitudes.

Grassland types include riverine grassland in valleys, montane grassland, swamp and marsh grassland and mbuga grassland. The wider Mahale ecosystem contains the bulk of the estimated 2,000 individuals of the eastern chimpanzee (*pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) remaining in Africa. It also contains ten other primate species, over 355 avian species, many of which are rare or endemic to the Albertine Rift valley system, as well as important populations of elephant, sable and roan antelope. The village lands consist of a mosaic of fields, forest edge, and stands of intact forest.

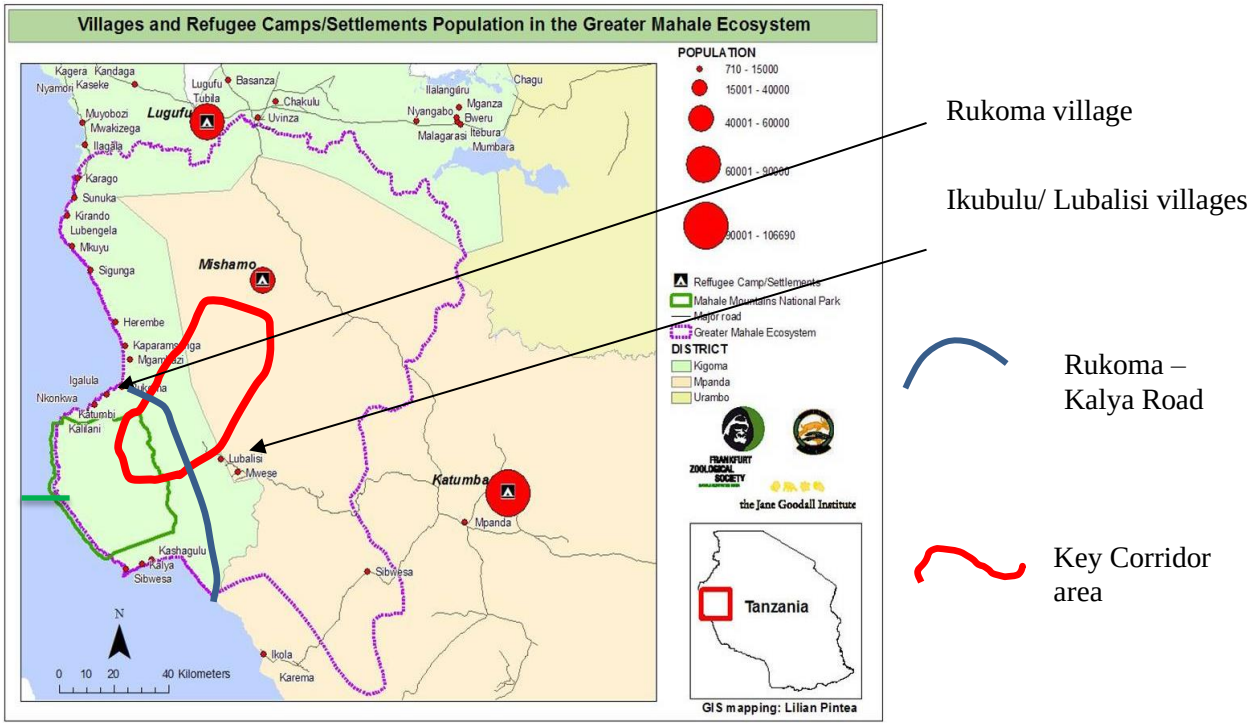
Village land uses include smallholder cultivation, some logging, fishing, conservation of community forest reserves, and cattle grazing. The farming systems include rain fed agriculture, and irrigation of permanent watercourses with inferior farming technologies (e.g. use of hand hoes/ox-plough). Use of mechanized agriculture and the application of chemical fertilizers is rare. A destructive form of shifting cultivation has occurred more recently, with an in-migration of cattle keeping people into the villages.

Rukoma village was established in 1974, with Ikubulu and Lubalisi villages evolving from Rukoma village. Until around 2015, this area had relatively intact forest cover, with low indigenous human populations (primarily of Watongwe) and low levels of development

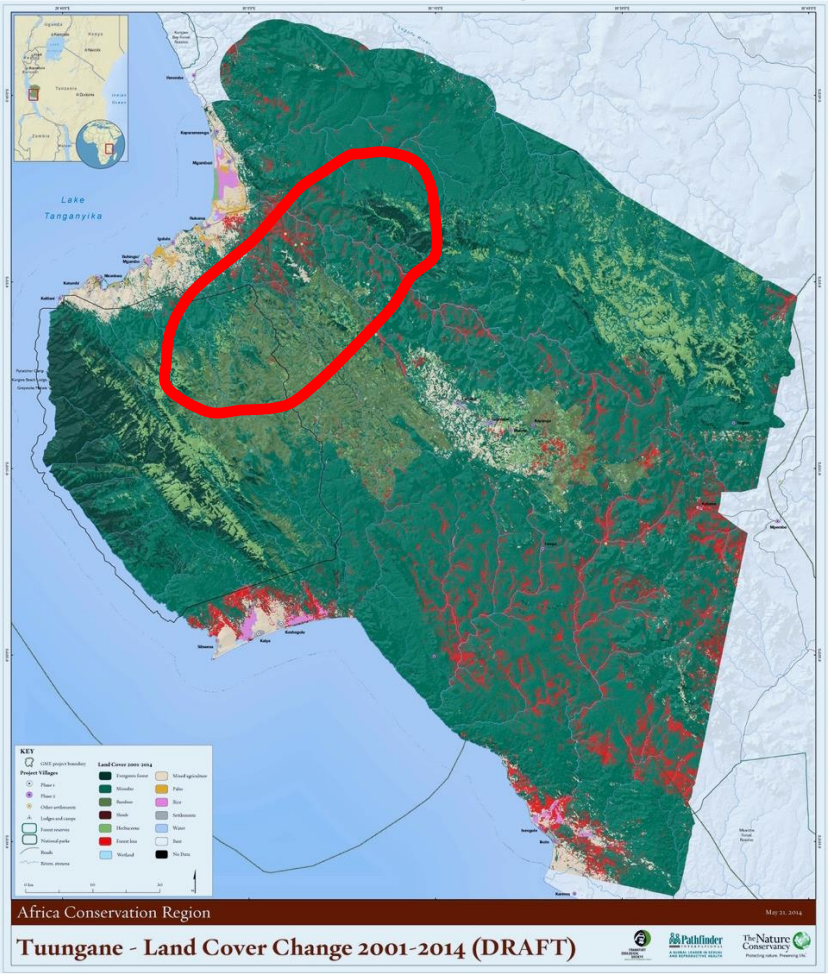
pressure. However, this situation has changed over the past four to five years as cattle keeping people (wasukuma, waha and Rwandese) with large herds of livestock have begun settling in the ecosystem. These groups practice a particularly destructive form of slash and burn agriculture along with rice production in riparian valleys and springs, giving rise to significant deforestation. By 2017, this had resulted in the drying up of the previously permanent Katuma River which flows into Katavi National Park and Lake Rukwa. Of particular concern recently has been the construction of a new road from Rukoma to Kalya, which is bringing with it further in-migration and vegetation clearance. This road cuts through the key corridor and dispersal area for chimpanzees and elephants described here, and particularly habitat for chimpanzees which cross from the Mahale National Park into the other key areas of habitat in the Tongwe West Forest Reserve.

Natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Map 2 below shows the recent extent of forest loss in the corridor over the period 2001-2014. This forest loss is amongst the highest rates of deforestation in the ecosystem (ref: TNC, Tuungane, 2018 in press). This mirrors a nationwide pattern (the national rate of deforestation is estimated at 3.3% per annum) (https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Tanzania.htm). Nationally this equates to a loss of some 2.51 Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 9.5% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 599 Mt of CO_2 emissions whilst from 2001 to 2019, Tanzania's total area of humid primary forest in Tanzania decreased by 3.7%.

Map 1. Map showing Project participating villages



Map 2 – Extent of forest loss 2001 – 2017, ref: TNC, Tuungane, 2018



B2 Description of Socio-Economic Context (PV requirements 7.2.2-7.2.5)

- Average income and main types of income in the area
- Summary of relevant local and national governance structures

The communities in the three villages engage in small scale agriculture, timber logging, small scale trade, fishing (Rukoma village only), and where there are recent in-migrants, livestock keeping. Main food and cash crops include cassava, sorghum, maize, oil palms, beans, groundnuts, banana, sweet potatoes, yams, citrus fruits and vegetables. The average income per household per annum is TZS 1,441,685 /- (some $640) (VLUP Reports, 2018), Governance in the project area is well structured with communities that are administered under local government authorities (village government, ward, District Council & Regional Commission). Central Government handles national matters such as land tenure systems and infrastructure.

Part C: Identification of Target Groups & Communities

C1 Summarise information for the participating communities/groups/individuals expected to benefit from the project (PV requirements 1.1, 7.2.1, 7.2.7 & 7.2.8)

- Populations
- Cultural, ethnic and social groups

- Marginalised groups
- Gender and age equity
- Local organisational capacity.

The estimated populations in Rukoma, Lubalisi and Ikubulu is 14,463, 1,260 and 3,680 people respectively. Average household size is 4 people in Rukoma and 8 people in Lubalisi (where there is a larger proportion of the waSukuma with larger family sizes). The estimated population growth rate in the villages is 2.5% per annum (VLUP report, 2019). Ethnic groups comprise small agricultural tribes including the Watongwe with Waha, Wafipa, Wabembe, Wagoraa, Rwandees, Nyamwezi and Wasukuma in-migrating later. The main food crops grown are maize and sorghum. Farming is a whole family enterprise amongst the community with the distribution of responsibilities and involvement of men and women of all age groups. Existing PFM and Village Land Use Planning (VLUP) work has resulted in the engagement of these groups in planning and participation in developmental activities such as protection of natural resources, enforcing environmental laws, and planning and implementation of village development plans. This has resulted in good levels of involvement of women, youth and elders (often considered the marginalized groups) in development activities in the villages.

The villages have well-structured village committees (including functioning village general assemblies holding regular village government meetings) and these have discussed establishing village environmental committees, complete with village forest scouts. Village bylaws require at least 30% representation of women and marginalized groups in the above committees. These, along with the village and ward authorities, play a primary role in resource governance. Uvinza District Council and Kigoma Regional Authority liaison with the villages in also strong, and provides leadership, law enforcement support, infrastructural developments and technical backstopping. These links are facilitated by the Frankfurt Zoological Society's Greater Mahale Eco-system project. All these play a crucial role in resource management.

Part D: Land Tenure & Carbon Rights

D1 **Describe the land tenure context and current understanding of carbon/ES rights for the project area(s) (PV requirements 1.1 & 1.2)**

- For smallholders and for community land
- For other land included in the project
- State typical size of land-holdings in the project
- List any conflicts or potential issues related to land tenure, including any national/regional land reforms underway
- Assessment of the difficulty in proving land tenure and/or carbon and ES rights, detailing any measures to clarify or strengthen these rights

This project recognises that strengthening land tenure and carbon rights in the target villages can help to develop stronger community level institutions for governing land & creating incentives for more sustainable resource use. The main objective of the VLUP process described above is for local communities to secure control over their own village lands, strengthening community control and shared decision-making. Villages are the lowest tier of local governance in Tanzania and the institutional basis for tenure over village land. Once registered, villages receive village certificates of registration. All three villages have certificates of registration and village land use plans (VLUPs approved by the districts). Villagers' individual farms and plots are then surveyed and registered as Certificates of Customary

Rights of Occupancy (CCROs)[1]. These are currently in preparation in the target villages. Village land and land use committees and ward tribunals are in place to ensure governance and arbitration over land disputes. Village by-laws are also approved for all three villages (having passed through the village general assemblies and full district council) and are operational. Village Land Forest Reserves have been established within the VLUPs, with Forest Management Plans in place to guide sustainable management and utilization of forest resources.

Land-holdings in the participating villages are acquired through inheritance, bush clearing of new plots, and land rent/hiring from other villagers. These mechanisms are governed by the Village Council. The current typical size of land-holdings per household in the project villages is 4.41 Ha. The use of these community lands is determined during the VLUP and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) work and approved by the village general assembly. Table 1 below shows the different land uses taken from the VLUPs in the project villages.

Table 1: Land distribution among three villages

Village	**Land use**	**Size/Acreage (Ha)**
Rukoma	Habitations	609.435
	Social services	20.00
	Mixed uses/Agricultural land	7,003.815
	Grazing land	4,210.845
	Village Land Forest Reserve	12,552.495
	Wildlife Water sources	453.17
Total		**24,849.76**
Lubalisi	Habitations	114.24
	Social services	20.00
	Agricultural land	4,704.13
	Grazing land	1,489.72
	Village Land Forest Reserve	10,600.60
	Forest for Fuel wood consumption	527.15
	Wildlife corridor and Water sources	409.84
Total		**17,865.68**
Ikubulu	Habitations	504.20
	Social services	28.91
	Agricultural land	5,508.22
	Grazing land	891.78
	Village Land Forest Reserve	3,683.72
	Forest for Fuel wood consumption and medicinal products	88.58
Total		**10,705.41**
Total area covered by the three villages		**53,420.85**

[1] Customary right of occupancy may be granted for different durations. The common durations under customary right of occupancy are (a) for a term which maybe indefinite (without time limit) or any length of time less than an indefinite term(for a time limit) to a person who is a citizen, or a group of persons all of whom are citizens. (b) for a term together with an option for a further term or terms which together with the original term may be up to but shall not exceed ninety-nine years (a maximum of 99 years); (c) from year to year or for periods of less than a year determinable by the village council by one year's notice or less and whether or not the grant includes an initial fixed term it does not exceed four years.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342137679_Customary_and_Granted_Land_Right_of_Occupancy

Under the land tenure systems described above, villagers enjoy sufficient security of individual land tenure. This is documented by land titles, purchase-hire agreements and certificates of customary rights to occupancy. In addition, the local village governments give their consent or confirm that the land belongs to the villager in question.

This village community forest land then, as well as mixed village grazing and agricultural lands, creates the possibility for establishing land under a stable forestry system for a number of tree rotations suitable for a carbon credit scheme. Table 1 above indicates that 26,836.82 Ha (or 263 km2, or nearly half of the village lands available) have been allocated for forest reserves which evidences the community's commitment to the protection of their natural forests. Establishing a carbon credit scheme to provide financing through better management and conservation of these forests and agricultural land will further incentivize the community to protect these areas which are of critical ecological importance.

Initial consultations with the communities have shown high levels of interest in farmer managed natural regeneration and most people consulted in the villages are willing to participate in the project. A rapid FZS assessment for the feasibility of this project reported that villagers were willing to allocate land for the project.

In terms of how this links to the wider legislative base for establishing carbon rights in Tanzania, Tanzania has adopted various supporting and enabling policies, legislations, strategies, plans and programmes including the Environmental Management Act from 2004 and National Environmental Policy 1997, National Agriculture Policy 2013, Forest Policy 1998, Forest Act 2002, Wildlife Conservation Act 2009, The Wildlife Policy 2007, Village Land Act no. 4 of 1997, Rural Energy Act 2005, Water Resources Management Act 2009, Water Resources Management Policy 2002. On carbon specifically, Tanzania has adopted the National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007); the Renewable Energy Strategy (2014); and the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan (2013). Tanzania is also party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015. In 2015 Tanzania presented its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) which explores how Tanzania intends to work on climate adaptation and mitigation. Tanzania has also ratified the Convention on Biodiversity.

These are nested within the over-arching national development strategy contained in Vision 2025, the National Stagey for Growth and Reduction of Poverty and the Opportunities and Obstacles to Development **(**O&OD) Programme, which is the planning and budgeting methodology used by the Government of Tanzania from Ministry to Regional/District level. We understand the Government of Tanzania will not use any PVCs generated by this project for their NDC (based on communication received from Carbon Tanzania who run similar projects at village level in Tanzania).

These set a strong enabling institutional framework for the establishment of carbon rights and enhancement of carbon stocks in Tanzania.

Plan Vivo Certificates are generated through activities where communities or smallholders have rights to implement activities and benefit from payments for ecosystem services. This can be demonstrated through land-tenure or long-term recognised user rights. Deeds of title are not strictly required if tenure can be shown to be lawful and widely recognised. Any activities undertaken on private/government-owned land that individuals or communities have user-rights for require explicit, demonstrable ownership of associated carbon/ES rights.

Part E: Project Interventions & Activities

E1 Describe the types of interventions included in the project and envisaged to generate PV Certificates (PV requirements 2.1.1-2.1.4), e.g.:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Ecosystem rehabilitation
- Prevention of ecosystem conversion or degradation (includes REDD+)
- Improved land use management

This project will focus on village community forest lands (on some 262 km^2) and on mixed grazing and agricultural areas (some 130 km^2) of this critical corridor area. A feasibility study will be conducted in September 2021 to review the following interventions, and to identify the specific land area, villages, individual households and intervention types most attuned to the capacity of the project team to deliver in a first phase. The project team has set aside some $ 15 – 45 k for this process, and it is anticipated the feasibility study will arrive at a working phase 1 intervention, based on the most suitable approach to developing a quick return for the villages, and to maintain their commitment to the process. The feasibility study will involve comprehensive sensitisation and engagement at Ministry (Forestry Department), Regional, District and village level, including introductory meetings for officials, joint meetings, village government level and assembly meetings, and ground survey of the settlement and socio-economic characteristics and vegetation (farm and forest types) available. The proposed intervention types are:

Ecosystem restoration: The project will provide a return on activities that will assist in the recovery of degraded forest cover in the village community forest areas. In these areas, the project will undertake tree planting to provide buffer zones, and improve the protection of pockets of forests that provide connectivity between the Protected Areas (Mahale National Park and Tongwe West Forest Reserve) as a biodiversity corridor. This will be done by tree planting with indigenous species and/or by Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) processes. FZS will promote farmer managed natural regeneration and sowing native seeds or transplanting individual plants, particularly in areas where restoration of biodiversity or arresting soil erosion is needed. These areas will be managed by tending the regeneration of tree stumps and selective thinning of juvenile trees with the villagers providing labor. Training and awareness creation will be provided in all villages (including through schools where children will be involved alongside environmental education training to seek to create a generation that adopts best land use practices). Within existing community forest areas, the project will implement forest management plans completed under existing PFM work (which provide for operational governance of forest patrols, forest inventories, carbon stock assessment and rejuvenation of undergrowth, hence increasing biomass).

Ecosystem rehabilitation: The project will promote the adoption of agroforestry practices such as woodlots providing both indigenous seedlings for replanting (as above) and fast growing, minimum tillage, cover crops and the introduction of fast-growing tree species that improve soil fertility, including *Faidherbia albida*, *Leucaena pallida*, *Caliandra* spp., *Moringa oleifera* and *Sesbania sesban*. These trees have been shown elsewhere to increase carbon storage on farmers' lands. For income diversification and improved household nutrition the project will introduce tree orchards to enable a regular supply of fruits to the community. Farmers will be trained on tree nursery establishment and tree planting management and propagation procedures.

Prevention of ecosystem conversion: The project will establish and equip a cadre of village forest scouts (VFS). These will be managed to liaise with the District, and with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), to ensure the protection of remaining intact village forest reserves under pressure from in-migrant grazing and slash and burn agriculture. This will be done by

providing an income source to resource ongoing patrolling, and reporting back to the District and Regional Authorities/TANAPA to mobilize support for dealing with illegal forest destruction on illegal incidents. Support will be provided for capacity building for village environmental committees and village governments to manage village forests and the VFS as above.

Part F: Identification of Any Non-Eligible Activities

F1 Describe any additional activities to be supported or implemented by the project

- How these additional activities relate to the project objectives

In addition to the securing ecosystem services (carbon credits) project, FZS is working on complementary supporting elements as follows:

Establishment of a corridor village community trust: Work is underway to establish a corridor village community trust to act as a governance structure for interaction between private sector tour operators and the village communities, channelling funds from eco-tourism into community agreements for the conservation of the corridor. Negotiations have started with a private sector operator who has agreed in principle to provide an income for the villages making up the three villages in this project from its camp in Mahale National Park. An agreed percentage of the revenues would be provided to this village Trust. The Trust would be managed by elected representatives of the villages concerned, the tour operator and FZS. These additional activities will provide payments to the villages in return for village agreements designed to prevent ecosystem conversion and degradation and to promote non-consumptive tourism use on village lands. Successful establishment of the eco-tourism program will provide another important potential livelihood option to the surrounding communities.

Participatory village land use planning and forest management: FZS is reviewing the existing village land use plans (including a consideration of the future of general lands outside current village boundaries) and is working with the relevant levels of government to seek to upgrade the general lands remaining outside village land to District Forest Reserve status. In line with the recently gazetted Tongwe West District Forest Reserve, it is anticipated that a joint participatory forest management approach (Villages and District) will be adopted for the management of any new District Forest Reserve lands created. In this way the protection of critical forest and other corridor habitats will be promoted by the villages themselves alongside the District.

Village micro-finance initiatives: The project has been developing complementary income generation activities, through support for micro-finance schemes (Community Conservation Banks – CoCoBa), and investment of CoCoBas funds in activities such as honey production and sustainable finance initiatives as described below.

Increased resource protection of the adjacent District Forest Reserve in the corridor: The project has supported the District and the villages in the corridor to deploy village forest scouts. FZS has supported the District to construct and operate a ranger post in the adjacent Tongwe West Forest Reserve to help with joint VFS – District forest patrols to deter illegal logging, snaring and other illegal activities. This is improving resource protection and the compliance side of village land use plans and participatory forest management.

Part G: Long-Term Sustainability Drivers

G1 Description of project design that will ensure the project is self-sustaining after carbon/PES revenues cease

- Project activities such as: high-value sustainable timber, NTFP initiatives, sustainable enterprises, tree nurseries, ecotourism, etc.

The project will establish at least two additional revenue streams linked to the conservation of forest cover and the protection of the wildlife corridor as described above (namely the corridor village conservation trust, and the community cooperative banks (CoCoBa) micro-finance initiatives). It is envisioned this will diversify the income streams available to the villages and make them more resilient to the fluctuations that can affect tourism, and to a lesser extent, carbon payment incomes. It is also anticipated that a proportion of the revenues from the carbon payments project would be earmarked by the project coordinator (proposed to be FZS) and villages to operate village environmental committees (VECs), that can work with the village governments to ensure compliance with village land use plans. These VECs will monitor and broker agreements on land uses with village households, such that they are compatible with the land uses established in the VLUPs. It is envisioned that over time this will create a culture of referring to the VLUPs and of working with the VECs to ensure land uses and activities within the land use zones are compatible with conservation. This approach has proven successful elsewhere in eastern and southern Africa (e.g.in Namibian and Kenyan conservancies, and on carbon projects elsewhere in Tanzania). These income streams have considerable potential to maintain the ecosystem values of this project area.

Part H: Applicant Organisation & Proposed Governance Structure

H1 Project Organisational Structure (PV requirements 3.1-3.6)

- Identify organisations, communities, groups and individuals that may/will be involved in the governance of the project and their corresponding roles (use diagrams and tables if necessary)
- Project coordinator and legal status – technical functions, administrative functions, and social functions
- Capacity and experience of each organisation involved

Table 2: Project organizational structure

S/No.	Name of the Organization/Institution	Roles in the Project
1.	Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)	Project Coordinator, establishing and maintaining the over-all governance structure of the project and providing technical backstopping
2.	Regional Administrative Secretariat	The coordinator between District and Central government, and mobilising additional resources e.g. for compliance with forest acts
3.	Uvinza District Council	The main implementing and administration partner
4.	Ward Development Councils	Handling disputes and approves village plans
5.	Village Governments	Steering the project activities, law enforcement, guidance, leadership and accountability

6.	Community Corridor Conservation Trust	Governance structure for interaction between a private sector operator and the village communities
7.	Communities of Rukoma, Ikubulu and Lubalisi villages	Active participants, practice agroforestry/tree planting and/or natural regeneration, land use, carbon offsets
8.	TANAPA	Provide linkage between protected areas and community, support for law enforcement.
9.	Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS)	Linking community forests and Central government, support for law enforcement

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) is a Not for Profit Organization with its Head Office registered in Frankfurt, Germany, and is locally registered in Tanzania. The Society has been operating for over 62 years in Tanzania. FZS stands for a world that protects and values biological diversity as the basis for all livelihoods of present and future generations by conserving wildlife and ecosystems focussing on protected areas and outstanding wild places. This project fits into the FZS vision of securing large, biodiverse areas, and specifically in the Mahale area, of improved protection of key chimpanzee habitat and community forest management. FZS has a long-term commitment to support Tanzanian authorities in their work and Mahale is one of the key areas of engagement. Through the development of local capacity and structures, the outcomes from this project are expected to provide long-term impacts in the region. FZS will mentor and support the development of these structures as long as needed.

FZS has been working in these communities for over twenty-five years on forest protection, micro finance and governance. This project will build on and further enhance this collaboration. FZS has forged strong links with the District and Regional Authority and with Tanzania National Parks. FZS has introduced the VLUP and participatory forest management approaches in Rukoma and Lubalisi villages and provides continuous support for natural resource protection activities, for example, supporting the District and Regional Authorities in the removal of over 130 illegal water abstractions from the Katuma river. This provides a strong basis for the extension of this work into a carbon credit scheme.

Uvinza District Council has technical staff to support day to day project delivery, including Planning, Legal, Forest, Agricultural, Community Development and Game Officers.

TANAPA has the mandate for managing Mahale National Park, and it community conservation service is charged with providing a good neighbourhood approach and supporting sustainable local development in key corridors outside. TANAPA also provides occasional support to the District on resource protection.

The village governments, and each of these institutions are supportive of the work of FZS to seek to establish a sustainable carbon credit scheme in Rukoma, Lubalisi and Ikubulu.

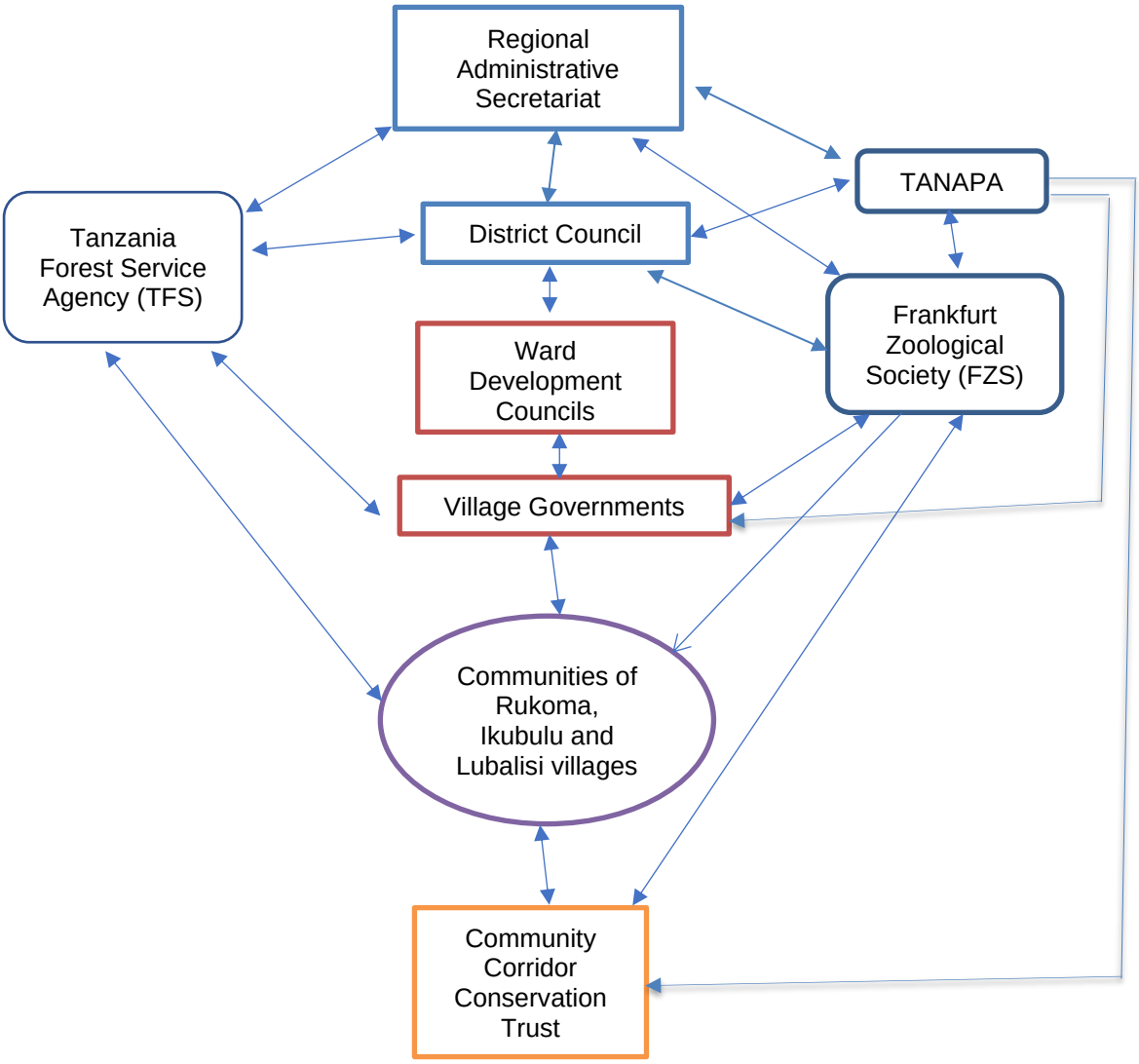


Figure 1: An Organogram showing interaction among Partners

H2 **Applicant organisation (not necessarily the project coordinator) must provide the following information about itself:**

- Legal status (e.g. registered NGO);
- Long-term objectives of the organisation;
- Brief history and achievements;
- Summary of current activities including details of scale and range;
- Personnel to be involved in the project with details of relevant skills and experience.

FZS is legally registered as a Not for Profit Organisation in Germany and in Tanzania with over sixty years operational engagement in Tanzania. During this time, FZS has supported core conservation work in the Serengeti ecosystem, Selous Game Reserve (and now Nyerere National Park) and Mahale National Park. In great part through the support of FZS, the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area are recognised as amongst the finest conservation areas in Africa, and are key to the tourism economy of the country. FZS has supported the upgrade of the conservation status of the Nyerere National Park to National Park status. FZS has supported wider conservation efforts in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem,

where the population of the main eastern chimpanzee population remains stable. FZS operates a core budget in Tanzania in pursuit of these aims of some Euros 850,000 p.a. and levers in additional third-party funds to these initiatives of some Euros 2,500,000 p.a. In the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, FZS has been active in Rukoma, Lubalisi and Ikubulu villages introducing village land use plans, participatory forest management and micro-finance schemes linked to conservation. FZS also provide ongoing logistical and financial support to the Regional and District authorities for forest protection.

Key Personnel
FZS Tanzania staff:

Magnus Mosha

Magnus Mosha is the FZS Project Leader on the Mahale Ecosystem Management Project (MEMP). Magnus holds both Bachelor and Master Degrees in Biodiversity Conservation and Management and over 15 years work experience in natural resource management and protection and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the Mahale National Park and in adjacent areas in western Tanzania. He has developed and applied a number of resource tools for negotiating resource use protection and allocations with local communities including Village Land Use Planning as a central and vital strategy for the management of natural resources in this area land and as the center of all other activities. He is also proficient in operating Participatory Forest Management, elevating the understanding of the community on conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Chikira Hassan Senkondo

Mr. Chikira Hassa is the FZS Senior Forest Officer for the Mahale Project. He has rich practical experience and academic background on conservation and management of natural resources in the tropics, forest resource assessment, forest resource assessment, tropical vegetation and plant ecology, participatory forest management approaches and forest economics.

Chikira has a Diploma in Forestry, Bachelors Degree of Science in Forestry and Master's Degree in Forestry. He has worked with various conservation organizations and government entities in the forestry sector including: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network, Kilwa District, Lindi Tanzania Managing Mangrove Forests in Southern Zone and the Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism Forestry and Beekeeping Division.

Chikira has also been involved as a consultant on forest conservation, natural resource management and community involvement in. Chikira has authored a number of publications and guidelines with WWF including on the implementation of REDD at community level in Tanzania.

Andrew Mwakisu

Andrew Mwakisu is the Frankfurt Zoological Society Tanzania Programme Grants Advisor. He has 14 years' experience in natural resources management, conservation agriculture, farmer managed natural regeneration, participatory forest management, silviculture & tree improvement, plantation forestry, land use planning, forest mensuration and program management. Andrew helps deliver the FZS Tanzania Country Programme focusing on project design, strategic planning, capacity building and reporting. Andrew supports the Tanzania Program Grants Coordinator in ensuring the FZS systems for maintaining donor reporting are in place and advising and setting up the project monitoring and reporting system.

Andrew has also been involved in various consultancies relating to forest conservation, participatory forest resource assessments, project proposal development and community involvement in conservation and natural resource management from the dryland vegetation areas to savannah, miombo woodland and highland forests.

Andrew holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Master's Degree in Forestry (majoring in Economics). He has worked as a Forester with Local Government Authorities in Kilombero, as a researcher and Head of Lake Zone Afforestation Research Center within Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI). He has worked as a Program Manager, technical advisor and in the coordination role into various NGOs and National Programs including World Vision International (Tanzania Country Office), Belgian Development Agency (Enabel), and a partnership program between Tanzania and Finland namely Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme.

Michael Thompson

Dr. Michael Thompson is the Frankfurt Zoological Society Tanzania Programme Grants Coordinator. Michael is responsible for donor relationships and oversight of donor funded Tanzanian projects including setting overall project/programme strategy and future funding needs to deliver it. Michael also oversees project impact assessment, and is responsible for ensuring the FZS systems for maintaining donor reporting are in place such that its impact, replicability and sustainability can be increased. Michael has considerable experience in project design and development and has run applied programmes and research in the Serengeti-Ngorongoro-Mara system dating back to the late 1980s.

Michael has a doctorate in biological anthropology from University College London (his dissertation examined the drivers behind the wildlife conservancy movement and land privatization in the Maasai Mara), and a first degree in Environmental Science. Michael has managed a number of large multi-donor funded programmes in the environmental, water and sanitation sectors in the UK and across Africa, as well as conservation development programmes for IUCN, WSUP, ILRI and the UK Environment Agency.

If the applicant organisation identifies another organisation to act as the project coordinator, the PIN should be accompanied by a signed statement on behalf of the nominated organisation that the PIN was submitted with their full consent.

The Plan Vivo System does not prescribe a specific organisational structure; this will vary depending on the project context. More than one organisation may be involved in implementing a project. There must, however, be one organisation that takes on the role of 'project coordinator' and as such is responsible to the Foundation for conformance with the Plan Vivo Standard.

Table 3: Key responsibilities in a Plan Vivo project:

S/No.	Partner (s)	Key responsibilities	Activities
1.	FZS Village Governments	*Administrative*	• *Registration and recording of plan vivos and sale agreements;* • *Managing the use of project finance in the Plan Vivo and making payments to producers* • *Coordinating and recording plan vivo monitoring* • *Negotiating sales of Plan vivo Certificates* • *Reporting to the Plan Vivo Foundation*

			• *Contracting project validation and verification* • *Managing project data.*
2.	Uvinza District Council Village Governments FZS	*Technical*	• *Providing technical support and training to producers in planning and implementing project activities* • *Developing, reviewing and updating forestry and agroforestry systems (including providing-updating technical specifications)* • *Evaluating plan vivos* • *Monitoring plan vivos*
3.	Uvinza District Council Village Governments FZS	*Social*	• *Conducting preliminary discussions and continued workshops with communities* • *Gathering socio-economic information for project registration and reporting purposes* • *Helping groups/individuals to demonstrate land-tenure* • *Advising on issues such as mobilisation, setting up bank accounts, dispute resolution, etc.*
4.	FZS Consultants	*External Technical Support/Project Development Services*	*Project partners may require technical assistance to develop certain aspects of the project. Potential areas of assistance include:* • *Assisting in technical aspects of project design and development* • *Providing training to project technicians* • *Developing carbon/ES modelling and technical specifications*

Part I: Community-Led Design Plan

I1 Submit a plan for achieving community participation in the project, including a mechanism for ongoing consultation with target groups and producers (PV requirement 4.1)

The FZS project activities in these villages to date has been developed through a strong community participation model, and this has continued with the scoping of this carbon credit project. FZS has facilitated the production of VLUPs and V PFM plans for these villages in a participatory way, in line with the Government of Tanzania Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O&OD) programme which aims at decentralizing power to the community. The villages have been involved in the decision making and planning at each stage. Each village has developed village development plans that are incorporated into District Development plans. This has identified the potential for including this proposed carbon project. The completion of all six stages of VLUPs have required considerable community participation. It is from this process the villages have set aside 23,153.10 Ha for forest reserves for conservation.

The following Participatory Forest Management and development of Forest Management Plans (in place in Rukoma and Lubalisi) have followed a similarly participatory approach. FZS conducted an appraisal in June 2020, with key leaders and focal groups within the target villages. This showed the communities' readiness to participate in this proposed carbon credit project. The next stage will be a feasibility study to take place in May 2021, in which the exact location, target households and types of interventions will be chosen in participation with the households and village governments concerned, in a phased approach that can best ensure community expectations are met within a reasonable time frame. Once the project starts, village general assemblies will be platforms for engaging

and approving the project. Community awareness will be created, design and planning prior to the project kick off. The process of identifying individual plan vivos at household level (or plans for the allocation of land for ecosystem rehabilitation, restoration and prevention of ecosystem conversion – and the activities that will take place within these areas) will be the next step. Each of the above-mentioned processes conforms to the principles of free prior and informed consent. This commitment to FPIC will be maintained throughout the project.

Participation in Plan Vivo projects must be through free, prior, informed consent (FPIC), and demonstrable through consultation and participatory design processes. Projects should, at an early stage, initiate discussions with target groups to identify project activities

Part J: Additionality Analysis

J1 Description of how project activities are additional (PV requirement 5.4)

- Statement that the project is not the product of a legislative decree, or a commercial land-use initiative likely to have been economically viable in its own right
- Description of the current barriers to implementing the proposed project, e.g. lack of finances, lack of technical expertise
- Description of how the project will overcome these barriers.

The Government of Tanzania will not use any PVCs generated by this project for their NDC (based on communication received from Carbon Tanzania who run similar projects at village level in Tanzania). The project is not the product of a legislative decree and non-commercial land-use initiative. There is no specific requirement for the target villages to conserve or sequester carbon from community forest and agricultural lands, but the decision to do this within the framework of village land use plans has been freely agreed to by these institutional participants. These VLUPs plans however stop short at identifying specific land to be set aside for these uses, or the types of intervention to use. As such, the setting of carbon sequestration baselines and meeting of carbon sequestration targets will be additional to work that has already been carried out in the target villages.

Having completed VLUPs – there is very little track record in Tanzania of the successful implementation of these plans, and particularly, of any compliance with planned conservation or protection provisions. This is because the VLUPs lack a reliable and consistent source of revenue which could be used to provide incentives to households to adhere to the plan, or to cover the costs of village government implementing the plan's requirements.

The provision of an income stream through a carbon payments scheme such as this, from which local land user agreements, and a conservation incentive scheme can be introduced, potentially provides the income needed to overcome these barriers. A review of other potential barriers and methods of over coming them has been included in the Barrier Analysis provided in Table 4 below.

TABLE 4: Barrier Analysis in the Project area

Type of barrier	Description of Specific Barriers	How barriers will be overcome by project activities	Comments FZS
Financial/ economic barriers	• Insufficient financial resources to develop project • No system in place for transfer of community	Funding is already secured to develop an initial pilot project (Euros 17.5 k in hand, E 30 k likely (decision expected imminently) and E 100 k bid under	Funding of 17.5 k Euros secured (Temperatio) funding bids for USFWS (30kE) submitted

	payments for ecosystem services	preparation). This seed funding will cover ongoing project management and transaction costs and the development of a system for payments for ecosystem services	funding bids for E 100 k under development (IKI) USFWS
Technical barriers	• Project coordinator organisation has staff team in place experienced in community VLUP-PFM, and forestry – lacking in experience in implementing a carbon credit project however. Communities without awareness and skills to initiate project development processes and activities.	• Recruitment of staff and skill strengthening for the project coordinator will be undertaken • Training will be undertaken with the project coordinator staff; site coordinators and community field workers include mapping; biomass inventories; participatory threat assessment and derivation of baselines; carbon quantification	It is anticipated that the skill set necessary to implement and manage the project will be developed with advice and input from the Plan Vivo Team, and from consultants appointed at key stages. FZS advertising a feasibility study to review the Carbon potential and financial feasibility of proposed project interventions, expecting to be in the field in August 2021
Institutional/ political barriers	• Lack of regulations regarding forestry and land-use, or poor enforcement of such regulations.	Support will be given for community members to develop their own bylaws and rules for a community forest, supported by District Forest and Game Offices, and where needed, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)	FZS as project coordinator already arranges for District and TANAPA input to support village governments with compliance with regulation
Ecological barriers	• Widespread soil degradation, recent natural events such as floods, climatic conditions, land-pressures such as intensive grazing	Road access can be restricted in the wet season, as all-weather roads are not in place across the entire project area. This is a constraint that has been successfully worked around by the FZS project team over the last twenty years without detriment	FZS interventions such as sustainable land use planning and alternative livelihood projects contribute to the wise utilization of the resources which consequently minimize the impact.
Social barriers	• Poor organisation and mobilisation of local communities and groups, remoteness of communities, poor infrastructure	The project coordinator, FZS, has been building the capacity of village government and communities in the target project area since 2007, such that village governance arrangements for participatory forest management are in place, alongside a basic micro-finance system which provides funds for complementary livelihood improvement approaches. Capacity development for village government and community groups will continue to be supported	FZS continues to provide its own core funds to support village government and community organisation and mobilisation
Cultural barriers	• Traditional knowledge, laws and customs, market conditions or practices, traditional	The existing FZS project has a strong relationship with the local resident agricultural tribes in the project area. Some cultural	The project will continue to support District and regional approaches to

	equipment and management activities.	barriers may be experienced amongst newer, in-migrant communities of agro-pastoralists (predominantly pastoralists from the Wasukuma), whose traditional slash and burn subsistence grazing patterns are new to the area.	understand and ameliorate these cultural practices.

Additionality is a key requirement for the sale of carbon services. A project can be described as additional where it and the activities supported by it could not take place without the availability of carbon/PES finance.

Part K: Notification of Relevant Bodies & Regulations

K1 **Provide both of the following (scanned copy of letter, or email):**

- Evidence of notification of the relevant national regulatory body of the project proposal (e.g. national climate change focal point, Ministry of Forestry, Dept. of Environment, REDD+ Agency, etc.)
- Statement of intention to comply with all relevant national and international regulations

FZS has taken advice on the relevant authority to anchor this work in from Carbon Tanzania, (a partner organisation with which FZS works in the greater Mahale Ecosystem). FZS has been advised that the Uvinza District Authority is the relevant body to oversee this work in the two villages.

A letter of support from the District is attached.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT OFFICE
RAGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY
UVINZA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Any correspondence please ref:

Kumb. Na. UDC/D30/93/II/03 **5 February, 2021**

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Uvinza District Council support for application by the Frankfurt Zoological Society on behalf of Rukoma and Ikublu/Lubalisi villages for a carbon credit facility and payments facility

The Frankfurt Zoological Society has been providing long-standing support to Uvinza District Council to support sustainable socio-economic development in key villages bordering Mahale National Park. This work has helped to ensure that village community forests have been well managed and protected, and that wider village development has been enabled. Frankfurt Zoological Society had facilitated support in developing and implementing Village Land Use Plans and Participatory Forest Management in these key villages. This has helped to ensure that endangered populations of species such as chimpanzee and elephant have been protected up to the present day.

Recent pressures in Tanzania over the last few years means that new work to develop secure funding streams for the villages to pursue these endeavours is a high priority.

To this end, Uvinza District Council supports the Frankfurt Zoological Society in securing long term sustainable livelihoods for the inhabitants of the villages in the District.

Uvinza District Council therefore strongly supports Frankfurt Zoological Society's funding proposals to this end, including work to establish a carbon credits and payments system linked to these sustainable development initiatives.

We anticipate that this request for support will receive prompt consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Kechegwa H. M
For District Executive Director
Uvinza District Council

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UVINZA

Cc: 1. District Commissioner, Uvinza District
2. District Forest Officer, Uvinza District
3. Magnus Mosha, Project Leader, FZS Greater Mahale Ecosystem Project

Admn Block; Street of Lugufu/S.L.P 12, Uvinza/Kigoma/Simu No; +255 028 280/Fax; No; 028 280Email;ded@uvinzadc.go.tz/Tovuti;http://www.uvinzadc.go.tz

Part L: Identification of Start-Up Funding

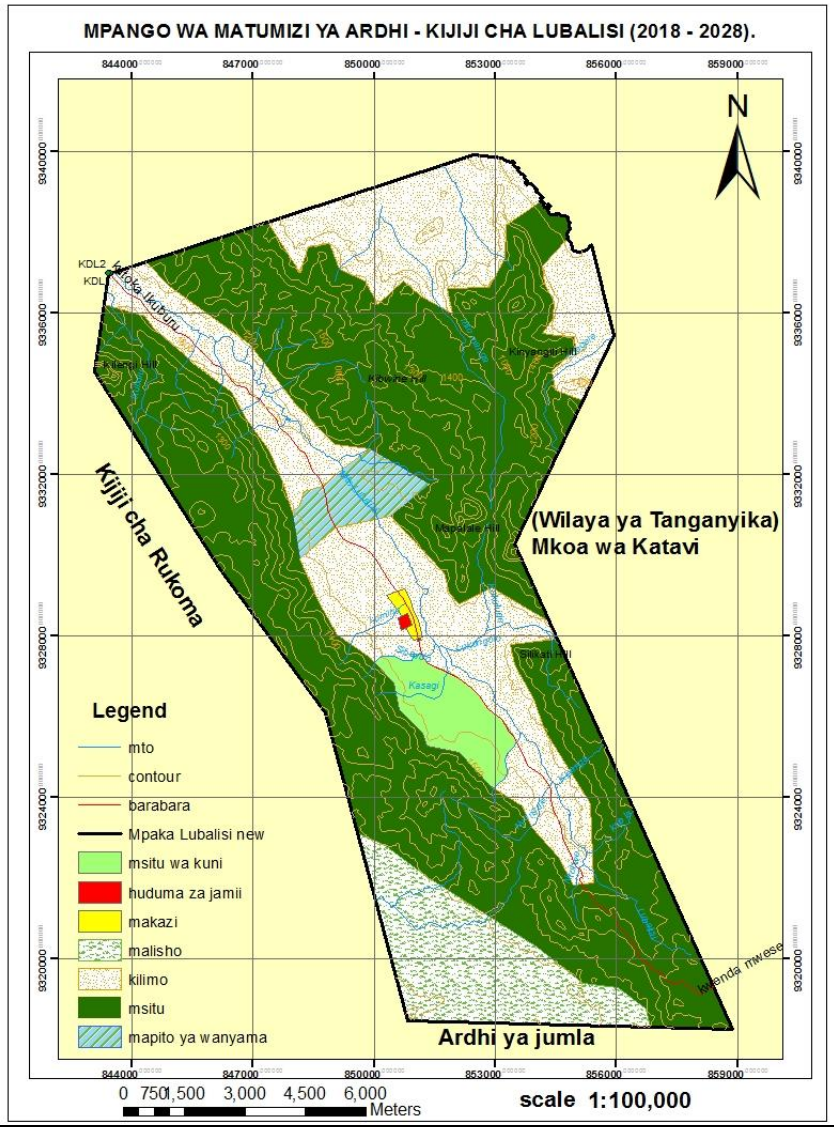
L1 Provide details of how the project will be financed in the development phase, before full project registration

FZS have set aside a budget of up to Euros 45,000 for the development phase of this Plan Vivo project in its 2021 budget. FZS would propose to allocate this to the development of a PDD to develop a phased approach to introducing the interventions described above – according to the budgets required for this, in consultation with Plan Vivo. FZS is also able to review these funding requirements and seek further funding going forward. FZS can, for example, then seek to expand the scope of the project by adding additional phases / interventions and technical specifications once the project is established.

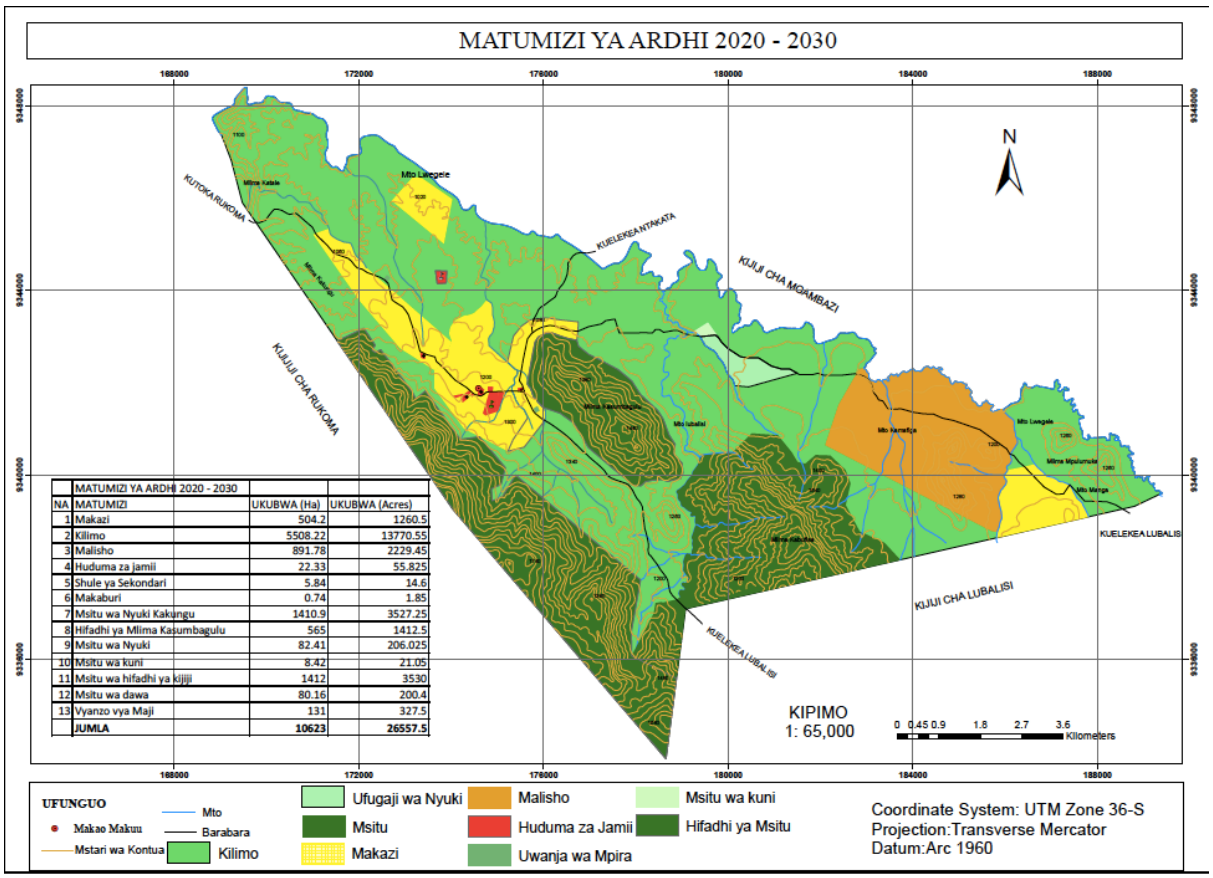
Start-up funding is an internal issue for project developers. However, start-up funding can be a significant hurdle for new projects as carbon finance only becomes available after technical specifications have been developed, community training undertaken, and multiple other costs such as hiring staff, travel and external consulting costs have been incurred. Therefore, projects are encouraged to consider potential funding sources at an early stage.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Map showing different land uses in Lubalisi village



Appendix 2: Map showing different land uses in Ikubulu village



	MATUMIZI YA ARDHI 2020 - 2030		
NA	MATUMIZI	UKUBWA (Ha)	UKUBWA (Acres)
1	Makazi	504.2	1260.5
2	Kilimo	5508.22	13770.55
3	Malisho	891.78	2229.45
4	Huduma za jamii	22.33	55.825
5	Shule ya Sekondari	5.84	14.6
6	Makaburi	0.74	1.85
7	Msitu wa Nyuki Kakungu	1410.9	3527.25
8	Hifadhi ya Mlima Kasumbagulu	565	1412.5
9	Msitu wa Nyuki	82.41	206.025
10	Msitu wa kuni	8.42	21.05
11	Msitu wa hifadhi ya kijiji	1412	3530
12	Msitu wa dawa	80.16	200.4
13	Vyanzo vya Maji	131	327.5
	JUMLA	**10623**	**26557.5**

Appendix 3: Map showing different land uses in Rukoma village