Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania (MJUMITA)

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029

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Letter From Executive Director

MJUMITA stands out as the only community forest network organisation in the country, offering exceptional opportunities for connection and collaboration in forest management. Known for its credibility and reliability, MJUMITA is a trusted leader in forest conservation. By putting communities at the heart of its work, the organisation advocates passionately for the well-being of both forests and the people who rely on them, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs met. With a focus on promoting good governance, MJUMITA encourages transparency and accountability, creating a strong foundation for sustainable community-based forest management and development.

It is against this background that I am pleased to share with you an exciting and pivotal moment in the journey of MJUMITA. After extensive consultation, reflection, and analysis, we are extremely excited to introduce to you our new Strategic Plan for 2025-2029, which will guide our work over the next five years. This Strategic Plan is a bold vision for our future, and we believe it will propel our mission to support local communities to effectively manage forests on their village lands, conserve biodiversity, and advocate for sustainable land management in Tanzania.

The process of developing this Strategic Plan involved consultations with our board members, network members, partners, and key stakeholders across the forest sector. Their investment of time, knowledge and experience has shaped this incredible and exciting roadmap that will guide us to success. We extend our sincere thanks to all the institutions, organisations, and individuals who supported and contributed to the creation of this five-year plan. We have also taken into account the evolving challenges facing our communities, as well as the lessons we have learned from our past work. The result is a focused, innovative, and action-oriented plan that positions MJUMITA to respond effectively to both present and future challenges. MJUMITA remains committed to empowering its members, ensuring communities are equipped to manage and benefit from the sustainable use of forests and its resources through Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM). The importance of CBFM in enabling local communities to take charge of conservation, protect biodiversity, promote sustainable forest management and improve their lives cannot be overstated.

The vision of this Strategic Plan is to see communities participating and benefiting from inclusive and sustainable forest management. Our mission is to empower local communities in forest ownership and sustainable management through good governance, better policies and improved livelihoods. The vision promotes community ownership, inclusivity, and long-term environmental stewardship, fostering a sense of responsibility and ensuring sustainable use of resources. The mission supports this by focusing on forest ownership, good governance, advocacy for supportive policies, and improving livelihoods, providing communities with the tools, authority, and opportunities they need to manage their forests effectively and sustainably. Together, these principles strengthen the foundation for successful, equitable, and lasting CBFM practices.

Since our establishment, we have made significant progress in forest management, community engagement and empowerment, plus community wellbeing. Over the next five years, our efforts will focus on ensuring that; (i) more communities have ownership and control over their forest resources which will ultimately promote sustainable forest management practices, enhance biodiversity conservation, and improve livelihoods for forest-dependent communities; (ii) strengthening the governance structures and policies necessary for effective community-based forest management and advocating for enhanced governance and policies that ensure local communities have the support and regulatory framework to manage forest resources sustainably; (iii) supporting improved livelihoods through sustainable conservation and climate change response; (iv) lastly, strengthening MJUMITA to become robust through improved operations and a skilled team, leading us towards our desired mission.

Our work is far from over. I therefore invite you all to actively engage with us as we move forward with this new plan. Whether you are a partner, a donor, a community member, or a supporter, your role is invaluable to the success of this strategic vision. We look forward to working with all of you as we embark on this new chapter, deepening our commitment to the sustainable development of Tanzania's forest sector, and ensuring that our future generations inherit a planet that is both prosperous and sustainable.

Sincerely

Rahima Njaidi
Executive Director

Executive Summary

The MJUMITA Strategic Plan outlines a clear vision and roadmap for strengthening the role of community-based forest management in Tanzania. Over the next five years, MJUMITA aims to empower forest-dependent communities by promoting sustainable forest governance, improving livelihoods, and enhancing climate resilience. The plan emphasises the importance of forest conservation through participatory approaches, including the equitable sharing of benefits, capacity building, and advocacy for better forest policies.

MJUMITA is committed to expanding its influence through strategic partnerships with local and international stakeholders. These partnerships are not just collaborations, but strategic alliances that will be instrumental in scaling up community forest initiatives. The plan is structured around key priorities: enhancing community capacities, securing land tenure for forest resources, advocating for policy reforms, and promoting sustainable livelihoods that align with conservation efforts.

MJUMITA will also focus on integrating climate change response strategies, ensuring that forests continue to serve as carbon sinks while simultaneously supporting biodiversity. With a steadfast commitment to gender equality and inclusion, the organisation plans to actively involve women, youth, and marginalised groups in forest management decision-making processes.

This Strategic Plan is designed to respond to the challenges and opportunities that face Tanzania's forest sector, positioning MJUMITA as a leader in community-based forest conservation. Through strategic interventions, MJUMITA aims to create sustainable, equitable, and resilient forest landscapes that support local livelihoods and contribute significantly to the global fight against climate change.

List of Acronyms

MJUMITA	Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
CBO	Community-Based Organization
LGA	Legal Government Authority
LUP	Land-Use Plan
FORVAC	Forestry and Value Chains Development Program
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
SAM	Social Accountability Monitoring
TFCG	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
VSLA	Village Saving and Lending Association

About MJUMITA

For almost two decades, Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania (MJUMITA), also known as the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania, has been at the forefront of forest conservation efforts across Tanzania. Composed of dedicated community members from various regions, MJUMITA has been instrumental in advocating for sustainable forestry practices and environmental stewardship. Through promoting Participatory Forest Management and grassroots initiatives, MJUMITA has significantly contributed to protecting and managing Tanzania's precious forest resources. With a solid commitment to conservation, MJUMITA continues to empower local communities and foster a culture of environmental responsibility for the benefit of present and future generations.

MJUMITA is a membership organisation of 132 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) from six geographic zones (a group of regions) in Tanzania, with over 15,000 individual members. All are from forest-dependent communities - they live around natural forests and depend on forests for their livelihoods. To avoid over-dependence, to join MJUMITA one should be a member of a CBO with some income-generating activities in the villages.

The CBOs, who each have their own leadership structures, then voluntarily join the MJUMITA network after learning from its representatives what the network is and the work they focus on in the communities.

The MJUMITA board comprises leaders drawn from the network's CBO membership base, representing each of the six zones. This inclusive structure ensures that the interests and perspectives of all members are prioritised in decision-making. The board convenes regularly with MJUMITA's management to deliberate on issues confronting the organisation and its members. This promotes transparency, accountability, and effective communication between the leadership and the broader membership, facilitating collective action towards achieving our objectives.

Background

Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) is a participatory approach to forest management in which local communities are given the authority and responsibility to manage and use forest resources sustainably. This model involves the establishment of legal frameworks and agreements that grant communities rights to manage and benefit from forest resources on their land. By decentralising forest management, CBFM empowers communities to make decisions about their forest resources, ensuring that those who rely on these resources have a direct role in their stewardship and conservation.

According to Global Forest Watch, Tanzania lost 37,200 ha of primary humid forest between 2000 and 2023, accounting for 1.2% of the total tree cover loss.

Forests in Tanzania are critical for promoting environmental health, ensuring economic prosperity, and fostering social well-being. They provide essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, soil fertility, and climate stabilisation, vital for agriculture and overall environmental balance. Home to a rich biodiversity, including many endemic species, forests contribute significantly to the country's natural heritage. Economically, forests support livelihoods through timber, non-timber forest products, and eco-tourism. Culturally, they hold immense value for local communities.

In Tanzania, CBFM is used to address multiple critical issues simultaneously. It promotes sustainable forest management, helping to reduce deforestation and protecting biodiversity. CBFM contributes to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods for rural communities by providing economic incentives through sustainable harvesting and eco-friendly enterprises. Additionally, CBFM supports climate change response efforts by maintaining and increasing forest cover. The approach also enhances local governance and empowers communities, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for natural resources. With strong legal and policy support, CBFM in Tanzania creates a framework for balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic development, making it an essential component of the country's natural resource management strategy.

In a country where forests play a crucial role in the economies and livelihoods of millions, MJUMITA's work to promote sustainable forest management is vital. It enhances community resilience and safeguards Tanzania's natural heritage for future generations, ensuring that these precious resources continue providing invaluable benefits.

In 1998, the National Forest Policy was introduced in Tanzania, following a review of the previous Policy of 1963. The policy aimed to provide guidelines on forestry management, including the involvement of communities in forest management. Many consider this to be the root of community-based forest management in Tanzania.

In 2000, a transformative journey in forest conservation and community empowerment began in Tanzania. Originating as a program initiated by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), MJUMITA began its commendable work under the "Misitu Yetu" project, which was dedicated to empowering local communities in forestry practices. During its formative years from 2000 to 2005, MJUMITA operated as a dynamic platform, championing sustainable forest management and community engagement. This phase was made possible through a grant from Care International, providing the essential momentum for MJUMITA's early initiatives. In 2005, an important milestone was attained when TFCG secured a project funded by the European Union, namely 'Strengthening and Empowering Civil Society for Participatory Forest Management in East Africa' (EMPAFORM), expanding its sphere of influence and enabling the support of forest community associations across Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.
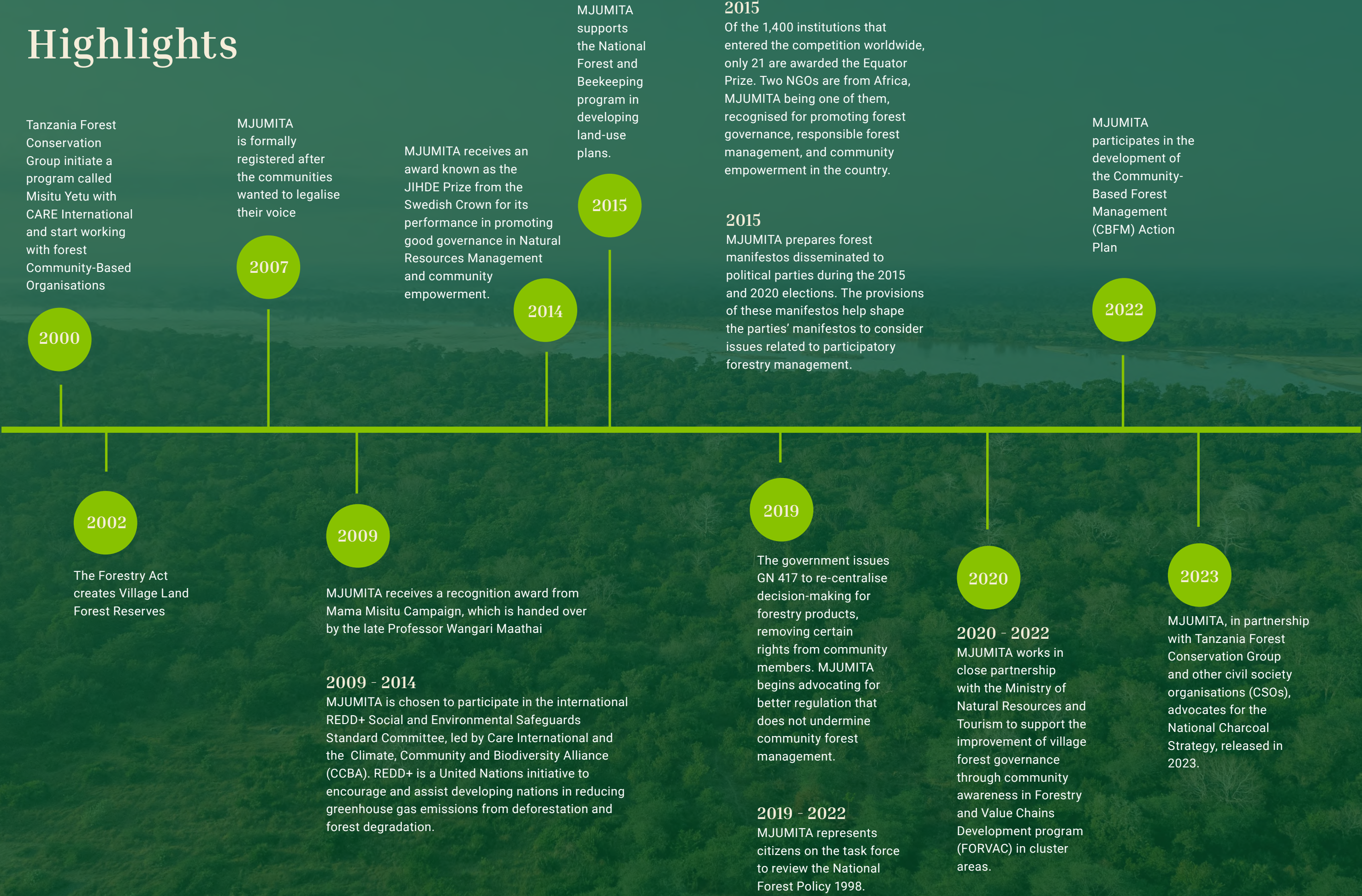
In 2007, a significant turning point emerged as communities within the project sought to establish their distinct identity and voice. This led to the decision to formally register MJUMITA as a legal entity. The transition marked a defining moment in the organisation's journey, solidifying its status as a grassroots force for environmental advocacy and community empowerment. MJUMITA operates across a diverse landscape, spanning 16 regions

in Tanzania. From its humble beginnings to now encompassing 132 CBOs in the northern, southern, eastern, western, plus southern highlands and central regions of Tanzania, MJUMITA has evolved into a dynamic and influential organisation, catalysing positive change in conservation, community-based forest management, community development, and environmental stewardship throughout the county.

Following its formal registration, MJUMITA embarked on a growth and collaboration trajectory, responding to communities' calls for expanded engagement. By forging strategic partnerships and alliances with various organisations, MJUMITA has scaled its interventions to more than 504 villages with an active membership, boasting 132 CBOs with over 15,000 members across Tanzania's mainland. The organisation's overarching mission has been to integrate communities into the heart of forest conservation, empowering them with a sense of ownership and responsibility. This approach has resonated strongly with local stakeholders, resulting in a growing network of villages that actively participate in and contribute to preserving their natural heritage. MJUMITA's journey stands as a testament to its unwavering commitment to fostering environmental stewardship, community involvement, and sustainable practices in the realm of forest conservation in Tanzania.
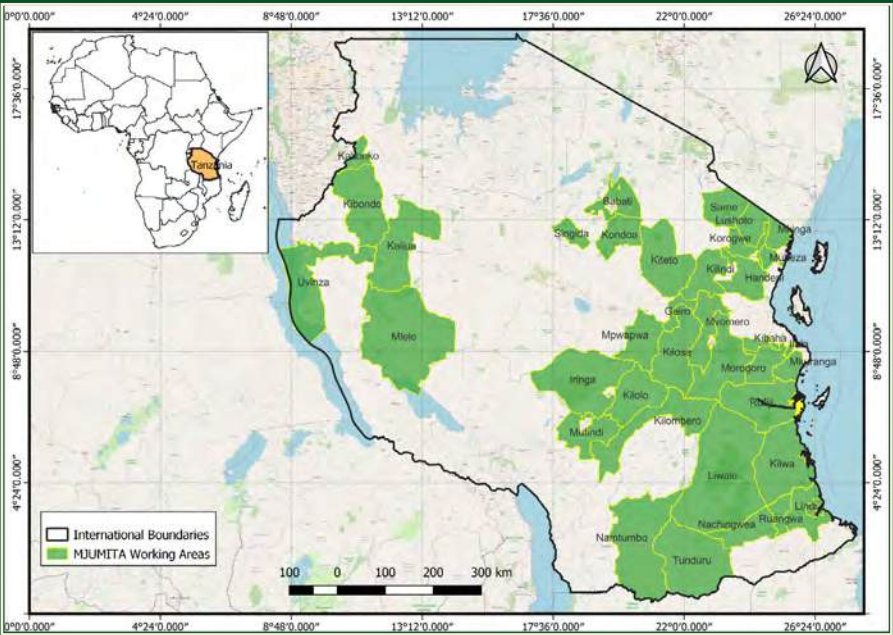
Highlights

2000
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group initiate a program called Misitu Yetu with CARE International and start working with forest Community-Based Organisations

2002
The Forestry Act creates Village Land Forest Reserves

2007
MJUMITA is formally registered after the communities wanted to legalise their voice

2009
MJUMITA receives a recognition award from Mama Misitu Campaign, which is handed over by the late Professor Wangari Maathai

2009 - 2014
MJUMITA is chosen to participate in the international REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards Standard Committee, led by Care International and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). REDD+ is a United Nations initiative to encourage and assist developing nations in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

2014
MJUMITA receives an award known as the JIHDE Prize from the Swedish Crown for its performance in promoting good governance in Natural Resources Management and community empowerment.

MJUMITA supports the National Forest and Beekeeping program in developing land-use plans.

2015
Of the 1,400 institutions that entered the competition worldwide, only 21 are awarded the Equator Prize. Two NGOs are from Africa, MJUMITA being one of them, recognised for promoting forest governance, responsible forest management, and community empowerment in the country.

2015
MJUMITA prepares forest manifestos disseminated to political parties during the 2015 and 2020 elections. The provisions of these manifestos help shape the parties' manifestos to consider issues related to participatory forestry management.

2019
The government issues GN 417 to re-centralise decision-making for forestry products, removing certain rights from community members. MJUMITA begins advocating for better regulation that does not undermine community forest management.

2019 - 2022
MJUMITA represents citizens on the task force to review the National Forest Policy 1998.

2020 - 2022
MJUMITA works in close partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to support the improvement of village forest governance through community awareness in Forestry and Value Chains Development program (FORVAC) in cluster areas.

2022
MJUMITA participates in the development of the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Action Plan

2023
MJUMITA, in partnership with Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and other civil society organisations (CSOs), advocates for the National Charcoal Strategy, released in 2023.

Where We Work and What We Do

MJUMITA plays a pivotal role in forest conservation and community development across Tanzania. With a rich history spanning two decades, MJUMITA comprises community members committed to safeguarding the country's forest resources. Communities who are dependent on natural resources are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and MJUMITA's work to strengthen natural resource governance structures and diversify livelihoods builds its members' resilience to the risks of extreme climate events. Many greenhouse gasses (GHG) emissions in Tanzania come from land-use changes within the forestry sector. The increase in pressure on forests is a threat to the climate. Because of this, the organisation fulfils multifaceted roles, including advocacy for sustainable forestry practices, capacity building to empower local communities to manage their natural resources, and active engagement with stakeholders at all levels. We thus play a critical role in climate change and ensuring that the communities understand and work towards mitigating and adapting to it.

MJUMITA works in six zones throughout the country

Zone	Regions
Northern Zone	Kilimanjaro
	Tanga
Southern Zone	Lindi
	Mtwara
	Ruvuma
Western Zone	Kigoma
	Tabora
	Katavi
Eastern Zone	Dar es Salaam
	Pwani
	Morogoro
Central Zone	Dodoma
	Singida
	Manyara
Southern Highlands	Iringa
	Njombe

Through research, monitoring, and policy development, MJUMITA contributes to informed decision-making and effective governance in forest management. Furthermore, the organisation emphasises education and awareness, networking with partners, and resource mobilisation to advance its conservation agenda. By promoting transparent governance and implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, MJUMITA ensures accountability and fosters positive change in Tanzania's forests and forest-dependent communities, ensuring that women and youth actively participate in and benefit from forest conservation.

1. Advocacy
MJUMITA advocates for forest management policies and governance and supports and strengthens local communities' rights.

2. Capacity Building
MJUMITA provides training and capacity-building programs to empower local communities in forest management and conservation.

3. Community Engagement
MJUMITA ensures that local communities, including women and youth, are involved in decision-making processes related to forest management and conservation.

4. Policy Development
As the community's voice, MJUMITA contributes to developing forest-related policies and regulations to ensure sustainable management of forest resources.

5. Governance
The organisation promotes pillars of good governance in forest management through initiatives to improve governance structures and practices.

Our Track Record

Achievements

Over 1.8 Million Hectares of Community-Managed Forests

MJUMITA has successfully supported the community management of over 1,800,000 hectares of natural forest in 504 villages and advocated for the gazettement of 51 Village Land Forest Reserves in Tanzania. This vast expanse of forested land under community protection represents a substantial shift towards more inclusive and participatory forest management models, signalling a departure from traditional top-down approaches.

132 CBOs engaged

The 132 Community-based Organisations (CBOs), spread over 16 regions, which are part of MJUMITA, are an extensive network, signifying a broad and diverse coalition of local groups actively engaged in forest conservation across the Tanzania mainland. The reach and impact of our initiatives are thus amplified and demonstrates their ability to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and collective action among a wide range of stakeholders. Including these CBOs in sustainable forest management highlights MJUMITA's success in building a solid, interconnected community of conservation advocates dedicated to preserving and sustaining Tanzania's forests.

15,000 Member Nationwide Network

The network's growth to encompass over 15,000 individual members, all part of CBOs, in the forestry sector across Tanzania, shows a widespread commitment to addressing critical forestry-related challenges in the country. This accomplishment represents a unified effort to promote sustainable forest management, conserve natural resources, and engage with local communities. This network's strength lies in its ability to amplify the voices of those dedicated to preserving Tanzania's forests and biodiversity.

Growth of Village Land Forest Reserves and Land-Use Plans (LUP)

MJUMITA's successful initiatives encompass the increase of Village Forest Reserves and the support for developing Land-Use Plans, Village Land Registries, and Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) areas. The interventions have rejuvenated Village Land Forest Reserves, resulting in healthier ecosystems with better biodiversity, water retention, and overall resilience. Supporting LUPs has also empowered communities to make informed land and resource allocation decisions.

Only legally recognized forest network organisation in Tanzania

MJUMITAs legal recognition as Tanzania's sole forest network organisation shows our credibility, authority, and importance in forestry. This recognition validates our commitment to advancing sustainable community-based forest management and conservation efforts, with the status to represent the interests of diverse stakeholders involved in forestry across the country. As the sole organisation with this recognition, we gain influence and responsibility in shaping forestry policies, advocating for environmental conservation, and promoting best practices.

Supported Securing of Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCRO)

We have facilitated the acquisition of Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy for over 2,400 individuals within CBFM villages. These certificates empower individuals with ownership and control over their land and resources and contribute to sustainable land-use practices. These efforts align with the broader mission of advocating for the rights and well-being of forest-dependent communities while promoting responsible forest management and conservation practices in Tanzania.

First organisation in Tanzania to develop a REDD+ benefit-sharing revenue model

MJUMITA devised a benefit-sharing revenue model using REDD+ trial payments, acknowledging communities as stakeholders in their shared forest resources. This initiative distributed around $459,836 to household beneficiaries from 27 villages in Lindi, Kilosa, and Mpwapwa Districts, positively impacting their livelihoods. Approximately $152,600 was allocated to community-selected development projects, showcasing our commitment to equitable benefit-sharing and sustainable resource management in Tanzania.

Capacity building

We have trained Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) and other forest users on records management, forest monitoring, financial auditing, laws and policies, value addition to forest products, gender and social inclusion, and good governance, bolstering local capacity for effective forest resource management. This initiative establishes robust governance structures, empowering communities to oversee and manage their forest resources transparently and accountably. Fostering informed decision-making and a culture of good governance enhances the sustainability of conservation efforts and supports long-term forest conservation in Tanzania.

Development of a sustainable charcoal production model

MJUMITA pioneered a sustainable charcoal production model across 30 CBFM villages, promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and poverty reduction through community-based forest enterprises. The model was upscaled in 13 villages in the Tanga Region. From 2013 to 2018, as the sole sustainable tree-based biomass energy production system in Tanzania, this model facilitated the production of 6,490.7 tons of biomass from Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) in Kilosa district. By 2017, over 1,053 charcoal producers and village governments collectively earned $562,000 and funded community development facilities worth approximately $357,000.

Community ownership of forest resources

MJUMITA has a community-focused approach that ensures local people own and protect their forest resources. They empower communities to foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship toward forests. This ownership leads to active participation in conservation, promoting sustainable practices and accountability among community members. Ultimately, their efforts leave a lasting legacy of environmental consciousness and community-driven conservation, enhancing the long-term sustainability of Tanzania's forests.

Developed and deployed a forest governance dashboard tool

Development and deployment of MJUMITA's Forest Governance Dashboard tool marks another achievement in forest conservation. Over 300 villages use this tool to enhance transparency and accountability in forest management. By offering a structured approach to assess governance practices, communities are empowered to identify areas for improvement and implement effective strategies. The tool has been upgraded to include an aspect of financial audit.

Situational Analysis

People and Forests in Tanzania: Key Challenges

MJUMITA operates in Tanzania's diverse forest ecosystems and the communities who depend on them. With almost two decades of experience, MJUMITA navigates a landscape characterised by natural forests with unique ecological features and conservation challenges. It engages with local communities, government agencies, NGOs, private sectors, media and international partners to address deforestation, illegal logging, land tenure rights, and biodiversity conservation. Some of the challenges addressed are below:

Governance Challenges

The core challenges facing sustainable community use and management of forests relate to governance, specifically the ability of communities to secure and exercise rights over their forest resources. Communities face challenges securing legal rights over their forests and exercising those rights, often due to government actions or conflicts over resource use. A critical need is to develop strong and capable local forest governance institutions that can make and enforce decisions and uphold rights. MJUMITA actively supports forest governance institutions to ensure that they have the capabilities to manage their forests.

Economic Challenges

MJUMITA grapples with economic challenges impacting forest-dependent communities and the sustainability of conservation efforts. These include limited access to alternative income opportunities, lack of access to markets for forest products, and poverty among marginalised communities. To address these issues, MJUMITA implements initiatives to promote sustainable economic development in forest areas, supporting community-based enterprises including sustainable charcoal production, bee-keeping, butterfly farming, conservation agriculture, Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLAs) and ecotourism. All provide alternative sources of income while preserving forest resources. By fostering economic empowerment and livelihood diversification, MJUMITA aims to alleviate poverty and reduce over-reliance on natural resources, contributing to deforestation and habitat loss.

Conservation Challenges

Deforestation, habitat degradation, invasive species, and illegal logging are just a few of the challenges facing forest conservation in Tanzania. Such challenges threaten biodiversity, water resources, and the overall health of forest ecosystems. MJUMITA employs a multifaceted approach in this regard, including community-based conservation initiatives, law enforcement, and advocacy for more robust environmental policies. The organisation works closely with local communities to raise awareness about forest conservation's importance and implement sustainable land management practices.

Unsustainable land-use practices

MJUMITA grapples with land-use challenges that arise from competing interests and conflicting land management practices in forest areas. These include land tenure conflicts, encroachment on forest land for agriculture and settlement, and unsustainable land-use practices that degrade soil and water quality. To address such issues, MJUMITA advocates for integrated land management approaches that balance conservation with the needs of local communities and other stakeholders. The organisation promotes participatory land-use planning development processes that involve all relevant stakeholders in decision-making and ensure sustainable land-use practices. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, MJUMITA seeks to reconcile competing land-use interests and promote land management practices that support conservation and community development goals.

Strengths

Credibility

MJUMITA has gained credibility through its work in the areas where it operates and with various stakeholders. This credibility enhances its reputation and fosters trust among local communities, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and donors. Trust is essential for effective collaboration as it encourages support and cooperation from diverse stakeholders. It also makes us a reliable and respected voice in advocating for forest conservation and sustainable practices, giving our initiatives more influence and impact.

A solid and dedicated team

Our dedicated and experienced team is essential for MJUMITA's success. They provide the organisation with the skills, commitment, and capacity to tackle environmental challenges effectively. They lead initiatives, forge partnerships, and confidently navigate complexities, ensuring projects are executed consistently. Their cohesion fosters innovation and adaptability, enhancing our ability to make a lasting impact on forest conservation in Tanzania.

Effective outreach interventions

MJUMITA effectively communicates and implements sustainable forestry initiatives by engaging directly with forest communities, fostering awareness and empowering residents. This inclusive approach ensures that community voices are heard and needs addressed in their quest for sustainable coexistence with nature.

Women's empowerment and youth inclusion through forestry

By encouraging and facilitating women's and youth's involvement in forest activities, MJUMITA has not only broken traditional gender barriers but also provided women and youth an avenue to actively manage forest resources. Empowering women in this capacity contributes to improved forest management and conservation efforts and enables them to earn an income, enhancing their economic status and autonomy.

Enhanced local-level implementation

MJUMITA focuses on enhancing local-level implementation, ensuring tailored strategies and conservation efforts for forest communities. This community-centred approach fosters responsive practices, garnering support and implementing solutions aligned with cultural and economic dynamics. By prioritising local stakeholders, it strengthens program impact and ensures long-term success in Tanzania's diverse forest contexts.

Putting communities at the forefront

This ensures forest conservation efforts are rooted in local knowledge, needs, and ownership. The approach empowers communities to actively participate in and take responsibility for protecting their natural resources. It fosters sustainability, as community-driven initiatives are more likely to endure, and it builds a foundation for broader advocacy and support, enhancing the overall effectiveness of MJUMITA's efforts in forest conservation.

Weaknesses

Lack of long-term sustainable funding

Relying solely on donor funding without sustainability measures poses a weakness for MJUMITA. This dependence inhibits longevity and continuity, leading to abrupt halts in crucial activities and disparities in impact across regions. The lack of dedicated staff for resource mobilisation limits consistent funding opportunities, hindering development and conservation efforts in some areas.

Inadequate communication and documentation

Despite the reputable work done by MJUMITA, less is well communicated to different stakeholders. Recently, MJUMITA has created its communications, monitoring, and evaluation department. However, more capacity building is needed to ensure MJUMITA effectively conveys its work and impact by producing updated materials ensuring a clear and comprehensive understanding of ongoing initiatives, progress, and outcomes. The absence of effective communication channels within MJUMITA exacerbates limited communication flow, impacting cohesion and member engagement. With better communication with partners and other stakeholders, MJUMITA will achieve improved visibility and attract opportunities.

Limited number of staff and working facilities

Limited human resources leads to a heavy workload for the existing employees, resulting in burnout and sometimes reduced productivity. With limited personnel, covering all aspects of the organisation's work is challenging, from project management to community engagement and advocacy. It constrains the organisation's capacity to expand its reach, take on new initiatives, or respond quickly to emerging issues or opportunities. The staff shortage hinders the efficiency, effectiveness, and scalability of MJUMITA's efforts.

Opportunities

Carbon Credits

Carbon trading has started in some areas, such as Rubeho. While this is great, carbon credit work needs to be expanded. Having successfully negotiated this business for Rubeho, MJUMITA should now use its experience to negotiate more significant and better opportunities for other villages. Carbon trading generates revenue and encourages proactive community engagement in forest conservation. This aligns environmental objectives with economic incentives, benefiting the environment and local livelihoods. It also fosters larger-scale sustainable forest management and community development.

Unlocking funding opportunities

Our unique position in the forest network presents a significant opportunity. As the country's sole community forest network organisation, donors can leverage MJUMITA's expertise to expand existing projects and launch new initiatives. With the right team, we can unlock unrestricted funding to develop innovative strategies and increase impact on forest communities. Such funding enables the implementation of sustainable solutions, strengthening abilities to address environmental and community challenges effectively. Other opportunities include climate funding, such as carbon credits for all areas of MJUMITA's operations.

Partnerships and collaborations

Partnerships and collaborations are critical to MJUMITA's growth and impact. By collaborating with Non-Government Organisations, International Organisations, government agencies, academic and research institutions, as well as private sector entities, MJUMITA gains access to resources and expertise. Collaboration enables resource pooling, knowledge sharing, and more effective challenge tackling. These partnerships expand our reach, unlock funding opportunities, and drive shared advocacy efforts.

Tapping into other types of forest resources

Supporting communities in utilising other forest products, such as bamboo, presents a valuable opportunity for MJUMITA. Bamboo's rapid growth and versatile applications offer a sustainable income source, diversifying livelihoods and reducing pressure on traditional forest resources. By promoting responsible harvesting and processing of bamboo, we can create economic opportunities aligned with sustainable forest management. Bamboo also contributes to reforestation and climate change response, enhancing our conservation and community development initiatives.

Government responsiveness

Government responsiveness to forest conservation issues, such as the development of the National Forest Policy Implementation Strategy and Community-Based Forest Management Action Plan, provides a conducive regulatory environment and amplifies the impact of our initiatives. Collaboration with government agencies ensures alignment with national policies and enhances program legitimacy and scalability, positioning us as a critical partner in advancing sustainable forest management.

Threats

The presence of unreserved forests

The migration of people to unreserved forests poses a significant threat to MJUMITA's conservation efforts. Overuse leads to resource depletion in these forests, while unchecked exploitation results in deforestation and habitat loss. Unsustainable land uses undermine our initiatives and highlight the need for comprehensive conservation policies and community engagement to address natural resource management issues. MJUMITA is looking to support the gazettement of these areas to reduce the threat to conservation.

Increase in mining activities

Increased mining operations clear forests, disrupting ecosystems and biodiversity. This encroachment causes soil erosion, water contamination, and habitat loss, posing challenges to forest conservation. Forests with no management arrangement are especially vulnerable, requiring proactive measures and advocacy for responsible mining practices to protect forest ecosystems.

Deforestation due to illegal charcoal burning and firewood cutting

Population growth increases forest pressure, leading to deforestation from agriculture, charcoal burning, and firewood cutting. This critically threatens our conservation efforts, disrupting forest ecosystems and compromising biodiversity. Urgent advocacy for alternative and sustainable energy sources and resource management is needed to mitigate deforestation and protect Tanzania's forests.

Conflicting Political Interests

Conflicting political interests in forest resources pose a significant threat to our mission. Economic or political motivations lead to obstruction of sustainable forestry practices and environmental conservation efforts, perpetuating unsustainable resource exploitation and threatening the environment and forest-dependent communities. While laws may be in place, individual interests put the success of forest communities at risk, and as such, people make unsustainable local-level decisions, especially politicians..

Conflicting Government policies

Contradicting government policies undermine MJUMITA's conservation efforts, worsening deforestation and habitat degradation. These policies create legal challenges, impeding advocacy and making it difficult to effect change. A good example is the National Agriculture Policy (2013), which conflicts with the National Forestry Policy (1998). While the Forestry Policy aims to protect forests, this aligns differently with the fact that citizens need land to practise agriculture and, therefore, need to cut trees to get more arable land. To mitigate this, MJUMITA engages in advocacy and dialogue for more sustainable forestry approaches.

'In 2019, a new government regulation (Government Notice 417) removed authority for preparing harvesting plans and approving buyers for forest products from Village Land Forest Reserves and placed these powers with the District Harvesting Committee. This undermines communities' abilities to legally control and manage their forests and forest product harvesting and local incentives to invest in forest protection and management.'

Climate change

Climate change exacerbates challenges in forest conservation by amplifying deforestation and unsustainable land-use. Extreme weather events disrupt ecosystems and threaten local livelihoods, while invasive species and diseases endanger forest health. MJUMITA adapts its strategies to incorporate resilience and mitigation measures, effectively addressing this growing threat.

What Guides MJUMITA

VISION
"Communities participate and benefit from inclusive and sustainable forest management."

MISSION
To empower local communities in forest ownership and sustainable management through good governance, better policies and improved livelihoods.

Values

Accountability
MJUMITA is accountable to the people it serves and is committed to improving their livelihoods through forest conservation. We must responsibly use the available resources without wasting them to provide services that meet the needs of the community and all our network members.

Commitment
We are well-prepared to oversee and implement activities to fulfil the organisation's responsibilities. Even in dire conditions, MJUMITA dedicates time and energy to the organisation's operations.

Teamwork
MJUMITA believes in all employees' cooperation, collaboration, and efforts to successfully, efficiently, and effectively achieve its goals and objectives.

Competence
Every employee is competent and efficient in their role. They excel in their roles when their essential traits and talents are nurtured. These include task delivery proficiency, technical expertise in Sustainable Natural Resources Management, and building a keen understanding of working effectively with forest communities.

Credibility
Credibility is crucial to the organisation's success. MJUMITA maintains an open relationship with donors and other stakeholders, is trusted by the government and donors as a service provider, builds professional community capacity, and is experienced in interventions.

Value Proposition

MJUMITA is a unique and expansive network, the country's sole community forest network organisation, providing unparalleled connectivity and collaboration opportunities. Renowned for its credibility and trustworthiness, MJUMITA is a beacon of reliability within the forest conservation sector. Placing communities at the forefront of its initiatives, MJUMITA advocates tirelessly for the well-being of both forests and the people who depend on them, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs addressed. With a commitment to promoting good governance, MJUMITA fosters transparent and accountable practices, laying the foundation for sustainable community-based forest management and community development.

Problem Statement

MJUMITA is a devoted network organisation that addresses challenges faced by forest-dependent communities. The lack of land-use plans in some localities or poor enforcement of land-use plans, as well as ineffective governance structures and practices at the village level, have resulted in mismanagement of forest resources, leading to deforestation, unequal distribution of benefits, as well as impeding community engagement in critical decision-making processes and participation in forest conservation.

Deforestation has led to soil erosion, contributing to a decline in agricultural productivity, reduced rainfall, and increased temperatures, disrupting the water cycle and leading to droughts. The effects of deforestation in Tanzania are not only limited to the environment but also significantly impact the economy and the livelihoods of local communities. The forestry sector has traditionally been an essential source of income and employment for the local community in Tanzania. However, the decline in forest cover has led to a decrease in these opportunities.

Furthermore, deforestation has substantially impacted biodiversity and led to climate change, which has various economic effects, including decreased agricultural output, higher health risks, and infrastructure damage. Climate change is a significant challenge that must be addressed. Tanzania confronts several consequences, including extreme weather occurrences, altered agricultural patterns, and environmental degradation, which endanger community survival.

While the people stand to benefit significantly from forest conservation, their livelihoods must also be improved. Supporting local communities in identifying and investing in eco-friendly income-generating activities as an alternative source of income will reduce the pressure on forest resources. Concerted efforts must be made to safeguard Tanzania's remaining forests for the community's future. Community participation in forest conservation has been a comprehensive and strategic approach MJUMITA employs to conserve natural resources. However, forest communities require more conservation education to be prepared for responsible natural resource management and environmental protection. The MJUMITA team can only support conservation activities if it has the necessary resources and capacity. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is required to address the challenges, focusing on the root causes and their interconnected nature, including resource mobilisation and organisational capacity improvement.

Theory of Change

MJUMITA promotes community-based forest management in Tanzania while ensuring rural communities' sustainable use of forest resources in village lands. This can only be achieved with favourable policies and regulations for participatory forest management, good governance, strong community forest conservation networks across the country, and empowered and resilient communities who are stewards of their natural resources.
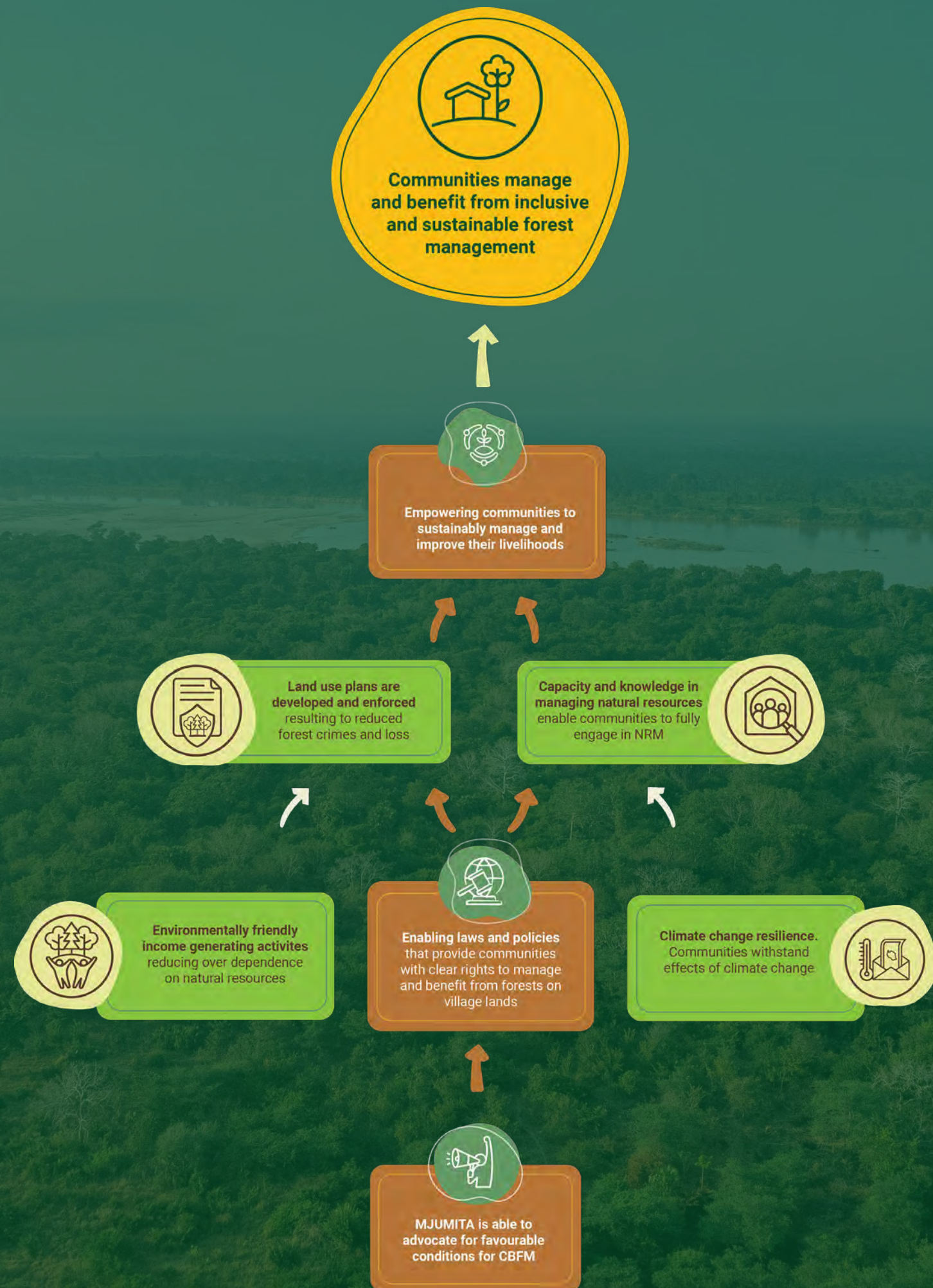
To achieve its mission, MJUMITA will advocate for conducive laws and policies at the national level and improve governance at the local level. This will increase transparency and accountability in forest governance, enhance communities' rights to manage and benefit from village lands and reduce illegal forest activities in Village Forest Reserves.

Land-use plans have effectively improved forest management and facilitated land-use rights for communities in rural areas. By developing land-use plans, MJUMITA will encourage more sustainable land uses to reduce over-dependence on forests. They will support communities with alternative livelihoods to generate sustainable income streams, incentivizing communities' access to enterprise opportunities. In addition to conservation benefits, these land-use plans offer land tenure, economic incentives, and long-term zonation.

Further, MJUMITA will enhance the capacity of its networks through tailored training programs to bolster its members' awareness of sustainable forest management and environmental conservation.

Climate change threatens forest health, resource availability, and use patterns unanticipatedly, disrupting ecosystem services, economic sectors, and the household livelihoods that depend on and manage their forests sustainably. MJUMITA will ensure that knowledge of the vulnerability and impact of climate change on communities and forests is acquired and shared. It will then support these communities in planning and implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of the community and forests.

MJUMITA firmly believes that all this will be possible if a strong secretariat and well-managed forest CBOs empower communities to manage and benefit from inclusive and sustainable forest management.

Communities manage and benefit from inclusive and sustainable forest management

Empowering communities to sustainably manage and improve their livelihoods

Land use plans are developed and enforced resulting to reduced forest crimes and loss

Capacity and knowledge in managing natural resources enable communities to fully engage in NRM

Environmentally friendly income generating activites reducing over dependence on natural resources

Enabling laws and policies that provide communities with clear rights to manage and benefit from forests on village lands

Climate change resilience. Communities withstand effects of climate change

MJUMITA is able to advocate for favourable conditions for CBFM

Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1:

By 2029, the unreserved forest in 30 villages will be managed and legalised under Community-Based Forest Management.

By legalising and managing a significant portion of the unreserved forest under CBFM by 2029, MJUMITA will ensure that more communities have ownership and control over their forest resources. This will further promote sustainable forest management practices, enhance biodiversity conservation, and improve livelihoods for forest-dependent communities. Additionally, it will strengthen the participatory approach to forest management, promoting community engagement and fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship among residents toward their natural environment.

What success looks like:
Communities secure legal rights over 2.5 million ha of unreserved forests on village lands, establishing legally recognized Village Land Forest Reserves.

Objective 1: By 2029, at least 30 of local communities throughout Tanzania will have developed and enforced land-use planning to increase the legal management of land under CBFM in village land.

MJUMITA will equip communities with the necessary skills and understanding of PFM principles to engage in decision-making processes regarding land and forest resources. This will enable communities to implement sustainable land management practices, effectively conserve forest resources, and mitigate environmental degradation.

Targets:
  » Village land-use plans are developed and implemented by local communities and LGAs.
  » Land-use and Community-Based Forest Management plans are approved for implementation at the district level.
  » Village participation in CBFM, land management, and gender and social inclusion increases.
  » Communities adopt sustainable harvesting models for forest products and other nature-based enterprises, and well-governed and environmentally sustainable forest management is promoted.

Objective 2: Communities and local government authorities will be supported in practising sustainable land-use and forest management by 2029.

MJUMITA will empower communities with the knowledge and tools necessary for sustainable land-use practices. It will foster responsible stewardship of forest resources, mitigate deforestation and habitat loss, and enhance ecosystem resilience.

Targets:
  » Communities are trained, and their capacity is built on sustainable land-use practices and forest management.
  » Community governance structures are established, including forming local committees or organisations responsible for overseeing resource management activities.
  » Technical expertise, tools, and financial assistance are provided to empower communities.
  » Capacity-building initiatives for communities and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) on land management and PFM are conducted.

Goal 2:

Strengthened governance and policies that support community-based forest management.

MJUMITA believes that bolstering the governance structures and policies necessary for effective community-based forest management and advocating for strengthened governance and policies ensures that local communities have the support and regulatory framework to manage forest resources sustainably. This enables communities to actively participate in forest management decision-making, leading to more inclusive and environmentally sound practices.

What success looks like:
Clear, inclusive governance structures and supportive policies are established, enabling communities to manage forest resources effectively.

Objective 1: By 2029, at least 10,000 of the MJUMITA network members will have increased capacity with high-quality governance to manage community forests.

MJUMITA will strengthen and build the capacity of high-quality CBO networks to manage community forests, enhancing their ability to govern and oversee forest resources effectively and ensuring that decisions are made transparently, inclusively, and in the best interests of the community and the environment.

Targets:
» A needs assessment of the MJUMITA network is done, and gaps in CBFM governance are determined.
» MJUMITA networks are trained in governance issues related to CBFM.
» MJUMITA has strengthened its members' ability to advocate for CBFM issues.
» Information, education, and communication materials are distributed to MJUMITA networks.

Objective 2: By 2029, MJUMITA will influence the establishment or improvement, implementation and monitoring of at least five guidelines governing participatory forest management in Tanzania.

MJUMITA aims to shape policy frameworks and guidelines that align with inclusivity, transparency, and community participation principles. It will advocate for the adoption of best practices, strengthen governance structures, and enhance the capacity of local institutions and communities to manage forest resources effectively.

Targets:
» MJUMITA's advocacy strategy for policy and government-related issues has been developed.
» Evidence related to policy and governance issues in CBFM is reviewed and generated.
» Evidence related to policy and governance is shared with relevant stakeholders.
» A policy change on governance in CBFM has been enacted.

Objective 3: By 2029, MJUMITA will enhance the capacity of a minimum of 50 village and 10 district institutions in participatory forest management and good governance.

MJUMITA will enhance the knowledge and skills of village and district institutions by empowering local communities to actively engage in forest management processes and effectively govern their natural resources. Village and district institutions are local government structures responsible for managing and administering various aspects of community life and public services within their respective jurisdictions. This capacity-building initiative fosters transparent and inclusive decision-making, strengthens community-led conservation efforts, and promotes sustainable forest management practices.

Targets:
» A needs assessment of the district and village Institutions is done to determine gaps in CBFM.
» Training sessions on governance related to CBFM are conducted for district and village institutions.
» Village institutions are facilitated with resources to address issues related to CBFM.
» District and village institutions provide information, education, and communication materials.

Objective 4: By 2029, MJUMITA will have a digital system to increase good governance in participatory forest management.

MJUMITA will streamline data collection, analysis, and reporting processes; the digital system will enable more informed decision-making and facilitate better stakeholder communication. This will enhance forest management initiatives' effectiveness and promote transparency, accountability, and community participation in governance processes.

Targets:
» A new digital system to improve CBFM governance at the local level is in place.
» Primary users can use the digital system.
» Feedback regarding the governance system is being used to improve ways of working.
» Governance monitoring models (Dashboard, Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM), and auditing) are implemented to improve forest management.

Objective 5: Research on participatory forest management and good governance is published and used to influence change and review and implement policies, laws, and guidelines in sustainable forest management.

MJUMITA will influence policy change and advocate for more inclusive and sustainable forest management practices through research. It will ensure that policies, laws, and guidelines align with community needs and priorities, leading to more effective conservation efforts and improved governance of forest resources.

Targets:
» At least two peer-reviewed papers on good governance and participatory management are published.
» Relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and NGOs, are engaged in developing and disseminating research.
» Strong networks and partnerships are established to lobby policymakers and advocate for adopting essential recommended policies.
» Gaps in policy and governance issues related to CBFM are identified through research.
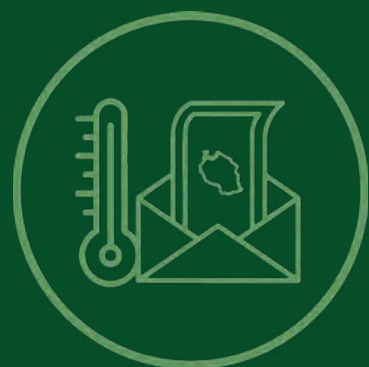» Information is packaged and disseminated for crucial policy and governance-related issues in CBFM.

Objective 6: By 2029, MJUMITA will empower 30 local villages to advocate for improved policies, laws, and regulations and ensure effective implementation.

MJUMITA will empower communities to engage in advocacy. This ensures that their voices are heard in decision-making processes related to forest governance, leading to more inclusive and effective policies. Communities can then influence positive changes that support sustainable land-use practices, enhance environmental protection measures, and safeguard their rights and interests.

Targets:
» CBOs collaborate to advocate for better policies, laws, and regulations on land management and PFM.
» MJUMITA member networks develop and implement advocacy strategies.
» Local communities identify and circulate key forest issues to be incorporated into political parties' manifestos.
» Local communities engage with the media to share key lessons and advocate for policy issues on CBFM and land management.

GOAL 3:

Community livelihoods have improved through sustainable conservation and climate change response.

By fostering communities with improved livelihoods through sustainable conservation and climate change response, MJUMITA can ensure the long-term preservation of forest resources while enhancing the well-being of the communities dependent on these ecosystems. Further, MJUMITA will initiate forest landscape restoration efforts and help restore degraded forest ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This will promote their long-term health and vitality for both present and future generations.

What success looks like:
Communities have a deeper understanding of climate change and have improved livelihoods through sustainable conservation practices and effective climate change response measures, including sustainable agriculture.

Objective 1: By 2029, the capacity of 5,000 community members has been built to implement climate change interventions.

Community members will have the knowledge and skills to address climate-related challenges, such as extreme weather events and changing rainfall patterns. MJUMITA will enhance their ability to adapt and thrive in a changing climate. This capacity-building effort fosters resilience at the grassroots level, empowering communities to protect their livelihoods, natural resources, and ecosystems.

Targets:
» A farmers' needs assessment is done, and farming challenges and gaps are identified.
» Community members are made aware of and understand climate change through various means, such as public awareness meetings, social media, etc.
» By 2029, local communities are aware of restoration and identify potential areas for restoration within their village land.
» Groups are formed and trained on climate-resilient interventions.
» Climate-resilient interventions are established using demonstration plots to educate the community.

Objective 2: By 2029, at least 50 institutions, communities, and farmer groups will have integrated climate change into their plans.

MJUMITA will facilitate climate change response into the plans of institutions and farmers' groups so they can better prepare for and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We will promote proactive and sustainable approaches to land management, fostering environmental stewardship and resilience in the face of climate-related challenges.

Targets:
» Critical actions to implement climate change response strategies are mapped out.
» Farmers' groups and institutions are knowledgeable about climate change.
» Climate Change risk assessment is conducted.
» Climate change response strategies are developed, and farmers are educated on them.
» Institutions and farmers' groups are supported to integrate climate change strategies into their plans
» By 2029, local communities will be aware of different restoration approaches and implement them in their village land and wildlife corridors.
» Communities monitor restoration programs' progress, and results are shared with different stakeholders.

Objective 3: By 2029, at least 5,000 community members will have benefited from environmentally friendly enterprises.

MJUMITA will support sustainable forest enterprise development to provide alternative sources of income that reduce dependency on activities harmful to the environment, such as deforestation or unsustainable resource extraction. We will create economic opportunities while encouraging sustainable practices that protect natural resources and ecosystems.

Targets:
» Market analyses of different products are done, and an understanding of which products will support the community livelihoods is built.
» Technical skills training based on identified enterprises such as bee-keeping is done.
» Business development skills training for business groups is conducted.
» Exchange visits and peer-to-peer learning with farmers are done.
» Business groups/individuals are supported in value-addition techniques and market linkages.

Objective 4: By 2029, at least 1,000 community members will benefit from payment for ecosystem services, including carbon trade.

MJUMITA will support communities in working on ecosystem services, ensuring that they benefit. We incentivise community participation in conservation by facilitating tangible benefits and promoting sustainable land-use and forest management. Economic gains will offer alternative livelihoods, reducing reliance on activities that harm the environment.

Targets:
» Communities are aware of and trained in forest carbon trading and other payments for ecosystem services.
» A feasibility study is conducted to establish carbon projects and other ecosystem service payments.
» Exchange visits are conducted to village leaders and influential people in areas that benefit from payments for ecosystem services projects, such as carbon trade.
» Communities are supported in establishing Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) projects, e.g., carbon trade.

Goal 4:

A robust organisation that effectively implements its mission.

MJUMITA understands that in addition to implementing its projects, it needs to be very strong internally to ensure that the team can effectively deliver our work. We will become robust through improved operations and a skilled team, leading us towards our desired mission.

What success looks like:
MJUMITA can consistently achieve its mission, demonstrating effectiveness in our operations, impact, and overall contribution to its objectives.

Objective 1: MJUMITA's funding portfolio is increased from less than 500,000 USD per annum to 1,500,000 USD.

MJUMITA will increase its budget to scale up its activities and initiatives, reach more communities, and impact forest conservation and community development in Tanzania. With increased financial resources, we can invest in critical areas such as capacity building, technology upgrades, and securing an office, enhancing our effectiveness and efficiency in delivering our mission.

Targets:
» Funding is secured for an independent office.
» A resource mobilisation department is established, and a fundraising strategy developed by 2025.
» The MJUMITA Resource Mobilization Team is capacitated to secure funding and build strong partnerships.
» The potential partner and donor base is increased.
» MJUMITA membership system and fee collection system are in place.

Objective 2: By 2029, MJUMITA will have a robust operational governance and internal system.

MJUMITA believes that well-established internal systems ensure organisational efficiency, transparency, and accountability, laying the foundation for effective project management and resource utilisation. These systems enable MJUMITA to streamline its operations, optimise workflows, and track progress towards its objectives, enhancing overall performance and productivity.

Targets:
» A dedicated MEL department develops, executes, and carefully manages a MEL system.
» Financial systems and policies are updated and operationalised to align with national and international standards.
» HR systems and policies are updated and operationalised to align with national and international standards.

» Standard operational procedures (Code of ethics, procurement, sexual harassment) will be up-to-date and operational by 2029.
» The capacity of the MJUMITA board to deliver its mandate by 2029 is strengthened.

Objective 3: By 2029, staff will have increased their ability to effectively deliver the MJUMITA mission.

A well-trained and skilled team will effectively implement conservation initiatives. By enhancing staff capacity, MJUMITA can ensure that its programs are executed efficiently and with expertise, maximising their impact on conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Targets:
» Specialists are engaged to undertake a capacity needs assessment and evaluate team and individual gaps.
» Staff are facilitated to participate in various capacity-building interventions.
» A staff performance management system is established and implemented to assess staff performance for career growth.
» MJUMITA organogram is restructured to align with the mission and vision.

Objective 4: Enhance partnerships, collaborations and networking with local, national, philanthropic, and international Institutions and donors.

This will significantly contribute to organisational growth and achieving goals and mission. These partnerships will bring diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to MJUMITA's initiatives, fostering innovation, amplifying impact, and expanding community conservation efforts.

Targets:
» A partnership and collaboration action plan is developed for local, national, and international networking events to build and strengthen relationships with like-minded partners.
» MJUMITA increases collaborations and partnerships with key stakeholders to promote CBFM.

Objective 5: Enhance the visibility of MJUMITA.

By 2029, MJUMITA will enhance its presence through strategic branding across local, national, and international platforms. This will place MJUMITA in the spotlight, allowing stakeholders, including government, donors, and partners, to see its work and impact.

Targets:
 » A robust communication and branding strategy is developed and implemented to enhance MJUMITA's visibility.
 » Information, education, and other communication materials are developed and disseminated to share on various platforms.
 » MJUMITA participates in national and international events to showcase its work.
 » A communication specialist for digital engagement and branding MJUMITA is engaged.
 » The MJUMITA website has been updated, and other media platforms have been identified.

Objective 6: Increase MJUMITA networks' engagement in forest management.
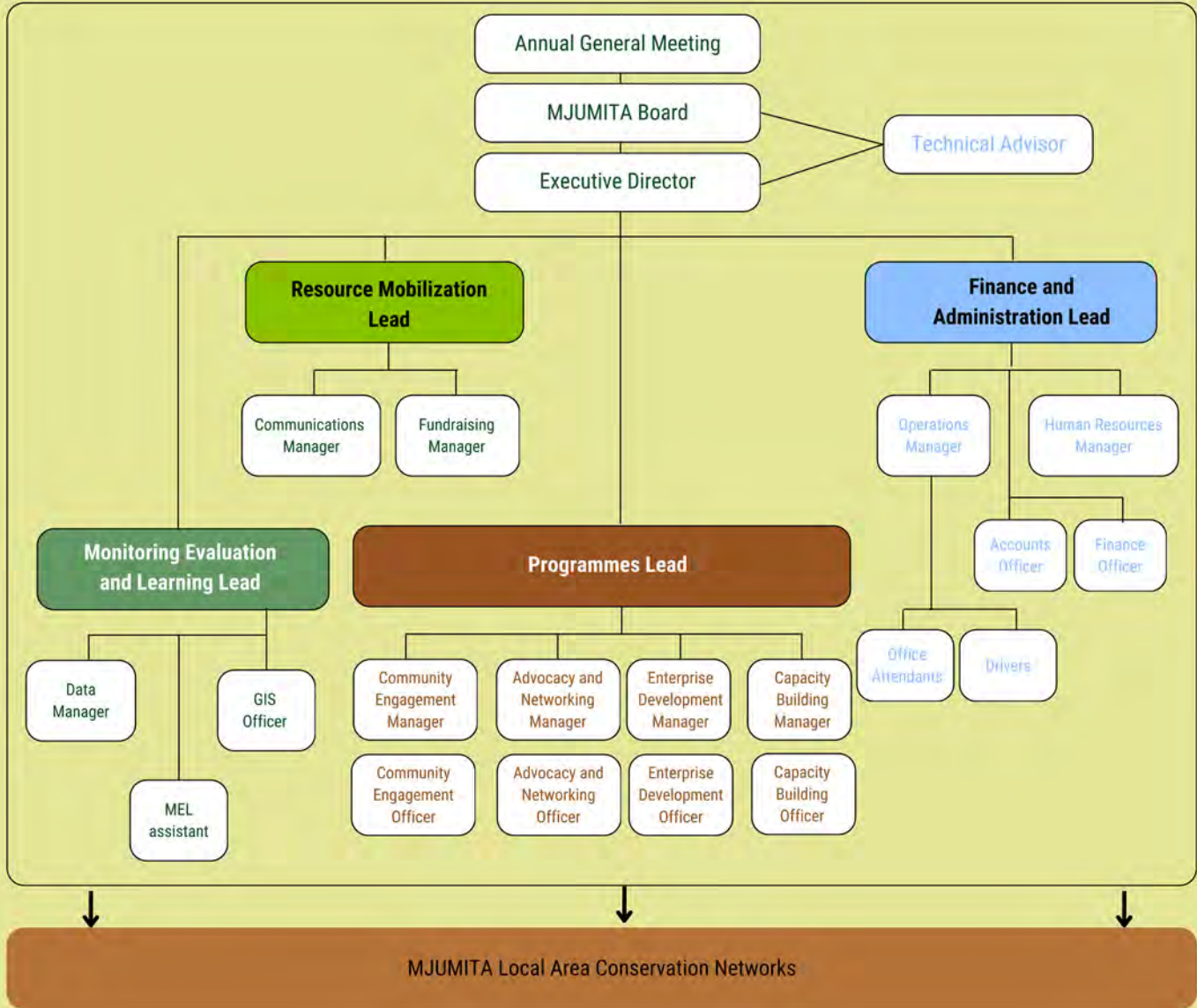
MJUMITA recognizes the importance of active participation in forest management events for its members. By 2029, the organisation will strengthen its network's capacity - by 60% of its members - to participate in regional and international forest management dialogues and events.

Targets:
 » MJUMITA member networks are trained in fundraising skills to increase their funding potential.
 » MJUMITA networks (CBOs) are trained in administrative and financial management skills to manage themselves effectively.
 » MJUMITA member networks attend local and international dialogues to advocate for community rights in forest management.
 » Communication mechanisms between MJUMITA and its member networks are strengthened to ensure the networks are kept fully informed.

Operational Structure

MJUMITA's organisational structure supports its successful implementation and service delivery. We plan to strengthen our team to better serve our network members and improve our organisational structure to enhance operational support and collaboration. MJUMITA emphasises the importance of a strong field workforce to support operations. This team will help network members by increasing capacity, offering technical support, and monitoring services.

We also want to improve our organisational structure by strengthening our network of members and community committees in villages to be able to provide technical support and capacity building. By actively incorporating local people through Participatory Forest Management and Joint Forest Management Approaches, MJUMITA hopes to build a more inclusive and participatory approach into our work. This structure will help us achieve our objective of promoting community-led forest conservation and management in Tanzania.

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