



Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania

2025: A Year of Reclaiming Our Forests and Our Future





Our work matters because forests are more than just trees; they provide climate benefits, water, medicine, livelihoods, and a sense of identity. When communities conserve their forests, everyone benefits.



Who we are

MJUMITA is Tanzania's leading community forest conservation network, legally registered in 2007. We represent 132 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with over 15,000 members across 16 regions. We work to strengthen forest-dependent communities through sustainable Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM), focusing on capacity building, advocacy, and good governance. The network spans 504 villages, collectively managing over 1.8 million hectares of natural forests, fostering environmental stewardship, improved livelihoods, and climate resilience.

At the core of MJUMITA is a fundamental truth: forests flourish when communities prosper. We are a grassroots movement dedicated to connecting villages across Tanzania, connecting their strength, wisdom, and purpose. We empower people to claim their space, safeguard their resources, and stand resilient against climate and land pressures. We amplify local voices, fostering leadership, and transform community knowledge into collective power.



2025 Results in Numbers

30,403.8 HECTARES OF COMMUNITY FORESTS SECURED UNDER IMPROVED PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

These forests now have guardians. Communities have the legal backing, the knowledge, and the commitment to defend their land from encroachment, preserving critical habitats and future livelihoods.



10 VILLAGES STRENGTHENED THEIR FOREST GOVERNANCE MONITORING DIGITAL SYSTEMS

Communities regained control over their forests. Clearer rules, active committees, and stronger village leadership have reduced illegal harvesting and restored confidence in community-based ownership.

TSH 188,457,500/\$76,804 GENERATED THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED FOREST ENTERPRISES

This income represents not only financial gain but also dignity achieved through sustainable forest stewardship. Communities have transformed legal timber harvesting, beekeeping, and other forest-based activities into open sources of revenue. These initiatives support households, boost village economies, and demonstrate that conservation and prosperity can grow side by side.



WOMEN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE INCREASED BY 80%

Voices that were once overlooked are now shaping village priorities. Women and young people are influencing decisions, challenging harmful practices, and becoming champions for climate action in their own communities.



VILLAGE CLIMATE EDUCATION ACTION PLANS ACHIEVED OVER 90% IMPLEMENTATION

Communities didn't just plan, they acted. Training evolved into tree planting, advocacy on climate action plan, sustainable farming practices, and lasting changes in daily behaviour. This is community-driven climate resilience in motion.

8 VILLAGES SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED LAND USE PLANS

These villages now have a clear plan for managing land sustainably. With clearly defined zones for agriculture, settlement, and conservation, conflicts over land are minimized, natural resources are better protected, and communities can confidently plan for both growth and environmental management.





Communities Take Back Their Forests

Communities in several villages had watched their forests degrade over the years. Encroachment, illegal logging, and weak governance left people feeling unable to protect the forests that sustained their livelihoods. Local bylaws were outdated, village natural resource committees were inactive, and the sense of community responsibility had faded.

Through projects such as RUBEHO, USEMINI and IFBEST, MJUMITA worked with village leaders and residents to restore strong forest governance. The team supported communities to review and update their bylaws, trained village natural resource committees, and created spaces for open dialogue between leaders and villagers. Workshops encouraged women and youth to participate in decisions about forest management, which helped make conservation efforts more inclusive and sustainable.

This work led to a clear shift. Communities recognised their role in protecting the forest. Women began joining governance meetings for the first time, young people supported forest patrols, and committees enforced agreed rules with growing confidence. Villagers moved from feeling powerless to becoming active stewards of their land.

Illegal logging and other harmful activities have since declined. Forests are beginning to recover, and a stronger sense of unity around conservation has taken hold. People now feel ownership of their forests, and women and youth play visible roles in shaping decisions.

As one Village Natural Resources Committee member from Mbuga shared: "Before, we thought the forest was someone else's responsibility. Now we protect it like our own home."



Women and Youth at the Forefront of Climate Action in Tanzania

Rural communities in Tanzania, especially women and youth, face growing climate impacts such as declining crop yields, land degradation, and deforestation. Although they are heavily affected, their voices were rarely included in climate decision-making. Limited knowledge, weak leadership involvement, and unsustainable practices left many households more vulnerable to these challenges.

Through the Commonwealth Foundation funded project Elevating the Voices of Rural Women and Youth for Climate Justice, MJUMITA helped change this. The team provided climate education, advocacy skills, and leadership training to community members. Workshops and dialogues supported people to understand climate risks and develop practical responses. Villages created Climate Education Action Plans, and MJUMITA produced advocacy materials that raised awareness across communities. Local advocacy groups and Trainers of Trainers were also established to ensure the work continues and remains community-led.

A major shift happened when trained women and youth began putting their knowledge into action. They planted trees, promoted sustainable farming, challenged harmful practices, and took active roles in village discussions. Climate issues became a consistent item on meeting agendas, and communities implemented more than 90 percent of their action plans. This marked a strong sense of ownership and collective responsibility.

Communities are now adopting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land use, and more responsible management of natural resources. Individuals such as Ronaldo, Asifiwe, and Ramadhani have become visible champions of conservation through tree planting, legal farming, and efforts to reduce deforestation. Women and youth hold leadership roles and help ensure that climate resilience remains part of local development.

“Before the training, I never knew my voice mattered. Now I plant trees, educate others, and speak up in meetings. We are shaping our community’s future.

-Doris T. Mallaba

Water Brings New Life to Maguha Secondary School



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We used to learn while thirsty because the water was salty and scarce. Now everything runs smoothly. This borehole is a big victory for our school.

- Loveness Nuhu

Maguha Secondary School in Kilosa had lived with a serious water shortage for many years. With no natural water source nearby, the school depended on irregular village supply, which was rarely enough. Students learned while thirsty, toilets stopped working, meals were delayed, and maintaining hygiene became a daily struggle. The shortage affected learning, attendance, and the wellbeing of both students and teachers.

MJUMITA helped the school install a modern borehole to provide clean and reliable water every day. This gave students and teachers access to safe water for drinking, washing, cooking, and keeping the school clean. The school also started small gardens that now produce vegetables and fruits, and nearby households access the borehole too.

The moment the borehole began working, daily life at the school changed. Toilets became usable, classrooms stayed clean, and students no longer sat through lessons while thirsty. Meals are prepared on time, and the entire learning environment feels healthier and more organised.

Today, Maguha Secondary School is thriving. Attendance has improved, sanitation is stronger, and the availability of clean water has created a more hopeful atmosphere across the school. The surrounding community has also become more connected to the school through shared access to water.



Kanyenja Village Builds Livelihoods and Conservation Together



Kanyenja Village, located in the Nyerere–Selous–Udzungwa corridor, faced challenges balancing daily livelihood needs with the responsibility of protecting forests and wildlife. Limited income options, unsustainable land use, and low conservation awareness made the community vulnerable both economically and environmentally.

Through the ENLISH project, MJUMITA worked with regional and district officials, village leaders, youth, and residents to plan sustainable livelihood activities together. The village set aside land for two fishponds and a demonstration palm oil farm. Two 500 square meter fishponds were excavated using community labour, with 54 villagers employed during construction. Intercropping of lemongrass with palm oil was introduced to help boost incomes. The project also trained 80 people in aquaculture and strengthened conservation leadership by training 10 Village Game Scouts.

A turning point came during a village assembly where more than 100 people formally approved the project plans. This collective support created strong ownership and encouraged active participation in every step of the work. Women played roles as both workers and food vendors, which strengthened unity and participation across the village.

Kanyenja Village now has functional fishponds, diversified sources of income, stronger conservation leadership, and growing confidence in sustainable land management. Women and youth have gained new skills and jobs, and the village is becoming a practical example of how livelihoods and conservation can progress together.

As one community member shared: "This project has shown us that conserving nature does not mean losing income; it means gaining new opportunities."

Recognition for MJUMITA's Community-Led Forest Movement



Rahima Njaidi was honoured for her transformative leadership in community-based forest management, her tireless advocacy for land rights and gender equality, and her pioneering work to secure the future of Tanzania's forests through people-led conservation.

Receiving the Tusk Award for our Executive Director, Rahima Njaidi, was a proud and defining moment for all of us at MJUMITA. The award matters because it is one of the most respected honours in conservation and shines an international spotlight on locally led organisations that deliver real, lasting impact. Rahima's recognition highlighted her leadership in advancing community-based forest conservation and her commitment to ensuring that women, youth, and village leaders have a meaningful voice in managing the forests they rely on.

Working with Rahima has shown us what dedicated and values-driven leadership can achieve. Under her guidance, communities have secured legal rights to their forests, strengthened governance systems, and built sustainable livelihoods that reduce pressure on natural resources. Her approach continues to shape how we work and reinforces our belief that conservation succeeds when communities lead.

For us, this award is more than individual recognition. It affirms the strength of MJUMITA's network and the thousands of community members who conserve Tanzania's forests every day. Rahima's achievement brings well-deserved visibility to their efforts and inspires us to continue growing Tanzania's community-led forest movement.

Looking Forward to 2026

Protecting Forests at Scale: Establishing New Village Land Forest Reserves

In 2026, with your generous support, we will help 10 villages establish Village Land Forest Reserves covering about 200,000 hectares.

Building a Stronger and More Sustainable MJUMITA

We will grow MJUMITA's financial sustainability by increasing our annual funding portfolio by at least 30%.

Strengthening Local Ownership of Land and Forests

In 2026, we will deepen community-led land governance in 10 villages by expanding legally recognised Community-Based Forest Management through strong land-use plans and their enforcement.

Growing Green Livelihoods for Communities

We will support at least 500 community members to benefit from environmentally friendly enterprises that strengthen income and promote sustainable resource use.



Thank You!

As we reflect on this year, our hearts are full of gratitude. Your unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in our mission have been the driving force behind every milestone we achieved in 2025. Because of you, communities across Tanzania have continued to strengthen their voice, protect their forests, and build more resilient livelihoods.

In 2026, we step forward with renewed hope and determination. Guided by your trust, we will continue empowering local communities, advancing women's leadership in natural resource management, and expanding community-based forest conservation across the country.

Every contribution, big or small, has helped us move closer to a Tanzania where communities thrive alongside healthy, well-managed forests. Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your partnership remains the foundation of our strength, and together, we will continue to inspire lasting change for people, forests, and our shared future.

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