



**SMART Conservation and  
Community Foundation**

**ACTIVITY  
REPORT  
DEC, 2023**

**Project Name: Land  
Tenure Improvement  
Project (LTIP)**



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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

GIS	-	Geographic Information Systems
NLUPC	-	National Land Use Planning Commission
LTIP	-	Land Tenure Improvement Project
TFS	-	Tanzania Forest Services
VLC	-	Village Land Certificates
SCCF	-	SMART Conservation and Community Foundation

## **1.0 Introduction**

The Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) aims to significantly enhance land tenure security and promote sustainable land management practices among rural communities in the Uyui District. With the overarching goal of ensuring that families and individuals possess clearly defined rights to their land, LTIP addresses critical issues of insecurity and inequity in land ownership. This project empowers local populations, particularly women and marginalized groups, fostering sustainable land use practices, enhancing food security, and promoting economic development.

Throughout the year, we have engaged in rigorous community outreach, collaboration with local authorities, and capacity-building initiatives that equip communities to manage their land resources effectively. As we conclude the year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty God for the numerous blessings and support we have received throughout 2023. Today, December 31, marks not just the end of the year but a reflective moment for the successes we have achieved as a team in implementing the LTIP.

### **1.1 Over view of Uyui district.**

Uyui District is part of the Tabora region, located in central Tanzania. The district encompasses 156 villages geologically surrounded by Tabora Municipal. Largely lying between 1,100 meters and 1,200 meters above sea level, it forms a vital watershed separating rivers flowing northeastward into the Manonga River and the Wembere Swamps. The district boasts large productive land essential for agricultural activities, which is the main source of livelihood for the majority of Uyui's population.

The LTIP includes all 156 villages, with the first round targeting those bordering national parks and forest reserves. This initiative aims to resolve conflicts between the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and citizens, as mandated by the Executive Government (Baraza la Mawaziri BMT).

### **1.2 Objectives of the Activity**

The primary objective of this activity is to enhance land tenure security for families and individuals in rural communities by clearly defining their land rights while promoting sustainable land management practices. To achieve this, the project will focus on the following integrated initiatives:

- i) Empower Marginalized Groups and Strengthen Community Capacity: Engage women and marginalized populations in land management decision-making, while building local skills through targeted training programs.
- ii) Foster Inclusiveness and Knowledge Exchange: create an inclusive environment that encourages participation from all community members, emphasizing education on legal land rights
- iii) Enhance Communication and Outreach: Improve community engagement and awareness of the project's goals through effective communication strategies, including social media and radio.

## **2.0 Methodology**

### **2.1 Project Facilitation**

The project facilitators comprised skilled professionals dedicated to advancing the objectives of the LTIP. Key roles included project leadership, land mapping, and community training sessions. Methodology involved grouping facilitators into teams, each responsible for different villages, where they conducted trainings considering gender and age to ensure inclusivity.

### **2.2 Utilization of Technology**

SMART's utilization of technology has been pivotal in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Land Tenure Improvement Project.

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** technology was employed for accurate land mapping and demarcation. This empowered the project to collect, analyze, and visualize spatial data effectively, which is crucial for understanding land usage patterns and planning interventions. Utilizing GIS has facilitated the identification of land parcels and ownership boundaries, promoting transparency in land transactions while also allowing for monitoring ecological changes over time, ensuring sustainable land management. Furthermore, mobile data collection methods enabled real-time gathering of information during surveys and assessments. This technology has streamlined data entry processes, dramatically reducing the time required for collecting and processing information. The capacity to store data remotely ensures that it is both secure and readily accessible for future analysis, enhancing project responsiveness and adaptability.
- **SMART CCF harnessed various communication platforms**, including social media and community radio to engage with the community effectively. This strategy enabled the dissemination of information related to the project's objectives and benefits to a wider audience. By creating dedicated social media pages and leveraging local radio stations, we ensured that project updates, success stories, and resources reached all demographics, particularly in remote areas with limited internet access.

### **2.3 Training and capacity-building.**

Interactive workshops were organized to equip community members and local leaders with skills to use mobile applications for land management. Training in GIS tools further empowered these participants to manage land use effectively. Educational materials were distributed, allowing easy access and encouraging continuous learning.

### 3.0 Participation and Engagement.

Smart CCF outreach efforts during the initial 15 village meetings resulted in a significant turnout, with a total of 5,203 participants. The demographic structure reflects local cultural dynamics, with the participation statistics as follows

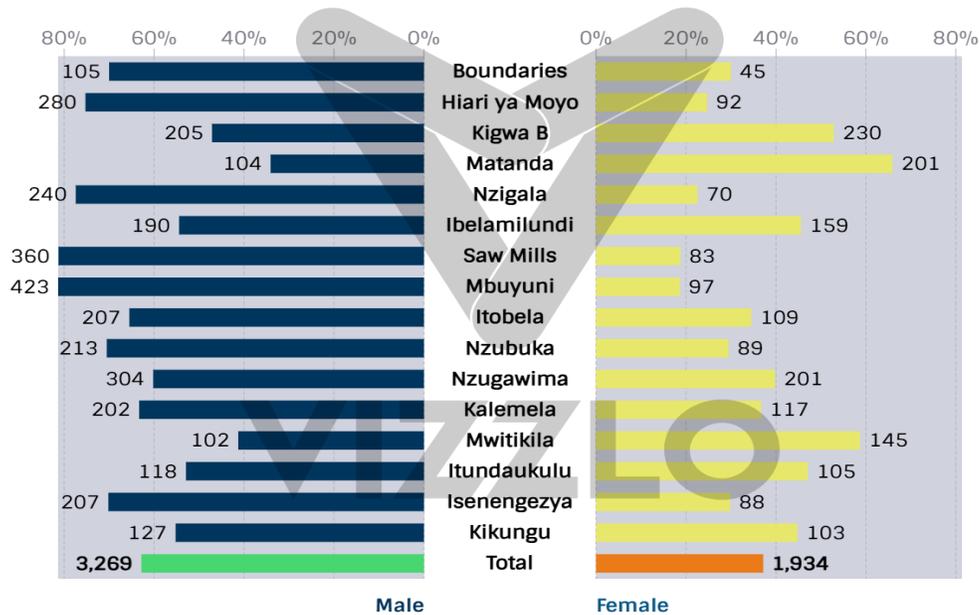
Village	Male	Female	Total
<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Hiari ya Moyo</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>372</b>
<b>Kigwa B</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>Matanda</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Nzigala</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Ibelamilundi</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>349</b>
<b>Saw Mills</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>Mbuyuni</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>Itobela</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Nzubuka</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Nzugawima</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>Kalemela</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Mwitikila</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>Itundaokulu</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Isenengezya</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Kikungu</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>1,934</b>	<b>5,203</b>

Approximately 37.17% of participants were women, while men accounted for 62.83%. This demographic structure signals the need for targeted efforts to increase female participation in future events. Despite the challenges concerning gender representation, we have observed significant improvements in communication within communities. Villagers are increasingly prepared for our visits, indicating positive discussions around project initiatives that enhance trust and reduce misinformation.



*Community members during a session on empowering Marginalized Groups and Strengthen Community Capacity on land issues, Mbuyuni village, Uyui District, Tabora region.*

## Gender Representation Pyramid:



### 3.1 Inclusion of Mainstreamed Populations

In parallel, the project placed a strong emphasis on inclusivity, particularly focusing **on gender and the engagement of marginalized groups**. By actively encouraging women's participation in village land use committees and public meetings, **the project ensured that women's voices were represented in decision-making processes**. Gender-sensitive training materials specifically addressed the unique challenges faced by women regarding land ownership and rights, striving to create a more equitable environment.

Targeted outreach efforts were employed to engage vulnerable groups, including **minorities, youth and the elderly**. These outreach efforts utilized community radio broadcasts and flyers in local markets, ensuring that information reached all segments of the population. Meetings and training sessions were organized in accessible venues to accommodate elderly participants and individuals with disabilities, fostering an inclusive atmosphere.

Feedback mechanisms such as anonymous suggestion boxes and mobile feedback applications were established, allowing participants from diverse backgrounds to voice their concerns and suggestions related to land tenure issues. Regular community forums were conducted, employing technology for real-time feedback and ensuring the input from mainstream populations was integrated into project modifications.

Educational workshops specifically **targeted populations with limited access to formal education systems**. These workshops not only educated community members on their legal rights

concerning land ownership and tenure but also provided skills training in sustainable agricultural practices. This empowerment initiative aims to enhance food security and economic opportunities tailored to the unique needs of women and marginalized groups.

## **4.0 Outcome of the activities**

### **4.1 Land use planning on 10 villages**

In December, Smart-CCF team successfully completed land use planning activities in ten villages, exceeding expectations in progressing the LTIP. The following villages have now been issued Village Land Certificates (VLC):

- 1) Hiari ya Moyo
- 2) Kalemela
- 3) Isenengezya
- 4) Nzugawima
- 5) Nzubuka
- 6) Saw Mills
- 7) Matanda
- 8) Kigwa B
- 9) Nzigala
- 10) Kikungu

The issuance of VLCs to these communities signifies a tremendous milestone in improving land tenure security, safeguarding the rights of local landholders, and empowering communities to engage more fully in socio-economic activities. Moving forward, we are committed to finalizing and submitting the village book reports to the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) for formal acknowledgment in the National Gazette. This certification solidifies these achievements within national frameworks, enhancing the visibility of village land management efforts while validating local governance structures.

Throughout the months from November to December, SMART CCF has made significant strides in fulfilling its organizational goals. Mr. Deus Polepole, the SCCF representative for the Uyui District, has been instrumental in the following accomplishments:

- **Community Awareness Campaigns:** Focused initiatives have successfully raised awareness among marginalized groups, particularly women, youth and the elderly, creating a more inclusive environment and encouraging participation in project activities.
- **Mobilization of Community Participation:** The formation of Village Land Use Committees and Village Land Councils has empowered local governance structures, enabling communities to make informed decisions about land use and management.
- **Regulatory Adherence:** A strict commitment to project regulations and guidelines has ensured compliance, protecting the organization's integrity and strengthening stakeholder trust.
- **Field Training and Report Writing:** Mr. Polepole's leadership in conducting field training sessions has improved the team's capacity and fostered a culture of learning and

growth within the organization. Enhanced report-writing skills ensure more effective communication of project outcomes.

- **Support for Data Collection:** Collaborative efforts with GIS experts have facilitated accurate data collection, which is crucial for land demarcation processes. This technical capacity enhances our operational effectiveness and supports informed land use planning.
- **Visual Documentation:** Ongoing efforts to gather photographs and videos from village engagements provide compelling visual evidence of programmatic activities, enhancing reporting quality and stakeholder engagement while fostering transparent communication.

## **4.2 Ongoing land use planning to the other 10 villages**

From December 13 to December 31, our focus transitioned to conducting land planning in an additional ten villages, detailed as follows:

- 1) Mbuyuni
- 2) Mwitikila
- 3) Ibelamilundi
- 4) Itobela
- 5) Itundaukulu
- 6) Nsimbo
- 7) Kinamagi
- 8) Mputi
- 9) Kagera
- 10) Mayombo

As of December 26, 2023, we have successfully completed planning for the first five villages, with the remaining five villages scheduled for completion by January 10, 2024. Our approach emphasizes sustainable practices, incorporating local input and traditional ecological knowledge into our planning efforts. This not only strengthens community ties but also ensures that land use aligns with ecological sustainability.

## **5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations**

As we advance to the next stages in additional villages, we will amplify our community sensitization efforts through broader public announcements rather than relying solely on Village Executive Officers. Incorporating community radio and local gatherings into our outreach plan will facilitate a more robust and inclusive participation strategy, particularly among women and marginalized groups.

To enhance visibility and foster better communication within communities and with project visitors, I recommend procuring reflective vests or branded T-shirts for our representatives. This will not only improve identification but also reinforce our commitment to the communities we serve.

I sincerely commend Mr. Masheka Mtairo for his exceptional leadership and support throughout the year. His dedication has been indispensable in navigating various challenges, ensuring we remain focused on achieving our project targets.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the management of the SMART Conservation and Community Foundation (SCCF) for their unwavering support and encouragement.

Looking ahead, we anticipate completing our ongoing activities by January 10, 2024. We remain hopeful for continued blessings and the health and well-being of our team as we strive to fulfill our mission in the coming year.