



WORLD
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RESTORING CONNECTIVITY IN THE UDZUNGWA-KILOMBERO LANDSCAPE

Our Plant a Tree project with Reforest Africa



Project summary

The Greater Udzungwa-Kilombero Landscape in northern Tanzania is a vital refuge for many highly threatened species, such as the African Savannah Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*). Although the forests are of global conservation concern, they are becoming increasingly fragmented due to land clearance for agriculture.

World Land Trust's (WLT's) Plant a Tree programme will enable Reforest Africa to enhance connectivity in this landscape, planting 100,000 native trees to restore 100 hectares (247 acres) of degraded land in the Magombera Nature Forest Reserve. This project will also help Reforest Africa to set up a tree nursery and restoration training hub in Kilolo, supporting the planting of a further 20,000 native trees across 20 hectares (49 acres) of land. This will reconnect isolated forest fragments in the Kilombero and Kilolo districts, thus providing a critical habitat corridor for wildlife dispersal. In addition, Reforest Africa will work in collaboration with the Tanzania Forest Service to manage this reserve, employing community rangers and supporting both community and government rangers with field equipment.

Main threats to the area

The area is experiencing rapid forest loss due to unplanned agricultural expansion, limited local government capacity to oversee sustainable land-use, and limited financial incentives for conservation.

Global prioritisation

The Greater Udzungwa-Kilombero landscape comprises 5.3 million hectares (13 million acres) of diverse lowland and montane forests and wetlands within the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot and contains globally significant wildlife, including the Endangered African Savannah Elephant and the Kilombero Reed Frog (*Hyperolius viridiflavus reesi*), only known from the Kilombero Valley.

Country
Tanzania

Partner/Organisation
Reforest Africa

Biome
Tropical & Subtropical Grasslands, Savannas & Shrublands

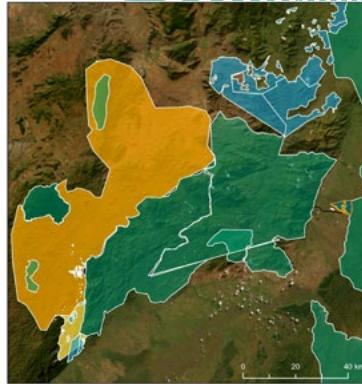
Ecoregion
Eastern Arc forest/Dry miombo woodland

Habitats
The Greater Udzungwa-Kilombero landscape occupies 5.3 million hectares (13 million acres) of diverse lowland and montane forests and wetlands within the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot.

Biodiversity

The project site falls within the Eastern Arc Mountains and wider Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. The Eastern Arc Mountains are incredibly rich in wildlife, containing a wealth of species found nowhere else. These include 800 plant species, 10 mammal species, 19 bird species, and 40 amphibian species. The Eastern Arc Mountains are also home to 78 threatened vertebrate species, of which eight are Critically Endangered. Among these are the Kipunji (*Rungwecebus kipunji*), a highly threatened species of Old World monkey.

Priority areas within which restoration and management is proposed
Other WLT-supported properties
Kilombero Elephant Corridor (WLT-supported with STEP)
Existing Mngeta corridor restoration project
Partner reserves
Other protected areas



Key species¹

Mammals

African Savannah Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*, EN); Udzungwa Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus gordoni*, VU); Black-and-white Colobus (*Colobus angolensis*, VU); Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, VU); Mountain Dwarf Galago (*Paragalago orinus*, VU)

Birds

Udzungwa Forest-partridge (*Xenoperdix udzungwensis*, EN)

Reptiles

Magombera Single-horned Chameleon (*Kinyongia magomberae*, EN); Udzungwa Limbless Skink (*Melanoseps uzungwensis*, EN)



Black-and-white Colobus

Amphibians

Kilombero Reed Frog (*Hyperolius viridiflavus reesi*, DD)

Plants

Oxyanthus lepidus (CR); *Crassocephalum splendens* (EN); *Khaya anthotheca* (VU); *Isoberlinia scheffleri* (VU); *Aoranthe penduliflora* (VU)



Hippopotamus

¹The Red List of Threatened Species, maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), includes categories of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT) and Least Concern (LC). Data Deficient (DD) indicates insufficient information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of a given species' risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.

Local communities

Reforest Africa work closely with local communities to support their wellbeing and livelihoods. This includes providing employment in forest restoration and sustainable ecotourism. In addition, local communities play a central role in Reforest Africa's efforts to establish Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs), areas of protected forest located within and managed by the village communities.



Partner/Organisation

Reforest Africa has been working in Tanzania for over 15 years with the aim to protect and restore native forests for the benefit of both people and wildlife. They support a variety of approaches to forest conservation beyond traditional protection areas, including VLFRs.

Starting in 2025, this project is the first partnership between WLT and Reforest Africa, although WLT has previously engaged with Reforest Africa about their conservation efforts. Reforest Africa was also involved in the Magombera land purchase that WLT supported in 2018 and has a strong working relationship with existing WLT partners Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme (STEP) and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG).

UN Sustainable Development Goals directly advanced by this project:



World Land Trust, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK

Tel: 01986 874422 | Email: info@worldlandtrust.org

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