

FACT SHEET

FMNR Project

World Vision



FMNR, which stands for Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, is a catalyst for community-led environmental restoration, which in turn promotes sustainable agricultural production and community resilience. Owing to land reforms through the Arusha Declaration in 1967, large tracts of indigenous forest and pastureland are government-owned, however in practice they are freely used by surrounding communities and their upkeep is no one's responsibility because the by laws for natural resource protection have not been well enforced. Desperately poor men and women scavenge their living in these areas, clear-cutting trees for charcoal and leaving the soil to be eroded by wind and water. The resulting desolate landscape is useless for farming, while the lack of trees contributes to reduced rainfall, increasing the prevalence of droughts and famines. FMNR mobilizes communities through education, economic empowerment and political advocacy. Community members learn to view their forests, soil and water resources as assets that are keys to their survival and their children's futures. Cooperative groups are formed and made accountable for forest restoration and maintenance through careful pruning of existing trees and shrubs, as well as sustainable grazing to reinvigorate the soil with manure. Farmers are taught foremost to maintain and

Project Goal

To improve food security and climate resilience in environmentally degraded areas by empowering farmers to restore and maintain forestland, promoting environmentally friendly livelihood activities and advocating for sustainable government policies.

prune existing plants and when necessary, to plant trees on their own land as wind barriers and for fruit cultivation. Beekeeping is promoted in place of charcoal production as a sustainable income generating activity. FMNR also works with communities and local governments to establish sustainable land use plans, and advocates at the national government level for policies that promote environmental protection.

Key Results

- **8,601** farmers have been trained in FMNR of which 4,656 have actively adopted the practice.
- **8,855** hectares of government-owned forestland are being restored and maintained using FMNR practices.
- **1,350** farmers cultivating 4,573 hectares of farmland have implemented FMNR practices on their own farms.
- **206** households supporting 500 children sold 6,635 liters of honey from 1,379 beehives earning \$20,000.
- **21** of World Vision's 55 Area Programmes in Tanzania are implementing FMNR, and 14 independent organizations have been trained in FMNR practices.
- **366** community trainers have been trained and empowered to spread knowledge about FMNR.
- **5** primary schools and 3 secondary schools are implementing FMNR as part of their curriculum.

Lessons Learned

- Integrating FMNR with other income generating initiatives such as beekeeping motivates communities to be more active in environmental conservation.
- FMNR is successful if the focus is on mindset transformation, not landscape transformation.
- Patience is required because people need to see results before willingly adopting a new idea.

Life-of-Project Spending through August 2015

\$2.3 million

72% of project
funding to date

Project Timeline

June 2013

September 2017



Holistic Benefits From FMNR

- New communities are formed through FMNR activities, even where Savings Groups do not yet exist, with members making democratic decisions on the allocation of profits from their bee-keeping activities.
- FMNR activities incorporate participants of different backgrounds, genders and ages, bringing together people who might not have otherwise intersected socially.



- Aligned incentives between villagers and government now facilitate the protection and policing of government land from infringement by outsiders for illegal tree clearing.
- Bee-keeping is a substantial new source of income and the pruned-back forests are an ideal habitat for bees as they are a safe distance from villages and children.
- Taller and stronger trees promote greater rainfall, better soil water retention and longer-lived wells and boreholes.
- Prunings are a sustainable source of charcoal for the community because of the large acreage assigned for maintenance to each group.
- Both men and women have roles to play, with men chopping and women collecting the prunings.

- Cattle, goats, sheep and donkeys graze sustainably through the cut-back forest on fallen leaves and newly generated grass.
- Manure from the grazing livestock fertilizes the forestland.
- Wild animals are returning to the forests, like rabbits, dik-diks providing an additional source of nutrition for families. Other animals seen coming back include foxes and hyenas.
- FMNR is sustainable because it relies on community labour to restore and maintain existing trees and shrubs, rather than planting new trees donated by NGO's.

“Building my own economic stove has reduced the fuel I need to burn in order to cook a meal from six sticks of firewood down to two.”



Recipe for Economic Stove

- 8 units clay soil
- 1 unit sand
- 1 unit cow dung
- 20 litres water
- Mix, mould and leave to dry.

Project Partners

- The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- World Vision Australia
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- LEAD Foundation
- Dodoma FM Radio
- SMECAO
- Floresta Tanzania
- Anglican Church's Watu wa Nuru Project
- ECHO
- University of Dodoma
- Local Government Authorities & Natural Resource Departments

Contact

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