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FACT SHEET

LANDSCAPE-SCALE COMMUNITY CENTERED CONSERVATION IN WESTERN TANZANIA

USAID Environment and Natural Resources Strategic Objective: Biodiversity conserved in targeted landscapes through a livelihood driven approach.

Background: From 2003-2006, USAID provided \$600,000 (Health, HIV/AIDS and NRM) to support Jane Goodall Institute's TACARE project (Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation Education) in Western Tanzania, Kigoma District. This integrated project (begun in 1994) aims to protect high value biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use through a community-centered conservation approach. The project emphasized the link between loss of forests and the socio-economic development needs of local communities. Project outputs include increasing the capacity of and empowering local communities to manage natural resources. A final evaluation is planned in May, 2006.

Western Tanzania's Rich Biodiversity: Tanzania is a nation with extraordinary biodiversity. Western Tanzania includes the Malagarasi-Muyovozi Wetlands, one of four Ramsar Wetlands of international importance in Tanzania; the enormous diversity and endemism of Lake Tanganyika; patches of Albertine Rift Montane Forest; unique ecological communities representing a transition zone as the moist forests of the Congo basin grade into the drier savannas and woodlands of East Africa and an endangered flagship species, the chimpanzee. This endowment, however, is under significant threat.

Current Project: Building on TACARE activities, in December, 2005, USAID signed a five year cooperative agreement with JGI to initiate the Landscape-Scale Community-Centered Ecosystem Conservation Project in Western Tanzania. The project's goal is to protect globally important biodiversity and promote the sustainable use of natural resources through a community-centered conservation approach in the Greater Gombe Ecosystem (GGE). The project will be implemented in collaboration with USAID and local government and emphasizes synergies across several of USAID/Tanzania's core strategic areas and themes: democracy and governance, HIV/AIDS, health and gender.

Project Budget: Overall project budget is US\$3.3 million. USAID portion is US\$1.2 million for Environment and Natural Resources, with \$2.1 million in JGI cost-share. In addition, at least \$200,000 from Health and \$180,000 from HIV/AIDS (PEPFAR) will be provided in 2006/7 bringing total USAID support to \$1,580,000 over five years.

Project Location: Western Tanzania, Greater Gombe Ecosystem. GGE is located north of Kigoma town and includes Gombe National Park, only 35 km² in size and a

surrounding zone of about 200km on the eastern boundary of the park and stretching northwards towards the Burundi border. The project will work with 24 villages (13 are within the Greater Gombe Ecosystem, 3 border the GGE and impact its resources, and 8 are south of Kigoma) or a total human population of approximately 145,000 across approximately 12,000 households.

Driving Forces:

Need to conserve environment-- Rapid environmental degradation in Kigoma region has resulted in fragmented forests patches, loss of habitat for wildlife including chimpanzees and massive soil erosion which pollutes Lake Tanganyika.

Need to reduce population density--With rapid population growth (highest population growth in the country) and influx of refugees from neighboring countries (DR Congo and Burundi) the pressure on the remaining forest patches is increasing.

Need for improved agriculture practices--Human interventions leading to environmental degradation include shifting cultivation (slash and burn), increasing tree cutting for timber, fuel wood and construction materials.

Need to reduce poverty levels--JGI experience with wildlife research, community conservation and informal environmental education for youth shows that persistent environmental degradation is attributed to poor local living standards.

Integrate local needs--The local government in Kigoma entrusts JGI and cooperating stakeholders with the responsibility of developing, implementing and monitoring environmental conservation interventions. All of the project's 'driving forces' will be implemented *in conjunction* with priority needs of the local communities by integrating family planning; AIDS education, care and support; Income generating activities; and support for social infrastructure for communities living within or around the project area.

Project Interventions:

Practice Landscape-scale Conservation

- Improve knowledge base of biodiversity through data collection and analysis, especially mapping and GIS techniques
- Facilitate participatory conservation planning by establishing integrated land-use management planning
- Train project and district personnel to identify and plan conservation targets
- Establish inter-village connected forest reserves
- Strengthen capacity of Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) to protect Gombe National Park by strengthening patrols

Improve rural livelihoods through sustainable use of forest resources

- Support establishment of environmentally friendly micro-enterprises (e.g. harvesting of traditional medicinal herbs, trade in fruits and vegetables)
- Initiate community-based eco-tourism enterprises (e.g., along lake or in forests where chimps thrive)
- Promote sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture practices (e.g. contour farming, erosion control and agro-forestry)

- Promote improved forestry extension services
- Expand rural social infrastructure in support of health sanitation and hygiene (e.g., provision of safe water, improvement of waste disposal techniques)
- Deliver appropriate environmental education to adults and youths (e.g., through stickers, posters, signboards, use of radio messages that discuss wildlife conservation, forest protection, erosion control, damages of the bushmeat trade and illegal hunting of wildlife.)

Expected Results:

- Increased level of conservation awareness
- Established network of village-level planning groups and one regional community-based organization
- Participatory village land use plans formalized in 13 villages whose land overlaps with GGE
- Identification of linking patches of forests and woodlands to create 'corridors' of biodiverse areas
- TANAPA's capacity to manage, protect park increased through development of second repeater communications station in south of park and handheld radios
- Training provided to women in microfinance and small enterprises expanded (e.g., fish smoking, soap making, honey sales)
- Increased income and or benefits generated from conservation enterprises
- Establish demonstration plots showing how to reduce erosion, promote contour farming, use of vetiver grass, production of palm oil
- Improved sanitation and hygiene in area and increase awareness of prevention against typhoid, dysentery, malaria, HIV/AIDS
- Greater numbers of youths participating in JGI 'Roots & Shoots' program, an international program founded by Jane Goodall in Tanzania, which includes over 7,500 clubs in over 90 countries. Roots & Shoots groups learn about the natural environment and the role individuals can play in conserving it by planning and executing community conservation projects
- Reduction in threats to survival of primates in Gombe National Park

Participating partners:

The Nature Conservancy (develop conservation plan), Environmental Systems Research Inc (ESRI)—to help with GIS development and role-out, Annenberg Foundation, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), UNICEF.

The term '*landscape scale*' refers to a broad area (rather than one specific park, for example) encompassing varied ecosystems (vegetation, soil, wildlife, etc) as well as different land uses (human, animal).

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