



Productive landscapes for inclusive growth in Tanzania and Mozambique

SUSTAIN Pro 2023 Annual Report



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SUSTAIN Pro 2023 Annual Report

May 2024

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Abbreviations

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
SUSTAIN-Africa	Sustainability and Inclusion Strategy for Growth Corridors in Africa
SUSTAIN Eco	SUSTAIN Ecosystem stewardship to balance sustainability and growth
SUSTAIN Pro	SUSTAIN Productive Landscapes for Inclusive Growth
IGG	Inclusive Green Growth
SAGCOT	Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania
RAS	Regional Administrative Secretariat
WUA	Water Users Association
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
KSC	Kilombero Sugar Company
VLUP	Village Land Use Plan
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CCRO	Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy
NbS	Nature based Solutions
SDAE	District Services of Economic Activities
IIAM	Mozambique's Institute of Agricultural Research
RDF	Result Demonstration Field
NRM	Natural Resources Management
FFPO	Forest and Farm Producer Organisations
IFCU	Iringa Farmers' Cooperative Union
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
AMCOS	Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society
CEOrt	CEO Roundtable of Tanzania
TBA	Tanzania Bankers Association
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organisation

About SUSTAIN Pro



SUSTAIN-Africa was an IUCN-led initiative implemented from 2014 to 2020 in SAGCOT and the Zambezi Valley in Mozambique. Conceived as a 0 multi-year initiative, SUSTAIN-Africa focused on catalysing climate-resilient development that balances economic growth with ecosystem stewardship and social prosperity. The first phase established a solid foundation of partnerships among businesses, government agencies, local communities, farmer groups, and others in the landscape to deliver on this vision. Building on these networks and the achievements of the initial phase, IUCN initiated a second phase of SUSTAIN-Africa through two complementary programmes: SUSTAIN Eco and SUSTAIN Pro—both underpinned by equity and inclusion and both striving to accelerate a shift from business-as-usual to development paradigms that build resilience in economies, people, and nature. While SUSTAIN Eco emphasises the need to protect and restore ecosystems to secure the services needed for sustainable livelihoods, including agricultural production, SUSTAIN Pro focuses on making agriculture more sustainable.



SUSTAIN Eco aims to enable healthy ecosystems and prosperous communities in Tanzania by improving governance and rights, strengthening sustainable management practices and catalysing investment in the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. The delivery strategy encompasses: (i) strengthening coordination amongst governance structures for sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources; (ii) integrating landscape

management to improve ecosystem health and generating inclusive business and livelihood opportunities and (iii) investing in the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services to strengthen climate resilience for people and ecosystems. The programme is being implemented in two landscapes in Tanzania, Sumbawanga and Kilombero. Sumbawanga landscape covers Tanganyika District, Mpimbwe District, Sumbawanga District, Nkasi District, Mpanda district, and Kilombero landscape covers Kilosa District, Mlimba district, Ifakara and part of Kilolo district.



SUSTAIN Pro a sister programme to SUSTAIN Eco, aims to support sustainable food systems and healthy productive landscapes in Mozambique and Tanzania. The programme has been designed as a 10-year initiative with an operational plan for the first three years from 2022 to 2024. The delivery strategy encompasses: (i) upscaling solutions for sustainable agricultural production; (ii) restoring land health through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and (iii) investing in sustainable and inclusive value chains to drive systemic change. The programme will be implemented in SAGCOT and the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor in Mozambique.

Together, SUSTAIN Eco and Pro form the continuation of SUSTAIN-Africa, building on its successes and learning from the challenges that were encountered during the first five years of the programme. The geographical footprint and partnerships established in the first phase of SUSTAIN make up the lion's share of interventions in these two complementary programmes, ensuring continuity and aiming at long-term sustainability.

Executive summary

SUSTAIN Pro continues to drive sustainability and collaboration across Tanzania and Mozambique, focusing on sustainable agricultural production, ecosystem restoration, and community engagement. The programme leverages synergies between landscapes, enhances stakeholder capacities, and fosters cross-border cooperation to maximise its impact.

Under **Outcome 1**, SUSTAIN Pro has made progress in integrating conservation and agricultural production activities, particularly in the Kilombero and Ihemi landscapes. In Tanzania, efforts have included riverine restoration, land health monitoring, and the establishment of sustainable management practices through Village Land Use Plans. Over 400 hectares are under restoration, with public and private investment mobilised for another 2,833 hectares. In Mozambique, the establishment of 17 Result Demonstration Fields (RDFs) has facilitated the training of 623 farmers (444 M, 179F) in sustainable practices, supported by partnerships with local and international organizations.

Under Outcome 2, activities dedicated to strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships to apply a wide range of solutions, including Nature-based Solutions (NbS) were undertaken. Progress includes the development of a land health monitoring framework and the establishment of district coordination groups to enhance collaboration among stakeholders in both Tanzania and Mozambique. These efforts aim to link local interventions to national and international environmental commitments.

Under Outcome 3, SUSTAIN Pro focused on integrating sustainability into value chains in the selected landscapes, with initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of Farmer and Forest Producer Organisations (FFPOs) through governance improvements and value addition training. The programme has also supported events and partnerships to advance sustainable financial principles and mainstream biodiversity in business practices.

Overall, the programme has disseminated sustainable agricultural solutions and strengthened governance structures across both countries. Efforts to enhance land tenure security and agricultural productivity through targeted training and awareness campaigns have reached significant numbers of stakeholders, including through local radio programmes. Challenges such as delayed assessments have been addressed, with strategic adjustments including the development of a Gender Action Plan and the integration of a land health monitoring framework to better support sustainable practices and policy alignment.

As SUSTAIN Pro moves forward, it will continue to maximise linkages with SUSTAIN Eco and capture learning to inform the SUSTAIN initiative's theory of change. The programme is also set to increase collaborative efforts by enhancing policy frameworks and institutional capacities to transition to sustainable food systems. This includes increasing the involvement of business and continuing to engage communities to ensure that sustainability practices are embraced widely.

Recap of SUSTAIN Pro's first year

During the inception phase, landscapes for SUSTAIN Pro were selected through a baseline assessment validated by local and national stakeholders in Tanzania and Mozambique. More detailed information about these landscapes, their environmental, social, and agricultural contexts, and the rationale for their selection can be found in the [Inception Report](#) and Baseline Assessment documents for [Tanzania](#) and [Mozambique](#). This selection process has identified regions that not only present significant challenges but also offer considerable opportunities for sustainable development and conservation under the SUSTAIN Pro initiative.

Throughout its first year, SUSTAIN Pro in Tanzania engaged a broad network of stakeholders, from government bodies and academia to the private sector, to explore and prioritise sustainable agricultural solutions across multiple crops including sunflower,

soybeans, sugarcane, and rice. Noteworthy collaborations with the Ministry of Agriculture, District Councils, and the Sokoine University of Agriculture helped refine solutions that are both designed to be successful and scalable. Key events such as the “Nan-nane” National Farmers’ Exhibitions and “Sugarcane Farmers’ Day” played a role in disseminating sustainable agricultural solutions across the landscapes. Additionally, the programme worked on strengthening governance institutions, focusing on enhancing the capabilities of various organisations through tailored capacity-building initiatives. Efforts were made to engage with land use planning structures, improving district and village land use planning, and exploring mobile applications for secure tenure to streamline processes and support sustainable land management practices. Moreover, partnerships with entities like Kilombero Sugar Company helped push for sustainable practices within



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the agricultural expansion strategies, focusing on environmental impact mitigation and promoting the adoption of climate-smart agriculture among smallholder farmers. These efforts were supported by the development of a value chain scoping study carried out in Tanzania to guide the drafting of commodity business plans within the second year aimed at transitioning to sustainable food systems.

In Mozambique, the programme worked closely with local research institutes and community networks to implement conservation agriculture practices, focusing on key crops such as maize and soy. Collaborative efforts with the Manica Agency for Economic Development and various district services of economic activities provided crucial support for the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices. The Knowledge Hub concept was further developed and integrated within the programme, establishing a physical space for enhanced stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing. This hub is designed to support the programme's objectives well beyond its timeline, ensuring sustainability and continued impact. Serving as the starting grounds for disseminating

and adopting Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and sustainable agricultural practices, the Knowledge Hubs are designed to bring partners together for knowledge sharing, training, and the exchange of lessons learned. This initiative is aligned with Mozambique's strategy to strengthen environmental management capacity and mainstream inclusive green growth into national development processes, supported by key ministries and governmental bodies.

Overall, SUSTAIN Pro has encouraged dialogue and action across Tanzania and Mozambique within its first year, leveraging landscape partnerships and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) to advance sustainable land management and agricultural practices. These efforts are integrated with broader strategies to enhance land health and support economic development, ensuring that sustainable practices are embedded within local and regional frameworks. The upcoming sections will include the 2023 activities, highlighting new developments and the evolving impact of SUSTAIN Pro on its target landscapes.



Progress Highlights

SUSTAIN Pro: Encouraging Sustainability and Collaboration Across Tanzania and Mozambique

(1) Integrated Conservation and Agricultural Advancements in Tanzania

In Tanzania, SUSTAIN Pro is engaged in two landscapes: Ihemi and Kilombero. Kilombero, in particular, serves as a shared focus area with SUSTAIN Eco, fostering collaborative efforts directed towards sustainable agriculture and enhanced ecosystem connectivity. This shared geography capitalises on the synergies between both programmes, to maximise impact. Collaborative engagements with local and national stakeholders such as the secretariat of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), the Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretariat (RAS), the Water User Associations (WUAs), and the Ifakara Town Council are important pillars to drive vertical and horizontal integration.

In Kilombero landscape, besides agroforestry and agro-chemical waste management (Kizimba), SUSTAIN has initiated riverine restoration and land health monitoring. A collaboration with Newcastle University supports Kilombero Sugarcane Company (KSC) in their goal to restore 400 hectares of riparian areas, previously utilised for sugarcane cultivation. Engagement with KSC has also led to the establishment of demonstration plots that showcase sustainable sugarcane farming methods. Additionally, this engagement will facilitate the development of IWRM plans with sugarcane farmer associations, focusing on responsible water use and ecological health improvements. The land health monitoring framework within SUSTAIN Pro is advancing through a methodology that encompasses water quality, soil health, and resilience across different levels (site, landscape,

and national). This framework is vital for linking local interventions to national and international environmental commitments, providing a structured pathway for monitoring, and enhancing ecosystem services.

Other efforts include the implementation of Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs), which place 19,831 hectares under sustainable management. Efforts to enhance land tenure security have materialised through the issuance of 421 (234M, 127F, 60 joint ownership) Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to landholders, with an additional 1,500 in the pipeline. Awareness creation on land tenure issues has reached an estimated 600,000 people through local radio programmes, particularly Pambazuko FM. Furthermore, guidelines have been developed to disseminate prioritized sustainable agricultural practices, approaches, and technologies for scale-up and adoption, reaching 400 smallholder farmers and 78 landscape stakeholders in Tanzania. Additionally, public, and private investments have been mobilised for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and agroecological approaches, resulting in the allocation of 2,833 hectares of land across Iringa DC and Kilolo DC for restoration using NbS.

In Ihemi landscape, the project emphasises disseminating Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices such as minimum tillage and crop rotation, primarily through training sessions for farmers and stakeholders. Efforts to enhance the capacities of agricultural extension agents ensure effective support for smallholder farmers in managing climate risks. Additionally, the project has initiated engagements to help secure land tenure for women and youth, through providing

support in securing CCROs (279 secured). This integrated approach not only enhances agricultural productivity and ecological health in these landscapes but also strengthens community resilience and sustainability in the landscape.

Collaborative engagements have resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CEOrt to advance sustainable financial principles and mainstream biodiversity in business practices. The governing bodies of four out of six Farmer

and Forest Producer Organizations (FFPOs) have seen improvements. Training on the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) tool has been provided to two governing boards, and nine FFPOs have been supported to improve their competitiveness through value addition initiatives and training.

Overall, 486 individuals (303 men and 183 women) in the Kilombero and Ithemi landscapes have participated in training, peer-to-peer exchange, and awareness sessions on sustainable agriculture solutions.

Tanzania in numbers



Area(s) earmarked for restoration

400 ha in KSC land and 2,833 ha in Iringa and Kilolo using NbS



CCROs acquired

700 in total CCROs acquired (+1,500 are being processed)



Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs) implemented

3 plans placing 19,831 hectares under sustainable management



Outreach & awareness raising

600,000 people reached through radio programmes



Individuals participated in training/peer-to-peer exchange and awareness sessions on solutions for sustainable agriculture

486 individuals (303M,183F) in Kilombero & Ithemi landscapes



Demonstration plots established

15

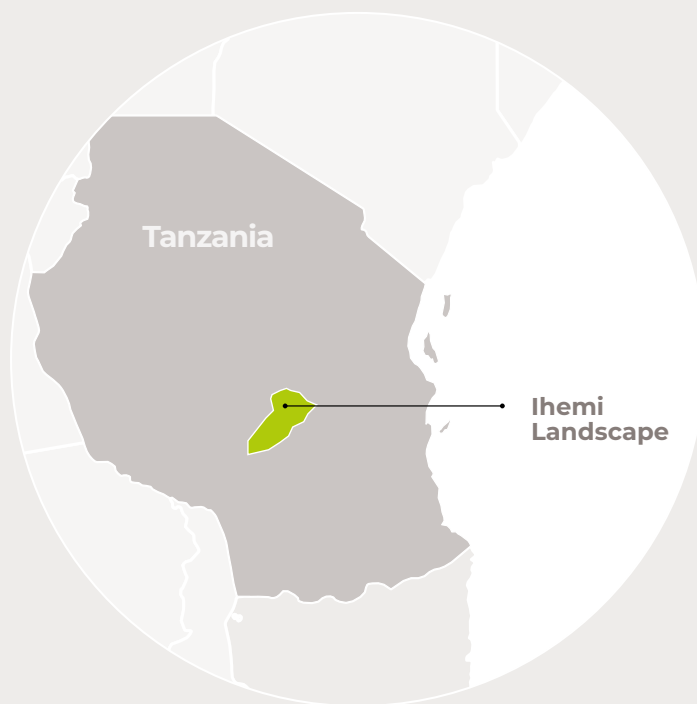


Sustainable agricultural practices disseminated

400 smallholder farmers and 78 landscape stakeholders reached

Ihemi Landscape Summary

The Ihemi landscape spans six districts including Iringa Municipality, and the District Councils of Iringa, Kilolo, Mufindi, Wanging'ombe, and Njombe, featuring diverse land uses such as agriculture, forestry, urbanization, and industrialization. The region is experiencing a surge in land demand for agricultural expansion, notably in tree planting for timber and avocado cultivation—known as the “avocado rush.” Soybean, identified as a strategic crop in Ihemi, supports large-scale off-takers like Silverlands, which, along with other aggregators, are developing outgrower schemes that enhance sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices. These schemes capitalize on the benefits of soy for enhancing livelihoods and bolstering climate resilience. Additionally, sunflower is also being promoted for its drought resistance and the growing demand in local and regional markets, positioning it as a crop beneficial for economically disadvantaged farmers.



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Kilombero Landscape Summary

The Kilombero Valley, enclosed by major conservation areas including the Selous Game Reserve and Udzungwa Mountains, is a fertile region known for its agricultural productivity and biodiversity. The landscape supports a range of ecosystems and wildlife, including a significant portion of the world's Puku antelope population. The Kilombero Valley Floodplain is one of the largest wetlands in Africa and a designated Ramsar Site due to its importance as a freshwater ecosystem. However, Kilombero faces challenges from agricultural expansion and land use changes, leading to habitat degradation and water management issues. Efforts are underway to implement climate-smart agricultural practices (mainly in the Morogoro Region, encompassing the district of Kilosa, the District Council of Mlimba, and Ifakara Town Council), and improve governance and resource management to enhance local and downstream ecosystem health.



(2) Building Sustainable Agricultural Networks in Mozambique

The focus in Mozambique under SUSTAIN Pro remains on enhancing agricultural practices through an integrated approach to ecosystem management. To do this, in 2023, IUCN partnered with ADEM (the Economic Development Agency of Manica) to implement SUSTAIN Pro in Mozambique. ADEM brings their expertise on agricultural value chain and markets to support the delivery of Outcome 1.

With an emphasis on conservation agriculture, Mozambique has seen the establishment of 17 Result Demonstration Fields (RDF) across the Vanduzi and Baruè districts. These fields serve as crucial hubs where 623 farmers (444M, 179F) have been engaged to learn and adopt sustainable agricultural practices, supported by the active participation of SDAE technicians, members of clubs/associations, and community leaders.

In the Baruè district, nine fields have been strategically placed in community headquarters such as Simukai, Bairro Macossa, Nhauzanze, and Chindengue, with six additional fields in Vanduzi within the community of Bellas. This expansion is not just about scale but also about depth, as the project ensures engagement with value chain actors—including input providers and traders—to enhance awareness and adoption of sustainable practices. Bilateral meetings with stakeholders like Agrodealers, Median Producer, and the Agriculture Trading Company (ECA) are crucial in shaping the sustainable agriculture value chain.

Further activities include the establishment of two units for the production of organic compost, with production capacities of 17 tons in Vanduzi and 20 tons in Baruè, involving farmers interested in being part of this new value chain. Additionally, a total of 13 training events focused on raising awareness among farmers about the importance of sustainable practices in agriculture took place, engaging 524 farmers (391M, 133F) in total.

The project's reach and impact are further amplified through partnerships with local institutions. For instance, SeedCO Mozambique has co-financed seeds for the establishment of the demonstration fields, supporting the programme's resources. Additional collaborations include:

- ARA Centro (Regional Administration for Water of Central Region) for water quality monitoring,
- Solidaridad supporting the project with nutrient analysis and advice on fertilizer composition,
- Institute of Agrarian Research of Mozambique (IIAM) advising on forest restoration activities and agroforestry systems,
- BIOAGRI to test the application of organic pesticides and fertilizers in the fields of selected farmers engaged in SUSTAIN Pro.

These partnerships underline a comprehensive approach to restoring land health and promoting ecological balance. Furthermore, an upcoming activity in Mozambique is the biodiversity and restoration assessment to be conducted in the districts. This assessment is critical to refining the nature-based solutions intended for the districts, aiming to restore agricultural soils and maintain ecosystem functionality. The first meetings of the district coordination group for NbS, which have taken place in Vanduzi, exemplify these collaborative efforts to bring together diverse actors to discuss and implement ecological farming practices.








This focus on NbS, coupled with strategic partnerships and community involvement, positions Mozambique to make progress in sustainable agriculture and ecosystem restoration during next year. The results from the biodiversity assessment will provide essential indicators to further enhance these initiatives, ensuring that the efforts align with both local needs and broader environmental goals.

Vanduzi and Barué Districts Summary

Vanduzi and Barué districts, located within the Beira Corridor, have been selected as primary implementation areas for SUSTAIN Pro due to their high agricultural potential and strategic importance for investment in Mozambique's agricultural sector. Challenges in these districts include limited use of improved seeds, inadequate coverage of agricultural extension services, and a rapidly growing population. Key crops in the region include maize, which is a staple for most farmers; soy, essential for the poultry industry due to its high protein content and potential for oil production; and horticulture, which offers the highest financial returns but faces significant challenges related to processing and market access. The selection of these districts was reinforced by findings from a baseline assessment and observations made during a field trip, where cooperatives demonstrated these dynamics.

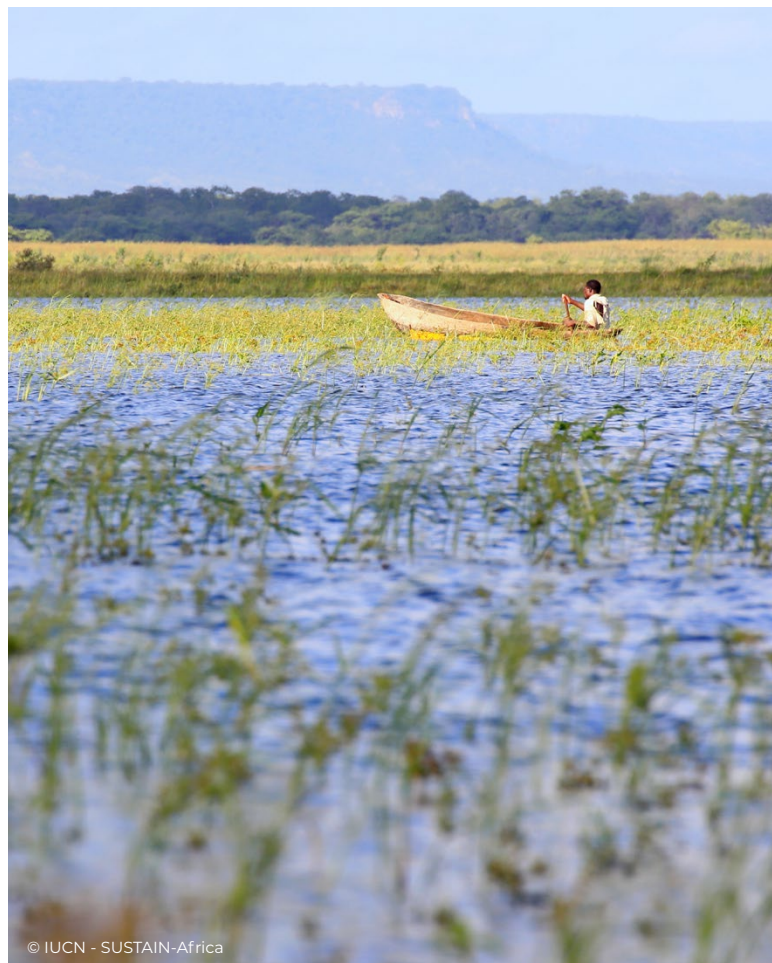


Mozambique in numbers

	Farmers trained in farmer field schools with demo sites	17 Result Demonstration Fields established 623 farmers (444 M, 179F) trained
	Capacity building on sustainable agriculture practices held	13
	Organic compost produced	37 Tons
	Strengthening governance	8 NRM and FFPO boards
	Training events focused on raising awareness among farmers about the importance of sustainable practices in agriculture	13 trainings conducted 524 (391M, 133F)
	District coordination group for NbS established	2
	Newly established partnerships	6

(3) Cross-Border Synergies and Future Directions

The collaboration between Tanzania and Mozambique under SUSTAIN Pro illustrates the impact of regional cooperation in tackling sustainability challenges. By effectively sharing resources, knowledge, and best practices, the programmes not only enhance agricultural productivity and ecological health but also build resilience across diverse communities in both countries. As SUSTAIN Pro moves forward, the initiative is set to intensify these collaborative efforts by enhancing policy frameworks and institutional capacities to support sustainable practices, increasing the involvement of the private sector to ensure that sustainable agricultural approaches reach broader markets, thereby creating economic incentives for farmers to adopt and maintain ecological farming practices, and continuing to engage communities through educational programs and participatory approaches to ensure that sustainability practices are understood and embraced.

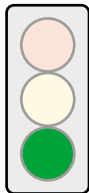
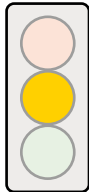
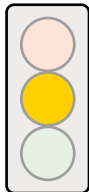


Progress towards outcome implementation

Outcome 1 - Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up

Outcome 1 summary: This outcome focuses on providing pathways that empower stakeholders to embark on a change journey where an optimal balance between economic, environmental, and social trade-offs can be achieved to improve land health while simultaneously increasing production and ensuring inclusive approaches. Emphasis

within Outcome 1 is on building coherence between farm/operations-level interventions and governance structures for land and water, i.e., disseminating successful on-farm/operational solutions that have the potential for replication and scale-up and addressing the institutional barriers preventing this from happening.

Output	Summary deliverables	Progress
1.1 Sustainable and productive agricultural solutions are disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed guidelines to disseminate prioritised sustainable agricultural practices, approaches, and technologies for scale-up and adoption, reaching 400 smallholder farmers and 78 landscape stakeholders in Tanzania. Established 17 result demonstration fields across two districts in Mozambique, involving 623 farmers in training sessions co-led by SDAE technicians and community leaders. 	
1.2 Governance institutions and processes are strengthened to build an enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of land tenure security and helped secure 700 CCROs in Tanzania to improve land ownership and access to sustainable finance systems. Also, 3 village leaders and their 27 VLUM committee members were trained on sustainably managing resources within their jurisdiction. Strengthened governance capabilities of local leaders and committees in Mozambique through focused training sessions, enhancing their ability to manage resources effectively and integrate gender-focused strategies into governance structures (e.g., 8 NRM & FFPOs governing boards were strengthened). 	
1.3 Market-based approaches and incentives help transition to sustainable agricultural systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the launch of business networking forums aimed at assisting smallholders in the development of value-added products by connecting them with suppliers and buyers in Tanzania. Continued engagement and bilateral meetings with stakeholders in Mozambique to improve market-based approaches and support transitions to sustainable agricultural systems (e.g., engaged with 6 actors in the agricultural value chain, including input providers and traders). 	

Tanzania

In 2023, IUCN Tanzania concentrated efforts on scaling up solutions for sustainable agricultural production, with a focus on achieving a balance among economic, environmental, and social factors. Key to these efforts was the capacity enhancement of stakeholders, primarily through the advancement of the IGG Toolkit. This initiative was strengthened in partnership with SAGCOT, the Vice President's Office, and various agricultural and conservation actors. It involved integrating climate-smart agriculture practices, nature-based solutions, and sustainable waste management into the IGG Tools' evaluation criteria for medium and large-scale farms. Educational campaigns were conducted in four cooperatives in the Iringa and Kilombero regions, targeting 136 farmers (85M, 51F). These sessions detailed the mandatory core and developmental requirements under the IGG principles, focusing on inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and sustainable business practices essential for adhering to Tanzania's legal frameworks. Furthermore, SUSTAIN supported the establishment of 4 Kizimba units for the safe disposal of agro-chemical waste, critical in safeguarding the SAGCOT region's biodiversity as well as ensuring a healthy environment for farmers and communities.

Parallel to these efforts, the SUSTAIN Pro programme promoted sustainable agricultural methods through 14 demonstration plots in the Ihemi Cluster (for soybeans and sunflower), focusing on soybean and sunflower production. These plots, developed in collaboration with multiple stakeholders including government entities and the private sector, served as a platform to introduce and apply modern agronomic practices and to disseminate new agricultural technologies to community farmers. The initiative aimed to transform agriculture into a viable business by enhancing farmers' technical and financial capabilities. Throughout this process, demonstration farmers were involved in every step from implementation to data collection, ensuring the practical application of learned

techniques and the success of the demonstrations. Final outputs included the training of 486 individuals (303M, 183F) in sustainable agriculture practices, and the issuance of guidelines for sustainable practices.

Governance structures were strengthened, with improvements noted in the governance scores of farm and producer organizations e.g., four out of six FFPOs governing bodies have been improved significantly with a governing score raised from 3-4 as a baseline up to 7-9 (the score is based on 12 criteria including having 50:50 or 60:40 gender composition, youth and vulnerable groups represented and other criteria). This was complemented by increased community awareness around tenure security, particularly through efforts to address the distribution and registration of CCROs. Approximately 700 certificates were issued, enhancing land tenure security for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Activities included detailed planning sessions with district land officers to ensure the proper management and awareness of land rights, which are fundamental for sustainable agricultural and environmental management.

Moreover, the year saw a strengthening of market-based approaches. SUSTAIN Pro facilitated the development of competitive market strategies by connecting smallholders with agriculture input suppliers, equipment dealers, and buyers through business networking forums. These efforts are set to expand with plans for a gender-focused initiative and enhanced capacity building for farmer organizations and other institutions in 2024. The collaboration with AGRITERRA aims to further reinforce capacities and market linkages. AGRITERRA specialises in cooperative development and will collaborate with SUSTAIN Pro to enhance the capacity of 4 farmer cooperatives in governance, financial management, business development, market linkages and gender equality. As Tanzania moves forward, the ongoing initiatives under Outcome 1 are set to continue promoting sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing land tenure security, and integrating

advanced agricultural technologies. This holistic approach is designed to improve productivity and sustainability in Tanzanian agriculture, aligning with both national and international development goals.

Mozambique

In 2023, IUCN Mozambique focused on scaling up solutions for sustainable agricultural production, emphasising the balance between economic, environmental, and social factors. This approach mirrors the efforts seen in Tanzania, with a specific focus on grassroots and farmer-level interventions in Mozambique. Key to these efforts was the capacity development of stakeholders, facilitated through training programmes and the promotion of ecological production practices within the framework of the Knowledge Hubs (see Year 1 Summary). A total of 623 farmers were trained in established demonstration fields, showcasing sustainable practices like crop intercropping, integrated pest management, and the use of organic inputs for crops such as soybeans, maize, pigeon peas, and green beans. Furthermore, structured training supported by project field officers, district extensionists, and leader farmers enhanced the dissemination of sustainable practices, reaching an additional 524 farmers through 13 targeted events. This initiative highlights

SUSTAIN Pro's commitment to knowledge exchange, crucial for fostering community-based learning and adoption of sustainable techniques.

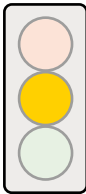
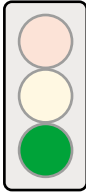
Governance structures were strengthened by enhancing the capacity of 8 natural resource management and farmer association governing bodies. Meetings with stakeholders such as agrodealers and medium producers aimed to integrate sustainable practices into their business models, promoting a sustainable agriculture framework within local markets. Activities included identifying manure suppliers, demonstration field locations, and key input suppliers, supporting the effective distribution of resources across the agricultural value chain. Mozambique plans to continue enhancing the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices through the strategic expansion of demonstration fields and further development of governance and market-based strategies. These efforts will be supported by the Knowledge Hubs, which will play a critical role in disseminating learning and fostering collaborations across various landscapes and sectors. This comprehensive approach aims to not only improve productivity and sustainability in Mozambican agriculture but also to align closely with national and international development goals, ensuring that the initiatives under Outcome 1 continue to promote ecological and economic sustainability.



Outcome 2 – Land health restored using landscape partnerships

Outcome 2 summary: SUSTAIN Pro will focus on strengthening the linkages between dialogue and action, through the formation or strengthening of inclusive multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships to apply a wide range of solutions, including Nature-based

Solutions (NbS), as well as strengthening the governance and mechanisms needed to mobilise NbS. These partnerships will seek to improve land health to implement solutions that maximise benefits for local people and future generations.

Output	Summary deliverables	Progress
2.1 Landscape partnership agreements in place for action and investment in nature-based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilised public and private investment for NbS and agroecological approaches uptake in Tanzania, leading to the allocation of 2,833 hectares of land across Iringa DC and Kilolo DC for restoration using NbS. Facilitated the establishment of two District Coordination Groups for NbS in Vanduzi and plans for Barue, enhancing the collaboration among stakeholders for the implementation of nature-based solutions. 	
2.2 Land health monitoring influences permanent governance mechanisms for land and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a comprehensive land health monitoring framework that will inform and influence governance mechanisms related to land and water in the selected landscapes. A biodiversity and restoration assessment is underway to develop indicators for land and biodiversity health in the Vanduzi and Barue districts. 	

Tanzania

In 2023, SUSTAIN Pro’s efforts were focused on enhancing land health through inclusive multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships, centring on NbS and sustainable agricultural practices. The team made significant progress in consolidating and operationalising these partnerships, supported by strategic collaborations and capacity-building initiatives. Efforts were channelled to revive and solidify MSPs, including renewing the partnership with KSC. This MSP has materialised in a collaboration between IUCN and Newcastle University to support KSC’s initiative to restore 400 hectares of riparian areas previously used for sugarcane cultivation. The initiative also includes the establishment of demonstration plots that showcase sustainable sugarcane farming methods and the development of IWRM plans, focusing on responsible water use and ecological health improvements. Other MSPs with local district

actors have effectively mobilised public and private investments, resulting in the allocation of 2,833 hectares of land across Iringa and Kilolo Districts for restoration. The restoration process will commence in 2024 in cooperation with local government authorities and 8 Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) in Kilolo and Mlimba.

In May 2023, a two-day training workshop on climate change resilience and CSA was held in Iringa. This event gathered 30 participants from various sectors, including extension workers from Kilolo and Iringa District Councils, agrodealers, and representatives from Iringa Farmers’ Cooperative Union (IFCU) and AMCOS. Facilitated by experts from the district agriculture departments and IUCN, the workshop focused on enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, fostering resilient community and livelihood options. It covered aspects of climate science,

the impacts of climate change in Tanzania, vulnerabilities within the agricultural sector, and introduced participants to the principles of CSA and NbS. The training emphasized practical applications of CSA and discussed strategies like early planting and the use of drought-resistant crops, highlighting the role of NbS in the sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems.

Further developments included advancements in creating a land health monitoring framework, developed to include a set of 16 indicators designed to track and enhance land health across different levels of implementation. This framework is being developed to link local-level interventions to national commitments and multi-lateral

environmental agreements, thereby forming a crucial component of SUSTAIN's strategy to restore land health while generating inclusive and sustainable business and livelihood opportunities (**Box 1**). As these initiatives progress, Tanzania's approach under Outcome 2 continues to focus on creating sustainable and productive landscapes that not only support agricultural development but also ensure environmental sustainability and resilience. The comprehensive nature of these efforts, from stakeholder training to strategic partnership development and implementation of advanced monitoring frameworks, illustrates a committed pathway towards achieving resilient agricultural production systems and sustainable food systems in the region.

Box 1: Developing the Land Health Monitoring Framework for SUSTAIN Pro

The SUSTAIN Pro initiative is currently developing a Land Health Monitoring Framework (LHMF), which is fundamental to tracking and enhancing the health of land across Tanzania and Mozambique. This framework is crucial for linking local-level interventions to national commitments and multi-lateral environmental agreements, thereby ensuring an integrated approach to land and water resource management.

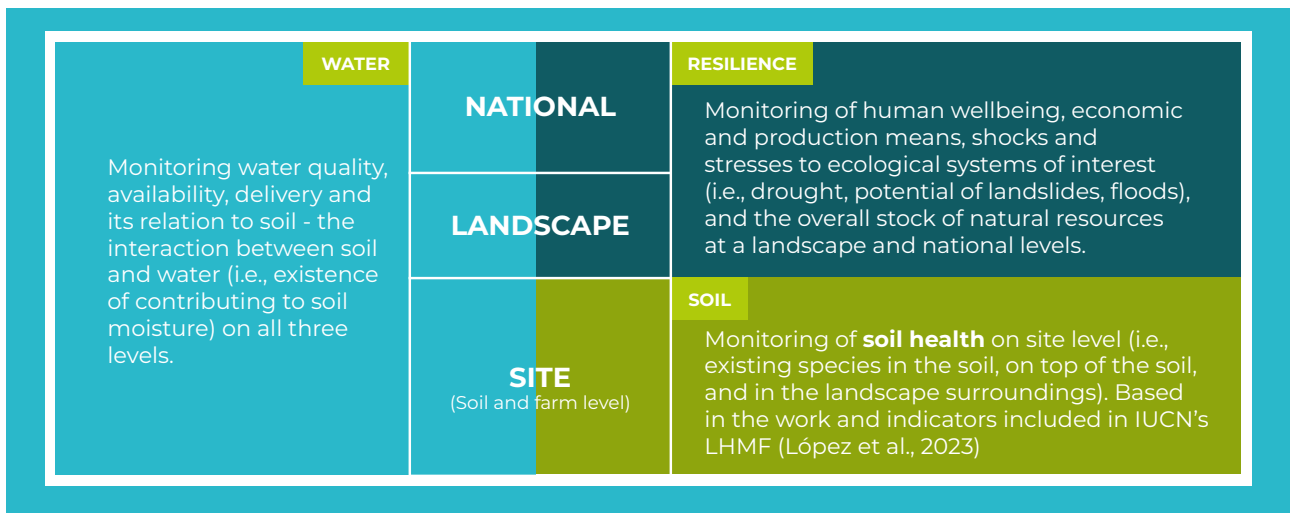
Key Pillars of the LHMF:

- 1. Water:** Focuses on the sustainability of water use and infrastructure to support soil health.
- 2. Soil:** Emphasises the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by soil, considering both below-ground and above-ground interactions.
- 3. Resilience:** Addresses the ability of ecological and human systems to withstand environmental stresses and climate change.

Operational Levels:

- **Site Level:** Detailed analysis of soil and water interactions, and farm-level biodiversity (*tracked by set indicators*).
- **Landscape Level:** Broader ecological and hydrological assessments to support sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation (*tracked by set indicators*).
- **National Level:** Links local actions to broader national policies and international commitments, focusing on sustainable development goals and ecosystem resilience (*no set indicators*).

The LHMF is being designed to not only monitor but also provide evidence that supports investments in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and agro-ecological practices, reinforcing the sustainable management of agricultural landscapes across Tanzania and Mozambique. Through this innovative approach, SUSTAIN Pro aims to foster resilient agricultural production systems that can sustain local communities and contribute to global food security.



Mozambique

In 2023, SUSTAIN Pro in Mozambique focused on improving soil health, promoting ecological farming, and enhancing monitoring and governance mechanisms. A comprehensive soil analysis was conducted across “results demonstration fields and farmers’ fields” in Vanduzi and Bárúè districts, with Solidaridad and SDAEs technicians collaborating to collect 38 soil samples. This analysis is crucial for assessing soil conditions and guiding the choice of sustainable agricultural practices to be implemented in 2024. Eight extension service personnel were trained and involved in the soil sample collection process, enhancing their capabilities in land and water monitoring. Currently, two assessments are underway: a land health monitoring framework is being developed, which will include tailored indicators for Mozambique, aiming to enhance the monitoring of land health at the site, landscape, and national levels, incorporating aspects like water management, soil health, and ecological resilience (**Box 1**). Additionally, a detailed biodiversity assessment and restoration study is in progress, set to introduce further indicators for biodiversity assessment (**Box 2**).

Furthermore, SUSTAIN Pro has established six significant partnerships with organizations like SeedCO Mozambique, BIOAGRI, and various governmental agencies including ARA Centro (Water of Central Region division of high Punguè) for water quality and quantity monitoring purposes, and IIAM (Mozambique

Agrarian Research Institute). These collaborations are vital for resource mobilization, such as seed co-financing, soil and water quality monitoring, and training on silviculture and restoration species. The ongoing development of governance frameworks will continue, with a focus on integrating the findings from the biodiversity assessment into district and national governance mechanisms. Additionally, the project aims to solidify and expand partnerships, particularly with BIOAGRI, to test bio-fertilizers and pesticides in demonstration fields and adopters’ farms.

The team established two District NbS Coordination Groups in Vanduzi and Bárúè that aim to bring together actors who are developing activities that contribute to the implementation of nature-based solutions. The first meeting of the District Coordination Group for NbS was held in Vanduzi, aiming to unify stakeholders engaged in nature-based solutions. This group focuses on ecological farming, financing sustainable value chains, and integrated natural resource governance. As Mozambique progresses under Outcome 2, the emphasis remains on strengthening landscape partnerships and applying a wide range of solutions, including NbS, to restore land health and ensure sustainable agricultural production. This approach seeks to maximise benefits for local communities and future generations by improving land health and implementing solutions that align closely with government policies and international commitments.

Box 2: Biodiversity and Restoration Assessment in Mozambique

The Biodiversity and Restoration Assessment being conducted in Vanduzi and Bárue districts will serve as the basis of Mozambique's strategy to enhance ecosystem resilience and promote sustainable land use practices. The assessment includes:

- **Ecological and Hydrological Assessments:** Detailed analyses of vegetative cover, water resources, and flora, utilising GIS mapping to identify restoration sites and assess ecosystem health.
- **Restoration Suitability Index:** Development of an index to evaluate potential restoration sites based on ecological, social, and economic indicators.
- **Field Validation and Restoration Planning:** Field assessments to validate potential restoration sites and develop tailored interventions that align with IUCN's global Nature-based Solutions (NbS) standards.
- **Integration with National Databases:** Recommendations from the assessment will be integrated into national databases to enhance knowledge hubs and support decision-making at multiple governance levels.

This assessment is integral to informing NbS implementation and ensuring that restoration efforts are effectively targeted and scientifically sound, supporting Mozambique's broader goals under SUSTAIN Pro's Outcome 2.



Outcome 3 – Investments in sustainable value chains accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems

Outcome summary: This outcome focuses on vertical integration of on-farm and broader landscape solutions, through establishing linkages to value chains, agribusiness, and apex and business associations as well as financial institutions to mainstream change. It includes a component focused

on mainstreaming sustainable and inclusive policies and practices and another on channelling investment to sustainable agricultural development alternatives that also enhance productivity, sustain land health, and deliver economic returns.

Output	Summary deliverables	Progress
3.1 Business cases for sustainable commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the outcomes of the scoping study, business case development will commence in 2024. 	
3.2 Public/private investment projects to scale up sustainability and inclusion in value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the development of funding mechanisms that combine different types of finance (e.g. grants, loans, blended and private investments of different sizes at different levels) to facilitate partnerships and de-risk private and farmers' investments. 	
3.3 Growth corridor secretariats, apex institutions and industry associations adopt targets and roll out sustainability with agribusiness and investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Kilombero Sugar Company, SAGCOT, and other agribusiness firms to adopt agroecological approaches and practices and set sustainability targets in their annual reporting. Conducting training, meetings, and dialogues with the Associations Federation of producers, consumers, and financiers to identify financing opportunities for sustainable value chains. 	

Tanzania

In 2023, SUSTAIN Pro collaborated with the CEOrt and the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) to implement the sustainable finance principles developed under SUSTAIN Phase 1, emphasising a dual approach of awareness creation and capacity development across key pillars of sustainable finance, market access, and business performance, along with biodiversity conservation. The renewed collaboration with CEOrt, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), and IUCN aims to enhance the integration of sustainability practices

within the operations of diverse sectors including manufacturing, finance, and agriculture. Furthermore, the engagement is geared towards creating an enabling environment for sustainability in business operations, supporting policy development, and standardising sustainability reporting within the private sector.

On the output level, the development of business cases for sustainable commodities is set to be commissioned in 2024, utilising the scoping study and the Kilombero commodity compact currently being finalised in the

SAGCOT area. Additionally, there is progress in identifying financial mechanisms, regulations, and investment schemes that promote agroecological approaches and products. The Growth Corridor Secretariats, apex institutions, and industry associations are actively working towards adopting and implementing sustainability targets, with Kilombero Sugar at an advanced stage in sustainability planning. This year, SUSTAIN also contributed to events which align with the goals of Outcome 3:

- The High-Level Inter-Ministerial Dialogue on Carbon Trading, organised by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, discussed enhancing the policy and regulatory framework for carbon trading in Tanzania. The dialogue was attended by representatives from the SUSTAIN Pro team to explore the economic opportunities carbon trading presents for local communities.
- The Kilombero Sugarcane Farmers Day, supported by IUCN and various partners, promoted sustainable farming practices and effective agrochemical waste management among farmers, further exploring the potential of establishing a value chain for the sustainable disposal and management of agrochemical waste within the sugarcane industry.
- A business networking forum held at Iringa focused on the soybean and sunflower value chains. This event provided practical training for smallholder farmers to produce value-added products and facilitated networking opportunities with buyers and suppliers, addressing challenges such as high seed costs and enhancing market access through improved agricultural practices (**Box 3**).

Box 3: Assisting smallholder farmers to produce value-added products from soybean and sunflower

The IUCN event at SIDO Iringa helped equip smallholder farmers with the skills needed for adding value to soybean and sunflower crops and integrating them into sustainable value chains. Through intensive training sessions and a dynamic business networking forum, participants gained insights into efficient production techniques, market requirements,



and networking strategies.

This initiative not only aimed to increase farmers' incomes through value-added products but also fostered connections that could lead to sustainable growth in regional trade and agricultural practices. The collaboration and learning fostered here are expected to contribute significantly to the transition towards sustainable food systems in Tanzania, aligning with broader environmental and economic goals.

Mozambique

During 2023, SUSTAIN Pro in Mozambique undertook preparatory activities aimed at enhancing sustainable agriculture and investment under Outcome 3. Notable efforts included meetings with Gapi, a microcredit institution, to explore credit lines available for farmers and discussions with the Cabinet for Compact Development regarding baseline studies for the Millennium Challenge Account project. These discussions are crucial as they lay the groundwork for the development of business cases under SUSTAIN Pro, particularly within the promoted value chains.

On the output level, plans are in place to develop business cases for sustainable commodities within the project's value chains. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen collaborations with ADVZ and BIOAGRI to involve beneficiaries and farmers in the Organic Inputs Production Programme. There are also plans to facilitate training, meetings, and dialogues with various associations of producers, consumers, and financiers to pinpoint financing opportunities for sustainable value chains. These engagements are geared towards scaling up sustainability and inclusion in value chains and fostering the adoption of sustainability targets by growth corridor secretariats, apex institutions, and industry associations within Mozambique.



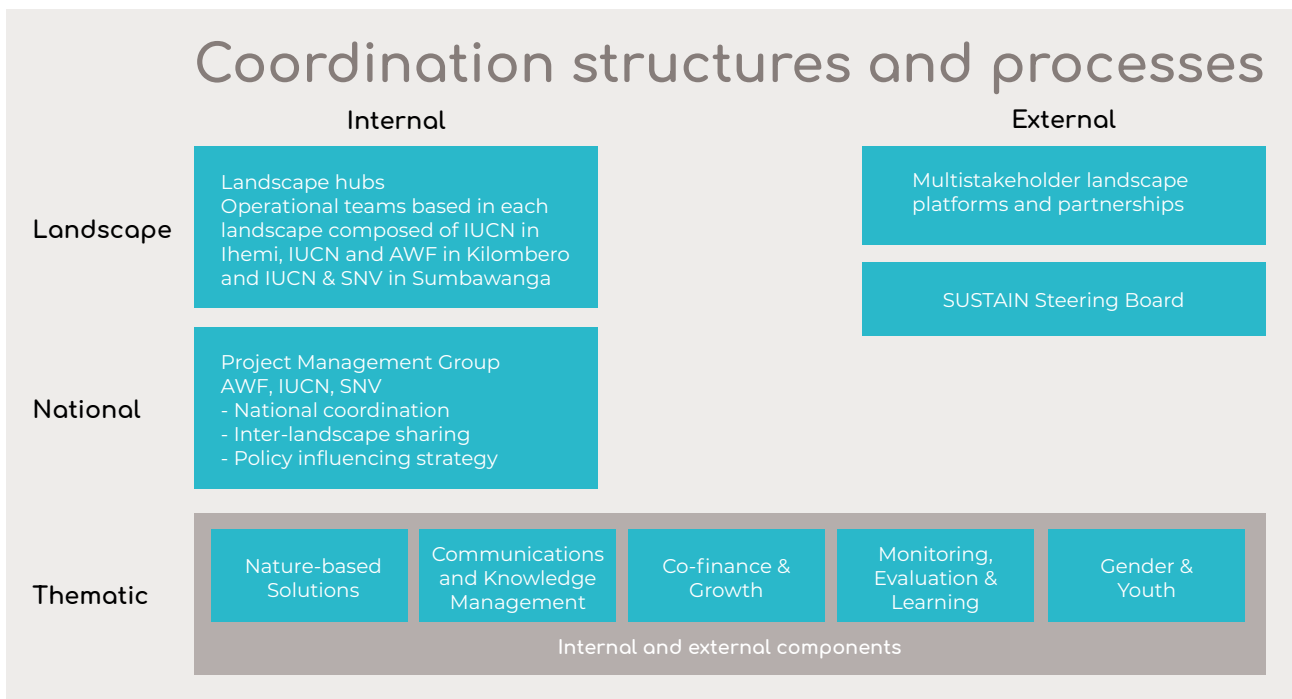
Overview of governance structure

Progress on Project Management Arrangements

SUSTAIN (Pro and Eco) have established a comprehensive project management framework to ensure effective implementation across its landscapes in Tanzania and Mozambique, as illustrated in **Figure 1**. This framework outlines a dual-level structure: On the landscape level, operational teams, including IUCN teams in Tanzania and Mozambique and local partners such as AWF, Solidaridad and ADEM, anchor the project's activities within designated landscape hubs. These hubs are pivotal in driving the project's execution and facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement through landscape platforms and partnerships, enhancing communication

and collaboration across different stakeholders externally. At the national level, the Project Management Group (PMG), comprising IUCN teams in Tanzania and Mozambique, oversees national coordination, inter-landscape sharing, and policy influencing strategies. This internal management is complemented externally by the SUSTAIN Steering Boards, which communicate the initiative's progress and goals to a broader audience. Lastly, thematic engagements under the partnership serve to strengthen cohesion in delivery, programme sustainability, and messaging by the partners. The thematic areas include nature-based solutions, communications and knowledge management, co-finance and growth, monitoring, evaluation, and learning, and gender and youth.

Figure 1 – Diagrammatic representation of the coordination structures & processes for the SUSTAIN Initiative.



Programme Steering Board (PSB)

SUSTAIN Steering Boards are in place in both Tanzania and Mozambique with the aim of sustaining and institutionalising programme results. They also advise the SUSTAIN teams and contribute to embedding programme goals into national institutions. **Box 4** provides an overview of the responsibilities of these boards.

In Tanzania, the PSB is shared between Eco and Pro, and its membership includes the Vice President's Office (VPO); the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG); the SAGCOT Secretariat; Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT); Shahidi wa Maji (Water Witness); Farmer Apex institution – Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA); and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA). There is a total of 7 members (3M, 4F). The advisory board meets semi-annually, with two meetings being planned for 2024.

In Mozambique, 20 organisations comprise the PSB, with IUCN acting as the secretariat. The PSB in Mozambique met twice so far and meetings are planned twice a year. The

following institutions are part of the PSB: provincial directorate of agriculture and fishing (DPAP); provincial directorate of territorial development and environment (DPDTA); Zambeze Vale development agency (ADVZ); district services of economic activities of Vanduzi and of Bárue (SDAE Vanduzi and SDAE Barué); district services of planning and infrastructures of Vanduzi and Bárue (SDPI Vanduzi and SDPI Barué); Belas association of cooperatives, Vanduzi Samora Machel Cooperative; Agrarian Research Institute of Mozambique in Manica (Barué IIAM); Agrarian Institute of Mozambique (IAC); Manica High Polytechnic Institute (ISPM); Network for Community-based Natural Resources Management (ReGeCom); National Agriculture Programme (SUSTENTA); Forum Terra (land Forum); Manica Farmer's Association (UCAMA); Institute for Promotion of Medium and small enterprisers (IPPME); Conselho empresarial da Provincia de Manica (Business Council of the Province of Manica); ARA Centro (Water Regional Agency — High Punguè Division); Manica Development Agency (ADEM).

Box 4: Responsibilities of the steering board

- Provide strategic advice on the implementation of the initiative and achievement of its aims for greater impact;
- Review progress reports and achievements and initiate follow-up actions on lessons and findings from the initiative;
- Provide a channel through which information about the initiative is made available to relevant stakeholders and processes;
- Commit to establishing a high-level forum for discussion on the use of the information and lessons learned from the initiative;
- Act as Champions for furthering SUSTAIN goals with relevant national and subnational institutions;
- Advise on wider policy issues that might affect SUSTAIN and advise on possible steps to be taken; and
- Liaise with other interested parties to advocate and promote the initiative.

Gender and Youth Action Plan

Recap on Gender & Youth Initiatives (2022 Summary):

In 2022, SUSTAIN Pro conducted a comprehensive [gender and youth assessment](#) that combined a detailed literature review with stakeholder consultations in both the SUSTAIN Pro and Eco landscapes. The assessment, which concluded in April 2023, highlighted several forms of gender inequality exacerbated by socio-economic factors within the landscapes. The assessment revealed significant gender disparities in access to and control over natural resources, decision-making processes, and socio-economic benefits, emphasising the need for targeted interventions to secure land tenure and increase

the participation of women and youth in resource governance. The assessment also emphasised the prevalence of gender-based violence and the critical lack of gender-disaggregated data which hampers effective gender analysis. To address these findings, a Gender and Youth Action Plan has been drafted to guide the implementation of gender-responsive and youth-inclusive strategies throughout the project. This plan prioritises capacity building, equitable participation in decision-making, and enhanced access to natural and financial resources to improve the socio-economic status of women and youth within the project's scope. The main findings and recommendations of the report are summarised in **Box 5**.

Box 5 Summary: Key Findings and Recommendations from the SUSTAIN Gender & Youth Assessment

Findings:

- Significant gender inequalities affect access to and control over natural resources, with women and youth often excluded from decision-making.
- Socio-economic barriers hinder the productivity of women and youth, affecting community prosperity.
- Widespread gender-based violence, underpinned by harmful social norms, restricts women's access to health resources.
- A scarcity of gender-disaggregated data hampers effective policy and intervention strategies.

Recommendations:

- SUSTAIN should implement gender-transformative measures that enhance women's roles in resource management and ensure inclusive community participation.
- Increase women and youth's involvement in decision-making by making events accessible and integrating diverse community members into teams.
- Support women and youth in developing nature-based livelihoods and increase their access to financial and educational resources.
- Educate communities on legal rights and gender equality and strengthen support networks for combating gender-based violence.
- Emphasise the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to guide programme strategies and assess impacts on gender dynamics and community outcomes.

In 2023, SUSTAIN Pro prioritised advancing gender and youth inclusivity across its project landscapes, guided by a refined [gender and youth action plan](#). This plan, finalised and adopted by partners, has catalysed actions to integrate gender perspectives into the project’s activities, promoting equitable participation among community members. To ensure integration efforts, action plans and training sessions on gender responsiveness were delivered with support from the programme’s gender and youth focal point (**Box 6**).

These initiatives aim to rectify inequalities and ensure balanced participation in all programme events, striving towards a 50:50 gender representation in leadership roles within natural resources management committees and farmer organisations. Despite patriarchal cultural norms in some areas in Tanzania, SUSTAIN Pro’s efforts are paving the way for more inclusive community engagement, particularly empowering women, and youth. Upcoming elections for Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS)



in 2024 are seen as an opportunity to boost female and youth representation, with targeted campaigns planned to influence community and stakeholder perceptions towards more gender-balanced participation. In Mozambique, the focus was on building gender capacity through targeted training for technicians, offering technical assistance on gender issues, and promoting gender equality through various project events **Table 1**.

Table 1: selection of activities during the reporting period where gender responsive actions have been undertaken (based on the Gender Responsiveness Action Tool, GReAct)

Title of activity under implementation	Gender responsive actions undertaken	Self-rating on gender-responsiveness	Learning
Mozambique			
Gender training for technician	Designed training session on gender mainstreaming at SUSTAIN Project	Medium	Continuous capacity building is essential to strengthen gender knowledge, as one-off sessions are rarely sufficient on their own.
Provided technical assistance on gender issues	Provided Internal Frameworks & Alignment on Gender issues	Medium	Ensure ongoing provision of technical advice and support to staff upon request.
Build the gender equality field	Conducted awareness-raising on gender-related concerns at various events, covering topics such as land rights, leadership issues, Nature-based Solutions (NbS), and conservation agriculture.	Medium	Actions must be intentional, proactive, and occasionally employ positive discrimination. Overcoming challenges related to women’s leadership/ representation in agricultural Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and women attending some initiatives due to gender roles/power relations requires concerted investment involving other partners working on the gender equality agenda.

Tanzania			
<p>Trainings and awareness campaigns on land tenure, participation in agricultural exhibitions and farmer days that SUSTAIN led or co-organised with stakeholders in both landscapes.</p>	<p>Awareness creation campaigns on women, men and youth rights on existing policies and opportunities for their participation using print as well as community radio.</p> <p>Efforts to ensure women and youth participation in direct programme events is elevated.</p> <p>SUSTAIN does active monitoring using gender-segregated indicators in its MEL system</p>	Medium	<p>The gender responsive actions were implemented successfully. Expected outcomes include increased number of women and youth who meaningfully participates in management and decision making in natural resources governance institutions as well as farmer organisations.</p>

Box 6: Gender Training to increasing gender sensitivity of SUSTAIN team

Participants: 10 key personnel (5 women and 5 men) from ADEM (executing partner) and IUCN, including technical staff and monitoring and evaluation specialists.

Objectives:

1. Analyse and refine the draft Gender and Youth Action Plan to align with SUSTAIN Pro outcomes and the specific context of implementation sites.
2. Train ADEM staff on gender mainstreaming requirements and integrate gender and youth considerations into SUSTAIN Pro planning and implementation.

Key Activities:

- Review of the Gender and Youth Action Plan to ensure its relevance and applicability to the target landscapes in Tanzania and Mozambique.
- Training on integrating gender perspectives into annual work plans and the overall project cycle.
- Practical exercises and session discussions to develop a deeper understanding of gender and youth action plan components.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding among ADEM and IUCN staff of gender and youth issues within SUSTAIN Pro contexts.
- Recommendations for revising plan indicators and activities based on contextual needs and additional training needs for a gender-transformative approach.
- Plan a Training of Trainers (ToT) for technicians on implementing a gender-transformative approach in their communities.

This training session not only aimed to reinforce gender-sensitive programme management but also ensured that gender and youth considerations are integrated into SUSTAIN Pro's future strategies and activities, promoting gender equality and empowering vulnerable groups within the programme's scope.

Knowledge Management, Policy & Communications

Table 2 provides further detail on assessments, knowledge products and stories during 2023.

In early 2023, the communications and knowledge management strategy was finalised and actively mobilised, with a two-hour training session conducted for staff from IUCN, SNV, and AWF on the effective use of this strategy to ensure robust dissemination and engagement practices throughout the project lifecycle. The programme's visual identity was refreshed, including a new brand book and a bilingual leaflet to introduce SUSTAIN's objectives to potential partners. In Tanzania, the project's visibility was boosted through various workshops, and enhanced media engagement, particularly through a new communications assistant who solidified media relationships. Mozambique saw similar outreach efforts, including stakeholder meetings to foster long-term engagement. These national efforts were complemented by IUCN's participation in global agricultural events, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture as a cornerstone for sustainable food systems and environmental protection.

Over the past year, SUSTAIN Pro has actively engaged in a variety of knowledge management, policy, and communications activities to support its programme goals in Tanzania and Mozambique. In Tanzania, the project produced and distributed over 2,000 brochures tailored to the needs of ongoing programmes, reaching approximately 600,000 listeners through radio broadcasts focused on land tenure issues and the promotion of sugarcane farmers' events. Media exposure was achieved through print, local radio, and social media channels, enhancing the visibility of SUSTAIN's initiatives. In Mozambique, efforts were concentrated on developing a

brochure outlining agroecological practices, aimed at harmonising the approaches promoted by various local actors. This is part of a broader strategy to enhance knowledge sharing through the establishment of Knowledge Hubs, which are expected to provide training resources, and platforms for exchanging success stories and best practices.

Looking ahead to 2024, both countries plan to amplify their communications efforts. This includes the production of case studies, fact sheets, and documentaries to highlight the impacts of landscape initiatives. Additionally, collaborative efforts with local research institutes will focus on developing agricultural guidelines and disseminating crucial information through enhanced radio programming and a new website launch. These efforts aim to further engage the community and stakeholders in sustainable agricultural practices and to showcase the tangible benefits of the partnerships formed under the SUSTAIN initiative. More detailed updates and publications on these activities are anticipated in the coming year.



Table 2. assessment, knowledge products and stories in 2023.

Title of assessment, knowledge product, story	Purpose (ID outcome to which it contributes)	Methodology	Status/ completion date	URL link
Haki miliki katika ardhi (land tenure)	Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up	Training brochure	Completed	https://photos.app.goo.gl/xojKeGpvHVSchipx6 A5 MLIMBA SEPT 27.pdf note: IUCN – SUSTAIN with district staff during community sensitization meetings and distribution of CCROs.
Kanuni bora za kilimo endelevu cha miwa (sugarcane farming)	Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up	Training brochure	Completed	sugarcane A3.pdf
Kilimo bora cha Mpunga wa mabondeni kinachotegemea mvua (rice farming)	Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up	Training brochure	Completed	IUCIN BROCHUREN A3(Killimo cha Mpunga).pdf
Wanyama, Wadudu na magonjwa sumbufu kwenywe zao la mpunga (pest and diseases in Rice farming)	Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up	Training brochure	Completed	Magonjwa sumbufu kwenywe zao la Mpunga.pdf
Article on AWF's social media	Globally and local awareness on the link between ecology, water, and community activities	Article	August 2023	Story on AWF's website
Kilombero farmers push for new path to sustainable agriculture	Update on the project status and activities	Story	December 2023	IUCN Website
DC Kilombero: Focus on proper use and conserve the environment	Awareness raising	Story	-	Pambazuko FM Radio
Series of radio episodes (10 in total) covering the work of SUSTAIN	Awareness raising	Radio	-	-
Communications strategy	Programme management	Strategy	November 2023	-

Gender and youth assessment	Programme management	Assessment	April 2023	Report
Gender and youth action plan	Programme management	Action plan	October 2023	Plan
Land use/cover analysis and mapped priority areas for interventions	mapped priority areas for interventions in Vanduzi and Barue	Land use /cover open access data analysis, Excel, GIS	Completed	Report/maps



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Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

In 2023, SUSTAIN Pro's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) activities focused on enhancing data collection and developing a robust MEL plan. In Tanzania, additional data were gathered to fill baseline gaps for key indicators related to farmer group activities, land titles, and crop production across various agricultural value chains. The team refined and validated several data collection tools, developed a detailed database to track progress against targets, and integrated MEL tools into Kobo Toolbox for improved data management and visualization. In Mozambique, the focus was on training the team and local farmer leaders in M&E tools, which facilitated better data collection and informed ongoing project adjustments. These activities highlight the project's adaptive management approach, responding to both successes and obstacles to optimize the impact of SUSTAIN Pro. The main MEL activities that took place during the reporting period include:

- 1. MEL Plan and Indicator Validation:** the MEL plan was reviewed and agreed upon by implementing partners, establishing clarity on responsibilities for each of the 22 streamlined indicators. The plan emphasises equitable participation and accurate reporting across all parties involved.
- 2. Capacity Building and Training:** A series of MEL capacity-building workshops were conducted to align the project teams with the updated MEL strategies. These sessions were instrumental in refining the data collection tools and methodologies, ensuring all partners are well-equipped to implement the MEL activities effectively.

- 3. Data Collection and Tools Development:** Robust data collection exercises were carried out, employing newly developed and validated tools integrated into platforms like Kobo Toolbox for efficient data management and analysis. These activities were pivotal in gathering accurate information to inform ongoing and future project actions.
- 4. Database Development:** An Excel-based SUSTAIN database was developed to track progress against indicators through a traffic light system, facilitating easy assessment and necessary adjustments to project strategies based on real-time data.
- 5. Task Management & MEL supervision mission:** A combined SUSTAIN Eco and Pro mission took place to Kilombero landscape in late 2023 to review progress on implementation and provide recommendations linked to programme coherence and technical guidance. The mission also intended to assess the coherence of activities and delivery within the SUSTAIN Initiative goals (as articulated in the programme's Theory of Change).

Lessons Learned:

- Stakeholder Engagement and Governance:** from SUSTAIN-Africa phase 1, there was a clear need for stronger Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), particularly at the governance level. Hence, effective stakeholder engagements -especially with key national authorities like the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Tanzania and the District Service of Economic Activities

(SDAE) in Mozambique- is prioritised within SUSTAIN Pro to ensure the integration of local-level initiatives into broader policy frameworks. This engagement is essential for managing natural resource conflicts and ensuring sustainable programme outcomes.

- **Access to market:** based on the baseline assessment of SUSTAIN Pro and previous learnings from SUSTAIN phase 1, nearly all households in the landscapes obtain income from farming (99% and 81% of rural GDP in Iringa and Kilolo Districts respectively is from agriculture), so it is not surprising that farm-related problems are the biggest that households face. The high price of agricultural inputs (56% in Vanduzi and 12% in Baruè), crop pests and disease (44% in Vanduzi and 37% in Baruè), and the high price of food, (63% mention in Vanduzi and 48% in Baruè) are the most frequently mentioned problems. There has been a recognised gap in support for smallholder farmers, who face significant challenges in marketing their produce and accessing reliable markets and services. SUSTAIN Pro is working towards developing mechanisms to support smallholder farmers, ensuring they have reliable markets, predictable pricing, and access to essential services.
- **Land Tenure and Gender Inequality:** based on the baseline assessments for SUSTAIN Pro, although most of the respondents reported their household owned a piece of land for farming. However, despite the high percentage of households with land for farming, official land ownership documentation was less common (46% lack official

documentation for any household land). SUSTAIN Pro will assist in enhancing the role of local governments in this process and addressing gender biases in Agricultural Extension Services are necessary to promote equitable land tenure and empower all farmers, especially women.

- **Innovative and Sustainable Agricultural Practices:** there is a clear need to expand the implementation of sustainable and productive agricultural solutions. The project has begun to implement innovative practices such as the Kizimba structure for recycling chemical containers, but more comprehensive solutions are needed across landscapes. Additionally, during the upcoming year, NbS interventions will be deployed and strengthened to enhance landscape health, ecosystem functioning, and climate-resilient livelihoods. Lessons learned included recognizing the benefits of agricultural intensification for conservation and the need for multi-stakeholder platforms to drive technology adoption and sustainable practices.
- **Institutional Management:** the outcomes of the MEL indicators and established communication strategy will be used as the basis to enhance internal communications and coordination among the teams. Aiming to enhance the effectiveness of SUSTAIN Pro's implementation.

The coming periods will see a continuation of these efforts, with a strong focus on refining MEL activities based on the lessons learned, to ensure the SUSTAIN initiative meets its strategic objectives in promoting sustainable ecosystem management.

Looking ahead to 2024

In 2024, SUSTAIN Pro will continue to build upon the solid groundwork established in previous years, emphasising the enhancement of sustainable agricultural practices, improving land health, and fostering inclusive economic growth through sustainable value chains. Integration with SUSTAIN Eco will be pivotal, ensuring that efforts are harmonised, resources are utilised efficiently, and overlap in activities is maximised, particularly in the Kilombero landscape. This coordination will involve shared strategic planning such as synchronised MEL systems, gender and youth inclusion strategies, and combined communications and knowledge management frameworks.

Under Outcome 1, SUSTAIN Pro will expand its focus on integrating NbS into agricultural practices by facilitating district and national level training sessions that enhance local capacity for sustainable farming. This includes developing new partnerships with agricultural and environmental stakeholders to reinforce governance structures and promote legal compliance across farming communities. In Tanzania, initiatives will focus on leveraging MSPs in collaboration with SAGCOT and CEOrt to strengthen climate-smart agriculture, whereas in Mozambique, the project will enhance farmer field schools to extend training on innovative farming techniques and sustainable crop management.

Under Outcome 2, the programme will prioritise the establishment of comprehensive land health monitoring frameworks that inform and guide the implementation of NbS across landscapes. This will include setting up community-based monitoring teams and conducting environmental assessments to ensure adherence to sustainable practices. In Tanzania, particular attention will be given to restoring and maintaining riparian zones through community-led actions, while in Mozambique, efforts will be concentrated on expanding the

network of district coordination groups that oversee the implementation of NbS.

Under Outcome 3, SUSTAIN Pro will focus on catalysing investments in sustainable value chains by developing business cases for key agricultural products and facilitating access to sustainable finance options. This will be supported by enhanced collaborations with financial institutions and industry associations to introduce sustainability standards and practices that can be replicated across the regions. In both Tanzania and Mozambique, the project will work towards embedding sustainable agricultural systems within local and national economic frameworks, thereby ensuring long-term viability and resilience.

As SUSTAIN Pro moves forward into 2024, it aims to solidify its achievements and expand its impact, creating more sustainable, productive, and resilient agricultural systems in Tanzania and Mozambique. This strategic approach will ensure that both environmental sustainability and economic vitality are addressed, promoting a holistic transition to sustainable food systems in the regions.



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Further Information



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