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sustain/pro

Productive landscapes for inclusive growth in Tanzania and Mozambique

SUSTAIN Pro 2025 Annual Report

Norway

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of more than 17,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. In Tanzania, IUCN brings over 20 years' experience, focusing on conservation, forest restoration, natural resource governance, and sustainable agriculture. Our work has been instrumental in integrating environmental and social sustainability into local policies, particularly through engagement with SAGCOT. In Mozambique, where IUCN has been present since 1998, the organisation draws on nearly 30 years of experience supporting biodiversity conservation, integrated management of wetlands and river basins across major catchments such as the Limpopo, Zambezi, Pungue, Buzi and Save, and the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into productive sectors for positive impacts on nature. IUCN's ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide scientific insights and conservation tools makes IUCN a key player in landscape-level interventions.

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CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) is a private-sector leadership platform founded in 2000 to promote ethical leadership, constructive public–private dialogue, and a more enabling environment for investment and economic growth. Bringing together chief executives from more than 200 leading companies across Tanzania, CEOrt works closely with government, development partners and other stakeholders to help shape policies that support sustainable growth, investment, and national development. In the context of SUSTAIN, CEOrt brings strong convening power, policy influence, and links to major private-sector actors, helping connect landscape-level experience with wider business engagement, green finance, and long-term investment pathways.

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May 2026

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Abbreviations

ADEM	Manica Agency for Economic Development
AGCOT	Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania
AMCOS	Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society
ARA Centro	Water Regional Agency – High Punguè Division
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CCRO	Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy
CEOrt	CEO Roundtable of Tanzania
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DCG	District Coordination Group
DPAP	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fishing
DUATs	Direito de Uso e Aproveitamento da Terra (Mozambique land-use rights)
ECA	Empresa de Comercialização Agricola (Agricultural Trading Company in Mozambique)
HCB	Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa
FFPO	Forest and Farm Producer Organisations
IGG	Inclusive Green Growth
IIAM	Mozambique's Institute of Agricultural Research
ILM	Integrated Landscape Management
ILUMA WMA	ILUMA Wildlife Management Area
ISPM-Manica	Manica High Polytechnic Institute
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KOCD	Kilombero Organisation for Community Development
KSCL	Kilombero Sugar Company Limited
LRI*	Landscape Resilience Index
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MSP**	Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
NbS	Nature based Solutions
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NLUPC	National Land Use Planning Commission
NMB	National Microfinance Bank plc (NMB Bank Tanzania)
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services

RBWB	Rufiji Basin Water Board
SAGCOT	Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania
SDAE	District Services of Economic Activities
SIDO	Small Industries Development Organisation
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
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
TANAPA	Tanzania National Parks
TARI	Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute
TANESCO	Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited
TAWA	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority
TFS	Tanzania Forest Services Agency
VLUM	Village Land Use Management
VLUP	Village Land Use Plan
VPO	Vice President Office
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WUA	Water Users Association
ADVZ	Zambezi Valley Development Agency

*The former Land Health Monitoring Index (LHMI) was renamed the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) in 2025. This change reflects both the expansion of the framework to Sumbawanga, Barué and Vanduzi landscapes and a revision of the indicators to make them more general and better suited to assessing water, resilience, and climate-related risks and hazards across different landscapes.

**SUSTAIN Pro applies the concept of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) in line with Wageningen University & Research guidance. For operational purposes, implementing partners in Tanzania and Mozambique may also refer to MSPs as platforms, particularly where these coordination mechanisms are still maturing. In this context, the two terms should be understood as referring to the same collaborative process, while acknowledging different stages of institutional development.



Wattle fence protecting a growing tree © SUSTAIN initiative

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 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 Pro 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 four years from 2022 to 2025. The programme was extended to the end of 2026 and will conclude then following Norwegian shifts in priority areas for Overseas Development Assistance. 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 the Kilombero and Ihemi landscapes which are part of SAGCOT and the Baruè and Vanduzi landscapes which are part of the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor in Mozambique.



SUSTAIN Eco a sister programme to SUSTAIN Pro, aims to enable healthy ecosystems and prosperous communities in Tanzania. The programme has been designed as a 10-year initiative with an operational plan from 2022 to 2026 but will conclude in August 2026 due to the Swedish Government decision to phase out the bilateral strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Tanzania. 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.

Together, SUSTAIN Pro and Eco 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.

Previous reports and landscape background



SUSTAIN Pro Inception Phase Report (August 2022): the report covers the period from January to June 2022, when the programme's operational framework was established across Tanzania and Mozambique. It sets out the programme design, governance arrangements, stakeholder mobilisation process, partnership development, baseline preparation, and the alignment of SUSTAIN Pro and SUSTAIN Eco under a shared Theory of Change. It also documents early progress on landscape selection, national and corridor-level engagement, MEL planning, and the programme's initial communications and branding package.



Gender and youth action plan (April 2023): the action plan developed in response to the assessment findings. It guides the integration of more inclusive approaches across project activities, with particular emphasis on participation, leadership, equitable access to resources, and targeted support for women and youth.



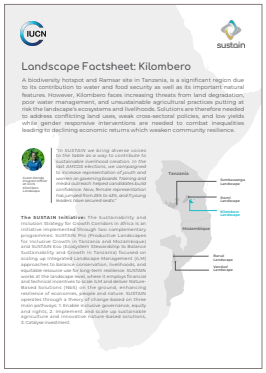
Gender and youth assessment (April 2023): the assessment provides the analytical foundation for SUSTAIN Pro's work on inclusion. Drawing on stakeholder consultations and literature review, it identified persistent barriers facing women and young people in natural resource governance, land access, and agricultural livelihoods across the programme landscapes.



SUSTAIN Pro 2023 Annual Report (May 2024): the report documents the first full year of implementation across Tanzania and Mozambique, focusing on sustainable agricultural production, ecosystem restoration, and stronger collaboration across landscapes. It captures progress in linking conservation and production, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and evidence-based approaches.



SUSTAIN Pro 2024 Annual Report (May 2025): the report documents the second full year of implementation across Tanzania and Mozambique, highlights progress in advancing sustainable food systems and healthy productive landscapes across both countries. It covers the scaling of climate-smart agriculture and Nature-based Solutions, the strengthening of landscape governance and evidence-based planning.



Landscape factsheets: the factsheets provide concise background on the Kilombero, Ihemi, and Baruè and Vanduzi landscapes, including their geographical focus, ecological significance, key natural resource challenges, and the rationale for programme engagement in each area. *(note: reported figures will be updated at the end of SUSTAIN Pro programme, as part of the final reporting).*

Executive summary

In 2025, SUSTAIN Pro continued to advance its goal of supporting sustainable food systems and healthy productive landscapes in Tanzania and Mozambique. Across both countries, the programme combined support to smallholder farmers, producer organisations, local governance structures, technical agencies, and private sector actors to enable more sustainable production systems, improve land and water stewardship, and create stronger pathways for investment and scale-up.

Under Outcome 1, SUSTAIN Pro continued to scale sustainable agricultural solutions and strengthen the enabling conditions for adoption. In Tanzania, 479 farmers were trained on sustainable agriculture and climate-smart approaches, including 266 farmers supported to use climate services for improved planning and decision-making. A further 216 farmers were reached through the farm clinic model, while 1,691 sugarcane farmers were reached through an awareness campaign delivered with Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL). The programme also strengthened 6 Forest and Farm Producer Organisations (FFPOs), supported women's leadership within producer organisations, and continued to promote value addition and market competitiveness. In Mozambique, SUSTAIN Pro supported 75 producers, including 52 women, through a blended finance scheme that enabled the establishment of 75 hectares of agroforestry systems combining crops and trees, alongside the uptake of organic fertilisers and biopesticides. The same producers were enrolled in the LocalGAP certification process, while 48 producers also joined an agricultural insurance scheme. A commercial contract with Intermed further demonstrated how more sustainable production can begin to connect to structured market channels. Monitoring results also showed strong uptake of promoted practices, reaching 83% adoption in Tanzania and 93% in Mozambique.

Under Outcome 2, the programme strengthened landscape governance and reinforced the importance of up-to-date data and knowledge in land and water management. In Mozambique, district coordination groups on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) continued to play a central role in joint planning and landscape resilience. Progress included the restoration of 2.4 hectares of spring catchment areas at Cagole and Nhaumbwe, supported through two Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes with a combined cost of USD 36,600. These mechanisms linked restora-tion performance to incentives and helped strengthen the role of local Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCs). Water quality monitoring was also carried out in collaboration with ARA-Centro, while the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) was intro-duced and tested with producers and agri-business actors. In Tanzania, SUSTAIN Pro sup-ported a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)on integrated natural resource governance in Kilombero and Ihemi, bringing together government, civil society, and private-sector actors to review progress and agree joint targets. The programme also supported restoration of 122 km of the Lukosi River through natural regeneration, along with strengthened village by-laws, community-based governance structures, and restoration of a 139.2-hectare wetland in the Lukosi sub-catchment. At programme level, the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI), now covers all SUSTAIN landscapes and provides a stronger shared index for resilience monitoring, learning, and future institutional uptake.

Under Outcome 3, SUSTAIN Pro continued to strengthen the foundations for more sustainable and inclusive investment in agricultural value chains. Across both countries, 8 business cases and related investment factsheets were developed for priority and emerging value chains. In Mozambique, these were translated into practice through the operationalisation of a USD 120,000 blended finance mechanism, combining grants, loans, and producer contributions to support 75 producers in more resilient production systems. In Tanzania, producer organisations demonstrated stronger financial maturity with 3 FFPOs/cooperatives collectively mobilising USD 212,438 through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). The programme also supported the review, translation, and dissemination of the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Guiding Tool and trained 3 agribusinesses on sustainability standards and reporting. At a wider level, collaboration with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) helped roll out the Green Finance Campaign, which reached 83,000 people through toolkits, high-level convenings, and communications products. The SUSTAIN Champions Awards also supported 11 youth champions across Tanzania and Mozambique, helping promote local innovation in integrated landscape management, entrepreneurship, and sustainability communication.

In parallel, the programme's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) work provided consistent evidence of change and helped sharpen the focus of the final phase. Outcome harvesting captured qualitative evidence from 101 respondents across all landscapes, while crop, hunger, and FFPO assessments provided additional insight into adoption, productivity, resilience, inclusion, and organisational change. The external review confirmed that SUSTAIN Pro is performing at highly satisfactory or satisfactory levels across all reviewed criteria, while also reinforcing the importance of stronger knowledge management, sustainability planning, and strategic private-sector engagement.

Following an agreement to extend SUSTAIN Pro by 12 months, the programme enters its final year in 2026. The focus will be on consolidating proven approaches, strengthening institutional uptake, documenting lessons, and positioning the most promising interventions for continuation beyond project closure.



Lessons learned in 2025

Lesson 1. Farmers adopt sustainable practices faster when benefits are tangible: Adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) approaches and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) was strongest where farmers could clearly see gains in productivity, income, or reduced production risk, especially in soybean, rice, sunflower and sugarcane systems.





Lesson 2. Practical, repeated extension support works better than one-off training: Farm clinics, demonstration plots, peer learning and follow-up advisory support were more effective in driving uptake than training alone, confirming the value of continuous and applied extension services.

Lesson 3. Landscape partnerships are most effective when they lead to concrete joint action: Multi Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs), district coordination groups and local committees were most effective where they supported concrete outputs such as restoration, by-law revision, joint planning, or market engagement.



Lesson 4. Sustainable value chains need finance, risk-sharing and market access to move beyond pilots: Progress in both countries showed that technical support alone is not enough; smallholders and cooperatives need access to finance, market linkages, and risk-sharing mechanisms to scale up sustainable production.

Lesson 5. Inclusion improves when it is designed intentionally and linked to real opportunities: Women and youth's participation was strongest where activities deliberately created opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, finance, and market access, rather than relying on participation targets alone.



2025 Progress Highlights

SUSTAIN Pro: Resilience in Practice

(1) Scaling Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture in Mozambique

In 2025, SUSTAIN Pro in Mozambique focused on demonstrating how sustainable production, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable finance can work together at landscape level. Activities in Báruè and Vanduzi combined support to local governance structures, technical assistance to farmers, and innovative financing to strengthen resilience in productive systems while protecting key natural resources.

A key milestone of the year was the restoration of 2.4 hectares of spring catchment areas at the Cagole and Nhaumbwe water sources through community-based restoration activities. This work was supported by two Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes of USD 18,300 each, which engaged local Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCs)in protecting and maintaining restored spring areas. The committees — comprised of 20 members in Nhaumbwe (16 men and 4 wom-en), while in Cagole 21 members (13 men and 8 women) — took responsibility for planting and monitoring survival rates. Payments were linked to restoration performance and deliv-ered through the provision of in-kind support to participants in the scheme, providing both an environmental and social incentive for ecosystem stewardship. Early results are encouraging: tree survival rates reached 99% in Nhaumbwe and 76% in Cagole, with the lower rate in Cagole reflecting the effects of El Niño-related water stress. Even so, monitoring indicates that some affected species are now regenerating with the return of the rainy season.

Insights from the field

The crop-yield results for Mozambique show a mixed but still informative picture of performance under the 2024–2025 agricultural season. Soybean recorded the strongest result, with yields reaching 2.24 t/ha in SUSTAIN Pro-supported fields, compared with a baseline of 1.2 t/ha, suggesting that this drought-resilient crop responded well to the uptake of climate-smart agriculture and conservation practices. Maize reached 2.91 t/ha in adopter fields, slightly below the 3.0 t/ha baseline, but still marginally above the 2.9 t/ha recorded among non-adopters, indicating some buffering effect despite the difficult season. In contrast, cabbage yields reached 48.97 t/ha, lower than the 60.0 t/ha baseline, reflecting the crop's high dependence on water and its vulnerability to heat and water scarcity. Overall, these results suggest that promoted practices were most effective where crops were better suited to climatic stress, while more water-sensitive crops remained exposed to seasonal shocks, including the El Niño-induced drought conditions.

Crop Yield Performance in the 2024–2025 Agricultural Season
(Impact Indicator G2(a) - Mozambique)

Crop	2022/2023 cropping season (the baseline)	Adopters (SUSTAIN Pro) Fields	Non-Adopters	Variance	Justification
Maize	3.0 t/ha	2.91 t/ha	2.9 t/ha	-0.09 t/ha	El Niño-induced drought
Soybeans	1.2 t/ha	2.24 t/ha	N/A	+1.04 t/ha	Use of drought-resilient crop with uptake of climate-smart agriculture and conservation practices
Cabbage	60.0 t/ha	48.97 t/ha	N/A	-11.03 t/ha	Highly water-dependent crop; vulnerable to heat and water scarcity
Pigeon Peas	0.8 t/ha	1.163 t/ha	N/A	+0.363 t/ha	Use of drought-resilient crop with uptake of climate-smart agriculture and conservation practices

Pigeon Peas, Cabbage, and Green Beans data will be reported in 2026, along with the information on non-adopters.

Alongside restoration, SUSTAIN Pro piloted a blended finance mechanism worth USD 120,000, combining USD 50,000 in grant support from SUSTAIN Pro, USD 50,000 in loans from Gapi, and USD 20,000 in in-kind contributions from producers. Through this mechanism, 75 producers, including 52 women, established 75 hectares of agroforestry systems combining crops such as maize, beans, cabbage, pigeon pea and soybeans with tree seedlings, while using improved techniques such as organic fertilisers and biopesticides. The same group also entered the LocalGAP certification process[1], including training, compliance checklists and a first audit, with certification expected at the end of the production cycle and linked to improved access to local markets. To strengthen resilience further, 48 producers in rain-fed systems in Báruè were enrolled in an agricultural insurance scheme to reduce exposure to climate change and production risks. In parallel, 6 producers were supported to establish organic compost production, and the Vanduzi cooperative was created to strengthen farmer organisation, collective engagement and market access.

1 LocalG.A.P. is an entry-level farm assurance approach within the GLOBALG.A.P. system, designed to help small-scale producers progressively meet market requirements for good agricultural practices. Under this process, producers register through an approved partner, implement the relevant farm-level requirements and controls, and undergo an on-site assessment by a qualified verifier. Once compliance is confirmed, the producer receives a LocalG.A.P. verification confirmation within the GLOBALG.A.P. system, which can help demonstrate compliance to buyers, improve buyer confidence, and support access to more structured local and regional markets with better value for products. In Mozambique, this process has been supported through AAU Technical, a GLOBALG.A.P.-registered trainer operating in the country.

These results illustrate how SUSTAIN Pro is applying its Theory of Change in practice by strengthening governance and collective action around natural resources, by scaling more sustainable agricultural and Nature-based Solutions, and by testing investment models that can help producers move beyond subsidy dependence. Partnerships with district authorities, producer organisations, financial institutions, and technical partners such as Gapi, IIAM, ECA and ISPM have been central to this approach.



Farmer harvesting their crop © Solomon Onyeagoro



Mozambique in numbers

Organic Compost	**6 producers supported** **22 tons produced (12 tons in Vanduzi and 10 tons in Báruè)**
Demonstration fields	**36 fields established covering 36 ha of agroforestry systems**
Total smallholder farmers trained on CSA	**1,398 trained (603 W, 795 M)** **93% adoption rate of promoted practices**
PES schemes	**2 established providing in-kind support to 41 NRMCs members, with a combined cost of USD 36,600**
Agricultural cooperatives	**1 cooperative established in Vanduzi**
Land marked for restoration	**2.4 ha of spring catchment areas restored at Cagole and Nhaumbwe;** **41 NRMCs members engaged (12W, 29M)**
Blended finance schemes	**1 scheme established with USD 120,000** **75 producers (52W, 23M) supported**
GAP certification scheme	**1 certification "LocalGAP" established**
Agricultural insurance scheme	**48 producers enrolled (32W, 16M)**

(2) Advancing Landscape Resilience and Inclusive Governance in Tanzania

In 2025, SUSTAIN Pro in Tanzania demonstrated how inclusive governance, climate-smart agriculture, landscape restoration, and private sector engagement can reinforce one another to support more sustainable food systems. Across Kilombero and Ihemi, the programme worked through farmer organisations, local governance structures, extension services, and strategic partnerships to improve productivity, strengthen local leadership, and build the foundations for longer-term resilience.

A key area of progress was the strengthening of governance, representation, and local leadership. During the year, 6 Farm and Forest Producer Organisations (FFPOs) representing 1,656 members (1,042 men and 614 women) were strengthened, while 189 women received training on leadership and representation in producer organisations[2]. As a result, 5 of the 6 FFPOs now have women in leadership roles and 3 of the 6 include youth in leadership positions. At community level, 107 (75 men and 32 women) new village leaders and members of local natural resource management (NRM) structures were mobilised to support the protection, conservation and restoration of local resources, while community by-laws on land, water, forest and biodiversity management were reviewed and adopted. Furthermore, 55 participants took part in a national stakeholder workshop that contributed to the development of agricultural sector targets and interventions for Tanzania's NDC 3.0, linking local experience to national policy processes.

Insights from the field: Resilient farming in the face of climate stress

During the 2024–2025 agricultural season, 479 farmers (290 men and 189 women) were trained on sustainable agriculture and climate-smart practices, including 358 new beneficiaries. Adoption of promoted practices rose to 83%, up from 64% in the previous year, with the strongest uptake seen in crop rotation (61%), intercropping (61%), System of Rice Intensification (24%), and minimum tillage (21%). To support scaling, 26 extension officers were trained on Nature-based Solutions and sustainable agriculture, while 216 farmers were reached through farm clinics and 1,691 farmers through broader awareness campaigns implemented with partners, including Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL). This support was associated with measurable increases in average crop yields and suggests a possible reduction in household hunger among surveyed SUSTAIN beneficiary households, from 16% at baseline to 4%[3].

Building on earlier My.COOP capacity building, SUSTAIN Pro continued to strengthen farmer organisations' participation in value chains such as rice, soybean, sunflower and sugarcane, while also supporting cross-learning between landscapes and participation in the Nanenane National Agricultural Fair.

2 Throughout this report, terms such as "supported", "capacitated", and "strengthened" refer to a structured process of institutional development, not only participation in training. Local governance bodies engaged by SUSTAIN Pro (e.g., VNRCs, AMCOS, etc) are assessed against recognised criteria such as leadership structure, clarity of roles, reporting, financial transparency, record-keeping, inclusiveness, and overall functionality. Support combines training, mentoring, planning and follow-up. For example, some producer organisations improved from baseline scores of 3–4 to 7–9 across 12 governance criteria, while VNRCs are assessed against 6 criteria related to structure, accountability and performance. These terms therefore indicate measurable improvement in the ability of institutions to carry out their official mandates more effectively and inclusively.

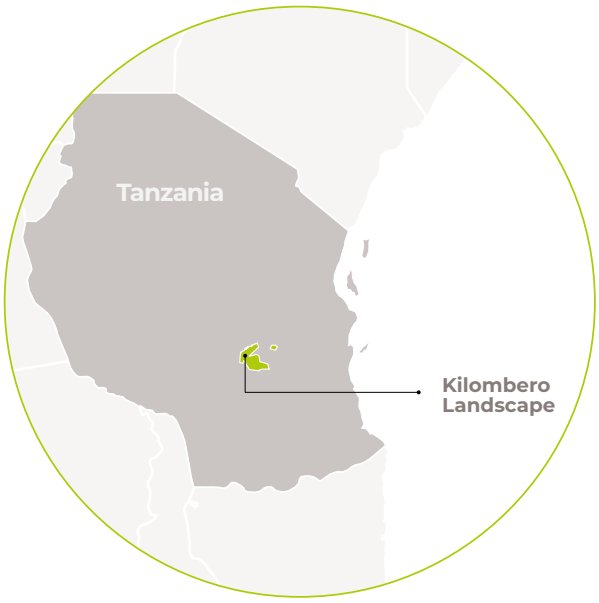
3 The baseline figure of 16% was derived from a randomised household sample across the SUSTAIN landscapes, while the 2025 figure of 4% is based on a more selective survey of households directly involved in SUSTAIN activities. As such, the two figures are not strictly comparable and should be interpreted as an indication of possible improvement among SUSTAIN beneficiaries rather than as a confirmed programme-level reduction in household hunger. Under the original MEL design, this indicator was intended to be reassessed after 10 years using another randomised sample across the wider landscape. The 2025 results nonetheless suggest that training, improved farming practices, and diversification of income sources may be contributing positively to household food security.

Crop Yield Performance in the 2024–2025 Agricultural Season
((Impact Indicator G2(a) - Tanzania)

Crop	2022/2023 cropping season (the baseline)	Adopters (SUSTAIN Pro) Fields	Non-Adopters	Variance	Justification
Rice	3.287 t/ha	3.82 t/ha	3.59 t/ha	+.533 t/ha	All three value chains presented a positive variance for adopters of SUSTAIN approaches, farmers that engaged in crop rotation, mixed farming, mulching had positive results.
Sunflower	0.968 t/ha	1.47 t/ha	0.78 t/ha	+0.502 t/ha	
Soybean	0.606 t/ha	1.37 t/ha	0.58 t/ha	+0.71 t/ha	

Three producer organisations — Mtitu and Magulilwa AMCOS in Ihemi, and Mkula AMCOS in Kilombero — were supported to mobilise a combined USD 212,438 through village savings and loan associations and bank loans, following targeted support on financial literacy, collective savings, and loan acquisition. At the same time, 3 agribusinesses were trained on sustainability standards and reporting, and 3 FFPOs received support on value addition and competitiveness.

Landscape restoration and knowledge generation also remained central to implementation. In 2025, 122 km of the Lukosi river were placed under restoration through natural regeneration, providing an important example of how the programme is linking agricultural production with wider ecosystem recovery. Collaboration with government, research institutions, and local authorities also continued to deepen, including partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Vice President's Office, and private sector and corridor actors such as AGCOT, Kilombero Sugar Company, CEOrt, and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. The programme further supported the review and dissemination of the updated Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Guiding Tool.



Tanzania in numbers

FFPOs strengthened	**6 representing 1,656 members (614W, 1,042M)**
Total smallholder farmers trained on CSA	**479 farmers (189W, 290M)** **83% adoption rate of promoted practices**
Mobile farm clinic	**216 farmers assisted (79W, 137m); 26 extension officers trained on NbS and CSA**
My.COOP training	**3 agribusinesses trained on sustainability standards and reporting (IGG)**
CCROs issued	**1500 processed CCROs in Kilombero; planned for official issuance in 2026**
AMCOS awareness campaign reach	**1,691 (702W, 989M) farmers reached**
Financial resources mobilised	**USD 212,438 mobilised for 3 producer organisations through VSLAs and bank loans**
Landscape Resilience Index (LRI)	**Piloted in all 4 landscapes (Baruè and Vanduzi, Ihemi and Kilombero);** **17 indicators tested**
Land marked for restoration under VLUPs	**122 km of riverine ecosystem**

(3) Building the Business Case for Sustainable Agriculture

At programme level, 2025 marked an important step in strengthening the evidence base for scaling SUSTAIN approaches across landscapes and integrating these into national processes. The Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) was revised and expanded into all SUSTAIN landscapes in Tanzania and Mozambique. The updated framework includes 17 indicators, with stronger emphasis on water systems, resilience, and climate-related risks and hazards, providing a more general and comparable index for landscape-level assessment, learning and future institutional uptake. This means SUSTAIN now has a shared index across all programme landscapes, creating stronger foundations for joint analysis, policy dialogue and long-term planning.

The programme also strengthened the bridge between landscape practice and wider finance and policy agendas. In collaboration with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) under the broader SUSTAIN initiative, the Green Finance Campaign was rolled out in 2025 and reached over 83,000 people, through the delivery of three toolkits, high-level convenings, and targeted outreach on sustainable finance. This was complemented by a broader SUSTAIN media campaign, including a dedicated landing page, feature stories, photo stories and op-eds that helped connect local landscape experience with national policy and public engagement. In parallel, the SUSTAIN Champions Awards supported 11 youth champions — 7 in Tanzania and 4 in Mozambique — with small-scale awards and training in integrated landscape management, entrepreneurship, and communication for sustainability. Their initiatives focused on practical solutions such as organic composting, hydroponic farming, riparian restoration, and environmental school clubs, showing how local innovation can contribute to wider landscape resilience[4].

Across both countries, validated business cases for priority and emerging value chains are now being taken forward through pilots and local investment mechanisms. In Tanzania, producer organisations supported over the past three years have shown stronger financial maturity, including improved access to savings groups, collective investment mechanisms and bank loans. In Mozambique, this was reflected in the operationalisation of a USD 120,000 blended finance scheme combining grants, loans and producer contributions to support 75 producers, while also linking them to insurance and certification processes. Together, these examples point to a broader shift: agricultural cooperatives and local enterprises are better positioned to embrace sustainable and resilient production systems beyond the life of the project.

4 The SUSTAIN Champions Awards were rolled out in two stages. A first call was launched in 2025 in Tanzania only, through which 3 champions were selected. This was followed by a second call in 2026 that expanded the initiative to Mozambique, resulting in the selection of 8 additional champions — 4 in Tanzania and 4 in Mozambique. Further information on their progress and results will be documented through the Champions impact stories in the 2026 reporting cycle.

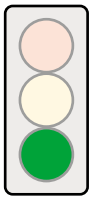
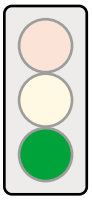


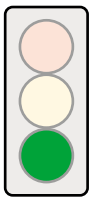
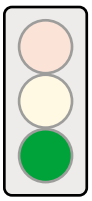
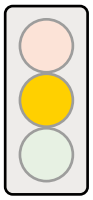
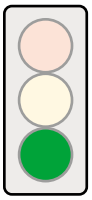
Producers club © SUSTAIN initiative

Progress towards outcome implementation

Outcome 1 – Solutions for sustainable agricultural production are scaled up

Outcome 1 summary: This outcome focuses on empowering stakeholders to embark on a change journey that strikes an optimal balance between economic, environmental, and social trade-offs. Emphasis within Outcome 1 is on building coherence between farm-level interventions and governance structures for land and water, i.e., disseminating successful on-farm solutions that have the potential for replication and scale-up and addressing the institutional barriers preventing this from happening.

Output		Summary deliverables	Progress	
			Tanzania	Mozambique
1.1	Sustainable and productive agricultural solutions are disseminated	• In Mozambique, 75 ha of agroforestry systems were established through a blended finance scheme, combining crop production with tree planting and the use of organic fertilisers and biopesticides; • 75 producers entered the LocalGAP certification process, linking improved agricultural practices to market access and formal value chains. • In Tanzania, 26 extension officers were trained on the uptake and institutionalisation of NbS, while 479 farmers were capacitated on CSA approaches; • 216 farmers (79W, 137M); were reached through farm clinics and 1,691 sugarcane farmers through an awareness campaign with KSCL.		

1.2	Governance institutions and processes are strengthened to build an enabling environment	• In Mozambique, NRMCs in Cagole and Nhaumbwe were engaged in the protection and restoration of spring catchments. • In Tanzania, 107 (32W,75M) new village leaders and local NRM actors were mobilised to support conservation and restoration, while 55 participants contributed to the development of agriculture-sector targets under NDC 3.0.		
1.3	Market-based approaches and incentives help transition to sustainable agricultural systems	• In Mozambique, two PES schemes, each valued at USD 18,300, were established in Cagole and Nhaumbwe to incentivise restoration and protection of water sources. • A commercial contract was facilitated between Intermed and the Samora Machel Cooperative, benefiting 34 producers (23 women, 11 men) through the supply of soybean, yellow and white maize. • In Tanzania, 3 cooperatives/FFPOs were supported to improve competitiveness through value addition initiatives, with Mtimbira AMCOS continuing to use Nanenane as a platform to market value-added rice products.		

Mozambique

In Mozambique, progress under Outcome 1 focused on strengthening sustainable agricultural production through a combination of technical support, market incentives, and local stewardship of natural resources. A key achievement was the rollout of a blended finance mechanism that supported 75 producers, a majority of which are women, to establish 75 hectares of agroforestry systems. These systems were accompanied by the promotion of organic fertilisers and biopesticides, helping reduce environmental pressure while improving productivity and resilience. A LocalGAP certification process was initiated for the same group of producers, providing training on food safety, traceability, environmental management and responsible use of inputs. Compliance checklists were applied across the production cycle, and the first audit has already taken place, laying the groundwork for certification and improved market access by the end of the season.

Furthermore, in the Cagole and Nhaumbwe spring catchments, Natural Resource Management Committees were directly involved in restoration and monitoring activities, linking community governance to ecosystem protection. This was reinforced through two Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes, which rewarded restoration performance through in-kind support based on plant survival rates. SUSTAIN Pro also facilitated a commercial contract between Intermed and the Samora Machel Cooperative, benefiting 34 producers and creating a practical market channel for soybean and maize produced under more sustainable conditions. Together, these efforts show how Outcome 1 in Mozambique is linking sustainable production to local governance, risk reduction, certification, and market engagement.

Tanzania

In Tanzania, progress under Outcome 1 centred on strengthening the knowledge, advisory systems, and governance conditions needed to scale more sustainable agricultural production across the Kilombero and Ihemi landscapes. A total of 479 individuals (290 men, 189 women) participated in training, peer-to-peer exchange,

and awareness sessions on identified solutions for sustainable agriculture. This was complemented by targeted support on climate services and climate-smart agriculture, with 266 farmers trained to use climate change information for better planning and decision-making. In addition, 19 farmers joined a cross-learning visit from Mtimbira to the Ruvu Irrigation Cooperative, where they strengthened their knowledge of sustainable farming practices and cooperative management.

A multi-stakeholder workshop involving 25 participants from government, private sector, civil society and farmer groups resulted in a consolidated synthesis of lessons learned from sustainable agriculture implementation due for publication in 2026. Farm clinics, implemented jointly by TARI, KSCL and IUCN, proved effective in scaling improved sugarcane practices and reached 216 farmers, whose soil samples were analysed and used to generate tailored agronomic recommendations. A broader awareness raising campaign implemented by IUCN and KSCL reached 1,691 farmers, contributing to improved sugarcane productivity and more sustainable farm management. Governance structures were strengthened (e.g., VNRCs, CBNRM committees) by mobilising 107 new village leaders and local natural resource governance actors to engage in the protection, conservation, and restoration of their local natural resources.

Market-oriented approaches also began to show more concrete results where 3 cooperatives and FFPOs — Mtimbira AMCOS in rice, and Lupembe-Iwa-Senga and Magulilwa AMCOS in soybean and sunflower — were supported to improve their competitiveness through value addition initiatives and training. In particular, Mtimbira AMCOS, which had previously received value addition support, continued to participate in the National Farmers' Exhibition (Nanenane), where its value-added rice products, including parboiled rice, were in high demand. This repeated market success demonstrates how support to cooperatives on value addition can improve product marketability, attract new customers, and strengthen their position within agricultural value chains.

Looking ahead, SUSTAIN Pro will build on these gains by focusing on consolidation and scale. In Tanzania, priority will be given to mainstreaming climate-smart agriculture and Nature-based Solutions into District Agricultural Development Plans, while continuing to strengthen extension services, farmer organisations, and policy uptake through processes such as NDC 3.0. In Mozambique, the focus will be on completing the LocalGAP certification cycle, strengthening market linkages for participating producers, and expanding the use of incentive-based models such as PES and blended finance to support sustainable production and ecosystem stewardship.

Spotlight: Tanzania's NDC 3.0 review workshops

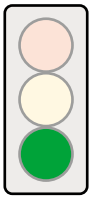
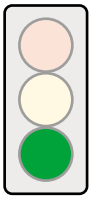
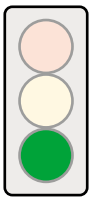
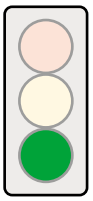
At national and programme level, SUSTAIN Pro used Outcome 1 to connect local experience with wider policy and system change. In Tanzania, IUCN co-facilitated the formulation of agriculture-sector targets within NDC 3.0, focusing on the transition to climate-resilient food systems and identifying priority action areas such as climate-responsive agricultural research, stronger advisory services, sustainable land and water management, wider uptake of climate-smart agriculture, and innovative climate finance. Across the programme, these efforts reinforce the Theory of Change by showing how farmer-level practice, local governance, and enabling policy frameworks can work together to support more sustainable agricultural production at landscape scale. Read more.



Baobab Tree, Mozambique © SUSTAIN initiative

Outcome 2 – Land health restored using landscape partnerships

Outcome 2 summary: SUSTAIN Pro focuses 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 seek to improve land health and implement solutions that maximise benefits for local people and future generations.

Output		Summary deliverables	Progress	
			Tanzania	Mozambique
2.1	Landscape partnership agreements in place for action and investment in nature-based solutions	• In Mozambique, 4 landscape partnerships are in place, supported through collaboration with district authorities, producer organisations, financial institutions and technical partners including ECA, IIAM, ISPM and Gapi; • District Coordination Groups on NbS were strengthened through regular meetings and joint planning around land restoration, governance, water and forest management. • In Tanzania, 47 (34 men and 13 women) participants from government, private sector and non-governmental organisations participated in an MSP on integrated natural resource governance in Kilombero and Ihemi; • Through the Land Health Compact, stakeholders reviewed progress against earlier commitments, shared achievements, and agreed new targets across agriculture, water, land, wildlife, livestock and forestry.		
2.2	Land health monitoring influences permanent governance mechanisms for land and water	• In Mozambique, land and water monitoring systems were strengthened through collaboration with ARA-Centro, including baseline water quality assessments at 7 monitoring points across Vanduzi and Báruè; • The LRI was introduced and tested with producers and agribusiness actors, with 31 people trained, including 11 from agribusiness companies; • LRI monitoring results were used to raise awareness and support more evidence-based discussions on sustainable land and water management, with integration into wider MRV systems planned from 2026. • In Tanzania, 122 km of the Lukosi River were placed under restoration through natural regeneration. • A baseline survey across 18 villages, updated by-laws, and strengthened VNRCs and the Kipunji WUA supported more permanent land and water governance in the Lukosi sub-catchment, alongside restoration of a 139.2 ha wetland linked to the river system.		

Mozambique

In 2025, progress under Outcome 2 focused on strengthening the institutional and technical foundations needed to support and improve landscape resilience. A central role was played by the district NbS coordination groups, which were supported to develop a shared landscape vision and define joint workplans through two meetings during the year. These discussions addressed local challenges related to land degradation, sustainable natural resource use, and the integration of Nature-based Solutions into agricultural management and conservation practices. The groups also agreed to continue working with local entities and private sector actors, including ECA, to expand outreach and adapt strategies based on lessons learned.

The spring restoration work in Cagole and Nhaumbwe also contributed to stronger landscape governance by enabling local institutions to contribute directly to ecosystem stewardship. The Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme established at both springs was designed through a structured process involving local committees, district authorities, SDAE representatives, and the district coordination groups. First, local committees were established, including members who had previously used or exploited the spring areas (under outcome 1); these members were then mobilised and trained on the risks associated with continued degradation and then engaged in planting and maintaining the seedlings used in the spring restoration sites. Second, payment modalities were jointly defined and linked to restoration performance. Plant survival is monitored every three months over a two-year period, and incentives are awarded according to agreed thresholds, with plots demonstrating a survival rate above 50% receiving increasing levels of in-kind support.

This model was designed not only to incentivise restoration, but also to create a pathway for longer-term sustainability by engaging private sector actors whose operations depend on land and water resources. Once the restored areas are established and require less intensive maintenance, the mechanism can be expanded to other biodiversity and conservation actions, helping embed ecosystem stewardship more firmly within local governance and corporate responsibility practices.

Progress under Outcome 2 also included the strengthening of land and water monitoring systems, in collaboration with ARA-Centro. A baseline for water quality monitoring was established across seven monitoring points in Vanduzi and Báruè. Results showed that water quality parameters were generally within acceptable limits for agricultural use, despite some seasonal variation and localised pH deviations. At the same time, the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) was introduced and tested with producers and agribusiness actors, with 31 people trained, including 11 from agribusiness companies. These early steps are helping build the basis for more systematic monitoring, stronger private sector alignment, and eventual integration with national MRV systems[5].

Tanzania

In 2025, progress under Outcome 2 showed how landscape partnerships can translate into more coordinated restoration, stronger natural resource governance, and improved accountability across sectors. In Kilombero and Ihemi, SUSTAIN Pro worked through a multi-stakeholder platform that brought together government institutions — including the Morogoro Regional Secretariat, district councils (Mlimba, Malinyi, Ifakara, Ulanga, Kilosa), TAWA, TNP, TARI, TFS, NLUPC and TANESCO — alongside private sector actors such as KSCL, civil society organisations including Reforest Africa, MACCO, Mazingira ni Uhai Foundation, KOCD, Six Rivers and STEP Society, and community-based organisations such as ILUMA

5 National Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems are frameworks designed to track greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigation actions, and support. Under the Paris Agreement, they ensure transparency in tracking progress toward Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Key elements include monitoring emission data, reporting it, and verifying compliance through independent assessments.

WMA. Through this platform, 47 participants convened to discuss integrated natural resource governance, review progress against earlier commitments, and agree new targets across agriculture, water, land, wildlife, livestock and forestry. This process strengthened coordination and accountability while helping align restoration and landscape resilience priorities across institutions operating in the same landscape.

An area of progress under this outcome was the restoration of the Lukosi River sub-catchment in Kilolo district, where SUSTAIN Pro, in collaboration with the Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB) and the Kilolo District Natural Resources Department, supported a more integrated approach to land and water management. A baseline survey was conducted across 18 villages to assess environmental conditions, followed by a district-level stakeholder workshop to discuss results and strengthen community awareness on sustainable natural resource management. Village by-laws were updated to incorporate sustainable practices, and Village Natural Resource Committees were established or strengthened in all 18 villages. These efforts contributed to concrete management actions:

i. District authorities issued directives to halt human activities within 60 metres of the Lukosi River sub-catchment in six villages;
ii. VNRCs and the Kipunji Water User Association supported restoration of riparian areas; and
iii. A 139.2-hectare wetland critical to the river system was restored.

Furthermore, 122 kilometres of the Lukosi River are now under ecological restoration through natural regeneration, improving ecosystem health and water flows for domestic use, irrigation, livestock and biodiversity. The involvement of actors such as the New Forest Company also points to growing private sector engagement in biodiversity monitoring and ecosystem conservation around productive landscapes.

Spotlight: LRI From monitoring to national commitment

In 2025, the former Land Health Monitoring Index (LHMI) evolved into the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) to better reflect the wider needs of SUSTAIN landscapes and the growing emphasis on resilience. While the overall structure was retained, the framework shifted from a narrower land health focus to three broader and more integrated pillars: land, water, and adaptive capacity. The spatial scales of analysis remain unchanged, allowing the tool to continue linking local conditions with wider landscape-level planning and decision-making. The revised LRI was expanded in 2025 to cover the Mozambique landscapes and Sumbawanga, meaning it now spans all SUSTAIN landscapes. Validation workshops were held in both countries, confirming strong interest in the index as a practical and adaptable framework for resilience monitoring, planning, and dialogue. To support wider uptake, a peer-reviewed publication and an e-book are currently being developed to communicate the logic, structure, and applicability of the LRI.

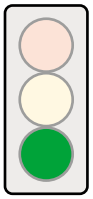
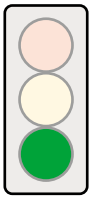
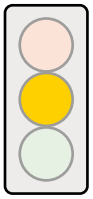
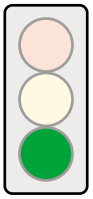
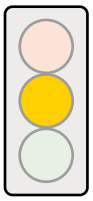
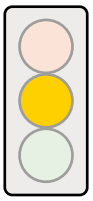
Promising opportunities for institutionalisation are now emerging in both countries. In Tanzania, discussions are focusing on how the LRI can be institutionalised through collaboration with CEOrt and AGCOT. In Mozambique, the main pathway is through engagement with the national MRV team. Together, these steps suggest that in 2026 the LRI is shifting towards becoming a more durable mechanism for resilience monitoring and decision support.



Local market in fresh produce © Vurzie Kim

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	
			Tanzania	Mozambique
3.1	Business cases for sustainable commoditieas	• Market ready investment factsheets were developed for key and emerging value chains in SUSTAIN landscapes in Tanzania and Mozambique.		
3.2	Public/private investment projects to scale up sustainability and inclusion in value chains	• In Mozambique, a USD 120,000 blended finance mechanism was operationalised, combining grants, loans and producer contributions to support 75 producers, including 52 women, in more sustainable production systems; • 2 cooperatives accessed the blended finance scheme; • 48 producers were enrolled in an agricultural insurance scheme to strengthen resilience to climate and production risks; • In Tanzania, 3 FFPOs/cooperatives collectively mobilised USD 212,438 through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and bank loans, improving financial resilience and access to credit.		
3.3	Growth corridor secretariats, apex institutions and industry associations adopt targets and roll out sustainability with agribusiness and investors	• In Mozambique, the project, in collaboration with BIODEV2030, engaged key corridor and apex actors including ADVZ, HCB, and ARA-Centro, helping build dialogue on the role of NbS in agricultural development and water resource management. • 11 agribusinesses were trained and engaged around sustainability approaches; • In Tanzania, 3 agribusinesses — Lupembe-lwa-Senga, Kilolo Malimbichi and Katurukila AMCOS — were trained on sustainability standards and reporting linked to the IGG Guiding Tool; • The green finance campaign in collaboration with CEOrt was implemented and work around water stewardship and collective action is planned for 2026. • Through the SUSTAIN Champions Awards, 11 youth champions (7 in Tanzania, 4 in Mozambique) received small grants and training in ILM, entrepreneurship and communication to advance local innovation.		

Mozambique

In 2025, progress under Outcome 3 focused on turning the findings of the business case assessments *(refer to box 7 in 2024 annual report)* into practical financing and market pilots that could be tested within the remaining project period. Business cases were developed for four priority value chains — maize, soy, horticulture and restoration (ARR) — and showed that, although production potential exists, a substantial share of value is lost due to structural constraints such as weak infrastructure, limited market access, financing gaps, and lack of effective incentive mechanisms. The analysis therefore pointed towards more integrated systems that combine improved production, stronger market linkages, risk reduction and environmental stewardship as the most promising pathway for helping smallholders capture greater value, diversify their incomes, and strengthen resilience.

Based on these recommendations, SUSTAIN Pro prioritised those models that could be mobilised and demonstrated within a shorter timeframe. This included the operationalisation of a USD 120,000 blended finance mechanism supporting 75 producers including 52 women, the establishment of 75 hectares of agroforestry and mixed cropping systems, and the enrolment of 48 producers in an agricultural insurance scheme. Together, these interventions reflect a practical response to the business case findings by combining grants, loans, producer contributions, technical assistance, certification support and insurance into one integrated model. They were prioritised because they offered the strongest immediate potential to show how sustainable value chains can become more resilient, market-linked and financially viable. Other opportunities identified through the business cases — particularly those linked to restoration/ARR and longer-term environmental finance — remain promising but will require more time to mature beyond the current project cycle.

A key achievement in 2025 was the roll-out of this blended finance model, which brought together different actors to support sustainability and inclusion in value chains. The model combined grant support from IUCN (40%), technical assistance from ADEM, loan finance from Gapi (40%), producer contributions (20%), and agricultural insurance from Hollard Seguros. Results include strengthening producer technical and financial capacity, improved access to inputs and post-harvest logistics, and establishing more effective connections to markets. The inclusion of insurance added an important resilience dimension by helping protect producers against climate and production risks, while also providing access to climate monitoring and early warning services. The scheme is intended not as a one-off subsidy, but as a transitional mechanism to help producers become more autonomous and less dependent on external support over time.

These finance and market efforts were complemented by ecosystem-based incentives and wider engagement with corridor actors. Payments for Ecosystem Services were initiated at the Nhaumbwe and Cagole springs, where local committees managed restoration and received annual incentives *(refer to output 1.3)*. At corridor level, the programme in collaboration with BIODEV2030, continued engaging key institutions such as the Zambezi Valley Development Agency (ADVZ), Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa (HCB), and ARA-Centro to promote the role of Nature-based Solutions in agriculture, water management, and sustainable investment. Collaboration with ARA-Centro also supported stronger water quality monitoring and watershed governance, while engagement with ADVZ opened discussion on the possible use of the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) to support reporting and monitoring of landscape-level investments in the Beira Corridor.

Tanzania

In 2025, progress under Outcome 3 focused on building the foundations for longer-term investment in sustainable value chains. A key milestone was the review, translation and

dissemination of the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Guiding Tool, with copies printed and translated in Swahili to support wider uptake of sustainability principles in agricultural value chains and investment processes. At the same time, investment factsheets for the priority business cases were finalised, helping translate earlier analytical work into more practical tools for engagement with producer groups, investors and partners. Based on these business case priorities, the programme continued to focus on rice, soybean and sunflower, while work on agroforestry-linked opportunities is progressing into 2026.

At producer level, SUSTAIN Pro supported farmer organisations to strengthen collective investment mechanisms and access to finance. Three FFPOs/cooperatives collectively mobilised USD 212,438 through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and bank loans. These were Mtimbira (rice) and Mkula (sugarcane) in the Kilombero landscape, and Muungano Mtitu, Magulilwa AMCOS, and Lupembe-lwa-Senga AMCOS (all working on soybean and sunflower) in the Ihemi landscape. This reflects gradual but important progress in strengthening financial literacy, collective savings, and investment readiness among producer organisations. In particular, some groups created financing opportunities through VSLAs, while Mkula AMCOS accessed a loan from NMB Bank on behalf of its registered sugarcane farmers, showing how earlier cooperative strengthening is beginning to translate into practical access to credit.

Progress was also made in strengthening sustainability uptake within agribusiness systems. Three agribusinesses — Lupembe-lwa-Senga, Kilolo Malimbichi and Katurukila AMCOS — received specialised training on sustainability standards and reporting, with particular focus on the application of the IGG Guiding Tool. A notable example is Kilolo Malimbichi AMCOS in the Ihemi landscape, which works across soybean, sunflower, maize, beans and horticulture. Following the training, the organisation



Part of the awareness raising campaign designed in collaboration with KSCL, Kilombero, Tanzania

expanded its services to members, including improved access to agricultural inputs, extension support, stakeholder engagement, market facilitation, and financing through its AMCOS SACCOS. By September 2025, 160 members (63 men and 97 women) had benefited from a revolving loan fund totalling USD 83,786, illustrating how sustainability-oriented organisational strengthening can translate into more resilient and responsive support to members.

At national and programme level, in collaboration with the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) under the broader SUSTAIN initiative, the Green Finance Campaign was rolled out in 2025 and reached over 83,000 people, through the delivery of three toolkits, high-level convenings, and targeted outreach on sustainable finance. The programme also continued to promote local innovation and entrepreneurship through the SUSTAIN Champions Awards, which supported 11 youth champions across Tanzania and Mozambique with catalytic awards and training in integrated landscape management, entrepreneurship and communication for sustainability. Several of the supported ideas — including organic composting, hydroponic farming, riparian restoration and environmental education — align closely with the alternative and sustainability-oriented value chain opportunities identified under SUSTAIN Pro.

Building on the successful collaboration with CEOrt, the implementing partner agreement was amended and extended beyond the Green Finance Campaign to include water stewardship work in 2026. This next phase will focus on engaging beverage, consumer goods and industrial companies around corporate water risk, stewardship indicators, and collective action in key catchments linked to the SUSTAIN landscapes. As part of this, a scoping webinar, targeted workshops, and a white paper on water stewardship in Tanzania are planned for 2026.



Road in Mara region, Tanzania © Ana Kenk

Gender and Youth Action

In 2025, SUSTAIN Pro continued to strengthen gender and youth inclusion across implementation in Tanzania and Mozambique, while recognising that progress remains gradual given persistent structural and cultural barriers. ***In Tanzania***, this was reflected in efforts to improve the participation of women, youth and marginalised groups in village committees and farmer organisations, including VNRCs, VLUMs, WUAs and FFPOs/cooperatives. These measures contributed to stronger participation of women and youth in natural resource governance and decision-making processes, although continued effort will be needed to deepen their influence and representation over time. ***In Mozambique***, SUSTAIN Pro supported more targeted work on women's empowerment in sustainable agribusiness. Between April and December 2025, 16 meetings were held across Vanduzi and Báruè, reaching 392 participants (261 men and 131 women). These sessions adapted governance and gender approaches to the local context and focused on expanding women's access to land, production technologies, credit, and sustainable finance, while also strengthening capacities in sustainable agriculture, business management, entrepreneurship and leadership. The process contributed to stronger inclusion of women in agricultural value chains and more resilient local production systems. ***At programme level***, IUCN continued to promote more inclusive participation across SUSTAIN activities and also supported the SUSTAIN Champions Awards, which backed 11 youth champions in Tanzania and Mozambique, 7 of them women, with training in integrated landscape management, entrepreneurship, gender responsiveness and communication for sustainability. Overall, 2025 confirmed again that inclusion is strongest where it is intentionally designed from the outset, and strengthening women's and youth leadership will remain a priority in 2026.



Buckets of spicess in Ibadan Market © Heyi Owolabi / Unsplash

Knowledge Management, Policy & Communications

In 2025, SUSTAIN Pro continued to strengthen knowledge generation, policy engagement and communications across Tanzania and Mozambique, with a stronger focus on translating technical work into products and messages that can support wider uptake, policy influence and future investment. Across the programme, communications also increasingly linked landscape-level experience with the broader SUSTAIN agenda on resilience, sustainable finance and systems change.

In Tanzania, IUCN in collaboration with AGCOT, facilitated the review, translation and publication of the revised Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Guiding Tool, with copies printed in English and Swahili for dissemination to agricultural investors and other stakeholders. In parallel, IUCN contributed to the development of a Charter for Enhancing Gender-Responsive, Climate-Smart and Nature-Positive Agriculture Business Development Services for Women and Youth Agri-preneurs. Moreover, a documentary was produced highlighting the participation of women and youth in the leadership of sugarcane cooperatives in Kilombero, using the example of Mkula Sugarcane AMCOS to show how inclusion is being strengthened in producer governance. ***In Mozambique,*** communications in 2025 helped document the programme's practical landscape work. A key story published during the year highlighted support to Báruè district in restoring the source of the Cagole River, helping communicate the value of restoration, local stewardship and spring protection to a wider audience.

At programme level, IUCN led a broader SUSTAIN media campaign through a dedicated landing page and a mix of feature stories, photo stories and op-eds. Landscape factsheets and the Theory of Change graphic were finalised and communicated, while the SUSTAIN Champions Awards were also profiled as part of programme outreach. In parallel, the Green Finance Campaign, implemented with the CEOrt, added an important knowledge and communications dimension to the programme. In 2025, the campaign produced three Green Finance toolkits, two thought-leadership articles, a national webinar, an in-person Green Finance Forum, a Nanenane workshop, and the Eye on Tanzania Sustainability – Private Sector & Green Finance insight report, while also reaching over 83,000 people and generating more than 18,500 active interactions through its digital campaign. These products helped translate green finance concepts into practical guidance for businesses and strengthened links between landscape experience, private-sector engagement and future investment pathways. Work is also underway to finalise the LRI e-book and peer-reviewed publication, as well as publications on integrated landscape management and multi-level governance.

3.



Farmer transporting handmade baskets © SUSTAIN initiative

Lessons Learned

Farmers adopt sustainable practices faster when benefits are tangible: Across SUSTAIN Pro landscapes, uptake was strongest where farmers could clearly see both productivity and income benefits. This was especially evident in soybean, sunflower, rice and sugarcane systems in Tanzania, and in the agroforestry and horticulture models in Mozambique. Hence, climate-smart agriculture and NbS gain traction when they are linked to visible returns, market opportunity, and reduced production risk.





Practical, repeated extension support works better than one-off training: Farm clinics, peer learning visits, demonstration plots, training materials in local languages, and tailored advisory support all helped translate knowledge into action. In Tanzania, this was reflected in stronger uptake of promoted practices and improved yields; in Mozambique, certification support and producer coaching helped move farmers towards more structured and market-ready production. Capacity building is most effective when it is continuous, practical, and backed by tools, follow-up, and problem-solving support.

Landscape partnerships are most effective when they lead to concrete joint action: NbS district coordination groups, MSPs, and collaboration with local authorities worked best where they were tied to specific outputs such as spring restoration, by-law revision, river restoration, joint targets, or value-chain support. In both countries, partnerships helped align producers, government, technical agencies and private actors around shared priorities, showing that coordination is most useful when it is tied to on the ground implementation.





Sustainable value chains need finance, risk-sharing and market access to move beyond pilots: The experience in Mozambique showed that blended finance, insurance, certification and PES can create a stronger package for adoption and resilience than grants alone. In Tanzania, growing access to VSLAs, loans, revolving funds and value-addition opportunities showed that producer organisations are becoming more financially capable. Thus, smallholders and cooperatives need a combination of technical support, finance, and market linkages if sustainable production systems are to scale.

Inclusion improves when it is designed intentionally and linked to real opportunities: Women's and youth participation was strongest where activities deliberately addressed leadership, finance, entrepreneurship, and access to production and market opportunities. This was clear in cooperative governance, women's agribusiness engagement in Mozambique, and youth and women's leadership in Tanzanian producer groups. At the same time, persistent barriers confirmed that inclusion must be continuously reinforced through targeting, institutional support, and practical economic pathways.





These lessons will guide implementation in the final year, with stronger emphasis on consolidating proven models, linking training to finance and market access, and embedding the most promising approaches in institutions and partnerships that can continue beyond the project.

Looking ahead to 2026

As SUSTAIN Pro enters its final implementation year, the focus will be on consolidating results, embedding the strongest approaches in existing institutions and partnerships, and positioning key interventions for continuation beyond project closure. Across Tanzania and Mozambique, this means moving from piloting and targeted delivery towards institutional uptake, stronger market linkages, and more durable financing and policy pathways.

Under **Outcome 1**, priority will be given to strengthening the conditions for scaling sustainable agricultural production through stronger producer organisations, better market access, and more effective governance. In Tanzania, this will include follow-up support to farmer cooperatives through My.COOP, expansion of the mobile farm clinic model, and closer coordination with national and district authorities around value-added and certifiable products, particularly in the rice and soybean value chains. Collaboration with the Danida-funded RESET project will also be used to align cooperative strengthening and market access work in Ihemi. In Mozambique, the focus will be on further building the capacity of landscape stakeholders to apply sustainable agricultural practices, formalising land-use rights around the Cagole and Nhaumbwe spring sites, strengthening the role of natural resource management committees, and moving towards more structured contractual relationships between producer groups and buyers.

Under **Outcome 2**, efforts will focus on deepening landscape partnerships and strengthening the role of evidence in land and water governance. In Tanzania, multi-stakeholder platforms in Kilombero and Ihemi will increasingly be used as coordination hubs across SUSTAIN Pro, SUSTAIN Eco, RESOLVE NbS, and RESET, supporting joint planning for NbS and climate-smart agriculture. Work will also continue on institutionalising the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) through partnerships with TARI, AGCOT, CEOrt, and other technical actors, while advancing the Soil Health Compact as a data-to-decision framework linking local monitoring with policy and investment planning. In Mozambique, the NbS District Coordination Groups will be further supported to use spatial data, action plans, and monitoring systems to guide land and water management, while collaboration with the MRV system and the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries will help position the LRI within wider governance and reporting systems.

Under **Outcome 3**, the programme will concentrate on moving towards more concrete financing and investment pathways. In Tanzania, this will include building on the 2025 investment factsheets to develop stronger business cases around waste-to-value models, eco-friendly briquettes, alternative tree-based livelihoods, and agroforestry as an emerging inclusive green growth opportunity. Financial literacy and business management support for cooperatives will continue, alongside engagement with AGCOT, the Kilimo Roundtable, financial institutions, and private investors to develop corridor transition roadmaps, investment roundtables, and matchmaking opportunities. In Mozambique, the focus will be on building from the 2025 blended finance and certification experience to strengthen financial literacy, connect cooperatives to buyers, expand market assessments and business-to-business engagement, and pilot practical solutions such as solar-powered irrigation linked to restoration sites. At a wider level, work will also continue with business and apex organisations to promote sustainability

targets, ESG-related uptake, and alignment of private-sector reporting with restoration and land-health goals.

Across the programme, **knowledge, learning and communications** will remain important in the final year. Priorities include finalising the LRI e-book, peer-reviewed and grey publications, documenting lessons on integrated landscape management, multi-level governance, and sustainable finance, and continuing to package evidence through stories, case studies, policy briefs, investment factsheets, and audio-visual products. The Green Finance Campaign will continue to connect landscape practice with private-sector interest, while the expanded collaboration with CEOrt will begin to carry this work into water stewardship. At the same time, the 2026 period will be used to strengthen alignment with other IUCN programmes — especially RESOLVE NbS and RESET in Tanzania — so that SUSTAIN Pro's strongest results can be more effectively sustained and built on after closure.

Sustainability & exit strategy

In response to the external review recommendations no. SR1a and Norad's request for clearer alignment and continuity between the closing phase of SUSTAIN Pro and the ongoing RESOLVE NbS programme.

Work has already begun to identify the most viable institutional pathways for sustaining SUSTAIN Pro outcomes beyond project closure. In 2026, the programme is using its final implementation period to clarify responsibilities, build on active partnerships, and position the strongest interventions for continuation through institutions, producer organisations, and private-sector actors that are already engaged in the landscapes. These pathways align broadly with the programme's theory of change.

Under **pathway 1 on inclusive governance, equity and rights**, continuity is expected through the governance and coordination structures that have been strengthened in both countries. In Mozambique, this includes the District Coordination Groups on NbS, local natural resource committees around Cagole and Nhaumbwe, and collaboration with district authorities and SDAE to continue joint planning and stewardship of land and water resources. In Tanzania, continuity is expected through FFPOs and cooperatives, village-level natural resource governance structures, district councils, and the multi-stakeholder platforms linked to the Land Health Compact process in Kilombero and Ihemi.

Under **pathway 2 on implementing and scaling sustainable agriculture and innovative Nature-based Solutions**, continuity is expected through extension, research, monitoring, and landscape governance systems that are already in place. In Mozambique, this includes continuation of the LocalGAP certification process through producer associations, private-sector buyers, and agricultural extension services, alongside the ongoing role of ADEM, producer organisations, and the emerging partnership with the MRV team to take forward the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI) and related land and water monitoring. It also includes continuation of spring restoration, agroforestry, certification, and sustainable production support through existing district and partner structures. In Tanzania, continuity is expected through district extension systems, TARI, KSCL, producer organisations, and the multi-stakeholder partnerships already active in Kilombero and Ihemi, including collaboration with AGCOT and CEOrt around the institutional uptake of the LRI. Specific workstreams expected to continue include dissemination of prioritised sustainable agriculture solutions, the Farm Clinic model with TARI and district councils, continued scaling of NbS in the two landscapes, and support to the sustainable commercialisation of soybean and other priority crops.

Under **pathway 3 on catalysing investment**, continuity is expected through the financial and market mechanisms that have started to emerge during implementation.

In Mozambique, this includes the blended finance model, the partnership with Gapi, the integration of agricultural insurance with Hollard Seguros, the ongoing LocalGAP certification process, and the early PES schemes linked to spring restoration. These mechanisms provide a basis for further co-financing and scaling of sustainable production systems beyond the project. In Tanzania, continuity is expected through the strengthened financial capacity of FFPOs and cooperatives, including the use of VSLAs, revolving funds, and access to bank loans, as well as through the dissemination and application of the IGG Guiding Tool. At programme level, the Green Finance Campaign and the extended collaboration with CEOrt — including the shift into water stewardship work in 2026 — provide a wider institutional pathway for connecting sustainable agriculture, landscape resilience, and private-sector investment after project closure.

Under **project alignment within the IUCN Tanzania portfolio**, the team convened an internal alignment exercise across SUSTAIN Pro, SUSTAIN Eco, the Norad-funded RESOLVE NbS project, and the Danida-funded RESET project to clarify complementarities and continuity as SUSTAIN Pro approaches closure. The review confirmed strong alignment around Nature-based Solutions, climate-smart agriculture, restoration, market linkages, sustainable finance, and the Landscape Resilience Index (LRI), as well as a shared stakeholder base including government institutions, district authorities, research partners, apex bodies, private-sector actors, and farmer organisations. Priority opportunities identified include linking SUSTAIN Pro's cooperative strengthening and value-chain work with RESET's market and advisory support, aligning LRI uptake with wider land-use and NbS planning under RESOLVE NbS, and using shared platforms to strengthen policy influence, knowledge products, and private-sector engagement. This process has helped clarify where continuity can be built after SUSTAIN Pro closes, and it will be taken further during 2026 as part of the programme's wider sustainability and exit strategy.



Man on a bicycle © SUSTAIN initiative

Further Information

SUSTAIN website: sustaininitiative.org

Twitter: twitter.com/IUCN_Water

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/iucn-water

Contacts:

Maria Ana Borges,
IUCN Water and Wetlands Team
mariaana.borges@iucn.org

Ala Al Dwairi
IUCN Water and Wetlands Team
ala.al-dwairi@iucn.org

Anthony Mhagama
IUCN Tanzania
anthony.mhagama@iucn.org

Maria Julieta Matediane
IUCN Mozambique
maria.matediane@iucn.org