



# Environment, Development, Governance and Education along the Songas Pipeline:

## A summary of achievements between 2007 and 2011

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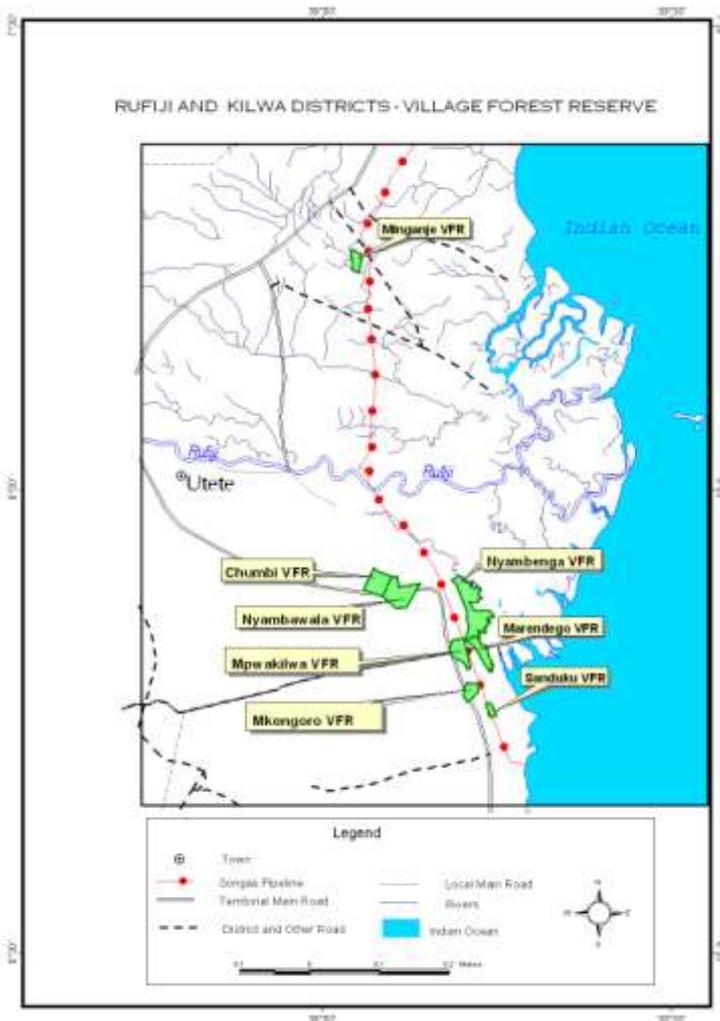
The Songas Wayleave passes through a globally important Biodiversity Hotspot, the Eastern African Coastal Forests. This area is also home to some of Tanzania's poorest communities. With the intention of bringing positive social and environmental impacts to this area, Songas has been supporting the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group to implement the EDGE project in eight villages along the wayleave. With an investment of US\$ 85,000 per year over five years, the project has succeeded in bringing about positive changes to the lives of the communities and to the globally important biodiversity of the forests.

### **Expected Result 1: Improved village land use**

The project has strengthened land tenure for women and men living in eight villages along the wayleave. As a result of the project, eight villages have village land use plans that provide a basis for development planning in the village. The plans are also a requirement for villages seeking to obtain their village land certificates. The final stage of obtaining the village land certificates has been initiated with the submission of the plans to the Commissioner for Lands. It is anticipated that this process will be finalised in 2011.

### **Expected Result 2: Participatory forest management**

The project has supported the establishment of eight village forest reserves covering a total area of 6986 hectares of coastal forest and woodland. A further 5017 ha in Muyuyu Village has been proposed for inclusion in a Village Forest Reserve. This has involved training communities on community based forest management; preparing management plans, by-laws and maps; providing equipment such as rain coats and gum boots; and obtaining the approval of the Village assemblies and District Councils. Subsequently the project has been providing technical support in the implementation of the forest management plans. As a result of establishing the village forest reserves, we have recorded a significant decline in



No	Forest Name	Village	Area (ha)
1	Sanduku	Somanga Simu	222.68
2	Mkongoro	Somanga Simu	515.39
3	Mpakilwa	Marendego	912.79
4	Marendego	Marendego	790.61
5	Mtunda	Kiwanga	1,326.72
6	Nyambawala	Mohoro	1,631.30
7	Kinjoranjora	Chumbi A	1,133.00
8	Minganje	Nyamwimbe	453.94
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,986.44</b>

tree and pole cutting and the communities have confiscated over 3000 illegally harvested poles, logs and planks.

The project has also been supporting community participation in the management of the adjacent forest reserves of Tamburu, Kitope Hill and Mohoro. This has included activities such as fireline clearing and law enforcement. Although the

Government has stalled on the implementation of full joint forest management, the project has nonetheless

facilitated better cooperation between the communities and the government in the management of these forests.

### ***Expected Result 3: Strengthening village governance***

Weak governance at community levels undermines development and sustainable natural resources management. The project has provided governance training in all eight villages. This has included training village leaders on land and natural resources policies. The project has also supported the construction of five village offices in order to provide a more positive working environment for village leaders. These offices help to improve the transparency, effectiveness and accountability of the village leaders. The project has also raised awareness amongst the broader communities on the roles and responsibilities of the village natural resources committees. Through our linkages with



MJUMITA, the Tanzanian Community Forest Management Network, the project has also linked the project communities with a nation-wide movement aimed at improving participatory forest management.



### ***Expected Result 4: Environmental Education***

The project has supported a range of awareness raising events including world environment day celebrations, video shows, drama, meetings and training events. These aim to raise awareness amongst the wider community on the importance of sustainable environmental management as well as on natural resources and land policies and laws. In addition the project has been building the capacity of primary schools to deliver environmental education. This has been achieved through teacher training, school greening activities including school tree nurseries, provision of books and other materials for environmental education. In addition the project has supported the establishment of wildlife clubs in eight primary schools. Environmental education is now integrated in curriculum delivery in primary schools.

### ***Expected Result 5: Improved agriculture***

During the participatory planning exercises carried out in 2007, community members identified agricultural extension work as a priority. In 2009, a team of experts developed an agricultural strategy for the project in close consultation with the community members. The implementation of this strategy has involved the establishment of farm field schools, training sessions on controlling crop-raiding animals, training on conservation agriculture and study tours to learn about agricultural practices in other areas. The adoption of improved agricultural practices is starting to spread with some farmers significantly increasing their incomes.

### ***Expected Result 6: Improved access to other income generating activities***

The project has been providing support to groups to adopt more sustainable livelihood practices. This has included training on beekeeping, production of ecologically sustainable charcoal briquettes and fabrication of ecologically sustainable building bricks. Some support has also been provided on micro-finance.

