Climate change is making it more difficult for people in the developing world to escape poverty and protect the natural resources they rely on for food and income. At the same time, tradition keeps too many women from fully participating in the development of their communities and the conservation of biodiversity.

In Mozambique and Tanzania, the CARE-WWF Alliance works with women and men in farming and fishing communities, their governments, and private sector partners to develop more just and sustainable food systems.

Our strategy is to empower the poorest and most vulnerable women and their communities to (1) manage natural resources and adapt to climate change in ways that pull them out of poverty, and (2) shape local policies and institutions to promote sustainable development and ensure the conservation of biodiversity.

The CARE-WWF Alliance builds the capacity of local communities to sustainably manage marine and terrestrial resources for the benefit of people and nature.
Results in Mozambique

In 2012, after years of advocacy by the Alliance, the government of Mozambique declared one of the largest marine reserves in Africa: Primeiras e Segundas, which includes sustainable-use zones for local people.

In communities with no-fishing zones, the mass and diversity of fish doubled—and more than 70% of fishing families reported increased catches. Fish consumption increased more than 7%.

Fishermen and farmers are coming together in at least 50 community-based natural resource management committees to sustain forests, soil, fish, and other resources for present and future generations.

Through 60 Alliance-supported farmer field schools, farmer adoption of climate-smart conservation agriculture techniques and new varieties of the staple crop, cassava, have nearly doubled yields.

In a 2014 household survey, the use of conservation agricultural techniques was, by far, the strongest predictor of dietary diversity in the region.

Members (largely women) of 240 village savings and loan associations now work together to build savings and lend each other money to start small businesses or cover life’s unexpected expenses.

Advancing in Tanzania

Building on our experience in coastal Mozambique, the Alliance is now working in the Nachingwea District near the Mtwar Corridor of southeastern Tanzania, where communities depend on forestry and agriculture for livelihoods, energy, and food.

In partnership with the district government, the Alliance helped establish a Village Natural Resource Committee and trained its members on forest mapping, management, and harvest plan development and implementation. Since November 2016, the committee has collected hundreds of dollars from fines, penalties, and permit fees to support development priorities determined by the entire community.

Working with government extension agents and other community-based trainers, we have engaged women and men in eight farmer field and business schools and 25 village savings and loan associations. After just one year, poor women farmers report that loans financing house construction, solar panels, sewing machines, and other non-agriculture income-generating activities, have significantly improved their lives.

Scaling Up Impact in Southern Africa

With diverse partners, the Alliance is embarking on a more ambitious program in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, piloting innovative approaches in two Ruaha River catchment areas. Our vision for SAGCOT is that equitable food systems and sustainably managed land and water create resilient landscapes that benefit the rural poor and nature, and influence development approaches in Africa and beyond.

For more information about the CARE-WWF Alliance:
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