

## **Youth Business and Environmental Entrepreneurship Training: for sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction**

Project Location and site:	Lushoto District, Tanga Region, Tanzania
Organizational Leads:	Lushoto Youth Development Network EcoVentures International
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Duration of the Project:	Six months
Estimate Total project costs:	\$15,520 USD
Requested Support—Global Giving:	\$6,000 USD

*The funds from Global Giving will provide the training and curricula for leadership and environmental business simulation training-of-trainers for the youth leaders of each of the eight geographically disparate youth groups. Thereafter these youth will be able to continue to use these materials to learn together with their peers and develop their business skills.*

### **Project Summary:**

Lushoto is one of seven districts of Tanga Region in Northeastern Tanzania. It comprises 3500 sq km in the Eastern Arc Mountains, one of Conservation International's biodiversity hotspots. 75% of the population is from the Sambaa tribe, the majority of the remaining being waBungu.

Lushoto has one of the highest population growth rates in all of Tanzania and 96% of the population lives in rural areas. There is little formal employment opportunity and so a high percentage of young men migrate to cities in order to support themselves and their families. The shift of this portion of the population decreases economic growth opportunities in Lushoto due to loss of potential workforce while disrupting traditional community structures.

It is from this context that the Lushoto Youth Development Network (LYDN) aims to promote long-term investment in youth in Lushoto so that they can support their families and communities, while contributing to the sustainable development of the Lushoto economy, protecting the endemic biodiversity. LYDN promotes such sustainable development by building local youth capacity, engaging them in the development of long-term personal plans, and providing the necessary support for youth to implement such plans.





An important first step in building youth capacity is enabling them to think and act as entrepreneurs and provide them with or connect them with appropriate business training so that they can build or contribute to environmentally and economically sustainable enterprises. With this in mind, LYDN proposes to conduct eco-entrepreneurial training in eight Divisions of the Lushoto District, each for 20 youth participants and members of LYDN.

### **Beneficiaries:**

The direct beneficiaries of the project are jobless and vagrant youth and their families in each of Lushoto's eight wards. These youth are generally between the ages of 16 and 25, with only a primary school education due to lack of funds to pay school fees and with no other means of improving their skill sets to obtain sustainable employment.

### **Objectives:**

1. To provide youth with training and information that empowers them to develop an individual plan for pursuing a means of supporting themselves and their family.
2. To provide youth with entrepreneurial and business planning training, using innovative business simulation training curricula.
3. To assist youth in gaining skills required to succeed in the work force: basic skills (such as reading, writing, and listening), thinking skills (decision making and problem solving), along with other self-management techniques.
4. To provide information about livelihood opportunities, with a focus on providing environmental products and services to enhance and protect local resources and meet the demands of the marketplace.



### **Project Activities:**

1. Leadership training and training-of-trainers for the leaders of each of the eight ward-based youth groups so that they can continue to use the business simulation games after the initial workshop.
2. 5-day workshops for 20 youth in each of Lushoto's eight wards, including entrepreneurial and business planning training, environmental entrepreneurship training, and information on livelihood opportunities and planning for long-term achievement of personal goals.

### **Expected results and project sustainability**

1. Youth will gain knowledge and skills necessary to develop their own income-generation plans.
2. Youth will gain an understanding of their roles and responsibilities towards their community and environment.
3. Youth will gain an understanding of their role in regards to national policies and strategies, so that they can better contribute to achieving the country's goals in its poverty reduction strategy and towards the Millennium Development Goals.



4. Youth will participate in creating an ongoing program to improve their skills, bolster education, and share information in order to become productive workers and citizens.
5. Trained youth leaders will support continued learning through ongoing training with business simulation game curriculum.

### **Program budget**

The project has a total budget of \$15,520, including training and leadership TOT in each of 8 wards, staff time, and monitoring and evaluation. LYDN plans on paying for this through participant contribution, support from the Lushoto District Council, and external/individual funding and donations. This full budget is available upon request.

### **Future plans**

The Youth Business and Environmental Entrepreneurship Training program is one of the cornerstones of LYDN's activities, laying the groundwork for LYDN to enable youth to be a force within the community. LYDN will continue to provide youth with and link youth to technical training opportunities, information and communication technologies, and livelihood training programs to enable youth to be a force in developing sustainable local and national economies and communities.

