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An Overview of the CARE-WWF Alliance: Advancing Just and Sustainable Food Systems for People and the Planet

Our Vision: Just and Sustainable Food Systems

The CARE-WWF Alliance envisions local and global food systems that support healthy ecosystems to better feed and nourish more than 7 billion people today and a projected 9.6 billion people by 2050. In a world of inequality, degradation of natural resources, and a changing climate, we promote **integrated solutions** that contribute to **broader livelihood options** for vulnerable women and men and the conservation of **globally important biodiversity**.

Our History

In 2008, CARE and WWF committed to a **long-term, strategic partnership** to promote conservation of natural resources on which the world's poorest populations depend for their livelihoods. In **Mozambique**, the Alliance has worked with communities, civil society, government and the private sector on diverse interventions, including:

- Sustainable resource management and economic empowerment through creation and strengthening of 50

gender-equitable **Community-Based Natural Resource Management committees** and 240 **Village Savings and Loan Associations**;

- 22 **Farmer Field Schools**, where small producers learn about sustainable agriculture, quadrupling staple crop yields critical for food security;
- 40 **Farmer Associations**, distributing improved varieties and facilitating market access;
- Two community-managed **fish sanctuaries**, which have increased the quantity of fish, a key source of protein and cash, by 50 percent to 100 percent and at least tripled fish diversity; and
- The 2012 declaration of the Primeiras e Segundas (P&S) **Environmental Protection Area**, with subsequent participatory development of the first Management Plan in Mozambique with co-equal objectives of protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural-resource-based livelihoods.



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Robust research confirms these integrated interventions improve food security and conserve biodiversity. The Alliance is building on lessons learned in Mozambique to shape our work elsewhere.

Resilient Smallholder Agriculture

The Alliance will build partnerships with smallholders, governments and agribusiness to improve smallholder productivity and natural resource management, while expanding equity and sustainability in important agricultural supply chains. **Mozambique's** P&S program is deepening existing work on agricultural value chains, such as pigeon

pea and sesame - a complementary sustainable agriculture package with strong market demand.

In **Tanzania**, CARE and WWF began a pilot program in the Mtwara Corridor focusing on sustainable agriculture through **Farmer Field and Business Schools**. The Alliance is also working in the Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania, where we're advocating for more environmentally responsible and socially inclusive agricultural investments via **public-private partnerships**. The Alliance promotes climate- and water-smart agricultural production in key supply chains to improve livelihoods, while reducing pressure on freshwater and other natural resources. This will demonstrate that growth corridors across Africa can be environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

Scaling Out to New Geographies

In **Zambia**, the Alliance is planning work in the Kafue Flats, including Lochinvar National Park, to enable smallholders to use climate- and water-smart agricultural practices, involving integrated extension services that connect service providers, farmers and buyers. In **Peru**, the Alliance is seeking funding for a pilot project. CARE and WWF **Madagascar** will develop a joint vision and strategy in 2016.

Exploratory Work

The Alliance is investigating new opportunities to promote just and sustainable food systems:

- Leveraging its growing footprint to advocate for policy change across **Africa**;
- **Influencing companies** to apply standards and practices that improve social impacts while reducing the environmental footprint of specific agricultural commodity supply chains; and
- Enhancing the contributions of **sustainable fisheries** and **responsible aquaculture** to gender equity, nutrition security and biodiversity conservation.



Research and Learning

Monitoring, evaluation, learning and adaptive management are critical, crosscutting components of the Alliance strategy. Through research, the Alliance seeks to identify **effective and scalable interventions** that conserve globally important biodiversity and local ecosystem services in ways that empower vulnerable women and men through resilient livelihoods that improve their nutrition security. The Alliance establishes social and ecological baselines in each geographic program to test assumptions and understand the pathways and magnitude of impact of our interventions on people and nature. As we expand to new geographies, the Alliance facilitates South-South learning exchanges and an expanding network of university and research partners to deepen our collective understanding of integrated conservation and development.

Advocacy

The Alliance leverages these lessons to influence policy and practice through evidence-based advocacy:

- In **Mozambique**, the Alliance is using findings from P&S to promote inclusive, **green growth** nationally. Our Farmer Field School model and

sustainable agriculture practices are influencing the government's approach to extension and research. We are using results from community fish sanctuaries to enshrine inclusion of community rights in national fisheries regulations.

- In the **United States**, the Alliance has met with **congressional staffers**, including a learning tour to Mozambique, to emphasize the importance of integrating gender and sustainable natural resource management in food security legislation that will guide U.S. foreign assistance.
- **Globally**, CARE and WWF's global networks are collaborating to highlight the vital synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and the **Climate Change** Conference of Parties, to deliver on the promise of poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability in a carbon-constrained world.

Through integrated initiatives, the CARE-WWF Alliance and its partners seek to ensure that marine and terrestrial ecosystems thrive so the current and future generations that depend on them have better lives and broader options.

For more information about the **CARE-WWF Alliance**:
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Helping People and
the Planet Thrive



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