Linking biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services in the Great Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem (GSME) - drivers of change, causalities and sustainable management strategies

Fact Sheet

Project Information

AfricanBioServices
Grant agreement ID: 641918
Project website
Status
Closed project
Start date
1 June 2015
End date
31 August 2019

Funded under
H2020-EU.3.5.2.
Overall budget
€ 9 891 768,50
EU contribution
€ 9 891 768,50
Coordinated by
NORGES TEKNISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE UNIVERSITET NTNU
Norway

This project is featured in...
Objective

The direct dependence of humans on ecosystem services is by far strongest in developing regions where poverty restricts access to resources. This dependency also makes people in developing countries more sensitive to climate change than their developed counterparts. Increasing human populations deteriorates natural habitat, biodiversity and ecosystems services which spiral into poverty and low human welfare. This calls for innovative solutions that encompass the entire socio-ecological-economic system, as recognized on a global scale in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. However, innovative and practical solutions require downscaling to regional levels for identifying concrete sets of drivers of change. For Africa specifically, the interplay of human population growth, land use change, climate change and human well-being is a major challenge. This project focuses on the Serengeti-Maasai Mara Ecosystem and associated agricultural areas, a region in East Africa that encompasses parts of Kenya and Tanzania. The ecosystem is world-famous for key aspects of its biodiversity, such as the migration of 1.3 million wildebeest. This ‘flagship ecosystem’ role will enhance the international interest in the project. In this project, internationally leading researchers from Norway, the Netherlands, Scotland, Denmark and Germany are teaming up with strong local partners in Tanzania and Kenya. The research will be organised in seven interlinked work packages: 1) assemble and integrate the so far separate Kenyan and Tanzanian relevant data on the region; 2) quantify the connections between human population growth, land use change, climate change and biodiversity change; 3) test how biodiversity change leads to changes in key ecosystem services; 4) quantify the dependence of human livelihoods on these ecosystem services. We will implement innovative ways for communication and dissemination of the results of ‘continuous engagement’ by local stakeholders.

Field of science

/social sciences/sociology/governance/public services
Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

H2020-SC5-2014-two-stage

Funding Scheme

RIA - Research and Innovation action

Coordinator

NORGES TEKNISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE UNIVERSITET NTNU

Address
Hogskoleringen 1
7491 Trondheim
Norway

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 2 940 745

Website

Contact the organisation

Participants (12)

RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN

Netherlands

EU contribution
€ 1 003 155

Address
Broerstraat 5
9712CP Groningen

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website

Contact the organisation

KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

Denmark
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KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE
Kenya
EU contribution
€ 143 500
Address
Langata
00100 Nairobi
Activity type
Research Organisations
Contact the organisation

UNIVERSITY OF DODOMA
Tanzania
EU contribution
€ 155 875
Address
Chimwaga Complex Dodoma
Municipality
255 Dodoma
Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
Contact the organisation

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINERAL RESOURCES
Kenya
EU contribution
€ 204 200
Address
Nhif Building, Ragati Road
Nairobi
Activity type
Public bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments)
Contact the organisation