

WOODCLUSTER

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2017 - 2021

National Bio-Economies based on Farm-Wood-Production:

Narrowing the East African Wood Supply Gap

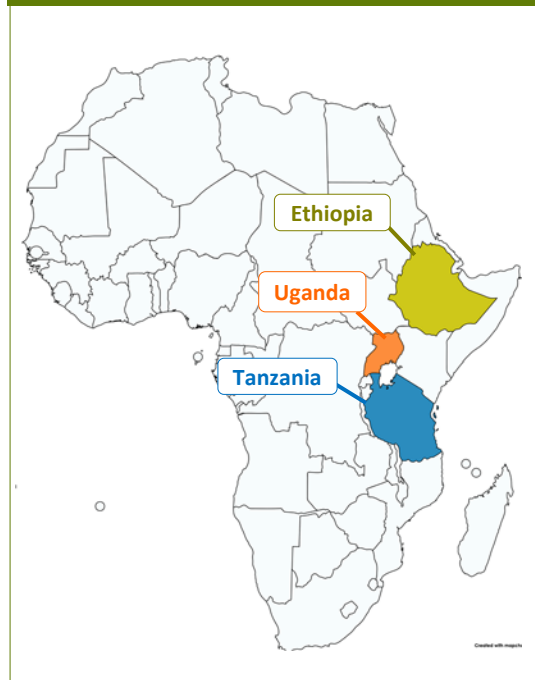
East African Countries have a high demand of wood for fuelwood, construction material and diverse products. This need cannot be supplied. The ongoing deforestation by humans leads to a destruction of forests and landscapes that puts ecosystems and people's livelihoods at risk.



The **WoodCluster** project focuses on these dynamics and resulting problems. It aims to narrow the East African wood supply gap by elaborating sustainable solutions

during the project time 2017-2021. The consortium is a South-South-North network with partners from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Germany.

Project Region

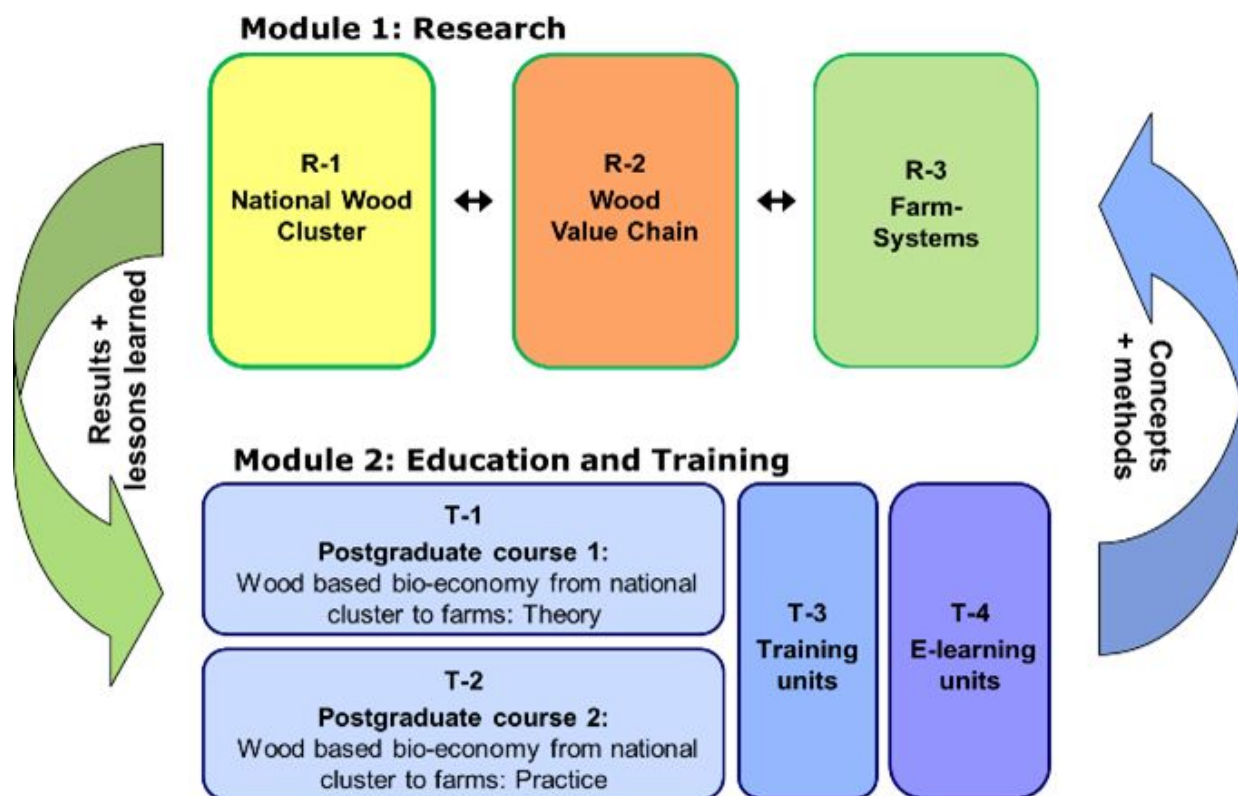


Trees on farms and wood processing in Uganda (© E. Auch)

Wood market and demand for construction in Ethiopia (© M. Domke)

Project Architecture

The project is composed of two modules, *M1 Research* and *M2 Education and Training*. They have an individual planning and funding frame, but are complementary modules. The aim is to deliver results within both fields and create additional, fruitful cooperation effects.



M1 Research

The research part covers three wood levels: national wood cluster, wood value chains, and farm wood production. R-1 comprises the *macro-level*. Actors and their linkages are described, and input-output relations between sectors documented. Future development and potentials are derived. R-2 comprises the *linkages* between national and regional level and local production units. Special focus is put on linkages with small producers and the commercialization of their products. R-3 represents the production sphere of *small farms*, with farming system and livelihood analysis.

M2 Education and Training

The teaching aims to improve education with newly elaborated *postgraduate courses* on bio-economy, theory and practice (T-1+2), that are implemented in all partner universities. Additionally, *training courses* (T-3) shall drive a capacity building through knowledge exchange between academics, decision makers and practitioners. An *e-learning course* (T-4) shall be developed based on the postgraduate courses and extend the teaching service of the partner universities.

Activities

Participatory methods are the core of the WoodCluster project. They built on experiences and instruments developed in previous collaboration projects. They are adjusted to the current context and developed further. For an in-depth research, a set of actors is connected during the full project period.

Socio-Economic Field Laboratories

Participatory and flexible methods to conduct action research, and inducing social learning processes by bringing local stakeholders and academics together.

WoodCluster applies field laboratories for the farming system and livelihood analysis. One research site per country is studied over the whole project period.



Participatory Innovation Platforms (PIP)

Instrument that integrates all stakeholders in decision making and implementation of innovations. It is inclusive and empowers local users by focusing on endogenous triggered change and integration of modern and traditional knowledge.

WoodCluster applies PIPs for the development of prototypes and testing of innovative wood production systems.



Promoting Young Scientists

Linking research and teaching creates synergies through exchanging concepts, methods, and empirical data.

WoodCluster integrates master and doctoral research in the project structure. The outcomes provide case studies for teaching and training units of students and practitioners. Yearly summer schools are practical teaching elements, where students and farmers encounter.



Participating Universities

Ethiopia

Hawassa University,
Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Tsegaye Bekele, PhD



Germany

Technische Universität Dresden
Institute for International Forestry and Forest Products
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Pretzsch, Maxi Domke



Hochschule Rhein-Waal
Faculty of Life Sciences
Prof. Dr. Dietrich Darr



Tanzania

Sokoine University of Agriculture
Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation
Felister Mombo, PhD



Uganda

Makerere University
College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
Justine Namaalwa, PhD



Project team from Uganda, Germany, Tanzania and Ethiopia

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