WWF BANKABLE NATURE SOLUTIONS CASE STUDIES

September 2023
To further elevate noteworthy Bankable Nature Solutions (BNS) projects, the BNS Network shares brief write-ups about excellent case studies. The following first set of 4 BNS case studies have been selected from over 40 publicly announced projects that have received support from 3 of the BNS funds & facilities with the engagement of WWF since 2021: the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD), Landscapes Resilience Fund (LRF), and Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C). These projects work in sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management sectors in Africa and South America, and seek opportunities for collaboration and further scaling.
BNS CASE STUDY #1: KOA

WWF LEAD: LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE FUND, PROJECT LEAD: JAMES RAWLES

Project snapshot

Local partner/operator: Koa
Sector: Sustainable agriculture (cocoa pulp products)
Country: Ghana
Funding and TA support: CHF2m loan by Landscape Resilience Fund in 2022, mobilising additional investment from IDH FarmFit Fund
Financial instrument: Debt
Proof of concept: Scaling-up of successful business model

Overview: Koa is a social enterprise that is developing a new decentralised value chain around previously unused cocoa pulp. With the help of a loan from the LRF, they will create an additional income stream for up to 10,000 cocoa farmers by constructing a new factory to maximise local processing and value generation. Koa also provides training for farmers in sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry and post-harvest processing.

Current status: Factory is almost complete, with commercial production expected to start before the end of 2023. New farmers are being onboarded, new offtake agreements with major buyers have been secured, and a new working capital facility arranged.

Investment and operating model:
Loan is made from the LRF (a Swiss foundation) to the Koa Swiss entity, which then on-lends to the Koa Ghanaian entity. Koa buys cocoa pulp from smallholder farmers, extracting the pulp on-farm using solar-powered mobile processing units before pasteurising it in a local factory. The pulp is distributed as a juice, concentrate, or powder to the global food industry, with a special focus on chocolate, beverage, and ice-cream manufacturers.

Impact measurement: Impacts that are monitored include number of farmers trained, area under sustainable agriculture practices, and income increase for trained farmers.

Scalability and replication potential: Business model is highly scalable, with over 2 million cocoa farmers in West Africa, and could be replicated in other geographies.

Successes or innovative features:
Most important innovation of Koa is the development of new cocoa pulp products and processing technologies, to unlock a new income source for cocoa farmers. Other key features are local processing to keep more value in-country, direct access to global high-value markets, and transparent/traceable supply chains.

Investment and operating model:

Learn more:
LRF Investment Announcement

Up to 10,000 cocoa farmers with an additional income stream, engaging in sustainable agriculture practices
Project snapshot

Local partner/operator: Chanzi
Sector type: Alternative protein production
Countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa
Funding and TA support: €349,060 grant from DFCD
Financial instrument: Debt, equity, hybrid
Proof of concept: Implementation and expansion

Description: A company in Tanzania using Black Soldier Fly larvae to convert food waste into nutritious protein for animal feed and organic fertiliser, reducing the dependence on overfishing and soya bean farming.

Overview: Chanzi uses Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Larvae to convert food waste into nutritious protein for animal feed. Founder and COO Sune Mushenwanda, an architect by profession, began experimenting with these insects 4 years ago. He set out with the goal of finding a sustainable protein for animal feed which would reduce the industry’s over dependence on environmentally ruinous fish and soya bean meal. Through iterations and meticulous data collection he developed innovative and efficient methods for breeding, growing and harvesting BSF.

Use of grant funds: Invest in R&D. Develop robust waste aggregation systems. Carbon Credit Methodology. New Biochar product.

Current status: Aims to expand to approximately 40 production sites in five countries by 2027, seeking an investment of up to €20 million upon graduation.

Impact measurement: Key impact metrics: Avoided greenhouse gas emissions for six facilities – 84.6 tons CO2e daily. 150 indirect and 23 direct jobs (90% youth and 50% women) created per facility. Improved income for livestock farmers through a 37.5% reduction in cost of animal feed protein.

Scalability and replication potential: Currently in replication and scaling phase in Africa. Possible to expand globally with a franchise model.

Successes or innovative features: Chanzi developed a homegrown technology, which is customised for the local situation and is very cost-competitive. Being part of the 100+ Accelerator has helped the company to gain additional access to markets.

Investment and operating model:

Customers

Chanzi

Investment

Dutch Fund for Climate and Development
Development Bank
Local Investors

Waste suppliers

Supply agreements and payments

Insect protein

Collects waste and produces fertilizer for farmers and insect protein for animal feed

Waste

Supply agreements and payments

Grant and technical assistance

O&M agreements and payments

Loans

Repayments

37.5% reduction in cost of animal feed protein
CASE STUDY #3: FORREST AFRICA ZAMBIA

WWF LEAD: MOBILIZING MORE 4 CLIMATE, PROGRAM MANAGER: SHEPHARD ZONDE

Overview: Forest Africa Zambia is a company that specialises in processing of organic indigenous wild fruit products that include Mabuyu (Baobab), Musekese Tobwa (Monkey Bread) and Ngai (False Medlar). It promotes community based natural resource management and development of alternative livelihood opportunities for rural communities through ecosystem-based adaptation, as well as offering healthier nutrition options. Forest Africa has embraced a zero-waste philosophy that maximises the potential of harvested wild fruits. In the case of Baobab fruits, the powder is processed into Mabuyu Juice, the seeds are pressed into high-quality non-greasy oil for skin and hair care, the fibres are converted into antioxidant-rich red tea, and the shells are converted into eco-friendly charcoal briquettes used as energy source at the production factory. The wild fruits are gathered and supplied by women and youth from community forests. Forest Africa engages with these groups to improve their organisation and practices, and serves as a secured off-taker for their wild fruit harvests.

Current status: Currently, market demand has been pushing the firm to increase production in excess of 15,000 litres of juice per month, projected to grow further as the demand for its products grows. Supplying in and around Lusaka, Southern and Copperbelt Provinces of Zambia, and planning to expand to the rest of the country and the regional market such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Impact measurement: Key outcome indicators include the number of hectares of forest under improved climate resilient management, and the number of people working for the business case (disaggregated for gender and youth).

Successes or innovative features: Through producing innovative wild fruit products, Forest Africa is successfully promoting a neglected value chain that aligns with sustainable economic development, environmental conservation, and healthier food options. Rising demand for wild fruits is expected to enhance commerce for rural communities, incentivize protection of community forests, leading to improvement of forest-dwelling community livelihoods, and to a reduction of waste through the reuse and recycling of products from factory processes.

Investment and operating model:

Wild fruit juices, tea, hair and skin care products

Forest under improved climate resilient management

Food processing industry

MoMo4C and WWF Zambia

Forest Africa Zambia

Investment

Development Finance Institutions

Loans

Technical assistance

Repayments

Wild fruit juices, tea, hair and skin care products

Off-take agreements and payments

 Indigenous wild fruits

Supply agreement and payments

Local community harvesters

Learn more:
SEED Award Announcement
BNS CASE STUDY #4: COLORQUIMICA

WWF LEAD: DUTCH FUND FOR CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT, SOUTH AMERICA: FABRICIO DE CAMPOS/TANIA EVIA, AND WWF COLOMBIA: SANDRA CHAMORRO

Project snapshot

Local partner/operator: Colorquimica
Sector type: Sustainable agriculture (natural colourants)
Country / Region of interest: Colombia
Funding and TA support: €134,000 grant from DFCD
Financial instrument: Debt
Proof of concept: Implementation

Overview: Colorquimica aims to expand its natural dye business line by sourcing annatto from a social enterprise Achiote and Agros del Choco (A&Ach), which conducts primary processing. A&Ach operates through community councils consisting of 344 annatto-producing families that employ agroforestry systems.


Impact measurement: 730 hectares of farmland under sustainable management improving resilience to climate change, with scalability potential of 2000 hectares. 61,475.9 hectares of forest under sustainable management or other improved practices, under community councils involved in the project.

Investment and operating model description: The proposed investment in Colorquimica involves the construction of a secondary processing plant for natural dyes. Achiote, the raw material, will be sourced from the social enterprise Achiote and Agros del Choco (A&Ach), which conducts primary processing. A&Ach operates through community councils consisting of 344 annatto-producing families that employ agroforestry systems.

Scalability and replication potential: There is potential for expansion of the project in the Choco Darien region. Colorquimica is also looking to develop the supply chain of other natural colourants e.g. from Marygold and curcumin using the same production model. The model of mobilizing community councils that aggregate producing families to promote responsible agroforestry practices, is replicable and can enable effective collective decision-making and resource management. Addressing governance challenges is crucial to ensure equitable representation, land tenure security, and transparent financial management.

Successes or innovative features: Liaising with an anchor company to develop a locally sourced business line, plays a crucial role in fostering the growth of supplier SMEs that are integral to its distribution or supply chains. By providing these SMEs with stable and consistent business opportunities, the anchor company creates a supportive ecosystem for their development. It often collaborates with supplier SMEs, offering technical assistance, training, and financial support to improve their capacity and ability to meet quality standards. Strengthening producers’ climate resiliency through agroforestry models, offers a viable and sustainable alternative to income sources that harm biodiversity, such as illegal mining.

Learn more: DFCD Grant Announcement

61,475.9 hectares of forest under sustainable management or other improved practices, under community councils involved in the project.
OUR MISSION IS TO CONSERVE NATURE AND REDUCE THE MOST PRESSING THREATS TO THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE ON EARTH.