Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture

A year in highlights and looking ahead
About the project

Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture or TIARA recognizes farmers as our frontline water managers. TIARA is developing the business case for climate-smart investments in rainfed agriculture to improve food security along with catchment conservation through improved soil and water management at farm level.

This document is an outline of key highlights and achievements from 2022, and looking forward at planned activities for 2023.

We expect several activities from 2022 to result in increased financial support directly to farming communities in the Zambezi, as well as increasing the sustainability of the technical support they receive for enhancing their agriculture practices, increasing yields and building resilience to climate change risks.

Demonstration of visible difference in crop yield after implementing enhanced rainfed agriculture techniques between the left and right side of the photo, on a farm in Malawi. Photo credit: Tiyeni
The year 2022

Key highlights of TIARA from 2022:

- In early 2022, TIARA in partnership with The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), completed a study titled ‘Land and water resources assessment and management for sustainable rainfed systems’ in the Zambezi watercourse. The study was built on a poverty and vulnerability mapping study by CRDIF.

- Subsequently, TIARA selected and characterized five ‘hotspots’ defined as areas that have the potential for enhanced rainfed agriculture. They five hotspot areas span over Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia.

- In March 2022, SIWI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) to cooperate on enhancing climate-smart agriculture in the Zambezi Watercourse. SIWI and ZAMCOM have since been engaged in discussions on facilitating project implementation, in-line with ZAMCOM’s priority of focusing on improving smallholder rain-fed agriculture which is the basis of the rural economy throughout the basin.

- From March to July, the TIARA team conducted site visits to the selected hotspots in the Zambezi basin to develop the business case for investments, identify suitable financing instruments and potential funding partners.

This has resulted in development of approaches for accessing finance for rainfed agriculture - the identification of a viable payment for ecosystem services scheme in northern Malawi, where the relevant stakeholders, including the regional water utility and a local NGO working with 20,000 farmers sharing a watershed, have committed to establishing such a scheme at scale in the coming year.

- During the same period, the team also conducted stakeholder participation and consultations through workshops. Most of the farms that demonstrated the potential of rainfed agriculture were led by women.

- By the end of 2022, TIARA had already signed partnership agreements with local NGOs in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia, to conduct pilot projects. SIWI together with the NGOs committed funding to carry out
pilot projects. The aim of the pilots is to calculate the return on investment of inclusive, integrated approaches to enhanced rainfed agriculture.

The pilot projects have already commenced on the field:

**Malawi**: Mzuzu in Mzimba North District. The project is expected to work with 10 farmers in total, targeting 4 hectares of farmland.

**Zimbabwe**: Three household-based demonstration plots in wards 8, 10 and 11, representative of drier and arable parts of Mt Darwin district, and 25 hectares in part of Mashonaland East province, Zimbabwe.

**Zambia**: A partnership agreement with a social enterprise in is currently in progress. The objective is to measure carbon sequestration as a result of employing rainfed agricultural practices.

Key events and communications

- In June 2022, TIARA was selected as a ‘climate innovation sprint partner’ by the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), a joint initiative by the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

- In July TIARA participated in the 10th Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition and Launch of the Zambia Water Investment Programme in Lusaka.

- In August, TIARA and partners convened a session at World Water Week conference. During the same event, TIARA also hosted a talk show production on food and climate. Watch project members Anton Earle and Xanani Baloyi at the event: [SIWI Corner: The new food crisis - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

- In November, TIARA participated at COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, and presented the case for enhanced rainfed agriculture at different side events leading to the idea of an investment and finance forum to be held in 2023.
Post conference, TIARA linked a local partner in Zambia, working with close to 200,000 farmers with an international carbon market developer to gain access to soil carbon sequestration credits over the coming year.

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![A still from TIARA's film Catching Raindrops in Africa](image)

- TIARA was featured in a series of illustrated stories about the visions of water – seeing the unseen: Catching raindrops in the Zambezi. [Read the full story here.](#)

- In October TIARA participated in the 23rd WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium on: Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development in Eastern and Southern Africa in order to raise awareness on the potential for rain-fed agriculture in Africa at Sun City, in the Northwest Province of South Africa.
Anticipated activities in 2023

• With support from ZAMCOM and the Africa Investment Programme (AIP), TIARA will convene a Finance and Investment Forum on enhanced rainfed agriculture in July, hosted by the Government of Botswana.

• TIARA is collecting empirical data on the costs and returns (at the farmer level as well as for the broader environment and society) of investing in rainfed agriculture at scale, in partnership with local organisations in the Zambezi watercourse.

This evidence will be presented at the Investment Forum which aims to unlock large-scale grant, loan and income finance to the rainfed agriculture sector

• TIARA will participate at high-levels events including AIM for Climate Summit, World Water Week, and COP 28.

TIARA team of SIWI meet ZAMCOM representatives of riparian states of the Zambezi Watercourse during World Water Week, August 2022.
**Our partners**

TIARA is hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute, and carried out in partnership with ZAMCOM, CIFOR and ICRAF.

**NGOs**

- Farmers’ Association of Community self-Help Investment Groups (FACHIG) Trust
- Community Technology Development Organization (CTDO)
- Tiyeni
- Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO)

**Our team**

- **Anton Earle**, Director of SIWI Africa Regional Centre
- **Kasonde Mulenga**, Programme Manager
- **Xanani Baloyi**, Programme Officer & Gender Equality Focal point
- **Lydie Menouer**, TIARA Partnership Development Specialist
- **Maimbo Malesu**, CIFOR-ICRAF Country Coordinator Zambia, TIARA Rainfed Agriculture Specialist
- **Radhika Gupta**, Project Communications Manager

**Contact**

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