

# HIV/AIDS Integration in Conservation Programs- the case of JGI TACARE project

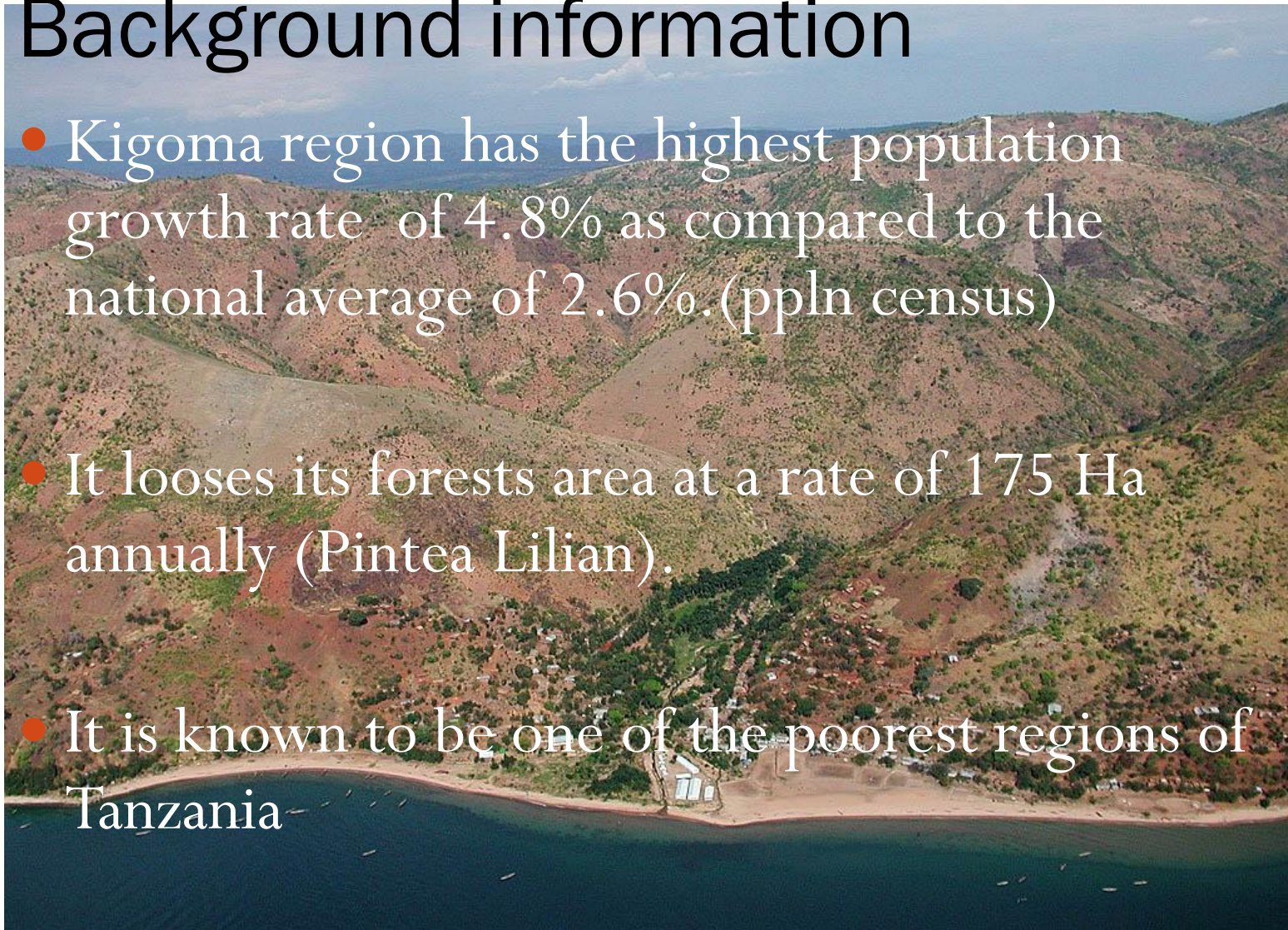
Presented by: Mary Mavanza

JGI -Tz

16/06/2011

# Background information

- Kigoma region has the highest population growth rate of 4.8% as compared to the national average of 2.6%. (ppln census)
- It loses its forests area at a rate of 175 Ha annually (Pintea Lilian).
- It is known to be one of the poorest regions of Tanzania



# JGI TACARE program

## Integrated community centred conservation project

- Forests conservation and tree planting
- Agriculture
- Youth environmental movement clubs (R&S)



# A participatory Rural Appraisal

- Indicated that Forest conservation was not a top priority need.
- Community top priority issues mentioned in the process were
  - Health
  - Access to capital and education
- Community social economic development

# HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming



- In Kigoma region the first HIV case was reported in 1986.
- Current prevalence rate among general population is 1.8%.
- Although it is one of the lowest HIV prevalence rate in Tanzania it stands a potential risk.

# HIV/AIDS Activities

- VCT mobile services
- HIV transmission Prevention education
  - AB for youth through R&S clubs
  - Condom distribution by CBDA
- Palliative Care and Support activities by CBDA
  - Facilitate participation in income generating activities
  - Home based care services
- Stigma reduction
  - Facilitate establishment of support groups
- Medicinal plants identification, regeneration and re introduction.

# Study

- Conducted by BATS and Facilitated by ABCG in 2009
- **Objective** – Documenting experiences, successes and lessons learned JGI/TACAREs work in integrating HIV/AIDS into conservation and development activities.



# Main findings

- Increased credibility to conservation programs because they care for immediate issues of the community.
- Increased participation of community in conservation activities due to recognition of community values associated with traditional healing.
- Women who are key participants in conservation have higher prevalence rate (2.6%) than male (0.6%).



# Best practices developed by TACARE



- Social mobilization and capacity building
- Participatory planning and implementation
- Capacity building of community own resource people

# Lessons Learned

- Just like a fight against environmental degradation is a fight against poverty so is a fight against HIV / AIDS.
- There are no general rules and guidelines for implementing an integrated approach, they must be community specific.
- Conducive environments including political will is necessary for success and sustainability.
- Conservation intervention require long term strategies but when complimented with short and tangible benefits, communities are easily driven in to participate in long term goals.

Thank you for listening



Ahsanteni

sana