

EcoAct Tanzania uses energy efficient & environmentally friendly plastic extrusion to upcycle plastic waste into durable & affordable plastic timbers for construction. The enterprise mitigates climate change not only by reducing plastic pollution, but also by reducing wood dependence and deforestation.



SEED Low Carbon Award Winner 2018 EcoAct Tanzania

EcoAct, Tanzania

🏆 SEED LOW CARBON AWARD WINNER 2018 🏆

Business model

EcoAct Tanzania processes plastic waste into durable, affordable plastic timbers for construction, using environmentally friendly, industrial chemical free, energy efficient processes. It sources the plastic waste from local partners dedicated to reducing plastic pollution as well as from low-income households. Locals benefit from better waste management strategies, a lower dependence on wood, and EcoAct's "Garbage Medical Insurance" programme, providing medical coverage in exchange for household plastic waste.

EcoAct utilizes its revenue to scale up, generating employment, preventing carbon emissions, and enhancing its impact on climate change mitigation. It also reduces construction costs, creating savings for low-income households and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Enterprise fast facts

Location	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Year founded	2017
Sector	Waste Management
Product / Service	Plastic timber

Contribution to the SDGs:



Social impacts:

- Launching a micro health insurance program for 50 low-income households and slum dwellers;
- Generating 60 jobs, especially for youth and widowed women, with a target of 800 jobs by 2020; and
- Providing technical and entrepreneurial skills trainings to employees along with promoting environmental conservation and waste management strategies locally.

Environmental impacts:

- Removing 360 tonnes of plastic waste from landfills and upcycling and processing it into plastic timbers;
- Preventing deforestation on 640 acres of forest by reducing wood dependence for construction as well as by adopting a mature Red Cedar Tree for every 25 plastic timbers sold; and
- Mitigating climate change by preventing 4,500 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Economic impacts:

- Producing durable & affordable alternatives to wood for construction;
- Enabling savings among low-income households by reducing the cost of construction; and
- Stimulating economic growth by generating revenues of USD 37,500 from local sales of plastic timber in 2017.

“ We provide our community with training and skills development, with a focus on vulnerable women and youth.

“These individuals are empowered with scientific skills in industrial processing and production as well as entrepreneurial skills in sales, marketing and management.

“We also educate the public on smart waste management strategies.”

Scaling up activities:

- Acquiring high throughput technology to scale plastic waste processing;
- Scaling up sales and marketing efforts nationally;
- Launching plastic timber in regional markets within Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Southern Sudan by 2019;



Partnerships

- **Mbezi recycling** works with local networks to collect electronic waste and source it to EcoAct for upcycling.
- **Growth Youth Net** conducts monthly efforts to reduce plastic pollution on beaches and in oceans. The gathered plastic waste is supplied to EcoAct for extrusion.



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About SEED

SEED is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. SEED was founded by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. SEED supports innovative and locally-driven eco-inclusive enterprises around the globe who integrate social and environmental benefits into their business models. SEED Low Carbon Awards is an awards scheme designed to find the most promising, innovative and locally led start-up eco-inclusive enterprises making significant contributions to mitigating and/or adapting to climate change in countries with developing and emerging economies.

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