

## Wildlife for Communities in Tanzania: Taking stock of governance of wildlife by communities

### **A Roundtable Meeting**

**2-3 November 2011**

**Giraffe Hotel, Dar es Salaam**

### ***Meeting Concept and Rationale***

*The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) seeks to bring together key stakeholders and technical experts to take stock of progress and lessons to date on community wildlife management (CWM) in Tanzania, and to identify key actions for a way forward.*

#### **Background and Rationale:**

There is increasing consensus that, despite substantial opportunities and investment to date, progress on CWM in Tanzania has fallen below the expectations of many stakeholders. Promised socio-economic benefits, democratic governance and conservation outcomes are not being sufficiently realized. However, there are emerging successes in Tanzania, and experiences in the Region from which we all can learn. TNRF seeks to bring together key stakeholders to take stock of progress and lessons to date, and to identify key actions for a way forward on improving CWM in Tanzania.

On June 24, 2011, TNRF hosted a learning event on community based wildlife management in Tanzania. The event included participants working directly with wildlife management areas (WMAs) and local communities. Participants identified important historical and current trends in CWM, based on, inter alia, new research and participants' experience. Additionally, key areas of further research and action were identified, including the following:

- Analyzing the transparency and accountability of contracts between the communities (authorized authorities – AAs) and investors, between the Wildlife Department (WD) and AAs, and between WD and investors.
- Analyzing whether the process of marketing access to wildlife and wildlands is economically efficient, and if it is failing to capture optimal benefits and provide incentives for sustainable management
- Conducting socio-legal work to document the making of bylaws controlling the management of WMAs
- Political economy studies to explore dimensions of power in wildlife management and making of the WMA and other agreements in the wider context of CBNRM
- Understanding the viability of investments in given areas and identification of constraints to viable investment
- Exploring and identifying modalities to address opportunity costs for communities engaging in wildlife management enterprise
- Determining the challenges WMAs present to land and resource tenure from the perspective of rural citizens under current legislation

Another output of this important learning event was recognition of the need to continue discussion and action on CWM in Tanzania, including through a further meeting that could build on the learning event and promote development of collaborative initiatives. Participants at the learning event identified specific areas of discussion/ presentation that could inform such a meeting, including:

- Research providing case studies of WMAs
- Community accounts of WMA experience
- Lessons learning from elsewhere
- Analysis of critical issues and identification of experience of other structures for CBNRM
- Identification of principles to guide a more successful CWM
- National development strategies and community wildlife management/ conservation
- The new constitution, and lessons from other constitutions

This roundtable meeting will build upon learning event outputs. It seeks to bring together key stakeholders and technical experts within Tanzania and the region to share knowledge, experience, research findings, and aspirations regarding CWM. It can create a space for informal, targeted, and hopefully lively and fruitful discussion on what we know about CWM, what we still need to learn, where we are, where we want to go, and what we can do to get there. Through these discussions, the meeting will also seek to identify a concrete way forward for collaborative actions.

**Objectives** of the meeting are to:

1. Facilitate sharing of information and experiences on CWM to date among stakeholders in Tanzania
2. Initiate a process for further knowledge sharing and collaborative learning and action on CWM in Tanzania
3. Contribute to improved wildlife resources governance and outcomes for communities and wildlife conservation, including by ensuring governance in line with community rights and interests

**Outputs** of the meeting include:

1. Collation of recent CWM/ CBNRM research in Tanzania and region
2. Dissemination of experiences (successes, challenges) on CWM in Tanzania and the region among meeting participants, and other stakeholders in Tanzania
3. Identification of relevant challenges and opportunities to improve CWM
4. Agreed way forward for collaborative CWM initiatives among participating stakeholders

**Meeting participation and scope:** The roundtable will bring together selected stakeholders and technical experts from communities, research bodies, the private sector, civil society, government, and development partners. Participation will be representative rather than comprehensive.

While most participants will be drawn from the wildlife sector, key informants from other sectors in Tanzania may participate to share comparative experiences. The provisional agenda assumes participants have sufficient core knowledge of CWM issues in Tanzania. However, summaries of key background information will also be provided, including to assist key informants from other sectors.

The roundtable is **intentionally focused on bringing together technical expertise**. It is envisioned as a **first step in a longer, multi-step process** and a broader initiative on improving CWM in Tanzania. As indicated above, a key output will be an agreed way forward for CWM initiatives among participating stakeholders. Details of this 'way forward' will be developed by meeting participants. However, components may include, e.g., engaging stakeholders through a larger conference in 2012; engaging in other forums and mechanisms at multiple levels, including the community level; undertaking action research; facilitating ongoing learning; forming linkages to regional CBNRM initiatives; etc.