



Jumiko la Maliasili Tanzania

Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE IN TANZANIA

**Wildlife for all Tanzanians:
Stopping the loss, nurturing
the resource and widening the
benefits**

BRIEF 2

THE CAUSES OF WILDLIFE DECLINE IN TANZANIA

MAIN ISSUES:

- ⇒ Tanzania has shown strong commitment to wildlife and biodiversity conservation, setting aside about 30% of its land as protected areas closed to human settlement.
- ⇒ However, these parks and reserves are often insufficient for conserving wildlife in any given area. Many species need resources during certain times of the year which are found outside the protected areas. Also much wildlife lives outside of protected areas at all times.
- ⇒ Conservation depends on wildlife being conserved both inside the boundaries of parks and reserves, and outside these areas on village and private lands.
- ⇒ Tanzania has yet to succeed in conserving wildlife outside protected areas. This is due to local communities and private landowners having insufficient reasons or incentives to conserve wildlife. By law most revenue collected goes to the Treasury and government agencies. Far too little revenue is retained by or returned to local communities and landholders.
- ⇒ The resources available to the Wildlife Division are also constrained by existing revenue-sharing arrangements.
- ⇒ For wildlife to be conserved it needs to legally generate major economic value for local communities who are *de facto* the main decision-makers with respect to land and natural resource use in rural areas.
- ⇒ The private sector and civil society should play a key role in the development of standards, management practices and innovative business models for wildlife in coordination with the Wildlife Division

In partnership with

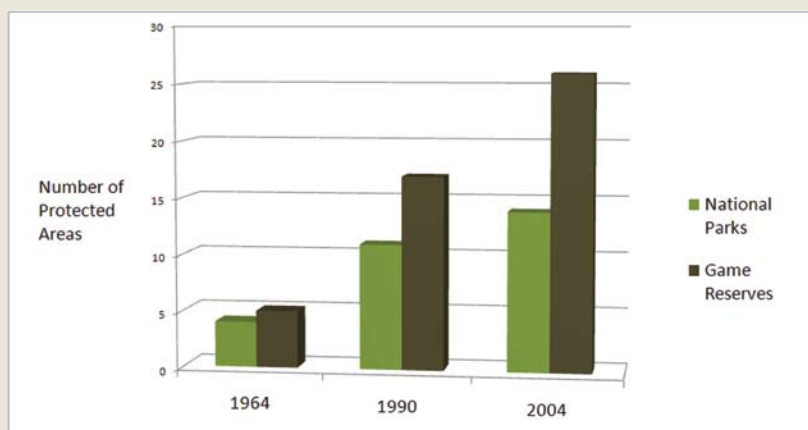


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Why is wildlife declining in Tanzania?

It may seem surprising that Tanzania's wildlife populations should be declining, because in many regards Tanzania has made remarkable achievements in terms of its commitment to wildlife conservation. Tanzania has, since independence 47 years ago, greatly expanded the amount of land reserved for wildlife, biological diversity, and environmental protection. In the same time period, Tanzania's population has expanded nearly five times from 8 million to 38 million people. This rise in population has meant that more and more land is needed for agriculture, grazing and settlement, and there is ever increasing demand for natural resources – including charcoal, bushmeat and timber products. The challenge of promoting sustainable livelihoods and achieving sustainable natural resource management has been compounded by the slow progress and uptake of land use planning.

Figure 1: The expansion in the number of National Parks and Game Reserves in Tanzania, 1964-2004



Source: World Database of Protected Areas, World Conservation Monitoring Centre 2005

Today, Tanzania has set aside about 30% of its land as protected areas where people are barred from residing. Few other nations in the world have made such a commitment to conservation. As Figure 1 shows, the number of National Parks and Game Reserves has been expanded consistently since independence, with more and more land set aside in these protected areas.

But today wildlife is declining despite Tanzania having set aside a very large proportion of its land in protected areas. What has gone wrong then?

Wildlife Outside Parks and Reserves

The first essential part of this explanation is that in many parts of the world parks and reserves are almost always insufficient for conserving wildlife in any given area. The reason for this is that protected areas are not closed systems. Wildlife ranges outside the boundaries of protected areas, often because it needs resources such as food and water which are found outside of these areas. If wildlife were confined inside the boundaries of parks and reserves, for example by erecting fences to keep the animals contained, their populations would decline sharply. This is particularly true for migratory 'keystone' species such as Wildebeest and Elephant. Wildlife usually needs additional ecological resources during certain times of the year which are found outside the protected areas, such as pasture, water, roosting sites and calving areas.

For example:

⇒ Even though the Selous Game Reserve is Africa's largest wildlife protected area, at nearly 50,000 km², the range of the Selous' elephant populations extends far outside the reserve on all sides, to cover a total area of about 100,000 km².

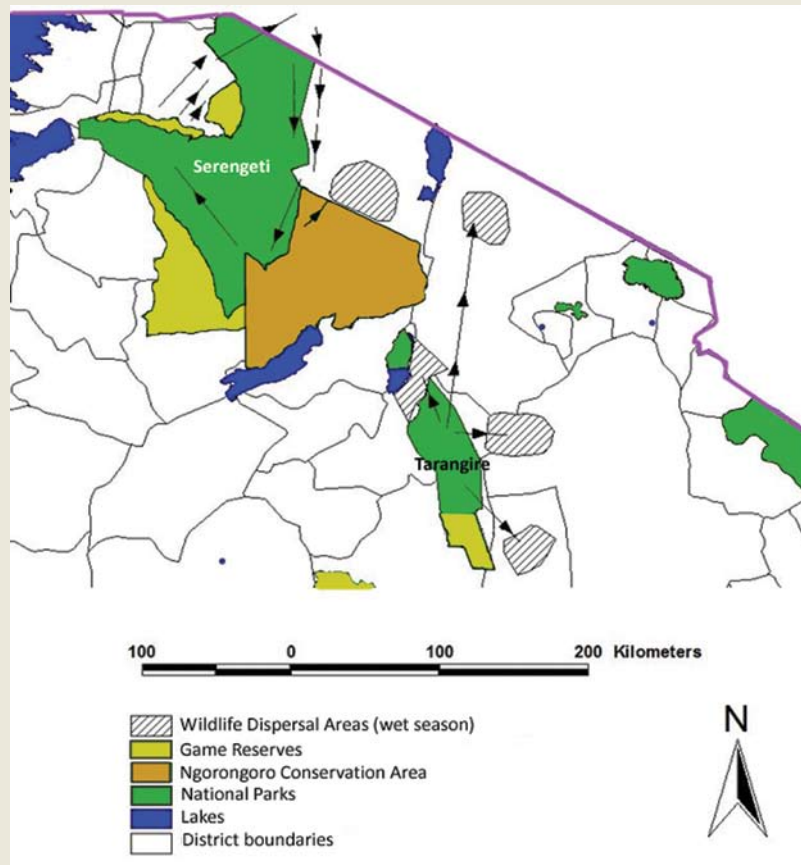
In northern Tanzania, species such as wildebeest, zebra, and many antelopes migrate across large areas every year between dry season areas with permanent water, and wet season areas with nutritious grasses that grow when the rains fall.

For example:

⇒ In Tarangire National Park, most of the animals leave the park during the rainy season and scatter to the north, east, and south of the park onto lands within the boundaries of numerous villages in Monduli, Simanjiro, and Kiteto Districts. In Tarangire, the park only provides a small proportion (less than 20%) of the total area of land and habitat which wildlife depends on during the year.

⇒ Even in the Serengeti, where three Game Reserves, one National Park, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area provide about 30,000 km² of protected lands, wildlife still uses important areas outside these parks in Ngorongoro District (Loliendo Division) and in Serengeti and Tarime

Figure 2: Wildlife migration routes and important wet season dispersal areas outside protected area boundaries in the Serengeti and Tarangire ecosystems.



Districts during the annual wildebeest migration.

Some of these areas outside parks and reserves are classified as Game Controlled Areas (GCAs), but unlike Game Reserves and National Parks, GCA's do not provide any meaningful protection to wildlife (see Box 1).

A major review of the wildlife sector was carried out in 1995. Although subsequent reviews of different parts of the wildlife sector have since been carried out, the 1995 review is perhaps the most comprehensive. The basic challenges recognized by the 1995 Wildlife Sector Review Task Force are still very much valid.

Wildlife is disappearing in rural areas for three important reasons:

- ⇒ The government owns all the wildlife but does not have the capacity to protect wildlife throughout all village and private lands outside the parks and reserves;

Since wildlife moves across large areas, conservation depends on wildlife being conserved both inside parks and reserves, and outside these areas on village and private lands.

Box 1: What are Game Controlled Areas?

Game Controlled Areas (GCAs) are sometimes referred to as part of Tanzanian protected areas, but calling GCAs protected areas is confusing because they do not actually provide any protection for wildlife. GCAs were established during the colonial era, as designated areas where wildlife could not be hunted without a license. GCAs have never regulated settlement or land use activities in their boundaries, and therefore provide no protection to wildlife habitat. Under the 1974 Wildlife Conservation Act, no wildlife anywhere in Tanzania can be hunted without a license, so GCAs became redundant—they serve no purpose since wildlife everywhere in Tanzania cannot be hunted without a license.

Game Reserves are very different from GCAs. In Game Reserves, people are not allowed to live or carry out economic activity without the express permission of the Director of Wildlife. Similarly, in National Parks the consumptive utilization of natural resources is strictly prohibited, and no hunting of wildlife is allowed. Hunting in Game Reserves is allowed based on quotas and licenses, just like elsewhere in the country.

GCAs do not provide any meaningful protection to wildlife habitats except the same protections from hunting that wildlife has everywhere else in the country. The 1995 Wildlife Sector Review Task Force called GCAs “totally ineffective” in terms of contributing to wildlife conservation. The 1998 Wildlife Policy of Tanzania recommended that GCAs either be upgraded to Game Reserves or conserved through community-based conservation where communities would have user rights to wildlife and be able to accrue benefits of wildlife on village lands.

⇒ Local communities bear the costs of living with wildlife but often are unable to accrue its benefits legally.

If wildlife is more costly than it is beneficial to villagers, then villagers will do things to get rid of wildlife because they are trying to improve their lives and the well-being of their families. For example, villagers will expand farms and destroy wildlife habitat because farming provides benefits, whereas currently wildlife mostly brings losses.

⇒ The current management of wildlife in Tanzania does not provide sufficiently effective mechanisms for enabling local communities to legally benefit from wildlife.

For example:

⇒ **There is a large and thriving bushmeat trade** in parts of the country, for example in Kigoma, Kagera and Mara Regions, where communities benefit substantially but **illegally** from wildlife. Because bushmeat hunting is illegal, there are no incentives for communities to sustainably manage wildlife off-take, and no support mechanisms to enable them to achieve this. Consequently bushmeat hunting has had a major adverse impact on local wildlife populations (e.g. TRAFFIC 2000 and 2007).

Therefore, as the 1995 Wildlife Sector Review Task Force and the 1998 Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (revised in 2007) recognized, for wildlife in Tanzania to survive, and current declines to be reversed, wildlife needs to become more valuable and beneficial for rural communities, and communities need to be able to manage wildlife just as they manage livestock, agriculture, forests, and other resources at the village

level.

The benefits local people get from wildlife can be in numerous forms: sustainable meat harvesting, income from wildlife-based businesses such as tourism and tourist hunting, and jobs from those enterprises, including the development of micro-businesses linked to wildlife-based tourism.

Of course, wildlife is valuable and there is plenty of opportunity for communities to earn income from wildlife if they are given legal rights to manage wildlife and capture benefits.

For example:

⇒ The government's economic survey states that wildlife utilization (hunting, live animal capture and other utilisation revenue) generated TZS 15.3 billion (USD 13 million) in revenue during 2006, and this does not include the enormous volume of revenue generated from photographic tourism in places like Serengeti and other National Parks.

The insufficient transfer of wildlife use, benefits and management rights to communities is a key factor behind the decline in wildlife populations. This is because there are still too few incentives for communities to conserve and protect wildlife outside parks and reserves.

Despite the sound guidance of the 1995 Wildlife Sector Review Task Force and the 1998 Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (revised in 2007), community-based wildlife management has yet to be successfully implemented - much to the detriment of the country's wildlife.



Elephant (Loxodonta africanus) in the Tarangire Ecosystem