



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 4

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

MAIN ISSUES:

- ⇒ Wildlife could play a much greater legal role in poverty reduction and local economic growth in communities with wildlife resources on village lands.
- ⇒ Currently wildlife is of significant illegal value to communities in parts of the country benefiting from the 'bushmeat' trade.
- ⇒ Progress in implementing legally sanctioned community-based wildlife management through Wildlife Management Areas has been slow and costly.
- ⇒ Full rights to manage and benefit from wildlife need to be devolved to the community level as soon as possible to provide strong positive incentives for sustainable wildlife management amongst rural villages who live alongside wildlife.
- ⇒ If wildlife is not allowed to play its role in poverty reduction and local economic growth, then other economic activities will take over, and wildlife will continue to decline and be lost. This is because communities will have no economic rationale for sustainably managing wildlife.

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Wildlife's role in poverty reduction

It is important to ensure that wildlife makes the greatest possible contribution to Tanzania's macro-economic growth (see Brief 3). It is also important that wildlife makes a strong contribution to poverty reduction and wealth creation at the local, or micro-economic, level. The importance of improving linkages between macro-economic growth and local poverty reduction is a key theme in the MKUKUTA. The MKUKUTA calls for greater effort to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are spread to rural communities and the poor.

The MKUKUTA also calls specifically for strategies which will produce *"increased contributions from wildlife, forestry, and fisheries, to the income of rural communities."*

The 1998 Wildlife Policy recognized the importance of increasing the direct benefits local communities receive from wildlife. That policy stated its goal for allowing,

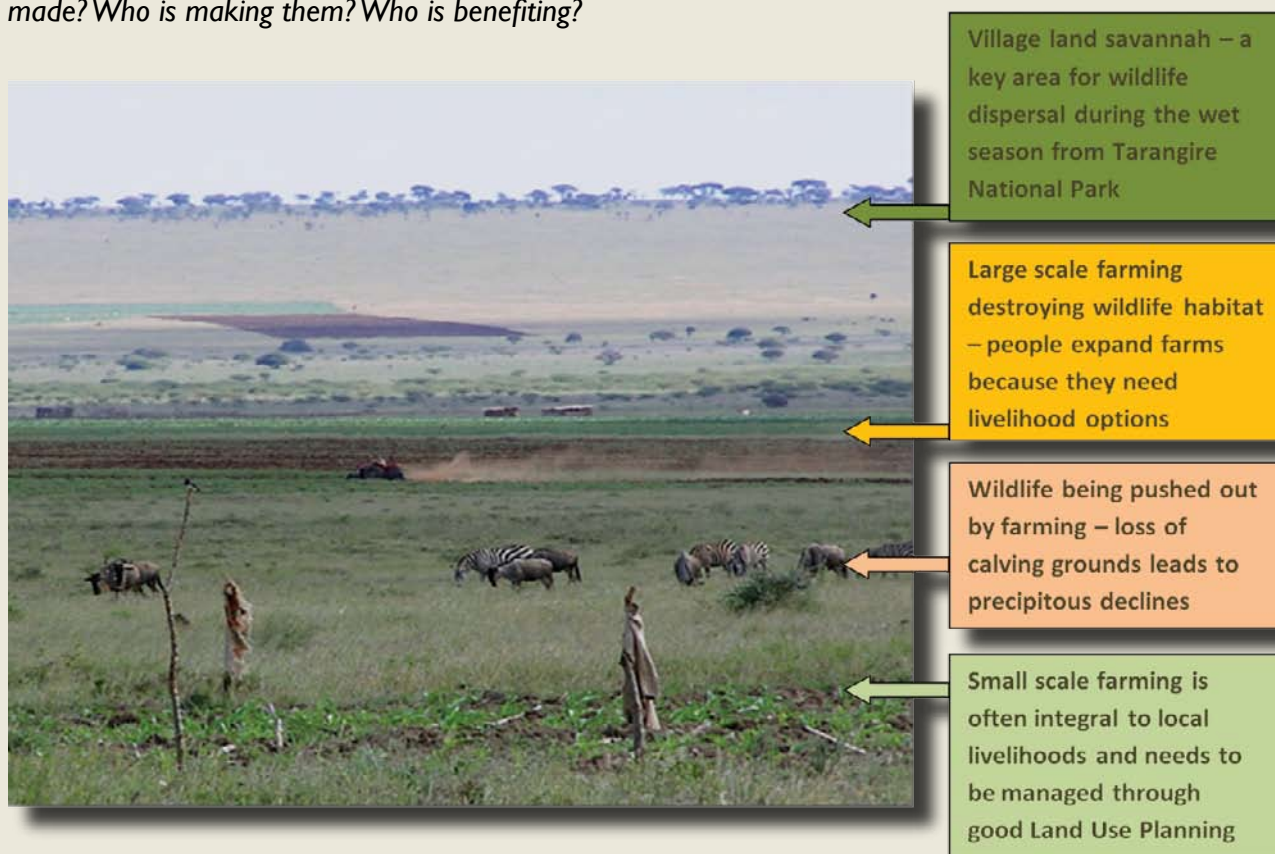
"... rural communities and private land holders to manage wildlife on their land for their own benefit" and "devolving management responsibility of the settled and unsettled areas outside PAs [protected areas] to rural people and the private sector."

The 2007 Wildlife Policy continues to recognise community participation and delegation of user-rights. However **the new Policy is far less explicit** in terms of recognising the importance of communities receiving direct and tangible benefits from wildlife for poverty reduction and for creating incentives for wildlife conservation.

The 2007 Policy describes WMAs as a mechanism for securing wildlife habitat and avoiding wetland degradation. The policy states that the government will ensure equitable distribution of costs and benefits that considers stakeholders' roles in relation to categories of land and efforts invested by the institution in conservation. This statement can be contrasted with the 1998 Policy which stated that communities would be given "full mandate" for wildlife management in WMAs located on village lands.

The key barrier to realizing this potential is the fact that since the colonial era, local communities have been legally restricted from using wildlife, and wildlife utilization rights remain heavily controlled by the government.

Figure 1: Land-use change in the Simanjiro-plains. Are rational economic and ecological choices being made? Who is making them? Who is benefiting?



Clear and unequivocal policy statements need to be made in full support of the delegation of user rights, wildlife management rights and retention of benefits for communities on village lands as a means for poverty reduction, wealth creation and improved conservation outcomes.

Clear and unequivocal policy statements need to be made about allowing the possibility of innovative and alternative management arrangements for communities to sustainably manage and benefit from wildlife on village lands. Examples include joint ownership of lodges, micro-enterprise and land-easements in partnership with the private sector.

Clear and unequivocal policy statements need to be made about the potential and utility of communities co-managing state reserved land – as with policy in the Forest Sector.

As Brief 3 described, existing market trends of increasing tourism and tourist hunting have the potential to create substantial economic opportunities for local communities. The fact that so much wildlife in Tanzania, unlike many other African countries, still lives on village lands (see Brief 2) outside of state protected areas, also means that wildlife has the potential to generate direct local income for local people.

Wildlife Management Areas

The 1998 Wildlife Policy called for legislative changes that would enable the creation of WMAs where communities can be the legal managers and beneficiaries of wildlife on village lands.

In 2002 the government created regulations ('WMA regulations,' revised 2005) under the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1974 which provide for the establishment of WMAs on village lands. Since January 2003, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has worked with local communities, district government, and various NGOs to establish about 16 pilot WMAs around the country. As of September 2008, ten of these areas had been formally gazetted as WMAs, and some of them had developed investment agreements.

While progress has been made in establishing WMAs on the ground, several basic problems have limited that progress:

- ⇒ First, the regulations for establishing WMAs are quite complex and communities need a great deal of external support to fulfil all the requirements. This has limited the establishment of WMAs. WMAs as they have been designed are very costly to develop.
- ⇒ Second, WMAs do not give enough authority of control over the economic benefits from wildlife to the communities.



Land use planning for the Idodi-Pawaga Wildlife Management Area - agreeing on grazing and wildlife zones in a participatory way

One of the biggest challenges is that benefit-sharing of revenue generated from WMAs has never been made clear; the regulations only state that benefit-sharing will be determined by “circulars issued by the government from time to time.” The proportion of the revenues from wildlife in WMAs has never been clarified; this makes it very difficult for local communities to know whether or not establishing a WMA will make them better off or not.

For example:

⇒ TANAPA helped Ololosokwan village, neighbouring Serengeti National Park, to establish a campsite for tourism companies so that the village would be able secure additional benefits from wildlife tourism. Since the late 1990s, the income of Ololosokwan and the other villages in Loliondo Division (Ngorongoro District) has increased to a total of over USD 300,000 (TZS 360 million) each year from these tourism enterprises.

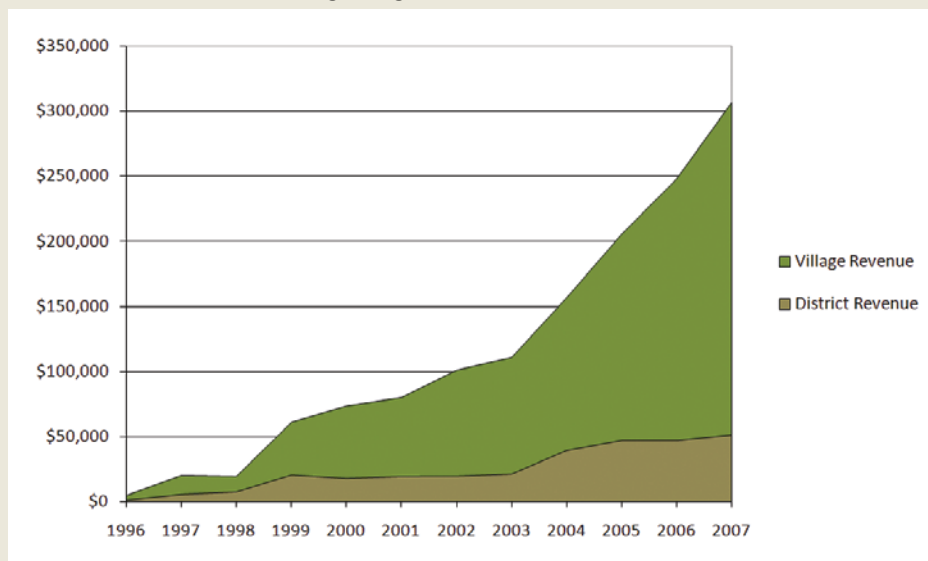
Considering alternative options for Community Wildlife Management

In addition to WMAs, there are other ways for local communities to capture economic benefits from wildlife. WMAs are designed to give communities rights over wildlife utilization, but non-consumptive tourism can also be carried out on village lands where WMAs have not been established, since photographic tourism does not utilize any wildlife. In northern Tanzania, villages have entered into legal contracts with investors for purposes of carrying out tourism which will bring benefits from wildlife to the local communities. Many of these village-investor contracts are in villages around Serengeti and Tarangire National Parks and have been in place for more than 10-15 years. Different agencies and branches of government have often promoted these ventures.

Market trends have enabled many communities, like the villages in Loliondo, to increase their income from tourism as the overall number of tourists coming to Tanzania has increased.

However, these ventures have faced several challenges. Tourism activities in these areas have resulted in conflicts with the hunting blocks established in the same places, putting community benefits at risk. Responsible hunting operators have felt that they have borne the costs of maintaining their blocks, and that photographic tour operators have benefited unfairly from their investment. New arrangements are beginning to develop between some hunting and photographic tour operators to reflect the relative costs and benefits of operation more fairly, thereby potentially improving community benefits. However, the non-consumptive tourism regulations released

Figure 2: Increasing income from non-consumptive tourism to seven villages in Loliondo Division and to Ngorongoro District Council, 1996-2007.



Source: Loliondo operators

in 2007 require substantial payments from tourism companies operating in these areas to be made to the Wildlife Division. The payments, as currently stipulated in the regulations, will probably significantly reduce the amount of money that tourism companies

pay directly to the villages. This will reduce village level incentives for setting aside land for wildlife. These issues of benefit-sharing are currently being discussed and debated by different stakeholders and the Wildlife Division, and are discussed in Brief 3.



Hadza boys tracking: Wildlife also holds irreplaceable cultural and social values – some of them 40,000 years old