



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 6

BEST PRACTICES IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

LEARNING FROM THE REGION

MAIN ISSUES:

- ⇒ Wildlife throughout east and southern Africa is a valuable resource, but some countries have developed more effective management practices than others.
- ⇒ In Kenya, wildlife has declined by about 50% since the mid-1970s, largely because the 1977 hunting ban reduces economic options for government and local communities and private landholders to benefit from wildlife. Where strong photographic tourism enterprises have become established which create benefits for those landholders, wildlife in Kenya has increased or been stable such as in Kajiado and Laikipia Districts.
- ⇒ Namibia has one of the most successful wildlife management systems in Africa, with increasing wildlife populations, increasing national value of wildlife, and increasing local community incomes from wildlife. The key to Namibia's system is giving local communities and private landholders secure rights to capture 100% of the benefits of wildlife on their lands.
- ⇒ A key lesson from regional experiences with wildlife management is that countries which have enabled local private and communal landholders to capture wildlife's economic value have been able to increase wildlife populations and increase local and national benefits from wildlife.

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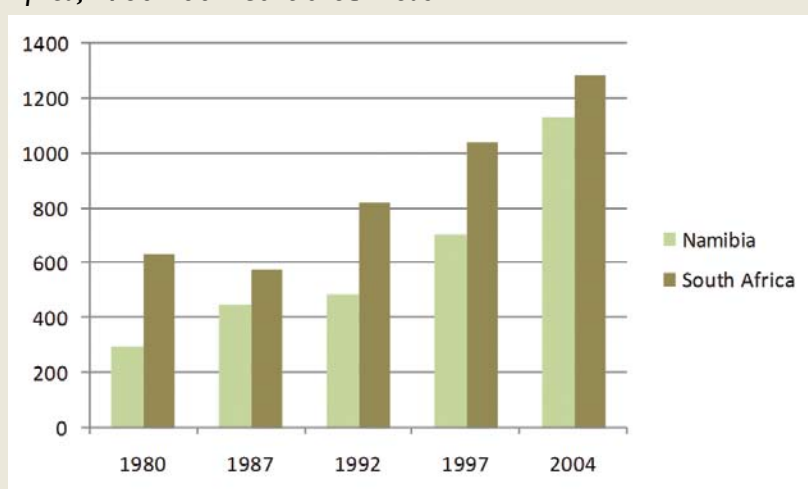
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Building on achievements and drawing insights from around the region

Other countries in the region provide useful insights and lessons for Tanzania about best practices and innovative ways for wisely maximising the returns from wildlife - economically, ecologically and socially.

In general, countries in southern Africa such as Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa have been able to manage wildlife so that the populations of most species have been stable or increasing, and the economic benefits from wildlife at the local and national levels have also increased substantially.

Figure 1: Black rhino population trends in Namibia and South Africa, 1980-2004 Controlled Areas



Source: Nelson 2006

For example:

⇒ South Africa and Namibia now contain about two-thirds of all the black rhinos left in Africa (Figure 1), because their rhino populations have been increasing for the past twenty years while the number of rhinos in countries like Tanzania and Zambia has declined dramatically since the 1970s.

⇒ In eastern Africa, wildlife management policy and practice has been less successful. Although the economic benefits from tourism have grown, wildlife populations have declined, as summarized for Tanzania in Brief 1. Kenya has seen its wildlife populations decline even more steeply than Tanzania.

This brief therefore summarizes the outcome of wildlife management in Kenya and Namibia in order to highlight key lessons for Tanzanian policy-makers.

Kenya

A dark cloud with a silver lining

Historically, Kenya has been the most internationally famous country in Africa for wildlife and wildlife-based tourism. But Kenya has lost much of its wildlife and now faces even more serious conservation and management challenges than Tanzania. The Kenyan government has collected very good data on wildlife populations since the 1970s, and that data shows that most species of wildlife declined by about 40% from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s (Figure 2). Wildlife has continued declining in most places since the 1990s, and **today it is estimated that Kenya has lost at least half of its total wildlife populations over the past thirty years.**

Unlike Tanzania, Kenya banned all hunting of wildlife, including all tourist hunting, in 1977. This measure was intended to protect wildlife, **but the data clearly shows that Kenya's anti-hunting policy has been a failure.** A key reason for wildlife's long-term decline is that as human populations have grown in Kenya, economic pressures on land and resources increase. Because of the hunting ban, wildlife has been a less valuable resource economically, particularly in the areas that are too remote for photographic tourism such as northern Kenya.

The only value of wildlife in these areas is illegally-hunted wild meat and this has become a lucrative but destructive business that contributes to sharp declines in wildlife populations.

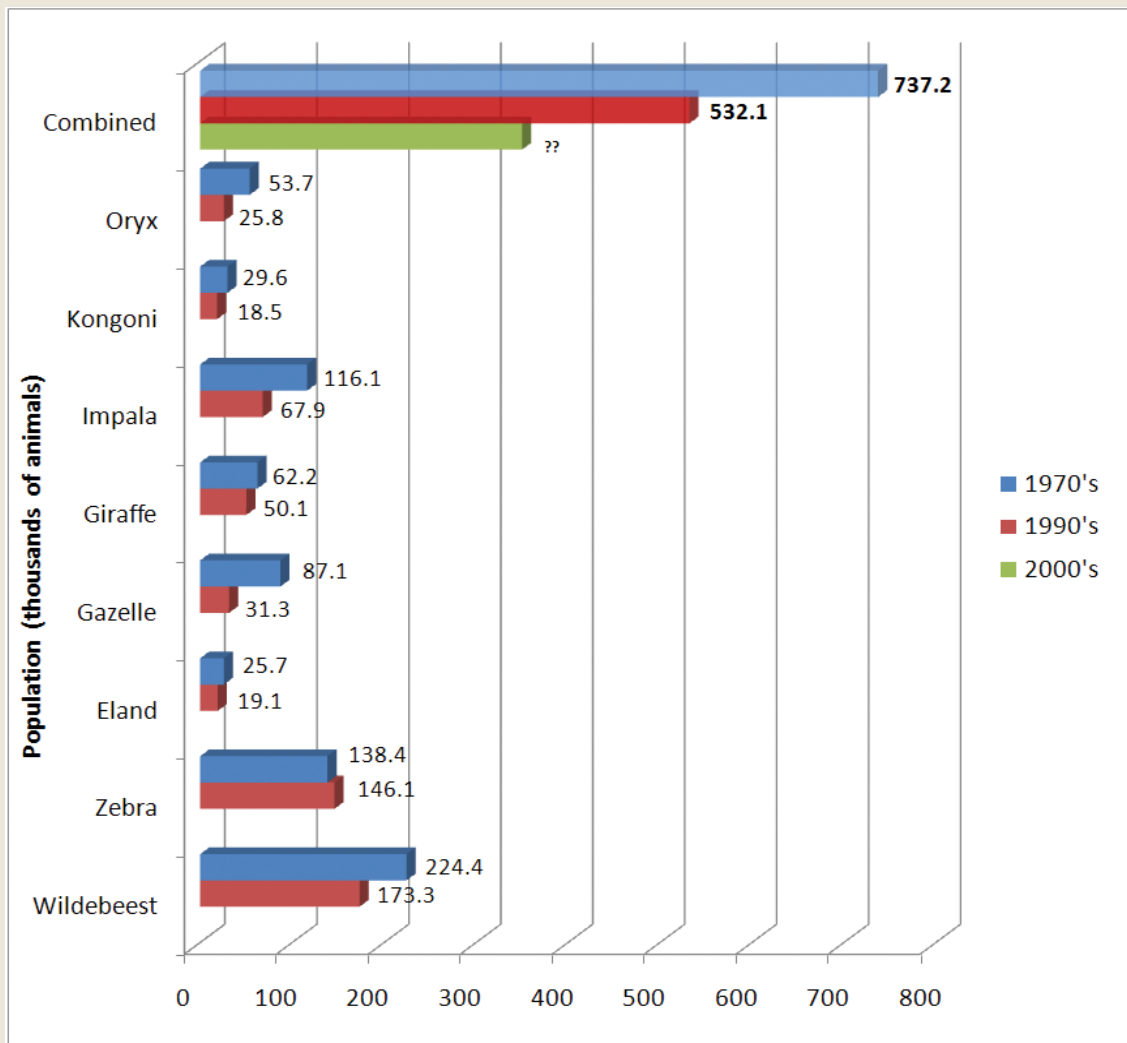
Because wildlife has had little or no legal value to local communities and private landholders in many areas of Kenya, wildlife has not been conserved and has declined.

In Tanzania the core problem facing wildlife conservation is that on village lands wildlife is not economically valued by the local people because nearly all the revenues from wildlife utilization (tourist hunting) go to the government.

In Kenya the root problem is that there are no revenues from tourist hunting at all!

But the outcome is similar: Wildlife is not a valuable form of land use at the local level and therefore wildlife declines and disappears.

Figure 2: Wildlife population trends in Kenya, 1970s to 1990s



Source: DRSRS 1996; Western et al 2006

Importantly, wildlife trends in Kenya have been different in a few areas where photographic tourism creates local economic opportunities based on wildlife.

Wildlife has been generally stable in Kajiado District and has increased substantially in Laikipia District during the past 20 years.

For example:

⇒ Zebra numbers in Laikipia increased from an estimated 6,000 in the late 1960s to over 30,000 in 1990. Predators such as lion and hyena remain widespread in these areas, and endangered wild dogs returned to Laikipia in 2000, increasing rapidly during the past eight years.

⇒ Laikipia District's wildlife areas are all private and village lands (in Kenya these pastoralist village

lands are called 'group ranches'), and it is in these areas where wildlife has recovered and increased.

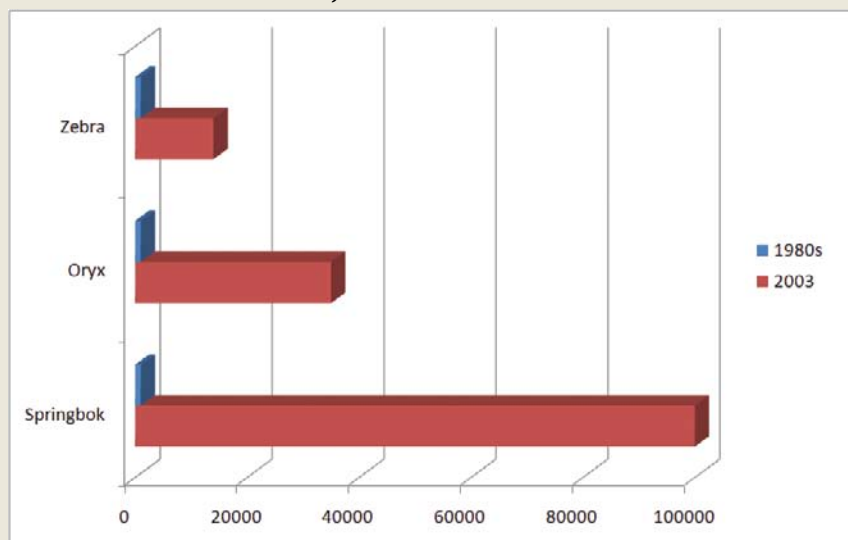
⇒ A main reason for the increase in wildlife is that Laikipia has developed a strong wildlife-based tourism industry, and private ranchers and local communities have set aside land to conserve wildlife because of its economic benefits.

⇒ Similarly, in Kajiado District the local communities (group ranches) have a number of long-term tourism agreements that have led communities to set aside land for wildlife, which spends much of the year on the group ranch lands outside of Amboseli National Park.

Namibia – a wildlife sector turned around and booming for all

Namibia has a very strong record of success in terms of conserving and recovering its wildlife populations and widening the economic benefits from wildlife. In the mid-1960s Namibia gave private landowners rights to manage and utilize wildlife on their ranches. This led to an 80 per cent increase of wildlife on private lands from the early 1970s to the early 1990s.

Figure 3: Estimated increases in wildlife populations in north-western Namibia's communal lands, in the 1980s and in 2003



Source: Weaver & Skyer 2005

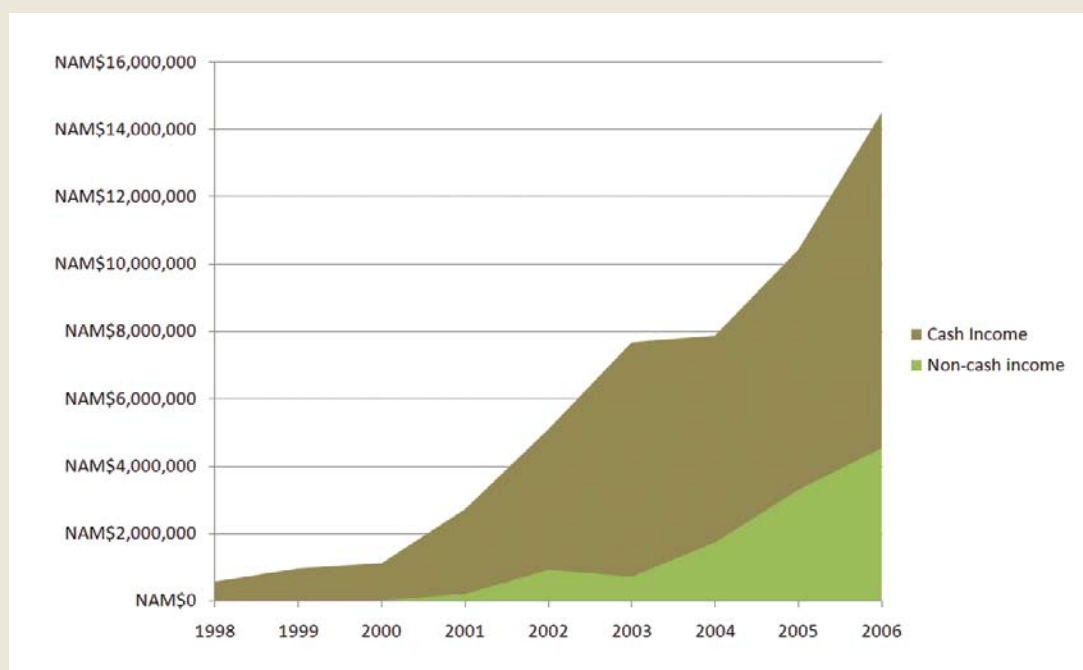
In the mid-1990s, after independence from South Africa, Namibia changed its wildlife laws to allow local communities to form conservancies where they could be given wildlife ownership and utilization rights.

Since 1998, when the first conservancy was formed, 50 conservancies have been established, covering nearly 120,000 km² of land, or about 14 per cent of Namibia's total land area. This has led to the recovery of wildlife in Namibia's communal lands as well (Figure 3). Common species such as antelopes and zebra are increasing in Namibia's communal land conservancies, as are rare species such as black rhinos. The community conservancies in north-western Namibia have Africa's largest population of unfenced black rhinos outside of state protected areas in the world.

Wildlife has recovered on Namibia's private and communal lands because giving local landholders legal control over wildlife management and wildlife's economic benefits gives them a reason to conserve wildlife and adopt wildlife as a valuable form of land use.

An important aspect of Namibia's legislation governing communal conservancies is that the communities keep 100 per cent of the revenue generated by wildlife in these areas. This makes wildlife much more competitive as a form of land use and provides strong incentives for communities to conserve wildlife.

Figure 4: Increasing income to Namibian community conservancies, 1998-2006



Source: NASCO 2006

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Since 1998, when communities earned virtually no income from wildlife, the income from newly formed conservancies has increased dramatically, and is now worth about USD 2.5 million (TZS 3 billion) per year to the 50 conservancies (Figure 4). This averages about USD 50,000 (TZS 69 million) per year per conservancy, although some new conservancies have not yet started earning much income and **some well-established conservancies earn over USD 100,000 (TZS 120 million) per year.**

While local communities benefit 100% from direct wildlife revenue, Namibia's system creates major national economic growth in indirect terms of the growth of the tourism industry—such as an increased tax-base, increased foreign exchange earnings, increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and increased employment.

How many villages in Tanzania are currently earning that much from wildlife on village lands?

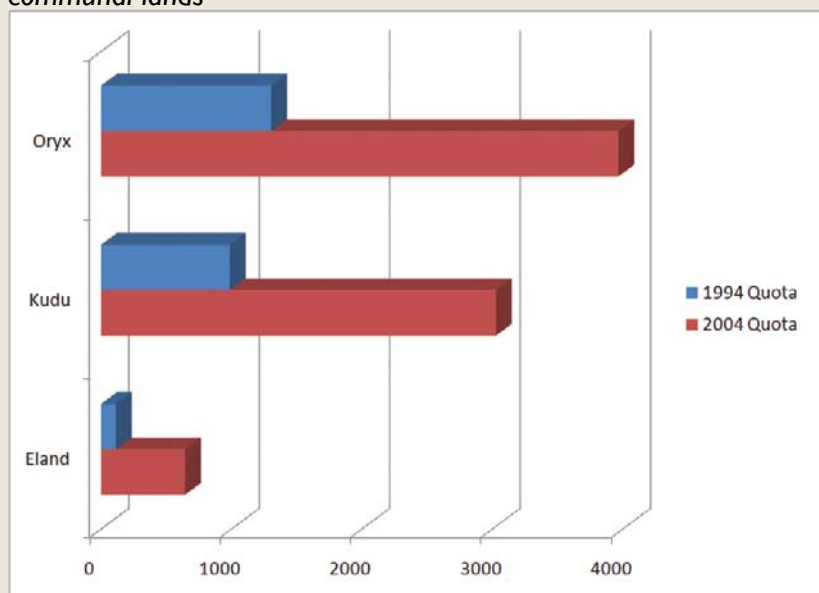
The tourism industry has grown rapidly, as wildlife has recovered in rural areas. This also makes Namibia's National Parks more sustainable because wildlife is now conserved both in state protected areas and on private and communal lands.

Because wildlife populations are increasing, Namibia is able to utilize more wildlife every year, and hunting quotas have increased substantially over the past decade (Figure 5).

Increasing wildlife populations and increasing number of wildlife that can be harvested lead to increasing economic gains from wildlife in Namibia, but the key to all these gains is giving local communities rights to capture direct benefits from wildlife on their lands. Therefore, by giving local landholders secure rights over wildlife, government increases the revenues it receives from taxing the wildlife industry and increases the value of wildlife to the national economy.

The key lesson from regional experiences from wildlife management is that countries which have enabled local private and communal landholders to capture wildlife's economic value have been able to increase wildlife populations and increase local and national benefits from wildlife.

Figure 5: Increasing wildlife hunting quotas in Namibia, 1994-2004, as a result of increasing wildlife populations on private and communal lands



Source: DAMM African Indaba

Countries which have not done this, or which have banned wildlife utilization such as Kenya, have created an environment where wildlife is not valued by local people, and as a result wildlife declines. Currently in Tanzania local people continue to derive little benefit from wildlife and wildlife populations continue to decline, as described in Briefs 1 and 2.