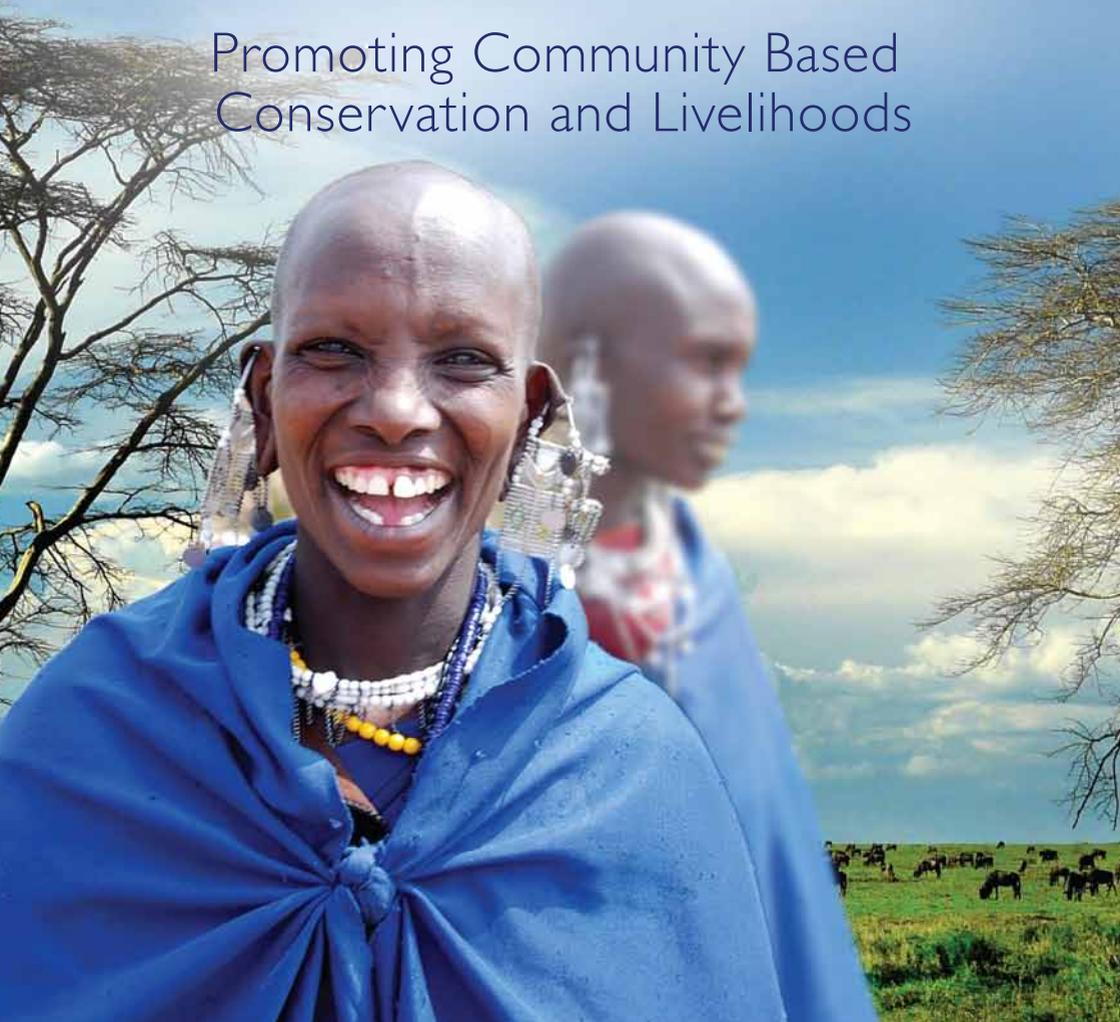


WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN TANZANIA

Promoting Community Based
Conservation and Livelihoods



Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania – How Far Have We Come?

Front Cover Photographs: Courtesy of Dan Formand / WWF



Photograph: Courtesy of Agathe Sector/USAID

“ Without Burunge Wildlife Management Area, the national parks would remain isles. Wildlife habitat would be fragmented by increasing human settlement and conflicting land uses. ”

-Mzee Noah Teveli,
Former Speaker
Burunge WMA

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are community owned and managed conservation areas, in which communities are given ‘user rights’ to benefit from their wildlife resources. The wildlife in the WMA generates income from regulated hunting and/or photographic safaris. In turn, the WMAs which are located adjacent to National Parks and other game protected areas provide buffer areas to help conserve the wildlife. Currently in Tanzania there are 17 established WMAs with user rights, which cover around 3% of the country’s land territory, equivalent to 30,000 sq/km. An additional 21 WMAs are at various stages of development.

The United States Government has supported the Government of Tanzania and conservation NGOs in the establishment of WMAs in Tanzania since 1998. This has required a long term vision and commitment to support policy reforms and create an enabling environment for sustainable conservation. This has also required a willingness to support the WMAs through the hard times. As a result of the financial crisis of 2008/9, many of the WMA communities experienced a significant decline in tourism revenue. In response, the U.S. Government supported a short term “Cash for Work” program to help communities weather the financial downturn.

Five WMAs (Ikona, Burunge, Enduimet, MBOMIPA and Ipole) were targeted for the program. Community members in these WMAs were provided with temporary job opportunities to develop infrastructure needed in the WMAs. More than 12,000 people were employed through the Cash for Work program, benefitting more than 60,000 people with increased economic benefits. The income helped many participants get their kids in

school, finish building their houses and/or start new businesses. The WMAs ended up with infrastructural improvements such as visitor centers, Village Game Scout posts, entry gates and rehabilitated roads which all provide possibilities for the WMA communities to increase revenue from tourism and improve monitoring and management of the WMA in the long term.

What are the Benefits of the Wildlife Management Areas?

To date, WMAs have earned a cumulative of \$5 million USD in revenue which has gone back to the participating communities. Revenue earned from WMAs has been used to support community projects such as building of dispensaries, teacher's houses, school blocks, and supporting orphans to go to school. More than 400,000 people have benefited directly and indirectly from WMAs.



Photograph Courtesy of Apatha Sector/USAID

WMAs help support the conservation of biodiversity by empowering communities to be decision makers over their natural resources and enabling them to generate additional income from a variety of conservation enterprises such as tourism, bee keeping, and handi-crafts.

Communities elect a management committee called the Authorized Association (AA). The management committee members are provided with capacity development skills in good governance and financial management to enable them to manage their WMAs. A registered apex body, the AA Consortium, serves as a platform for discussions with various stakeholders on ways to advance the cause of WMAs and improve livelihoods of people living in WMAs.

In order to establish a WMA, land and resource management plans must be developed. These management plans allow for better planning to help mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.



Photograph Courtesy of Dan Formand /WWF

Village Game Scouts are recruited from within the communities, trained and then employed to patrol the protected areas in the WMA. Their role is to prevent and report on poaching and other illegal activities, as well as enhance security within the communities. The Village Game Scouts are often paid from revenue which has been earned by the WMA.

In this booklet you can read the personal stories of some of the people who have in one way or another received some positive benefits from their participation in a WMA.

Moving Forward: We Still Have a Way to Go

Although WMAs have already shown some benefits, there is still more work needed to make this community based conservation approach a sustainable solution for people and wildlife. Part of the challenge in moving forward is how to realize the full potential of WMAs so benefits flow to the communities and create real incentives for conservation of wildlife. Good management plans, and strong governance is part of this process to ensure that

economic benefits are being fairly distributed and fully realized to address the livelihood needs of the people living in these wildlife areas.

All stakeholders will need to join hands to ensure current policies and their structural frameworks are able to fully address the needs of both people and wildlife to enable sustainable conservation in Tanzania.



Photograph Courtesy of Agathe Sector/USAID

“Once my village had conflict with wildlife. Now it is our resource and responsibility.”

-Francis Mwanso,
Member of the Executive Committee,
Burunge WMA

David Moson, Maasai Leader



Photograph Courtesy of Agathe Sector/USAID

David Moson is 60 years old, has two wives and sixteen children. He has been serving as a Maasai leader of the Mollél clan since 1997.

His highest priority for his children is education, all of whom attend school. Six are students in secondary school and the rest are in primary school. According to David, this education is important because, “In order to get a job as a doctor, police officer, teacher, or lodge operator, you need a diploma. They are constantly bringing in outsiders to do jobs that members of our community could be doing with enough education.”

David serves alongside the town government to make administrative decisions that will benefit the entire community. Before the WMA was established, he noticed many more outsiders coming onto his village’s land and grazing cattle. This overuse was hurting the environment and reducing the amount of grass that could be produced for cattle each year. Now that the WMA is in place, the village is able to control access to grazing lands and wildlife is flourishing. According to David, wildlife sightings have increased two-fold since the WMA began in 2005.

Also, before the WMA, hunters would enter and leave the bush as often as they pleased without any regulation. Although lodges did pay a \$2 fee to the government per person, per night, the villagers rarely saw the results of that money. Now, the WMA charges about \$15 per night. The revenue collected from local lodges provides an extra \$10,000 that the village can spend on different resources.

David emphasized, however, that transparency is the biggest benefit of the WMA system as every villager is informed of how much money the WMA had received and how much they should expect. The village then meets in a general assembly to decide what should be the proper way to spend the additional revenue.

David testified that this money was much needed: "Using the funds from the WMA, we have re-built parts of our school as well as our town government building. Recently, 500,000 Tanzanian shillings were given to a student to pay for college fees that will help him get a teaching certificate. Our hope is that he will come back to help us."

Adelvina Dominic, Women's Group Leader



Photograph: Courtesy of Agathe Sector/USAID

Adelvina Dominic has been a business leader of the Mshikamano Women's Group since before the WMA existed. Working with thirty other women from her community to make baskets, she has successfully sold her products in locations as far away as Arusha. Before the establishment of the WMA it was very hard to attract tourists and other visitors to the shop, which is located about an hour outside of Arusha. "Income was very unpre-

“I'd like to see all of my children attend university if it is possible. With the additional revenue from tourists passing by the Mshikamano Group's shop, this goal is quickly becoming much more of a reality.”

-Adelvina Dominic, Women's Group Leader

dictable.” Ms. Dominic admitted. “I remember one time when my first child was about to complete primary school, but I couldn't pay the fee for the final exam.” said Ms. Dominic. “Luckily we sold a few baskets that day so I ran to the principal with the cash and arrived at the school just before the deadline to pay.”

Since the establishment of the WMA and the addition of two lodges, the group has seen much more activity in their shop. “Since the coming of the WMA, we have seen visitors increase five times!” Ms. Dominic said enthusiastically. While the money from the Mshi-

kamano Group is not enough for the women to rely on entirely, the extra income has come in handy more than a few times. As a single mother, Adelvina has used money from the Mshikamano Group to build her house, buy mattresses and furniture, as well as clothes, school fees, and medicine for her eight children. Adelvina has long-term plans to build a grocery store that would provide additional income without being as labor intensive as basket weaving. She hopes to sell food and snacks to both local residents and tourists stopping by on their way to Tarangire National Park.

Rigobert Kanuti, Village Game Scout



Photograph: Courtesy of Agathe Sector/USAID

From his earliest days, Rigobert remembers wanting to be a game scout. Inspired by his father who was a ranger for the Tanzanian National Parks (TANAPA), he was able to be nominated by his community to serve as a village game scout.

“If the WMA leadership is like the roof of a house, the game scouts are the posts that keep the roof supported.”

-Rigobert Kanuti, Village Game Scout

The most important knowledge he gained from this training, however, was the value that wildlife has for the village. Because he understands the profit that vibrant ecosystems bring to the community, he is able to share this knowledge with others while protecting the wildlife and ecosystems of the Wildlife Management Area. “Without the village game scouts, poachers will come in and destroy everything that the WMA was created to protect” he said. The game scouts also help keep the lodges

accountable for the money they owe the WMA, which is based on how many tourists come to the park. By counting all arriving tourists, the game scouts help calculate how much the lodges need to pay. Rigobert explained, “If the WMA leadership is like the roof of a house, the game scouts are the posts that keep the roof supported.” Rigobert recalls that one time he caught a village member cutting down trees illegally to make charcoal. Instead of detaining the man or giving him a fine, Rigobert explained to the man that in order to do logging,

he would need to obtain a permit from the local WMA office. The man was upset, however Rigobert was able to explain to the man that these measures were in place in order to protect community resources and encourage tourism. “Sometimes the knowledge of why we need to protect the environment is more important than a fine” Rigobert explained. While serving their communities, village game scouts like Rigobert also see direct benefits from employment by the WMA. Each of the 30 village game

scouts earn about ninety dollars a month. For Rigobert, this extra money allows him to support his wife and their young child. With the extra support from the WMA, he hopes to send his child to high school and eventually college. But he also hopes that his service as a scout will inspire his child just as his father inspired him.

“Without the village game scouts, poachers will come in and destroy everything that the WMA was created to protect.”

-Rigobert Kanuti, Village Game Scout

Rigobert anakumbuka kipindi fulani alipomkamata mwanakijiji akikata miti kinyume cha sheria ili kutengeneza mkaa. Badala ya kumshikilia au kumpiga faini, Rigobert alimfafanulia kuwa ili aweze kuuna magogo, alihitaji kupata kibali kutoka kwa ofisi za WMA za kijiji. Mwanakijiji yule alichukia, ingawa Rigobert alifaninalleta kwenye jami, anauwezo ewa kuwashirikisha maarifa haya na watu wengine wakati akiendelea kulinda wanyamapori na mfumo wa ikolojia ya eneo la Usimamizi Nyikani. “Bila kuwepo kwa mhifadh wa kijiji, majangili watakuja na kuharibu kila kitu ambacho WMA lilitengeneza kwa ajili ya kulindwa” alisema. Mhifadh pia husaidia kutunza nyumba za kulala wageni kuwajibika kuilipa fedha zinazopaswa kwa WMA, ambazo zinatokana na kiasi cha watalii wanaokuja kwenye mbuga. Kwa kuhesabu watalii wote wanaowasili, mhifadh husaidia kupiga hesabu ni kiasi gani nyumba za kulala wageni zina-takiwa kuilipa. Rigobert alifafanua, “Kama uong'oz wa WMA ni kama paa la nyumba, basi wahifadh ni nguzo za kuishikilia.”