

**SPEECH OF THE DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE, PROF. ALEXANDER N.
SONGORWA, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
PIMA INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR POLICYMAKERS, PRACTITIONERS AND
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
HELD AT NAURA SPRING HOTEL, ARUSHA, FEBRUARY 3RD , 2014**

Professor Katherine Homewood, Principal Investigator of PIMA Project,
Co-Investigators of PIMA Project,
Workshop Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Happy New Year.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) and PIMA Project Consortium for inviting me to open this workshop. Indeed, it is a pleasure to be asked to officiate at the opening of this inception workshop for policy makers, practitioners and community representatives.

Dear Workshop Participants,

As we have seen in the background materials, PIMA stands for “Poverty and ecosystem Impacts of payment for wildlife conservation initiatives in Africa: Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)”. I have also been informed that PIMA has three main aims:

- (1) firstly, to carry out a rigorous evaluation of the impacts of community-based natural resources management initiatives, including payment for ecosystem services with a focus on WMAs,. This is in order to enhance our understanding of the implications of ecosystem services and poverty alleviation interventions through differentiated analysis of what works, for whom and under what circumstances;
- (2) secondly, PIMA aims to establish a sound, generalizable framework for evaluating ecological and social impacts of community-based natural resources

management/payment for ecosystem service interventions, and for causally attributing those impacts. PIMA aims to do this by developing a conceptual approach that is informed by local as well as scientific knowledge on the impacts of WMAs on ecosystem services and poverty/wellbeing outcomes;

(3) Third, PIMA aims to address three interlinked dimensions of WMA impacts, that is: ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver; governance of access to and use of ecosystem benefits; and resource use histories embodying impacts of WMAs on livelihoods, poverty and wellbeing. PIMA will go on to integrate these three dimensions by evaluating the trade-offs they reveal between different ecosystem services, Ecosystem services versus poverty alleviation, and between gender, age and wealth groups.

Dear Workshop Participants,

Many of you here will know that about 17% Tanzania's GDP comes from tourism and to great extent from wildlife tourism. Tanzania has always been strongly committed to wildlife conservation and management. Since the 1990s, Tanzania has also been strongly committed to poverty alleviation, and from the start, environment and natural resource management have played a central role in underpinning poverty reduction policies. Given there can be competition between land needs for wildlife on the one hand and for rural people's livelihoods on the other, we have tried to find ways of making conservation pay for local people. But in my own earlier work I concluded that in the late 1990s, communities around the Selous and in seven other African case studies saw little benefit from – and had little interest in – the community based conservation initiatives being promoted at the time. So has anything changed?

Over the last decade, Tanzania has started to establish WMAs as a means for promoting sustainability in utilization of wildlife resources. WMAs are areas of

community land in which local people have user rights over the wildlife resources. Conservation of natural resources in WMAs is therefore a shared responsibility and local communities must significantly benefit from it. The logic behind WMAs is that when local communities develop a sense of resource ownership and realize tangible benefits that can accrue from wildlife conservation, they will develop positive attitude towards conservation.

I am pleased to note that PIMA seeks to carry out a rigorous assessment of how WMAs have contributed to poverty alleviation and whether they have improved wildlife conservation and ecosystem services in Tanzania. We need to know what works, both for wildlife and for local people.

Dear Workshop Participants,

I am also pleased to note that PIMA consortium has brought together a vibrant team of researchers with diverse background. Furthermore, I am pleased to see that PIMA seeks to work with stakeholders in Tanzania by engaging them at an early stage of the project implementation. This engagement is extremely important for ensuring that results from the research work will be used by wildlife authorities and other stakeholders for conservation and development planning; and where necessary to facilitate review of policies.

Dear Workshop Participants,

I understand that, organizing a workshop like this one is expensive and time consuming. Therefore, allow me to thank Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) of the United Kingdom for funding this project. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate all those who were involved in the development of this exciting project. Allow me also, to take this opportunity to request other wildlife

stakeholders and funding agencies to support financially and materially implementation of the activities, policy statements/briefs that you will have come up with from this project in order to enhance implementation of WMAs in Tanzania. The government through the Wildlife Division will provide necessary support to ensure the project becomes a success

Dear Workshop Participants,

Let me conclude by wishing you a fruitful workshop.

With these few remarks I now have the pleasure to declare this inception workshop for policy makers, practitioners and community representatives officially opened.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST