



Wildlife Management Areas

Improving lives and protecting wildlife

Tanzania, located on the east coast of Africa, is home to a rich array of wildlife and habitat, including elephants, rhinos, hippos, lions, wildebeests, wild dogs, lakes, forests and savannahs, making it one of the most bio-diverse countries on the continent.

As a result, Tanzania boasts one of the most lucrative tourism industries in Africa. An estimated 85% of Tanzanians depend on natural resources like wildlife for their livelihoods, and 70% of Tanzania's National Gross Domestic Product is achieved through agriculture and tourism.

In addition, over 28% of the country is directly protected through national parks, game reserves, forest reserves and other conservation areas.

However, protected areas are often not sufficient in size to accommodate wildlife migration patterns, which tend to run outside the protected zones causing conflict with the growing rural populations who have settled there.

Wildlife Management Areas

As Tanzania's population grows, the need for finding solutions that provide incentives for conservation becomes more acute. One such answer has been Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

First implemented in Tanzania in early 2000s, this innovative conservation initiative supports the conservation of biodiversity by empowering local communities to be in charge of the wildlife on their land, using the benefits to boost livelihoods and reduce poverty.



By establishing a WMA, communities participate in a process of land use and resource management planning, setting up an Authorized Association to manage the operations. They negotiate with private tourism investors to generate revenue.

These sustainable source of income are very important for the long-term future of these areas, divided among participating villages to fund community projects, with some of the money set aside to fund operations such as anti-poaching and management programs.

To date, 14 WMAs in Tanzania have been established, comprising 137 villages with a population estimated at 350,000, and over \$4 million has been generated.

There are over 20 new WMAs in the process of being formed consisting of 175 additional villages, that together with the 14 established WMAs they will cover 13 percent of the land area, where over 31 million acres of land will be managed by local communities.



WMA Employment Opportunities

Establishment of WMAs has created many employment opportunities for members of participating local communities as eco-tourism is the main driver of jobs within WMAs.

Investors are building lodges to accommodate the growing number of tourists that want to see wildlife in their natural habitat, and the lodges are employing upwards of two dozen local community members each including managers, cooks, maids and safari guides.

Village Game Scouts (VGS) are protecting wildlife from poachers. These former volunteers from local communities patrol hundreds of miles of ground, often on foot, looking to stop poachers in their tracks.

To date, 259 VGS have been employed and paid in 9 WMAs. As the WMAs generate more revenue they are employing more VGS to aid in their crack-down of illegal activity.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS



Local school teacher's house built as a result of WMA funding support

Benefits of WMAs

Following the establishment of the WMAs, there are many local benefits, to people and species:

- Unique and intimate safari experiences that present the possibility of interacting with communities.
- Unlike National Parks, tourists in WMAs are allowed 'out of the car' experiences, offering visitors the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, such as horse-riding, mountain biking and walking safaris.
- Increased participation of local communities in the management of natural resources leads to higher populations of wildlife, improved forest health and stable watersheds.
- Management of natural resources is done through the combined efforts of government, community based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector.
- Communities are able to build strong democratic local governance institutions that represent their interest in natural resource management. This process, unlocks and promotes democratic principles at local level.
- Local resource rights and tenure are guaranteed.



WMA Case Study: Around the Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania

Located in southeastern Tanzania, the Selous Game Reserve is one of Africa's largest protected areas. The reserve is home to large numbers of elephants, black rhinos, cheetahs, crocodiles, hippos and wild dogs. But despite its protection, poaching, environmental degradation and human-wildlife conflict continued to be a problem.

As a result, the government, local community, WWF and others worked in partnership, to establish the following objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity of the Selous Game Reserve to manage wildlife resources
- Strengthen the surveillance teams to monitor poaching using systems
- Support community participation
- Facilitate assistance to communities living around the Reserve to implement community-based conservation activities.
- Facilitate connectivity of protected areas through management of wildlife corridors and dispersal areas using Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) approaches.

To achieve these objectives WMAs were established around the Selous to include: Nalika, in Tunduru District; Magingo, in Liwale District; Mbarang'andu, in Namtumbo District; Ukutu/Jukumu, in Morogoro District; and Ngarambe -Tapika in Rufiji District. Village Game Scouts in all these WMA are trained to do anti poaching. For example, in Ngaramabe Tapika Village, as result scout patrols are now accessing 70-80% of the Selous Eastern sectors, greatly reducing poaching, and they are able to use GPS and maps during patrols.

Both elephant and rhino populations in Selous are increasing. And Ngarambe and Tapika villages are among the 16 areas that are implementing the recently launched Wildlife Management Regulations by the government. Through the new initiatives, the project is facilitating the conservation of globally important species while ensuring that local communities have access to and receive benefits from the same.



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