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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TANZANIA

Tanzania prioritizes protecting its rich biodiversity and natural resources, with more than 28 percent of total land area under conservation protection. As one of the world’s poorest countries, however, Tanzania’s populace overwhelmingly relies on natural resources for their livelihoods, with overuse and environmental harm only perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Population growth, environmental mismanagement, commercial expansion, climate change, and poverty threaten Tanzania’s biodiversity and communities’ livelihoods. The effects of these threats are most acute and pressing where Tanzania has already prioritized environmental preservation (such as national parks and other protected areas) and where the threats result in a decline of wildlife populations and habitat degradation.

USAID partners with Tanzanians to improve biodiversity conservation by building sustainable livelihoods and supporting natural resource management. This strategy involves developing and implementing key national environmental policies while supporting community-based conservation.

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program takes a sustainable approach to landscape management that targets critical ecosystems. Key objectives of U.S. Government assistance are sustaining critical wildlife habitats, reversing land degradation, restoring watersheds, protecting wildlife, and improving community livelihoods through conservation enterprises. Activities also target sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, trade, and private sector initiatives in tourism, honey, and coffee. An integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene program supports market-driven services to improve health and increase economic resiliency. Within the climate change arena, the program supports efforts to generate and utilize scientific data on climate’s impact on fragile river basins and livestock grazing areas.

PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL HAYDUK/USAID

NRM OVERVIEW

FUNDING LEVEL

- \$22.5 million in FY 2016

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Division of Wildlife
- Tanzania Forest Service
- Tanzania National Parks
- Ministry of Water
- District Councils
- River Basin Offices
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- The Jane Goodall Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tetra Tech/ARD
- Engility/IRG
- Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- University of Dar es Salaam
- Institute for Resource Assessment

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Targeted landscapes:

- Maasai Steppe
- Gombe – Masito – Ugalla
- Southern Highlands and Greater Ruaha landscape
- Wildlife management areas nationwide

Water targeted landscapes:

- Wami-Ruvu Basin and Rufiji River Basin

CONTACT

Bronwyn Llewellyn
brllewellyn@usaid.gov

CHALLENGES

Sound policies exist in NRM-related sectors, but these are hampered at the implementation level by poor quality data, analysis, and implementation—partly as a result of weak institutional capacity at central and local levels. Natural resource management practices for livelihoods are often unsustainable and inefficient, forcing local villagers to overexploit their resources in order to survive. Poaching of wildlife has also escalated as a threat to functioning ecosystems and the tourism industry.

IMPACT

- Major policy reform achieved: The program has been directly responsible for major policy developments and their approval by the Government of Tanzania. This includes the Environmental Management Act, Wildlife Conservation Act, wildlife management area regulations, and the National Integrated Coastal Environmental Management Strategy.
- Governance structures developed and supported: NRM initiatives have built capacity among the National Environment Management Council, Wildlife Management Area Support Unit, Vice President's Office–Strategic Objective Team Secretariat, Wildlife Management Area Authorized Association Consortium, and community-based organizations.
- Landscape-scale conservation efforts realized: USAID-supported policy reforms allowed an additional nine million hectares of biologically significant land to be brought under improved management for conservation, sustainable agriculture, and other land uses over the past 15 years.
- Livelihoods improved: Community-based conservation programs in wildlife management areas are empowering locals to manage key protected ecosystems, with affected communities earning over \$6 million from private investors. Since 2010, more than 400,000 people have received a direct increase in economic benefits through sustainable natural resource management and conservation.
- Watersheds preserved: A public-private partnership to implement a community watershed alliance project in the Wami-Ruvu and Rufiji River Basins has provided an important platform for improved environmental stewardship by communities and local industries.