



SUSTAINING ECOLOGICAL AND LIVELIHOOD OUTCOMES OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS IN TANZANIA

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'You can easily find this out from the notes and coins of the Tanzanian money. The notes portray the big five animals based on their value starting from an elephant that appears on a ten thousand note down to coins that have impala, ostrich and rabbit. ... We have come to realise that; the government neither attach financial value to humans as it is done to these animals nor does the value of these animals come to the people who protect wildlife. You can hardly find a ten thousand note in pockets of the people in this village. Conservation is not for humanity but financial gains' Anonymous Key Informant.

This policy brief reports selected findings from the research project New Partnerships for Sustainability (NEPSUS), which aimed to assess whether new and increasingly complex conservation partnerships lead to better and more equitable ecological and livelihood sustainability outcomes. The research on wildlife focused on community areas that border the Selous game reserve in Rufiji and Kilwa districts. In these areas, local communities have had high expectations from the emerging partnerships – especially in relation to the improvements of their livelihoods, which are closely connected to the use of land for agriculture, wildlife and forests for food, cash and social service infrastructure as well as maintenance of life security.

Balancing Conservation and Development

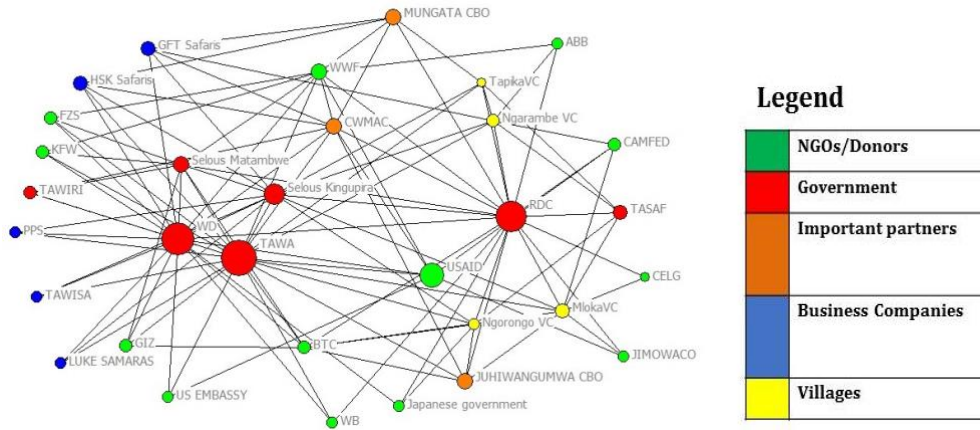
Our research findings demonstrate that many wildlife conservation partnerships highlight the importance of participation of local communities in the management of protected areas. Yet this hinges on local people benefitting from these conservation initiatives. Our research suggests that the costs of conservation outweigh the livelihood benefits for local communities who share space with wildlife – hence increasing conflicts and insecurities.

A Social Network of Conservation Partners

We examined two WMAs in Rufiji District (MUNGATA and JUHIWANGUMWA) and the ongoing efforts to establish a third in Kilwa district (MBOMAMINJIKA) – with a total of twenty-four villages brought into formal wildlife conservation partnerships. These villages are in partnership with international conservation organisations (NGOs), bilateral development partners, private business, the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), District councils and different wildlife agencies such as Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI). As Figure 1 indicates, other partners collaborate in the protection of wildlife inside the Selous game reserve but their activities overflow into the neighbouring villages. These include FZS, KFW, USAID,

WB, GIZ, US-Embassy with various roles and interests. However, the networks are not characterized by meaningful local participation, but rather by top-down orders that come with funding from powerful actors.

Figure 1: Social Network of Partners in Rufiji and Kilwa Wildlife Management Areas

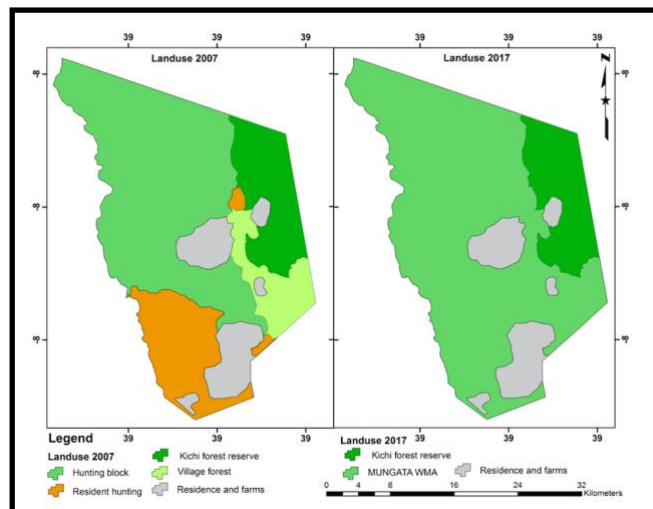


Source: NEPSUS

Land Use Change

NEPSUS found out that participatory land use planning is an important tool for securing and legitimating the use of village land for wildlife conservation. Land use maps are a pre-requisite for registration of any WMA and the actual management plans are reviewed every ten years. In MUNGATA WMA a significant change happened in favour of wildlife during the review process. With persuasion from a local hunting company, village forest resource areas and resident hunting uses were lost permanently to the tourist hunting block (see Figure 2, right side).

Figure 2: MUNGATA WMA land use



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These were important areas for legal access to meat and forest products. Currently, over 95% of total land is under conservation while settlements and farms are fully encircled by wildlife dispersal and migration areas, which has serious livelihood implications.



Pictured above: competition between people and elephants in village lands (left, Ngarambi village in Kilwa; right: Ngarambe village in Rufiji). Photo credit: Ruth John.

Crop Damage

Survey data show that many people experience crop damage. Between 70-77% of families in *all* communities, not just those in partnership villages experience some form of crop loss (Table 1). A substantial proportion report to have lost more than 25% of their crop.

Table 1: Human-wildlife conflicts

Partnership	Have you experienced loss of crops to wildlife?			How much damage you have experienced?					
	Yes	No	n	No Answer	<25 %	25-50%	51-75%	>75%	n
Complex (villages with more partners)	77%	23%	172	23%	37%	28%	6%	5%	172
Simpler (villages with fewer partners)	70%	30%	88	50%	31%	27%	4%	4%	88
Control (villages with no partnerships)	77%	23%	57	34%	39%	10%	1%	0%	94
Overall	75%	25%	317	33%	36%	23%	5%	3%	354

Source: NEPSUS survey

Concentrations of misfortune are evident in these data. Those who report higher levels of crop damage from problem animals are also more likely to report that the damage is 'frequent'. At least 76% of people who experienced levels of crop damage that took less than 25% of the harvest said that this damage was frequent. And 87% of those who lost more than 25% of the harvest complained that damage was frequent.

Deaths

Narratives about people being killed in interactions with wildlife enforcement abound. The most serious form of violence takes place between the game reserve authority and local residents. Many young people allege that it is highly risky to engage in hunting or fishing because the border of the reserve is not always clear. Moreover, villagers are still tempted to fish in temporary lakes in the reserve which can be well stocked with large fish. If spotted, illegal fishers can be shot at on sight, and if killed, their bodies cannot be retrieved and buried.

Policy Recommendations

Living with wildlife can be a problem, but it is a varied problem. It is most inconvenient for a minority of people. Thus, there is both the need and opportunity for the partnerships that this project has explored to make a substantial difference to people's lives. It is particularly concerning given that incidences of damage to crops inflicted by wildlife appear to be increasing in villages with partnerships. In these villages, the livelihood activities of the majority of people have little to do with the current land under wildlife conservation.

Hence, we offer the following recommendations to the Tanzanian Government:

1. Build trust by providing life insurance to the people who are entrusted to protect wildlife in order to demonstrate that the government cares not only for wildlife but also for its citizens.
2. Revise the wildlife policy and regulations to address current challenges of the lack of compensation for crop loss.
3. Devise a mechanism for accruing economic benefits from wildlife conservation to households within partner communities.
4. Solve conflicts between tour operators and local communities over tourism contracts.
5. Support alternative ways for local people to benefit from wildlife through community-private joint venture activities in tourism.
6. Strengthen partnerships by respecting, promoting and responding to the local voices of villagers who live with wildlife in their backyards.

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