

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES?

Despite the multiple benefits that Tanzania derives from this sector, the sector is not developed to its full potential.

This is due to the following reasons:

- Natural resource conservation competes with other forms of natural resources utilization such as agriculture, animal husbandry, pastoralism, mining, and fisheries, especially in the villages;
- Little awareness or lack of awareness on the importance of sound natural resources management on the part of government officials (planners and decision-makers) and resultant low priority attached to it in the government planning and budget allocation processes;
- Loss of forest reserves and wildlife habitats due to increased agricultural activities, grazing, mining, human settlements, logging and human population;
- Escalating number of illegal logging and wildlife poaching in protected and unprotected areas;
- Inadequate budgetary allocation to natural resources management by the government;
- Limited human resources (experts) in the forest and wildlife sectors;
- Little rural communities' wildlife and forest management and user rights;
- Poor remuneration of government natural resources management and protection staffs which results in low working morale and erosion of professional ethics; and
- Conflict of laws of various natural resources laws such as mining, wildlife, forestry, land, and local authorities laws.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- Local communities must participate effectively in implementing and enforcing natural resources management policies, guidelines and laws in order to ensure that natural resources are sustainably managed;
- Local community members should provide timely information on wildlife poaching and illegal logging;
- The current use of wildlife and forest resources should not compromise the needs of the future generations. This will be best realized if the current generation utilizes natural resources in a sustainable manner and adheres strictly to natural resources utilization precepts enshrined in the country's laws, policies, and guidelines;
- Planning and budgetary allocations should be informed by the natural resources sector demands and its importance to the survival of the nation; and
- Community members should develop a culture of actively participating in planning and managing natural resources projects.



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NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN TANZANIA



INTRODUCTION

Tanzania is endowed with a good deal of natural resources including forests, wildlife, land, mountains, water resources, minerals and others that are scarcely found in other parts of the world. Parallel to that, Tanzania has a significant number of endangered species. Some of these include endangered species such as Wild dogs, Black Rhinoceros and the elephants. Recognizing the biological, social and economical significance of biodiversity, the Tanzanian government in collaboration with civil society organization is working hard to protect the country's natural resources particularly wildlife and forests.

Moreover, the Tanzanian government has promulgated and enacted policies, guidelines and laws, respectively that aim at protecting and managing the country's natural resources, in partnership with Tanzanian citizens, for the benefit of the current and future generations.



WHAT IS NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT?

Natural resource management entails protecting, conserving and sustainably managing and using natural resources such as flora, fauna, land, and water to mention but a few. Natural resources management in Tanzania focuses on putting in place sound and adaptable mechanisms of managing natural resources, and

understanding how natural resources affect the current and future standard of life. Moreover, it embodies the relationship between the people and natural resources.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) is vested with the overall mandate of managing forests and wildlife resources in Tanzania. The Ministry has different divisions and agencies charged with managing different categories of natural resources. Apart from the MNRT, Local Government Authorities (LGAs), including village governments, are also charged with management of natural resources and have departments and committees that manage natural resources in their jurisdictions. There are also research institutions that undertake critical researches on wildlife and forests management in the country.

Due to the importance and scarcity of natural resources, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT) offer their support to foster sound natural resources management and ensure that benefits accruing from these resources are sustainable and are used in manners that lead to the realization of human rights. Moreover, CSOs foster sound natural resources management through advocacy, researches, empowerment of the citizens, and managing different projects.

WHAT ARE BENEFITS OF MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES?

Natural resources offer multiple benefits to local

communities with ecological, social, and economic dimensions. In ensuring that local communities, especially villagers, benefit from and partake in natural resources management, the Tanzanian government allows rural communities to establish and manage Community Forest Reserves (CFRs) and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Major reasons for managing natural resources are:

- To conserve terrestrial and marine habitats with the biodiversity within them;
- To conserve an adequate number of flora and fauna, while putting more emphasis on the protection of endangered species, for instance, the African Elephant, the Black Rhino and the Wild Dogs;
- To protect water sources;
- To protect and manage scenic and attractive sites areas and features such as Mount Kilimanjaro;
- To provide opportunities and conducive environment for people to utilize natural resources and achieve development in especially in villages;
- To promote sustainable tourism and utilization of natural resources that enable the country to obtain more revenues including foreign exchange; and
- To put in place the network of well-managed ecosystems (reserved areas) as one of the mechanisms of fighting and mitigating climate change impacts.

