

CBC: Where are we now - Where are we going?

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15 Years of CBC

Community Based Conservation (CBC) of wildlife in Tanzania is now more than 15 years old. The Wildlife Division and German Technical Assistance (GTZ) started the Selous Conservation Programme in 1987 and initiated the first pilot areas around the Selous Game Reserve, with more following in other parts of the country. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism released a new wildlife policy in 1998, and Regulations for the new Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are now in place. A new Wildlife Conservation Act is in the making. Indeed much has been achieved.

However, the practical results on the ground are less impressive. To date not a single WMA is operational according to the formal procedures designated in the Regulations. All in all the whole WMA approach is moving forward - but at a "snails' pace" in terms of practical achievement.

Unfortunately, the Regulations are so complicated that people say you have to be a professor to understand them. Others complain that the Government requires more from the villagers than it provides itself in its own protected areas. How many Game Reserves have Management Plans as required now for the establishment of a WMA? Any investment in a WMA needs an Environmental Impact Assessment, but how many investments, like roads or game scout stations, have undergone such assessments in the Government's own Game Reserves? Additionally the WMA-villages are now required to produce a Certificate of Land, which is neither demanded in the Regulations nor has been granted to a single village in the whole of Tanzania.

Some observers have commented that all this does not sound like a wholehearted promotional strategy for the Government's policies. We do not agree with this: The Government is determined to implement its Wildlife Policy. The Government wants to empower rural communities as part of its poverty-reduction drive. However, too much bureaucracy slows down the process. These complex bureaucratic requirements also make target communities feel discouraged, and are contrary to what they were led to expect when the Regulations were launched.

Selous Pilot WMA

Let us have a look at the five WMA pilot areas in Liwale, Tunduru, Namtumbo, Rufiji and Morogoro districts. They have been supported jointly by the Tanzanian and German Governments since the late eighties through the Selous Conservation Programme. Where do they stand? What is the state of affairs in these areas?

- All participating villages have already prepared land use plans. The participatory process mitigates conflicts and misunderstandings between villages.
- The villages have set aside areas for wildlife conservation.

- District Natural Resources Advisory Bodies are in position and are functioning.
- Each pilot WMA around the Selous receives an annual hunting quota from the Wildlife Division. The revenue generated by the utilisation of the quotas is used for wildlife conservation and community development.
- On the job training of villagers and village leaders on management, accountability, awareness and sensitisation on CBC and WMA Regulations is on-going and making excellent progress. Formal training of village scouts has also been carried out.
- Crop protection has been improved in all areas due to increased involvement of villages and their scouts.
- Villages are holding transparent annual budget meetings to strengthen accountability.
- The concerned communities are well informed of the WMA concept and the conservation activities going on in their designated areas.
- There are material benefits from the quota and in the case of Jukumu from a hotel lease. Income would be increased more than tenfold, if the WMA would receive the full user rights and could tender or auction the hunting rights.
- Poaching has been significantly reduced and wildlife has come back to areas where it was absent before.

The Jukumu Society in Morogoro District is often affiliated with the CBC and WMA approach in Tanzania because Jukumu has advanced further than the rest of the pilot WMA in the country. Member villages have practiced community wildlife management since the late eighties. Eight years ago 22 villages formed a Community Based Organization (CBO) with the aim to introduce conservation and the sustainable utilization of natural resources. This was supported by the Wildlife Division, the District and GTZ under the Selous Conservation Programme. It was registered under the name "Jumuiya ya kuhifadhi na matumizi bora ya maliasili ukutu" after fulfilling all the requirements. It has met the requirements and became the first pilot WMA in the country to apply for Authorized Association status to the Director of Wildlife. Unfortunately, this application was rejected for technical reasons and Jukumu is now reapplying.

Tired of Waiting...

Another point is the decision by the Government to test their own approach in 16 so called "pilot areas" for three years. It is fully understandable that the Government wants to move carefully and avoid failures, when making such a major paradigm shift, although the villages around the Selous, in Iringa or Ikoma have already practiced wildlife use on a pilot basis for many years. Presently much money is being spent on developing a monitoring system in order to assess the progress of these WMA after the pilot phase. However, most of these "pilot WMA" are presently not operational and none has full user rights. Twatwawa WMA might even never come into existence, and those WMA in Game Controlled Areas can only start after this legal status has been removed, which may take a long time. It is a concern that there will not be much to evaluate after the pilot phase of three years.

Consequently there is already talk of extending the pilot phase. This would be most unfortunate, if further village would not be allowed to establish their own WMA. The pilot phase could therefore have the effect of a moratorium on the creation of new WMA. If the pilot phase would continue, then the full implementation of the Government's Wildlife Policy in the field of WMA could take decades. And many villages have meanwhile requested to be allowed to start WMA according to the Regulations, e.g. along the Rovuma River, in Kisarawe District or around Katavi and Saadani National Parks.

Jukumu, Morogoro	GTZ	X	X	X	X	processing reapplicatio n	
Namtumbo (Songea)	GTZ	X	X	X	X		
Tunduru	GTZ	X	X	processin g registratio n	X		
Liwale	GTZ	X	X	- do -	X		
Ngarambe/ Tapica, Rufiji	WWF/GTZ	X	X	X	X	processing reapplicatio n	
Buruge, Babati	AWF	X	X	X			
Makame, Kiteto	AWF	X					
Enduimet, Monduli	AWF	?					
Ikoma, Serengeti	NORAD/F ZS	X	X				
Loliondo, Ngorongor o	FZS	?					
Tarime	NORAD	X					
Uyumbu, Urambo	AFRICAR E	X	X	processin g registratio n			
Ipole,Sikon ge	AFRICAR E	X	X	- do -			
Twatwatwa , Kilossa	none	no					
Wamimbik i, Bagamoyo	DANIDA	X					
Mbomipa, Iringa	none	X					