



## **Sectoral and Inter-sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Tanzania**

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## **1. Introduction**

Tanzania<sup>1</sup> (2009) reported that various measures have been taken to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and budgets. It provides information on national strategy for growth and reduction of poverty (NSGRP); strategy for urgent actions on land degradation and water catchments; national wetlands management strategy; national environmental policy; agricultural sector; livestock sector; forestry sector; wildlife sector; fisheries sector; mining sector; implementation of biodiversity-related multilateral and regional environmental agreements; biodiversity related programmes and projects; as well as overall assessment of the level of integration of biodiversity

## **2. National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP)**

The National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) is an organizing framework for putting the focus on poverty reduction high on the country's development agenda. Biodiversity issues in the NSGRP have been reflected in the Cluster II – Improvement of Quality of Life and Social Well Being and the goal of promoting sustainable and broad-based growth. The operational target related to biodiversity in this goal is to reduce land degradation and loss of biodiversity. Strategy outlined in the NSGRP to achieve the target is to improve land management including tree planting, establishment of village land forest reserves on land and maintaining integrity of protected area network.

## **3. Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land Degradation and Water Catchments**

Cognizant of the fact that the country is faced with widespread environmental degradation particularly degradation of land and water catchments, the environmental problem due to unsustainable agricultural activities in water catchments, on mountain tops, mountain slopes and in other fragile sections of mountain ecosystems. Recognizing this challenge the Government developed A Strategy for Urgent Actions on Land degradation and Water Catchments to address this challenge after a wide range of consultation with various stakeholders. The Strategy was developed in 2006 with the overall objective of halting the environmental degradation particularly degradation of land and water catchments. The Strategy has identified twelve challenges which need to be addressed in order to halt this degradation. The conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its resources is one of the issues being addressed under this Strategy. It is being implemented at all levels from the central government, Local government, private sector and local communities.

## **4. National Wetlands Management Strategy**

The wetlands of Tanzania constitute a wide range of inland, coastal and marine habitats that share a number of common features. Wetlands in Tanzania can be classified broadly under six categories, namely highland headwater wetlands, freshwater estuarine wetlands, internal drainage wetlands, rivers and inland floodplain wetlands, man-made wetlands and marine and coastal wetlands.

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<sup>1</sup> Tanzania (2009). Fourth National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Division of Environment, Vice President's Office, July 2009, 80 pp.

Wetlands ecosystems in Tanzania, with exception of those under natural resources protected areas network, face immense use pressures. Cognizant of the threats facing wetlands in Tanzania, National Wetlands Management Strategy was formulated in 2007. It is a ten years Strategy (2007 – 2017) aimed at conserving wetlands ecosystems so that they can continue to provide ecological services and support sustainable livelihoods. The Strategy therefore is intended to implement relevant Government Statements contained in the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania in conjunction with other relevant national policies.

### **Sectoral Policies and Laws**

The major policies and strategies that cover the integration of other sectors activities on environment and biodiversity in the country include: the National Forest Policy (1998) and Forest Act (2002); the Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategy Statement (1998); the Water Policy (2002); the Wildlife Policy (1998); the Land Policy (1999); Village Land Act (1999); Land Act (1999); National Agriculture and Livestock Policy (1997); Livestock Policy (2006); Wildlife Act (2009); Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (2001); and Rural Development Strategy (2001).

### **National Environmental Policy**

The National Environmental Policy states that Programmes for the conservation and utilisation of biological diversity shall be pursued to prevent and control the causes of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity. Strategic measures shall be put in place for the development of biotechnology, especially to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the results and benefits arising out of utilisation by foreign recipients, of genetic resources originating from Tanzania, and biosafety. The Policy further states that Biodiversity policies, strategies and programmes are only meaningful in relation to other national policies, strategies and programmes.

Therefore, policies, strategies and programmes for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources shall be integrated into relevant sectoral/cross-sectoral policies, strategies and programmes.

The National Environmental Policy calls for intensification of wild and domesticated plant genetic conservation programmes in the Agriculture Sector and implementation of animal genetic resource conservation programmes in the Livestock sector. In the Forestry Sector, it also states that in the, Natural forests with biological diversity value and genetic resources shall be conserved; account will be taken of the dangers of monoculture and to the extent possible natural forests will not be replaced by exotic species.

### **Agricultural Sector**

Agricultural sector is the leading sector of the economy of Tanzania and accounts for overall GDP and export earnings. Over 80% of the poor are in rural areas and their livelihoods depends on agriculture. Moreover, about 80% of the population live and earn their living in rural areas with agriculture as the mainstay of their living.

Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS) aims at creating enabling and conducive environment for improving profitability of the sector as the basis for improved farm incomes and rural poverty reduction in medium and long term. The strategic options available for ASDP are largely constrained by Government's priority objectives, recent policy pronouncements and the ongoing reform programmes. The overarching government objective is poverty reduction and this calls for strategies that are capable of raising the incomes and living standards of a large proportion of the rural population of the relatively near future. In this regards the Strategy among other things addresses the importance of conserving biodiversity especially the agro-biodiversity for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Likewise, the National Agricultural Land Use Master plan puts in place strategies of sustainable utilization of Agricultural land that takes into consideration biodiversity conservation issues.

### **Livestock Sector**

The government has adopted a strategy for range development by formal recognition of associations and organizations of livestock keepers and actions are taken to ensure that livestock keepers obtain formal legal recognition of traditional grazing rights as envisaged in the Land Act (1999).

In 2006 the government issued a Notice to evict all grazing animals which invaded Ihefu wetland and the protected forests in Kagera region. Today, regeneration of vegetation cover in Ihefu wetland has improved considerably and some migratory bird species and wild animals including hippos, buffaloes, ostriches, antelopes and zebra which were in the area before are returning back.

### **Forestry Sector**

In order to ensure ecosystem conservation and management of biodiversity, the National Forest Policy spells a number of strategies including the following:-

- New forest reserve biodiversity conservation will be established in areas of high biodiversity value;
- Biodiversity research and information dissemination will be strengthened in order to improve biodiversity conservation and management;
- Biodiversity conservation will be incorporated in the management regimes of natural production forests and plantations;
- The replacement of natural forest by exotic plantation will be minimized;
- EIA will be required for investments which convert forestland to other land use or may cause damage to the environment and biodiversity.

Guidelines on harvesting of forest products have been prepared in order to ensure sustainable utilization of forestry resources in the country. The Guidelines directs each district to have a Forest Harvesting and Monitoring Committee that will coordinate harvesting activities within the district and update harvesting plans. Furthermore, as a measure to enhance environmental and biodiversity

conservation in the country, the Government is steering a national tree planting campaign. This Campaign has been running for more than ten years whereby each district is obliged to plant 1.5 million trees annually. However some districts have surpassed this target due to awareness and participation of the communities in those districts.

Currently the government has upgraded about 24,000 ha of Uluguru forest reserves to be nature reserves as an effort to conserve biodiversity in these ecosystems.

Furthermore, the process of upgrading the Rungwe and Livingstone forest reserves which in total covers about 13,652 ha to nature reserve is in the final stages.

### **Wildlife Sector**

A number of strategies are in place for the integration of biodiversity in the wildlife sector. The major ones are:-

#### *Wildlife Policy (1998)*

Recognizing the plight of wildlife and the need to use wildlife to alleviate poverty amongst the rural people, the wildlife policy adopted strategies that integrate rural development with wildlife conservation and therefore, recognize the intrinsic value of wildlife to rural communities. Some of the strategies adopted by the policy are:-

- Establishing Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) on village land in order to affect Community-based Conservation (CBC);
- Adopting measures that bring equitable sharing of revenue from tourist hunting to the rural communities;
- Compelling licensed dealers in wildlife based products to employ workers from areas where wildlife utilization activities are conducted;
- Working in partnership with rural communities; and
- Initiating formation of Authorized associations for sustainable management of Wildlife outside core protected areas.

### **Fisheries Sector**

Tanzania has great potential of fishery resources in marine, lakes, rivers and dams. However, these sources are subjected to a number of environmental challenges including unsustainable fishing practices, coral reef destruction, mangrove destruction, unsustainable agriculture activities, and deterioration of water quality, sea level rise, and pollution, deterioration of water quality, decrease of oxygen levels in shallow waters, disappearance of certain fish species, water hyacinth infestation, wetland degradation, land degradation in catchments, and sedimentation.

In order to address these challenges, the Government in 2008 formulated a Strategy on Urgent Actions on the Conservation of Coastal Marine, Lakes, Rivers and Dams. The main object of this Strategy is to ensure conservation, to improve water quality, and the environment at large so that the resources in these areas are utilized in a sustainable way and hence contribution to the improvement of people's livelihood and poverty reduction.

Furthermore, the National Integrated Coastal Management Strategy (2003 -2013) provides a framework under the National Environmental Policy that links sectors at district level, and creates partnerships among them towards sustainable use of coastal resources and development. The goal of this Strategy is to conserve coastal resources for use by the people of today and succeeding generations, to ensure food security and to support economic growth.

### **Mining Sector**

Mining industry broadly impacts on environment by degrading the basic resources including biodiversity. Some measures taken by the mining sector in minimizing environmental impacts includes a requirement to conduct Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of small scale mining areas and requirement to prepare environmental management plan for everyone engaged in mining activities.

### **Implementation of Biodiversity-related Multilateral and Regional Environmental Agreements**

In recognition of the responsibilities in the conservation of the shared ecosystems, Tanzania has been cooperating with its neighbors in the conservation of the same. Further, Tanzania is a member to the Lusaka Agreement, which has an aim of combating illegal trade wildlife across the borders in the region. Tanzania also is signatory to other and global Conventions, notably the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), African-Eurasian Migratory Water Bird Agreement (AEWA), the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Tanzania is also a member of the East Africa Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management. The Protocol aims at developing and adopting common policies, laws and measures to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources.

### **Biodiversity related programmes and projects**

Tanzania has been implementing various programmes and projects that are geared towards conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components. Some of these programmes and projects include:-

#### **(a) Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme**

This Programme was implemented by three riparian states of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The overall objectives were:

- To maximize the sustainable benefits to riparian communities from using resources within the basin to generate food, employment and income, supply safe water, and sustain a disease-free environment;
- To conserve biodiversity and genetic resources for the benefit of the riparian communities and the global community; and
- To harmonize national management programmes in order to achieve to the maximum extent possible, the reversal of increasing environmental degradation.
- The programme had the following components: Fisheries development, Water hyacinth control, Land use and wetland management and Institutional Strengthening.

(b) Lake Tanganyika Biodiversity Project

This project focuses on pollution control and other measures to protect biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika. It is implemented by four countries namely Tanzania, Burundi, D. R. Congo and Zambia. The overall objective of this project is to create capacity in the four participating countries to manage the lake on a regional basis as a sound and sustainable environment.

(c) East African Cross-border Biodiversity Project

This was a cross border project involving Kenya Uganda and Tanzania. The overall objective was to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss resulting from human activities at the four cross-border sites and it has four components namely: To address biodiversity at decentralized community and district levels; To build regional linkages at cross border levels between communities as well at national level and to look at central government policy issues which influence the conservation of biodiversity at local levels.

(d) The Eastern Arc Mountain Conservation Programme

In recognition of biodiversity and water catchment values the Eastern Arc mountain forests, the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), in 2003 formulated a project "Conservation and Management of Eastern Arc mountain Forests"- CMEAMF, with the view "to develop and implement conservation strategies that ensure the sustainable conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountain forests, both for the conservation of forests and biodiversity.

(e) Marine and Coastal Environment Management Project (MACEMP)

This project covers 14 districts in Tanzania mainland and 6 regions in Zanzibar. The project among others, aims at conservation of marine and coastal environment in which biodiversity conservation is also addressed.

(f) Nile Transboundary-Environmental Action Project

The Nile Transboundary-Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is one of the projects in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). This project is implemented in collaboration with Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan. Among other things, the project aims at basin management as well as wetlands management in which biodiversity conservation issues are also addressed.

### **Overall assessment of the level of integration of Biodiversity**

#### **(a) Positive incentives for environmental management**

In order to enhance participation of the communities and private sector, the government has created incentives measures such as:

##### **(i) Presidential Award on Leadership and Excellency in Mining Activities**

The Presidential Award on Leadership and Excellency in Mining Activities is been awarded to mining company on recognition of its efforts in conserving the environment including biodiversity in its mining activities.

##### **(ii) Presidential Award on Conservation of Water Catchments, Tree Planting and Management**

The Presidential Award on Conservation of Water Catchments , Planting and Management of Tree aims at enhancing participation of the public and private sector in the conservation of the environment and water catchments in efforts to combat desertification and drought, loss of biodiversity which are major threats to the country.

##### **(iii) Establishment of Wildlife Management Areas**

Communities are encouraged to set aside areas for wildlife conservation and undertake different wildlife related enterprises for their- own benefits.

##### **(iv) Implementing Participatory Forest Management/Joint Forest Management**

Participatory Forest Management which is contained in the Forest Act, 2002 provide legal basis for communities to own, manage or co-manage forest under wide range of conditions, including benefits from the forest resources.