

## GTZ-Wildlife Programme Tanzania

Since 1987 the Federal Republic of Germany has supported the United Republic of Tanzania in the protection and sustainable use of wildlife. Natural resources conservation is one of three focal areas of development cooperation.

Main joint projects: Selous Conservation Programme; Saadani National Park; Katavi-Rukwa Conservation and Development Programme; Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor; Community Based Natural Resources Management; Wildlife Policy Advisory Services

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# Promoting Cross-border Co-operation in the Management of Natural Resources in Shared Ecosystems

- Serengeti-Maasai Mara Ecosystem Dialogue
- Greater Pangani Basin
- Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor

## Why transboundary Co-operation?

Ecosystems often straddle political boundaries, and activities in one country or jurisdiction can significantly affect neighbours. All over Africa ecosystem processes are disrupted by habitat fragmentation, blocked wildlife migrations, unnatural fire regimes and stabilized or reduced river flows. This threatens biodiversity and sustainable land management.

The harmonization of policies across national borders and collaboration in the management of shared ecosystems can reduce the threats and bring about multiple benefits.

### 1. Restoring ecological integrity and thereby promoting ecosystem resilience

The annual migration of more than a million animals between Kenya and Tanzania in the Serengeti Maasai-Mara Ecosystem is outstanding. Complementary policies of natural resources management and enforcement mechanisms in the two countries would contribute to long-term sustainability.

### 2. Sustainable and equitable use of land and water resources in a river basin

Transboundary river basin management is a potential engine of regional integration, economic growth and social development. Improved management of shared water resources contributes to poverty reduction, increases food security, maintains adequate domestic supplies and promotes industrial development amongst other benefits. It is also important for the protection of river basins and the environment.

### 3. Promoting peace and collaboration amongst neighbouring countries

A regional transboundary approach in managing natural resources leads to a greater understanding and acceptance of cultural and other differences. It promotes the sharing of resources and skills, builds partnerships and contributes to peace.



## Benefits beyond Boundaries

### Enhancing benefits by...

#### 1. Creating synergistic tourism opportunities

which bring additional revenue to assist conservation. Joint management and marketing strategies expand tourist opportunities and provide integrated tourism products, which make such areas more attractive as destinations. Cross-border movements, cultural ties and traditions can be supported, all of which have been disrupted by political borders imposed many years ago.

#### 2. Promoting socio-economic development in the region and improving rural livelihoods

Rural communities and broader civil society need to be integrated into the transboundary protected area development strategy to achieve optimal benefits for all stakeholders.



## Dialogue on the Serengeti – Maasai Mara Ecosystem

### A wildlife jewel of worldwide importance

The Serengeti–Maasai Mara Ecosystem (SMME) is one of the largest remaining natural ecosystems in Africa, covering approximately 25,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It offers unique concentrations of predators in the midst of migratory wildebeest and zebras, which freely criss-cross the Tanzania–Kenya border every year in search of food and water. The tourism potential of the spectacular movement of these animals is not yet fully realised, and further careful development would lead to employment and incomes and encourage economic growth. The eco-system resources currently support livelihoods through livestock production, small scale farming, firewood collection, tourism, subsistence and tourist hunting and fishing.

### The challenge

The SMME is currently under immense pressure, especially on the Kenyan side. Reasons for this include environmental degradation, like declining water tables in the Mara River basin, the uncontrolled expansion of unsustainable tourism development, changing land use, poaching and the bush meat trade. Law enforcement is weak, and border control and security issues remain unsolved.

### The background

SMME lies on the border of Tanzania and Kenya. The heart of the ecosystem is contained in the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. It supports nearly 1.5 million migratory wildebeest and zebra and has the world's greatest concentration of predators. SMME is part of the Lake Victoria Basin and three major rivers – the Mara, Grumeti and Simiyu – originate in and traverse the SMME before they empty their waters into the lake. It is a life support system for about one million pastoralists and agriculturalists. The landscape is punctuated with plains, kopjes, hills, craters and escarpments. It is supported ecologically by a patchwork of protected areas.



#### Tanzania

Serengeti National Park;  
Ngorongoro Conservation Area;  
Maswa and Ikorongo–Grumeti  
Game Reserves;  
Loliondo Game Controlled Area;  
Wildlife Management Areas

#### Kenya

Maasai Mara Game Reserve;  
other land under conservation like  
the Mara–Siria Development and  
Conservation Trust area in the  
adjacent Transmara and Narok  
districts

## The Concept of the Serengeti–Maasai Mara Ecosystem Dialogue

InWent and GTZ support the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka as the regional convener to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders from civil society and government agencies working at national and local level

### Being mindful that...

- the ecosystem transcends state boundaries
- activities or jurisdictions in one state affect environmental and social systems in the other
- cross border communities have seamless cultural interactions
- ecosystem resources support people's livelihoods...

...it becomes apparent that a need exists to establish and nurture a Serengeti–Maasai Mara Ecosystem Dialogue between and among inter–state stakeholders. The dialogue will:

- Develop a shared visionary responsibility on conserving and managing the ecosystem
- Articulate and harmonise policies and legislation that underpin the socio-economic and ecological sustainability of the system
- Share benefits accrued from conservation and management of joint ecosystem resources
- Foster regional cooperation
- Promote rational management and sustainability of the ecosystem resources for the people of the region



The dialogue seeks to establish a regional initiative on the conservation and management of the SMME with focus on the following:

### Biodiversity conservation

- Conserve and manage a regional ecosystem that benefits wildlife by facilitating natural ecological processes to function with minimal impediment
- Develop and secure effective water catchments

### Socio-economic

- Facilitate a conducive environment for poverty alleviation
- Develop shared management and marketing strategies for expanding the regional tourism industry
- Promote non-tourism economic opportunities

### Peace and cooperation

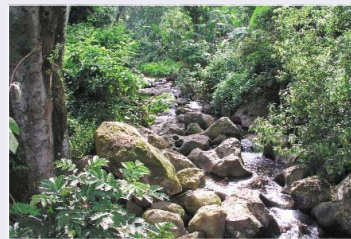
- Establish a regional transboundary approach in managing natural resources, which leads to collaboration between partner states, institutions and civil societies
- Promote sharing of regional resources and skills
- Build a partnership between stakeholders

## The "Greater Pangani Basin" Cross-border Dialogue

This is a joint initiative of Pangani River Basin Office (Tanzania), Coast Development Authority (Kenya), PAMOJA Trust, supported by the GTZ Water Sector Reform Programme and InWEnt. Focal areas are Lakes Jipe and Chala and the Umba River.

### Goal

To support river basin and regional development organisations in dealing with water resource management issues in a river basin, a lake basin or across borders. Their functions vary from water allocation, land and water resource management and planning to educating local users. The development of natural resource management strategies and programmes to improve degraded land and waterways is also among their duties. They play a vital role in consensus building, conflict management over land use issues and water dispute resolution.



### Major stakeholders

- National ministries
- Regional water resources authorities
- Local governments
- Local people and water users

### Supporting institutions to enhance the dialogue

- PAMOJA Trust at Moshi facilitates and coordinates the dialogue with regional water authorities
- InWEnt supports the "Cross-border Dialogue" process
- GTZ Water Programme in Tanzania provides technical advice and support
- IUCN Regional Office East Africa in charge of a water research programme



### Issues at stake

- Decreasing water levels in Lake Jipe
- Decreasing flow into the Nyumba ya Mungu reservoir and its national importance for hydro-power energy
- Declining fishing yields; water transport
- Groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment and toxicant retention
- Seasonal droughts
- Recreation and tourism
- Poor practices in irrigated agriculture
- Uncontrolled waste disposal and water pollution
- Unsustainable land use, land degradation and poor watershed management

### Necessary action

- Research: hydrological data, aquatic biodiversity
- Management: develop a master plan for an integrated natural resource and environmental management process
- Policy: on shared natural resources in the context of the East African Community
- Coordination and dialogue: fostering institutional collaboration at regional, national and local levels
- Socio-economic: ensuring that all groups of people benefit from land and water resource uses





## The Selous–Niassa Wildlife Corridor

The Selous – Niassa miombo woodland ecosystem covers 150,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends across southern Tanzania into neighbouring Mozambique. Two thirds of the area is protected through

- **the Selous Game Reserve,**

which at about 48,000 km<sup>2</sup> is Africa's largest single protected area. It is also the oldest, dating back to 1896 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and

- **the Niassa Game Reserve,**

Mozambique's largest conservation area covering 42,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Together these reserves constitute the world's largest elephant range and are home of some of Africa's most important populations of buffaloes, sable antelopes, lions, leopards, wild dogs and other wildlife.

### The challenge

The setting up of the corridor would close a critical gap that stretches for about 160 km between the southern border of Selous Game Reserve and the river Ruvuma which forms the northern boundary of Niassa Game Reserve. The area of the corridor, which is so far unprotected, is all within Tanzania, and provides a significant biological and genetic link. Currently there are serious man-made threats to the continued existence of this expanse of miombo woodland. If left unattended, they will create barriers in this important link. The main conservation approach would be through community based natural resources management, practised in a network of village Wildlife Management Areas.



## Background and Future

**For 18 years Tanzania and Germany have worked together to conserve and manage natural resources in the Selous and its buffer zones. A wide range of German and other development agencies take part in this cooperation.**

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) supports "Community Based Conservation" for poverty reduction and as a means of developing a buffer-zone in the South of the Selous Game Reserve. In cooperation with local and district authorities 26 villages are about to register three wildlife management areas with approximately 9,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- In order to obtain a sound scientific foundation three years of research on elephant migration was carried out by the Wildlife Division, the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute, the Institute for Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research of Berlin and GTZ. The results of the project confirmed genetic exchange and the existence of migration routes for elephants and other mammals between the game reserves.
- A project to initiate the conservation of the corridor started in 2005. This will involve UNDP/Global Environmental Facility, the Wildlife Division and GTZ-International Services.
- A technical advisor from the German Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) is embedded in the district administration.
- InWEnt has supported these processes over the years with training programmes for managers and planners and facilitated a transboundary dialogue on conservation and development together with the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka.
- An environmental baseline study and pre-feasibility study for development and conservation along the Ruvuma interface was prepared in cooperation with the "Mtwara Development Corridor", a joint initiative by Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa.
- The German Government has provided a major grant for the corridor through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau.

With increasing dialogue and cross border co-operation this area could well develop into one of the world's largest transfrontier conservation areas contributing to conservation, poverty reduction and peace.



## Selected Results from InWEnt TBPA-Workshops 2002-2004

### Discussion themes

- Institutional frameworks for cross-border management of Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA)
- Participation of rural communities and their concerns
- International legal aspects
- Security issues in planning and managing TBPA
- Regional opportunities for TBPA; eco-system management; funding and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation of social, economic and ecological trends

### Key lessons learnt

- Develop an effective institutional framework that engages all relevant stakeholders
- Ensure that joint management of the TBPA is achieved
- Involve local communities early in the planning process and sustain participation
- TBPA is successful if clear socio-economic benefits are associated with its development
- Lobby for and secure sufficient funding for implementation and management of TBPA
- Implement processes and measures to achieve sustained good relations between main partners



### Conclusions

- It is necessary to proceed in small incremental steps but with tangible results within a two year time frame. The dialogue should initially focus on critical aspects of "shared ecosystem management" that currently threaten the integrity of the whole ecosystem. It should seek to achieve concrete interventions from key stakeholders.
- The institutional framework and clarification of stakeholder mandates in the dialogue needs further attention. At this initial stage, the dialogue is seen as an open forum.
- A long-term perspective is to build a negotiation platform for the development of regional strategies towards sustainable management of shared resources and ecological processes.

## InWEnt – Environment, Natural Resources and Food

InWEnt - Capacity Building International, Germany - is engaged in organisational development and institutional strengthening. Its shareholders are the German Government, the German Federal States and private sector bodies. InWEnt enables people to initiate and shape sustainable development in their countries, economies and civil societies - by policy dialogue, professional training and networking as well as intercultural learning experiences.

InWEnt's Environment, Natural Resources and Food Department has three divisions based in Berlin, Leipzig-Zschortau and Feldafing covering the following subjects: environment; energy and climate protection; global water resources; natural resources and biodiversity; rural development; food and consumer protection; disaster prevention; development management.

The Natural Resources and Biodiversity Division in Leipzig-Zschortau focuses, amongst other areas, on resources policy, regional resources and ecosystem management. In Southern and Eastern Africa the division has been working since 1994 towards the establishment of partnerships between nations, institutions and the civil sector, assisting in policy development and capacity building. In 2005 the capacity building programme TRANSNET is being launched: transboundary and sustainable management of natural resources for regional integration and rural development in the SADC and EAC regions.

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