Country Profile: **Tanzania**

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OVERVIEW

Project Title: Combating Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Tanzania through an Integrated Approach

Project Sites: Katavi, Selous, and the Greater Ruaha Ecosystem

Species Focus: Elephants, rhinos, lions, cheetahs, leopards

Total Project Cost: $5.4 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) – Wildlife Division (WD)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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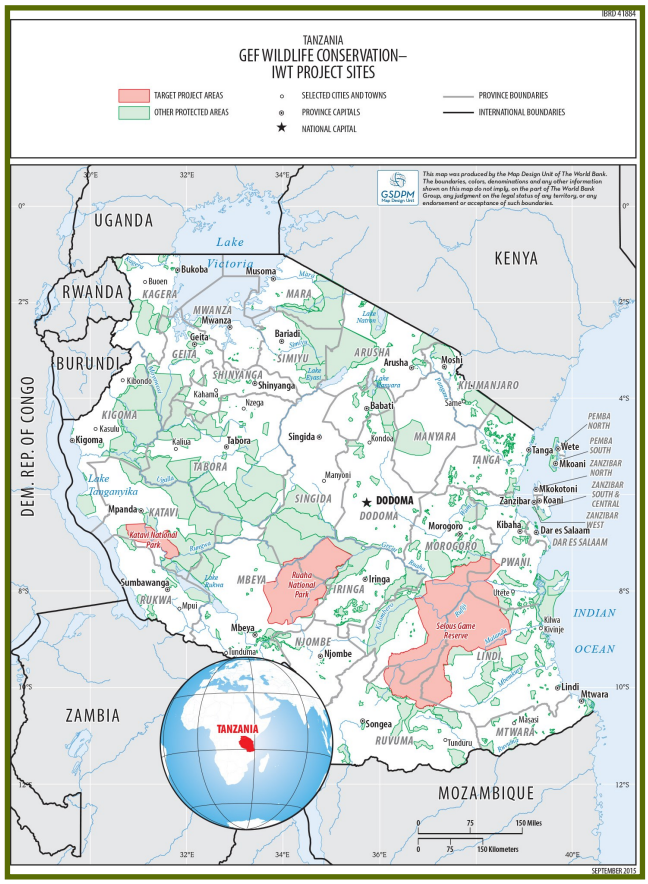

CONTEXT

Tanzania is a major repository of globally significant biodiversity, ranking amongst the top countries in tropical Africa in terms of the number of distinct eco-regions represented and in species richness. Tanzania's 651 protected areas cover approximately 30% of the land area. Tanzania's wildlife is critical to its economy as nature-based tourism accounts for a significant share of GDP and is essential to the socio-economic development of rural communities. Tanzania holds approximately 73% of Eastern Africa's elephant population. This important population has been significantly diminished in the last five years, due to poaching and the illegal ivory trade. The Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) estimated that based on the recent surge of poaching, Tanzania's elephant population may become extinct within seven years if current rates of decline continue. Human wildlife conflict are also a critical issue in Tanzania.

To tackle these issues, Tanzania established a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP), a National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), and a "National Strategy to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade" in 2014 which is the basis for current interventions. Formal implementation of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) began in 2003 and at the London IWT Declaration in March 2014, Tanzania became a signatory to meet the aims of the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI).

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Tanzania project aims to combat poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in Tanzania through an integrated approach. The project components are:

1. Strengthening capacity for effective biodiversity management and addressing illegal wildlife trade
2. Reducing poaching and illegal trade of threatened species in targeted landscapes
3. Improving rural livelihoods through enhanced community based management of natural resources for sustainable socio-economic development

See the World Bank website for more information: ***Global Wildlife Program***