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Letting Migrants Speak For Themselves:

Voices From Tanzania

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Overview

1. Background to this study:

Kagera Health and Development Survey (1991-2010)
Destination Choice: Secondary Town vs. City

2. A Life History Approach

- *Migration is a 'system' with complex internal dynamics.*
- *Migration is a longterm process, not a one-time 'act'*
- *Aspirations matter and differ*

3. Secondary Town Development

4. Conclusion

Kagera Health and Development Survey

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Baseline in 1991-1994: 915 households, representative of the region

Follow-up rounds in 2004 and 2010 that aim to track every household member from the baseline survey, including those who split and those who migrated.

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Baseline household

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Follow-up household

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KHDS Baseline = 1991-1994

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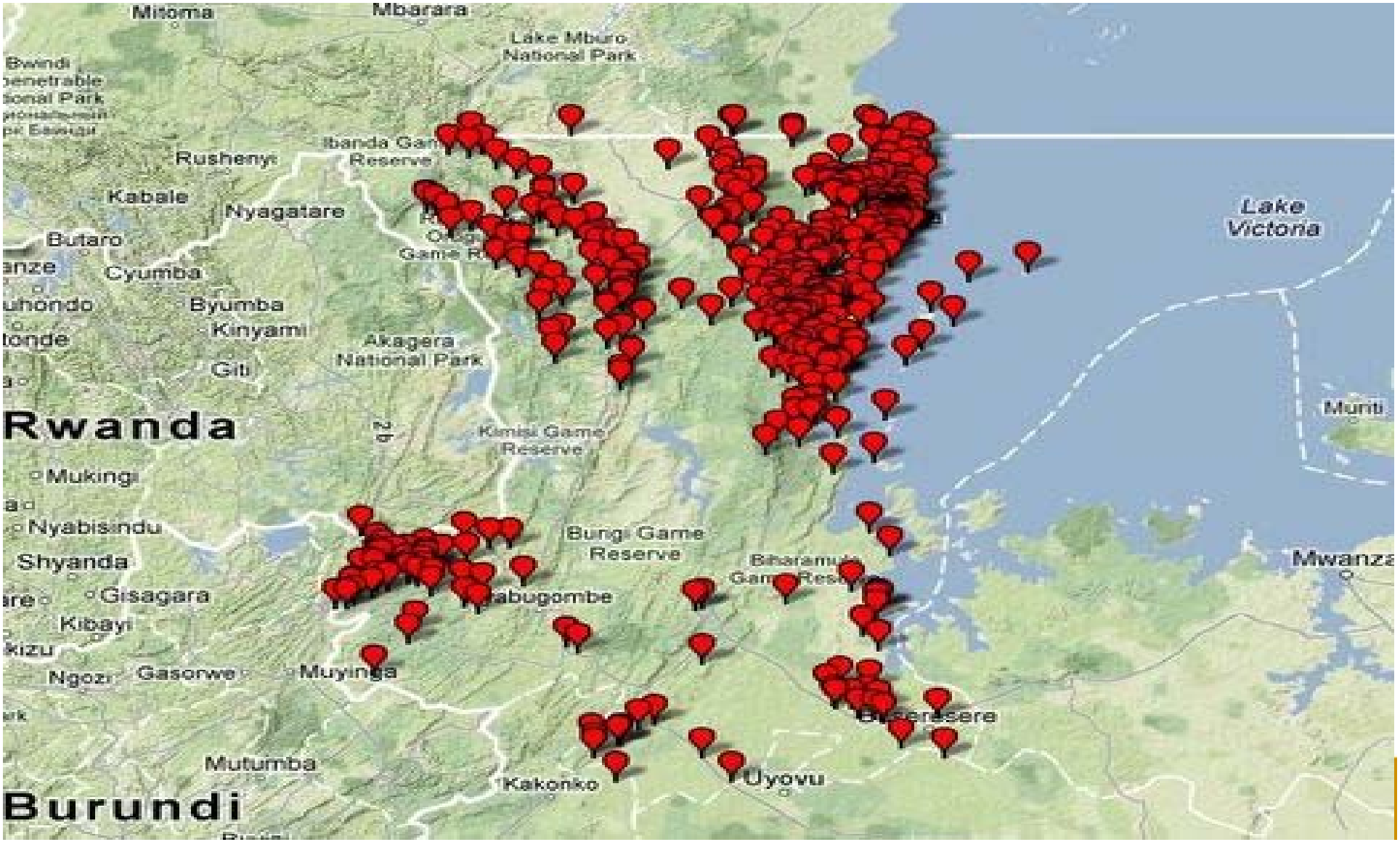
2010: Kagera



2010: Other regions & Uganda

Towns vs. Cities

- Should Tanzania invest in secondary town development or should it invest in larger cities?

  - Rural-urban migration -> our current focus, through analysis of the determinants of destination choice

Destination Choice

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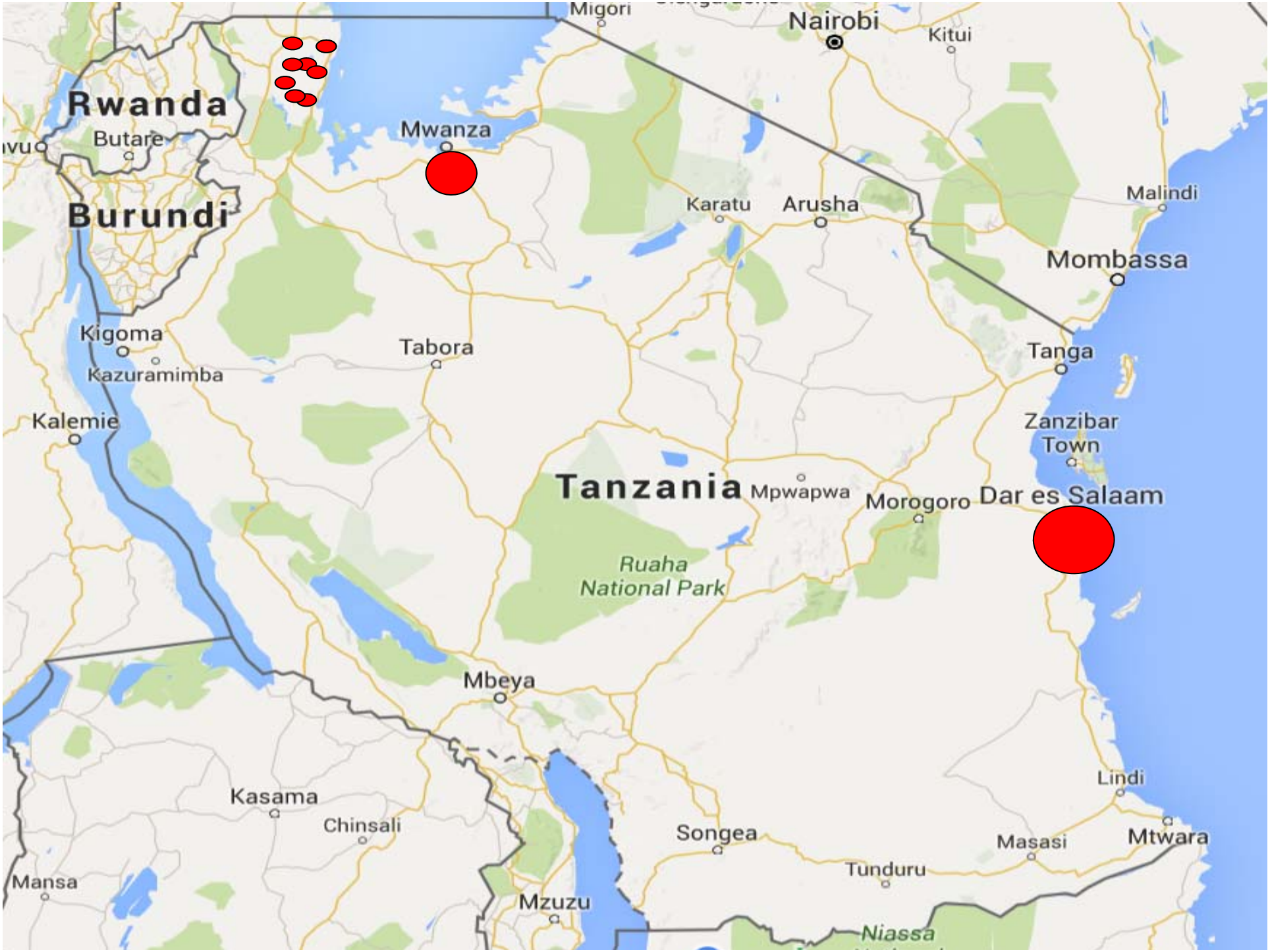
On-going research: destination choice

- 75 life histories with sampled KHDS respondents: towns vs. cities

- *Future work: link back to the KHDS data for mixed methods work*


Migori
Nairobi
Kitui
Rwanda
Butare
Mwanza
Burundi
Karatu
Arusha
Malindi
Mombassa
Kigoma
Kazuramimba
Tabora
Tanga
Kalemie
Zanzibar
Town
Tanzania
Mpwapwa
Morogoro
Dar es Salaam
Ruaha
National Park
Mbeya
Kasama
Chinsali
Songea
Lindi
Masasi
Mtwara
Tunduru
Mansa
Mzuzu
Niassa

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Two Examples

Hector

- 1991
- Bugandika
- 3 Migration 'Stops' *(2009 onwards)*
- 4 Ways of Making a Living *(2009 onwards)*
  - Currently: Bukoba
  - Motorcycle Taxi Operator

Anna

- 1979
- Bugandika
- 5 Migration 'Stops' *(1999 onwards)*
- 6 Ways of Making a Living *(2001 onwards)*
  - Currently: Dar-Es-Salaam
  - Waitress

What's on a migrant's mind?

"decided to move" - Results Preview - Results Preview

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Migrants tell their story
(Decision-Making: Town vs. City)

- Migration is a ‘system’ with complex internal dynamics
- Migration is a longterm process, not a one-time ‘act’
- Aspirations matter and differ

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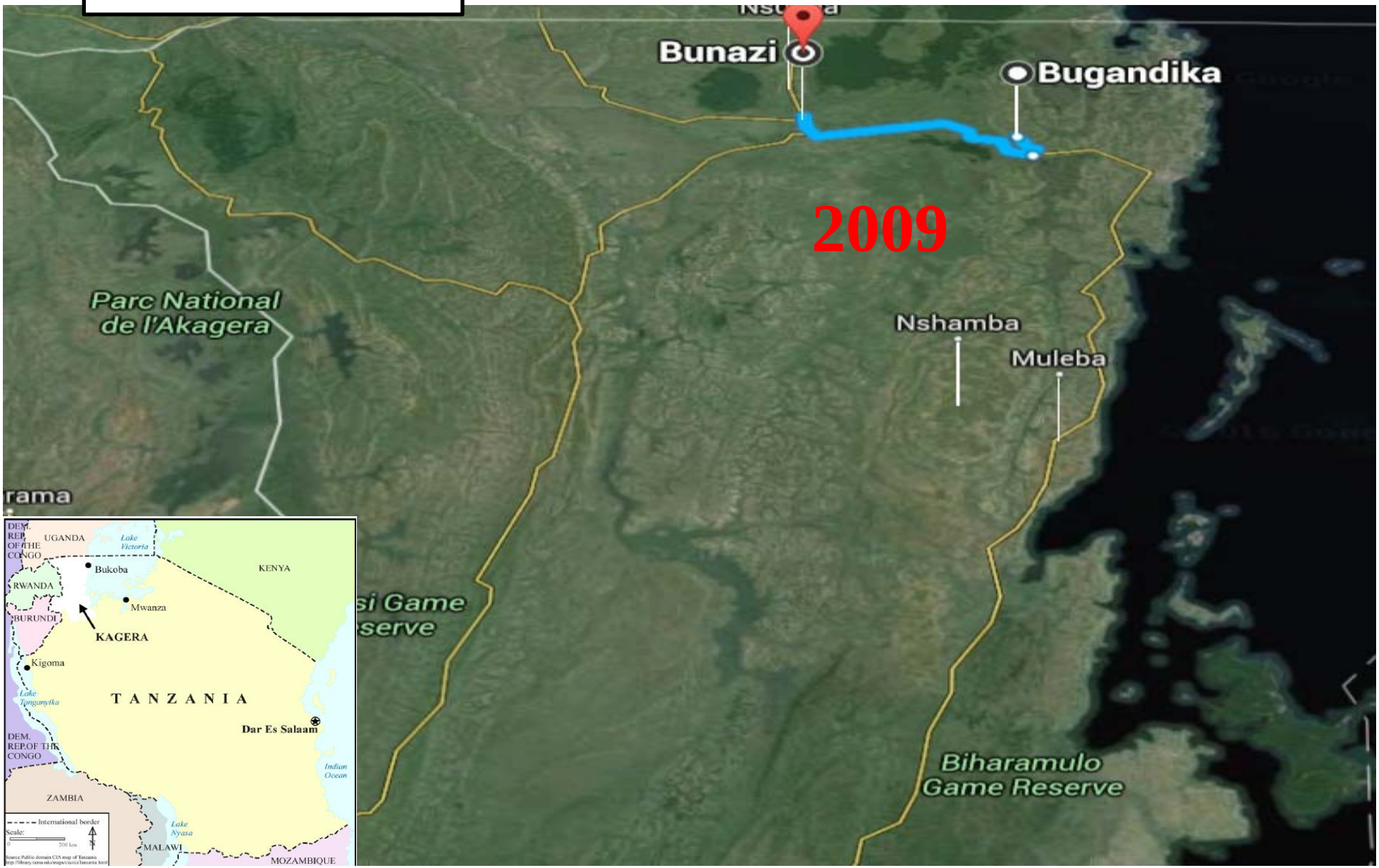

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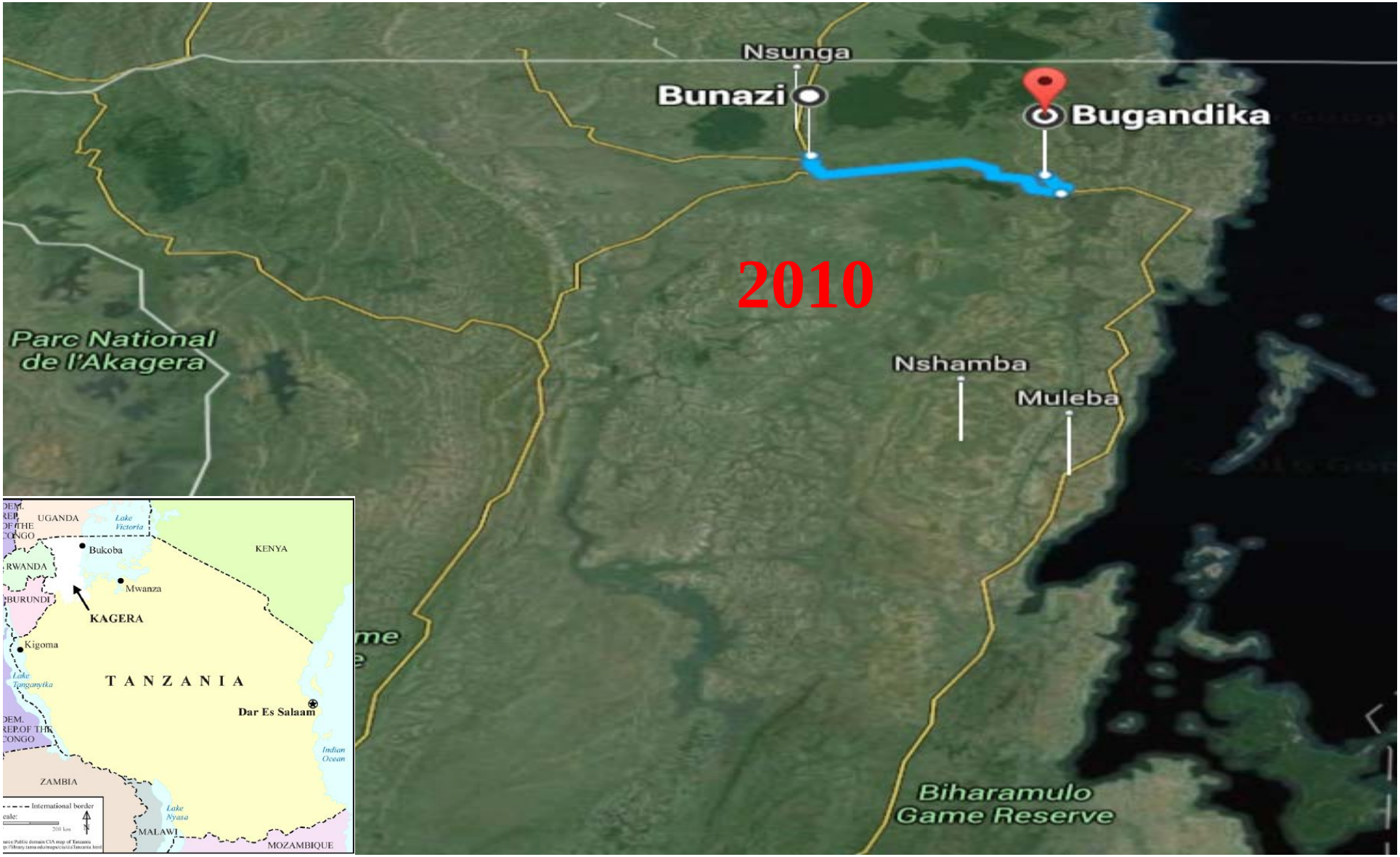

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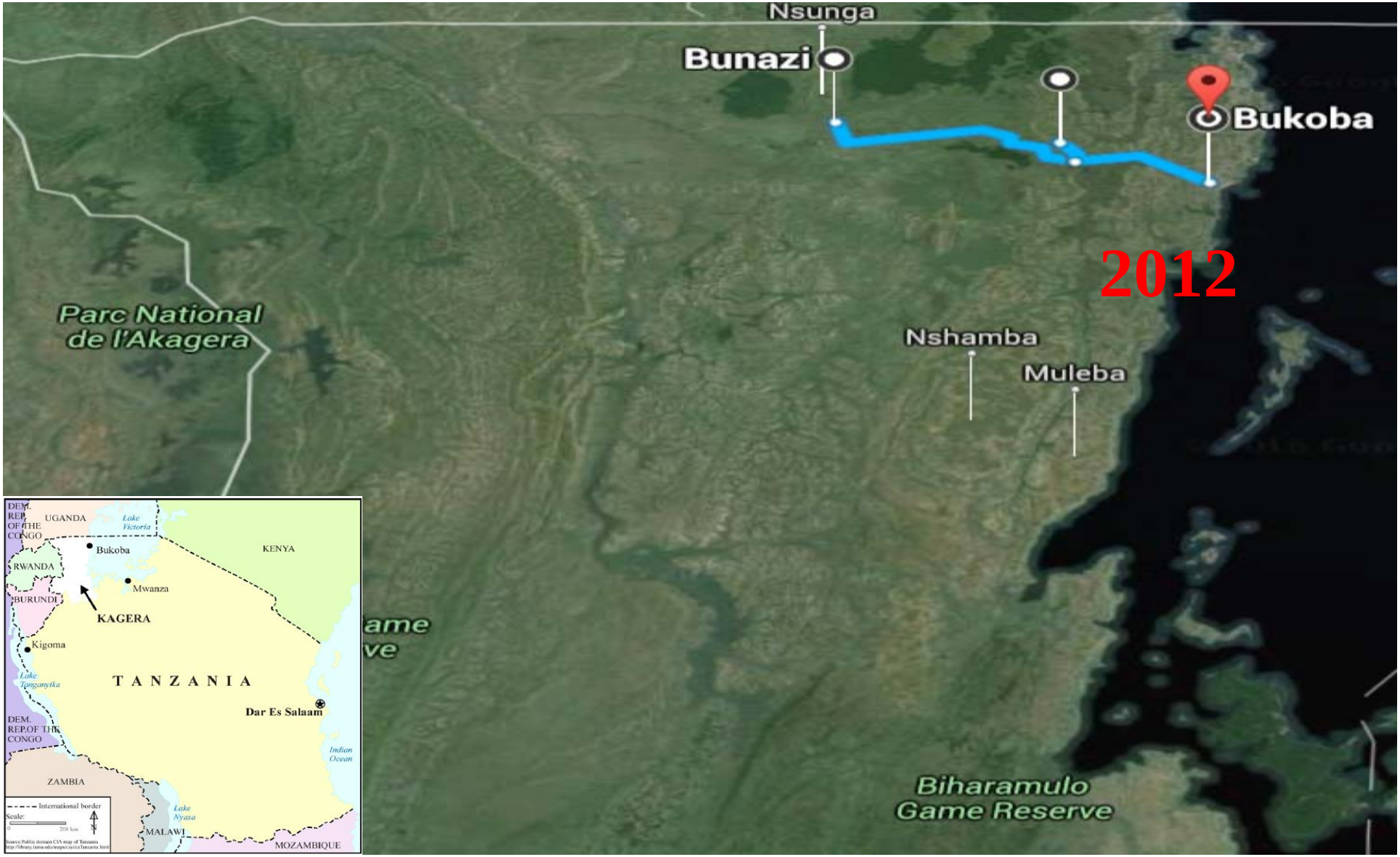

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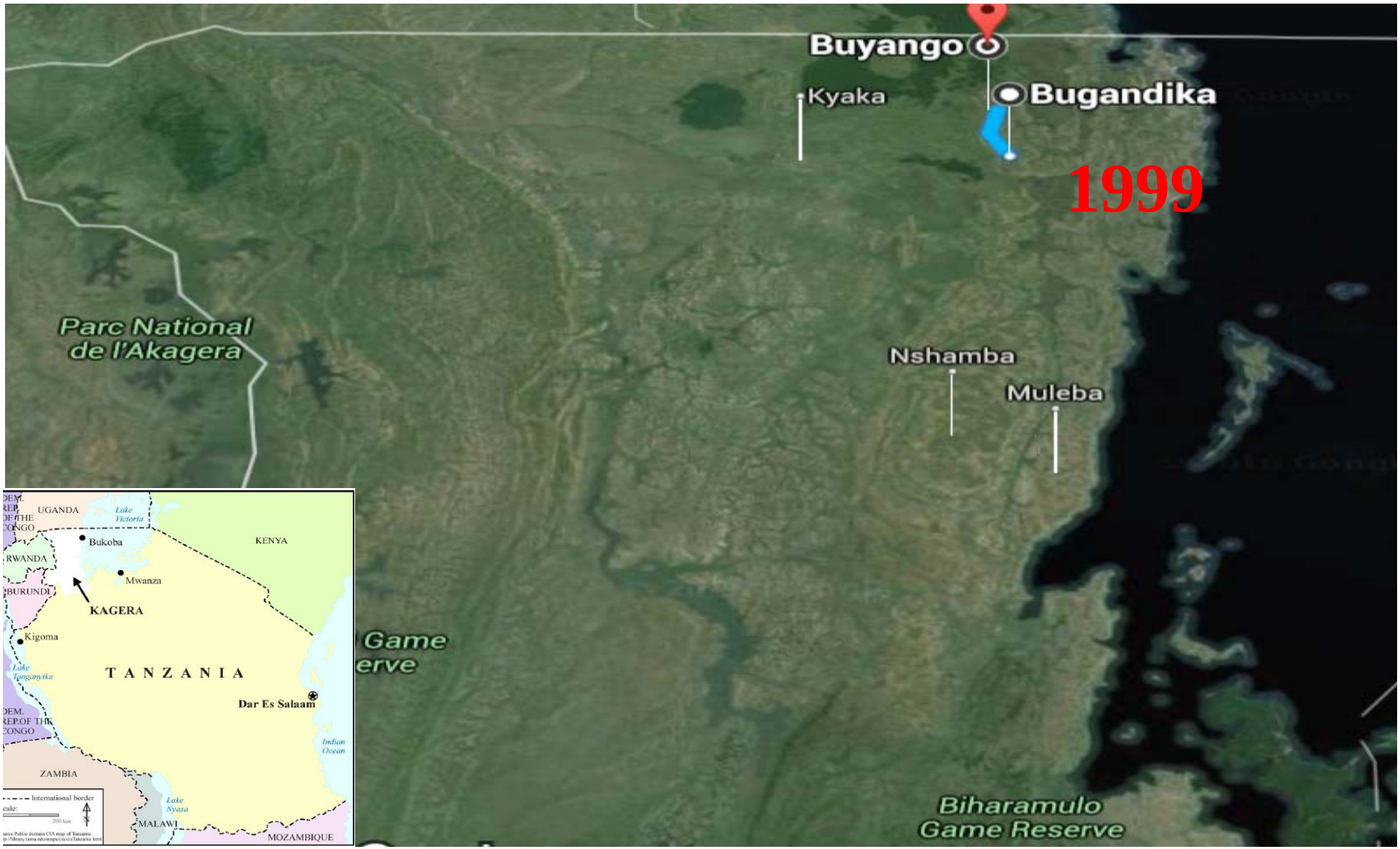

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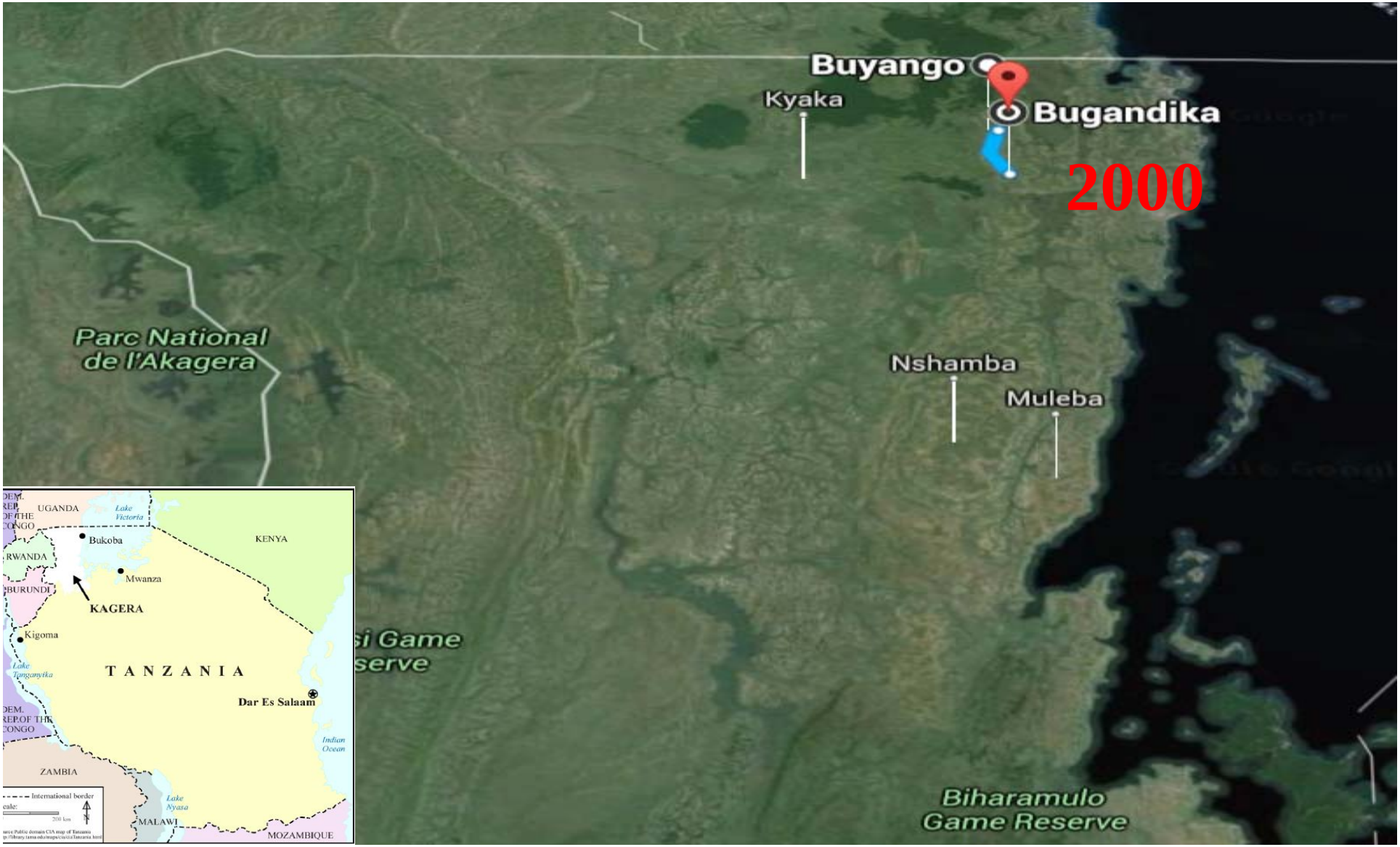

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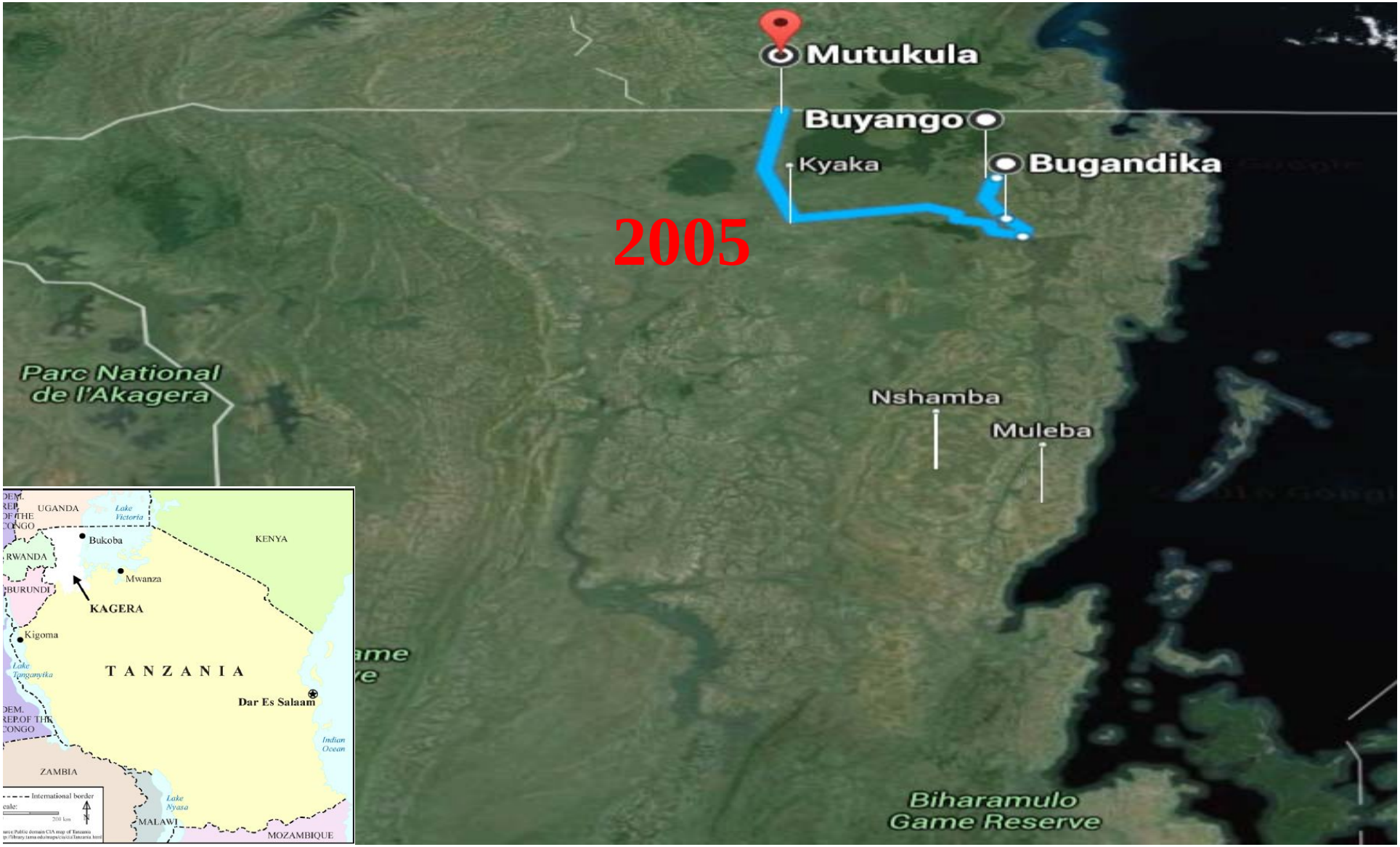

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Migration is a process, not a one-time 'act'

- Progressively expanding 'action space'

- Varieties of 'action spaces'

- The rural as 'a refuge' / back-up option

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Migrants tell their story
(Decision-Making: Town vs. City)

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- *Aspirations matter and differ*

HECTOR

Aspirations matter and differ

- (Interviewer) What dreams do you have for the future?
- (Respondent) Which dreams?
- (Interviewer) Where do you want to be tomorrow and on wards? How will [Hector] be in the next five to ten years? Which life do you desire to have?
- (Respondent) Just a normal life.

[…]

- (Respondent) I expect that, if God wishes me to get to that time, my life will have at least gone up.
- (Interviewer) How will your life be?
- (Respondent) Neither very rich nor poor but an average life.

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- (Interviewer) OK, and what are your dreams for the future?
- (Respondent) I think on having my own business; I do not want to work for someone else, I want to be the boss of my own life.
- (Interviewer) So you want to be self employed?
- (Respondent) Yes, starting some business so that I can work on my own to realise my dreams, because I want my kids to go to school.
- (Interviewer) Also you want your kids to continue with further studies?
- (Respondent) Yes, I do not want them to experience or pass through where I came from; I want them to study hard for better life, and education is everything I can offer to my kids.
- (Interviewer) OK, do you think you will realise these dreams?
- (Respondent) Yes.
- (Interviewer) How, what strategies will you employ to take realize your dreams?
- (Respondent) My plan in two to three years I will have my own business, and I am sure if I work hard in my own business I must achieve my dreams. What matters is perseverance and working very hard.

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City

Aspirations matter and differ

- (Interviewer) What are your dreams for the future?
- (Respondent) May be working hard to better my life.
- (Interviewer) What kind of better life?
- (Respondent) If I could at least add some more rooms, get transport [car] and also my children feeling that they are in Dar es Salaam.
- (Interviewer) Do you think you will realize these dreams?
- (Respondent) There is a possibility if life is there.
- (Interviewer) How are you planning to realize them?
- (Respondent) With my business that I will have started.
- (Interviewer) Like the ones of agriculture and poultry keeping?
- (Respondent) Yes.

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Town

Aspirations matter and differ

- (Interviewer) What dreams do you have for the future; you had started talking about these dreams. What dreams do you have for the future?
- (Respondent) Dreams for doing what?
- (Interviewer) As you normally hear people with dreams. For you what dreams do you have for the future? How will your plans be; what do you think like becoming?
- (Respondent) OK, the dreams I have in my mind. I have a dream that in future if our business prospers and God blesses us our children will successfully complete their studies; we will build a good house and live a good life.
- (Interviewer) So you have a dream of building a house, right?
- (Respondent) Yes.
- (Interviewer) Do you think your dream will come true?
- (Respondent) I am not certain of that because all those are God's plans.

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Secondary Town Migrants

- Less aspirations
- Less concrete objectives
- No clear strategies to reach them
- Locus of control = outside

City Migrants

- More aspiring
- Concrete objectives
- Clear strategies to reach them
- Locus of control = inside

❖ *Do migrants in secondary towns have less aspirations because they are in secondary towns or are they (did they migrate to) (in) secondary towns because they have less aspirations?*

Secondary Town Development

Eg: *"What needs to happen for you to go back to Kagera Region?"*

- (Respondent) There should be electricity, water and liveliness in business.
- (Interviewer) What causes the liveliness in business?
- (Respondent) Electricity and water.
- (Interviewer) How does electricity and water trigger business?
- (Respondent) I don't think a business can be lively without electricity.
- (Interviewer) Do you think that water is used in factories or what?
- (Respondent) Exactly.
- (Interviewer) So you mean that Dar es Salaam is lively because of having factories?
- (Respondent) Yes.
- (Interviewer) Is that what you can advise the government to install more factories there?
- (Respondent) Yes.

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Secondary Town Development

Eg: *"What needs to happen for you to go back to Kagera Region?"*

- (Respondent) They should improve the infrastructure.
- (Interviewer) What kind of infrastructures need to be improved on?
- (Respondent) Roads, installation of electricity, hospitals and schools.
- (Interviewer) What else?
- (Respondent) Construction of factories since they will provide job opportunities.
- (Interviewer) What else?
- (Respondent) Processing industries for the crops grown within the region.
- (Interviewer) How can the processing industries, non-governmental organizations, hospitals, and schools attract you to go to Bukoba?
- (Respondent) Once those things are put in place, there can be opportunities of starting up businesses that can…

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- (Respondent) It will be brought about if the government constructed industries in every district just as the honourables promised.
- (Interviewer) Apart from investment in industries?
- (Respondent) What will people be doing if there is no employment? The towns will not be growing.
- (Interviewer) Fine industry should be constructed, what else should be done?
- (Respondent) Infrastructure like electricity because most people are attracted by electricity and you will find that many commercial houses are constructed and once the number of people increases, I might also be attracted to go there.

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Eg: *"What needs to happen for you to go back to Kagera Region?"*

- Amenities-infrastructure to 'trigger' and 'drive' business-industry or *as such*
- Invest in / open industries
- Develop 'markets'
- Decentralize government offices / activities

Concluding remarks

When migrants speak …

…. we see a detailed path in time through space with multiple 'stages'

… we notice that aspirations differ and might matter

Maybe this invites us to …

… verify hypotheses?

… consider additional dimensions to be measured / taken into account?

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THANK YOU