

Policy Brief

Towards Tanzania Development Vision 2050

Recommendations from Nature Conservation Stakeholders on setting clear aspirations and targets on the Tanzania National Development Vision 2050.



Why it is critical to consider Nature Conservation in Tanzania National Development Vision 2050

Economic development activities without proper planning will not attract sustainable development as it will lead to environmental degradation and pollution. Degraded and polluted environment will not provide a suitable habitat for people and other living creatures as well as threatening food security and impacting people's livelihood.

Background

Recently, the government has initiated the process of developing the National Development Vision 2050 (NDV 2050). Civil society organizations and private sectors working on nature conservation played a critical role in the implementation of the vision ending 2025 (NDV 2025) and it is in this background that stakeholders urge the government to prioritize nature conservation in the development of vision 2050. It is with no doubt that the country benefited from the social and economic transformation resulting from the implementation of the development vision 2025, and as Tanzania is endowed with vast natural resources with exceptional biodiversity richness and a wide array of ecosystems, wildlife, and plant with over [55,000](#) confirmed species, forest cover of about 48Mh equals [55%](#) of the total land area, we believe these natural capital contributed significantly in the social and economic transformation of Tanzania society .

However, stakeholders noticed inadequate inclusion of nature conservation in the vision 2025 and the environmental cost associated with the transformation of the social economy towards livelihood improvement. Therefore, conservation stakeholders and civil society organizations are eager to submit recommendations to the Planning Commission, and it is our hope that the coming NDV 2050 will mainstream nature conservation for Tanzania's long-term economic prosperity.

Justification of the Importance of Nature Conservation

1. Economic importance of Nature conservation

1.1. Source of Revenue and Employment through Tourism

Nature conservation is critical to the national economy as it contributes about 21% of the total GDP. Nature-based tourism contributes 25% of foreign currency and provides about 1.6 million direct employments. In terms of forest resources, it contributes 3.3% of national GDP, 5.9% of foreign trade and contributes 4% of employment. (MNRT, 2022)

1.2. Food Security

Agriculture serves as the backbone of Tanzania's economy, contributing approximately 26.9% to the country's total GDP and employing roughly 65% of the population, particularly those in rural areas. It plays a vital role in addressing key societal issues such as food security, unemployment, and the supply of raw materials, while also offering avenues for economic development (URT) 2021). Moreover, Tanzania ranks second in Africa, following Ethiopia, in terms of its vast livestock population, boasting an estimated 33.9 million cattle, 24.5 million goats, and 8.5 million sheep (URT 2021).

However, it's important to acknowledge the potential threat posed by unsustainable agricultural practices and farming systems to conservation efforts. Tanzania's population is projected to grow to 79 million by 2030 and 135 million by 2050 (FAO, 2018). Currently, food demand in Tanzania is approximately 16.39 million tonnes in 2023/24 with the population of approximately 60 Million people where by the demand is projected to be around 40 million tonnes by 2050 if the population will be 135 million. Therefore, there is a pressing need to balance agricultural expansion with nature conservation to ensure sustainable future food production to feed the growing population.

1.3 Energy Sources

About 90% of Tanzania's electric power is from water sources whereby forest contributes significantly in water sources conservation.

2. Ecological Importance of Nature Conservation

Tanzania is one of the mega-biodiversity rich countries in the world, the country hosts 6 out of 25 globally known biodiversity hotspots. Tanzania is known with highest endemic as well as threatened species. Additionally, the country has about one third of total plant species in Africa and 12th globally in terms of bird species and a home of about 20% of Africa's large mammals. According to the wildlife economy investment index report ([ALU 2023](#)) analyzing wildlife economy status in Africa, Tanzania is ranked 1st in wildlife Assets, 1st in species richness, 3rd in endemic Species richness and 4th in protected Areas.

2.1 Conservation of water sources

Water is the basic requirement for life on earth. Tanzania's total area is 947,300km² of which 61,500km² is covered by inland water. However, due to environmental degradation, availability of freshwater is threatened at the level that it is now considered as a matter of national security.

Environmental Challenges

Habitat loss



Highly degraded land (URT 2022)



Degraded grazing land Monduli (URT 2022)



Deforested areas due to forest production (URT 2022)

Climate change



Maize crop affected by extreme drought (URT 2022)

Current Status

Deforestation: Tanzania is among countries with high deforestation rates in the world. It ranks among the top five countries with the annual estimates of forest loss of 483,859 ha which is equivalent to 1% per year ([URT 2022](#)).

If the situation remains as business as usual, by 2050 approximately 30 million hectares of forest will be converted to agricultural land. Considering that Tanzania had a total of around 24 Mha of forest cover in 2010, as per the trend above by 2050 we will lose all of our forest cover if urgent actions will not be taken

Land degradation: The extent of land degradation has increased from [42%](#) in 1980 to [80%](#) in 2018. If urgent action is not taken, by 2050 the whole of the country will be degraded and food crops will not grow, hence a risk of serious food security.

Deteriorations of water sources: Lakes, rivers and wetlands are at risk of disappearing due to sedimentation. For example, the original size of lake Jipe has been reduced from [108.72 Km²](#) in 2005 to [30 Km²](#) in [2022](#) and if urgent action is not taken, by 2050 the lake will disappear with drastic effect to the whole of Mkomazi ecosystem.

Most wetlands in the country have been encroached and badly degraded and if no urgent actions taken, by 2050, species dependent on water including those in National parks will be distinct, there will be no water for human use and dams which produce hydroelectric power will dry up.

Like other countries, Tanzania is experiencing climate impacts with increasing temperature trends, extreme precipitation that cause flooding and extreme droughts.

According to ([URT 2022](#)) Southern highlands and central Tanzania will warm by more than 2. C by 2041. This is above the tolerable global warming level of less than 1.5 C

Drivers

The main driver for deforestation in Tanzania is high dependence on biomass as a source of energy whereby energy is harvested from biomass.

Agricultural land expansion is another major driver whereby between 2008-2020, the area under cultivation increased from 8,267,544- 17,496,984ha equals to - 111% (URT 2022). Overgrazing, pollution and climate change, invasive species and wildfires are also critical drivers of habitat loss



Emissions of Greenhouse Gases mostly from industries, burning of charcoal, fire-wood and Fossil fuels is the main driver of climate change.

However, According to the NBS [report](#) of 2019, Tanzania has negligible emissions levels of GHGs in terms of



Infrastructures affected by floods (URT)

Human wildlife conflicts



Elephant killed Near Mikumi NP (URT 2022)



IPCC has already warned that an increase in global warming above 1.5 C will attract grave consequences including [8%](#) of vertebrate species and [16%](#) plant species will be distinct as well as decline of crop production for [7%](#). This will be associated with other natural disasters by which its loss and damage cannot be imagined.

As per government [report](#) indicates that between 2012-2019 conflicts between human and wildlife cost the lives of 1,069 people, destroyed 41,404 hectares of crops, and Government consolation to victims worth 4.6 billion and specifically for [2022/2023](#) 1.1 billions has been provided as consolation. As a result of retaliation, villagers killed around 792 wild animals in the same time. In recent years, the situation is becoming worse due to human and climate factors.

If we will continue with business as usual, as per above trends we expect that by 2050, approximately 45,000 people will lose their life, around 150,000 hectares of crops will be destroyed, more than 50 billion will be paid as consolation and more than 200 endangered species will be killed as retaliations.

total and per capita whereby per capita emissions are estimated at 0.2 tCO₂e; Considering that major emissions is from unclean energy source, actions is required to transform energy sector in the way that reduces emissions

Human population growth, agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, climate change and habitat loss as well as corridor blockage are the major drivers of human wildlife conflicts



Road killing in Mikumi (URT 2022)

Pollutions



Solid wastes spread in the street (URT 2022)

The forms of pollution experienced countrywide include water pollution, chemical pollution, solid waste pollution as well as air pollution. According to government reports ([URT 2022](#)), [80%](#) of solid wastes at Local Government Authorities in Tanzania is mismanaged ending up polluting land and water sources.

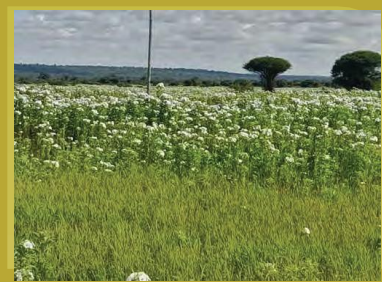
Focusing on plastic pollution for example, over 70% of the waste littered in the Indian Ocean in the coast of Dar es Salaam is plastic. Over 90% of solid waste generated in urban areas are not properly disposed of and hence contribute to pollution of the water sources both underground and surface water ([URT 2022](#)). If we continue with business as usual, by 2050, all water bodies as well as agricultural land will be full of plastics hence will lose its economic value.

Main causes of pollution in Tanzania includes, improper disposal of Industrial, Municipal, mining, agriculture, transport, recreational and health wastes.



Industrial emission in Dar es salaam (URT 2022)

Invasive alien species



Invasive species in Kongwa Dodoma (URT 2022)

According to (URT 2022), Tanzania has a total of 220 invasive species. Invasive species causing loss of grazing land for livestock and wildlife, loss of agricultural land as well and biodiversity loss.

Invasive species are spreading very rapidly. In 2022, 57% of Kongwa District, famous for maize production, was already occupied by invasive species

Human and animal movements from one place to another as well as climate change.



Invasive species in Ngorongoro (URT 2022)



The president of Tanzania (Previously VP) taking action on invasive species in 2018

If urgent action will not be taken, by 2050, invasive species will develop a chain of problems whereby all rangeland in the country will be occupied by invasive species hence loss of wildlife species, livestock and reduction of fertile land for agriculture.



Lantana Camara, one of disturbing invasive species (JRS 2018)

Considering environmental economics challenges articulated above, appreciating efforts already taken by the government to address those challenges, recognizing regional aspirations to address these challenges in the AU Agenda 2063, the EAC Vision 2050 and inspired by the aspirations already made in some of EAC members for example in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda, acknowledging the SADC vision 2050 and appreciating Zanzibar Development Vision which has already prioritized biodiversity conservation; we recommend vision 2050 to set high aspirations on sustainable development by focusing on below proposed targets;-

Recommendation

01

Consider reversing the current status of approximately 1% of forest loss annually to zero by addressing current environmental economics drivers and unsustainable human production and consumption. This should include full restoration of already degraded forest by 2050.

05

02	Ensure Human-wildlife coexistence by reversing the current situation of negative impacts of HWCs of average annual loss of around 150 people, damage of around 6000 hectares of crops, approximately 1.1 billion paid consolations and around 800 retaliatory killings of species annually , to ensure zero human-wildlife conflicts cases by 2050.
03	Enhancing climate-smart agriculture with high production in small areas to avoid more deforestation due to agricultural land expansions as well as modifying livestock keeping systems from pastoralism to improved sedentary systems. The target should be reversing agricultural land expansion from 111% between 2008-2020 to zero expansion by 2050.
04	The need for transformations from the use of biomass as the main source of cooking energy from current status whereby 92% of energy is from biomass to at least 10% dependence on biomass. This will be possible if the government will create a favorable environment for heavy investment in clean and renewable energy by 2050
05	Embrace transforming Tanzanian society to achieve the desired carbon-neutral and climate resilient economy and enhancing nature positive market drivers by 2050. Additionally, it should target developing a special scheme to address loss and damage that might be caused by natural disasters.
06	Pursue a comprehensive inclusive green and blue economy through sustainable management of environment and climate resilience
07	Ensure compliance to global environmental protection agreements/ treaties/ conventions aiming at supporting nature conservation by 2050.
08	Streamline heavy investments towards eco-friendly enterprises while enhancing the market value chain of nature-based enterprises. Specifically, the vision should target transforming Tanzania into a global hub of natural honey production by increasing the current production of bee products from 31,345 tonnes per year in 2022 to at least 500,000 tonnes per year by 2050. Currently, China for example is producing 472,700 tonnes annually . Through that transformation, at least 10 million new employment opportunities will be created and approximately \$20 billion equivalent to 5,000,000,000,000 Tanzanian shillings will be generated annually.
09	Ensuring increased access to clean and safe water for people from the current status of 61% of households to 100% as well as full water supply for livestock and wildlife by 2050 by protecting available water resources and enhancing proper water supply.
10	The need to embrace a circular economy by enhancing recycling of waste products to produce materials of economic value while reducing the number of harmful wastes released to the natural environment.

These recommendations have been validated by CSOs through the Uganisha Multi Stakeholders Platform held in Moshi in February 2024. CSOs validated these recommendations are



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Development of recommendation

Stakeholders' validation

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