

# TANZANIA

## POLICY BRIEF

### HOW CAN POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS BE STRENGTHENED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF MANGROVES?

October 2022

The ecosystems services provided by mangroves have been valued at TZS 4.8 trillion (USD 2.1 billion) per year. Over one third of this figure is derived from the coastal protection that mangroves provide, whilst over half relates to the value of carbon storage.

**The total area of mangroves in Tanzania decreased from 117,396 ha in 1996 to 110,787 ha in 2020, representing an overall net loss of 6,608 ha over 24 years.**



#### PRIORITY ACTIONS:



Strengthen the management and institutional capacities for enhanced monitoring and coordination activities.



Promote the inclusive, participatory, and informed revision of the 1991 Mangrove Management Plan.



Foster the socialization of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) to facilitate mangrove conservation at the local level.





## VALUABLE RESOURCE SUFFERING FROM SIGNIFICANT LOSS

Tanzania's 1,424 km long coastline is home to the third largest extent of mangroves in the WIO region, representing about 4% of these ecosystems in Africa's. In 2020, the extent of mangroves in Tanzania was 110,787 ha, with the largest continuous areas occurring in the Rufiji Delta and its surroundings. Coastal ecosystems and resources (including mangroves) play a critical role in supporting the livelihoods of 25% of Tanzania's population living in the coastal regions and districts. In total, the ecosystems services provided by mangroves have been valued at TZS 4.8 trillion (USD 2.1 billion) per year. Despite these benefits, the total area of mangroves in Tanzania decreased from 117,396 ha in 1996 to 110,787 ha in 2020, representing an overall net loss of 6,608 ha over 24 years.

### MAIN THREATS



AGRICULTURE  
(RICE)

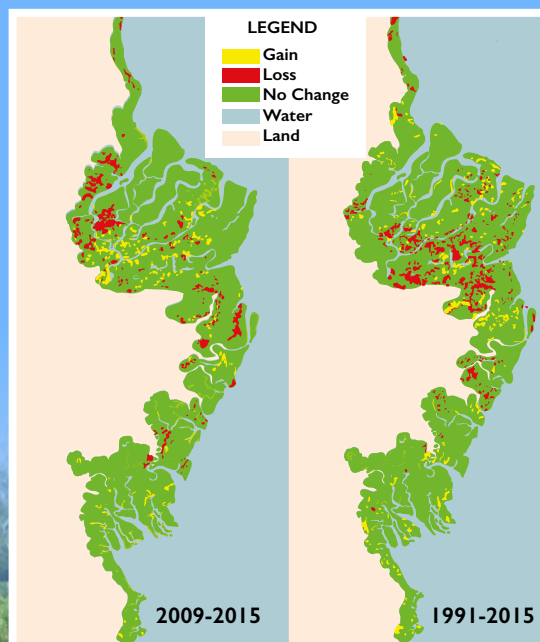


UNSUSTAINABLE  
FISHING PRACTICES



OVERHARVESTING

### MANGROVE LOSS IN THE RUFJI DELTA BETWEEN 2009 AND 2015 AND BETWEEN 1991 AND 2015



Source: Monga, E., Mangora, M., Mayunga, J. (2018)

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## STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Adequate funding is required to secure sustainable mangrove management. Most forest management activities depend on donor funding, which exposes many initiatives to lack of sustainability. State commitment to alternative sources of funding is needed. The Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) need additional resources to improve monitoring of management measures, as well as engaging local communities. Additionally, guidance is needed to coordinate the work of the different agencies involved in mangrove management.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Ensure adequate funding** for mangrove management and conservation.
- **Assess the policy, legal and institutional frameworks** governing mangrove management to align the objectives of different agencies and improve coordination mechanisms.
- **Establish task forces involving all relevant stakeholders to ensure cross-sectoral coordination** in the elaboration of plans, strategies and policies.
- **Promote a Mangrove Working Group** inspired on the model of the Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG), for participatory and coordinated design of policies, plans, strategies and programmes.

## INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND INFORMED REVISION OF THE 1991 MANGROVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



The Management Plan for the Mangrove Ecosystem of Mainland Tanzania developed in 1991 was not efficiently implemented due to limited funding, technical resources and institutional coordination to be implemented in an effective manner.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Facilitate dialogues and public consultations with local communities** to develop plans and strategies for mangrove conservation.
- **Identify alternative sources of funding** to support the TFS and the Tanzania Forest Fund.
- **Ensure the use of accurate and recent data** to guide the measures included in the plan.

# MANGROVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



**Global Approach**



**Public participation**



**Science-based**



**Clear objectives and indicators**



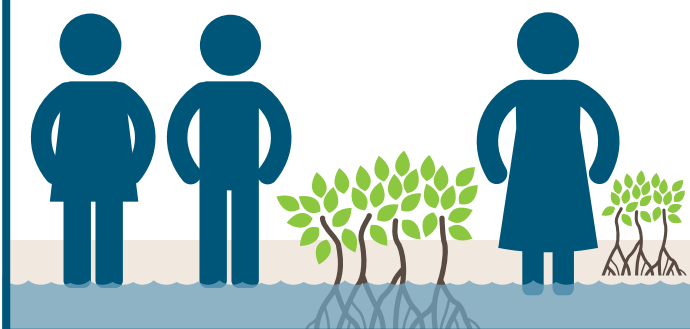
**Coordination mechanisms**

## ENABLING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach has significant potential for mangrove conservation. Efforts need to be directed to socialize the benefits from this approach particularly at the local level.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Replicate the JFM model** for mangrove areas and promote the involvement of local communities.
- **Facilitate granting of permits for sustainable activities** with clear benefits for local communities, such as eco-tourism projects.
- **Ensure community participation** in the process of developing mangrove forest management plans and ensure a fair representation of community members in their implementation.



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## ENSURING LEGAL PROTECTION

Mangrove forests are legally recognized as state forest reserves in Tanzania, which gives management mandate to TFS as the primary custodian of forests.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Highlight the role of mangroves in carbon sequestration and coastal protection** to develop conservation strategies.
- **Prevent the conversion of mangroves to other land uses.**
- **Declare particularly sensitive mangrove areas as spawning areas** under the Fisheries Act.

## COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING ACCURATE DATA TO ENABLE SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING

There is a need to increase data on mangroves in Tanzania. Reliable and current information on coverage, status and land tenure has the potential to enhance the management of these ecosystems. It is essential to strengthen capacities among different stakeholders to understand the economic, social and environmental benefits of mangroves.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a **national mangrove inventory** regularly monitored, updated and accessible to the public containing information on the status, ecology and size of mangrove areas.
- Carry out a **comprehensive review of the mangrove land tenure system.**

# STRENGTHENING AND IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

International Commitments	Situation	Recommendations
<b>First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement (updated submission 2021)</b>  <a href="#">United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</a>	Recognizes that contribution will verifiably reduce the impacts of sea level rise to the island and coastal communities, infrastructure and ecosystems including mangroves.	Include specific targets and indicators for the conservation of mangroves as a part of the NDC review/update cycle and further elaborate through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process to specify 'how' NDC goals would be implemented. Include mangrove protection actions in the ongoing Global Stock Take.
<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2015-2020)</b>  <a href="#">Convention on Biological Diversity</a>	Includes as a target the revision and enforcement of legislation governing aquatic and associated terrestrial resources, and as a priority action the promotion of mangroves conservation.	Revise the Forest Act, the Fisheries Act and the 1991 Mangrove Management Plan. Develop an updated NBSAP to align with the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and capture enhanced mangrove action, as well as leverage commitments made under other international and national processes.
<b>Voluntary Commitments on Ocean Action</b>  <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goal 14</a>	A Voluntary Commitment on Restoration of mangrove ecosystem in Tanzania for enhancement of local communities.	Monitor the effective implementation of the commitment to enhance 158,000 hectares of mangrove forest and coral reefs in Tanzania by 2024.
<b>World Heritage Sites</b>  <a href="#">World Heritage Convention</a>	Current World Heritage Sites with mangroves include the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and the Ruins of Songo Mnara. Jozani - Chwaka Bay Conservation Area is included in the Tentative site list since 1997.	Officially nominate Jozani - Chwaka Bay Conservation Area as a World Heritage Site.
<b>Ramsar Sites</b>  <b>National Targets for the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024</b>  <a href="#">Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</a>	Current Ramsar Site with mangroves is Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Marine. Overall national target for the Convention's Strategic Plan 2016-2024 include enhancing ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through conservation and restoration, thus contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Revise the 1991 Mangrove Management Plan and develop an updated NBSAP. Use latest data and knowledge to inform national policies and capture enhanced mangrove action in the next reporting cycle to the Convention (incl. leverage commitments made under other international and national processes).

## REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In November 2021, the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (WIO) called for the development and implementation of a regional mangrove action plan through the WIO Regional Mangrove Network (WIOMN), with support of BMZ, WWF, IUCN and Wetlands International. Such a regional plan can aid in creating synergy between different international commitments, establish conservation and restoration priorities, collaboration strategies, and develop specific regional agreements on mangrove conservation.

Having been established several years earlier, WIOMN was officially registered as a legal entity under the Laws of Zanzibar in March 2021, attaining the long-awaited legal mandate to operate. It provides a forum for scientists, managers and policy makers from government and NGO institutions to contribute to solutions for addressing the challenges at national and regional levels, with focus on expertise sharing and capacity development in mangrove research and management across the region. With its headquarters based in Zanzibar, WIOMN offers a great opportunity for Tanzania.

## SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

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