

# TANZANIA

## POLICY BRIEF

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

December 2019



Mangroves are essential to the economy of Tanzania and the livelihoods of its citizens **representing up to US\$10.3 million per year** in direct use of natural resources for the Rufiji Delta alone.

**Studies show that 12 % of mangroves have been lost in the Rufiji Delta** alone because of overuse and conversion to other land uses, such as salt exploration and unsustainable agriculture practices since 1991.



### TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE:



Strengthen local institutions and local communities' capacities.



Revise the 1991 Mangrove Management Plan, the Fisheries Act, and the Forest Act to explicitly classify mangroves as forest reserves



Improve and fully implement the Joint Forest Management mechanism to facilitate local management in mangrove areas.

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An initiative by:



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This policy brief has been elaborated based on a comprehensive study of mangrove governance in Tanzania and the outcomes of a seminar organized on 21-22 February 2019 gathering all stakeholders of mangrove management in Tanzania. It is part of the *Save Our Mangroves Now!* Initiative's efforts to disseminate best practices on mangrove management and governance in the Western Indian Ocean region.



## VALUABLE RESOURCE SUFFERING FROM SIGNIFICANT LOSS

Tanzania has one of the largest mangrove areas in East Africa, with almost 160,000 ha situated mostly in the Rufiji Delta. Local communities rely heavily on these mangroves for fuel, food, medicine, construction materials and income. The economic value of the direct use of natural resources in Rufiji floodplain and delta has been estimated at US\$10.3 million per year. However, overuse and shifting agricultural practices have led to significant deforestation and degradation. Over 6,000 ha, representing more than 10% of the total coverage of the Rufiji delta, has been lost since 1991. This continuing trend jeopardizes the livelihoods of coastal communities and contributes to the impoverishment of the country.

### MAIN THREATS



AGRICULTURE  
(RICE)

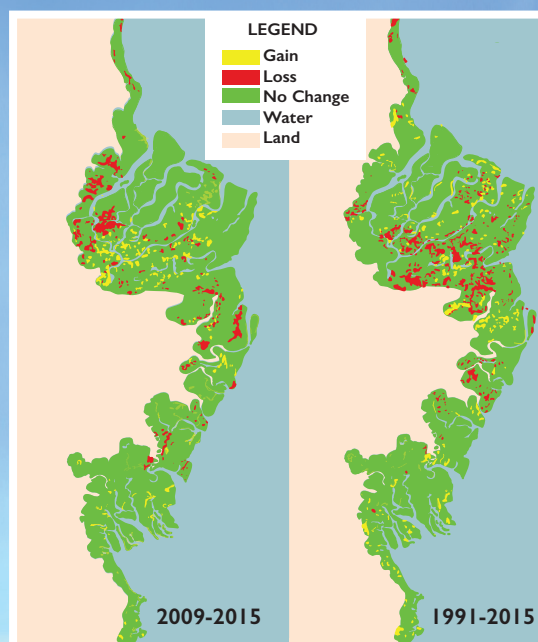


UNSUSTAINABLE  
FISHING PRACTICES



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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## WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MANGROVE NETWORK (WIOMN)

-WIOMN was registered on 18th March 2021 under the Laws of Zanzibar, attaining the long-awaited legal mandate to operate. WIOMN 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.

### STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Funding has been a problem in implementing mangrove management. Most forest management activities depend on donor funding. Due to a shortage of staff and working facilities, the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) faces challenges in regularly patrolling and monitoring for illegal activities, and lacks capacity and resources to provide services for local communities. Additionally, the different agencies involved in mangrove management are generally not well coordinated.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure that part of the revenue collected by TFS is earmarked for mangrove management and additional budget is allocated to institutions such as TFS and local governments.
- Develop agency guidelines or regulations to clarify roles and responsibilities of different agencies and establish coordination procedures.
- Establish task forces involving all relevant agencies to ensure cross-sectoral coordination in the elaboration of plans, strategies and policies.
- Elaborate a Mangrove Working Group based on the model of the Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG), for participatory and coordinated design of policies, plans, strategies, and programs.

## CONDUCTING A PARTICIPATORY AND EFFECTIVE REVISION OF THE 1991 MANGROVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



The National Mangrove Management Plan developed in 1991 was never implemented due to a lack of funding, inadequate technical resources, and the absence of an enabling institutional framework.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Institute a coordinating unit involving all stakeholders in charge of developing the plan and ensuring its proper implementation.
- Conduct public consultations with communities and other stakeholders during the development of the plan.
- Fund the implementation of the plan from TFS and the Tanzania Forest Fund to avoid dependency on donors.
- Use accurate and recent data to support the measures included in the plan.

## MANGROVE MANAGEMENT PLAN



**Global Approach**



**Public participation**



**Science-based**



**Clear objectives and indicators**



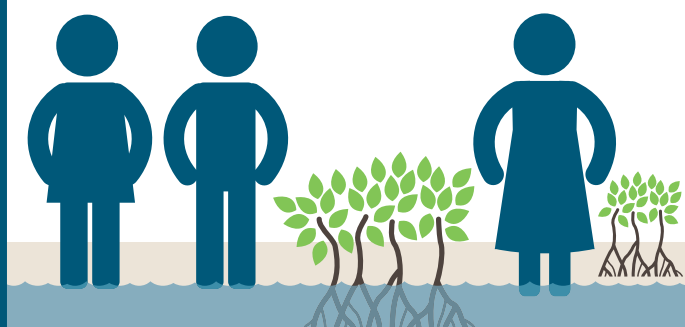
**Coordination mechanisms**

## ENABLING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Communities have not been able to benefit from the legal framework governing mangroves, leading to frustration and unsustainable use. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach has significant potential for mangrove conservation, but needs to be better implemented.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Extend the JFM model for mangrove areas and provide that all revenue is managed at the district level, to ensure that local communities get a share of benefits.
- Facilitate granting of permits for sustainable activities with clear benefits for local communities, such as certain eco-tourism projects.
- Ensure community participation in the full process of developing mangrove forest management plans and ensure a fair representation of community members in the task force in charge of implementing the plan.



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## CLARIFYING THE LEGAL STATUS OF MANGROVES

Mangroves are commonly referred to as forest reserves based on their status as reserved land, but they are not currently listed as forest reserves under the Forest Act- an inconsistency which raises questions as to what activities are allowed in mangrove areas.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revise the Forest Act to explicitly classify mangroves as forest reserves.
- Highlight the role of mangroves in carbon sequestration and coastal protection so that strategies can be developed for their conservation.
- Issue a Government Notice to prohibit 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 critical lack of data on mangroves in Tanzania. The absence of information on coverage, status and land tenure impedes effective management. Few stakeholders have a good understanding of mangroves despite their enormous benefits economically, ecologically and socially.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a **national mangrove inventory** regularly 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>Tanzania's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2016)</b> United Nations Framework Convention on climate Change	Suggests mangrove restoration programmes in the context of sustainable forest management, but does not include specific targets.	Include specific targets and indicators for the conservation of mangroves in the second NDC.
<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2015-2020)</b> Convention on Biological Diversity	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 Mangrove Management Plan.
<b>Voluntary commitments on Ocean Action</b> Sustainable Development Goal 14	To date, Tanzania has not submitted voluntary commitments.	Submit Voluntary commitments under Ocean Action focusing on mangrove conservation and including clear indicators.
<b>"World Heritage Convention" should be on a different line and in light blue (like the above ones that say Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention, etc)</b>	Current WHC Sites with mangroves include the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and 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.

For a complete overview of international commitments and recommendations, go to <https://www.iucn.org/theme/environmental-law/our-work/oceans-and-coasts/mangrove-governance-conservation-and-use>

## REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Developing a regional mangrove vision and strategy for the Western Indian Ocean Region (WIO) within the Nairobi Convention Framework can aid in creating synergy between different international commitments, establish conservation and restoration priorities, collaboration strategies, and develop specific regional agreements on mangrove conservation.

## SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

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