

Efforts of Mwalimu Nyerere towards Natural Resources Governance: A Reflection of Wildlife Management in Tanzania

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Abstract

This article unveils the historical context of wildlife management in Tanzania. In particular, the article attempts to synthesise the pivotal role of Mwalimu Nyerere in wildlife management in Tanzania. Shortly after the independence, Tanganyika (now United Republic of Tanzania) admitted the vital role, which wildlife resources could donate to national economic growth. realising this, the first Prime Minister of Republic of Tanganyika Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere championed conservation of wildlife and spearheaded tourism development. Through Arusha manifesto on wildlife and nature conservation on the eve of Tanzania's independence, Nyerere set the stage upon which the future of wildlife conservation, protection and policies guiding nature conservation could be based. The Manifesto was adopted and used by other African nations as a guide on wildlife conservation. It is over fifty (50) years since the Manifesto was put in place, and thus, it is imperative to know whether Nyerere's perspectives on natural resources governance paved the way towards sustainable wildlife management in Tanzania.

Keywords: *Natural Resource Governance, Sustainable Wildlife Management*

1.0 Introduction

Tanzania is well known globally as a resource-rich nation and thus, its economy largely depends on natural resources for present and future generations. Significant natural resources available in Tanzania include forests and woodlands, wild animals, rivers, lakes, minerals and wetlands. These resources play substantial roles to the economy in terms of the social-economic goods and services, which they provide (URT, 1997). A range of studies have highlighted the crucial role of natural resources to Tanzania's economy and to local livelihoods (cf. Mkanta and Chimtembo, 2002; Kabiri, 2007). In a country where more than 70% of the people live in rural areas and about 80% of the people overwhelmingly rely on agriculture and natural resources for their survival and livelihood. This vindicates the fact that natural resource use in Tanzania is critical to the economy and poverty alleviation at all scales, particularly to the rural population (TNRF, 2009). For example, over 90% of rural population depends on fuel wood from trees and other vegetation as a source of energy to their households (Kallonga *et al.* 2003). Thus, effective poverty alleviation and development initiatives must target the rural population and the rural economy so as to have a significant impact.

Tanzania is one of the highest levels of wildlife richness in the sub-Saharan Africa region (URT 1998). The country's wildlife is an extremely valuable economic resource for the nation's crucial and growing non-consumptive tourism industry, as well as for the smaller and more specialised tourist hunting industry. This has given the country an important competitive economic advantage in the current globalised world economy, which cannot be sustainably provided by other natural resources (TNRF, 2008). It

is on this basis that Tanzania's wildlife contributes much to tourism industry. The tourism sector has been fairly growing rapidly, rising from US \$ 1.74 billion in the 2004 to US \$ 4.48 billion in 2013 (URT, 2014). The growth of this industry largely depends on the sustainability of renewable wildlife resources. Cognizant of this natural heritage and its vast economic potential, Tanzania has developed policies and practices to enhance wildlife management. The government of Tanzania designated nearly 30% of its land for wildlife conservation activities. The efforts and commitment notwithstanding, wildlife and wild habitats remain at risk due to poaching and are decreasing in many parts of the country (WCS, 2006). Poaching of wildlife have been increasing in different national parks across the country leading to decrease of wild animals such as elephants, rhinoceros and many others. The perturbing situation is that current Tanzania is losing its wildlife, and thus losing its competitive economic advantage to other regional competitors including Namibia and Botswana. These countries have increased their wildlife populations and have demonstrated strong and growing photographic tourism and hunting industries (TNRF, 2008). This article is an attempt to document Mwalimu Nyerere's efforts and perspectives on natural resources management in Tanzania. This will add up to the contextual understanding of wildlife management in Tanzania and its associated challenges.

2.0 Contextual and Historical Issues of Wildlife Management in Tanzania

Reflecting its contemporary relevance, wildlife has played crucial role in Tanzania's history since the pre-colonial time. Wildlife management's history in Tanzania dates back to the local rules and customs of the pre-colonial era, but the first formal wildlife

conservation laws were established in 1891 shortly after the beginning of German colonial administration (Nelson *et al.* 2007). These laws regulated the off-take, the hunting approaches and the trade in wildlife, with some endangered species being fully protected. The propagation of these laws to great extent contributed to the establishment of game reserves in the country. The first game reserve to be established was what currently forms the Selous Game Reserves in 1905. Most of the game reserves were chosen mainly for their concentrations of big game rather than their biological diversity. After the First World War (WWI) that culminated to German's colonial administration to lose all of its colonies including Tanganyika, the British colonial government that took over Tanganyika and established the Game Department in 1921. This was followed by the gazettelement of the Selous game reserve in 1922. The major role of the Game Department was to manage game reserves, enforcing different hunting regulations as well as protecting people and crops from raiding animals. Later on, the then Ngorongoro Crater Closed and Serengeti Game Reserve were established in 1928 and 1929 respectively (URT, 1998).

Tanganyika was always famous for its variety of wild animals, big game and multiplicity of landscapes and in those early days, attracted a steady stream of wealthy hunters. The tourist hunting industry dates back to 1946 when Game Controlled Areas (GCAs) were established and divided into hunting blocks, where professional hunters and their clients could hunt trophy animals (Nelson *et al.* 2007). The current framework of protected wildlife areas in Tanzania includes, game reserves, national parks and game controlled areas were established after Second World War (WWII). In 1951 the Serengeti National Park was gazetted followed by several game reserves and National Parks such as

Katavi National Park established in 1951, Lake Manyara National Park established in 1957, Mikumi National Park established in 1964, Rubondo Island National Park established in 1977, Tarangire National Park established in 1970, Ngorongoro Conservation Area established in 1959, and Uwanda Game Reserves established in 1971. Until 1961, there were three (3) National Parks and nine (9) Game Reserves and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Post-independence period it was the policy of the government to endure with the extension of the Game Reserves and National Parks, and many new reserves and parks were gazetted (URT, 1998).

3.0 Methodology

A systematic desk review approach was conducted to assess Mwalimu Nyerere's initiatives on resource governance particularly wildlife management. Systematic literature reviews involved reviewing of different documents according to the objective of this article. A selective interdisciplinary literature review was undertaken to complement the dominance of resource management in current discussions of sustainable wildlife management in Tanzania. The review process concentrated on two areas. These are reviewing the Arusha Manifesto and its contribution to resource governance in Tanzania, and the overall initiatives of wildlife management in Tanzania and its attendant challenges. A total of 20 papers were reviewed.

4.0 Results

4.1 Nyerere's Arusha Manifesto and Its Contribution to Wildlife Management in Tanzania

After the political independence in 1961, Tanzania under the charismatic leadership of the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere had to find a right path to attain economic growth. On the basis of this motive, the government admitted the vital role that wildlife resource could contribute to economic growth of the nation. realising this, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Tanganyika Mwalimu Nyerere championed conservation of wildlife and spearheaded tourism development. Mwalimu, worked earnestly to ensure that wildlife protection was a priority issue in his political agenda than any other elected leader of Tanzania. His commitment and of particular relevant his spirit in hating corrupt practices brought Tanzania amid few nations globally with notable records in flora and fauna conservation (Nguya, 2006).

Before Tanganyika regained its independence in 1961, Mwalimu Nyerere issued the famous Arusha Manifesto which was the momentous guide of nature conservation and improving wildlife management in Tanzania and other African states. The Manifesto set the platform upon which the future of wildlife conservation and protection as well as policies guiding nature conservation were established (ETN, 2012). Mwalimu Nyerere was quoted in the Arusha Manifesto hammering very important issues:

The survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa. These wild creatures amid the wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our natural

resources and our future livelihood and well-being. In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to make sure that our children's grandchildren will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance. The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower, and money, and we look to other nations to co-operate with us in this important task – the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world as well. (URT, 2012).

Arusha manifesto as indicated in the quote above formed the base of all conservation strategies and policies that were later established in Tanzania to execute such responsibilities that nature gave us. The best example is the establishment of some Tanzania National Parks, which were formed from amid conservation policies which resulted from this manifest (cf. Section 2). Major responsibilities of this manifestation are executed under the Wildlife Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania (ETN, 2012). From this backdrop, Mwalimu Nyerere's contributions on natural resources particularly wildlife management in Tanzania cannot be neglected.

Mwalimu Nyerere acknowledged Africa's wildlife and consequently its parks as the rightful heritage of all humankind and urged African states to manage those precious resources accordingly. He was very bold that sustainable wildlife management could nurture economic growth of African nations

(Burnett and Conover, 1989). Arusha Manifesto paved the way for the signing of the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA) that aimed to protect wild animals alongside their natural habitat (URT, 2009). To present the WCA has been a crucial document to ensure complete survival of wildlife resources in Tanzania. He dedicated to promote Tanzania's tourism to become a leading tourist destination not only in East Africa but across African continent with mostly wildlife based photographic safaris (Nguya, 2006).

Mwalimu Nyerere's philosophy to protect and treasure Tanzania's remarkable wildlife resources as a prime national heritage is expressed in the high priority that the Tanzania government has given to conservation and governance of natural resources (Nelson *et al.* 2007). In his quest for the country's independence Mwalimu Nyerere used to inspire local communities in the then Tanganyika to support the course by saying, "Freedom will follow us the way the birds follow the rhinos to nestle on their backs". Mwalimu Nyerere reiterated the words during the meeting which was held in Arusha using the just established, Arusha National Park 1967, Tarangire National Park 1970 and Kilimanjaro National Park 1973 as prime example. This is due to the fact that in those days there were so many rhinos in the parks and people used to see hundreds of them daily. Of late, however the rhino species have entirely been annihilated from Arusha National Park with the last one said to have been killed 27 years ago (ETN, 2012). Mwalimu Nyerere ratified the establishment of more new forest reserves, game controlled area and game reserves from 1980s. Conversely, the growing population pressure that was bullying the existence of those national parks and game reserves, the government earmarked more than 42,000 square kilometers of

the country's territory to the formal protection wildlife (Salazar, 2013). Shortly after political independence 1961, Mwalimu Nyerere continued to work hard to ensure Serengeti National Park situated in the northern part of Tanzania was developed and conserved forever as one of the world leading protected area. He used to issue several directives and commands to ensure that Serengeti National Park remains a place of natural wonders for the benefit of the current and future generations not only in Tanzania but also in Africa and the entire world at large (Air market, 2013).

4.2 Achievements Made After Arusha Manifesto

Now it is almost fifty five (55) years since Arusha Manifesto was officially inaugurated, Tanzania has an enviable record having expanded the area under close protection that is national parks and game reserves. Nearly 42,000 square kilometers is currently under close protection with 14 national parks the latest being Kitulo in the southern highlands. Approximately 25% of Tanzania's land area is given over to some form of protection of wildlife and or natural resources such as Forests (TANAPA, 1998). Conversely, the Annual Serengeti Migration sets Tanzania apart from other wildlife spectacles over the world. The annual migration observes the movement of more than 2 million animals of which the wildebeest population perhaps in excess of 1.3 million. This is a steady increment as the time when Serengeti National Park was gazetted in 1951 there were probably $\frac{1}{4}$ million wildebeest. The significant increase to the highest population level on record is attributed to the minimisation of illegal poaching, control of the bovine disease, rinderpest, in the cattle population surrounding the park in the late 1950's and early 1960's. The phenomenon could not happen without appropriately large landscape to support such

a healthy population and the Serengeti eco-system is amalgamation of many parts comprising a larger proportion of land outside the park, much of it inhabited by people (Nguya, 2006).

Currently, there are initiatives to replenish rhino populations in the local parks by importing species from Europe and South Africa, with Serengeti and Mkomazi National Parks being direct beneficiaries though more rhinos are breeding naturally in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority. The disappeared rhinos at Arusha National Park, recently drying of Lake Manyara, increased human activities in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area; extremely poaching in different national parks and game reserves; as well as the disappearing glacier at the cape of Mount Kilimanjaro are clear clues of what has been going wrong in the country's conservation in the past five decades. But the escalation of national parks from only three during early 1960s to 16 in 2016 gives the positive side of the country's conservation efforts (ETN, 2012). This has buttressed tourism industry in Tanzania.

Tourism sector which is mostly wildlife based is one of the main economic growth drivers in Tanzania. Blessed with inimitable natural and cultural attractions, tourism is an important factor which enhances growth and poverty reduction to the people of Tanzania. Between years 2000 and 2010 there were an increase tourist arrivals from 501,669 to 782,699 and revenue increased from US \$739.06 million to US \$1.25 billion respectively (MNRT, 2013). Moreover, last year 2015 the number of tourists who visited Tanzania were 1, 102, 619 and a total of US \$ 1, 938.1 million were obtained (URT, 2016). This vindicates the fact that Tanzania is amongst leading tourist destinations in Africa

(Tairo, 2013). However, the total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP was Tanzanian Shillings (TZS) 8, 252 billion (14.0% of GDP) in 2014 (World Travel and Tourism Council, 2015). The earnings from this sector have increased from about 15% in the 1980s to over 40% in the 1990s, and this has made tourism sector the second largest foreign exchange earner after agriculture. The number of hotels and beds available has augmented more gradually than the growth of arrivals and revenue, suggesting a rise in capacity utilisation of accommodation (although room occupancy rates only increased slightly from 55% in 1990 to about 60% in 1998). From this brief sketch therefore, it is apparent that tourism is increasingly vital economic sector in Tanzania (Kweka *et al.* 2003). Despite the substantial contribution of tourism sector in Tanzania's economy which largely depends on wildlife resources among other things, the sector is experiencing several challenges due to unsustainable wildlife management.

4.3 Challenges Facing Wildlife Sector in Tanzania

When Tanzania is going without a pioneer of Arusha Manifesto Mwalimu Nyerere, incidences of poaching of wildlife resources particularly elephants and rhinos, trade in bloody ivory and trafficking of live animals are increasing. Lack of commitment, corruption and selfishness among key players in wildlife sectors including politicians, conservators and security operatives had so far reduced the number of elephants and rhinos in various National Parks in Tanzania (Air market, 2013). It is estimated that during the past 10 years, one third of Tanzania's elephants have been killed by illegal poachers. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) estimate that 10,000 elephants are being killed annually in Tanzania. Between the year 2010 and July 2013

more than 1,386 elephants were killed in Tanzania for illegal bloody ivory business (ETN, 2012). But the currently estimates indicates that approximately 30 elephants are killed per day, this rate of daily illegal poaching attests the fact that the without taking decisive measures elephants could be wiped out in the country within next seven years (Cronin, 2014). This alarming illegal poaching has far reached to the extent of involving high-profile business people and politicians. This was confirmed by the former Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Khamis Kagasheki who admitted that politicians particularly MPs were linked to poaching. He said that these people have formed a very sophisticated network for illegal poaching in different National Parks and game Reserves in Tanzania (McNeish, 2015). Current, illegal poaching is becoming a serious issue to compare the time when Mwalimu Nyerere took political powers in 1961, Tanganyika had about 350,000 elephants but this number has been reduced to 109,051 in 2009 (ETN, 2012). Recent government data indicates industrial scale of poaching for ivory as number of elephants in Tanzania's National Parks and Game Reserves has dropped from 109, 051 in 2009 to 43,330 in 2014 (Mathiesen, 2015). The government is battling to curb the late of illegal poaching as it threatens the natural heritage of nation. The quotations drawn from Tanzania's former President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in an interview with CNN's journalist Christiane Amanpour in 2014 revealed the country's battle against wildlife poaching:

At independence Tanganyika had 350,000 elephants. During the first wave of intensive poaching in the 1970's and 1980's, there were only 55,000 elephants left in 1987. This was an unprecedented situation and the government

decided to bring in the military to save the elephants and rhinos. Recent census at the Selous-Mikumi ecosystem, one of the biggest wildlife reserves has revealed that the elephant population had gone down to just 13,084 from 38, 975 in 2009, representing 66% decline. Now we have this new Operation Tokomeza which we are convinced it will solve the problem¹

However, the increase of poaching in recent years is due to widespread erosion of ethics among Wildlife Division (WD) staff. There are conflicts of interests which have been reflected significantly in the entire WD Division. This has been due to lack of code of conduct. In order to arrest this situation the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is required to establish and implement clear code of ethics and continued vetting of the head of the stations and sections within the WD (Ngwanakilala, 2014). Furthermore, the capacity of the WD in MNRT to efficiently and effectively undertake wildlife conservation activities in its areas of jurisdiction is critically constrained by shortage of human resources. There is 1155 staff in the WD managing game reserves and its ant poaching units countywide. This means, one game scout patrols 159.7 km² while according to IUCN standard, one well equipped scout is supposed to patrol 25 km²; This would require 7,378 scouts to patrol the entire wildlife area outside TANAPA and NCA. The current projection of staff requirement in the WD is 4588 for the following five years (MNRT, 2013).

¹ President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete interview with CNN Christina Amanpour in February 2014

5.0 Concluding Remarks

Mwalimu Nyerere was a charismatic leader who dedicated his time to serve the natural heritage of this nation. He was amongst the world's greatest champions and pioneers of nature conservation, building unique awareness in Tanzanians on the value of their natural resources. He spearheaded resource governance and acknowledged that the precious natural resources could benefit the present and future generation. To effect the potential of natural resources, Mwalimu Nyerere pioneered the Arusha Manifesto to enhance wildlife conservation. Despite such decisive initiative of Mwalimu Nyerere, the wildlife sector in Tanzania is currently undergoing several challenges which threaten the lives of wild animals and habitats. Now it is almost seventeen years Tanzania without Mwalimu Nyerere. The death of Mwalimu Nyerere left the country's wildlife resources rich sinking in a gulf of poaching, which currently is at climax in Tanzania as indicated above. We are neither certain whether the wild creatures he dedicated his time to conserve in his famous Arusha Manifesto will last long, nor are we sure if his noble role will prove perpetual. It is a time now for the government and other interested parties to take a lead in maintaining this legacy that was left by Mwalimu Nyerere for the benefit of the present and future generations.

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