The Importance of Tourism to Community Conservation

June 2011
Introduction

Why community conservation?

Tourism – is it the ideal partner?

The tourism - community partnership – is this sustainable?
Why community conservation?
Population increase

Since the national parks were developed, human populations have expanded and spread:

• Serengeti Park est. 1951  population 8 ½ million
• Tarangire Park est. 1970, population 13 million

Population today is approx 38 million

Tanzanian population has tripled since the 1950s. Human density over the last 50 years has increased from 14 persons / sq. km, to 39 persons / sq. km
Wildlife Is Dependant On Communities

Protected areas (parks etc) were not made big enough to encompass the ecosystems, wildlife movement patterns included areas outside the protected zones

- Serengeti National Park
- Tarangire National Park
- Kilimanjaro- Amboseli- Arusha
The Honeyguide Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that supports communities and environmental conservation in Tanzania, making use of tourism as a sustainable source of income. The Foundation's focus areas are the following:

• Improved and transparent community governance
• Poverty alleviation
• Sustainable management of natural and socio-economic resources.
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Do Communities Benefit?

- In 2007 Tanzania National Parks earned TShs 69.0 Billion of which it allocated only 1.8 percent to community conservation services (TANAPA Annual General Report 2007).

- WMA- retain 60% total earnings (split between running the WMA and village development).

- Tourism on village land retain 40% of total earnings.

- In 2009 consolation included in Wildlife Act
Community Conservation?

The future of these ecosystems depends on the participation of the communities that occupy this land with the wildlife.

During the 1990s, Tanzania’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism carried out a wildlife sector review which concluded that: “*It is essential to the future of wildlife conservation in Tanzania that local communities who live amongst the wildlife should derive direct benefit from it.*”
Tourism – is it the ideal partner?
Is tourism the ideal partner?

Why is eco-tourism a natural partner for communities?

• Talk of the day
• Sustainable business model
• Local people benefit more- trickle down effect
• Add value to tourism product-Eco journey
• Generates income and employment
• Non-consumptive
• Participatory

But tourism has to be responsible
Can tourism provide?

Tourism provides the funds to make conservation a viable business venture for communities to engage in.

- Loliondo [eastern Serengeti] in 2007 exceeded $400,000
- Simanjiro, [east Tarangire] earned $20,000 in 2007
- Sayari camp (northern Serengeti) in 2005 employed in 40% employees locally and 90% (approx 40 staff) in 2007
- Grumeti reserves purchased vegetable and salads locally approx $30,000 per month
Are there negative impacts?

Without an intelligent business approach, cultures and ecosystems can suffer:

• Culture
• Immigration
• Expectations
• Wealth
• Politics
• Ecosystems
The tourism community partnership – is this sustainable?
1- Lack economic income from tourism—little incentive for communities.
2- No consideration for conservation, wildlife populations and habitat unsustainable.
3- Community not onboard, no buy in to conserve ecosystem.
4- Harmonious balance.

Perfect partnership

Community development

Conserving ecosystems

Tourism
Tourism becomes the threat to conservation.

Can have a negative effect on the communities.

Needs to be managed well.
The role of tourism

- Should tourism only focus on the needs of the community?
- Who pays for conservation and what does it cost?
- Who are we conserving for?
Cost of conservation

- **Enduimet**
  - 40 game scouts
  - 3 vehicles
- WWA need $330,000 pa
- 40 b/n pd for 300 days
- 60% into WMA $200,000
  - $70,000 anti-poaching
  - $30,000 admin
  - $100,000 for 9 villages
    ($11,000 per village)
- $130,000 WD
Incentive to Conserve

Tourists

- Reduced conservation costs
- Improved NR management
- Improved livelihoods

Improve local economy and jobs
Conclusion

My experience in northern Tanzania is that tourism provides the economic rationale for conserving wildlife but cannot front the total costs of conservation and the support of local livelihoods.