AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Scenario-Based Conservation Planning for a Sustainable Future in South-Western Tanzania

CONTEXT

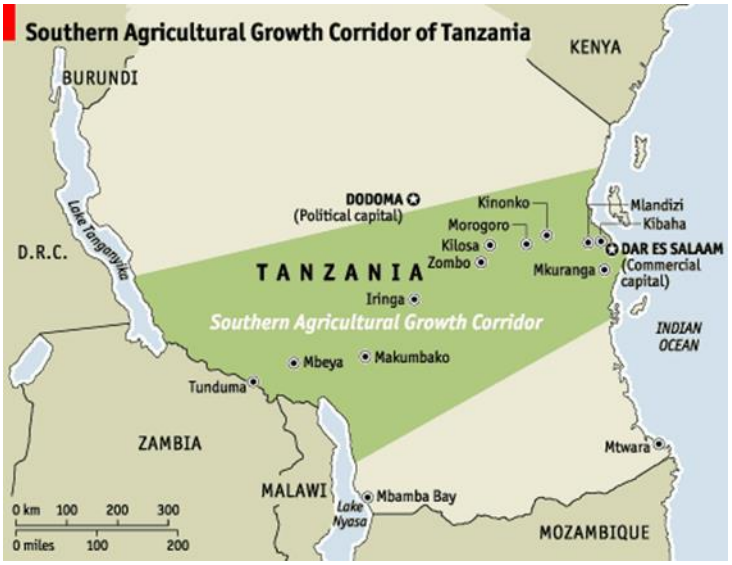
Historically, conservation has been a reactive discipline, and land-use planning as a tool for achieving conservation outcomes has often been reactive as well. As issues arise, the conservation sector initiates a new planning process to assess impact and identify solutions. This piecemeal approach to conservation planning is insufficient to address the complex realities and rapidly emerging conservation challenges facing the African continent.

OVERVIEW

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) recognizes that critical landscapes are being reshaped, not by a single driver, but by a suite of drivers including population growth, changing resource utilization patterns, economic development, and increasingly, climate change. In many landscapes these drivers are accelerating. Conservation planning frameworks need to adapt and incorporate the current and forecasted future cumulative

The **Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group** is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance understanding of critical conservation challenges and their solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

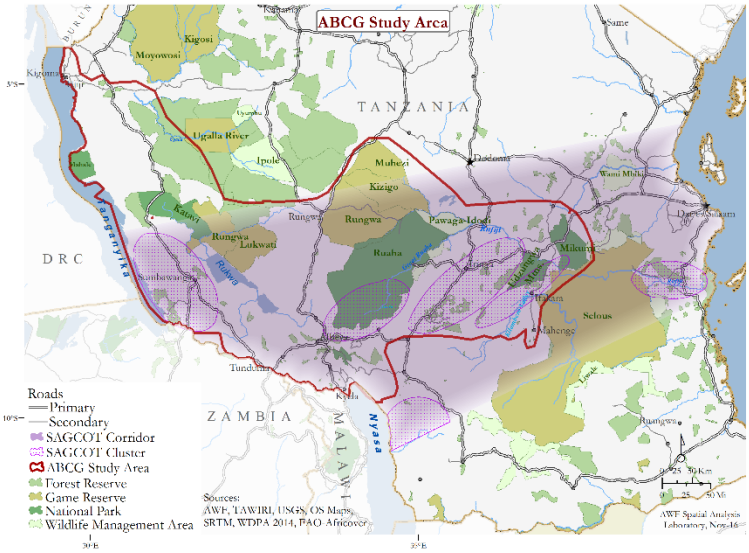
impact of these drivers of change to identify more robust conservation interventions. Under the Land Use Management (LUM) task area, The African Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society, with contributions from Conservation International and the World Resources Institute, are developing a planning framework emphasizing a scenario analysis approach for southern Tanzania. Much of the study area intersects the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) where public and private sector investment aims to triple agricultural output over a 20-year period begging the question: how can that growth be accommodated without degrading key conservation habitat and ecosystem service delivery areas?



Map of Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor. Credit: The Economist Intelligence Unit

APPROACH

The LUM working group aims to create spatially-explicit scenarios to inform land-use planning that considers multiple objectives, including conservation, ecosystem services, livelihoods, and economic development. A spatial prioritization analysis will maximise different objectives (e.g., save 80% of current elephant habitat) across different scenarios or alternative futures to identify trade-offs. Scenarios will be based on landscape visions, objectives and drivers. By evaluating scenarios against landscape objectives, favorable land-use distributions or configurations can be identified. Stakeholders who shape land use change—government, commercial sectors, communities and conservationists—will assess scenarios in a participatory, landscape-level planning process. Stakeholder input is critical to formulate recommendations that minimize conflict between land use objectives while considering



ABCG study area for this analysis. Credit: ABCG

climate-smart strategies, wildlife corridors, and maintenance of ecosystem services delivery (e.g., water flow). The table below offers a summary of broad steps.

BROAD STEPS	KEY ACTIVITIES
Scenario development context	Vision, planning issues, and landscape objectives/values identified in consultation with landscape stakeholders (i.e. desired outcomes)
	Identify drivers and actors of change on landscape objectives/values
	Characterize landscape (data, trends in landscape objectives/values)
Develop and assess scenarios	Draft potential land-use planning strategies and their objectives developed in consultation with planning landscape stakeholders
	Conduct spatial prioritization of land uses
	Develop and assess scenarios with performance metrics
	Seek feedback from planning stakeholders, adapt scenarios if required
Recommendations	Summarize findings
	Make key recommendations

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Land use objectives that represent all stakeholders;
- Scenario planning and spatial prioritization considering a range of land use objectives to drive land use planning;
- Better understanding of drivers of landscape change, and;
- Strategies for sustainable land use management tailored to the context of major initiatives including SAGCOT, Big Results Now, and development of a national chimpanzee strategy for Tanzania.

NEXT STEPS

The African Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society will host a workshop in Mbeya, Tanzania on April 3—4, 2017, which will provide a high level introduction to the project for key stakeholders and allow them to vet, review, and provide feedback on preliminary models and data inputs. Project goals and outcomes will be presented with highlights on "informed decision making" tools and pilot planning stages. Final results will be presented at a second workshop several months later.

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