

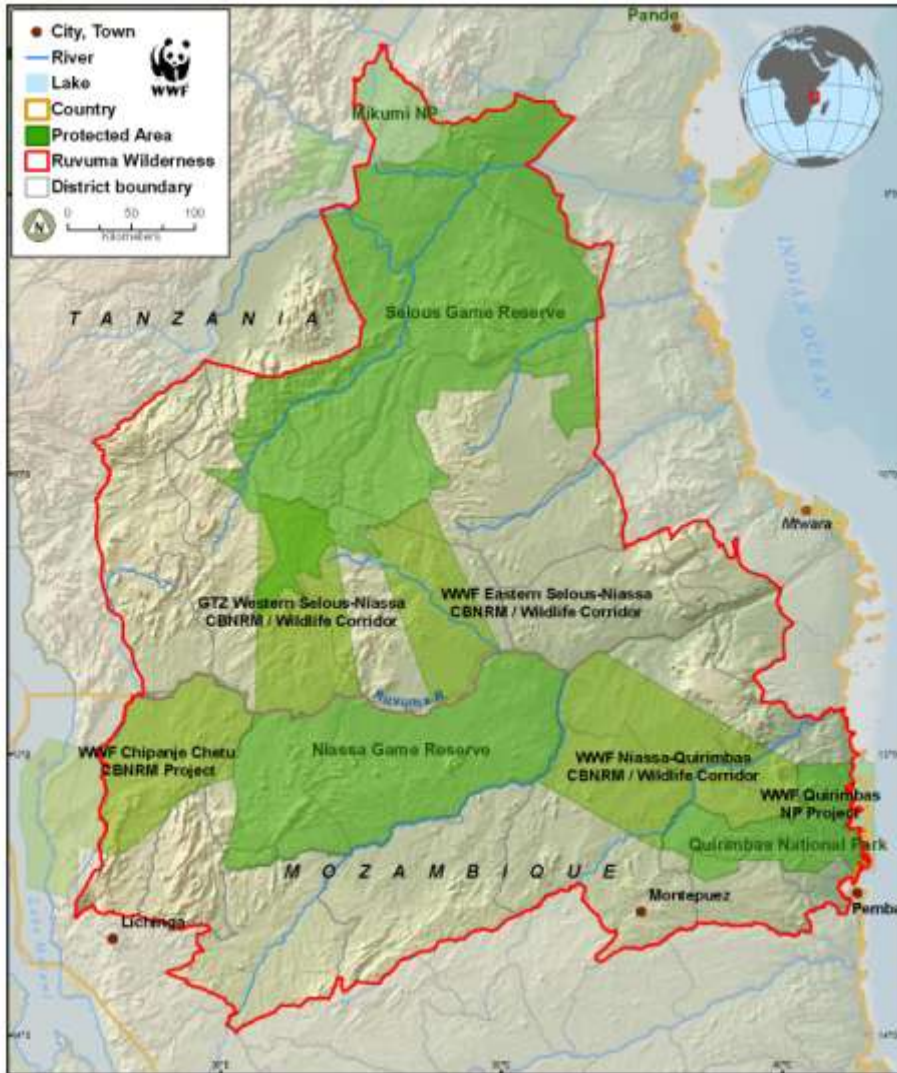
# **Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems**

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY  
Ruvuma Landscape**

**Araman, Nov 2010**



# Background



## •Size

1.500.000 km<sup>2</sup>

## •People

**Approx** 200.000

## Land Use

- Traditional Farming
- Two Game Reserves
- One National Park
- Four Proposed CBNRM wildlife Corridors
- Four Timber Concessions
- Four Trophy hunting Concessions

# Background



## • **Socio-Economic Status**

- High level poverty
- Totally dependent on NR
- High level of illiteracy
- Social services are poor
- Women poorly represented at decision making levels
- Conflict with wildlife

## **Livelihood Activities**

- Subsistence Agriculture
- Illegal Mining
- Illegal logging
- Small livestock farming
- Hunting for Bush meat



# Major Threats



- **Traditional Farming Practice**
  - Habitat Fragmentation
  - Excessive removal of vegetation cover
  - Soil degradation and erosion
  - Increasing demand for more land
  - Conversion of wetland into farmlands as the prolonged drought impacts on the crops life cycle
- **Total dependence on Natural Resources**
  - Increasing pressure over resources
  - Increasing demand for wood as source of energy and livelihood income
  - Increasing illegal activities as means for subsistence

# Community engagement



- **Enhance Capacity to reduce threats and improve community wellbeing**

- Community Organizations
  - CBO, CBNRM, CC
- Community Empowerment
  - Providing Knowledge and skills





# Means of intervention



- Facilitating the development and enforcement of land use plans
- Creating Committees to oversee the sustainable use and conservation of NR at village level and adaptation/resilience building
- Assisting Government to enforce the laws and undertake socio-economic studies
- Training communities on CVCA (climate vulnerability Capacity Analysis) with CARE to gain clear understanding of opportunities, risks and vulnerabilities due to climate changes
- Capacity building (training) to enable appropriate means of participation in NRM decision making
- Establishment of Wildlife Community Management areas

# Engaging with other stakeholders



- Facilitating the Involvement of multidisciplinary government sectors
- Lobbying the district authority to include HWC mitigation program into local Government development plans
- Collaborating with national NGO s and private sectors

# Alignment with legal frameworks

- **The existing policies and laws are very supportive**
  - Local community is entitled by law to manage land and resources through CBO s
  - In Tanzania and Mozambique, respectively 25% and 20% from Hunting Concessions and other NR harvesting revenues is ploughed back to the local community through district council
  - Zoning at district and village levels and development of appropriate management plans
  - Wildlife Corridors are legally recognized in Tanzania and Mozambique has included into the draft of first Conservation law - currently in discussion



# Lessons Learned



- The size of Rovuma, the available resources and the diversified social needs, requires that WWF must partners with other Institutions
  - Funding
  - Expertise
  - Technology
  - Decision making
- Addressing Community livelihood issues is the key to engage people into sustainable resource management

# Long term for Social Sustainability



- Promoting alternative income generating activities
  - Aquaculture, livestock keeping, animal husbandry
- Developing tourism and eco-tourism
- Building community resilience to climate changes
- Encouraging the cultivation of elephant non-palatable plants, as cash crops, around the vulnerable crops
- Promoting **REDD** projects and Carbon sequestration programs as alternative income and biodiversity conservation





# Challenges

- **Securing donor funds in the short term**
- **Ensuring local community, Government, private sector s commitment to support Conservation Programs in longer term**
- **Attracting high investment to boost tourism enterprise**
- **Building community capacity to improve their management systems and business entrepreneurship**



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**Thank you  
Asante Sana  
Obrigado**