

## **A Review of Challenges Facing Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania**

### **Abstract**

Institutional challenges remain one of the biggest problem in achieving sustainable community based natural resources management. Based on a literature review of policies, legislation and scientific literature, this study examined institutional challenges facing Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Tanzania. Specifically, we sought to analyse and identify the root causes of these challenges in policies and legislation pertaining to community based wildlife management. We find five overall challenges including 1) insufficient participation of local communities in the management and rules making for WMAs; 2) poor access to resources in the WMAs. This includes alienation of communities from their land within the WMA while withdrawal from WMA is legally difficult; 3) management rights are transferred to an institution that is not accountable to the elected village representatives; 4) the government has recentralised financial flows making the benefit sharing mechanism non transparent to the communities; and 5) besides existing conflicts in some WMAs, there are no locally established low cost conflict management mechanism. Therefore, with regards to the challenges it is recommended that specific sections and paragraphs in the relevant policies and legislation need to be adjusted (this is discussed). Moreover, future research in WMAs need to focus on systematic reviews.