



# MATUMIZI BORA YA MALIHAI IDODI NA PAWAGA (MBOMIPA) WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Tanzania



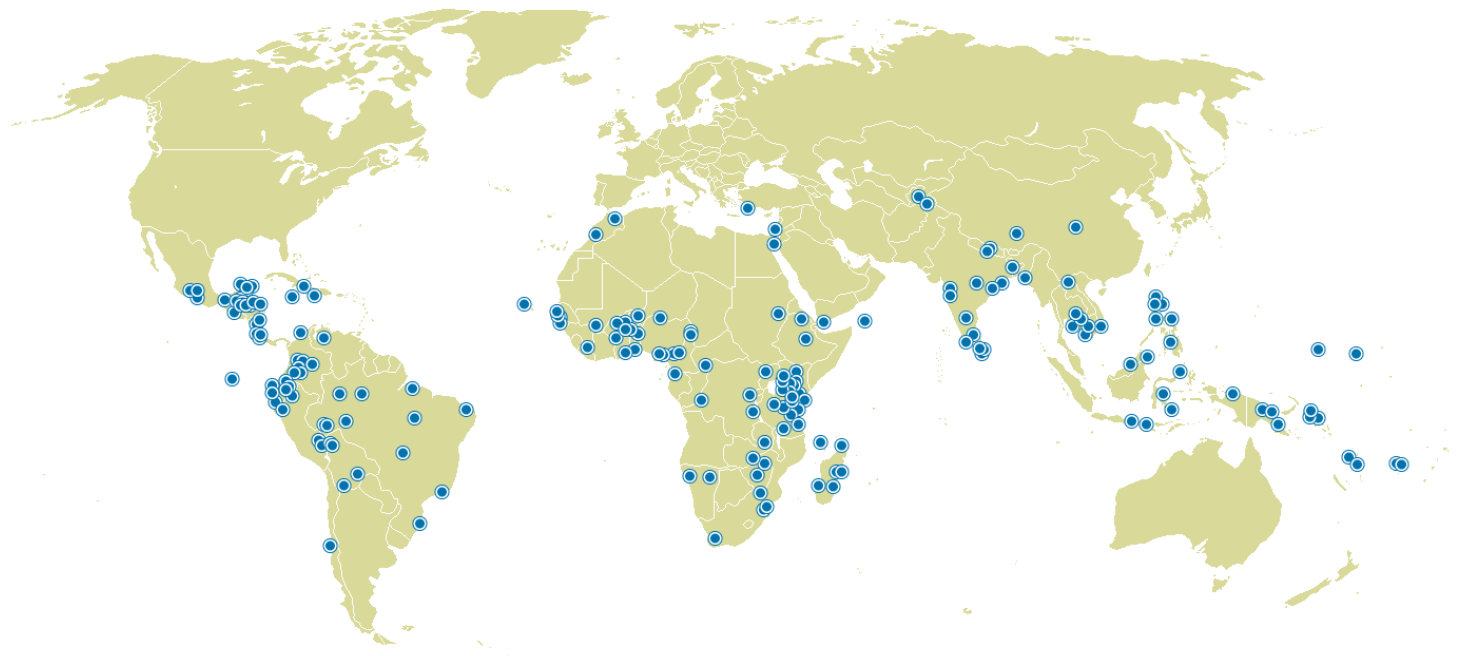
## Equator Initiative Case Studies

Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities

# UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE CASE STUDY SERIES

Local and indigenous communities across the world are advancing innovative sustainable development solutions that work for people and for nature. Few publications or case studies tell the full story of how such initiatives evolve, the breadth of their impacts, or how they change over time. Fewer still have undertaken to tell these stories with community practitioners themselves guiding the narrative. The Equator Initiative aims to fill this gap.

UNDP's Equator Initiative, in partnership with ENDA Tiers Monde (ENDA), Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), identified examples of local ingenuity, innovation, and leadership in sustainable land management (SLM) in drylands in Sub-Saharan Africa. The following case study is one in a series that describes vetted and peer-reviewed best practices in SLM management, with the purpose of inspiring the policy dialogue needed to take local success to scale, to improve the global knowledge base on local environment and development solutions, and to serve as a model for replication.



*Click on the map to visit the Equator Initiative's searchable case study database.*

## Editors

*Editor-in-Chief:* Joseph Corcoran  
*Managing Editor:* Alan Pierce  
*Contributing Editors:* Eva Gurria

## Contributing Writers

Alan Pierce, Eva Gurria, Annie Virnig, Elizabeth Shaw, Anthony von Arx, Joshua Voges, Qiang Li, Kathryn McCann

## Design

Kimberly Koserowski

## Acknowledgements

The Equator Initiative acknowledges with gratitude the Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA) Wildlife Management Area.

## Suggested Citation

United Nations Development Programme. 2015. *Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA) Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania*. Equator Initiative Case Study Series. New York, NY.

# MATUMIZI BORA YA MALIHAI IDODI NA PAWAGA (MBOMIPA) WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

## Tanzania

### PROJECT SUMMARY

A community-based organization of 21 villages, Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga (MBOMIPA), works with 56,000 people living adjacent to Ruaha National Park in Tanzania on sustainable natural resource management and anti-poaching efforts. The association established a community-run wildlife management area and is promoting wildlife-based livelihoods as a means to ensure biodiversity conservation. Revenue generated from the wildlife management area is split among member villages and has been invested in healthcare, education and infrastructure. Living fences are used to support food security by keeping elephants and other wildlife from destroying crops. MBOMIPA's wildlife management area was legally gazetted in 2007 and has been used as a model for replication in other regions as a way to protect wildlife and promote sustainable livelihoods.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background and Context	4
Key Activities and Innovations	6
Impacts	7
Biodiversity Impacts	7
Socioeconomic Impacts	8
Gender	8
Policy Impacts	9
Sustainability	10
Replication	10
Partners	10

### KEY FACTS

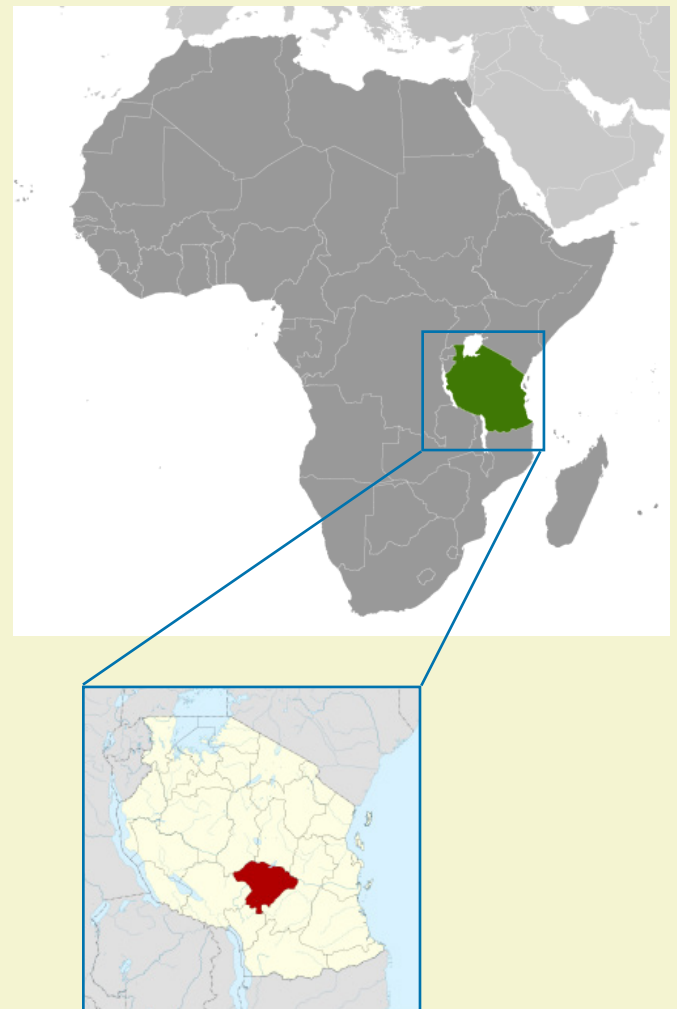
EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER: 2014

FOUNDED: 1997

LOCATION: Iringa region, central Tanzania

BENEFICIARIES: 21 villages, 56,000 people

AREA OF FOCUS: Biodiversity, Ruaha National Park; Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi ecosystem; iconic African wildlife





# Background and Context



Matumizi Bora ya Maliha Idodi na Pawaga (hereafter referred to as MBOMIPA), Swahili for “Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources in Idodi and Pawaga,” is an association of 21 villages in the Pawaga and Idodi Divisions of Iringa District in central Tanzania that administers a wildlife management area (WMA). Pawaga and Idodi Divisions are located 500 kilometers southwest of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania’s economic and cultural capital, and are adjacent to the eastern border of Ruaha National Park.

Covering more than 20,000 square kilometers, Ruaha is Tanzania’s largest park. Ruaha National Park is part of the Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi ecosystem, a 45,000 square kilometer protected area. Ruaha National Park has a significant population of elephants and is home to the second largest population of lions in the world. Other African mammals found in the park include leopard, cheetah, African wild dog, hippopotamus, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, impala, eland, giant pangolin, jackal, hyena, kongoni, waterbuck, warthog, greater and lesser kudu (the only area in the world where both occur together), Grant’s gazelle, sable antelope, roan antelope, aardvark, mongoose and bat-eared fox. The Usangu flats have been designated an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International and more than 570 species of birds have been recorded in the park, including kingfishers, hornbills, sunbirds and storks. The Tanzanian red-billed hornbill is endemic to the area.

Ruaha National Park receives between 500 to 800 millimeters of rain per year with an average annual temperature of 28 Celsius. The dry season occurs between June and October. The landscape is varied and features the Great Rift Valley and its escarpment, wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, mountains, hot water springs and alluvial plains along the Great Ruaha River. The park’s elevation ranges from 750 to 1,900 meters. Ruaha National Park straddles the transition zone between the Zambezian and Sudanian floristic domains and is consequently rich in floral diversity; more than 1650 species of plants have been identified in the park. Forest types include Acacia woodlands and Miombo woodlands, and the charismatic baobab tree is a common species.

The villages within Pawaga and Idodi are made up of a heterogeneous mixture of different tribal groups, including the Hehe, Gogo, Bena, Kinga Kosisamba, Maasai, Barabaig, Mang’ati and Sukuma. Agriculture and livestock are the primary sources of livelihood in rural communities bordering Ruaha National Park. Subsistence crops include maize, millet, sorghum and rice. Poverty is widespread and governmental services are minimal. Human-wildlife conflict, sparked by incidents such as trampling of agricultural crops by elephant herds or taking of livestock by carnivores, is a major issue within villages abutting the park. Additional threats to the park include poaching, unmanaged fires, over-grazing, deforestation and transference of disease from livestock to wildlife.





## Wildlife Management Areas

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Tanzania experienced a rash of commercial poaching which killed half of the country's elephants and nearly all of its black rhinos, resulting in a reevaluation of the country's wildlife management policies and practices. A Wildlife Sector Review Task Force, convened by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to address the issue, 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, otherwise all future conservation efforts will be condemned to failure." In 1998, the government of Tanzania amended its wildlife policy to allow community participation in the management of wildlife. The policy specifically allowed "rural communities and private land holders to manage wildlife on their land for their own benefit" and devolved "management responsibility of the settled and areas outside unsettled protected areas to rural people and the private sector." The vehicle for implementation of community-based conservation of wildlife in Tanzania is the wildlife management area (WMA). The assumptions underpinning WMAs are as follows: (1) the government devolves control over wildlife to communities so that they can capture benefits from activities such as ecotourism and hunting; (2) improved livelihoods from wildlife benefits engenders greater community support for conservation; (3) improved management practices lead to reductions in illegal activities; and (4) wildlife populations recover, providing communities with sustainable benefits into the future. Subsequent legislation established a process for communities to obtain WMA status, including: formation of a community-based organization and registration with the Ministry of Home Affairs; a strategic plan for the proposed WMA; land-use plans that are surveyed, mapped and registered; an environmental impact assessment; preparation of by-laws to support the land-use plans; a resource management zone plan; and applications for Authorized Association status, user rights to wildlife inside the WMA and establishment of hunting zones (if desired by the WMA).

## Governance

MBOMIPA was legally recognized as a community-based organization under the Societies Ordinance in 2002, becoming the first indigenous conservation and development organization of its kind in Tanzania. The association's legal instruments include a constitution and articles of association. MBOMIPA is governed by a general assembly comprised of 42 elected representatives (2 members from each of the 21 villages). The general assembly appoints four committees to oversee planning and finance, discipline and tourism, law enforcement and infrastructure. Members from these committees form the executive committee, which is responsible for implementing the association's day-to-day activities and decision-making. The executive committee is managed by an elected chairperson, vice chairperson, executive secretary and bursar. The organization's financial accounts are audited by two different firms, one selected by the association and another by Tanzania's Wildlife Division, to ensure transparency.

As outlined in MBOMIPA's constitution, the objectives of the association and the WMA are:

To conserve and wisely use the natural resources, particularly wildlife, forests and fisheries, in the WMA and the 21 MBOMIPA villages of Pawaga and Idodi divisions;

To provide awareness and education to the people of the 21 villages on the environment, natural resources (wildlife, forestry, fisheries, water and soils, etc.) and vital issues such as disease (for example HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases);

To provide amenities such as schools, hospitals, dispensaries, water and other social services; and

To market products available and produced from the WMA and MBOMIPA area.





# Key Activities and Innovations



## *Creation of the Pawaga-Idodi Wildlife Management Area*

MBOMIPA villages donated 777 hectares of land for the purpose of establishing a WMA to enhance local livelihoods and social well-being. The WMA is contiguous with the southern border of Ruaha National Park. Because the area borders the Great Ruaha River, a critical water source, many of the charismatic African mammals that are found in Ruaha National Park can also be seen in the Pawaga-Idodi WMA. The rivers within the Pawaga-Idodi WMA are home to 38 species of fish, freshwater mussels and the African clawless otter. Notable reptiles found within the Pawaga-Idodi WMA include crocodile, monitor lizard, python, black mamba and puff adder. The WMA also includes hot springs, waterfalls and caves that are tourist attractions.

The WMA is zoned for four distinct uses: photographic tourism, general tourism, tourist hunting and resident hunting (hunting by Tanzanian nationals, mostly wealthy businesspeople from nearby Iringa). The length of hunting seasons and rules for forbidden and permitted activities within each zone are stipulated in the association's resource management zone plan. Beekeeping, sustainable collection of medicinal plants and traditional worship and cultural activities are generally permitted within each zone (with some seasonal closures coinciding with hunting season). The resource management zone plan also designates specific agricultural and livestock zones in the buffer zone of the WMA in an effort to reduce conflict with wildlife.

A group of 37 village game scouts from the member villages are charged with patrolling the WMA and keeping peace in the villages. The village game scouts are trained in wildlife management and conservation practices and are issued uniforms. The WMA includes a game scouts' camp with 20 beds that also serves as housing for hunting parties or visitors. A jeep was purchased in 2010 to support patrolling of the WMA by the village game scouts. The game scouts are also responsible for ongoing monitoring of wildlife populations and changes in vegetation. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)'s Rungwa-Ruaha Landscape Conservation Program uses a restored house in the Pawaga-Idodi WMA as a scientific base.





# Impacts



## BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS

MBOMIPA employs a two-pronged approach to reducing poaching, which includes environmental education programs and the mobilization of village game scouts. Meetings in villages sensitize adults to the value of wildlife and familiarize villagers with the rules and laws governing the WMA and Ruaha National Park. Environmental education programs in village primary schools teach youths the value of conservation from a young age. In addition to their anti-poaching activities, village game scouts also focus on preventing illegal logging and theft of honey from bee hives within the WMA.

Located on the boundary of Tanzania's largest park, the Pawaga-Idodi WMA is providing a buffer zone for wildlife living within the park. The community-based WMA model would be made even more effective if implemented in important wildlife corridors connecting existing protected areas. Implementation of controlled burns, fire breaks and vegetation monitoring has maintained wildlife habitat and floral diversity in the Pawaga-Idodi WMA. Wildlife surveys carried out by the village game scouts provide MBOMIPA with baseline data to understand changes in wildlife populations. Establishment of agricultural and livestock use zones in proximity to the WMA have reduced human-wildlife conflict and the killing of wildlife, and have





provided an example of how to integrate communities and communal land in landscape-level approaches to protecting biodiversity.

## SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

The Pawaga-Idodi Wildlife Management Area is producing income from consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife for the benefit of 21 villages. Surplus income is invested in local infrastructure and has improved community wellbeing.

### *Income and employment*

Hunting and ecotourism provide villagers with full- and part-time jobs and create markets for local goods. 37 village game scouts are employed full-time by the Pawaga-Idodi WMA. Between 2010 and 2012, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated a cash-for-work program in MBOMIPA villages that created more than 100 full-time and temporary jobs. The program upgraded the infrastructure of the Pawaga-Idodi WMA and included the construction of village game scout posts, the installation of boundary markers and gates, the creation of visitor centers and improvements to roads.

The village of Tungamalenga, the main entry point for tourists, includes two lodges, a luxury campsite and guesthouses. These establishments provide employment for many MBOMIPA villagers, most importantly for women and youths. The tourist accommodations provide a steady demand for local food, giving farmers and pastoralists a ready market for their products. The presence of tourists and resident hunters in Tungamalenga has spawned a number of micro-enterprises in the village including bars, grocery stands and craft shops. Some villagers also find work in tourist accommodations inside Ruaha National Park. The Ruaha River Lodge, located within the park, also supports the local economy through purchases of construction materials, particularly grass thatching.

### *Improvements to infrastructure and community wellbeing*

The income generated from hunting and tourism in the Pawaga-Idodi WMA has fluctuated annually, ranging from 20,000 USD to as much as 200,000 USD per year. In many years, the WMA income apportioned to individual villages exceeded village income (largely made up of taxes and fines) by a factor of two. This allowed villages to pay the district education levy, thereby reducing the tax burden on villagers and increasing their disposable income. A woman from the village of Mahuninga reflected on the infusion of extra income: “The income from wildlife goes to the community rather than individuals; however we as individuals save money. The money we save is now spent on food, kerosene, doctors’ bills and exercise books for school children.”

Villages have invested profits from the WMA in local infrastructure. A secondary school was built in the village of Idodi and has significantly increased the number of children receiving a secondary education. During a particularly lucrative period between 2008 and 2011, MBOMIPA was able to support the education of more than 40 orphans from its member villages. Village investments in the upkeep of local roads have given farmers better access to markets for their crops and the digging of wells has provided villagers with potable water. WMA profits have been used to fund dispensaries and to construct a health center at Kimande. The health center has increased access to basic health services and has resulted in reduced mortality among pregnant women and newborns.

### *Changing attitudes and practices*

The creation of jobs and income-generating activities relating to hunting and ecotourism is gradually changing MBOMIPA villager’s attitudes toward conservation and wildlife as members see the impact of wildlife profits being invested in community projects. According to MBOMIPA officials, villagers now speak of the “rights of wildlife,” a formally foreign concept. In 2014, the “Strengthening the Protected Area Network in Southern Tanzania” (SPANEST) project launched a soccer tournament, named the SPANEST Cup, in MBOMIPA villages as a way to raise awareness of poaching among youth. The competition is part of a broader initiative addressing wildlife crime, including meetings, workshops, local media programs and targeted publications, and provides youth and the community with opportunities to share their views on how to address poaching. More than 250 youths competed in the SPANEST cup and eight teams that reached the quarter finals were given jerseys that displayed the campaign motto, “stop elephant poaching, protect elephants, play football.”

Villagers have also changed land management practices in an effort to avoid further human-wildlife conflict. For example, villagers have begun planting chili peppers and are using living fences and chili-pepper-greased fencing to protect agricultural fields from raiding wildlife. Villagers are also planting crops that are less attractive to wildlife but still provide marketable crops and food security.

## GENDER

MBOMIPA’s constitution highlights the importance of including women in leadership and decision-making positions within the association. At present, three women serve as members of the executive committee, and women hold posts in all four of the association’s working committees. Women also serve as chairpersons and executive officers of member villages, and women have represented MBOMIPA in stakeholder meetings and other official forums. According to a woman in the village of Mahuninga, creation of the WMA has

*“Once the communities are empowered they can directly benefit from the natural resources within their area. Empowerment ensures for the sustainable use of the natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.”*

*Josephat Kisanyage, Secretary for MBOMIPA WMA*



been beneficial for women. “Before, the men hunted, sold the meat and put the money in their pockets,” she says. “Now we get money from the sale of the hunting quota and everyone benefits, including women and children. As our village taxes have gone down, we have better education, a secondary school, a better road and a dispensary.” Ecotourism has provided the women of MBOMIPA with greater income-generating opportunities, specifically in the production of handcrafts. Women’s ability to produce their own sources of incomes is empowering because it increases confidence, independence, skills and social status.

## POLICY IMPACTS

The MBOMIPA Wildlife Management Area was developed out of the Ruaha Ecosystems Wildlife Management Project, initiated and funded by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) from 1992 to 1996. One of the goals of the MBOMIPA Project logical framework, formulated in 1996, was that a new wildlife policy be implemented effectively during the project period.



This goal was met within two years: the Tanzanian Wildlife Division used MBOMIPA as a pilot project and encouraged MBOMIPA representatives to participate in workshops, ultimately leading to the passage of the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (1998).



*“Sustainable land mangement is important for maintaining good climate for human being life and develelopment and to ensure availability of essential human needs such as good air, food, shelter, water etc.”*

*Josephat Kisanyage, Secretary for MBOMIPA WMA*



# Sustainability and Replication



## SUSTAINABILITY

MBOMIPA is a legally-recognized WMA working in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Division and the Tanzania National Parks Authority under directives outlined in the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania. This legal framework provides the association with legitimacy and is a crucial building block for its future sustainability. MBOMIPA's partnerships with local government authorities and local NGOs have enhanced its ability to sustain itself. However, the signing of long-term contracts between MBOMIPA and the private sector, particularly hunting and ecotourism companies, would significantly strengthen the association's financial sustainability. Options for increasing revenue from cultural tourism also need to be further explored. Further capacity building of the MBOMIPA staff and board

in areas such as WMA management, finance and governance would bolster the association's long-term viability.

## REPLICATION

Protected areas are linchpins in the conservation of species and ecosystem, but there are limits to their capacity to fully support conservation at the landscape level. There is growing recognition that communities can be stewards of wildlife in important wildlife corridors and park buffer areas. Wildlife management areas provide a model for community-based natural resource management that can be adopted around the globe. MBOMIPA has hosted a number of NGOs and communities who have expressed interest in establishing wildlife management areas within Tanzania, as well as further afield in East Africa. In central Tanzania, the Wildlife Conservation Society is supporting the establishment of two new wildlife management areas (WAGA and UMEMARUWA) in important wildlife corridors to the south and east of Ruaha National Park.

## PARTNERS

DFID provided key financial and technical support for MBOMIPA in the early years of its development (1992-2003). Subsequent support for MBOMIPA's institutional development was provided by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and channeled through the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The Wildlife Conservation Society has been an extremely important partner for MBOMIPA. WCS has provided advice and technical expertise to MBOMIPA in areas such as collaborative land use planning, resource inventories and management. Wildlife Conservation Society staff served as mediators between MBOMIPA and investors and mediated disputes within MBOMIPA (for example, between agriculturalists and pastoralists). USAID funded a cash-for-work program to improve infrastructure within the Pawaga-Idodi MWA and continues to provide financial support to MBOMIPA. The Tanzanian NGO, Friends of Ruaha, initiated an environmental education program in MBOMIPA village primary





schools. MBOMIPA government partners include the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism's Division of Wildlife and Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA). Partnerships with central and local government authorities (e.g., the Iringa Regional Authority and the Rufiji Basin Water Authority) streamlined the legal registration of

the organization and facilitated the issuance of permits for resource use. MBOMIPA is a partner in the "Strengthening the protected area network in southern Tanzania" (SPANEST) project, a landscape-level approach to managing biodiversity spearheaded by TANAPA and UNDP.



*“Successes working in drylands come from education and awareness raising efforts, the provision of direct benefits to the communities and from working in partnership with communities and other conservation organizations.”*

*Josephat Kisanyage, Secretary for MBOMIPA WMA*

## FURTHER REFERENCE

- MBOMIPA – Pawaga-Idodi Wildlife Management Area [website](#)
- [Pawaga-Idodi proposed wildlife management area](#) (includes a draft of the resource management zone plan from 2006)
- Ruaha National Park [website](#)
- Walsh, M. 2003. [MBOMIPA: from project to association and from conservation to poverty reduction. Final project report.](#) Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Wildlife Division & Tanzania National Parks.
- Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. 1998. [The wildlife policy of Tanzania.](#)

## PROJECT PARTNERS

EQUATOR  INITIATIVE



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

Equator Initiative  
Sustainable Development Cluster  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
304 East 45th Street, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: +1 646 781-4023  
[www.equatorinitiative.org](http://www.equatorinitiative.org)

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

©2015 by Equator Initiative  
All rights reserved

## EQUATOR INITIATIVE PARTNERS



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.