



**POSTER PRESENTED AT THE ALLIANCES WORKSHOP AT THE  
IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS ENTITLED:**

**“FOLLOWING THE NATURE, WEALTH AND POWER TRINITY TO HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENTS AND HEALTHY PEOPLE”**

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**Posters Presented By:**

1. Peter Coppolillo, Wildlife Conservation Society – Chickens, nutrition and bushmeat in Tanzania.
2. Charles Foley, Wildlife Conservation Society – Conservation easements in Tanzania.
3. David Meyers, Madagascar Bamboo – Bamboo and carbon offsets in Madagascar.
4. Sharon Gordon, Millennium Development Goals Centre, East & Southern Africa - Using incentives for energy and resource management in Kenya

**Panelists:**

1. Lisa Naughton, Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin
2. Ann Koontz, Enterprise Works/Vita
3. Alice Ruwheza, Forest Trends
4. David Wilkie, Wildlife Conservation Society

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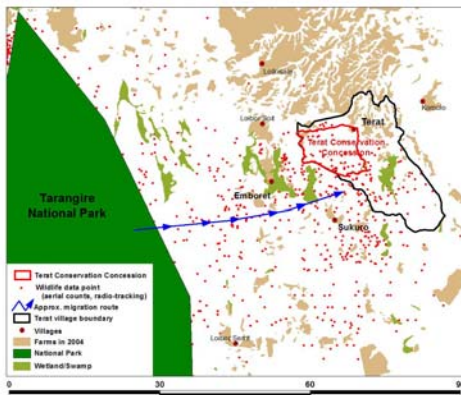
# TransLinks

## Promoting Transformation by Linking Nature, Wealth and Power

### Private sector payments for conservation and livelihoods in the Simanjiro Plains, Tanzania

#### Context

Wildlife migration corridors and dispersal areas in the Simanjiro plains are increasingly threatened by the rapid expansion of agricultural activity. We developed this project to provide sustainable economic incentives for local Masaai to keep their land as pasture, thus increasing their household



income and conserving critical wildlife habitat.

Soil in the Tarangire National Park is too low in phosphorus to support lactating female ungulates. As a result they need to disperse to calving grounds, on village lands in the Simanjiro plains to the east and Lake Natron to the north, at the start of the wet season (November), and then return to concentrate inside Tarangire National Park when the water in these dispersal areas dries up (June). Terrat, one of the three main villages in the Simanjiro, is predominantly Masaai and pastoralism is the main economic activ-

ity; so access to good dry season grazing is of critical importance for the majority of families in the village.

During the early 1990s:

- As many as 55,000 zebra and wildebeest migrated in and out of the Park seasonally.
- The Simanjiro migration was one of the largest migrations of wildlife in East Africa.

In the past forty years:

- Five of the nine main migration routes have been lost.
- Two of the remaining four migration routes have been severely degraded.

Over the past five years:

- There has been rapid agricultural expansion and uncontrolled poaching in the calving areas.
- Wildebeest populations have experienced a dramatic decline (from 30,000 individuals in 1994 to fewer than 5,000 in 2007).

#### Project implementation

A consortium of five tour operators has negotiated a five-year contract (with potential for re-negotiation) with the Terrat village for a conservation concession:

- The village has agreed to prohibit all cultivation, permanent settlement and charcoal produc-

tion within the concession area.

- In exchange, the tour operators make annual payments of approximately \$4500 to the Terrat village concession.
- Additional funds (\$3500/year) are used to train and support 4 village game scouts, who collect data on wildlife movement and densities.
- Contractually, the village is allowed to continue its use of the area for traditional livestock-based practices (e.g., grazing livestock on the plains during the dry season).

Although none of the tour operators operates within the concession area, the payments represent an investment in the conservation of the overall ecosystem, which is



necessary to protect their business interests within the National Park.

## Outcomes

- The protection of approximately 100 sq. km. of critical wildlife calving grounds in Terrat village.
- Increased vigilance provided by patrolling game scouts who report all signs of illegal activity to regional anti-poaching groups.
- Potential deterrence of poaching in the area due to the presence of the game scouts.
- Collection of a wide range of data including animal numbers, distribution, mortality figures, illegal activity and human-wildlife conflict.
- Reinforcement of the community's existing system of live-stock and pasture management.
- The village land certificate, which was obtained with money generated from the concession.
- Increased awareness of land tenure issues, including local debate about land use rights in Terrat village, including ongoing discussion about charging non-villagers for grazing access.

Establishment of a new framework for local community support to conservation efforts in the Si-

manjiro. (The Terrat concession's good reputation has generated a neighboring village's interest in adopting a similar agreement.)

## Linking nature, wealth and power

A key reason for the conservation success of this project is that it:

- Encourages villagers to protect their dry season grazing lands;
- Provides an additional source of income to the village and encourages investment of these community revenues in collective social services;
- Encourages the formation of a village management board to oversee this arrangement, thus building local capacity; and
- Represents the first time that Terrat village has received direct economic benefits from the wildlife populations that rely on their lands.

## Lessons learned

Key factors made this agreement possible:

- The village governance and land tenure system in Tanzania allows Village Councils to own and manage land and to enter into legally binding agreements. Therefore, tour operators were able to negotiate with a single entity rather than a large number of land owners, significantly reducing the transaction costs of establishing the PES.
- The area was traditionally managed as a dry season grazing reserve, a form of land use that is generally compatible with wildlife populations. Thus, a formal prohibition of agriculture on the short-grass plains represented no immediate costs to the vil-

lage and reinforced the community's existing system of live-stock and pasture management.

- The long-standing existence of village-operator tourism concession contracts in neighboring villages provided the necessary familiarity to make the concession proposal easily understandable.
- The existence of transparent financial management processes in the village assured villagers that the financial gain derived from the concession would benefit their community.

In areas where there are many competing influences on the local population, such as the Simanjiro, it is a real advantage to have personnel who are trusted members of the community permanently based in the village. These personnel can ensure that all members of the community are well-informed about the project and their presence can lead to the rapid resolution of problems. The successful implementation of the Terrat concession was aided by the fact that the project supervisor lives in the village and is a well-respected member of the community.

