

# **AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS TO POVERTY REDUCTION IN TANZANIA**

**VENANCE MUTAYOBA**

The Mwalimu Nyere Memorial Academy

## **1. Background**

In the face of pressing rural poverty, wildlife resources are assuming an ever greater importance. However, the role of wildlife management as an engine for rural development has received too little attention. In order to fill the existing knowledge gap this study aims to assess contribution of wildlife resources found outside protected areas to poverty reduction in Sikonge District, Tanzania. Based on the closeness to wildlife protected area Ipole ward was selected as a study area. All four villages in Ipole ward bordering Ipole WMA were purposively selected to constitute the sample in a household survey complemented by participatory data collection methods.

## **2. Results**

There have been disparities as far as benefits to villages are concerned. However, it was evident that WMAs are important to livelihoods across all four villages located to the vicinity of PAs. Receipts from tourist hunting and photographic tourism are gathered centrally by government before being partially redistributed to communities located adjacent to PAs. In addition, a tourist hunting companies have entered into contract with Ipole WMA and had formulated their initiatives to make donations in order to support community projects. This has reduced a burden to raise funds for community service facilities such as schools and health facilities. Interestingly, illegal hunting for food, bushmeat business and charcoal burning were termed as “benefits”. Still villages with WMAs do not enjoy full use of wildlife resources despite being Authorized Associations (AA).

## **3. Conclusion**

It is perceived that, the benefits outweigh the costs of living close to protected wildlife resources. Perceived attitudes towards WMA establishment are crucial to the success of resources conservation initiatives of protected areas in developing countries. Understanding the underlying factors, which influence the attitudes of households, is essential if sound advice is to be provided to policy makers who are attempting both to conserve the wildlife ecosystems and promote economic development through poverty reduction.

**Key words:** *Wildlife resources, Protected areas (PAs), Wildlife management areas (WMAs), Poverty reduction, Tanzania.*