



# TANAPA TODAY

A quarterly Publication of Tanzania National Parks

Jan-March 2008, Issue 003



*"Conservation for Sustainable Development"*

# CONTENTS

## Regulars

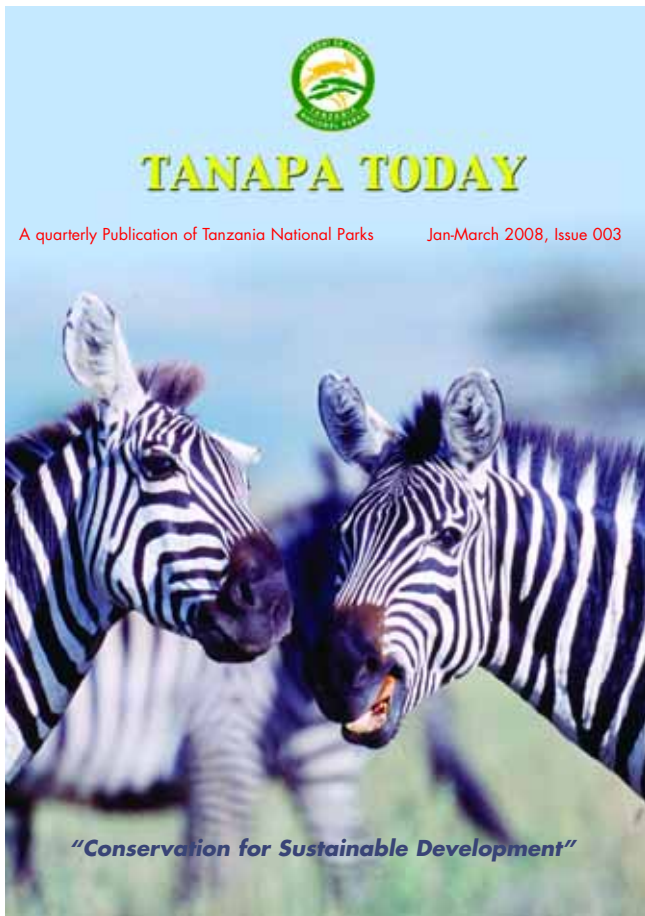
Arusha Manifesto.....	2
Director General's Message.....	4
Editorial.....	5

## News

Kikwete Proposes TANAPA Day.....	6
New Board inaugurated.....	8
TANAPA introduces Electronic Payment.....	10
Mkomazi turns a National Park.....	12

## Features

Papyrus disappear in L. Victoria .....	14
Tarangire River.....	16
Saadani; where the bush meet the beach.....	11
Wildebeest Migration.....	20
Hydro-Power threatens L. Victoria.....	22
Animals Quiz.....	24
Humour.....	25
News in Pictures.....	26
Park's Fees.....	28



### Published by:

Tanzania National Parks  
Mwl. Nyerere Conservation Centre  
P.O. Box 3134, Arusha, Tanzania.

### Editor In Chief

Gerald Bigurube

### Assistant Editor

Pascal Shelutete

### Editorial Team

Ezekiel Dembe

Israel Macha

Ignas Lejora

Catherine G. Mbeni

### Graphics Design

TANAPA Publishing Unit

### Photographs

TANAPA Publishing Unit



# MKOMAZI TURNS NATIONAL PARK

The Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania in November last year passed a law to turn Mkomazi Game Reserve into the country's 15th National Park.

characteristic biogeography zones. First, Mkomazi represents the Southern most extent of the Sahel (the belt of semi arid savannah which borders the Southern Sahara) in East



*Natural wells at Mkomazi*

*The word Mkomazi comes from Pare vernacular meaning "the source of water"*

Moving the motion in the House, immediate former Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Professor Jumanne Maghembe said Mkomazi and nearby Uмба forest were declared conservation areas in order to protect rare wildlife species from extinction.

Mkomazi National Park is almost certainly of great biological significance, representing species and ecosystems not commonly found elsewhere in Tanzania.

Biologically, the Mkomazi National Park is a component of two species rich and char-

Africa. Second, the ancient mountains along the southern borders of the reserve are home to a highly diverse and regionally-specific flora and fauna.



*Mkomazi: Home of the Globally endangered Black Rhino*

The Mkomazi National Park is unique among the National Parks in East Africa; it has striking affinities with adjacent montane regions. Mkomazi is surrounded on its Western and Southern boundaries by the North and South Pare Mountains and in the South by Usambara Mountains.

These surrounding mountains have a profound influence on the local climate, leading to increased precipitation in some areas and 'rain shadows' in others.

Mkomazi falls within a region with two periods of rainfall each year, and it contains a wide variety of vegetation types, which are structured largely by variations in altitude and rainfall. The principal vegetation types in the park are such as bush land, bushed and wooded grassland, grassland, riparian forests as well as presence of permanent and seasonal river margins.

**Meanwhile** the parliament, has approved annexing the Ruaha Conservation Forest to Ruaha National Park. According to Prof. Maghembe, the annexing would see Ruaha and nearby Usangu Conservation Forest (1,148 sq.km) become one National Park covering 5,778 sq.km, and thus becoming the Africa's largest National Park.

In his contribution on behalf of the Standing Committee for Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. James Lembeli (MP), praised the minister for protecting Usangu

as a vital reservoir for Ruaha River, which the nation depends on for power generation.

Lembeli said the move would also increase the volume of water in Ruaha River and ensure all-year round generation of electricity at Mtera and Kidatu dams.

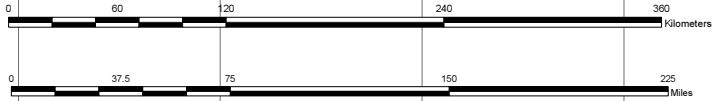
He urged the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to recruit more game wardens who would fight poachers, wildfires and invasion by cattle keepers more vigorously

***“The Mkomazi national park is unique among the National Parks in East Africa; it does not only mark the southern limit of Sahel biota, but it has striking affinities with adjacent montane regions”***



<b>Mikumi National Park</b> Area 3,230 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1964
<b>Arusha National Park</b> Area 137 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1960
<b>Udzungwa Mts. National Park</b> Area 1,990 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1993
<b>Kitulo National Park</b> Area --- Sq. km. - Proposed
<b>Gombe Stream National Park</b> Area 52 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1968
<b>Rubondo Island National Park</b> Area 1977 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1977
<b>Saadani National Park</b> Area --- Sq. km. - Proposed
<b>Serengeti National Park</b> Area 14,763 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1951
<b>Mahale Mts. National Park</b> Area 1,613 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1985
<b>Katavi National Park</b> Area 4,471 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1974
<b>Kilimanjaro National Park</b> Area 756 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1973
<b>Ruaha National Park</b> Area 12,950 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1964
<b>Tarangire National Park</b> Area 2,850 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1970
<b>Manyara National Park</b> Area 325 Sq. km. - Gazzeted 1960

1:1,500,000



**Legend**

- Int. Borders
- District Border
- Towns
- Railway
- Roads
- National Parks
- Game Reserves
- Lakes**
- Island
- Lakes

Grid: UTM Projection: Transverse Marcantor

Tanzania National Parks, established in 1959, manages twelve national parks and another two proposed national parks; Arusha, Gombe, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara, Mahale, Mikumi, Ruaha, Rubondo, Serengeti, Tarangire, Udzungwa, Kitulo and Saadani. It's about 5% of the total area of Tanzania is gazetted as National Parks.

"the survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa. These wild creatures amid wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an intergral part of our natural resources and our future livelihood and well-being. In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to make sure that our children's grand children will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance. The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower, and money, and we look to other nations to co-operate with us in this important tusk - the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world as well."

Arusha Manifesto, J. K. Nyerere, September 1961.



# Tanzania National Parks & Game Reserves

