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# Coastal and marine resource use conflicts and sustainable development in Tanzania

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## Abstract

A survey of coastal and marine resource use conflicts in Tanzania was carried out to highlight them, investigate their origin and finally, suggest ways of minimizing them. Although Tanzania is putting emphasis on environmental issues, including coastal zone management, integrated coastal area management has not yet been integrated into the government management structure/approach. Many conflicts are the result of sectoral approach to coastal and marine resources management, and improper or poor implementation of government policies. Additionally, the local coastal community, who are the foremost stakeholder, were most often not involved in the planning, decision and implementation of many projects and policies even those that affect them directly. Ignorance about the linkages of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources is also an important factor. I suggest that integrated coastal area management which is the foundation for sustainable development, as far as coastal and marine resources are concerned, should be integrated into the government administrative structure. A lead agency with full authority on all activities on the coastal area, including issuance of permits for environmental sensitive businesses/activities, should be nominated or established. This will reduce conflicts by bringing about national coordination of coastal area management. © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

## 1. Introduction

Tanzania lies south of the Equator between 1°S – 11°45'S and 29°21'E – 40°25'E (Fig. 1). It is situated between the great lakes of Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa on the north and western side and the Indian ocean on the eastern side. Tanzania, which

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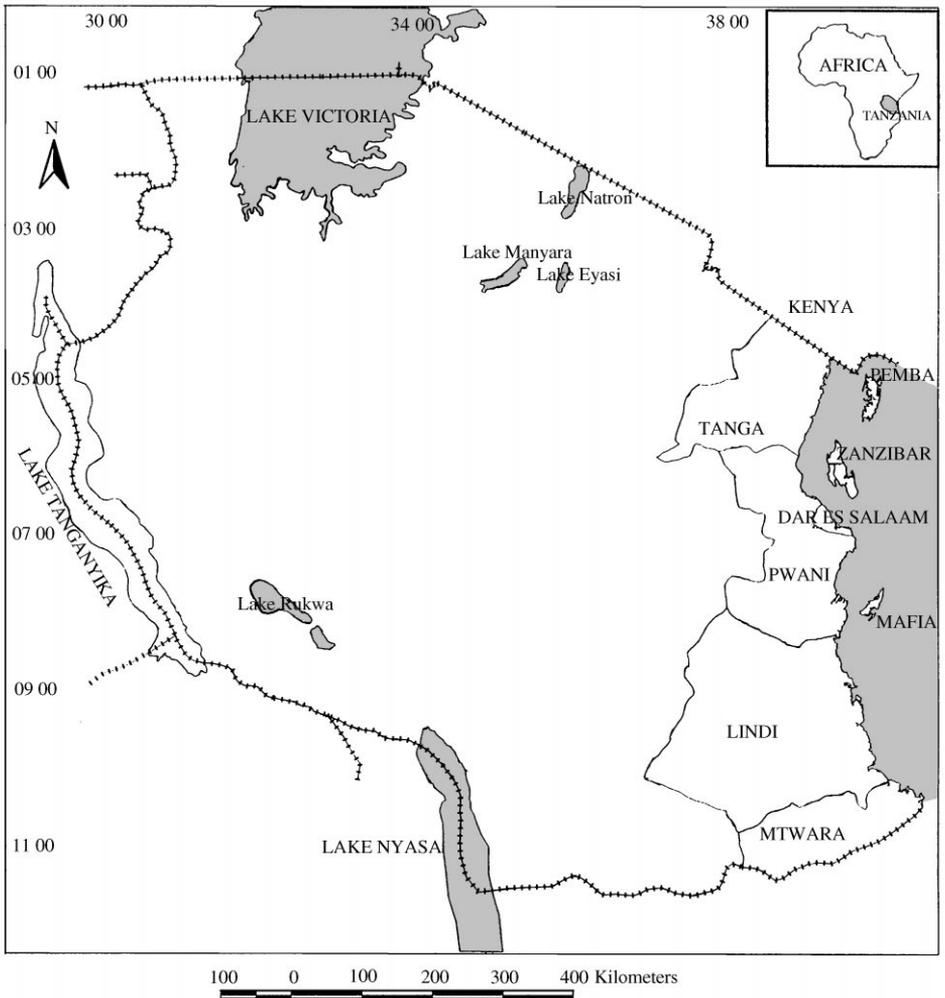


Fig. 1. Index map of Tanzania, showing the coastal regions and Islands.

is the largest country in East Africa, borders Kenya and Uganda to the north, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire to the west, and Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique to the south. Tanzania has a total area of 945,200 km<sup>2</sup> and consists of two parts: the mainland with an area of 942,800 km<sup>2</sup> and Zanzibar Islands which occupy an area of 2400 km<sup>2</sup>. The Zanzibar Islands consist of two major Islands, Unguja and Pemba which, respectively, have an area of 1500 and 900 km<sup>2</sup>.

Tanzania has a coastline of about 800 km in length, and five administrative regions are situated along the mainland coast. These include (from north to south) Tanga, Coast, Dar Es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara. Zanzibar Islands have five administrative regions; Urban West, Unguja North, Unguja South, Pemba North and Pemba South.

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