

# ***Tanzania Tourism Investment Forum***

***October 22 – 24, 2002, Arusha - Tanzania***

***Title: Investment in National Parks***

***Presented by Mr. Gerald Bigurube, Ag. Director General-TANAPA***

***Hosted by:***

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of the  
Government of the United Republic of Tanzania  
Tanzania Investment Centre  
Zanzibar Investment Promotion Agency  
Tourism Confederation of Tanzania**

**Organised by:**

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in collaboration with  
MIGA's Investment Marketing Services Department**

## **INVESTMENTS IN TANZANIA'S NATIONAL PARKS**

**Gerald BIGURUBE**  
**Acting Director General**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) is a parastatal organization under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. It was established in 1959 by National Parks Ordinance (CAP 412) to manage and control the appropriate use of natural resources in all national parks in the country. TANAPA manages some of the best wildlife parks in the world. These national parks are representative samples of stunningly outstanding natural features, which characterize most of Tanzania. They cover everything from the snowy peaks of the roof of Africa, Kilimanjaro, through the Great Rift Valley, to the classic savanna, Serengeti, to Africa's largest Lake Victoria which has Rubondo Island National Park up to the shores of our continent's deepest lake, Tanganyika, where you find Parks with free ranging chimpanzee.**

**Figure 1 shows the present twelve National Parks, which cover over 4% of the land surface of the Tanzania. Two new parks are in the pipeline, namely, Saadani (the only proposed national park with a marine component) north of Dar es Salaam and Kitulo Plateau in Iringa region.**

**This paper presents details of types of investments, which TANAPA encourages, and the reasons for choosing them. It also mentions the informational resources one can use to guide him/her in the process involved to develop high quality Park based facilities.**

# TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS

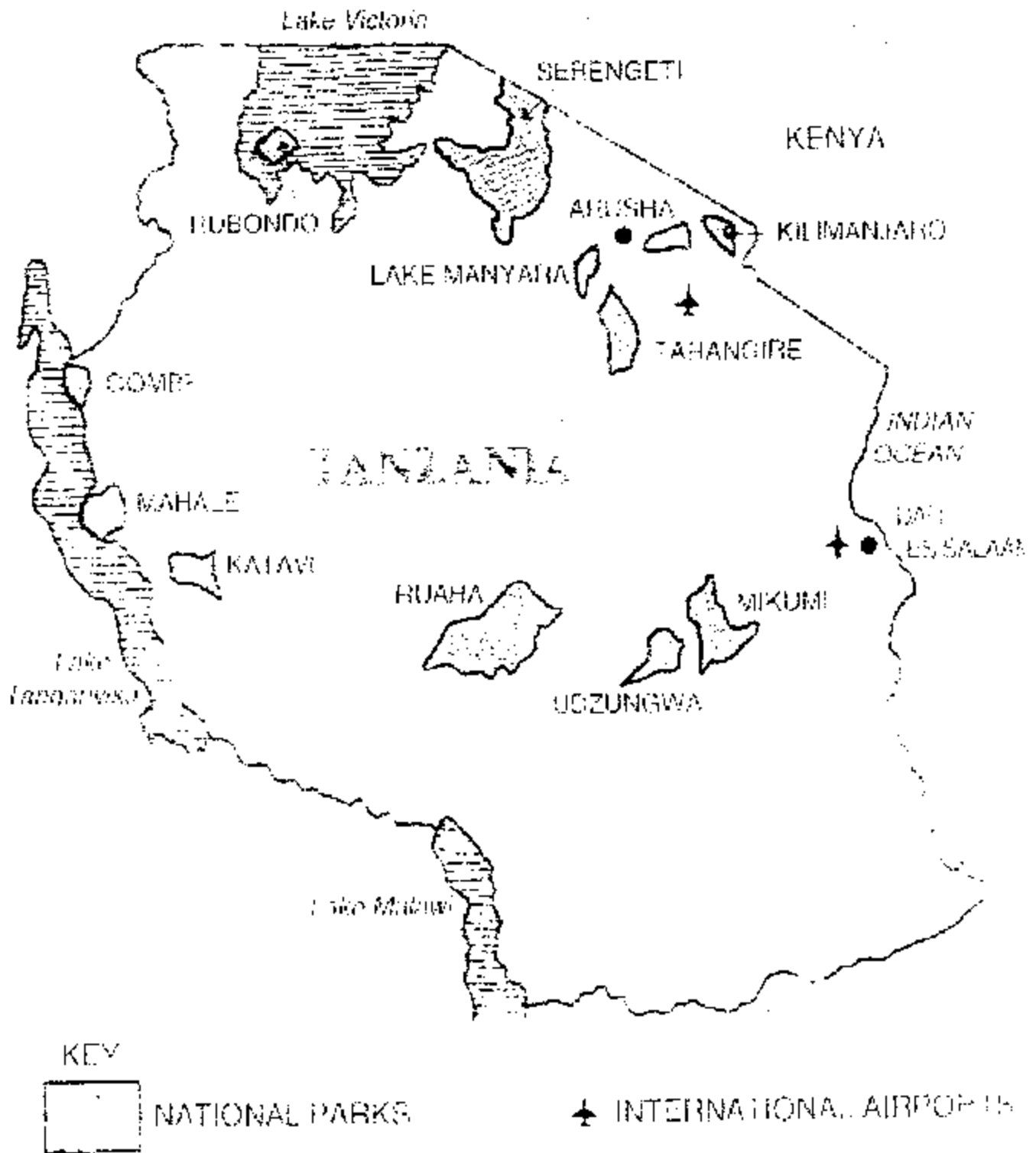


Figure 1: Existing National Parks

TANAPA's key responsibilities are:

1. Conserving the natural resources in the National Parks;
2. Generating financial and material resources needed for the work.

This paper will focus on activities related to responsibility number 2, i.e. that generate revenue for TANAPA.

## **2. INVESTMENTS IN NATIONAL PARKS**

### **2.1 Types of Investments.**

There are direct and indirect types of investments in the national parks. Direct investments are mostly accommodation facilities, while indirect investments include transport and other tourism supporting services.

#### **2.1.1 Accommodation Facilities**

These are categorized as follows:

- **Permanent Luxury Tented Camps (PTC)** – This is the type we encourage on the following grounds:
  - ❖ The bed capacity is small - between 24 - 30 beds (12 to 15 tents only).
  - ❖ Impact on the environment is minimal.
  - ❖ Offers true close to nature experience – sights, sounds, smells and sensory perceptions of wild movements.
  - ❖ Facilities have a temporary character so they can be relocated elsewhere if a need to do so should arise;
  - ❖ No crowding – the few tents can be spaced suitably;
  - ❖ Several camps can be widely dispersed within a National Park without creating a feeling of overcrowding;
  - ❖ They allow improvement cheaply to adapt to changes in accommodation tastes of tourism;
  - ❖ They generate more income per head for TANAPA;
- **Wildlife Lodges** – These are generally concrete structures with a capacity of 100-150 beds. Although they can be structured to blend well with the environment, the interior still resembles similar facilities in cities.

TANAPA encourages these facilities to be built outside National Parks for the following reasons:

- ☛ They are large thus requiring a big piece of land, which can be easily provided by villages;
- ☛ They can stimulate local economies by offering sizable employment opportunities, and encouraging and facilitating production of consumables for the lodge especially foodstuff.
- ☛ They contribute to strengthening social services such as school, hospital, and water because lodge staff would tend to use them as well.
- ☛ If built in an environmentally friendly way (by using the TANAPA EIA guidelines), lodges can stimulate environmentally friendly developments in the village communities;

- They can be a direct source of income for communities through concession fees.
  - They present a unique opportunity of integrating cultural tourism in the lodges cocktail of tourism products.
- **Special campsites (Non – Permanent Tented Camps)** – These are luxury-tented camps where users book the site in advance for a particular period. The camp operator brings all the camping equipment. Special camping is suitable for those who invest in tour operation. Sites are availed on a booking system on a first come first served basis.
- **Fly camping** – These are one-time-use camps, which are normally used by an Investor conducting long walking safaris requiring an overnight accommodation.

Opportunities for these types of accommodation are available in the parks as shown in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTING IN NATIONAL PARKS**

Zone	National Park	Type of Accommodation
Northern	Serengeti	Special campsites
	Kilimanjaro	None
	Tarangire	Special campsites, Fly camps
	Lake Manyara	Special campsites
	Arusha	None
Southern	Mikumi	Mikumi Wildlife Lodge, 2 Permanent Tented Camps
	Udzungwa	Special campsites
	Ruaha	Special campsites, Fly camps
Western	Katavi	2 Permanent Tented Camps, Special campsites, Fly camps
	Mahale Mountains	Special Campsites
	Gombe Stream	None
Lake	Rubondo Island	1 Permanent Tented Camp

Additionally, the existing situation in each National Park is as indicated in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2. LIST OF PERMANENT FACILITIES IN THE NATIONAL PARKS****1. SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK***1.1 Lodges/Hotel*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Lobo Wildlife Lodge	Lobo area	150 beds	Operating
2	Sopa Lodge	Nyarubo Hills	200 beds	Operating
3	Serena Lodge	Nyaruswiga near Seronera area	150 beds	Operating
4	Seronera Wildlife Lodge	Seronera area	150 beds	Operating

*1.2 Permanent Tented Camps*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Grumeti Permanent Tented Camp	Along Grumeti River	18 beds	The Camp is operating
2	A & K Permanent Tented Camp	Serengeti South	16 beds	The Camp is operating
3	Serena Kirawira Luxury Tented Camp	Kirawira area	50 Beds	The Camp is Operating
4	Migration Tented Camp	Ndasiata area	16 beds	The Camp is Operating
5	Mbalageti Safari Camp	Mbalagati area	20 beds	Under Construction
6	Alexandra's Camp	Wogakuria area	20 beds	Being processed
7.	Mbuzi Mawe Tented Camp	Lobo area	30 beds	Being processed

**2. TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK***2.1 Lodges*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Sopa Lodge	Northern part of the Park	150 beds	Operating
2	Tarangire Safari Lodge	Along Tarangire River	84 beds	Operating

### 2.2 Tented Camp

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Swala Tented Camp		16 beds	Operating
2	Maweninga Tented Camp	Maweninga Area	16 beds	To be Constructed

## 3. RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

### 3.1 Lodges

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	River Lodge Safari Lodge	Mwayangi, along Ruaha river near Msembe	100 beds	Operating

### 3.2 Tented Camps

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Mwagusi Safari Lodge	Along Mwagusi River	16 beds	Operating
2	Jongomero Tented Camp	Jongomero area	24 beds	Operating
3	Upper Mdonya Tented Camp	Upper Mdonya area	24 beds	Under Construction

## 4. LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

### Tented Camps

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Maji Moto Tented Camp	Maji moto	16 beds	To be relocated to a new site by the end of this year

## 5. RUBONDO NATIONAL PARK

### Tented Camps

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Flycatcher Tented Camp	Near the park HQ	16 beds	Operating

## 6. KATAVI NATIONAL PARK

### *Tented Camps*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	4 Tented Camps	Along	24 beds each	Provided for in the Draft Management Plan. To be constructed. One operating as a semi-permanent facility

## 7. MAHALE NATIONAL PARK

### *Tented Camps (Temporary/Semi Permanent)*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Mahale Tented Camp	Few kilometers from the Park HQ	10 beds	Operating as a semi-permanent facility

## 8. MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

### *Lodges*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Mikumi Wildlife Lodge	Near the Main Road few Kms from the Park Entry Gate	150 beds	Management under restructuring by PSRC. Not fully Operational

### *Tented Camps*

S/NO	NAME OF THE FACILITY	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
1	Vuma Hill Tented Camp	Vuma Hills	16 beds	Operating
2	Mikumi Wildlife Tented Camp	Near the entry Gate	50 beds ?	Operating

All National Parks offer opportunities to develop lodges and hotels outside to accommodate visitors.

### 2.1.2 INVESTMENT GUIDANCE FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES.

Investments in the national parks are guided by the Development/Action/Lease Procedures (DALP). Sites for development are identified using inter-disciplinary teams of appropriate professionals and the best available information on the area. Emphasis is placed on achieving a balance between preservation and use. The process involves production of General Management Plans (GMPs), Management

Zone Plans (MZPs) and where necessary Development Concept Plans (DCP). The GMPs take 12-18 months, MZP 6-12 months, and DCP takes one month. GMPs take a long time because it is more holistic and encompassing in terms of overall park development, management and issues emanating from outside the park. The MZP is a tourism development plan that specifies what can and cannot happen in different zones of the park. The DCP is mostly applicable where a development is required in the absence of a GMP or MZP. The intention of the organization is to have GMPs for every park. All plans are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Other documents which investors may refer to in the process of investing in National Parks are the following:

- TANAPA Ordinance - Describes the legal boundaries of the national parks.
- Tanzania Wildlife sector policy;
- MZP/EIA - Used only until a GMP can be prepared and is not a replacement document for a GMP.
- DCP/EIA - Used only in emergence situations and should not be considered as a routine procedure.
- Limits of Acceptable Use - Specifies acceptable levels of use in terms of tourism development and use.
- DALP Compliance - Is a strict follow up of all DALP steps.
- Technical Planning - A team of multi-disciplinary professionals working together in park development planning processes.
- Design Standards - Adherence to quality, standards and uniformity in carrying out developments.
- TANAPA Management Rationale - Used to protect sensitive and fragile areas. Also to protect wildlife corridors and dispersal areas.
- TANAPA Management Rating - Management impact rating caused by allowing such developments.

## 2.2 TRANSPORT

All transport systems used to transport visitors to the parks are private sector investment. These include air, road, and water. Air transport (both scheduled and charter flights) is required to service the southern, western, and lake zone parks. Katavi National Park has an airstrip inside the park but also there is another one at Mpanda. Kigoma airport serves both Mahale and Gombe National Parks, but Mahale has an airstrip outside the park. Access to Gombe and Mahale also requires boat transport. Rubondo Island has an airstrip and boat transport can also be used, as it is an island. In the southern zone, both air and road transport is required.

## 2.3 OTHER TOURISM SUPPORTING SERVICES

Investors can consider investing in canopy walkway (500m) at Udzungwa, walking safaris in Tarangire, Ruaha, Mikumi and Katavi, water sports in Rubondo, Gombe, and Mahale Mountains National Parks.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Most potential investment opportunities are in remote Parks. In the short term, these Parks will remain reasonably accessible by air. Since this mode of transport is relatively expensive, it follows that visitors who are willing to pay for it are a class that requires a high standard of accommodation and service; hence the deliberate move of TANAPA to promote small size, luxury tented facilities. This move is also in line with Tanzania's tourism policy of promoting low volume, high yield environmentally sustainable tourism.*

### **3. Conclusion**

TANAPA is encouraging and promoting investments in and outside the national parks that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. At the same time, these developments are synchronized with other park plans in order to maintain the integrity of the parks and the quality experience that brings both the national and international visitors to our national parks. TANAPA supports developments outside the parks to promote interaction with neighboring communities and extend tourism benefits to them as a way of contributing significantly towards poverty alleviation in Tanzania.

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