

SELOUS GAME RESERVE DEVELOPMENT OF CBC IN THE BUFFER ZONE FACTS AND FIGURES

**By
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BACKGROUND

The involvement in conservation of villages neighbouring Selous Game Reserve began immediately following the end of “Operation Uhai” in 1989. Operation Uhai, a countrywide joint operation of the Wildlife Department, Army and Police Force, had temporarily brought poaching under control by force. Many people were sent to prison and the tension between the wildlife staff and villagers reached a peak. At that time every villager was perceived as a potential poacher and assumed to be an enemy of the Game Reserve Authorities.

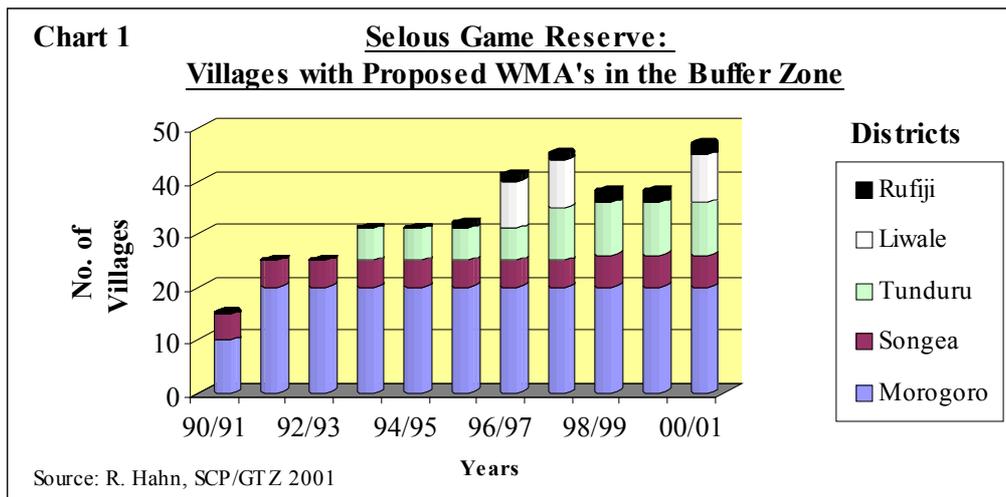
A new concept of community participation in conservation then emerged, CBC (CBC), which enhances protection and enables access to the benefits of having wildlife on village land. However, introducing this concept to village communities was difficult due to all the hostilities and fear that had developed on both sides. The villagers, suspicious that the Wildlife Department might be using just another method to trap them, were understandably hesitant.

As an initial door-opener, the Selous Conservation Programme supported various self-help projects, gradually developing communication between wildlife staff and villagers. These projects were also beneficial in strengthening the self-help spirit and the capacities of communities to manage planned future income from wildlife management. Furthermore, they were the first benefits out of conservation activities for the villages. More than 250 self-help projects were carried out in the first seven years, but they were gradually reduced in 1996/97 to guide the communities towards economic independence and self-responsibility. It was never intended that villages should become financially dependent on the Selous Conservation Programme, rather, that effective management of wildlife was expected to generate the income to fund community development projects.

The aim was from the beginning to get the communities actively involved in conservation. Emphasis was therefore primarily on an economic incentive, secondly on the devolution of authority and responsibilities and thirdly on the development of communal institutions and structures for the management of the natural resources on their land.

The number of villages engaged in CBC facilitated by Selous Conservation Programme increased from 15 villages in 1990 to 47 villages in five Districts in 2001 (chart 1) and four more villages are about to become involved.

To date the proposed Wildlife Management Areas of all villages enclose a total area of approximately 8600 km² located around Selous Game Reserve, thus forming a buffer zone, (see map).



The following basic procedure has been followed in all villages to establish CBC:

- All villages carried out a land survey and identified their future Wildlife Management Area through a process of participatory land-use planning.
- Natural Resource Committees were established in each village for the local management of natural resources and key members trained.
- Each village maintains a trained game scout force to protect and monitor the natural resources of its area and to carry out or supervise the legitimate harvest of wildlife products.
- Each village receives from the Wildlife Department an annual hunting quota of 6 to 13 animals for the village's meat supply.
- Nineteen villages in Morogoro District, north of Selous, have further advanced the concept by merging their future Wildlife Management Areas and founding a local community based organization in 1996, namely the Jukumu Society, which has led to increased efficiency in their wildlife management.
- The villages of Songea, Tunduru and Liwale Districts have formed Natural Resources Management Advisory Bodies with their respective district authorities.

The data provided in this discussion paper presents an overview of the overall process of development of CBC around Selous Game Reserve. Large differences exist between the various districts and even between the villages within the same districts. This variation is caused not only by climatic, cultural and educational differences but is also influenced by the different potentials of the Wildlife Management Areas, the time span of cooperation with the Selous Conservation Programme and the quality of leadership on different levels.

INCOME GENERATION

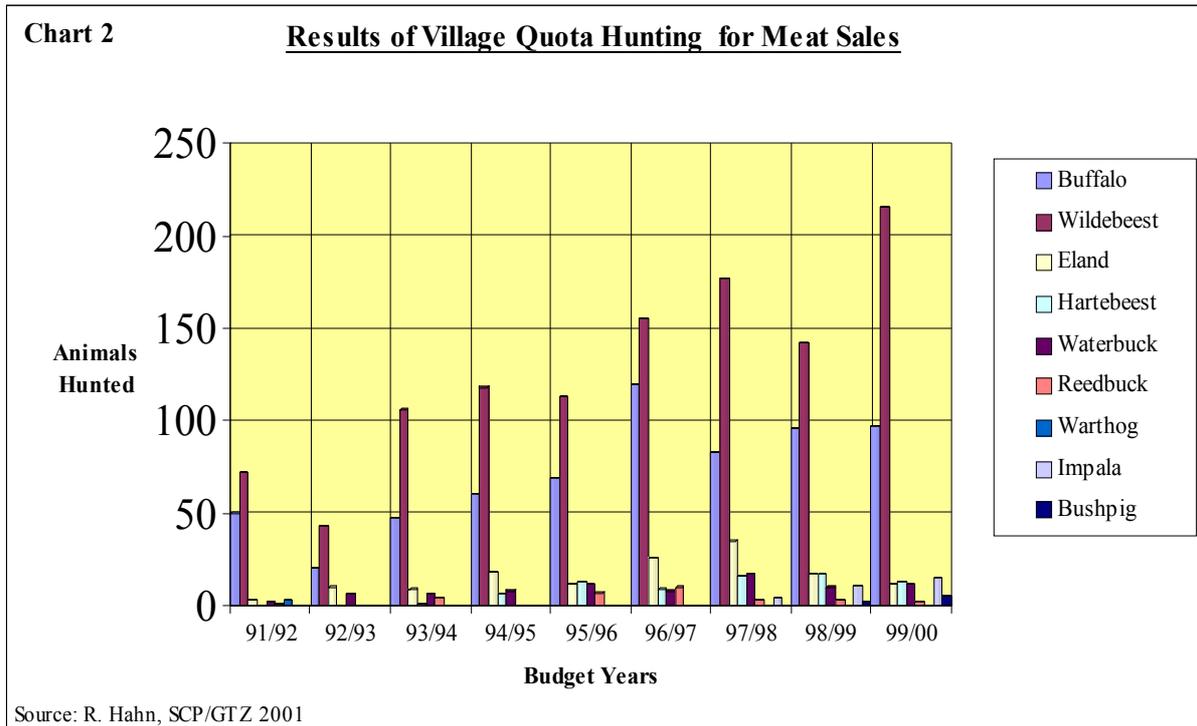
Village Quota Hunting

Livestock keeping in the neighbourhood of Selous Game Reserve is limited to a few goats and poultry due to incidence of Trypanosomiasis, a Tsetse fly transmitted disease. The availability of fish is restricted to the few areas where water bodies exist. The demand for protein is therefore very high and most villagers regard legally obtained bush-meat to be the primary benefit of the Community Wildlife Management Programme.

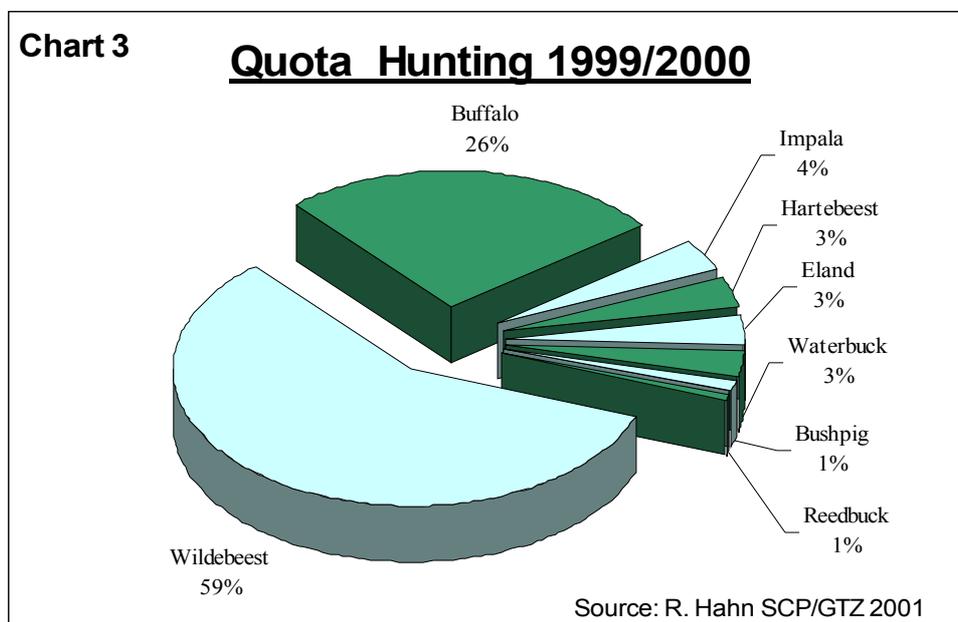
In 1991 the Wildlife Division permitted the villages in Morogoro District to hunt legally in order to address the demand for meat and win the support of the village communities, thus enabling the villages to gain legitimate access to bush-meat for the first time since controls began.

Today all villages of the CBC scheme receive hunting quotas and people are able to buy meat legally. Initially, Selous or District Game Scouts assisted with the hunting but now the majority of villages are in possession of a registered hunting rifle and the village scouts carry out the hunting themselves.

Hunting is almost always carried out on individual hunts; small scale cropping is possible in only one area. The hunting results from 1991 to 2000 are reflected in chart 2.



The most popular species for meat is wildebeest, followed by buffalo (see chart 3). The majority of wildebeest are hunted in the north, where a population of 27,000 animals was estimated during the aerial census of 1998, whereas buffalo are present in all future Village Wildlife Management Areas.



The quotas are conservative when compared with the wildlife populations estimated from aerial census results (Tanzanian Wildlife Conservation Monitoring, TWCM, aerial surveys of 1989, 91, 94, 98), patrol reports and hunting results of safari hunting companies operating in most of the village areas. Nevertheless, villages are harvesting only 30 % to 80 % of their quota. This is partly because the harvested bush-meat is not distributed free but sold within the village and the limited local economies require that meat be available when people

receive cash from sale of the major cash crops, such as tobacco, sesame, and cashewnut. Furthermore, the meat should not be hunted in a short period, because of its role as food supply and seasonal influences further affect hunting results.

The dependence of the wildlife on food and water results in seasonal migration patterns and thus animals may at times be out of the village land or obscured by tall grass. With a coinciding drought, the hunting season was reduced from nine to six months in 1998/99. Then, not only were hunting results reduced but also prices for meat fell, caused by the collapse of the local economy (see chart 4). To allow flexibility within the above constraints village hunting should be permitted during at least nine months of any year to enable the villages to fulfil their quota.

Other major constraints on village hunting were:

- The village quota allocations were often approved only after the start of the hunting season or not promptly forwarded by the Regional Authorities, effectively reducing the time available for hunting.
- Sufficient ammunition could not always be obtained from the Wildlife Department.
- Quotas were sometimes reduced by the Wildlife Department.
- At times government scouts were unavailable to assist villages that have not yet received their gun licenses with hunting.
- Conflicts with safari hunting companies that had been allocated a hunting-block extending over the village land without prior consultation with village governments. (Clear government regulations, equal benefit sharing from safari hunting and an extension of the hunting season for villages will solve this conflict in the future.)
- Limited hunting skills of some village game scouts.

Meat Sale

After an animal is hunted the meat will be sold either fresh or dried and smoked, depending on the distance to the village. The hunting group is usually rewarded with the internal organs of a carcass while porters are paid in cash or compensated with an equivalent amount of meat. Meat not sold fresh is smoked and dried for later sale.

The village natural resources committee is responsible for the meat sale while the village assembly annually sets the price per kilogram. In the year 2000 prices ranged from Tsh 400-700/kg for fresh meat and Tsh 500-800/kg for smoked meat, according to the economic situation of the village. Prices are generally set at a level affordable to the poorer households in a village rather than at the actual market value, which is approximately Tsh 1000/kg for beef within Tanzania. (US\$1 = Tsh 800; in 2000)

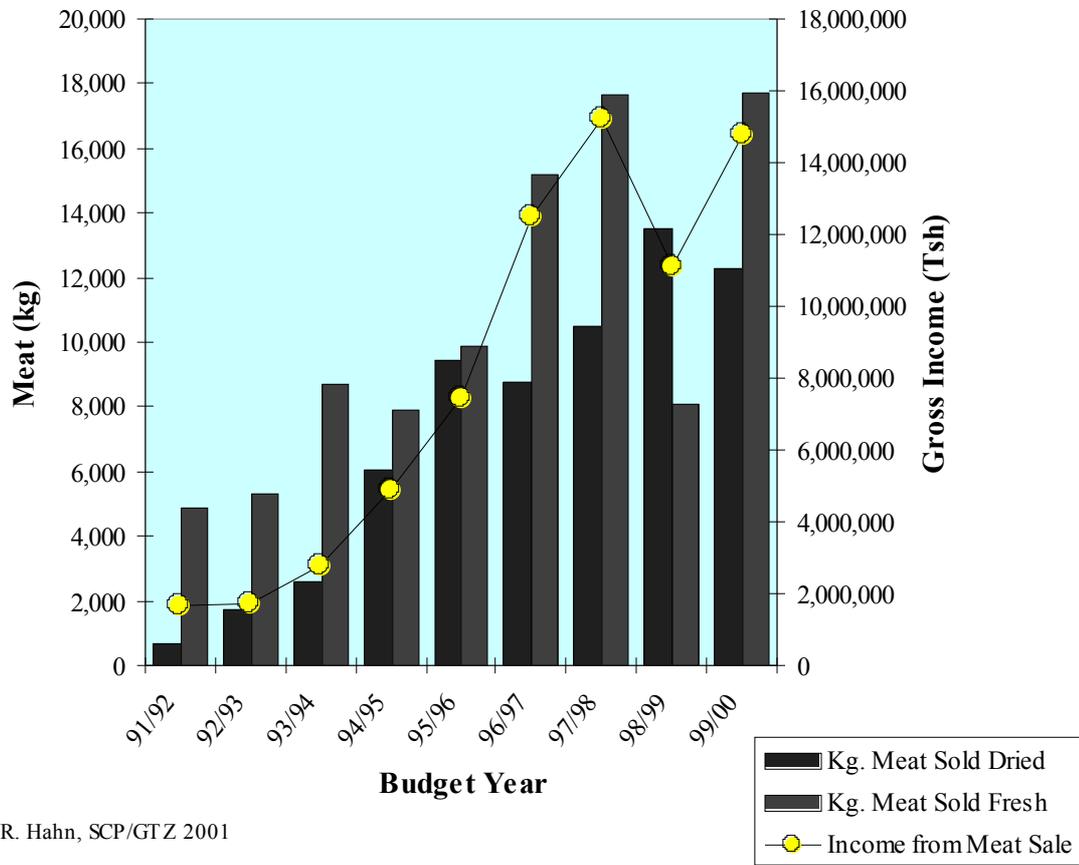
During the budget year 1999/2000 a total of 12,264 kg of preserved meat and 17,687 kg of fresh meat was sold in 38 villages. Gross total income from meat sales was Tsh 14,788,320. (Chart 4).

Total Gross Income from Village Wildlife Management

Chart 5 shows the total gross income from wildlife management in all villages from 1991 to 2000. This chart reflects only the financial income obtained from the natural resources management in the proposed Wildlife Management Areas. Contributions in kind and project funds invested are not taken into account.

Chart 4

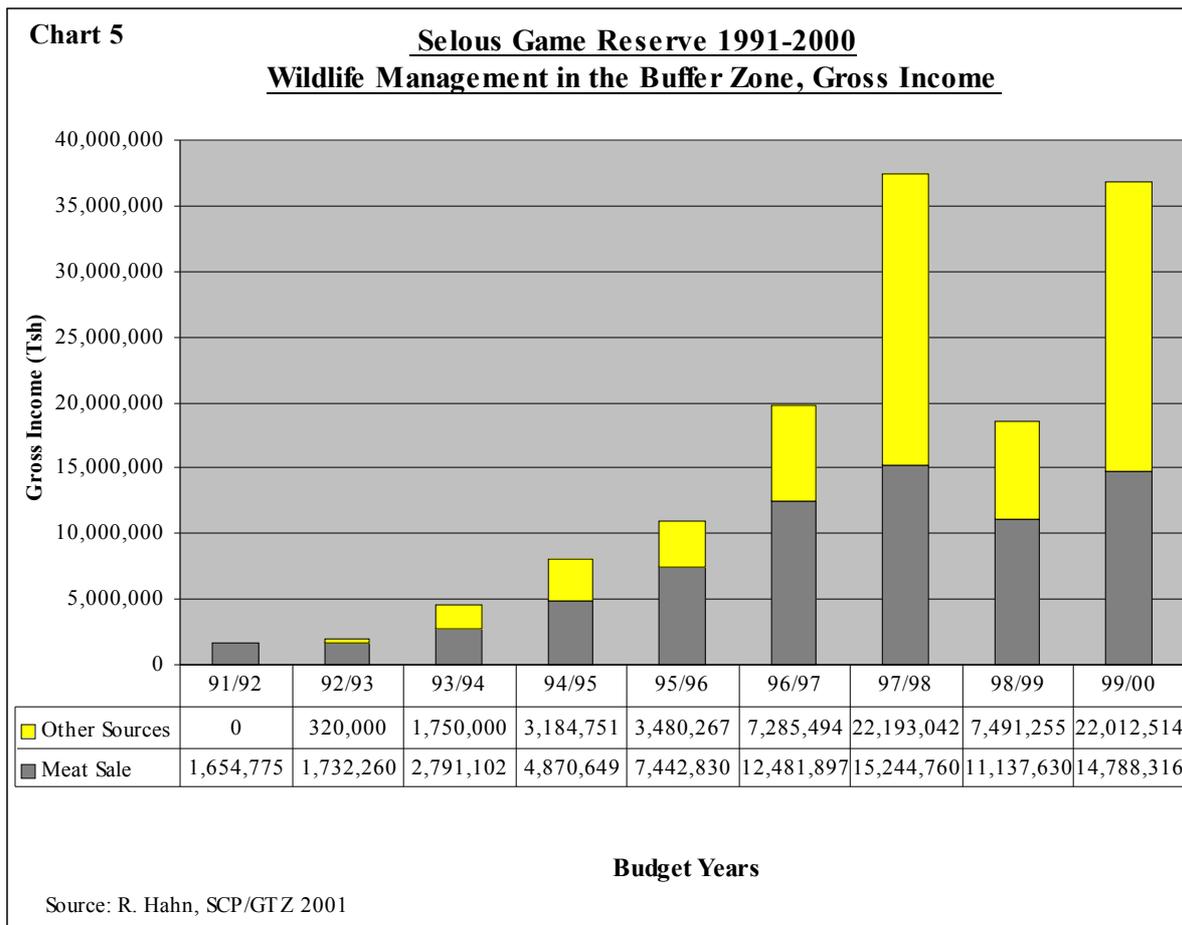
Selous Game Reserve
Gross Income from Village Quota Hunting in the Buffer Zone
(1991 - 2000)



Source: R. Hahn, SCP/GTZ 2001

Noticeable in this chart is the increasing portion of income from “other sources”. Until 1996/97 the meat-sale was the major source of income (63%), but this had dropped to 40% by the year 1999/2000.

Initially the sale of meat represented the sole source of income but was limited by the availability of cash within the villages. To increase and stabilize the village economies through management of their own resources, systems were recommended that would generate funds from outside their local economies.



Ranked order according to their financial value "Other Sources" are at present:

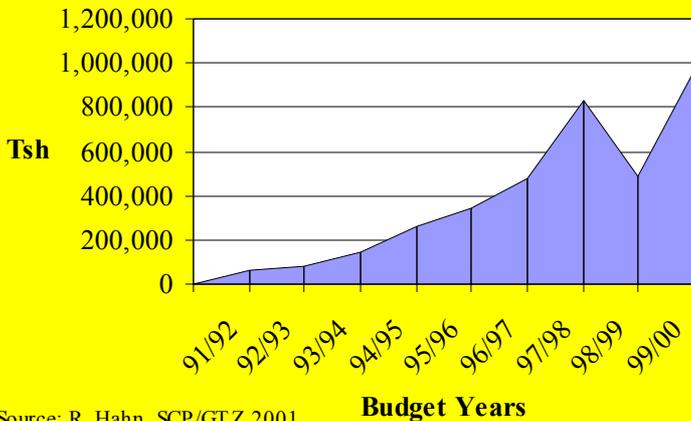
- Transfer of funds originating in the Wildlife Department's revenue from trophy hunting in and around Selous Game Reserve, passed from the respective District Councils to the village Natural Resource Committees (see chart 7). Although the funds have been paid to District Councils for many years, only recently have villages received a share. This is due to increased awareness created by the lately established District Natural Resources Management Advisory Bodies and the Wildlife Department's recently introduced regulations for the disbursement of these funds.
- Contributions from safari hunting companies operating in the vicinity of, or within, villages having future Wildlife Management Areas, as now required by the Wildlife Department.
- A lucrative long-term lease contract between the Jukumu Society and a photographic safari operator in Morogoro District.
- Income from a residents' hunting scheme in Rufiji District.
- Additional fees from lumber and fishing according to new village and district by-laws.
- A campsite of the Jukumu Society near to the proposed WMA in Morogoro District.
- Fines imposed on offenders according to village by-laws.

The number of participating villages fluctuated from 1991 to 2000. The Selous Conservation Programme gradually expanded its scope to include more villages (see chart 1) and the cooperation with nine villages of Liwale

CHART 6

District was suspended for 2 years (1998/99 and 1999/00).

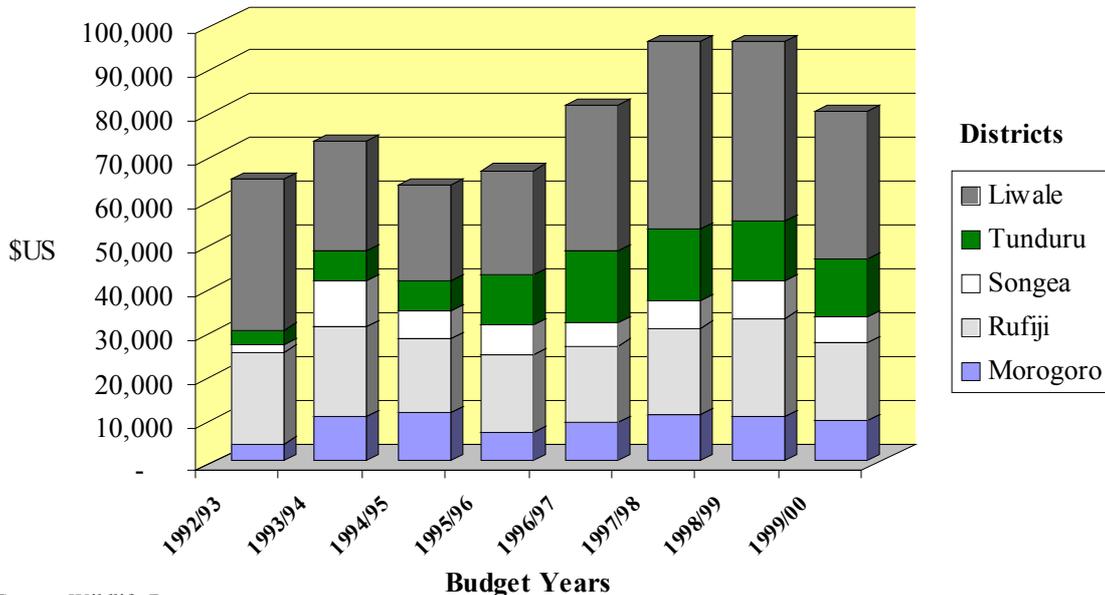
**Chart 6 - Wildlife Management:
Average Gross Income per Village
1991 - 2000**



The development of the average annual gross income per village (chart 6) follows a similar trend to the annual gross income of all villages. The highest average total gross income of Tsh 968,440 per village was achieved in the year 2000, but the range of income from Tsh 157,420 to 6,253,930 emphasises the differences between the villages as mentioned earlier.

Source: R. Hahn, SCP/GTZ 2001

**Chart 7
Selous Game Reserve (1992 - 1999):
District Share of Revenue from Trophy Hunting In and Around the
Reserve in the 5 Districts Participating in the SCP**



Source: Wildlife Department

Utilization of Income from Wildlife Management

All villages discuss and plan their natural resources management budget during annual Village Full Assemblies in order to promote transparency and information. Typically the village Natural Resource Committee explains the income and expenditures of the previous budget year. Only the Full Assembly has the authority to approve the adherence to the proposed budget-line and the effective dealing with funds, as well as approving the budget plan for the following year. In addition, some villages are audited annually by their relevant District Councils.

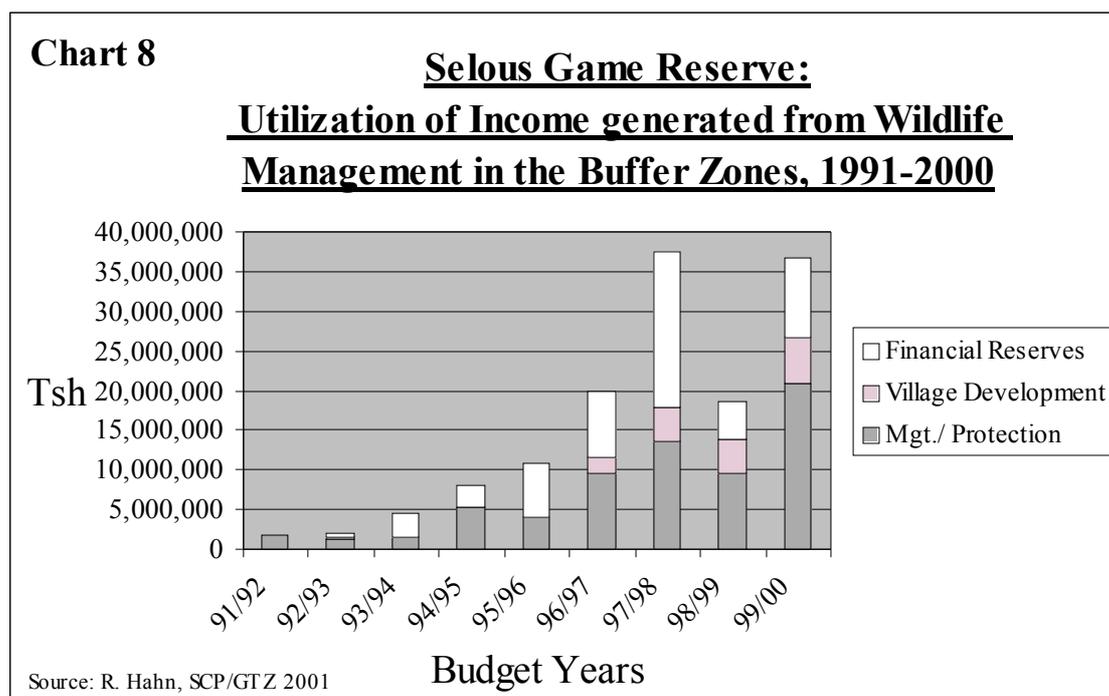
The utilization of the income can be split up into three main categories, which are: firstly, expenditures for the management and protection of the Wildlife Management Area,

secondly, expenditures for village development activities and projects and thirdly, financial reserves.

The main expenditures for management and protection are:

- Allowances, food rations, medicine, uniforms and other equipment for the village scout force.
- Ammunition for patrols, quota hunting and crop protection, and the annual arms license fees.
- Rental of transport or employment of casual labours during village quota hunting.
- Demarcation of the boundaries of the proposed Wildlife Management Areas.
- Office and equipment maintenance, stationary and bicycle repairs.
- Training of scouts and committee members.
- Reimbursement of travel costs for bank visits, participation in District Natural Resources Management Advisory Body and Full Council Meetings.

Expenditures for village development projects provide funds for the renovation and repair of communal infrastructure such as schools, dispensaries, water-pumps, roads, etc. Funds are typically used for materials such as iron sheets, cement and craftsmen, whereas any unskilled labour is recruited from the respective village on a voluntary basis. Contributions to child vaccination programs or the purchase of spare parts for milling machines run by women's groups are common components in the long list of co-financed village development projects.



Source: R. Hahn, SCP/GTZ 2001

and Table 1 show the utilization of income from the budget years 1991/92 until 1999/2000. It is remarkable that the villages have always spent on average about half of their budget on the management and protection of their future Wildlife Management Areas (see also chart 9).

TABLE 1 Utilization of Income Generated from Wildlife Management 1991-2000 (Tsh)

Budget years	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00
Mgt./ Protection	1,654,775	1,237,095	1,399,600	5,184,523	4,066,675	9,634,108	13,592,507	9,442,278	20,871,196
Village Development	0	215,805	56,000	0	0	1,941,490	4,343,480	4,479,885	5,720,754
Financial Reserves	0	599,360	3,085,502	2,870,877	6,856,422	8,191,793	19,501,815	4,706,722	10,208,880
Total	1,654,775	2,052,260	4,541,102	8,055,400	10,923,097	19,767,391	37,437,802	18,628,885	36,800,830

This expenditure correlates closely with the income generated from the sale of meat. This is because budget planning is mostly based on the annual hunting quota, which is considered to be the only reliable source of income by most of the villages. Only the Jukumu Society and Ngarambe village have, through a lease agreement and a residents' hunting scheme, established a second reliable source of income. The villages do not consider the contributions from the District Council or safari hunting companies reliable because the amount and time of disbursement are beyond their control.

For example, during the budget year 1998/99 a number of villages did not receive their contributions from safari hunting companies. The villages claim that this is because Members of Parliament delayed these payments until the following year (2000), just prior to the election. Furthermore, contributions from the Wildlife Department, channelled through the District Councils, also allegedly had to be shared among a greater number of villages for the same reason. At that same time money was transferred to the Village Governments instead to the Village Natural Resources Committees, resulting in a disruption of the established system.

The third category of utilization is the financial reserve of the villages. Often contributions were paid out late in the budget year and were then transferred to the villages' bank accounts. Other villages intentionally started to save some income for larger development investments within the village. However one of the major reasons for the large financial reserves in 97/98 (see chart 7) was the suspension of the cooperation with Liwale District. The bank accounts of the nine participating Liwale villages were frozen by the District authorities until cooperation with the project resumed in the budget year 2000/2001. This amount does not feature in the figures of the years 98/99 and 99/2000.

Referring to the budget year 1999/2000 (chart 7), gross income for 38 villages from approximately 4900 km² of village land designated by the villages for wildlife management, was Tsh 36,800,830 / US \$46,001 (See table 2). After deducting the management and protection cost the villages made a profit of Tsh 15,929,630 (US\$19,912), equalling

about Tsh 33 or US\$0,04 per hectare. Not included in this calculation are the 'opportunity' costs for the land and the damage inflicted by wildlife to crops and livestock.

Protection of the Future Village Wildlife Management Areas

Each village employs between ten and twelve village game scouts on a temporary basis, with each scout working approximately ten days per month against a daily allowance paid by the village. Payment of the scouts is according to the financial capacities of the villages. Daily patrol allowance ranges between Tsh 500 and 1500. In addition, food rations are provided, some basic medicines and, once a year, a set of uniforms. Some villages compensated the families of scouts who died of fatal accidents while on duty with Tsh 50,000.

Table 2

Budget Year 1999/2000		38 villages		Average village	
		Tsh	\$US (exchange rate as in 2000)	Tsh	\$US (exchange rate as in 2000)
Total Income	Gross	36,800,830	46,001.04	968,440	1,210.55

Expenditure for Management & Protection	20,871,200	26,089.00	549,240	686.55
Expenditure for Village Development	5,720,750	7.151.04	150,540	188.17
Financial Reserves	10,208,880	12,761.00	268,660	335.83
Net profit	15,929,630	19,912.04	419,200	524.00

Only the Jukumu Society, which represents 19 villages, currently employs 19 village game scouts on a permanent basis. Their scouts receive a monthly salary of Tsh 20.000, food rations included. (Government Scouts receive at present a daily patrol allowance of Tsh 10.000 + monthly salary of approximately 45.000 Tsh.)

Thus during the budget year 2000/2001, 47 villages employed 310 village game scouts patrolling the village land in five Districts outside the Reserve. This represents more than three quarters of the total Selous Game Scout Force.

The main duties of village game scouts at present:

- Protection of the future Wildlife Management Area against illegal utilization of the natural resources and illegal entry.
- Harvest of the annual hunting quota.
- Supervision of the legal utilization of natural resources (e.g. resident hunting, fishing, logging, bee-keeping).
- Protection of human life, property and crops against dangerous animals.
- Prevention of encroachment by farmers into the future Wildlife Management Areas.
- Monitoring and reporting of the status of natural resources (e.g. game count).
- Prevention of wildfires.

Since 1996 Village Game Scouts have been receiving rewards as a performance oriented supplement to their low income from Selous Conservation Programme for achievements in anti-poaching. District Game Officers and Community Wildlife Management Officers are also included in this scheme, and receive 20% of the total rewards. Table 3 and Chart 10 show the results of anti-poaching by the village game scouts from 1996 – 2000.

The poaching methods employed and intensity thereof vary depending on the area, human population pressure, wildlife density, and availability of necessary tools and markets. Whereas in the north poachers prefer wire snares, those in the south use a wide variety of guns ranging from locally made muzzle-loaders to automatic guns of old Mozambique war stocks.

There are plenty of theories about the impact of CBC on poaching. It is a fact that while CBC cannot replace anti-poaching legislation and law enforcement, CBC certainly reduces poaching; the more the communities realize the benefits to be gained from wildlife management the more poaching will be reduced.

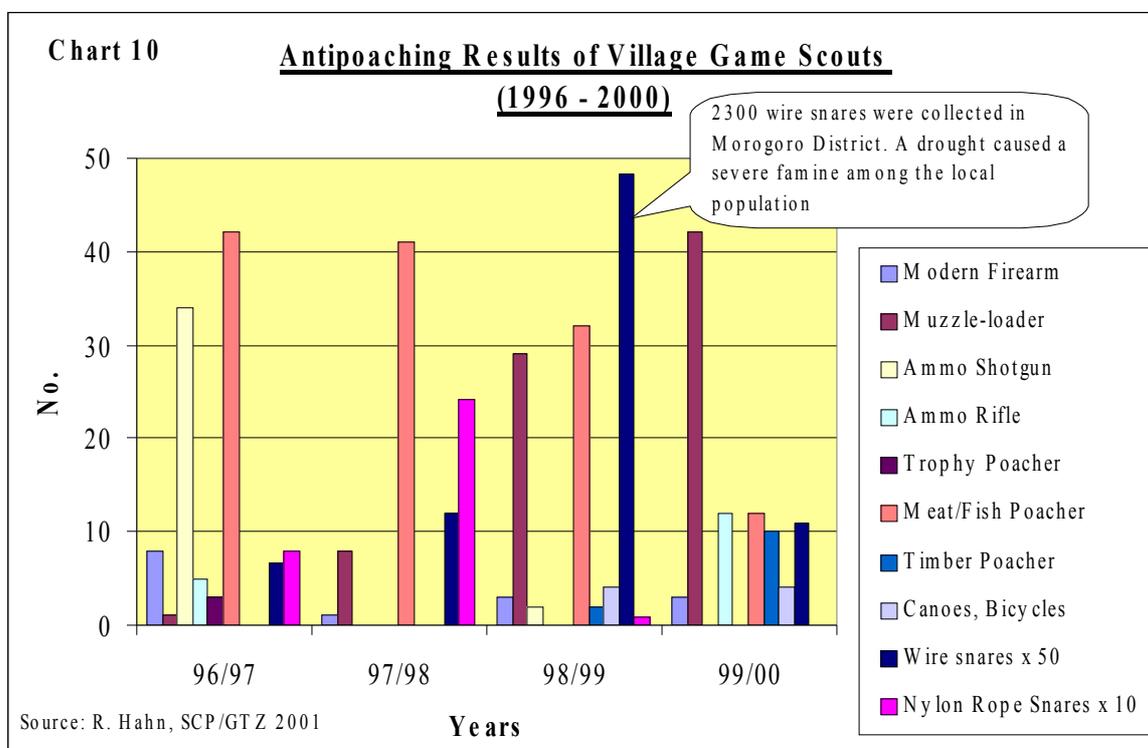
When one village was asked to assist in solving a particular case of poaching the answer was: "Don't worry, we have more than 10 scouts because we are all scouts". There are already villages with a strong commitment to conservation. This also has its origins in the villagers' view to regard the natural resources on their land as their property and their acceptance of the need to take the necessary responsibility for it. Many villages however have one particular problem in common: Poachers originating from villages without wildlife resources.

TABLE 3 *ANTI-POACHING RESULTS OF VILLAGE GAME SCOUTS FROM 1996 – 2000*

	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	TOTAL	Reward Tsh/unit	Total Payment
Modern Arms	8	1	3	3	15	40,000	600,000

Muzzle-loaders	1	8	29	42	80	10,000	800,000
Ammo (Shotgun)	34	0	2	0	36	200	7,200
Ammo (Rifle)	5	0	0	12	17	500	8,500
Trophy Poacher	3	0	0	0	3	40,000	120,000
Meat/Fish Poacher	42	41	32	12	127	5,000	635,000
Timber Poacher	0	0	2	10	12	5,000	60,000
Canoes, Bicycles	0	0	4	4	8	5,000	40,000
Wire Snares	326	598	2419	548	3891	500	1,945,500
Nylon Rope Snares	80	242	9	0	331	0	0
							4,216,200
20% for officer							843,240
TOTAL Tsh							5,059,440

Source: R. Hahn. SCP/GTZ 2001

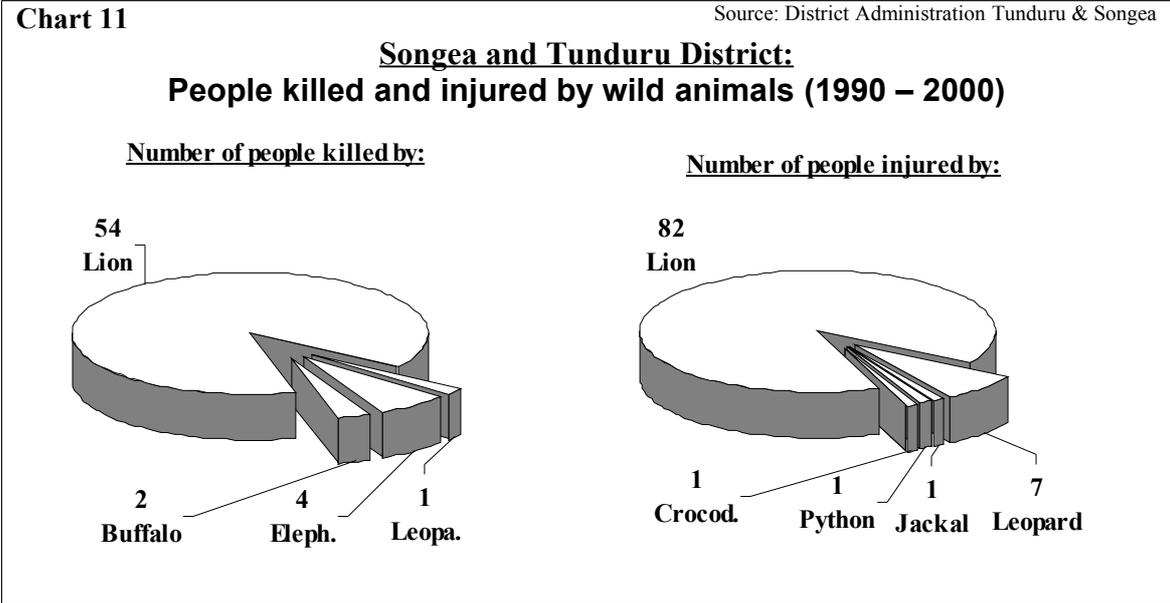


The future Village Wildlife Management Areas serve meanwhile as an effective buffer zone for the protection of Selous Game Reserve. Cooperation with the Game Reserve's staff has increased tremendously because the villagers have now a common interest and enemy. Scouts are in permanent contact via both radio and messenger, reporting poachers entering Selous or asking for assistance in combating a certain poaching problem in the village area. Patrols, too, are carried out jointly. Since 2001 villages within a planned wildlife corridor bordered by Mozambique and between Selous and Niassa Game Reserves have started to seize automatic guns and frequently ask the anti-poaching unit and Selous scouts for assistance. Such a situation was inconceivable 10 years ago.

Human-Wildlife Conflict

In Tanzania, protected areas are not fenced thus the wild animals' freedom of movement is almost unlimited. In general it can be observed that, with the decreasing density of human population, the destruction of the habitat suitable for wild animals also decreases. Consequently the population of wild animals is higher in sparsely settled areas, as may be

the case around Game Reserves and National Parks. In these areas the rural population is permanently competing with the wild animals for survival as both occupy the same habitat.



According to official statistics provided by the relevant District Administrations of Tunduru and Songea Districts, two of the ten districts surrounding Selous Game Reserve, wild animals killed 61 people and injured 92 people between 1990 and 2000 (see chart 11). Whereas in both those districts most people fell victim to lions, in other areas the main perpetrators include other animals such as crocodiles, hippos and elephants. For example, in 1999/2000 from the nineteen member villages of the Jukumu Society, 23 people lost their lives and 55 sustained injuries due to crocodiles.

Not only do people live in constant danger of getting killed or injured, their crops and livestock are under permanent threat. According to official statistics 5240 acres of crops were destroyed and more than 1100 livestock killed between 1990 and 2000 in the above-mentioned two districts, (Tables 4 and 5). Most people of the rural areas earn their livelihood exclusively from farming and therefore the economic damage for those immediately affected can be disastrous.

Although it is the duty of the District Councils to combat dangerous animals and assist the farmers in crop protection, many districts are understaffed and not adequately equipped to perform their duty. The fact that the government does not pay any compensation for damages or losses makes the rural people’s negative attitude towards wildlife even more understandable.

Since villages within the Selous Game Reserve’s buffer zone have their own village game scout force it is nowadays their duty to carry out the crop protection. And, because of their local knowledge, village scouts can perform this duty more efficiently than outsiders. Proceeds from possible meat sales of problem animals are at present equally shared with the District Councils after the deduction of the cost of hunting, preparation and transport of the meat.

The Jukumu Society, whose member villages are the worst affected by man-eating crocodiles, has received a share of Tanzania’s CITES quota of crocodiles from 2001. This will enable the villages to reduce the crocodile population in some crucial areas and at the same time to derive some income from the sale of crocodile skins for export.

Further enabling the communities to benefit directly from safari hunting would increase their awareness of the value of the animals. The communities would thus appreciate wildlife as an asset rather than continue to perceive it solely as a nuisance.

	Elephant	Hippos.	Buffalo	Eland	Total
Maize	1030	93.1	2	0	1125.1
Millet	730	0	0	1	731
Rice	925	167.2	4	4.5	1100.7
Cassava	667	0	0	0	667
Cashewnut	810	0	0	0	810
Banana	23.9	1	0	0	24.9
Tobacco	4	158	0	0	162
Peas	605	3.5	3	5.5	617
Mixed crops	2	0	0	0	2
Total	4796.9	422.8	9	11	5239.7

Source: District Administration Tunduru & Songea

	Cows		Goats		Sheep		Pigs		Dogs		Total	
	killed	injured										
Lion	152	7	535	0	198	3	72	3	18	0	975	13
Leopard	7	0	119	0	0	0	36	0	19	6	181	6
Python	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0
Total	159	7	656	0	198	3	108	3	40	6	1161	19

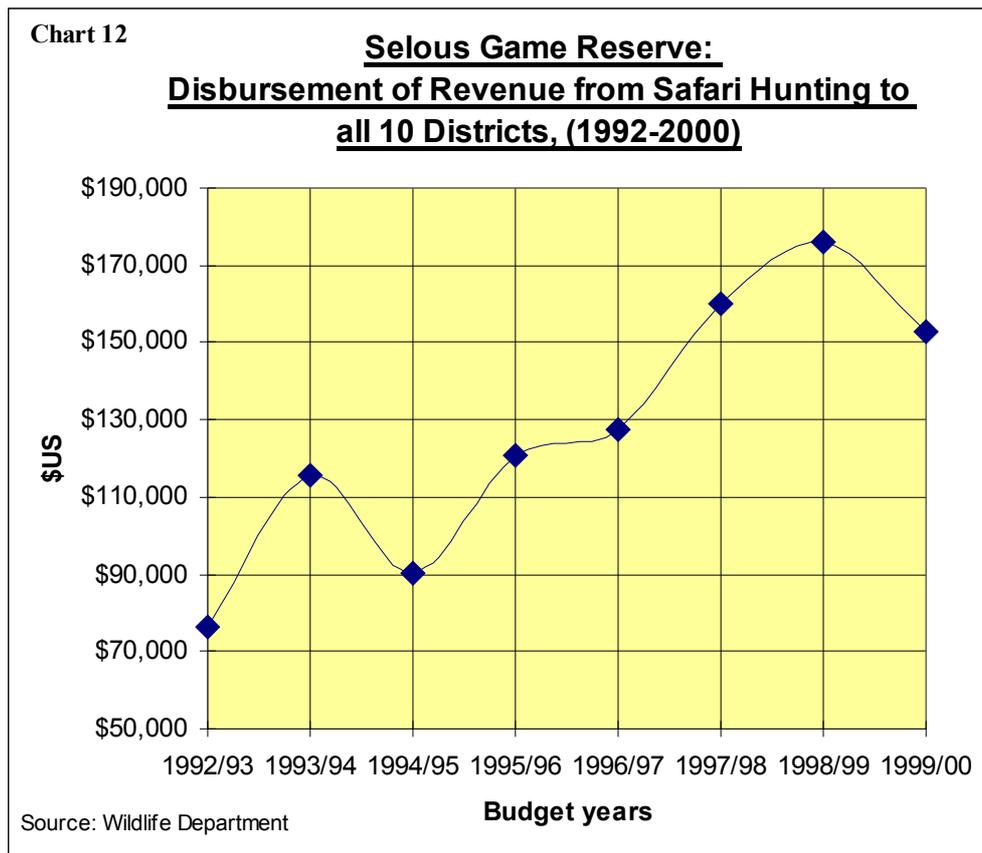
Source: District Administration Tunduru & Songea

The Impact of Selous Game Reserve on the Village Economy

During the last century the shape and size of Selous Game Reserve underwent a series of changes until it reached today's total area of 47,000 km². Although the human population density has always been low, many people and villages have had to move out of areas that were then added to the Reserve. Major reasons were the occurrence of sleeping sickness, the enlargement of the protected area and the "Ujamaa" villagisation movement.

Nowadays, many villages are still located in remote areas, far from economic centres, and with very poor infrastructure. Their major economic activity is farming, which is often carried out on marginal soils and not very productive. In addition, farmers face the economic risk of losing their harvest to crop-raiding animals (see the section on human-wildlife conflict). The educational level in these regions compared to other areas of Tanzania is low, as is the chance of formal employment and a regular income.

Selous Game Reserve has increased its income from eco-tourism in the last 10 years. Nowadays, safari hunting accounts for 80% of the total income. As previously mentioned, a part of the income from safari hunting (see chart 12) is annually transferred to the respective District Councils.



Since the introduction of the retention scheme, Selous Game Reserve can retain 50% of its income for management. One third of its annual budget, approximately US\$500,000, is spent outside the Game Reserve.

This amount accounts for:

- The investment in the construction and maintenance of roads increasing the accessibility to the reserve, its sector stations and to the villages, thereby improving the transport of cash crops to the markets.
- Financial assistance for the improvement of communal facilities needed by the villagers, the Selous staff and their families at village level (secondary schools, dispensaries, milling machines etc.)
- Salaries for government scouts, which increase their purchasing power and contribute to the development of the local economy.

Other positive impacts are the availability of at least temporary jobs during road construction within and beyond the Reserve, border demarcation works and other construction for Selous Game Reserve. The private sector tourism industry is another major employer in the field of safari hunting or photo tourism, however at present few villagers have found employment in this sector and have done so mostly as unskilled labour.

Last but certainly not least, the Selous Game Reserve continues to be the sanctuary for game buffered by Wildlife Management Areas and will be needed to restock village land depleted of wildlife. If wisely used it will thereby contribute to the national and local economy.

Summary

Villages neighbouring Selous Game Reserve are located in relatively inaccessible and agriculturally marginal areas where furthermore the villagers' lives and livelihood are threatened by the proximity to wild animals. Although their land is rich in natural resources, in particular wildlife, they remain among the poorest communities in Tanzania.

With the introduction of CBC, some of the communities' earning potential is beginning to improve and their formerly negative attitude to both wildlife and Selous Game Reserve is changing to such an extent that more and more communities are demanding participation in the CBC scheme. The most telling proof of the acceptance of the scheme is that communities simply replicate the set-up of their neighbours already involved in CBC.

Benefits from Community Wildlife Management such as reinvestment in village development (including their spin-off effects for the village micro-economy), employment opportunities, food security and a link to the national macro-economy, show great promise to achieve goals set in Tanzania's National Poverty Alleviation Strategy. The figures presented here showing village and district level conservation activities prove that the Wildlife Department's implementation of the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania is beginning to bear fruit.

In most of the bufferzones around Selous Game Reserve the potential for photo tourism is limited. However controlled safari hunting is already producing high revenue for the government, which might in the future remain with the communities and districts to an extent of about US\$ 700.000.

As the existing law limits the full implementation of the Wildlife Policy there is a danger of demoralization in those communities who have been carrying out wildlife management on their land for ten years without gaining the full benefit from wildlife. To this end an enabling legal framework will soon be required to optimise truly sustainable conservation and development in the rural areas.

The village elders, who happened to see the change of the conservation approach, say: "The seed is sown and well-germinated, but the rain is missing".