

# **WWF TANZANIA PROGRAM OFFICE RUAHA WATER PROGRAMME**

**“Experience & Lessons Learnt on Managing Water Resources  
Using Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)  
Approaches in the Great Ruaha River Catchment Area -  
Tanzania**

**July 2003 – June 2008. Funding by WWF-UK**



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**BOTANICAL BEACH HOTEL**

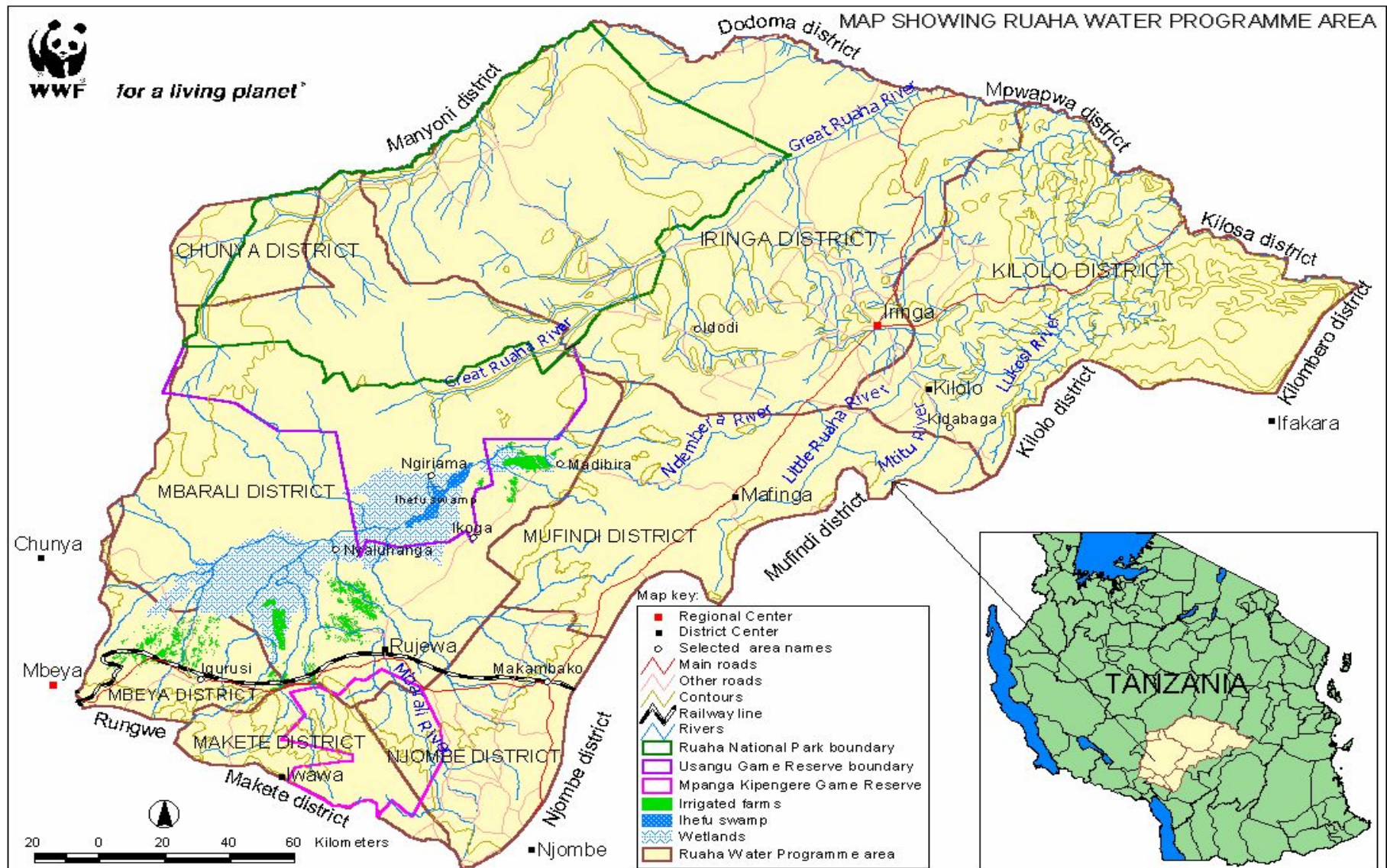
**ENTEBBE - UGANDA**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

*By*

*Petro Masolwa*

# Location of the Programme Area



# Importance of the Great Ruaha River & its Catchment Area

- River Catchment forms 47% of the Rufiji Basin River, covers 83,970 sq.Km. Lying within 8 administrative districts and home to over 6 Million people
- The river is a lifeline of wildlife in Ruaha National Park ( 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Tz) and Usangu Game Reserve
- Mtera & Kidatu dams which are fed by river generate about 50% of electricity in TZ
- The Great Ruaha river catchment is critical for rice/paddy production (over 50 % of TZ rice)
- The catchment has 2 game reserves 2 National parks



# What is the Problem (s)?

- Decreased dry season flows were noted in early 1990s, some sections started drying from 1993 – to date
- Researches indicated that drying of the river was not due to climatic variation but due to uncontrolled and poor water management with large rice irrigation schemes



# Government/Stakeholders responses

- DFID funded SMUWC Project (1998 – 2002) to investigate causes of river drying
- March 2001: Verbal commitment - UK and TZ Prime Ministers support a program to restore year-round water flows to the GRR by 2010
- April 2001: Scoping work: WWF met with stakeholders to identify potential areas for WWF's engagement in the Ruaha catchment area (sub basin of Rufiji river basin)
- December 2001 WWF organized a stakeholders workshop to identify root causes for drying –up of the river and Natural resource degradation in the catchment and develop an action plan
- July 2003 – to date, implementation of WWF Ruaha Water Programme with funding support from WWF-UK

# Ruaha Water Program

## Goal & Purpose

**Goal:** *By 2010 the people of the Great Ruaha River catchment area are planning, managing and utilising their water and related natural resources sustainably.*

**Indicator** “ Restoration of Year round flows of the River”

### Purpose

***By 2008, achieving sustainable water resource management in the Great Ruaha river catchment by the support of integrated capacity building and action at catchment district and community levels***

# EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) plan completed and operational in the Great Ruaha River catchment area
- Effective local government and community participation in water resource management in line with the Water Policy of 2002
- Key identified water management issues relating to the decreased flow of the Great Ruaha River addressed whilst providing solutions that contribute to improved livelihoods.
- Local governments and communities are aware and understand water resource management and related environmental issues in the Great Ruaha River catchment area.

# Institutions Working with WWF

- Rufiji Basin Water Office (RBWO) – At basin level
- Great Ruaha River Catchment Coordinating Committee ( Members include Regional Administrative Secretaries, DEDs, MAFS, MoWLD, MNT, TANAPA, TANESCO, Private sectors, NGOs, Water user Associations)
- District Councils (District Facilitation Teams – DFTs ) in all 8 districts within the catchment
- Water User Associations (Irrigators, livestock keepers, Domestic Water users,



## Some of the Activities to date

- Formation and training of Water User Associations (WUAs). 19 WUAs has been formed
- Facilitated the development of a Training guide/manual for Water User Association member



## Activities...

- Collaborated with RBWO in the formation of a Catchment Committee (CC) and support its meetings

# Activities...

- Support RBWO in control and regulation.
- Training farmers on efficiency use of water in rice/paddy production using demonstration plots
- Support RBWO in Hydrological & Meteorological data collection
- Formation and Training (in IWRM) of 8 District Facilitation Teams (DFTs)
- Support the Development of a participatory General management plan for Usangu Game Reserve

# Activities...

- Environmental education and Awareness creation to community members and schools
- Support community nursery trees (indigenous tree spp) to replace water thirsty Eucalyptus tree spp

## Activities...

- Support the formation of Community Conservation Bank Groups (COCOBA) to address the income poverty
- Community tree nurseries for indigenous tree spp
- Replacement of Water Thirsty Eucalyptus tree spp with Indigenous tree spp.
- Train community members in alternative Income generating activities which are less water demanding and environmentally friendly such as batik, tie & dye clothing materials, soap making, and beekeeping

## Progress to date

- 1. Institutionalization of IWRM in all 8 district councils within the Great Ruaha River Catchment area**
- 2. Great Ruaha River Catchment Committee in place (legal status awaits endorsement of new water act)**
- 3. Water user Associations (WUAs) are helping in resolving some of the water use conflicts**
- 4. Declining numbers of days of cease to flow of the Great Ruaha River at Msembe gauging station from 61 days in 2003 to 20 days in 2004. Maximum flow in 2003 (168.19 M<sup>3</sup>/sec) in 2004 maximum flow was 101.13 M<sup>3</sup>/sec**



# Challenges

- Coordination of multiple stakeholders, some with conflicting policy objectives e.g. TANESCO, MAFS, MWOLD, Small scale rice/paddy irrigation, NGOs such as WCS, WWF, Friends of Ruaha, Ministry of Natural Resource & Tourism, RBWO, FAO, SUA/RIPARWIN etc
- Lack of sustainable financing mechanism for implementing long term IWRM/IRBM
- Wide spread poverty
- Wide coverage of project area (83,970 sq.KM) with 8 administrative district councils

# LESSONS LEARNT SO FAR

- Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) requires long term investment to produce tangible results –There is need to find sustainable financing mechanism e.g. Payment for Environmental Services
- Biodiversity conservation perse may have to take a back seat
- Effective partnership building is an essential ingredient of IRBM/IWRM and enables far more to be accomplished than by working alone
- A combination of carrot and stick is necessary in achieving conservation objectives
- It is important to work at different levels simultaneously
- 1/16/2006

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