



PRESS RELEASE

Tanzania Concludes Landmark Workshop on *Conservation and its Contribution to Tourism and Community Development in Tanzania*

ARUSHA, Tanzania, June 14, 2025— In partnership with the World Bank, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism successfully concluded a two-day workshop on "***Conservation and its Contribution to Tourism and Community Development in Tanzania***." Held on June 13-14, 2025, in Arusha, the workshop brought together over 100 national and international technical experts from government, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners to discuss critical aspects of conservation, tourism and community development.

In her opening remarks, **Ambassador Pindi Chana, Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism**, said "*This workshop will help my Ministry forge and strengthen partnerships between government agencies, civil society, academia, donors, and private sector actors and provide a platform for exchanging ideas and sharing experience, and a strategic partnership in development*".

Nathan Belete, World Bank Division Director for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe highlighted the importance of collaborative management in protected area tourism. He stated, "*Investing in protected area tourism is not only beneficial for conservation but also a strategic economic decision. By nurturing partnerships among stakeholders, we can enhance the economic impact of conservation efforts. Studies have shown that tourism in protected areas generates substantial income multipliers, creates jobs, and offers high returns on public investment. In some countries, every dollar invested in protected areas has yielded up to 28 dollars in local economic benefits. These figures highlight real opportunities for community prosperity through collaborative conservation efforts.*"

The forum explored a range of themes including opportunities, challenges, and trends like climate change impacts, land-use conflicts, and conservation financing. A key focus was placed on participatory approaches, community livelihoods, community engagement, and benefit sharing, emphasizing the importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts. The discussion also highlighted the funding gap for tourism development, inter-agency coordination, and innovative financing like conservation trust funds, carbon markets, and PPPs. Additionally, the role of technology, research and data systems, was explored as crucial to enhance natural resources conservation through better data, decision-making, and stakeholder collaboration. The workshop concluded with key recommendations, stressing the need for continued commitment to applying insights and promoting ongoing stakeholder engagement for the sustainable management of Tanzania's natural heritage.

Anna Wellenstein, World Bank Regional Practice Director, emphasized the importance of collaboration and learning in her closing remarks: "*This workshop has reaffirmed what we know to be true: that natural resources are not only vital for biodiversity—they are also powerful engines for economic growth and community development. One of the greatest benefits of this workshop has been the opportunity to learn from one another—across countries, across sectors, and across institutions. These exchanges are essential if we are to scale what works and innovate, for the benefit for all Tanzanians.*"

On his closing remarks, **Hon. Khamis Hamza Khamis (MP), Deputy Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment)**, stressed on the opportunity for further professional interchanges to share experiences fostering at exploring opportunities to tap benefits from natural resources as an important development driver.

The workshop conclusions will further inform policies and practices applicable to further enhance contribution of conservation in tourism and community development in Tanzania.