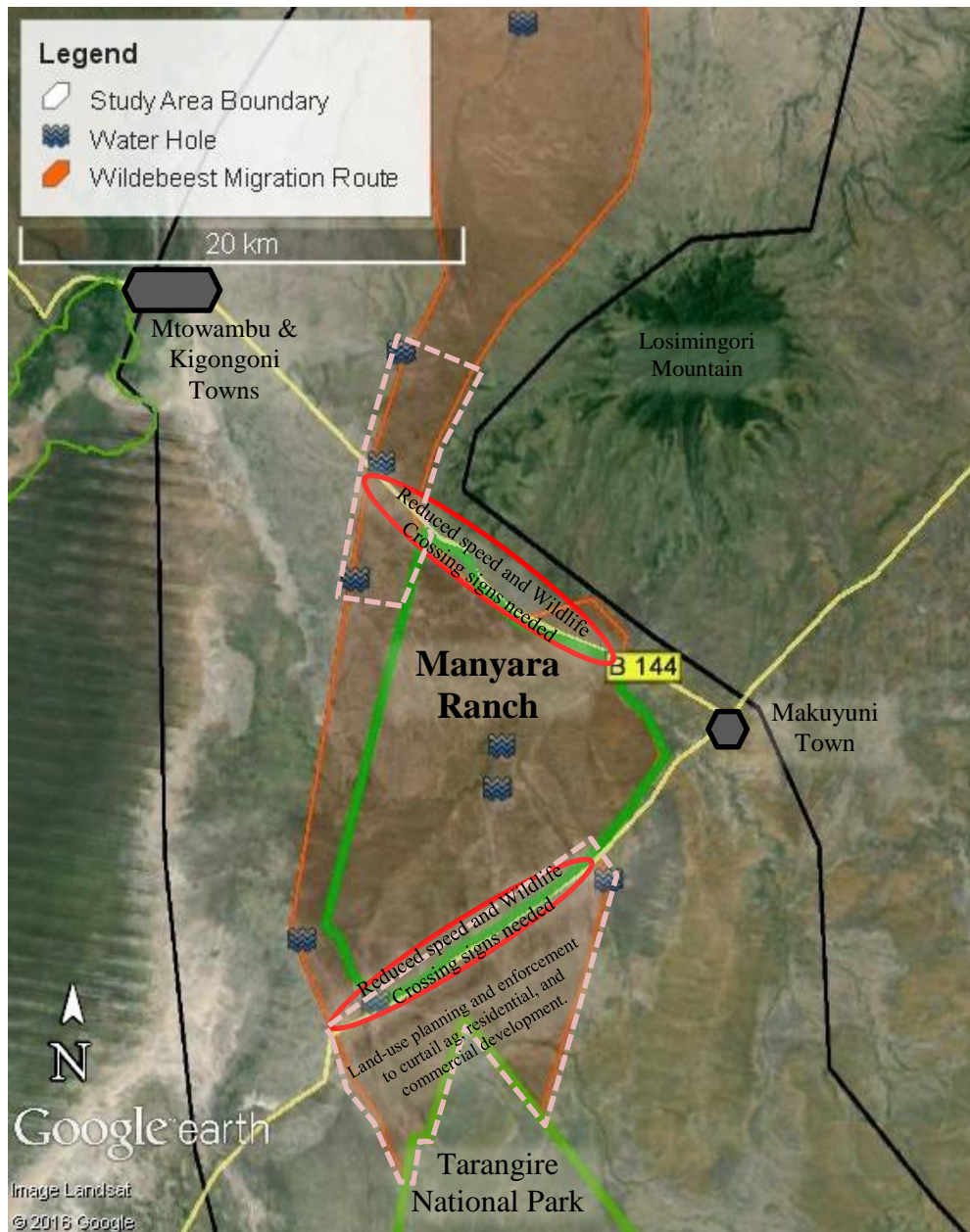


The Importance of Manyara Ranch to Wildlife Conservation and Tourism in Tanzania



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- The Tarangire Ecosystem in Tanzania is among the richest areas in the world for large mammal diversity and abundance, and Manyara Ranch provides crucial wildlife habitat for migratory and resident species between the Tarangire River and Lake Natron. Wild Nature Institute has been conducting research for the past 5 years to understand wildlife habitat needs in the area.
- Manyara Ranch is essential to the survival of migratory wildlife populations in the area, and sustains the ecological viability of Tarangire National Park, one of the highest income earning parks in Tanzania. The depletion of Tarangire's migratory herds will lead to the loss of predators, wildlife tourism's top attractions, and this will reduce visitation and revenues.
- The map on the cover page shows the critical migratory route (orange outline and shading) of eastern white-bearded wildebeest between Tarangire National Park, and the Northern Plains, where they give birth each February-March. Approximately 3,500 wildebeest, half the Tarangire population, use Manyara Ranch during their migration. The Tarangire wildebeest migration is the third largest remaining wildebeest migration in Africa, and they are isolated from, and genetically distinct from, the Serengeti-Ngorongoro wildebeest population.
- Viability of the Tarangire-Manyara Ranch-Northern Plains migration route, and the tourism economy that depends upon it, require immediate action to protect the migration area.
 1. Land-use planning and enforcement must restrict all further agricultural, residential, and commercial development between Tarangire National Park and Manyara Ranch, and between Manyara Ranch and the Northern Plains (indicated by two pink dashed polygons on map).
 2. Road speed controls and Wildlife Crossing warning signs demarcating the area and slowing traffic speed should be placed in the areas marked by red ovals on the map:
 - a) Along the Makuyuni-Mtowambu road between Manyara Ranch School (5.5 km NW of Makuyuni junction) and the Esilalei Primary School (11 km SE of Kigongoni junction). Of particular importance is the area between Esilalei primary school and Esilalei cultural boma where most wildebeests and zebras cross the road.
 - b) Along the Makuyuni-Minjingu road beginning 8.5 km SW of Makuyuni junction, and continuing for 14 km to where the road bends sharply south.

Speed controls would also reduce livestock-vehicle accidents in these areas.
- Wildlife species average annual abundances on the Ranch are: zebra (2,393), impala (1,103), wildebeest (881), dik-dik (404), Grant's gazelle (292), giraffe (242), Thomson's gazelle (166), eland (80), lesser kudu (30), elephant (14), steenbok (11), waterbuck (11), gerenuk (1).
- Manyara Ranch giraffe have the highest reproductive rate of any area in the ecosystem, and Manyara Ranch provides recruits that sustain the ecosystem's giraffe metapopulation.

