

# AFRICOVER PROJECT- EAST AFRICA COUNTRY REPORT-TANZANIA

**Presented at the Third National Coordinators Meeting Held in  
Sharm El Sheikh - Egypt 24 - 28 January, 2000**

## **1. Introduction.**

Tanzania is a signatory to the Africover Project aimed at producing a homogeneous digital geo-referenced database on land cover and a geographic reference at the scale of 1:200,000 or 1:100,000 for the continent of Africa. The Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) in the Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development is the National Focal Point Institution (NFPI) responsible for coordinating Africover project related activities at the national level. This report summarizes the activities undertaken to supplement implementation of the project since the second National Coordinators Meeting (NCM) that was held in Nairobi, 15 – 17 February 1999.

## **2. Composition of the National Working Group (NWG)**

The following institutions constitutes the Tanzania NWG:

No	Institution	Parent Ministry/Organization	Status
1	Surveys and Mapping Division	Ministry of Lands & Human Settlements Development	National Focal Point Institution
2	Institute of Resources Assessment	University of Dar es Salaam	member
3	Forestry and Beekeeping Division	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism	member
4	Maritime Safety Surveys Unit	Ministry of Communication and Transport	member
5	Land Use Planning & Conservation Unit	Ministry of Agriculture	member
6	Water Resources Department	Ministry of Water	member
7	Department of Environment	Office of the Vice President	member
8	Department of Minerals	Ministry of Minerals and Energy	member

The mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development is land administration so as to ensure sustainable use and development of land resources and to facilitate provision of adequate and decent shelter for every citizen. The Surveys and Mapping Division is responsible for provision of land survey data and maps to facilitate land administration in the country.

## **3. Activities Undertaken.**

In the reporting period, the undertaken activities included convening of NWG meetings, supply of ancillary data and participation in execution of some project activities according to workplan.

### **3.1 NWG Meetings.**

The NWG convened twice, on 4th March and 19th May 1999. The objective of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March was to brief members about the progress, status reached and projection of the work-plan as a whole and the Tanzania case in particular. A summary of discussions, remarks and conclusions made at the second NCM was

presented to the NWG members. Observations and recommendations arising from the meeting included:

### **3.1.1 Field work for verification of preliminary interpretation**

The NWG expressed concern over the relatively small number (approx. 181) of selected samples over the whole country and allocated time of 15 days for each of 3 groups to carry out field verification. Considering the impact of verification on the quality of the final product, the NFPI was asked to communicate with the project management so that more time is allocated to the fieldwork to allow every sample to be visited and assessed appropriately.

### **3.1.2 Envisaged Users, Utilization and Management of the Database:**

The National Coordinator informed the NWG that, after creation of the database, its utilization and management shall to a large extent depend on individual country. The NWG conceded that there is great potential for utilization of the database for monitoring, and management of natural resources and environmental impact assessment, issues which are of concern to government, international organizations and NGOs in the country. However, in view of the new government structure whereby implementation of development activities is at district levels, it is imperative that the awareness campaign on availability of the database should be directed at the districts.

The following issues were considered vital for successful campaign on awareness of envisaged Users and utilization of the Database:

- Members of the NWG must be knowledgeable about the context and functionality of the database in order to be able to explain it well to prospective users.
- For launching the awareness campaign, the NFPI in collaboration with project management should organize a seminar or workshop at national level whereby potential beneficiaries, users and donors will be invited.
- The national workshop should be followed by workshops in districts or zones organized by NFPI in collaboration with local competent institution e.g Tanzania Natural Resources Information Center (TANRIC), with support from the project. In order to be effective, the workshops should be prioritized starting with strategic areas where currently a number of projects and donors addressing natural resources are in progress.
- At such workshops it is important to have demonstration on practical problem solving or analysis using the database and provided tools.
- Considering the large number of land cover classes that shall be involved, user friendly softwares are essential for efficient utilization and management of the database.

### **3.1.3 Ownership of the Database**

The NWG accepted the proposal by the NCM that each country shall possess its own database whilst FAO shall hold database for the entire region. The Ministry of Lands

and Human Settlements Development shall be the custodian of the Tanzania Africover database. However, other organizations aspiring to use the database held by FAO, prior consultation between FAO and respective country is essential in order to assess and decide on which data to be released under which conditions.

### **3.1.4 Mode of dissemination, Pricing Policy and Copyright.**

Dissemination of data shall mainly be by extracts from the Database in particular for Users equipped with computer facilities. Selective hard copies shall be issued on request. Concerning price, it was generally agreed that:

- FAO and the government of Italy shall have free access to use the database for own projects, but shall not sell it.
- The database shall be sold at a uniform non-commercial price to all categories of customers. A price tag was not set pending availability of at least sample of the data. However in setting out the price, there are many issues to be considered and generally the price is likely to vary according to:
  - number of layers
  - extent of coverage
  - soft or hard copy.
- An agreement spelling terms and conditions of supply and use of the data shall be associated with sell of the database.
- The NWG meeting concurred that copyright of the database shall be vested in the Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development within norms of the Copyright Act.

The NWG meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1999 was attended by both CTA and GIS expert. Emphasis was on

- call on identifying potential users of the Database.
- Campaign on awareness of the project and expected results.
- Expected training on how to manage the database.
- Pricing and dissemination policy.
- Identifying areas which can benefit or utilize the database.

### **3.2 Supply of ancillary Data.**

A total number of 40 geological maps were supplied and aerial photographs of Zanzibar were lent to the project.

### **3.3 Implementation of project activities**

#### **3.3.1 Field verification of preliminary office interpretation.**

A total number of 181 sample areas were earmarked by the project for field verification and ground truthing. The NFPI organized 3 groups composed of national interpreters to carry out the fieldwork in approximately 25 days. Because it was during the rain season, 56 points could not be reached. The national interpreters returned to the project office for one month to carry out final interpretation and harmonization of the data.

#### **3.3.2 Digitization of land cover classes polygons.**

Tanzania is covered by 40 TM scenes, all of which have been interpreted according to LCCS. For entry into the computer, the identified polygons need to be digitized, formatted and associated with appropriate feature codes. Because of the relatively big number of classes and short time allocated to accomplish the job, the digitization workload has been distributed to more than one organizations. The NFPI has been allocated 10 scenes to be completed by 1 February 2000. So far board digitization has been completed. Editing, code entry transformation and mosaicing are on progress.

#### **4 Follow-up of Actions and Recommendations made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> NCM**

##### **4.1 Interaction between Project Management and NFPI**

The CTA visited NFPI and attended the NWG meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1999. So far there has been frequent communications regarding implementation of various project activities since completion of field verification.

##### **4.2 Implementation of Letter of Agreements between NFPI and FAO.**

Three Letters of Agreements have been signed between NFPI and FAO for implementation of various project activities:

- Annual contribution to support coordination activities by NFPI along with Amendment 1
- Field verification activity
- Digitization of land covers interpretation.

Implementation of commitments in the Letters of Agreement has been improved compared to the previous term in 1998.

##### **4.3 Geodetic Status Report**

There has not been immediate follow up by project management about the establishment of the Geometric Committee as agreed upon during the last NCM meeting. It was about three weeks ago when the NFPI was asked to prepare report on status of geodetic network.

##### **4.5 National Policy concerning distribution of digital data**

A national policy does not exist, but the NFPI sales digital data to users by written agreement specifying terms and conditions of possession and utilization. Actual price depends on context of the database, original scale and number of requested layers. In order to set a price tag for the Africover database, the NWG is of the opinion that sample data must be made available for evaluation.

##### **4.6 Information of NFPI for Africover Website.**

Brief information was supplied to the project.

#### **5. Recommendations.**

For effective awareness campaign on availability and usefulness of the Africover Database to prospective and potential users, practical demonstration is vital. Therefore it is recommended that the project management should train at least one person from NFPI to manage and manipulate the Database in advance of completion. This will ensure presence of a resource person during the campaign by seminars and workshops, who shall be responsible for demonstration of manipulation of the database using appropriate tools and software e.g, AIMS, ADG, etc.