

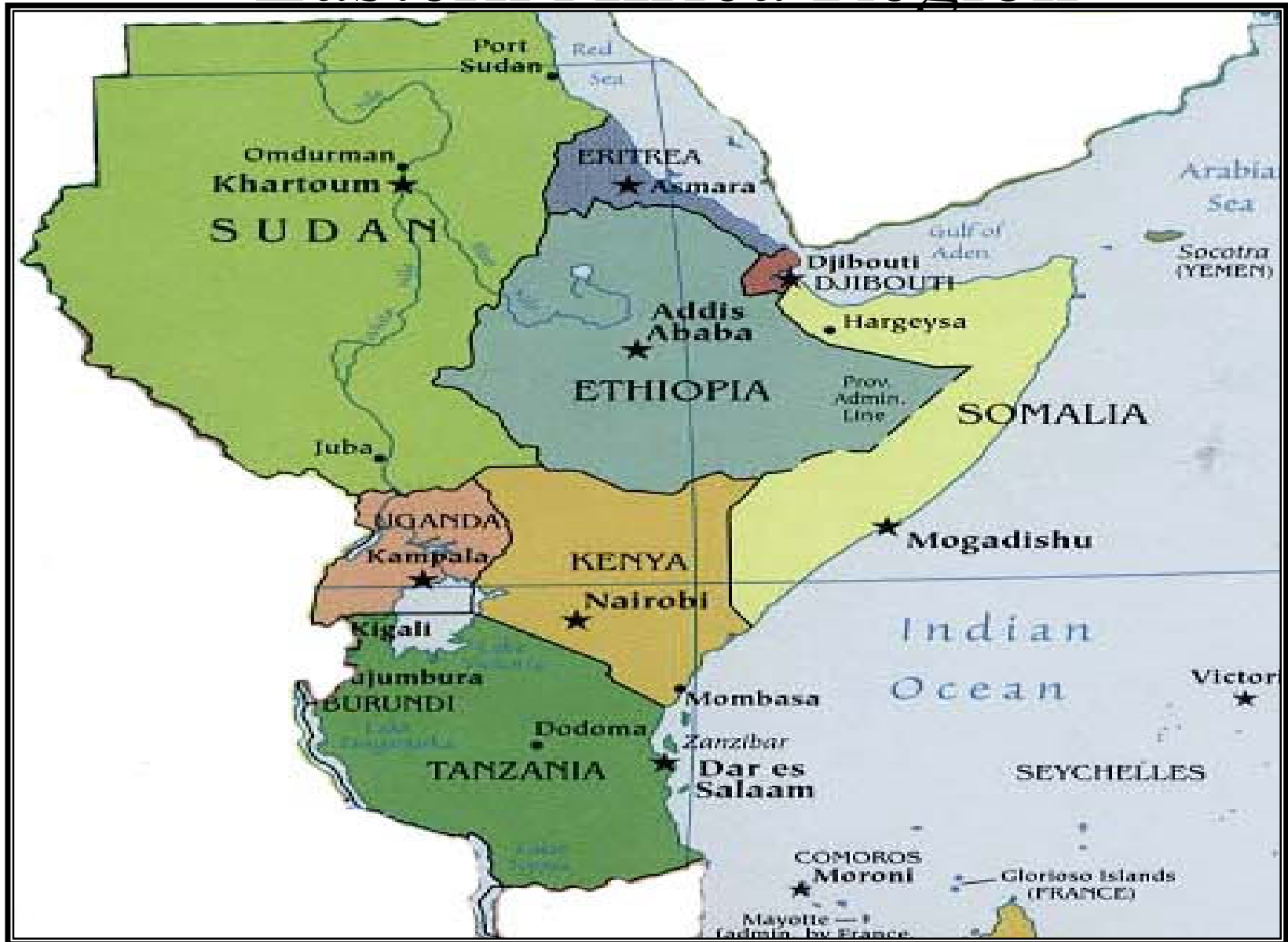
# Biodiversity and Impact Assessment in Eastern Africa

Abdulrahman S. Issa

Eastern Africa Association for Impact  
Assessment/IUCN Tanzania Country  
Office

P.O.Box 13513 Dar es Salaam,  
Tanzania

# Eastern Africa Region



# Key Issues

- Rich biological resource base
- Over-dependence on natural resources for livelihood by majority, poverty stricken
- Increasing demand for investment
- All countries are party to CBD and related Conventions ( - Somalia), Millennium Development Goals Commitment
- National Biodiversity Strategies in place

# Institutional & Legal Frameworks

- Category 1: Established institutions and formal operational EIA System – Uganda, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Kenya.
- Category 2: Established institutions and informal operational EIA System – Tanzania, Eritrea, Sudan
- Category 3: Established institutions and non-operational EIA system – Djibouti,
- Category 4: No System – Somalia

# Biodiversity Integration Criteria

- CBD objectives, NBSAP guide, key biodiversity issues (national/site specific)
- Key questions in the checklist to address CBD
- Information needs and collection arrangement to address
- Adequacy of the EIA study
- Public involvement (biodiversity status, trends, threats, traditional knowledge, benefit and livelihood support)

# Biodiversity Integration Criteria

## Cases Reviewed

1. Proposed Rufiji Shrimp Farming in Tanzania
2. Proposed Oil Palm project, Bugala Island Uganda
3. Road construction projects in Ethiopia Amhara Region
4. Titanium mining in Coastal Kenya

# Biodiversity Integration in EIA

- Emphasis varied among projects (ecological sensitivity of project areas, source of funding, plans for the EIA studies, level of participation esp. civil societies both in/outside countries)
- Emphasis mainly on species level and limited on ecosystem and genetic level
- Emphasis on large projects. Cumulative effects of small projects??
- Capacity for integrated EIA studies and management
- Information on biodiversity trends
- Capacity in addressing taxonomic issues
- Capacity in monitoring is limited

# Needs For Capacity Building

- Further awareness-raising on the role of biodiversity in livelihoods, food security, political stability
- Biodiversity and Environmental Assessment tools
- Streamlining in EIA regulations and procedures making them more specific in responding to biodiversity issues as per CBD and NBSAPs
- Capacity building of key players (NEMAs, research institutions)

## Needs For Capacity Building – cont.

- Establishing and strengthening networks (CBD focals, regional networks - Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment, members of the IUCN, relevant Commissions, SSC, individual scientists),
- Start with Tanzania with possibility of spread in Eastern and Southern Africa

## Needs For Capacity Building – cont.

- Link with IUCN/USAID Capacity Enhancement for EIA in Eastern Africa
- Project objective:  
*“To promote, support and develop EIA capacity in Eastern Africa to enable countries in the region to fully appreciate and effectively use EIA as continuous planning and decision making tool for sustainable development at national and sub-national levels”.*

## Needs For Capacity Building – cont.

- ***Objective 1:*** *To support the establishment of operational and legally constituted EIA systems and institutional frameworks in Eastern Africa*
- ***Objective 2:*** *To develop adequate human and technical resources, and institutional capacity for EIA implementation*
- ***Objective 3:*** *To encourage and develop capacity of the private sector to participate in EIA*

## Needs For Capacity Building – cont.

- ***Objective 4:*** *To address specific regional needs and capacity for integrating biodiversity in development as part of implementing CBD, related conventions and initiatives.*
- ***Objective 5:*** *To build adequate financial resources and establish appropriate funding mechanisms for EIA establishment and implementation*

