

THE FACTORS WHICH COUSES LOSS OF WILD LANDS IN TANZANIA

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There is an actual problem of wild lands loss in Tanzania, the country on the East of Africa.

Among the *causes of wild lands loss in Tanzania* we are ready to mention the next ones:

- *Deforestation.* The deforestation technique of slash and burn, utilized extensively to clear large areas of forest for agricultural and other purposes, causes an enormous amount of environmental damage. The removal of all trees and ground cover destroys animal habitats and greatly accelerates erosion, adding to the sediment loads of rivers and making seasonal flooding much more severe.
- *Agricultural expansion.* Due agricultural revolution people use fire to modify or eliminate natural vegetation and this situation caused to the death of organisms which is very important to the formations of soil. For example, in Tanzania people are used industry fertilizers to make crops growing well but this fertilizers poison to living organisms and cause dying of organisms.
- *Population growth.* While populations remained small and human technology modest, their impact on the environment was localized. As populations increased and technology improved and expanded, however, more significant and widespread problems arose. Because many people are finding areas for settlement and working also need of wood and coal in cities. People are able to modify the environment by their activities. They don't think about the environment because first of all they want to meet their needs such as eating, furniture, money, etc.
- *Mining activities.* Miners are using local ways of mining also without recovering the loosed soil.
- *Overgrazing.* Domestication and herding of grazing animals eventually resulted in overgrazing and soil erosion. This situation happens in northern Tanzania especially to the tribe called masai they have a tradition of keeping high number of cattle which affects grasses covering the land.
- *Illegal trade in endangered species and wildlife products.* There are some people who control illegal trade of woods and wild animals. But all this is made mostly through illegal ways and causes many areas to be unprotected.
- *High number of refugees.* Because many countries nearby Tanzania are in unstable political situation and some of them are even involved into civil wars Tanzania is to accept a lot of refugees who look for settlements.
- *Poor methods of fishing.* There are some fisheries using chemicals for fishing activities and this situation causes many fishes and other water living organisms to die.
- *Industrial activities.* Carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and other types of contaminants pouring from industrial smokestacks contribute to worldwide atmospheric pollution. Carbon dioxide contributes significantly to global warming, while sulphur dioxide is the principal cause of acid rains and also chemical pollution of the water.
- *Soil Erosion.* Nowadays there is a severe form of soil erosion in Tanzania. Soil erosion is a natural geological process which greatly accelerated by human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing of cattle, and poor agricultural practices. These destructive processes continue at an increased rate every year, also as overpopulation.
- *Timbering activities.* Forest as a cover of land which protects moistures and evaporation of water from the land but it affected by timbering activities as a raw material to local and heavy industries.
- *Waste throwing.* Wastes such as nylon and plastic bags is an actual problem in many areas of Tanzania especially in capital city Dar es Salaam.
- *Acidic rainfall.* Forests, lakes, ponds, and other terrestrial are being severely damaged by the effects of acid rain. Acid rain is caused by the combination of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen compounds with water in the atmosphere to produce rain with a very low pH. Normally, rainwater has a pH of 6.5, making it very slightly acidic. However, with the addition of sulphur and nitrogen compounds, the pH of rainwater may drop to as low as 2.0 or 3.0, similar to the acidity of vinegar. In addition to chemically burning the leaves of plants, acid rain poisons lake water, which kills many aquatic inhabitants.
- *Increase of temperature.* Increase in temperature causes high evaporation which removes a lot of water from the soil and also this causes the death of living organisms in soil.

Possible solutions of the wild lands loss in Tanzania:

- Government should educate people how to use the good methods for agriculture.
- People should change their behavior to the wastes (not to throw wastes everywhere especially plastic bags which can't be changed in another product).
- Industries should innovate the new technologies of using wastes as raw materials.
- Industries should be constructed far away from natural water resources.
- Education of planting and recovering trees should be provided in schools and other educational establishments.
- All sources of water should be kept safe.
- Government should make the law which can punish people who are involved into illegal activities.
- Farmers should make and use local fertilizers in order to make their plants to be grown well.
- Environmental NGOs should be encouraged in the country.
- People should be educated to use other energies such as fuel and gas for cooking instead of using firewood and coal.
- Special areas for mining should be prepared in order to protect the soil erosion.

