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Rédaction • Natalie Tarr
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Site web • Webseite: www.sagw.ch/africa
Abonnement List-serv • Abonnierung List-serv: veit.arlt@unibas.ch

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Der Publikationsbeitrag der Schweizerischen Akademie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften sei dankend erwähnt. Die Verantwortung für die Inhalte der veröffentlichten Beiträge und Informationen liegt bei deren Autoren. Die darin enthaltenen Standpunkte decken sich nicht immer mit jenen der SGAS.

Cover: PhD candidate Marta Rudnika researches on food and taste in Ghana's Upper West region. Fried yam and plantain with bean stew, groundnut powder, chili and egg is a very common and popular dish (picture: Marta Rudnicka).

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UNDERSTANDING LAND USE AND LAND COVER CHANGES IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

■ COLIN COURTNEY-MUSTAPHI, REBECCA W. KARIUKI, ANNA SHOEMAKER, LINUS MUNISHI, ANNELI EKBLOM, ROB MARCHANT AND PAUL LANE

The project *Adaptation & Resilience to Climate Change* (ARCC) is funded by the Swedish Research Council. It draws together researchers in environmental change, participatory research methods, archaeology and ecology at Tanzanian, Swiss, British and Swedish institutions. Their common aim is to investigate historical patterns of land cover and land use change in northern Tanzania. The wide range of local environments there includes semi-arid scrublands, savannahs, wetlands, montane forests and high-elevation vegetation. There are also many land use regimes, with land designated for conservation, pastoralism, agriculture, agroforestry and human settlements ranging from isolated homesteads to urban complexes. The allocated areas and their boundaries have all changed through time. Today's multiple stakeholders have overlapping and sometimes competing interests. In complex and contested landscapes such as these, planning for sustainable and resilient futures poses considerable challenges. It requires the integration of cross-disciplinary perspectives on past, present and future environmental conditions and land uses. Together, these provide a nexus for stakeholder consensus and help build understanding of how landscapes and human interactions evolved and potentially co-adapted to their present conditions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

ARCC has two main aims. The first is to enhance understanding of the variable degrees of resilience among human populations and environmental management within and adjacent to key protected areas in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania. The other is to facilitate the transfer of this knowledge to diverse audiences, including researchers, stakeholders and policymakers at local, national and global levels. This second aim includes facilitation of knowledge exchange between stakeholder groups and the localisation of evidence in support of land management regime decision-making. ARCC combines local participatory perspectives on environmental and land use change with forms of 'expert' knowledge. Together, these enable exploration of how various land use strategies contribute either to meet or miss socio-economic development goals and sustainability targets.

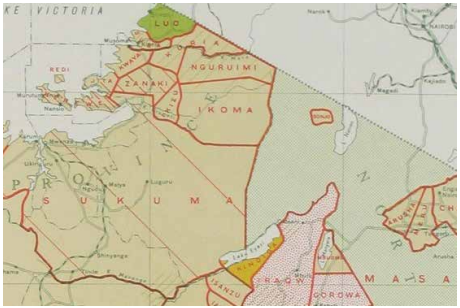
RESEARCH APPROACHES

Sediment samples from Lake Victoria, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Kilimanjaro are undergoing palaeoenvironmental analysis at the University of Basel and the University of York. The samples include lake sediments, kopje soils and salt flat sediments that preserve pollen and charcoal from former plants and wildfires. These fossil materials are used to examine past vegetation, fires and erosion, which each provide indicators of landscape changes. These data are then combined with descriptions of environmental conditions and land use derived from historical cartographic and archival sources. Researchers at Uppsala University, the University of Dar es Salaam, and the University of Cambridge are investigating the archaeology of precolonial fortified hill settlements and historical well sites. This will help them to understand the environmental context and legacies of the people, livestock, crops and wildlife that created these landscape features. The ecosystem services provided by these abandoned sites are an understudied area of human-environmental interaction. ARCC is investigating their contribution to the biodiversity and resilience of wildlife populations.

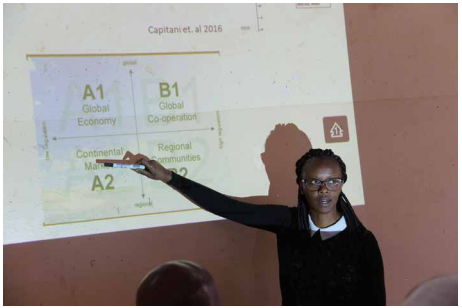
An overview of land use and land cover change research approaches that includes palaeoenvironmental analyses of sediment cores from soils, wetlands and Lake Victoria; archaeological analyses, historical cartography, and studying old water wells and stone forts in western Serengeti; as well as participatory research methods among stakeholder communities across northern Tanzania (Photos: ARCC project 2018–2020).

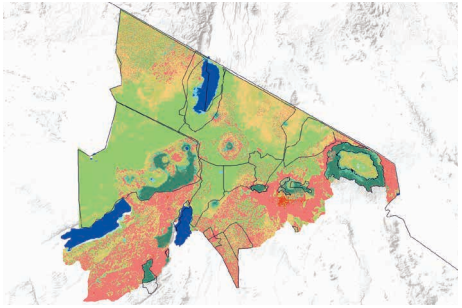
Palaeoenvironments

Archaeology, historical maps, and landscape evidence



Participatory methods and secnario development





Past | Historical | Present | Future

Initial archaeological fieldwork within the ARCC project was led by Uppsala University: It entailed surveys, excavations, participatory mapping exercises and interviews in western Serengeti, where there has been very little archaeological exploration, in order to identify and characterise anthropogenic landscape features. Analysis of archaeological materials and data was conducted at the Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory (PEARL), in the Biology Department of Queen's University in Ontario, Canada. The results, in combination with archival and oral historical sources, are being used to elucidate the changing nature of land use during the later Iron Age and into the colonial period. A new phase of survey and excavation by a team from the University of Dar es Salaam will begin in mid-2021. Ultimately, this research aims to reconstruct the long-term ecological footprints of varied land use strategies and reframe older narratives that portray 'baseline' precolonial ecological conditions as essentially devoid of human influence. Two particular avenues to establish this goal are being pursued. The first is through an examination of the geochemical, hydrological and ecological legacies, on decadal and centennial timescales, of the abandoned wells dug by agro-pastoralists in the Robanda area of western Serengeti. The second avenue involves excavation and dating of two now abandoned settlement sites in the highlands of Ngoreme, northern Tanzania, to compare contemporary and historical forest resource use in these bio-cultural hotspots.

The future of social-ecological systems in the Kenyan-Tanzanian borderlands is complex and uncertain. The ARCC project is therefore developing likely scenarios of potential future land use change. Local experiences and knowledge articulate remembered, observed and anticipated evidence of recent changes. Participatory research methods organise these narratives into scenarios of potential future socio-ecological changes. Researchers from the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha, Tanzania, have led several multi-stakeholder engagement workshops to co-produce scenarios of potential future land use and land cover change for the region. The stakeholders engaged included government and non-governmental institutions, academic researchers and local community members. This latter group included hunter-gatherers, farmers, pastoralists, faith-based leaders, chiefs and entrepreneurs from the Greater Serengeti-Ngorongoro ecosystem, the Manyara, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro Regions of northern Tanzania and the Amboseli ecosystem in Kenya. At each three-day workshop, stakeholders collectively identified past to present social-environmental changes they had observed and how these are likely to drive future land uses.

Stakeholder engagement and the development of future scenarios of land use and land cover change follow the Kesho framework. This was developed at the University of York to integrate stakeholders' narratives of future land use and land cover change with computational spatial modelling using four steps. First, stakeholders and researchers decide which geographical area and time period to consider. The future horizons were selected as the years 2030 and 2063, which align, respectively, with the target dates of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063. At the same time, stakeholder groups develop narratives of social, environmental and political change from the present to the future under different scenarios. Secondly, the stakeholders identify the probable type of land use and land cover change, its likelihood, location and impact on people and the environment. Next, researchers collate the participatory mapping and information from the workshops to develop a model. This translates the scenario narratives into spatial outputs illustrating the type, location and extent of land use and land cover change under each scenario for the two time-horizons. Finally, the researchers re-engage and disseminate the simulated spatial outputs to the stakeholders as part of an iterative dialogue for consensus. The process promotes social learning, common understanding and common ownership of co-produced scenarios. The final mapped scenarios can then be used to chart future pathways and explore opportunities for more sustainable use of land.

The ARCC project plans to produce academic outputs as well as documents for broader outreach. These will summarise research findings, lessons learned from conducting integrated research on land use and land cover change from past to future, and highlight policy-relevant results for stakeholders at local to subregional levels. Continued engagement with local stakeholders will maintain communication, knowledge exchange and research adaptation.

WEBSITE
www.real-project.eu/arcc/

Colin Courtney-Mustaphi is a postdoctoral researcher in Geoecology at the University of Basel, Switzerland, and World Bank Africa Centers of Excellence (ACEII) program researcher exchange with the Center for Water Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (WISE) Futures, Tanzania. Contact: colin.courtney-mustaphi@unibas.ch.

Rebecca W. Kariuki is a postdoctoral researcher at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Tanzania. She uses participatory approaches and spatial modelling to explore potential scenarios of changing social-ecological systems in East Africa. Contact: rebecca.kariuki@nm-aist.ac.tz.

Anna Shoemaker is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Archaeology, Uppsala University, Sweden; and World Bank Africa Centers of Excellence (ACEII) program researcher exchange with the Center for Water Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (WISE) Futures, Tanzania; and visiting researcher at the Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory (PEARL), Queen's University, Canada. Contact: anna.shoemaker@arkeologi.uu.se.

Linus Munishi is an ecologist and a Senior Lecturer at The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, Tanzania.
Email: linus.munishi@nm-aist.ac.tz.

Anneli Ekblom is an Associate Professor in archaeology and global environmental history at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University, Sweden. Contact: anneli.ekblom@arkeologi.uu.se.

Rob Marchant is a Professor at the University of York Institute for Tropical Ecosystems. Contact: robert.marchant@york.ac.uk.

Paul Lane is the Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer Professor of the Deep History & Archaeology of Africa at the University of Cambridge, UK. Contact: pjl29@cam.ac.uk.