

OUR CITY, OUR NATURE, OUR FUTURE:

The value of nature in Dar es Salaam

Tanzania is home to rich biodiversity and unique nature experiences. The country's Eastern Arc Mountains and coastal forests qualify as one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots. Despite rapid urbanisation, Dar es Salaam has many important natural assets which offer a wide range of benefits to the city and its people: a picturesque shoreline with beautiful beaches, rivers and estuaries, mangroves, forests and a variety of wildlife species.

With careful planning, these natural resources can be protected, restored, enhanced and even expanded to continue to provide benefits. These include fresh water, food, timber, jobs, cooling of the city, reduced air pollution, protection against natural disasters, opportunities for tourism, recreation and relaxation, and a sense of place.

Dar es Salaam: Benefits of nature and associated threats

Natural Asset	Nature's Benefits	Threats
Green open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooling the city & reduced flood risk Mitigation of air pollution Relaxation and recreation Habitat for wildlife & biodiversity protection Learning and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban densification & unregulated settlements Lack of maintenance of green open spaces Lack of access, enjoyment & appreciation Invasion by alien species, such as the house crow
Rivers and wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water source for household & agricultural use Water purification Recreation Hygiene Protection from flooding Biodiversity and landscape protection, through connecting habitats Heat reduction Groundwater replenishment Sediment and nutrient retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution & poor waste management (dissolved pollutants & solid waste) Building within & encroachment of settlements into the riparian zone Discharge of sewage & industrial effluents & illegal dumping of solid waste Sand mining Decline in forest cover
Marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish stocks, supporting local jobs and livelihoods Coral reefs offer breeding, nursery, feeding and shelter areas for animals such as fish, crabs, lobsters and clams, which also support important fisheries Coral reefs form natural barriers protecting the shoreline against wave action and storms The ocean is a net sink for carbon Tourism opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overfishing Destructive fishing techniques Polluted rivers spill out into the sea, affecting marine life Lack of regulation Unsustainable tourism
Coastal: beaches and near-shore zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Recreation Habitat and food (seagrass) for endangered species including marine turtles, dolphins, humpback whales & whale sharks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution (litter, solid waste, industrial pollution & effluent) of the beaches & mud-flats Degradation of land & aquatic systems that have caused sedimentation & high turbidity within the coastal zones
Coastal forests, woodlands and thicket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicinal plants, fuel wood, building materials and food Upstream protection and sources of the city's water and watershed system Urban cooling Recreation Tourism Wildlife habitat support (plants & animals) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unsustainable collection of forest materials Unsustainable charcoal making, cattle grazing, fires, pole & firewood collection, hunting & poaching, honey harvesting & construction activities
Mangroves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Productive nurseries for fish & prawns Protection against erosion & sea level rise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of mangroves to rice paddies, salt pans, aquaculture, & urbanisation Untreated waste, oil & industrial pollution discharged into rivers Silt from erosion, & pesticides in runoff Unsustainable harvesting of mangrove timber for construction Over-harvesting for fuelwood & for smoking fish

COLOUR KEY



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Population: 4.4 million Growth rate: 6.5% Area: 1 630 km²

This illustration was produced by combining up-to-date land cover spatial data, local expert knowledge and recent documentation on the state of nature in Dar es Salaam. The intention is to provide a visually inspiring image of nature in Dar es Salaam.

Acknowledgements: The INTERACT-Bio Dar es Salaam Co-ordinating Committee and local biodiversity experts, as listed in the Thematic Atlas for Dar es Salaam, 2018.



Presidents office: Regional Administration and Local Government
The Vice President's office: Environment Division
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Developments