Biodiversity knowledge hub launched to support conservation in southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with stakeholders have launched the Regional Resource Hub and one of its flagship knowledge products, the most comprehensive analysis on the state of protected areas in eastern and southern Africa.

The regional resource hub for protected areas and biodiversity will now be available to support 24 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa in improving conservation outcomes and achieving global commitments, for the benefit of nature and people.

During an online event held yesterday, IUCN, RCMRD, the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development and partners noted that the knowledge generated by the Regional Resource Hub aims to support national governments, regional organisations, NGOs, communities and other organisations, in achieving their biodiversity conservation objectives and to report their progress on multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, more accurately.

The hub includes an information system, co-developed with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, which helps decision makers to track progress on conservation targets, and to manage and assess the protected and conserved areas in the region. Other similar hubs have been established with BIOPAMA support in Western and Central Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

One year after IUCN and RCMRD formalised the partnership for the ‘Regional Resource Hub’, the partner institutions presented to the stakeholders in Eastern and Southern Africa the latest developments of this knowledge hub during an online event that took place on 24 November 2020.

Dr Emmanuel Nsimirikazi, Director General, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) said the centre is confident that the data and information unveiled in the Regional Resource Hub will go a long way in delivering useful information, to be made informed decisions, as the various stakeholders in conservation address the challenges that threaten our biodiversity.

The livestock industry in Tanzania plays important socio-economic roles that include contributing to building a national economy, contributing to national food security, to food production and incomes and in providing livestock products and by-products to livestock keepers and individuals and communities, while nurturing natural resources. Tanzania has potential to improve its livestock sector, consisting of a large number of indigenous and adaptable stock, abundant land and water resources, vast landscapes with adaptable pastures and terrains, diverse and urban markets and marketing outlets, numerous resources and an enabling policy environment.

Despite such opportunities, the sector however faces some challenges, including low genetic potential of the indigenous livestock, poor management of land, water and pastures, poor animal health and standards to meet conditions set by international livestock trade, and inadequate infrastructure for livestock and livestock products as well as prevalence of diseases. The establishment of this Regional Resource Hub is a great milestone as it will facilitate the provision of relevant information and data to support policies and effective decision-making on protected and conserved areas which are our irreplaceable natural heritage,” said Luther Bois Amatlan, Acting General Director for the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Eastern and Southern Africa.

The Regional Resource Hub acts as one of the regional observatories implemented by the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, and is hosted by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Eastern and Southern Africa.

**Pastoralists called on to adopt modern keeping technologies**

By Correspondent Valentine Ohora, Dodoma

PASTORALISTS in the country have been advised to adopt modern practices and technologies as well as recommendations provided by livestock research services, if they are to benefit from the sector.

Acting general director for the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Dr Jonas Kizima, said it was high time for the rural multitudes pastoralists to embrace hybrid cattle. But also, start adhering to the recommended livestock keeping practices.

According to him, pastoralists are said to stand a better chance to reap big from the industrial economy if they adopt modern embark on smart livestock keeping to improve production.

He observed, huge percentage of pastoralists in rural areas is still keeping their animals very locally, hence falling to take full advantage of the economic potential the sector has to offer.

The TALIRI’s chief boss, who was speaking at one of the institute’s community outreach programmes, said small scale pastoralist was a meaningful workforce to fast track economic development policies.

“The institute, TALIRI, in cooperation with likeminded experts from the private sector is working closely to research, innovate and disseminate key technologies for the betterment of the livestock keepers, but it’s very disconcerting that majority of pastoralist in remote areas are still far away to benefiting from such services,” he observed.

He challenged the pastoralist to ditch from the poor belief that the advanced technology meant for the giant livestock keepers.

“Poor man’s are distributing useful technologies for improving production and productivity for dairy and beef cattle, and at patrimonial prices,” he stated, added the technologies was vital for enabling the pastoralist to escape from shackles of poverty.

Apart from that, he said that the pastoralists are also in an access to opportunity to engage into forage production, the move which will also help to supplement their incomes.

Dr Kizima said the institute will continue working tirelessly to distribute key livestock technologies to pastoralist at all levels within the country in order to scale-up performance of the sector.

“We have, and are continuing to research and come up with assured solutions to increase productivity for the keeping of all livestock,” he insisted.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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APPLICATION FOR LICENSES UNDER THE COVERED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

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NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received licence applications from the following applicants:-

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- M-PESA Limited
- Vodacom Tanzania PLC
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**The term “Application Service” means a licence to provide Application Service through Fixed Voice Telecommunications Technology**

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**We have, and are continuing to research and come up with assured solutions to increase productivity for the keeping of all livestock**