WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE RUFIJI RIVER BASIN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Rufiji Basin Water Office (**RBWO**) was established after the inauguration of the first Basin Water Board (**RBWB**) on the 14/9/1993. It is one of the nine river basins declared in 1992 by Minister responsible for water affairs. The Office has been established in accordance to the Act No.11 of 2009. The Rufiji Basin Water Office has its Headquarters in Iringa Municipal Town. **RBWO** is under the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. All its workers are employed by this MoWI.

There are ten members of the **RBWB**. They are drawn from public institutions and the private sector (including representatives of NGO's, Farmers and Livestock keepers, and women). The Minister of Water and Irrigation appoints the Chairman and the members of the Board.

The main objectives of the Office are in accordance to the National Water Law namely:

(i) To act as principal executors of the Water Resources Management Act No.11 of 2009.
(ii) To carry out research pertaining to Water Resources Management in the

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE RUFIJI BASIN

The Rufiji Basin covers an area of 183,791 square kilometres (about 20% of Tanzania). The river drains into the Indian Ocean. The Basin is situated between Longitudes 33°55'E and 39°25'E and between Latitudes 5°35,S and 10°45'S. The altitude of the basin rises from 0 at the Indian Ocean to above 2,960 meters above mean sea level (**mamsl**) in the highlands in Mbeya Region.

The land use in the Basin includes agriculture, mining, forestry, livestock keeping, fishing, wild life, navigation and human settlements.

The Rufiji Basin comprises of four major rivers namely:

(i)	The Great Ruaha River	-	85,554 km^2
(ii)	The Kilombero River	-	40,330 km^2
(iii)	The Luwegu River	-	25,288 km^2
(iv)	The Rufiji (lower part of main river)	-	32,619 km^2

The climate in the basin differs from the coast to the highlands in the upper parts of the catchments. For instance, except for the lower parts of the basin, which experience two rainy seasons, the largest portion is characterized by unimodal rainfall. The Average rainfall varies from 400mm in the drier areas to 2000mm in wetter parts.

Regions and Districts covered by the Rufiji River Basin

DISTRICT	REGION	MAJOR RIVER
Manyoni	Singida	Kisigo
Singida (rural)	Singida	Kisogo
Dodoma (Urban)	Dodoma	Kisigo, Bubu
Dodoma (Rural)	Dodoma	Kisigo, Bubu, Fufu
Mpwapwa	Dodoma	Great Ruaha, Mwega
Mbeya (Rural)	Mbeya	Mkoji
Mbeya (Urban)	Mbeya	Gwiri
Mbarali	Mbeya	Great Ruaha, Mbarali, Halali, Kimani, Ndembera, Chimala, Mkoji, Kimbi
Makete	Iringa	Great Ruaha, Kimani, Chimala
Njombe	Iringa	Mbarali, Halali, Kilombero, Ruhudji, Mnyera, Mpanga
Mufindi	Iringa	Little Ruaha, Kilombero, Kigogo Ruaha, Kihansi
Iringa (Rural)	Iringa	Little Ruaha, Lukosi, Great Ruaha
Iringa (Urban)	Iringa	Little Ruaha
Kilosa	Morogoro	Great Ruaha & Mikumi
Kilombero	Morogoro	Kilombero, Furua, Kihansi, Lumemo
Morogoro (Rural)	Morogoro	Great Ruaha
Ulanga	Morogoro	Luhombero
Kisarawe	Pwani	Rufiji
Temeke	Dar es salaam	Rufiji
Mkuranga	Pwani	Rufiji
Rufiji	Pwani	Rufiji
Liwale	Lindi	Luwegu, Rufiji, Lihangwa
Songea (Rural)	Ruvuma	Luwegu
Namtumbo	Ruvuma	Luwegu, Mbarang'andu
Tunduru	Ruvuma	Mbarang'andu

The Basin is characterised by many wetlands both in the highlands and the lowlands. The major wetlands are the Utengule in the Great Ruaha and the Kibasila in the Kilombero. The mangrove in the Rufiji river delta, are also a special type of vegetation in the Basin.

Population

According to the 2002 National Census results more than 4 million people currently live in the Rufiji Basin