

IEDRO

Saving data, saving lives

INTERNATIONAL DATA RESCUE NEWS

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TANZANIA

Mount Kilimanjaro

**TANZANIA
IEDRO funded for TANZANIAN Project
In Focus: Tanzania and Climate Change**

IEDRO NEWS

**UPCOMING & FUTURE DATES
VOLUNTEER CHANGES**

TANZANIA : A brief look

South of the equator Tanzania is the largest east African country at 945,000 square km.

The eastern 800 km coastline faces the Indian Ocean. Less than 50km offshore is Zanzibar, an archipelago of islands. Known as "Spice Islands" for its main industry of cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and pepper, Zanzibar consists of numerous small islands and two large ones: Unguja and Pemba Island.

Swahili (the national language) and English are the Official languages. Primary school education is taught in Swahili whereas English is used in higher education. Dodoma is the country's capital.

The commercial capital Dar es Salaam is 309 km west. With over 120 ethnic groups it has an

estimated population of 33 million (2002). Over 50 % of the population is women with approx. 46% under age 15.

Tropical in climate, the "hot" period extends from November to February (max 31 C), with the cooler period from May to August (min 15 C). Tanzania has two rainfall patterns. In the south, south-west, central and west, December to April is the rainy season (unimodal). The north and northern coast have two rainy seasons (bimodal). The short rains known as Vuli (the season of the lesser rains) run from October to December. The Masika (the great rainy season), the long rains run from March to May.

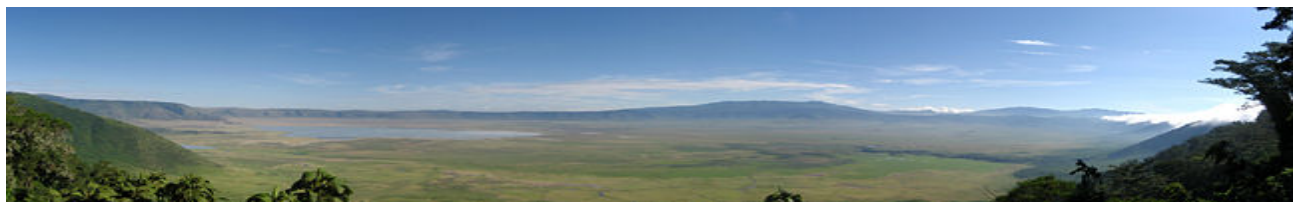
Geographically diverse Tanzania boasts volcanic peaks; forests; woodland; swamps; lakes and even semi-desert. About one quarter of the land is protected

within 12 national parks and 17 game reserves.

Tanzania has Africa's largest mammal population, and 1500 bird species. With over 10,000 different plants it is home to ¾ of Africa's botanical species. At 5895m above sea level, the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro, the roof of Africa, is the highest continental point. Sadly it is estimated that between 2015 and 2020 the summit ice cap that dates back to the Pleistocene epoch, will have completely melted, leaving only ice on the slopes.



Known to the Maasi as "**Siringitu** – the place where the land moves on forever", the Serengeti is one of earth's oldest eco systems and world heritage site, where



ancient hominid bones have been discovered. The Serengeti covers 14,763 square km. Here, 2.5 million mammals: zebra and wildebeest instinctively migrate to follow the seasonal rains.

The **Ngorongoro** crater, located adjacent to the Serengeti is the world's largest intact, dry volcanic caldera created 2.5

million years ago when the giant volcano exploded and collapsed. It is 610m deep and the floor is 260km². Despite the breathtaking beauty created by its geographic diversity, Tanzania has areas for concern. Poverty, illness and disease (Malaria, HIV/AIDS) access to clean water are some of the problems that the

Ngorongoro Crater

Tanzanian government is working to reduce and resolve. Tanzania is stable in comparison to other conflict laden African countries, but instability can stem from a country's ability to provide for its entire population in the face of many challenges including those that may arise from climate change.

Kate Nyah Jax

TANZANIA and CLIMATE CHANGE

The United Nations Panel on Climate Change (2001; 2003) highlights Africa's vulnerability to climate-related disasters. Flooding; drought, epidemics; environmental damage and financial instability, alter people's ability to meet basic needs negatively impacting survival. High rainfall and extensive forests make Mt. Kilimanjaro a vital water catchment for Tanzania and Kenya. It is predicted that the disappearance of the ice cap, (due to reduced rainfall rather than warming temperatures) will alter the climate and result in increased forest fires on the slopes. Less forests on the southern slopes will affect the water flow into the Pangani River, one of Tanzania's largest rivers. This may only add to water shortage and access problems that the Tanzanian government is currently addressing.

IEDRO in TANZANIA: Climate Data Rescue

IEDRO has received funding for a new data rescue project in Tanzania in southern Africa. The project will be setup in Dar es Salaam and will begin with some assistance from our current project manager Martin Munkhondya in Malawi.

INTERNATIONAL DATA RESCUE NEWS

RICK'S DATES



Rick will be in attendance:

November
1-8, 2007
Saudi Arabia

November
28-30, 2007
Tarragona,
Spain – WMO
International
Workshop on
Rescue and
Digitization of
Historic Climate
Records

January 20-24,
2008
American
Meteorological
Society 2008
Annual Meeting
New Orleans
Convention
Center

WORKSHOP UPDATES

October 22/2007
Climate Users Conference
University of Maryland

Rick was able to advance IEDRO into various break-out sessions focusing on energy, agriculture, insurance and health.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Thank you and Good Luck!

Jenn Curtis has accepted a position with a non-profit organization back home in Maine. We thank her very much for the time and effort she has spent with IEDRO and wish her well!

Welcome to IEDRO!

New volunteer, **Ms. Brenda Gawthrop** will be working with Rick at IEDRO Corporate Headquarters in Deale, Maryland. Assisting with the use of our contacts data base in distributing the IDRN and letters to potential volunteers and donors, constructing power point presentations, quality control of received historic data images, and other things too numerous to mention.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE WEBSITE GOAL

IEDRO is setting the stage for a multi-linguistic website in English, French and Spanish. Scott Lewis has begun developing the website to enable IEDRO to incorporate a Spanish and a French version.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS

International Workshop on Data Rescue and Digitization of Climate Records in the Mediterranean Basin

November 28-30, 2007
Tarragona, Spain



Organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in collaboration with Instituto Nacional de Meteorología (INM) of Spain and the University of Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain.

“Rational: Long-term, high-quality and reliable climate instrumental time series are key information required in undertaking robust and consistent assessments in order to better understand, detect, predict and respond to global climate variability and change. The benefit areas include regional climate studies and predictions, calibration of satellite data, generation of climate quality re-analyses data, besides being a formidable and essential tool in translating climate proxy evidence into instrumental terms.”

PROMOTING IEDRO with PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Rick Crouthamel and volunteer Jenn Curtis are currently collaborating on the development of mobile IEDRO presentations for upcoming climate data workshops including at the University of Maryland October 22-23, 2007 ; Tarragona, Spain, November 28-30, 2007 and at the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, January, 2008.

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IEDRO in the
Race to Collect
Data before its
too late.

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difference.

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IEDRO's MISSION

The mission of the International Environmental Data Rescue Organization is to assist the scientific and educational communities of mainly developing countries locate, rescue and digitize all environmental data currently at risk on perishable media, and to make those digitized data freely and openly available to the world scientific and educational communities before it is too late.

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IEDRO is a registered 501©(3) organization

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Executive Director: Dr. Richard Crouthamel

Top 5 Critical Reasons to Rescue Data:

1. to predict the spread of diseases (malaria, yellow fever, West Nile Virus) so that doctors can reach and protect the children and the elderly before the disease hits.
2. to understand climate change and global warming by comparing past weather conditions with what's happening now.
3. to help keep the Earth's 1.8 Billion subsistence farming families from starvation by showing them the rainfall they can normally expect so that they can grow appropriate crops and save enough to get through the famine years.
4. to show engineers and builders the past extreme weather events so they can build bridges, dams, buildings to withstand these events when they occur again.
5. to show weather forecasters what weather patterns produced tornados, floods, hurricanes so that they can better predict those killers now.