

Tanzania

History, Economy, Kagera

by Däni Grüter and Barbara Engel. 2011



Tanzania

Tanzania, a republic in eastern Africa, is often referred to as the cradle of humankind, as it is one of the earliest settled regions on earth. The original immigration of peoples from the interior of Africa was supplemented in the 7th century by the settlement of Arabs who discovered the African east coast and established trading posts. An African-Arab mixed culture developed until at least the 16th century, when the Portuguese took over the coastal region and the offshore area. the coastal region and the offshore island of Zanzibar until about 1650. After that, the Arabs re-established Islamic culture in the region, supported by an active slave and ivory trade. In the course of colonisation, East Africa was divided up. Tanzania fell to Germany, Zanzibar went to England. After the First World War, Germany lost power over the colony of Tanzania, which passed

to Great Britain from 1920, first as a League of Nations mandate, and from 1946 as a UN trust territory.

Tanzania became independent in 1961, and the first president, Julius Nyerere, tried to follow the path of "self reliance". An important component of this idea is to provide the population with what they need to satisfy their basic needs from their own country. This implies a focus on rural development instead of building heavy industries, for which there was hardly any basis in Tanzania. Nyerere failed with his socialist idea, which should have brought better living conditions to the population. The reasons for this are manifold, having to do with the world economy, the collapse of prices for agricultural products, but also with bureaucracy and corruption. After all, he had eliminated illiteracy and saved his giant country from civil wars. As an elder statesman, Nyerere mediated in African conflicts in recent years. He is said to have

been a gifted teacher and philosopher, but not an economist.

Economy

Agriculture is the most important economic sector in the otherwise predominantly impoverished country. About 5 % of the country's land is used mainly for domestic production, with manioc, maize, rice, millet and bananas, but also sugar cane and vegetables. Important export goods are coffee, cotton, tobacco and tea, but above all rubber and cloves. In addition to fishing and livestock farming for domestic consumption, the timber industry supplies mahogany, ebony and sandalwood.

Mineral resources such as coal, iron ore, gypsum and phosphate can hardly be mined due to the poorly developed infrastructure. Small amounts of gold, tin and salt are mined, but only diamond mining near Shinyanga is important. Apart from a few large companies, a processing industry is hardly developed. Tanzania's main trading partners are

Germany, Japan, China and the USA, although the country is dependent on extensive food imports. In view of Tanzania's poverty, the World Bank therefore granted extensive debt relief in 2001.

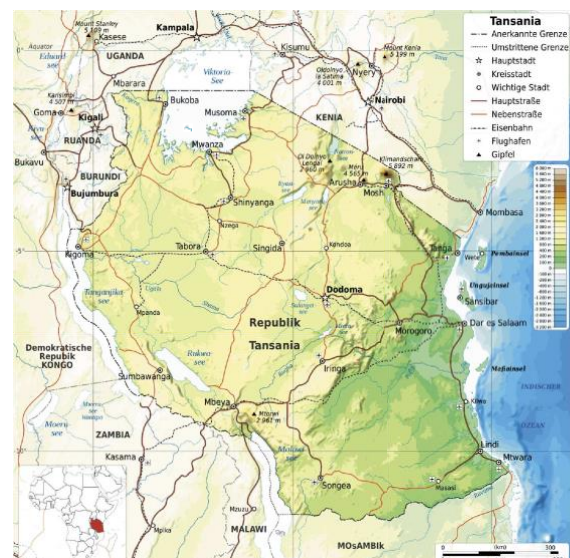
Another economic sector is tourism. The country's national parks and historical sites are particularly important. The Serengeti and Kilimanjaro are probably the country's best-known attractions.



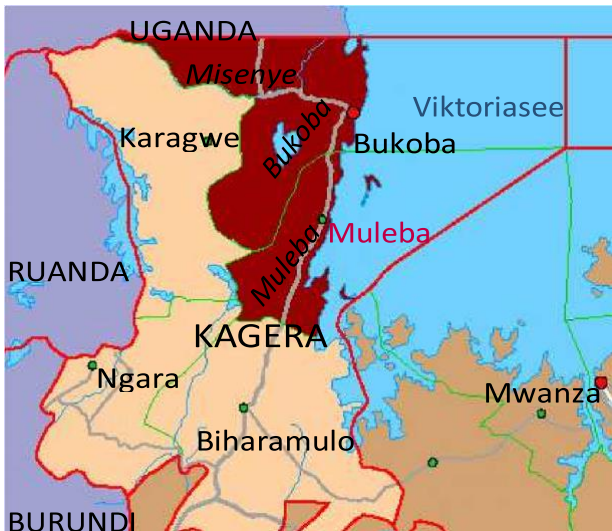
Lucerne is about 6'000 km away from Muleba and the clock is 2 hours fast.

Tanzania is 945,087 km² , almost 23 times the size of Switzerland.

Just over 41 million people live there, slightly more than 5 times as many as here. The gross domestic product per inhabitant in Tanzania is US\$ 415, of the Swiss US\$ 69,838, 168 times more.



Muleba lies at about 1300 m above sea level, the level of Lake Victoria at about



Kagera

Kagera is in the very northwest of Tanzania, close to the border with Uganda and Rwanda. Until independence, the area was divided into different kingdoms, which remained in place during the colonial period. Julius Nyerere dissolved them in favour of national unity. Kagera is about 1100 m above sea level and has a pleasant climate. There are 2 rainy seasons, from March to May and from October to December. Usually it rains extensively in the morning and the day ends sunny again. It is a fertile area, except where the soil has been depleted. The main crops are coffee, tea and cotton for export and plantains (matoke), maize and beans for domestic consumption.

for their own needs. There is also cassava, sugar, sweet potatoes, vegetables, unpeeled rice, avocado, pineapple, mango and passion fruit. Vanilla has been cultivated in Bukoba and Muleba for some years. Fishing is also important. There is also cattle breeding and dairy farms, and as a result, cheese, "Bukoba cheese". There are some industries for processing coffee, sugar, cotton and fish. Gold and nickel are present in the region, but are not yet fully mined.

Problems

Despite the good conditions (climate and fertility), the population suffers from many problems.

There are health posts, especially for pregnant women and children. However, there is a lack of facilities and staff. Maternal mortality is still quite high. A major problem is malaria, which is a frequent cause of death, especially among children under 5 years of age. The awareness campaigns are still not effective enough. Habits are not abandoned so quickly and myths about infertility due to impregnated mosquito nets persist. Another big problem is AIDS. There are many orphans, often with only their grandparents left, who actually needed support themselves. They suffer from malnutrition and lack of education.



Education is officially accessible to all.

However, illness, lack of money for uniforms

However, illness, lack of money for uniforms and food, and the need for children to help with subsistence work are responsible for many children only being able to attend school for a short time.

Furthermore, there is a lack of access to clean water and sanitary facilities, which cause further health problems.