

## TANZANIA



Source: esri

### General

Tanzania - officially the United Republic of Tanzania - is located in eastern Africa within the Great Lakes Region. It borders Kenya and Uganda in the North; Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the West; Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique in the South; and the Indian Ocean in the East. The country has an area of 94.7 Mha (million hectares) with in 2022 a population of 65.5 million, or 0.69 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2022).

### Climate and geography

Climate varies greatly within Tanzania. The country has two major rainfall regimes: one in the period October – April and the other in the periods October – December and March – May. The former is experienced in southern, central and western parts of the country, and the latter is found in the North from Lake Victoria extending East to the coast. In the highlands, temperatures range between 10 and 20 °C during cold and hot seasons respectively. The rest of the country has temperatures rarely falling lower than 20 °C. The hottest period extends between November and February (25 – 31 °C) while the coldest period occurs between May and August (15 – 20 °C). The average annual temperature is 20 °C (source: Wikipedia).

Northeast Tanzania exhibits a mountainous terrain. West of the mountains is the Gregory Rift, which is the eastern arm of the Great Rift Valley. On the floor of the rift are a number of large salt lakes. To the west of the Crater Highlands lies Serengeti National Park. Further northwest is Lake Victoria on the Kenya–Uganda–Tanzania border. Southwest of this, separating Tanzania from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is Lake Tanganyika. The western portion of the country between Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, and Malawi consists of flat land. Tanzania's Southern Highlands are in the southwestern part of the country, around the northern end of Lake Malawi. The centre of Tanzania is a large plateau, which is part of the East African Plateau. The southern half of this plateau is grassland within the Eastern miombo woodlands ecoregion, the majority of which is covered by the Selous National Park. Further north the plateau is arable land. The coast is home to areas of East African mangroves, mangrove swamps. A recent global remote sensing analysis suggested that there are 1,256 km<sup>2</sup> of tidal flats.

Eastern and central Tanzania are drained by rivers that discharge into the Indian Ocean. Most of Northern Tanzania drains into Lake Victoria, which discharges to the Nile River. The western portion of Tanzania is in Lake Tanganyika River Basin, which discharges into the Congo River. The Southern Eastern Rift area of north-central Tanzania is made up of several endorheic basins, which have no outlet to the sea and discharge into salt and/or alkaline lakes.

### Existing polders

According to the Group Polder Development (1982) the Trans-Msolva extension of the Kilombero Sugar Estate is a polder. It is located in a plain, which is flooded during the rainy season. The area is surrounded by a dike. The drainage system consists of open field drains and collector drains. When possible, it drains by gravity to the river.

Characteristic data of the existing polders in Tanzania are shown in Table I.

### Proposed polders

No proposed polders could be identified.

### Location of the polders in Tanzania as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polders in Tanzania is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Location of the polders in Tanzania (source: esri – Batavialand)

The pictures by Prof. Bart Schultz are shown in Table II.

## References

- Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands.
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2022. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2022 revision*. New York, USA.

*Bart Schultz*





*Lelystad, March 2023*

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Tanzania

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Trans-Msolva extension		2500	RLL	7° 47' S	37° 01' E	275	Sugar cane
Total		2500					

\*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake

Table II. Pictures on polders in Tanzania by Prof. Bart Schultz

			
Factory of the Kilombero Sugar Estate, 11 September 1976	Harvested sugar cane on the field, 11 September 1976	Transport of the harvested sugar cane to the factory, 11 September 1976	Transport of the harvested sugar cane to the factory, 11 September 1976