

SECTOR PROGRAMME SUPPORT DOCUMENT

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PROGRAMME SUPPORT

TANZANIA

**Natural Resources Conservation and Land Use Management Project
Phase II
(HIMA - Makete)**

**Iringa Region
Tanzania**

M/1/Proj-Doc/97/1

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COMPONENT DESCRIPTION/PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country : Tanzania Sector: Agriculture
Title : Makete District Natural Resource Conservation and Land Use
Management Project
Title of SPSD : Agricultural Sector Support to Tanzania
Cooperating Agency: Danida
Duration : Five Years
Starting Date : January 1998
Overall Budget : DKK.14,825,000.00
Description :

Project support is intended to contribute to increased agricultural and natural resources production and to improve leadership skills from village to district level, thus enhancing socio-economic welfare. Major activities include trainings in leadership skills, improved agriculture and land use management techniques and gender sensitivity. Promotion of improved crop variety and husbandary practices and soil and water conservation techniques will be achieved by on-farm trials and demonstrations, following a (sub)catchment approach. Interventions to be promoted will be identified, implemented and monitored using participatory methods.

Initiatives at increasing land productivity will be based upon principles of organic farming, biodiversity and use of indigenous plant materials, where appropriate. The project will promote decentralization of natural resources management responsibilities from government to community level.

Women's welfare will be improved by application of a Women's Participation Fund concurrent with gender-sensitive interventions.

The Project will seek to create, at all levels, an atmosphere conducive to the respect of human rights and which encourages popular participation and good governance.

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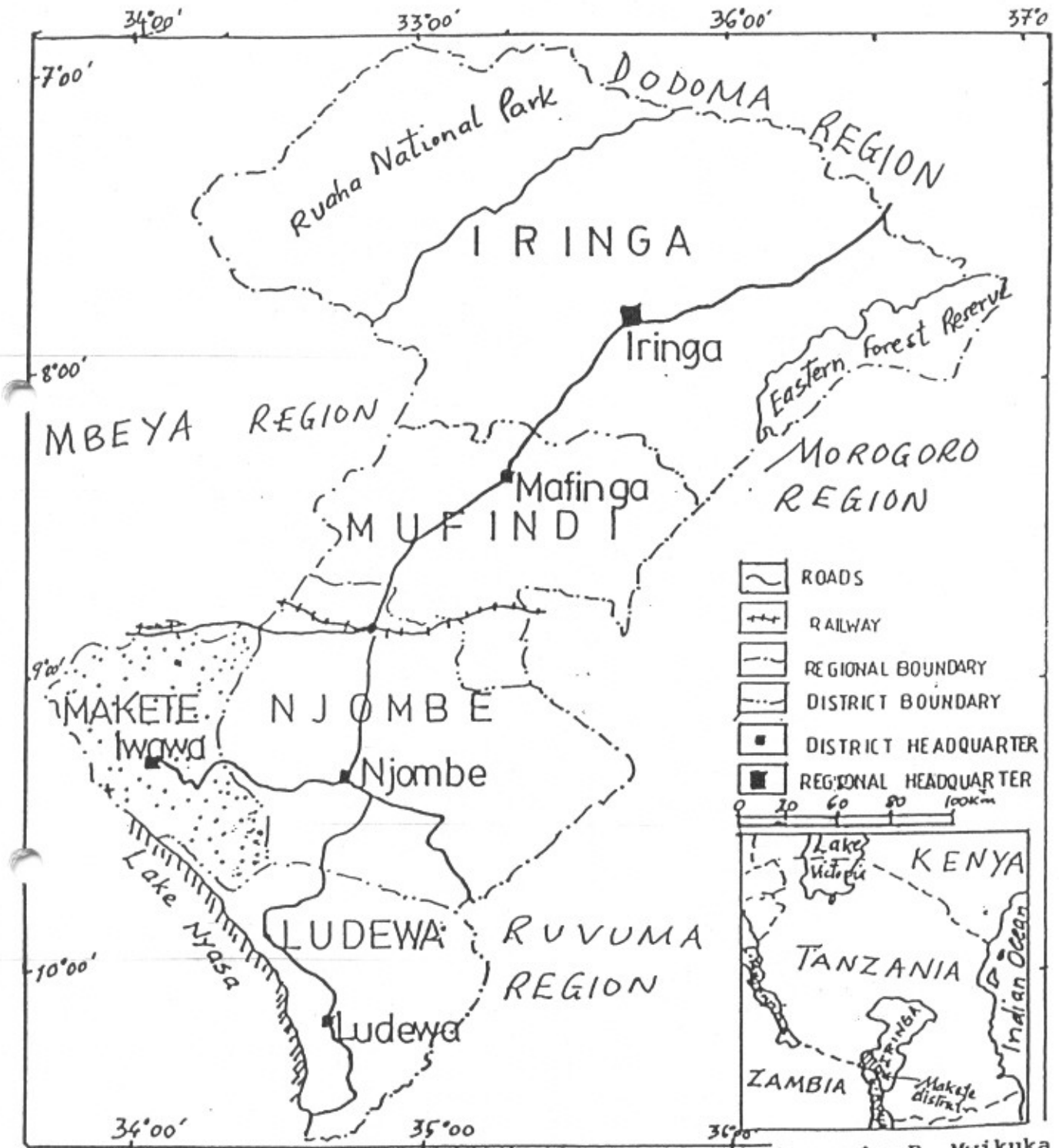
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LOCATION OF IRINGA REGION IN TANZANIA

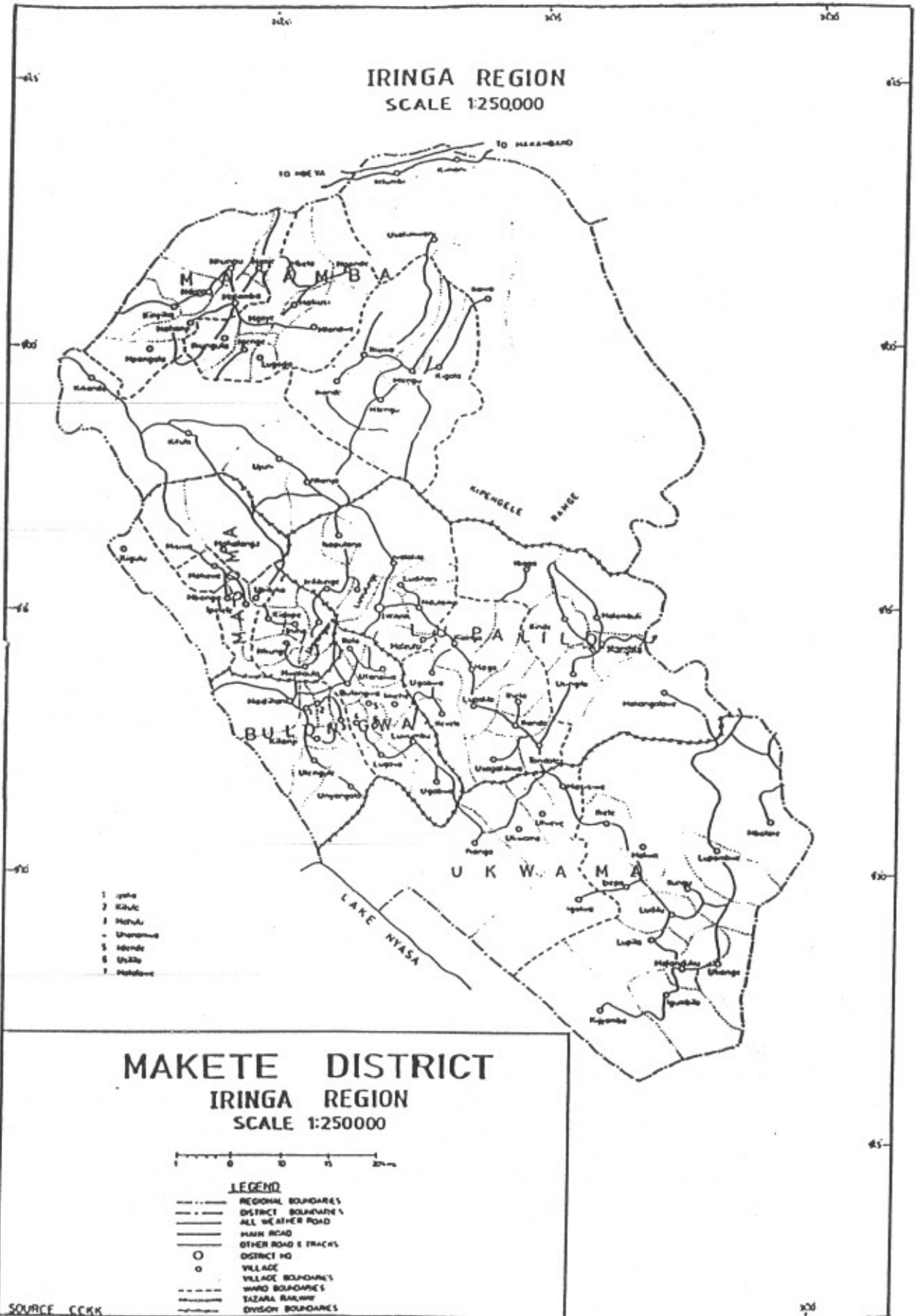


LOCATION OF MAKETE DISTRICT IN IRINGA REGION



Drawn by P. Mwikuka

MAKETE DISTRICT - IRINGA REGION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HIMA Makete Project effectively began operations in late 1993 by focusing on activities aimed at improving agricultural practices, tree planting (including agroforestry), natural forest conservation, soil and water conservation, strengthening leadership at all levels, institution building and development of human resources. While the major thrust in Phase I was natural resource management, Phase II will shift more emphasis to the agricultural sector (i.e. sustainably increased production levels and year-round food security) within the context of overall improved land-use practices.

The choice of project scenarios made by the major stakeholders has clearly considered poverty alleviation, development of the private sector, enhancement of District Council revenue collections, emancipation of women's rights, and reduced dependency on external input agricultural production, thus falling directly in-line with Danida policies and cross-cutting concerns.

The major problems facing Makete District as stated in the Phase I Project Document, are still prevalent:

1. The rural economy has been dislocated due to rapid changes in socio-economic conditions as a result of villagisation, market reforms, and structural adjustment.
2. Land degradation has been accelerated by agricultural encroachment into natural forests, localised overgrazing and excessive, illicit utilization of timber and woodfuel.
3. The District Council's weak financial position and revenue base.

The project's ability to further address these problems during Phase II is within the domain of several risks/uncertainties:

1. Community traditions and customs impeding project initiatives in among others, women's participation and rights and land-use reforms .
2. Unrealistic expectations among cooperation partners at all levels.
3. Continued reductions in staff levels which could hinder expansion into new villages.
4. Ineffectiveness of the District Council to tighten revenue collections, particularly from natural resource utilization, which could further weaken infrastructure and social services.
5. Use of Women's Participation and Mazingira Moratorium Funds may not materialize and/or may not be revolving as expected.

It is assumed, however, that by following a course of private sector support, institutional capacity building, diversification of options for District Council revenues and popular community participation that the aforementioned risks/uncertainties will not manifest themselves to a detrimental level.

HIMA Makete will play a role in facilitating preparations for agricultural sector programme support by coordinating with other HIMA projects in applications of LFA and in identification of pilot projects in the sub-sectors of on-farm seed propagation, small-scale irrigation and improvement of livestock production services.