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Short presentation

My primary research interest is hunting, ranging from bushmeat hunting in tropical and sub-tropical countries to Inuit communities traditional hunting in the Arctic. My research focuses on assessing the behavioural and socio-economic drivers and the ecological impacts of hunting. This in order to examine the efficiency of management approaches and their implications for hunters' livelihoods and traditional cultures and to assist in developing targeted mitigation policies.
Projects

Capacity-building in Arctic Standardisation Development (CAPARDUS). Making Bayesian Belief Network models for natural resource management in Greenland (2020-2023)
IFRO is a partner in the CAPARDUS project in its work package 2 conducting case studies in different Arctic regions. Specifically, IFRO project members will in collaboration with NORDECO organise a workshop with participants from Greenlandic natural resource user groups, government agencies and research institutions to discuss guidelines and standards in community-based monitoring in Greenland.
For further information, see:
https://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/carpadus/

Generating insights to reduce demand for rhino horn in Vietnam- Applying choice experiments and the theory of planned behaviour (2019-2022)
This study aims to provide crucial information for designing behavioural modification campaigns for the conservation of rhinos and constitute an important academic contribution to the understanding of Asian culture and consumerism in relation to wildlife products.
For further information, see:
https://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/rhino-horn-in-vietnam/

Savanna Life – Playing games to facilitate natural resource management in the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem in Tanzania and Kenya (2018-2020)
The Savanna Life project aims to develop a board game for teaching purposes, and stakeholder engagement and will record and analyse the strategies used by different players in the game. The game won first place in the Ecosystem Services in Practice Award at the 10th ESP World Conference.
For further information, see:
https://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/savannalife/

AfricanBioServices - Linking Biodiversity, Ecosystem Functions and Services in the Serengeti-Mara Region, East Africa: Drivers of Change, Causalities and Sustainable Management Strategies (2015-2019)
AfricanBioServices is a four year 10 million euro research project involving thirteen institutions in Europa and East Africa focusing on natural resource management problems in the cross-boundary Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem in Kenya and Tanzania. As the leader of work package 5, the research focused on quantifying human reliance on ecosystem services and examining management options.
For further information, see:
https://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/past/africanbioservices/

REDD+: The forest grab of all times? (2014-2017)
The project investigates how REDD+ influences regulations and access to forest resources, the way compensation for foregone benefits are awarded, and to what degree local monitoring of livelihood impacts of REDD+ can be used as a tool to empower local communities and help secure their rights in the face of REDD+.
For further information, see:
https://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/redd/

PIMA – Poverty and Ecosystem Impacts of Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas (2014-2017)
PIMA is a three-year interdisciplinary research project which aims to discover how Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas have changed people's lives and their effects on wildlife and the environment.
For further information, see:
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pima/index.htm

The choice of hunting and trading bushmeat - Building knowledge for regulation illegal bushmeat markets in Tanzania (2010-2013)
This project focuses on commercial bushmeat markets in Tanzania to provide the information needed to facilitate design of economic instruments to improve regulation of these markets for sustainability and biodiversity conservation. The project involves conducting a commodity chain analysis in three identified bushmeat markets to assess the distribution of power and profit between market actors (hunters, traders etc.) and determine the structure and functioning of these markets. The project will furthermore introduce choice experiments to measure actor's response to changes in aspects of

the decision to engage in this activity. The results will reveal the optimal level in the commodity chain for regulation interventions and whether increased law enforcement or market-based regulation instruments (taxes, subsidising alternatives etc.) most effectively will induce hunters and traders to shift occupation voluntarily. The project was funded by the National Research Foundation through CMEC.

Hunting for the benefit of Joint Forest Management and locally-based monitoring in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (2007-2010)

The project evaluated the effect of Joint Forest Management in a biodiversity hotspot in Tanzania based on the policy objectives: forest conservation; improved local livelihoods; and promotion of good governance. The study was based on a temporal comparison with a control site using bushmeat hunting as an indicator. The project also included an investigation of the production and communication of information in a locally-based monitoring scheme in the same area. The project was funded by the Danish development assistance (DANIDA).

Employment

Associate Professor

Section for Global Development

Frederiksberg C, Denmark

1 Sept 2007 → present

Research outputs

Man tager fejl, hvis man tror, at klimapres og fattigdom automatisk fører til konflikt

Nielsen, M. R. & Hoffmann, K., 2026, GlobalNyt Denmark.

Smallholder farmers' adaptation at the climate–conflict nexus: a systematic review

Rubangakene, D., Oryema, C. & Nielsen, M. R., 2026, In: Frontiers in Climate. 8, 19 p., 1699078.

The limits of resource scarcity and poverty as drivers of support for violence: evidence from rural Tanzania and Kenya

Theisen, O. M., Jiao, X., Hoffmann, K. & Nielsen, M. R., 2026, In: Frontiers in Political Science. 8, 19 p., 1742315.

The price of a horn: how governance and policy shape an illegal wildlife market

Nam, D. V. H., Jensen, F. & Nielsen, M. R., 2026, In: Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics. 70, 4, p. 1007-1020

Weathering hard times with bushmeat: rural household coping under rainfall shocks

Jhamb, P., Ferreira, S. & Nielsen, M. R., 2026, In: World Development. 208, 10 p., 107522.

Advancing green recovery: Integrating one health in sustainable wildlife management in the Asia-Pacific Indigenous People and Local Communities

Sangkachai, N., Wiratsudakul, A., Randolph, D. G., Whittaker, M., George, A., Nielsen, M. R., Hogarth, N., Pfeiffer, D. U., Smith-Hall, C., Nameer, P. O., Hassan, L., Talukdar, G., Lee, T. M., Mathur, V. B., Rwego, I. B., Compton, J., Mispiratceguy, M., Shi, J., Fine, A. E. & Animon, I. & 9 others, De Carvalho, K. R., Taber, A., Newman, S., Thongdee, M., Sariya, L., Tangsudjai, S., Korkijthamkul, W., Sakcamduang, W. & Suwanpakdee, S., 2025, In: One Health. 20, 11 p., 100969.

Do high-value environmental products provide a pathway out of poverty? The case of the world's most valuable fungus (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*)

Bennike, R. B., Nielsen, M. R. & Smith-Hall, C., 2025, In: Environmental Development. 56, 12 p., 101281.

Living with elephants: A case study from Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in Zimbabwe

Usman, M. F., Nielsen, M. R., Le Bel, S., Phiri, M. & Grimaud, P., 2025, In: People and Nature . 7, 7, p. 1605-1618

Nature-based Solutions and carbon credit initiatives in Kenya: An overview of the governance context

Kisiwa, A., Kiprono, A., Nabwile, C., Due, E. F., Nathan, I., Mutune, J. M., Vorburger, J., Gravesen, M. L., Marani, M., Nielsen, M. R., Funder, M., Hassan, R. & Thenya, T., 2025, Copenhagen: Danish Institute for International Studies, DIIS, 55 p. (DIIS working paper; No. 2025:15).

Predicting consumer intention to buy tiger bone glue in Vietnam: A comparison between the theory of planned behavior and the social cognitive theory
Dang Vu, H. N., Taylor, L., Haysom, S. & Nielsen, M. R., 2025, In: Conservation Science and Practice. 7, 9, 14 p., e70130.

Savanna Life – evaluating board game players' revealed preferences to inform conservation and development planning in the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem
Nielsen, M. R., Borgerhoff Mulder, M., Skjærvø, G. R., Klöckner, C. A., Moe, E., Meilby, H., Hartsteen, H. P. & Graae, B. J., 2025, In: Frontiers in Conservation Science. 6, 17 p., 1604967.

Hvor og hvordan skal man bo og leve i fremtidens Grønland? Forslag til fiskerilovgivning har konsekvenser langt udover fiskeriet – Del 2
Nielsen, M. R., Hendriksen, K., Jacobsen, R. B., Hoffmann, B., Jørgensen,, U. & Poppel, B., 5 Jan 2024, In: Sermitsiaq. p. 43 1 p.

Frontier tourism development and inequality in the Nepal Himalaya
Bennike, R. B. & Nielsen, M. R., 2024, In: Journal of Sustainable Tourism. 32, 4, p. 773-794 22 p.

Hvor og hvordan skal man bo og leve i fremtidens Grønland? Forslag til fiskerilovgivning har konsekvenser langt udover fiskeriet – Del 1
Nielsen, M. R., Hendriksen, K., Jacobsen, R. B., Hoffmann, B., Jørgensen,, U. & Poppel, B., 29 Dec 2023, In: Sermitsiaq. p. 31 1 p.

De samfundsmæssige konsekvenser af individuelle omsættelige kvoter (IOK) - Del 2
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De samfundsmæssige konsekvenser af individuelle omsættelige kvoter (IOK) - Del 1
Hendriksen, K., Nielsen, M. R., Jacobsen, R. B., Poppel, B., Hoffmann, B. & Jørgensen,, U., 16 Jun 2023, In: Sermitsiaq. 2 p.

Climate variability impacts on pasture productivity and pastoral livelihoods in northern Tanzania
Ndesanjo, R. B., Fensholt, R., Nielsen, M. R. & Theilade, I., 2023, In: Regional Environmental Change. 23, 16 p., 54.

Determinants of bushmeat supply sources in rural areas of Côte d'Ivoire
Kouassi, J. A. K., Kablan, Y. A., Bachmann, M. E., Lemoine, S. R. T., Nielsen, M. R. & Koné, I., 2023, In: Journal for Nature Conservation. 72, 13 p., 126330.

Evaluating the determinants of wildlife tolerance in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area in Zimbabwe
Usman, M. F., Le Bel, S., Grimaud, P. & Nielsen, M. R., 2023, In: Journal for Nature Conservation. 75, 10 p., 126466.

The threat of COVID-19 to the conservation of Tanzanian national parks
Ranke, P. S., Kessy, B. M., Mbise, F. P., Nielsen, M. R., Arukwe, A. & Røskaft, E., 2023, In: Biological Conservation. 282, 6 p., 110037.

Rhino horn consumers reveal why a legal trade alone won't save rhinos
Dang, V. H. N. & Nielsen, M. R., 20 Jan 2022, The Conversation.

Analysis of differences and commonalities in wildlife hunting across the Africa-Europe South-North gradient
Bachmann, M. E., Kulik, L., Gatiso, T., Nielsen, M. R., Haase, D., Heurich, M., Buchadas, A., Bösch, L., Eirdosh, D., Freytag, A., Geldmann, J., Ghoddousi, A., Hicks, T. C., Ordaz-Németh, I., Qin, S., Sop, T., Calkoen, S. V. B., Wesche, K. & Kühl, H. S., 2022, In: PLoS Biology. 20, 8, 26 p., e3001707.

Conserving rhinos by legal trade: Insights from a choice experiment with rhino horn consumers
Dang, V. H. N., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2022, In: Ecological Economics. 193, 9 p., 107287.

Review of smallholder palm oil sustainability reveals limited positive impacts and identifies key implementation and knowledge gaps
Ogahara, Z., Jespersen, K., Theilade, I. & Nielsen, M. R., 2022, In: Land Use Policy. 120, 13 p., 106258.

The impact of a legal trade in farmed tigers on consumer preferences for tiger bone glue: Evidence from a choice experiment in Vietnam
Dang, V. H. N., Gadbert, K., Nielsen, J. V., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2022, In: Journal for Nature Conservation. 65 , 7 p., 126088.

Understanding determinants of the intention to buy rhino horn in Vietnam through the Theory of Planned Behaviour and the Theory of Interpersonal Behaviour
Dang, V. H. N. & Nielsen, M. R., 2022, In: Ecological Economics. 195, 10 p., 107361.

Women, wellbeing and Wildlife Management Areas in Tanzania
Homewood, K., Nielsen, M. R. & Keane, A., 2022, In: Journal of Peasant Studies. 49, 2, p. 335-362 28 p.

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Dang, V. H. N., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2021, EcoEvoRxiv, 30 p. (EcoEvoRxiv Preprints).

Designed for accumulation by dispossession: An analysis of Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas through the case of Burunge
Kicheleri, R. P., Mangewa, L. J., Nielsen, M. R., Kajembe, G. C. & Treue, T., 2021, In: Conservation Science and Practice. 3, 1, 15 p., e360.

Evidence or delusion: A critique of contemporary rhino horn demand reduction strategies
Dang, V. H. N. & Nielsen, M. R., 2021, In: Human Dimensions of Wildlife. 26, 4, p. 390-400 11 p.

Understanding determinants of the intention to purchase rhino horn in Vietnam through the Theory of Planned Behaviour and the Theory of Interpersonal Behaviour
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Wild meat consumption in tropical forests spares a significant carbon footprint from the livestock production sector
Nunes, A. V., Peres, C. A., Constantino, P. D. A. L., Fischer, E. & Nielsen, M. R., 2021, In: Scientific Reports. 11, 11 p., 19001.

Effect of decision rules in choice experiments on hunting and bushmeat trade
Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2020, In: Conservation Biology. 34, 6, p. 1393-1403 11 p.

Examining the consistency of folk identifications of trees to implement community-based biodiversity monitoring
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Keane, A., Lund, J. F., Bluwstein, J., Burgess, N. D., Nielsen, M. R. & Homewood, K., 2020, In: Nature Sustainability. 3, p. 226–233 8 p.

Pathways to Enhance Climate Change Resilience among Pastoral Households in Northern Tanzania
Ndesanjo, R. B., Theilade, I. & Nielsen, M. R., 2020, *African Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation.* Filho, W. L., Ogugu, N., Adelake, L., Ayal, D. & da Silva, I. (eds.). Springer, 19 p. (Springer Reference Live).

Reference group influences and campaign exposure effects on rhino horn demand: Qualitative insights from Vietnam
Dang, V. H. N., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2020, In: People and Nature . 2, 4, p. 923-939 17 p.

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Dang, V. H. N., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2020, *Rufford Small Grant Conference 2020: Synergizing Regional Conservation Efforts for Global Impact*. p. 25 1 p.

Saving rodents, losing primates: Why we need tailored bushmeat management strategies
Bachmann, M. E., Nielsen, M. R., Cohen, H., Haase, D., Kouassi, J. A. K., Mundry, R. & Kuehl, H. S., 2020, In: People and Nature . 2, 4, p. 889-902 14 p.

The life history of human foraging: Cross-cultural and individual variation
Koster, J., McElreath, R., Hill, K., Yu, D., Shepard, G., Van Vliet, N., Gurven, M., Trumble, B., Bird, R. B., Bird, D., Codding, B., Coad, L., Pacheco-Cobos, L., Winterhalder, B., Lupo, K., Schmitt, D., Sillitoe, P., Franzen, M., Alvard, M. & Venkataraman, V. & 21 others, Kraft, T., Endicott, K., Beckerman, S., Marks, S. A., Headland, T., Pangau-Adam, M., Siren, A., Kramer, K., Greaves, R., Reyes-García, V., Guèze, M., Duda, R., Fernández-Llamazares, Á., Gallois, S., Napitupulu, L., Ellen, R., Ziker, J., Nielsen, M. R., Ready, E., Healey, C. & Ross, C., 2020, In: Science Advances. 6, 26, 8 p., eaax9070.

We asked people in Vietnam why they use rhino horn. Here's what they said
Dang, V. H. N. & Nielsen, M. R., 30 Apr 2019, The Conversation.

Disentangling economic, cultural, and nutritional motives to identify entry points for regulating a wildlife commodity chain
Bachmann, M. E., Junker, J., Mundry, R., Nielsen, M. R., Haase, D., Cohen, H., Kouassi, J. A. K. & Kühl, H. S., 2019, In: Biological Conservation. 238, 12 p., 108177.

Environmental income as a pathway out of poverty? Empirical evidence on asset accumulation in Nepal
Walelign, S. Z., Nielsen, M. R. & Larsen, H. O., 2019, In: Journal of Development Studies. 55, 7, p. 1508-1526 19 p.

Household reliance on environmental income in the western Serengeti ecosystem, Tanzania
Kyando, M. T., Nyahongo, J. W., Røskaft, E. & Nielsen, M. R., 2019, In: Environment and Natural Resources Research. 9 , 1, p. 54-63 10 p.

Is households' risk attitude robust to different experimental payoffs?
Walelign, S. Z., Nielsen, M. R., Jacobsen, J. B. & Jiao, X., 2019, In: Applied Economics Letters. 26, 8, p. 703-706 4 p.

Lost in implementation? REDD+ country readiness experiences in Indonesia and Vietnam
Casse, T., Milhøj, A., Nielsen, M. R., Meilby, H. & Rochmayanto, Y., 2019, In: Climate and Development. 11, 9, p. 799-811 13 p.

Not seeing the forest for the trees: The oversight of defaunation in REDD+ and global forest governance
Krause, T. & Nielsen, M. R., 2019, In: Forests. 10, 4, 17 p., 344.

Power Struggles in the Management of Wildlife Resources: The Case of Burunge Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania
Kicheleri, R. P., Treue, T., Kajembe, G. C., Mombo, F. M. & Nielsen, M. R., 2019, *Wildlife Management: Failures, Successes and Prospects* . Kideghesho, J. R. (ed.). InTechOpen, p. 103-123 19 p.

Price elasticity of bushmeat demand in the Greater Serengeti ecosystem: Insights for managing the bushmeat trade
Walelign, S. Z., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2019, In: Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution. 7, 17 p., 162.

Protected areas, household environmental incomes and well-being in the Greater Serengeti-Mara ecosystem
Jiao, X., Walelign, S. Z., Nielsen, M. R. & Smith-Hall, C., 2019, In: Forest Policy and Economics. 106, 20 p., 101948.

REDD+ policy design and policy learning: The emergence of an integrated landscape approach in Vietnam
Wurtzebach, Z., Casse, T., Meilby, H., Nielsen, M. R. & Milhøj, A., 2019, In: Forest Policy and Economics. 101, p. 129-139 11 p.

Roads and livelihood activity choices in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania
Walelign, S. Z., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2019, In: PLOS ONE. 14, 3, 21 p., e0213089.

Schoolchildren as informants about bushmeat consumption in Western Serengeti, Tanzania
Manyama, F. F., Nyahongo, J. W., Nielsen, M. R. & Røskaft, E., 2019, In: International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation. 11, 5, p. 154-164 11 p.

The importance of bushmeat in household income as a function of distance from protected areas in the western Serengeti ecosystem, Tanzania
Manyama, F. F., Nielsen, M. R., Røskaft, E. & Nyahongo, J. W., 2019, In: Environment and Natural Resources Research. 9, 3, p. 49-62 14 p.

Using wildlife indicators to facilitate wildlife monitoring in hunter-self monitoring schemes
Marrocoli, S., Nielsen, M. R., Morgan, D., van Loon, T., Kulik, L. & Kühl, H., 2019, In: Ecological Indicators. 105, p. 254-263 10 p.

A quasiexperimental study of impacts of Tanzania's wildlife management areas on rural livelihoods and wealth
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Assessing Africa-wide Pangolin exploitation by scaling local data
Ingram, D. J., Coad, L., Abernethy, K. A., Maisels, F., Stokes, E. J., Bobo, K. S., Breuer, T., Gandiwa, E., Ghiurghi, A., Greengrass, E., Holmern, T., Kamgaing, T. O. W., Obiang, A.-M. N., Poulsen, J. R., Schleicher, J., Nielsen, M. R., Solly, H., Vath, C. L., Waltert, M. & Whitham, C. E. L. & 2 others, Wilkie, D. S. & Scharlemann, J. P. W., 2018, In: Conservation Letters. 11, 2, p. 1-9 9 p., e12389.

Assessing the role of megafauna in tropical forest ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles - the potential of vegetation models
Berzaghi, F., Verbeeck, H., Nielsen, M. R., Doughty, C. E., Bretagnolle, F., Marchetti, M. & Scarascia-Mugnozza, G., 2018 , In: Ecography. 41, 12, p. 1934-1954 21 p.

Can PES and REDD+ match Willingness To Accept payments in contracts for reforestation and avoided forest degradation? The case of farmers in upland Bac Kan, Vietnam
Nielsen, M. R., Theilade, I., Meilby, H., Nui, N. H. & Lam, N. T., 2018, In: Land Use Policy. 79, p. 822-833 12 p.

Environmental uncertainty and self-monitoring in the commons: a common-pool resource experiment framed around bushmeat hunting in the Republic of Congo
Marrocoli, S., Gatiso, T. T., Morgan, D., Nielsen, M. R. & Kühl, H., 2018, In: Ecological Economics. 149, p. 274-284 11 p.

Institutional rhetoric versus local reality: a case study of Burunge Wildlife Management Area, Tanzania
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Livelihood capital and poverty status of forest dependent households in the Highland Area: A case study in Bac Kan Province, Vietnam
Nguyen, N. H., Nguyen, C. Q., Do, G. Q., Nguyen, L. T., Cao, S. T., Lebailly, P. & Nielsen, M. R., 2018, In: Vietnam Journal of Agricultural Sciences. 1, 1, p. 85-96 12 p.

Livelihood structure transformation of rural communities: a livelihood system analysis of the Dayak Punan of Berau District, East Kalimantan, Indonesia
Mardiyaningsih, D. I., Dharmawan, A. H., Kolopaking, L. M., Firdaus, M. & Nielsen, M. R., 2018, In: Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development. 9, 18, p. 11-20 10 p.

Predictors of elephant poaching in a wildlife crime hotspot: The Ruvuma landscape of southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique
Zafra-Calvo, N., Lobo, J. M., Prada, C., Nielsen, M. R. & Burgess, N. D., 2018, In: Journal for Nature Conservation. 41, p. 79–87 9 p.

Short-term household responses to major natural disasters: data collection instruments
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Nielsen, M. R., Meilby, H., Smith-Hall, C., Pouliot, M. & Treue, T., 2018, In: Ecological Economics. 146, p. 696-705 10 p.

The potential of the Global Person Generated Index for evaluating the perceived impacts of conservation interventions on subjective well-being
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Understanding utilitarian and hedonic values determining the demand for rhino horn in Vietnam
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Fear, economic consequences, hunting competition, and distrust of authorities determine preferences for illegal lethal actions against gray wolves (*Canis lupus*): a choice experiment among landowners in Jutland, Denmark
Højberg, P. L., Nielsen, M. R. & Jacobsen, J. B., 2017, In: Crime, Law and Social Change. 67, 4, p. 461–480 20 p.

Global patterns and determinants of the economic importance of bushmeat
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Household determinants of bushmeat and eru (*Gnetum africanum*) harvesting for cash in the Democratic Republic of Congo
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Panorama of agro-pastoralism in western Serengeti: a review and synthesis
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Realising the promise of Tanzania's wildlife management areas
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Hegerl, C., Burgess, N. D., Nielsen, M. R., Martin, E., Ciolli, M. & Rovero, F., 2017, In: Oryx. 51, 1, p. 87-97 11 p.

Effects of new roads on environmental resource use in the Central Himalaya
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How could the bushmeat trade in the Kilombero Valley of Tanzania be regulated? Insights from the rural value chain
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Quantifying the economic contribution of wild food harvests to rural livelihoods: a global-comparative analysis
Hickey, G. M., Pouliot, M., Smith-Hall, C., Wunder, S. & Nielsen, M. R., 2016, In: Food Policy. 62, p. 122-132 11 p.

The economic and social viability of Tanzanian Wildlife Management Areas
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