

TANZANIA'S FOREST POLICY AND ITS PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNITY BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Background Information**
- **Forest Policy, legal and institutional framework**
- **Forest resource degradation**
- **Sustainable forest management and people's livelihood**
- **Participatory Forest Management (PFM)**
- **Community based Forest Management (CBFM) in Tanzania**

PRESENTATION OUTLINE cont.....

- **Districts and villages practicing CBFM in the country**
- **Benefits of CBFM**
- **Problems of CBFM**
- **Conclusion**

Background information

Historically, forests in Tanzania, have been managed centrally through FBD

This type of management was characterized by extensive state control without involvement of local communities

The main problem was that there was fragmentation of authority and resources were thinly spread to the extent that the management of the resource was difficult.

This kind of forest management has resulted into forest degradation through illegal activities and increased human pressure on the resources

Before independence, the forest cover was more than 50%, which gradually decreased to 45 % in late 1970s , about 41% in late 1990s and about 36% currently

Background information cont...

The forestry sector contributes:

- 92 % of fuel energy
- Protects watersheds for power generation,
- Serve as source of water for households, industries and irrigation,
- Conserve soil and add nutrients to the soils for agricultural production
- 2-3.4% per year of GDP

Forest Policy

The overall goal of the Forest Policy of 1998

To enhance the contribution of the forest sector to:

- Sustainable development of Tanzania and
- Conservation and management of her natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The responsibility of managing forest resources will be left in the hands of specialized agencies and the private sector, the central government responsibility will be the management of forest reserves of national strategic importance.

Sustainable forest management and people's livelihood

Legal and institutional framework

Legal framework in support of PFM in Tanzania is revealed in the:

Forest Act No. 14 of 2002

Land and Village land Acts of 1999

The Local Government Laws (*Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 6 of 1999*)

The Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 supports PFM as it categorizes national, local authority, village and private forestland and makes full provision for actors in each of these categories to declare forest reserves.

Forest resource degradation

Tanzania is among the countries in the world experiencing high deforestation rates ranging from 130,000 ha to 500,000 ha per annum

The direct agents of deforestation are: settlement and agricultural expansion, commercial charcoal and fuel wood production, overgrazing, uncontrolled fires, shifting cultivation and illegal logging

The indirect or underlying causes of deforestation are rapid and uncontrolled population growth, poverty, market failures, absence of proper definition of property rights and security of tenure and general policy failures

Forest resource degradation.....

The major environmental issues in Tanzania related to forestry include:

- Uncontrolled deforestation,
- Weak concession and revenue collection systems,
- Lack of clear cost and benefits sharing system,
- Inadequate involvement of local communities,
- Lack of sufficient staff and information on forest resources,
- Inefficient utilization of resources and
- A preference for a narrow range of forest plant species in terms of utilization.

Sustainable forest management and people's livelihood

The concept of sustainable forest management includes

An environmental dimension that aims at perpetual maintenance of the resources, and

An economic dimension that involves people in decision-making process concerning forest management and the distribution of forest benefits.

Sustainable forest management and people's livelihood....

People's livelihood:

Livelihoods connote the activities, entitlements and assets by which people make a living.

The access to use and interaction among these assets serves as the foundation of a livelihood system.

A livelihood is sustainable if it can cope with, recover from and adapt to stresses and shocks, maintain and enhance its capabilities and assets, and enhance opportunities for the next generation

Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

PFM refers to processes and mechanisms that enable people who have a direct stake in forest resources to be part of decision-making in all aspects of forest management, from managing resources to formulating and implementing institutional frameworks

PFM may be developed in unreserved forests in the village or general land or National forest reserves or forest reserves owned by Local Authorities at district level.

It may apply to forests that are either rich or poor in biodiversity, intact or degraded, large or small, moist montane or dry woodlands or mangrove forests or even commercial plantations

It is characterized by sharing power instead of just benefits and assuming owner/user rights of forests.

Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

The objectives of PFM may be protection or production or a combination of the two

Its focus is improved rural livelihood and reduced poverty

Operationally, it is comprised of Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and Joint Forest Management (JFM)

In CBFM: a village, a group or private Forest reserve is declared and ultimately gazetted by villagers, a group or private people

In JFM: Communities sign a joint Forest management Agreements with the Government or other forest owners

Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

PFM approaches are well linked to other macro-economic policies of addressing poverty reduction.

These include the Tanzania Development Vision 2025

The National Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) of 2000

The National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR) of 2004

The Tanzania Assistance Strategy (TAS)

Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in Tanzania

The government support CBFM activities in various area of the country through various donor agencies.

About 20 regions and about 1,082 villages are implementing CBFM on 2,047,824 hectares of forest land

Regions and number of districts practicing CBFM in the country

Regions	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of VLFR	Gazetted VLFR	Total Area(ha)
Tanga	4	94	22	1	12,391
Morogoro	3	38	2	0	173,431
Iringa	6	101	60	29	162,039
Mbeya	3	37	0	0	44,700
Lindi	4	31	7	0	284,7826
Tabora	3	22	22	0	111,925
Kigoma	3	32	9	0	22,530
Kilimanjaro	1	53	3	0	553
Mwanza	1	101	14	0	17730
Shinyanga	3	345	45	0	401,122
Mara	2	45	37	0	4,887
Manyara	2	55	28	0	209,494
Arusha	1	9	2	0	2,150
Pwani	6	30	15	3	50,872
Kagera	1	15	8	0	15,450
Ruvuma	0	0	0	0	0
Mtwara	1	25	9	0	73,121
Dodoma	2	2	12	0	24,421
Singida	1	35	4	0	376,400
Rukwa	1	14	14	0	59,882
Total	48	1082	9313	33	2,047,824

Community Based Forest Management (CBFM).....

Overview of Community Based Forest Management in Mainland Tanzania

Number of villages with CBFM established or in process	1,082
Area of forest covered by CBFM arrangements	2,047,824 ha
Number of declared Village Land Forest Reserves	313
Number of gazetted Village Land Forest Reserves	33
Number of districts where CBFM is implemented	48
Primary forest types where CBFM has been promoted	Miombo, coastal and acacia woodlands
Percentage of forest classified as unreserved in 1991 that is now covered with CBFM arrangement	10 %
Percentage of villages engaged in CBFM activities	10.3 %

BENEFITS OF CBFM

Decreased illegal harvesting of forest resources

Decreased encroachment

Decreased fire incidences

Decreased unregulated activities such as charcoal burning and timber harvesting

Improved biodiversity

Increased number of species both flora and fauna

Increased stocking

BENEFITS OF CBFM.....

Increased area of forest reserves by 2,047,824 hectares

Improved water flow from water sources or streams

Increased game numbers

Increased household income through initiated income-generating activities, which diversified the economy thus reducing poverty.



BENEFITS OF CBFM....

Improvement of livelihood of communities

Increased awareness on CBFM, which resulted into positive attitude of communities towards CBFM

Improved management of forests (Forests under CBFM are managed following Management plans)



Problems of CBFM

Delays in assisting communities to prepare management plans of their Village land Forest Reserves

Delays in signing of management plans

Lack of enough forest staff to assist communities to implement CBFM

Inadequate equipment

Lack of solid integration of CBFM with Local Governments' plans to ensure sustainability

CONCLUSION

Experience of few years indicates that CBFM is an important strategy for the management of forests in Tanzania.

In many districts implementation of CBFM is a success story

However, there some problems during implementation

Stakeholders should find solutions to the problems encountered

The benefits of CBFM outweigh the encountered problems

Therefore, the strategy should be scaled up to include all districts in the country with a prerequisite to build capacity at ministerial, district and village levels.

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