

FINANCING FORESTRY RESEARCH MECHANISM: TANZANIA FOREST FUND

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ABSTRACT

Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF) is a Public Conservation Trust Fund which was established under sections 79 to 83 of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002. It is a mechanism of providing long term, reliable, and sustainable financial support to enhance sustainable forest management in Tanzania mainland. The Fund is an important instrument for financing forestry research particularly the National Forestry Research Master plan II (NAFORM II) of 2011 to 2020. TaFF has seven functions two functions of which provide a window for financing forestry research namely; (i) promotion and funding of research into forestry, and (ii) the promotion of such other activities of a similar nature to those set out in Section 80 of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002. TaFF is obliged to fund forestry research through her Strategic Objective titled “Applied and adaptive research on management of forest resources supported”. From July 2011 to March 2018, TaFF spent Tanzania Shillings (TZS) 720.9 million to support 36 research projects of which 69% are still being implemented. The research projects supported by TaFF have been/are being implemented by research and training institutions, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. In addition, TaFF has spent TZS 500 million for supporting special projects which are being implemented by government institutions including Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI). The Fund has also spent TZS 136.2 million to support the dissemination of forestry research findings. The support to infrastructure development, equipment and facilities, is another window of supporting and promoting forestry research in Tanzania mainland. It can be concluded that, TaFF has spent substantial amount of money for financing forestry research. TaFF will continue financing forestry research; and finally, the commitment for spending research funds for the intended purposes is paramount.

Keywords: Financing, Forestry Research, Tanzania Forest Fund

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable forest management (SFM) can best be realized if proper backstopping is provided by forestry research. Forestry research has a role in providing appropriate knowledge and technology for sustaining management of forest resources. Furthermore, it supports making informed decisions on socio-economic and social issues. Priority areas of forestry research are covered in the current National Forestry Research Master plan II (NAFORM II-from 2011 to 2020). Financial support is paramount for successful implementation of NAFORM II of which Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF) is an important instrument.

Tanzania Forest Fund is a Public Conservation Trust Fund established under sections 79 to 83 of the Forest Act No.14 of 2002, as a mechanism of providing long term, reliable, and sustainable financial support to sustain management of forest resources in Tanzania mainland. The Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees and was made operational in July 2010 through Treasury Circular No. 4 of 2009 and embarked

in full implementation of its functions in July 2011.

The Fund's mission is to mobilize financial resources for supporting, among others, forestry research in Tanzania mainland.

The sources of income for the Fund are as follows:

- i. A levy of 2% of every fee payable under the Forest Act;
- ii. A levy of 3% of any royalty payable under the Forest Act;
- iii. Penalty and sales of any forest produce confiscated under any of the provisions of the Forest Act;
- iv. Grants, Donations and Bequests contributed by any private individuals;
- v. Corporate bodies, foundations, international organizations or Funds within or outside the country; and
- vi. Income generated by projects financed by the Fund.

According to section 80 of the Forest Act No.14 of 2002, Tanzania Forest Fund has the following functions:

- (i) Promote awareness of the importance of the protection, development and sustainable use of forest resources through public education and training;
- (ii) Promote and assist in the development of community forestry directed towards the conservation and protection of forest resources through making of grants and providing advice and assistance to groups of persons;
- (iii) Promote and fund research into forestry;
- (iv) Assist in enabling Tanzania to benefit from international initiatives and international funds directed towards the conservation and protection of biological diversity and the promotion of sustainable development of forest resources;
- (v) Assist groups of persons and individuals to participate in any public debates and discussions on forestry and in particular to participate in the processes connected with the making of an environmental impact assessment;
- (vi) Assist groups of persons and individuals to ensure compliance with the Forest Act; and
- (vii) Promote such other activities of a like nature to those set out in the objects and purposes of establishing Tanzania Forest Fund as will advance the purposes of the Forest Act.

Potential beneficiaries of TaFF include individuals: local communities, researchers, training institutions, research institutions, non-academic institutions, and environmentalists. Others include government institutions such as ministries, agencies, independent departments/authorities, regional administration and local government authorities (LGAs); non-governmental organizations (NGOs); civil society organizations (CSOs); faith based organizations; private sectors; and community based organizations.

FINANCING FORESTRY RESEARCH

Tanzania Forest Fund has two functions which provide a window for financing forestry research. These functions are (i) promoting and funding research into forestry, and (ii) promoting such other similar activities that advance the purposes of this Act. On the other hand, other functions of TaFF can also provide a window for financing forestry research.

As mentioned above, TaFF is obliged to promote and fund forestry research. This obligation is translated into the Fund Second Strategic Plan (2016/2017 – 2020/2021) whose one of the Fund Strategic Objective is “To support applied and adaptive research on the management of forest resources”.

The strategies to achieve this strategic objective include: (i) supporting applied and adaptive research

based on identified sector priority areas; (ii) Facilitating dissemination of forestry research findings; and (iii) Supporting evaluation of impacts of forestry research on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). In the five years of the implementation of its second Strategic Plan (2016/2017 – 2020/2021), the Fund plans to support the implementation of 50 projects on applied and adaptive forestry research to inform SFM and support dissemination of research findings. TaFF finances forestry research in different ways as elaborated in subsequent sections.

Support Research Project Proposals through Offering Grants

According to the Guidelines for Preparation of Project Proposals and Procedures for Grants Making, Tanzania Forest Fund offers grants to project proposals focusing on three priority areas as illustrated hereunder:

- (i) Forest resources protection, conservation and management;
- (ii) Improvement of livelihood of communities living adjacent to the forest resource base; and
- (iii) Applied and adaptive research in forestry.

Tanzania Forest Fund offers three types of assistance to grantees as follows:

- (i) Monetary assistance - Tanzania Forest Fund could provide financial assistance to support implementation of approved interventions/project activities.
- (ii) Material assistance - Tanzania Forest Fund could provide required materials, facilities and equipment.
- (iii) Technical assistance - Tanzania Forest Fund could provide technical assistance to grantees by hiring professionals to offer the requested services.

As for grant types, the Fund offers three types of grants as follows:

- (i) Small Grants – amounts not exceeding Tanzanian Shillings (TZS) 5 million.
- (ii) Medium Grants – amounts exceeding TZS 5 million, but not exceeding TZS 20 million.
- (iii) Large Grants – amounts exceeding TZS 20 million, but not exceeding TZS 50 million.

Modalities for Supporting Forest Based Research Projects

Currently, the method used to support forest based research projects is through submission of project proposals in response to TaFF's call for proposals which is made once per year. Individuals and research institutions interested in submitting project proposals under the priority area of applied and adaptive research are obliged to compete to the themes and sub-themes shown under the priority area. From the financial year 2017/2018 to 2019/2020, research project proposals to be supported by TaFF should focus on the following themes and sub-themes:

Theme 1: Plantation forestry and tree improvement

Sub-themes under this theme are as follows:

- i) Search for new plantation tree species with emphasis on indigenous species.
- ii) Assess effects of forest plantations on water resources, biodiversity and soil health.

Theme 2: Forest resource assessment

Sub-theme under this theme is as follows:

- i) Develop simple forest resource assessment methods for local communities.

Theme 3: Community and farm forestry

Sub-themes under this theme are as follows:

- i) Undertake biological evaluation of various Agro forestry technologies for various end uses in sets of ecological zones and farming systems.

- ii) Assess and provide/develop management techniques/guidelines for woodlots and tree outside the forests (ToF).

Forest Research Projects Supported by Tanzania Forest Fund

From July 2011 to March 2018, Tanzania Forest Fund has supported 494 projects as shown in **Figure 1**. Normally, the projects supported by TaFF are categorized into two broad categories: community based projects abbreviated as “CDs” and research based projects abbreviated as “RPs”.

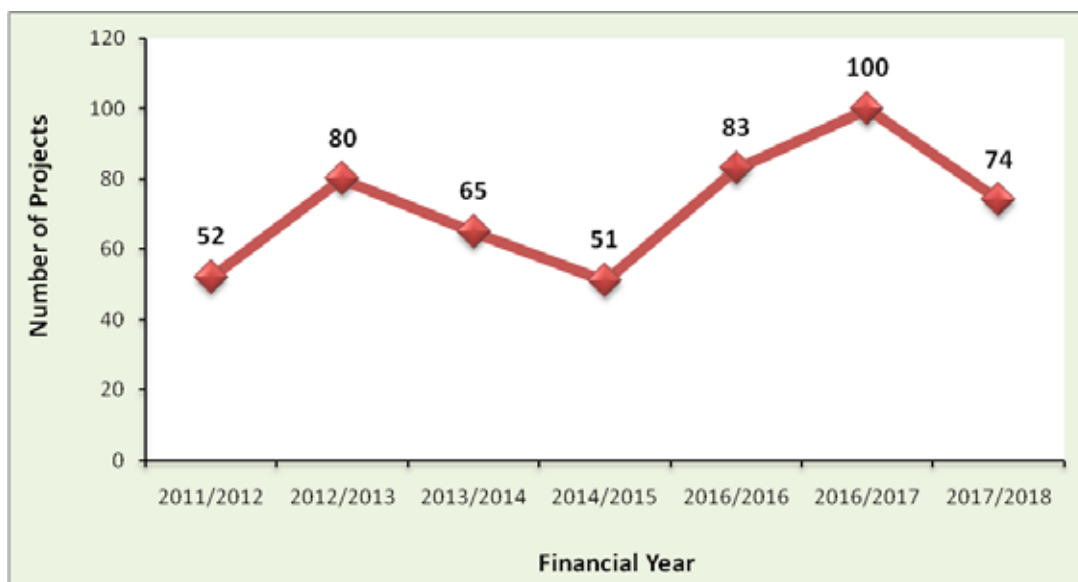


Figure 1: Number of projects supported by TaFF from the year 2011/2012 to March 2018.

Out of 494 projects supported by TaFF from 2011/2012 to March 2018, 36 are research based projects and 458 are community based projects. Community based projects (CDs) supported by TaFF show an increasing trend from 2011/2012 to March 2018, unlike research based projects (RPs) in the same period (**Fig 2**). The Amount of money spent for supporting 36 research projects is TZS 720.9 million. The 36 TaFF supported research projects were implemented in 28 districts, 4 Municipalities and two cities in 17 regions of Tanzania mainland.

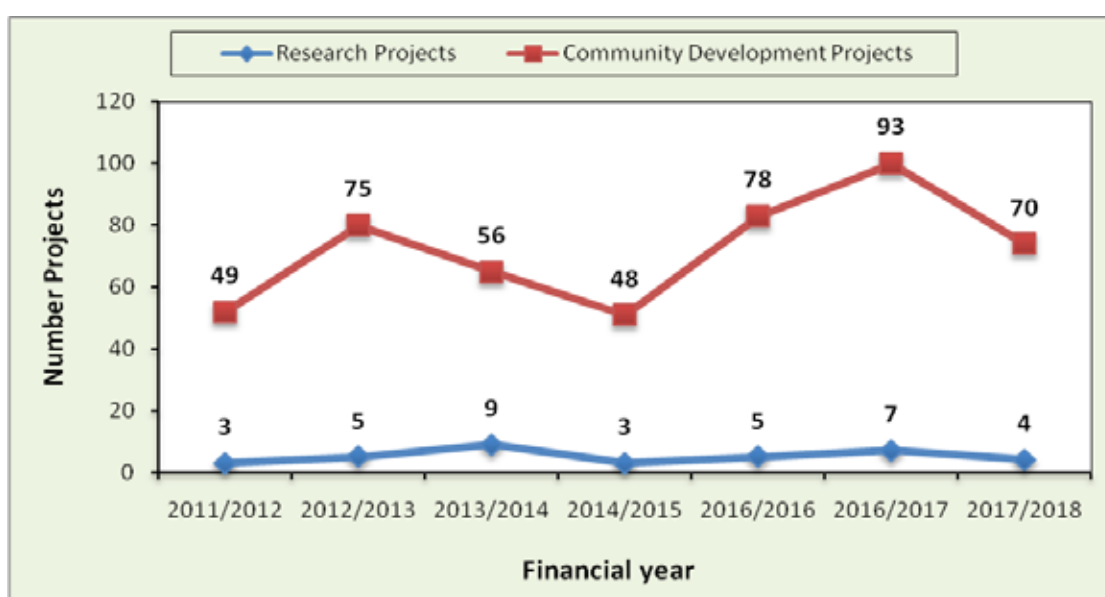


Figure 2: Illustration of Commiunity Development Projects and Research Projects Supported by TaFF from the year 2011/2012 to March 2018

Implementers of the 36 research projects supported by TaFF are individual researchers affiliated with: research institutions, training institutions, and others (including Tanzania Forest Services Agency - TFS and non-governmental organizations - NGOs). **Figure 3** shows that a large proportion (59%) of research projects were implemented by research institutions, followed by training institutions while very few research projects were implemented by other beneficiaries including TFS and NGOs.

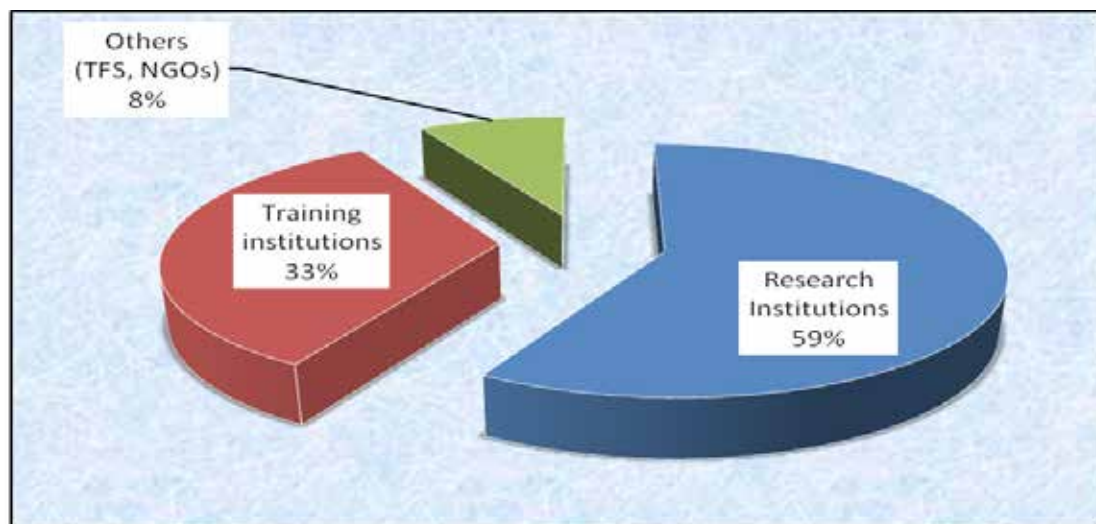


Figure 3: Illustration of proportional of implementers of 36 research projects supported by TaFF

Out of 36 research projects supported by TaFF, 13 projects (36%) fall under small grants, 10 (28%) under medium grants, and 13 (36%) under large grants category. Large amount of money (TZS 475.8 million) was disbursed to support projects under large grants category, followed by medium grants category (TZS 180.8 million) with the small grants category (TZS 64.4) (**Fig. 4**).

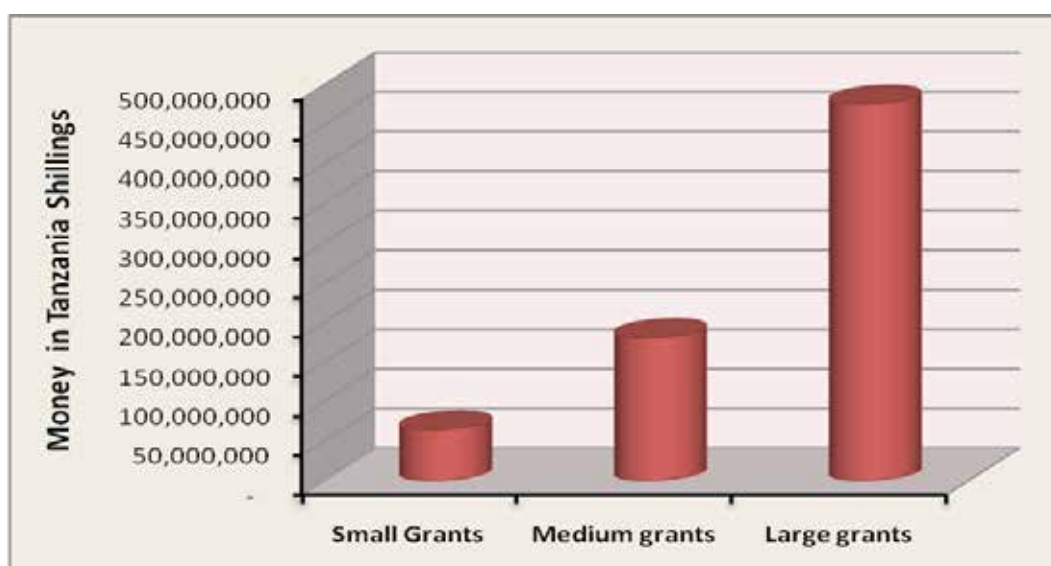


Figure 4: Illustration of proportional amounts of money spent for supporting small, medium and large grants categories of the 36 research projects supported by TaFF

Supporting Special Projects

Based on the Fund Second Strategic Plan (2016/2017 – 2020/2021), TaFF has started to support special projects of more than TZS 50 million for one project from the financial year 2016/2017. The decision regarding who should be given special grants' project, and the amount of money to be offered as special grants per

project, is vested under the TaFF Board of Trustees. As a starter up, in the financial year 2016/2017 TaFF spent more than TZS 500 million for supporting special projects, of which TZS 180 million was granted to TAFORI for supporting revival of research trial plots located in her seven Research Centres and at Headquarters.

Table 1 shows the number and sizes of research trial plots established in each of the seven Research Centres, and at the Headquarters as well as the amount of money spent for establishing.

Table 1: Number and size of research trial plots established in each of the seven Research Centres and at Headquarters and respective amount of money spent

TAFORI Research Centres	Number of Research Trial Plots	Area Planted Trees (Ha)	Amount of money spent (TZS)
Malya Lake Zone Afforestation Research Centre	3	16	43,443,200.00
Dodoma Arid Zone Afforestation Research Centre	3	11	26,387,400.00
Kibaha Lowland Afforestation Research Centre	6	26	46,013,400.00
Tabora Miombo Woodland Research Centre	3	21	20,250,000.00
Lushoto Silviculture Research Centre	1	6	3,540,000.00
Moshi Timber Utilisation Research Centre	2	5	6,030,000.00
Mufindi Pulpwood Research Centre	1	4	7,336,000.00
TAFORI Headquarters	3	11	27,000,000.00
TOTAL	22	100	180,000,000.00

Support Dissemination of Forestry Research Findings

One of the mandates of TAFORI is to ensure that research findings and recommendations are disseminated to the general public using various fora. TaFF in its Second Strategic Plan (2016/2017 – 2020/2021) planned to support two scientific conferences aiming at facilitating dissemination of forestry research findings. The dissemination of forest research information/findings is important as contributes to decision making particularly on issues related to forest protection, conservation, management, and sustainable use of forest resources. In this regard, TZS 57 million were spent to support the first scientific conference on forestry research, which was organized by TAFORI. TaFF has also supported a workshop for disseminating research projects findings, and a workshop for identifying research priority areas was included in TaFF call for project proposals of which TZS 79 million were spent.

Other Forestry Research related activities supported by TaFF

Tanzania Forest Fund has supported equipment and facilities for carrying out forestry research. The Fund has spent TZS 500 million for purchasing laboratory equipment and facilities for Tanzania Tree Seed Agency (TTSA) laboratory. The Fund has also spent TZS 69 million for supporting construction of laboratory for testing quality of honey and other beekeeping products. In addition, TaFF has spent TZS 170 million for purchasing vehicle to be used by TAFORI for carrying out and coordinating forestry research.

LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

In the past five years of supporting forestry research, many lessons have been learnt:

Delay in Project Implementation

There is a delay in the implementation of most of the research projects supported by TaFF. Of the 36

research projects supported by TaFF, 23 projects were supposed to have been completed. However, only two out of 23 research projects have been completed in time implying that 91% of the research projects have been delayed. Delays in project implementation is a challenge to most of the projects including community development projects.

Inadequate Adherence to Stipuated Instructions

Some researchers do submit research proposals requesting medium and large grants as a team of researchers instead of institutions. This is contrary to the TaFF guidelines for the preparation of project proposals and procedures for making grants and the TaFF call for project proposals. As a result, such proposals are not considered for funding. In addition, some instructions stipulated in the TaFF call for project proposals, particularly on themes and sub-themes for applied and adaptive research are sometimes not adhered to by some researchers. For example, TaFF set funds for offering grants for five research projects in March 2017, it offered grants to four research projects because all other research proposals received at TaFF office did not adhere to some instructions stipulated in the 2017 call for project proposals, particularly themes and sub-themes for applied and adaptive research. According to TaFF guidelines on the preparation of project proposals and the procedures for making grants, the research projects should be 10% of the total projects supported by TaFF. However, from July 2011 to March 2018, only 7% of research projects have been supported.

Small Grants are not Attractive to Some Researchers

It has been observed that, small grants are not attractive to some researchers. This is because very few research proposals requesting for small grants have been received at TaFF office compared to the total number of proposals from 2014 to 2017 (**Table 2**). Six research proposals requesting for small grants were received at TaFF in June and December 2014 compared to the number of proposals received in the same period. In June 2015 and December 2015, no applications requesting for small grants research projects were received at TaFF office. The research proposals requesting for small grants were also few compared to the total number received in June and December of the year 2016 and 2017.

Table 2: Number of research proposals (received at TaFF office in June and December) requesting small grants from 2014 to 2017 compared to total number of proposals received in the same period.

Year	June		December	
	Total number of proposals Received	Number of Research proposals received	Total number of proposals Received	Number of Research proposals received
2014	142	2	118	4
2015	571	0	139	0
2016	146	2	172	4
2017	223	1	192	2
TOTAL	1,082	5	621	10

Few Applications for Research Projects

The research proposals received at TaFF office are normally few compared to the proposals received in a particular time. For instance, from July 2013 to December 2017 the proposals received at TaFF office were 2,786 out of which the research proposals were only 104, which is 4%. **Figure 5** shows the research proposals received at TaFF office compared to the total number of proposals received from July 2013 to December 2017.

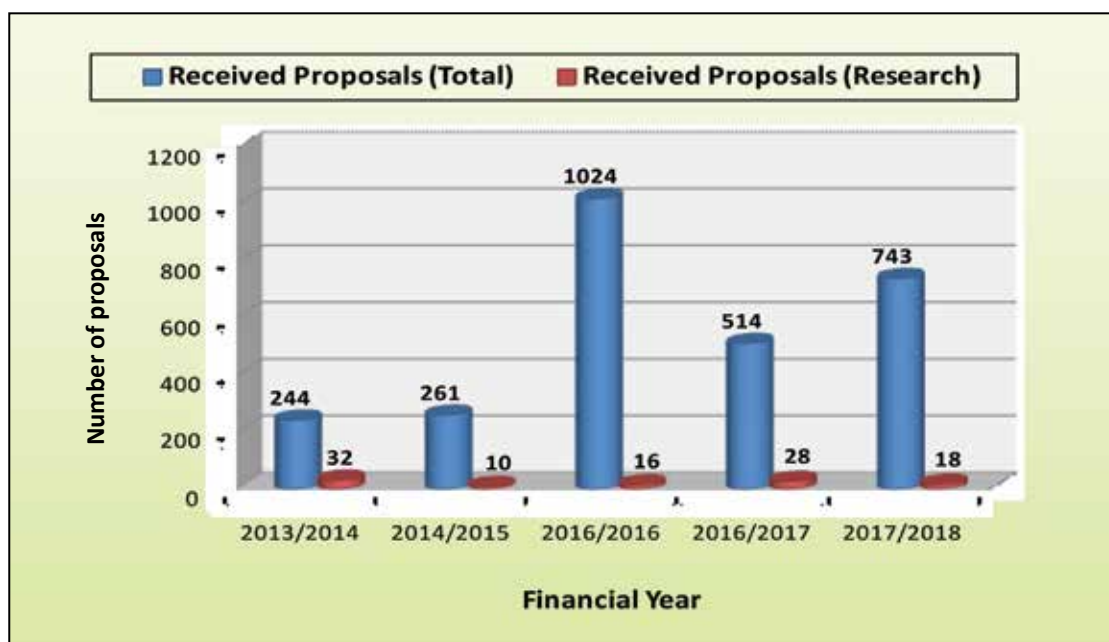


Figure 5: Number of research proposals received at TaFF office compared to total number of proposals received from July 2013 to December 2017.

CONCLUSIONS

Tanzania Forest Fund has spent substantial amount of money (more than 10% of her annual budget) for financing forestry research in Tanzania mainland. The Fund will continue to finance forestry research, but the commitment in spending forestry research funds for the intended purposes is paramount.