



Forest Justice in Tanzania

What we achieved in 2012

Improving forest governance

The goal of the Forest Justice in Tanzania project is for forest ecosystem services to be conserved for the benefit of the nation and local communities. To achieve this, the project is focused on improving governance and accountability within the forestry sector. With this year's launch of the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), 2012 marked a significant shift in the government's approach to managing the forest estate. With more autonomy and an increased budget, TFS could improve the State's management of Government Forest Reserves. Whilst some issues raised by the Forest Justice project in relation to illegal activities being carried out within forest reserves, were responded to, the forest condition surveys carried out by the FJT Team have not yet detected any significant reduction in rates of illegal logging within government reserves. During 2012, the Forest Justice in Tanzania project made significant progress in monitoring community-level forest governance and in working with over 300 forest adjacent communities to improve governance in relation to the management of Tanzania's forests.

Summary of achievements during 2012

- Forest biodiversity and disturbance surveys in Rondo, Mamiwa, Segoma, Chome Uzungwa Scarp, Pugu and Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserves revealed that the key threats to forest condition are logging, charcoal production, mining, bushmeat hunting and encroachment for agriculture. The project communicated challenges for each forest through TV, radio and print media and brought local stakeholders together to tackle these threats.
- FJT collected and analysed forest governance data from 343 villages from six national zones. A report for each village was prepared including guidance on how to improve governance. Villages were supported to discuss their results in their village assembly meetings. In response, several villages have taken action to improve governance. Improved governance at village level is expected to have a positive impact on forest management as well as on other aspects of development including health, education and economic activities.
- 81 incidents of forest crimes were reported on the MJUMITA Hotlines and the project assisted communities to make follow up with the responsible authorities in 56 cases.
- The project trained 300 community members from six national zones on Forest Stewardship Council and REDD (Reducing Emissions of greenhouse gases from Deforestation and forest degradation) Standards with a view to generating more awareness on best practices in forest management.



Village chair and VEO for Ntene village around Rondo forest reserve on interview with journalists



Uzungwa Scarp proposed Nature Reserve is an important catchment area for the Kilombero Valley. The forest is threatened by illegal logging.

Progress on Strategy 1: Monitoring forest governance and forest condition

Monitoring forest condition

In order to document the condition of the forest within forest reserves, the FJT Survey team visited seven nationally important Forest Reserves in 2012. The surveys aimed to help stakeholders identify actions to take in order to improve the management of the reserves. In each forest, systematic surveys of disturbance were carried out and species of plants, birds and mammal were documented. Journalists were invited to participate in the surveys and were encouraged to communicate their experience through the national media. Following the surveys, meetings were held with local government, communities, the Tanzania Forest Service and other stakeholder in order to prompt action to address the threat to the forests. In the case of Uzungwa Scarp proposed Nature Reserves, TFS and local government committed to work more closely together in order to address the widespread illegal logging that will affect the reserve's role as a catchment area for the economically important Kilombero Valley.

Monitoring forest governance

The project assisted 343 villages from six national zones to collect information about the status of forest governance in their villages. Data were analyzed and individualized village reports were printed and returned to each village.



Journalists record illegal logging in Uzungwa Scarp Project Nature Reserve.

The reports included recommendations on best practices. Most of the villages then discussed their results in their village assembly meeting and some have started taking action to resolve the issues raised in the reports. For example, Kipangege village in Kibaha decided to reform their Village Natural Resources Committee after realizing that some members were not fulfilling their responsibilities. In general the governance survey recorded low levels of transparency, accountability, participation and law enforcement, and found that these issues were undermining the effectiveness of participatory forest management. The results of the community level governance survey are available on the project's web page.



Evaluators and village leaders on the training of returning forest governance results to community members

Progress toward strategy 2: Enforcement promotion

MJUMITA has continued to run a series of Hotlines that enable Citizens to report forest crimes. The Hotlines are managed by MJUMITA's Zonal Coordinators who also provide advice to callers on action that they can take to resolve forest crimes. During 2012, eighty one forest crimes were reported on the MJUMITA zonal hotlines by community members including MJUMITA members. Of these 81 incidents, 56 cases resulted in action. Most of the reported cases were addressed by the village governments using their bylaws whilst other cases were solved at the district courts. The project supported MJUMITA members to make follow up on the cases that were taken to court. Some MJUMITA members in Same, Mpwapwa and Korogwe, got direct support from their District Councils in addressing the forest related crimes that they reported on the hotlines.



Journalists interview poachers in Kashaigulu forest reserve in Uvinza, Kigoma.

Progress towards strategy 3: Research, analysis and communication

Communicating forest justice issues

The FJT team has facilitated links between MJUMITA members and journalists to publicise the ongoing problems in Rondo, Segoma, Pugu, Kazimzumbwi, Uzungwa Scarp, Mamiwa, Kaishagulu and Chome forest reserves. The resulting media coverage prompted the relevant authorities to address some of the issues that were raised by the media. Responses have included more efforts by the government to work with forest-adjacent communities; more investment in reserve management; and closer follow up on forest crimes.

experts to prepare a TV 'spot' and a radio 'spot' that highlighted the opportunities that the forests offer to Dar's citizens and the rapid disappearance of the forests. The spots were broadcast repeatedly and, in the case of Ruvu South, prompted more investment in reserve management. Similar spots were also prepared for Uzungwa Scarp proposed Nature Reserve, again with the intention of highlighting the need for action in order to reduce rates of illegal activities. The spots are also available on YouTube.

In order to provoke action in relation to the alarming rates of deforestation in Dar's greenbelt forests, the FJT worked with media

TFS Budget Analysis

With the inauguration of the Tanzania Forest Service, the project sought to find out whether this transition would prompt more investment in forest management; and more transparency around the allocation of resources for forest reserve management. The project conducted budget analysis to understand better the process of budgeting within TFS. The study found that there is a significant increase in the budget available to TFS (TZS 24 billion) compared with the budget available to FBD two years ago (TZS 6 billion). The research also found that, whilst there is an increase in the available budget, the number of staff has not been increased and that this now represents a limit on TFS's effectiveness. TFS have responded to this challenge by working more closely with the District Councils and, in some cases, allocating budgets to the Districts.

Progress toward strategy 4: Agreeing and promoting REDD standards and FSC standards for timber

With a view to generating more widespread demand for REDD and FSC standards, the FJT Team trained over 300 community members from six national zones on FSC and REDD standards. The trainings were recorded as radio programmes and were aired through local and national radio. The FJT team also used a live radio programme through TBC FM to promote REDD standards.

Lessons learned

- Many government officials are supportive of improved forest governance but only take action in response to media coverage. This reflects the weakness of the existing accountability mechanisms in relation to forest management.
- Where external funds and technical support is available, community members are willing to take actions by themselves to address forest management challenges in their areas.
- There is widespread uncertainty at community level on the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in relation to participatory forest management.
- The rate at which illegal activities are resolved in accordance with the law still remains very low.



Newly appointed DC for Korogwe explaining to journalists how he had succeeded in stopping illegal mining in Sakare Forest.

Way forward

In 2013, the project will conduct a second round of participatory governance monitoring in order to see whether communities have been able to improve community-level forest governance; and to identify where the governance shortfalls have persisted. The project will also proceed with forest biodiversity and disturbances monitoring for six forests reserves and will communicate issues through media. The project will also continue to support MJUMITA members to make follow up on forest related crimes. In pushing for improved management practices, the FJT Team will continue to push for more widespread uptake of internationally recognized good practice standards in relation to timber harvesting and REDD.

About Forest Justice in Tanzania

Forest Justice in Tanzania (FJT) is a three year project (2011-2013) that aims to promote improved governance and increased accountability in Tanzania's forest sector. The initiative is a partnership between the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania, known as MJUMITA and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG). The project is working through four inter-related strategies, which are:

1. Monitoring forest governance and forest condition;
2. Enforcement promotion;
3. Research, analysis and communication; and
4. Agreeing standards.

The project is financed by DfID through the Accountability in Tanzania programme (AcT).

For more information about the project, visit the project's web page at:

<http://www.tfcg.org/forestJusticeTanzania.html>

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