



Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency.



TFS is continuing to prepare and updates the harvesting plans of production forest reserves

- The main advantage of the availability of harvesting plan is to avoid over- exploitation of the forest products from the production forests.
- In order to have a high level of law enforcement for aiming at reducing the level of illegal harvesting of forest products from our forests:
 - TFS has formed the surveillance unit (in all seven zones) which is working closely with all traders of forest products, making an intensive forest patrols in and out of the forests and inspecting the legality of the forest products.
 - TFS has established strategic check points for further inspecting the legality of the transportation of forest products
 - There is a country wise awareness sensitization of tree planting in degraded and on-farmland areas.
 - The recommended tree species are planted in related planting areas.
 - Covering the deficit of annual wood demand, a total of 185,000 ha. should be planted every year.
 - Emphasized by a National Tree Planting Day on 1st April every year.
 - TFS is encouraging both Participatory Forest Management (PFM) forms:

Introduction

Forest Resources: Forest resources are covering about 48.1 m. ha. equivalent to 55% of Tanzania mainland's total area of 88.3 million hectares (NAFORMA 2014).

- 20 m. ha is production forests and 28 m. ha are protected forests.
- 59% are forests in non-reserved land and 41% are protected forest areas i.e. FR, Game Reserves & National Parks.
- Forest resources are categorized into woodlands - 44.6 m. ha (93%), and forest plantations, catchment, mangroves and coastal forests occupy 3.5 m. ha. (7%) of the forestland.

Ownership of forests:

15.84 m. ha (35%) –C/G - TFS; 3.36 m. ha (7%) -LG; 3.36 m. ha (7%) – PS; 21.6 m. ha (45%) - VGs; 2.4 m. ha (5%) -GL and 480,000 hectares (1%) - other ownerships (TFS Strategic plan July 2014 – June 2019).

Demand and Supply of the forest resources in the country.

The allowable cut in production forest in 2013 was estimated at 42.8 m. m³/year. The annual wood demand stands at 62.3 m.m³/year. The deficit is about 19.5 m. m³ /yr. Illegal harvesting and forest clear felling of forests is contributing to annual deforestation rate of 372,000 ha/year ((NAFORMA 2014);



Forest Management & other interventions

- The challenge to manage forest resources as a national heritage, evolves the overall policy goal of the National Forest Policy of 1998: "To enhance the contribution of the forest sector to the sustainable development of Tanzania and the conservation and management of her natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations".
- The overall policy goal failed to be achieved in the past because the forest and beekeeping sectors were facing the administrative challenges in the management and conservation of forest and bee resources;
- Posed hindrance in achieving an effective and efficient system for improved financing and sustainable management of forest and bee resources.
- The success in implementation FRMP in Tabora and Mwanza regions in 1990s was the basis for scaling up into TFCMP in 2002 which supported the initial establishment of Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency.

Importance of forests

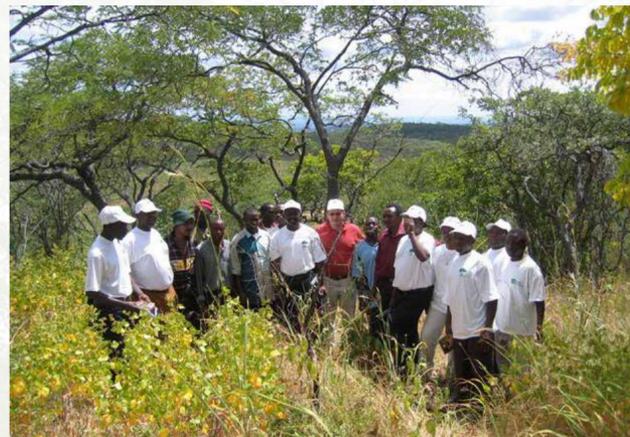
- The estimated contribution of forestry to the GDP in 2013 was 3.7%
- Biomass energy is consumed by 92% in Tanzania. Charcoal is one of the largest industries employing tens of thousands of rural people and supplying energy to millions of households in the country.
- Forest sector employs about 3% of paid labour
- The majority of rural people depend heavily on forest products for their livelihoods.
- Forest support health of watersheds
- About 11% of Tanzania's total export trade comes from the forest sectors.
- Forests are a source of revenue through sale of wood and non-wood forest products and services..

Experience on the key challenges of SFM.

The key challenges of SFM include:

- Forest encroachment caused by unsustainable conversion of forestlands to other land uses:
 - ✓ shifting cultivation,
 - ✓ wild fires,
 - ✓ human settlements and
 - ✓ Heavy grazing of livestock.
- ✓ The conversion of forestland leading to deforestation.
- ✓ Overdependence on biomass energy -92% of energy needs is contributing to deforestation and forest degradation
- Weak legal frameworks for promotion of private and community based forest management affect decisions to invest in forestry due to:
 - ✓ shortage of land,
 - ✓ lack of land use plans in the majority village lands and
 - ✓ some unclear land and tree tenure; as well as limited incentives.
 - ✓ Poor infrastructure development in rural areas is impeding development of alternative sources of income generation for forest adjacent communities.
 - ✓ Markets of non-wood forest products not well developed such that there is over-harvesting of some species.
 - ✓ Weak law enforcement on trade of forest products instigates over-exploitation and accelerating forest deforestation.
 - ✓ Population growth, expanding needs: search for farmland and general social economic needs for forest products lead to increased deforestation.

Strategies to reduce deforestation and promotion of SFM.



- The effective strategies for SFM based on National Forest Policy Statements, are legally guided by Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 and Forest Regulations of 2004.
- TFS implements its mandate and operations based on Strategic Plan (SP), which covers a period of five years (2014/2015 – 2018/2019).
- TFS is mandated to:
 - manage sustainably forest and bee resources;
 - provide forestry and beekeeping extension services;
 - enforce forest and beekeeping legislation;
 - quality assurance and rehabilitation of degraded areas and
 - Revenue collection.

Some of the most important initiatives undertaken by TFS for promoting and achieving the SFM practices as well as to improve rural livelihood are as follows:

- TFS is working on the updating and preparation of Forest Management Plans to all 506 forest reserves including plantations.
 - The 1998 National Forest Policy Statements (1), (6), (18) and (20) indicate that all types of forest reserves should be managed based on forest management plans.
 - Part III of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002, provides legal backing and describes how planning and management can be achieved through Management Plans for all types of forests.
 - Important aspects of the Forest Act (2002) is allowing the participation of relevant stakeholders in forest management plans implementation depending on the type of the forests: Government authorities/agencies, NGO's, private sector and community representatives are partners.
- If the harvesting plan is not available to the production forest reserve, harvesting of forest products is strictly prohibited.

- **JFM** that takes place in forests on "reserved land" that has been set aside by government as part of either Local Authority or National Forest Reserves.
- In many National Forest Reserves, TFS is continuing to establish the JFM with the villagers adjacent to those forests.
- TFS remain to be the owner of the National forest Reserves while the villagers become the co – managers.
- JFM become in place once TFS and villagers have signed the legal Joint Management Agreement (JMA) of which it describes the cost-benefit sharing of each part.
- **CBFM** is that takes place on village land, on forests that are owned by the Village Council on behalf of the Village Assembly and leads to the establishment of Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR), Community Forest Reserves (CFR) or Private Forest Reserves.



- The village Land Act (1999), The Local Government Act (1982), The Forest Act (2002) and the forest Regulations (2004) provide the legal basis for villages to own and manage forest resources on village land in ways that are both sustainable and profitable.
- The Forest Act provides incentives to rural communities to "reserve" unprotected forests currently outside the forest reserves.
- The incentives include the following:
 - Waiving state royalties on forest produce. Forest Act: Section 78 (3).
 - Retaining 100% of revenue from sale of forest products. In many cases, however, they may choose and set the percentage to share with the district in return for services rendered. This does not mean, however, that other taxes (income tax, VAT) are avoided.
- Fines levied on village land in respect of Village Land or Community Forest Reserves are retained by the Village – so long as they are described in "Approved Village By-laws".
- Forest produce or equipment used to illegally harvest may be confiscated and sold by villagers.
- In areas where the PFM approach has been applied, there is a significant level of deforestation reduction and rate of forest degradation in many forests and high level of improved rural livelihoods.
- TFS has a unit of Publicity and Extension services; which creates awareness raising among the rural people by providing knowledge and skills on sustainable forest management. This is done through media, video shows, exhibition and village assembly meetings.
- Many people have benefited with this strategy through managing their forest resources sustainably by selling the forest products for income generation; in turn, they have improved their livelihoods.

Conclusion

- These effective strategies which are implemented by TFS and other related stakeholders, are expected to reduce the level of deforestation and forest degradation. HOWEVER:
 - ❖ It requires also commitment and support from other related sectors, SUCH THAT:
 - ✓ The land use plan in the majority of village lands should be in place and operationalized
 - ✓ The infrastructure in rural area should be developed of which will cause to open up the various alternative sources of income generation. This will reduce the level of dependence on forest resources by rural people
 - ✓ Discouraging and prohibiting forest encroachment and the conversion of forestlands to other land uses.
 - ✓ Village councils should put their village land forests under CBFM system so as to become VLFR. The communities will benefit from these forest reserves and in turn their livelihoods will be improved.