

s1060893. Community Based Forest Management

Climate mitigation and poverty reduction at the same time



Problem to be solved:

Conserve the forests but give people access to the benefits from forest production

In the beginning of the 90's, forests in Tanzania were disappearing at an alarming rate. Problems were different in different forests:

- In Babati, the Duru-Haitemba forest of 13,000 ha was to be declared a National Forest Reserve, which would strip people around it of important income.
- In Kiteto, illegal logging in the Suledo forest of 167,000 ha and increased farming was rapidly depleting the forest, which is a traditional 'reserve' grazing area for the Maasai during dry spells.
- In Singida, illegal logging in this 40,000 ha forest and intruders were rapidly diminishing the forest.



Results obtained: Forest protection and increased incomes

In Kiteto only, it is likely that the protection has led to increased carbon fixation of 46,000-131,000 tons of carbon per year. The value is difficult to estimate, but can vary between 23,000 to 1,000,000 USD per year, as a result from the Community protection only. (See how this

The forests are now well protected and formally under the management of the villages with forest land. The involved villagers now have increased income from the forests. In Kiteto, some protected areas are now being harvested and the

income will benefit social projects in the nine villages. Even though the concept of [REDD \(1\)](#) (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) was not invented at the time LAMP started, these forests are now a prime example of stopping deforestation. The Suledo forest in Kiteto was in 2002 awarded the UNDP [Equator prize \(3\)](#) in 2002 for outstanding achievements.

The success with the community-based forest management influenced the [Forest Policy \(4\)](#) and the [Forest Act \(5\)](#) as well as a long number of similar activities ([read more here \(6\)](#)).

***How it was done* A step-by-step process enabling villagers to fully manage and control the forests**

In order to empower the villagers to manage the forests themselves an elaborate step-by-step procedure was followed (see a step by step procedure in the [Community Based Forest Management Guidelines \(7\)](#)). In brief it included:

- Starting with a land use management plan and settlement of land and boundary disputes
- Elaboration of a forest management plan
- Establishment of sub-village, village and inter-village forest management committees.
- Establishment of a patrolling system by the villagers
- Development and registration of Land Management by-laws
- Support to capacity building and follow-up for many years

The following LAMP developed documents are example models that can be adapted to be used in other areas:

[Model by-laws for community based forest management \(8\)](#);

[Financial regulations for Joint Management Committee \(9\)](#);

[Guidelines for harvest tendering process \(10\)](#)

[Harvesting contract \(11\)](#);

[Forest management plan \(12\)](#).

From a poverty reduction perspective, the three forests represent quite different approaches, while the organizational method deployed was one and the same. In order to be successful in conservation of the forests, a number of complementing activities were therefore necessary to avoid that people lost their income during the time the forest was recovering. These were different depending on the local conditions, but included e.g. increased agricultural production, zero-grazing system, zoning of the forests to allow for collecting some forest products, efficient bee-keeping, increased livestock productivity (to reduce the need to increase number of heads per hectare), etc.



Another key factor for success was the acceptance of the time that would be required to establish a reasonably sustainable system (10-15 years) and the need for outside support in capacity-building, follow-up and technical assistance.

Key success factors

- Solve land conflicts first through participatory land use plans and active conflict resolution.
- The District Council should assist the villagers in other income and survival areas so that they are not forced by poverty to extract forest products.
- Never lose focus that the forest protection should lead to increased income for the people around and in the forest.
- Commit to a long time undertaking. The villages will need support for 10-15 years. The formation of forest committees, establishment of patrolling system and registration of by-laws is only the beginning of the needed support.



- Realizing the need for many years of continued support to the villages. It is very easy to be satisfied and think the job is done when all formalities are in place.
 - Maintaining a sustainable use of the forest as population pressure increases.
 - Law reinforcement to assist villages to deal with powerful intruders.
 - Some persons with power will resist the system and try to find all kinds of excuses to stop the process, even while officially expressing very positive views.
- How to maintain financial accountability and transparency and the respect for the law. In other words: How to create 'Good Governance'.

Further information

- a. Building a future with our forests: Community based forestry (LAMP booklet series) (13)
- b. Traditional Pastoral Communities Securing Green Pastures Through Participatory Forest Management: A Case Study from Kiteto District, Tanzania (14)
- c. Bra bistan videotape (15)
- d. CBFM in Tanzania. Forest Use in the Past, Present and Future. A case study from Babati District (16)