



TUMERITHI TUWARITHISHE



A Campaign to Improve Forest Governance

Forest resources support the livelihoods of the majority of Tanzanians. Yet, overexploitation, misuse and weak governance threaten their well being and contributions to development goals. A 2007 report¹ indicated significant social, environmental and economic shortfalls in Tanzania's timber trade.

The Mama Misitu Campaign aims to address these shortfalls by improving forest governance so that Tanzania citizens benefit more from sustainably managed forests. The campaign was first launched as a pilot initiative in 2008 by the Tanzania Forest Working Group, which is hosted by Tanzania Natural Resource Forum. In 2012, the Mama Misitu Campaign has launched a five-year initiative to build on lessons and experiences from the pilot phase to expand the scope and overall impact of the campaign.



¹ Milledge, S.A.H., Gelvas, I.K. and Ahrends, A. 2007. *Forestry, governance and national development: Lessons learned from a logging boom in southern Tanzania*. TRAFFIC East & Southern Africa / Tanzania Development Partners Group / Ministry of Natural Resources of Tourism, Dar es Salaam.

Learning from the Pilot Phase

Mama Misitu's pilot phase was implemented in Rufiji and Kilwa districts, and it was successful in addressing some of the communities' challenges regarding forest management and livelihood sustainability. Through the campaign, communities learned about the legal requirements for harvesting timber, the role of various forest users, the government's role in regulating forest resources and creating laws, the value of forest products that were legally and illegally harvested, and how to apprehend suspected forest poachers and where to take them. Moving forward, the Mama Misitu Campaign hopes to widen its reach and use the lessons it has learned to inform its work in new areas.



Expanding Focus, Expanding Impact

The new five-year Mama Misitu Campaign will be launched in four districts—Rufiji, Kilwa, Kisarawe and Kibaha—before expanding to a total of eight. Eleven implementing partners will carry out the campaign at national and district levels. Operating at national level are LEAT, TNRF, Femina HIP, MJUMITA, JET, Policy Forum and TRAFFIC. Operating at District level are TFCG, MCDI, WWF, WCST². In each of those districts the campaign will raise awareness and build skills for improved forest governance.

The Mama Misitu Campaign, through its partners, identified the following root-problems in forestry governance, which the campaign intends to resolve:

- Citizens are not fully aware of their rights in regard to forests and forest land;
- Forest laws and policies are not adequately implemented;
- Land laws are poorly administered;
- The business sector is not adequately regulated or controlled; and
- At many levels, there are “inappropriate” and illegal transactions throughout the value chain of the timber trade.

A National Campaign with a Local Focus

Community members should benefit the most from forest resources, which is why their opinions and voices are central to the campaign. This booklet provides testimonies from the local communities about the benefits and challenges of improving forest governance and safeguarding communities' rights to forest resources.





Bwana Omari Kijumile is a farmer and native of Ruhatwe village in the district of Kilwa. With the Mama Misitu campaign, he has been involved from the very beginning where experts came to educate and raise awareness of various laws and policies that govern forests in Tanzania. Specifically, the Forest Policy of 1998, Forest Act 2002, Land Act of 1998 and 1999 as well as the Environmental Policy, 2004. The tools that were used by the campaign included drama/theatre, traditional dances as well as poems.

As a result, there were many successes from the initial phase of Mama Misitu. There was an increase in community collaboration and awareness of the importance of trees, forests and the laws and policies that guide environmental management. The community learned how cutting down trees increases drought, disrupts rain patterns/floods and contributes to climate change. An important challenge mentioned by Omari was the tension caused between the national policy of Kilimo Kwanza and forest governance as community members are looking towards farming as promoted by Kilimo Kwanza, yet this means cutting down the very trees and forests that are supposed to be protected.





Mama Mwanaisha Abdallah Likoko is a native of Kikole village in Kilwa. She testifies to the changes she sees in her village in the way in which forests are managed. In the past, trees and forests were being cut down a lot, and there were no monitoring activities to see what is being cut or replanted, and who is cutting down trees. Mwanaisha now sees trees cut according to laws and guidelines and there is monitoring. She can also directly attribute the changes in the forests to the more recent awareness created by the Mama Misitu Campaign. She now has hope that future generations will live to see forests and healthy trees.

Mwanaisha however sees the challenges facing women in this issue of forest governance. Mwanaisha states that women understand faster the importance of trees, rain, water sources and the like, so women are quicker to protect trees. She points that men by nature look for money – and so they see trees as a source of money; so they may not agree to protect forests in the same way women do. There is therefore a need to create more awareness among men in the community.



Bwana Mwalami Ali Kwangaya is a native of Rufiji and the secretary for the forest conservation network in his village. He testifies that prior to the Mama Misitu Campaign, community and village members did not know or understand that the forests belonged to them. Without understanding this, they did not see the point of protecting forests and trees. The Mama Misitu Campaign, through the use of songs, theatre and dance, spread awareness of the importance of trees to the community, and community members now see the impact of tree cutting on rain patterns, climate change, drought and animals and look to other economic activities to bring in income for the family.

Despite this, Bwana Mwalami points out that there remains challenges such as encroachment in the forest due to weaknesses in the security at entry points of the forest is a big problem. Also, there is still need for more inputs from government in terms of financing – so that community members do not resort to cutting trees when they are stuck or do not have enough money. So there should also be a focus on ensuring the other economic activities are encouraged and given proper support.







Jumuiko
la
Maliasili
Tanzania



Tanzania
Natural
Resource
Forum



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



www.mamamisitu.org

The Mama Mitsu Campaign receives support from the Finnish and Norwegian governments.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY