



## **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION BY THE FOREST AND BEEKEEPING DIVISION**

In this section, the Forestry and Beekeeping Department (FBD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism outlines its approach to

increasing local community participation, controlling corruption and strengthening management capacity.

The overall goal of boosting efforts to ensure community participation is to rectify inequities in forest use. The community awareness and participation program involves increasing communities' awareness of forest values, harvest compliance regulations, and sustainable forest management practices. The FBD has launched an awareness campaign as stipulated in the Forest Act No. 14 and National Forestry Programme. Focus areas include Joint Forest Management (JFM), Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and District Harvesting Committees (DHCs). The campaign has employed various communication methods including radio and television programs, cinema/video and village meetings. The campaigns are based in seven extension zones in the country.

### **District Harvesting Committees**

DHCs are currently struggling primarily due to lack of resources. Additionally, many districts have not finalized forest management plans, the main guiding document of the DHCs, and DHC leadership are often unable to convene meetings due to other workloads.

### **Participatory Forest Management**

To improve participation in making laws and managing forests, the FBD follows the forestry legislation in democratically decentralizing management and institutionalizing popular participation. The FBD facilitates communities to either set aside forest areas on village land as Village Forest Reserves or to jointly manage (Local or Central) Government Forest Reserves by preparing management plans and creating by-laws.

Challenges to increasing participation, especially of women, are illiteracy, lack of preparedness, and inequality in power and resources. Women are often not ready to compete with men for a position and in some communities women are voiceless. Women are poorly represented on different committees, which often focus on issues with which women do not

commonly identify, such as property rights, an issue traditionally in the male domain. However, some men are affronted by the exclusion of women and prove important allies.

### **Controlling Corruption & Strengthening Management**

To control corruption and strengthen management capacity the FBD has adapted the following measures. First, to address corruption at various levels of the forestry industry, the FBD has:

- Disseminated its guidelines on sustainable harvesting and trade of forest products through seminars with stakeholders;
- Expanded the Forest Surveillance Unit;
- Strengthened inspection points;
- Increased security of harvest and transportation documentation;
- Introduced scanning of all containerized forest exports at the Dar es Salaam port;
- Instituted the use of citizen support in law enforcement
- Strengthened rights, capabilities and local decision-making.

The 2007 internal review of the procedure to issue harvest and transport licenses revealed that funds to convene the relevant harvesting committees are not regularly dispersed, district harvest plans are incomplete, and village governments are unaware of the new provisions mandating them to involve community members.

Secondly, in order to clarify roles and responsibilities and increase communication within the FBD and its partner institutions, the FBD conducts regular Joint Review Missions with the Ministry of Finance.

Finally, roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined within JFM and CBFM initiatives and in the guidelines for sustainable harvesting and trade of forest products.

Management frameworks to strengthen capacity through reporting and monitoring include:

- The National Forest and Beekeeping Database (NAFOBEDA) of statistics on the timber trade;
- The above mentioned DHCs;
- Zonal Inspection Teams, which perform biannual inspections of revenue collection and forest conservation; and,
- On the ground reporting from Village Natural Resource Committees.

To further strengthen management capacity, lifting the ban on exports on strict conditions of proper harvesting arrangements will result in more investment in forestry, more employment opportunities in the forestry industry, improved government revenue through sale of value-added forest products, and reduction in bribery.

