



PREFACE: WHY A CAMPAIGN ON FOREST GOVERNANCE?

The immense value of forest resources to the Tanzanian people is documented by a report prepared by TRAFFIC in 2007 in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and the Development

Partners Group. The report focusses on the illegal trade in timber and key findings are:

- Massive revenue shortfalls
- Unsustainable rates of harvesting
- Collusion among influential players
- Irreplaceable losses of biodiversity

The findings are a strong wake-up call for government civil society and the nation. Although illegal logging has long known to be an issue in Tanzania, as elsewhere in the world, the report now details the extent of the problem, which is far greater than many had thought.

Key facts from report

The Forestry and Beekeeping Division loses 58 million USD in revenue annually by under-collecting royalties on forest products. Only 10% of potential revenue is collected from timber exports. Only 20 more years of harvest time is feasible at current rates in southern coastal forests. These discouraging facts in addition to the mounting outbreaks of fire, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity and deterioration of the nation's water catchments do not bode well for Tanzania's economic and environmental future.

The TRAFFIC report recommends a wide-ranging set of solutions to improve governance and forest management in Tanzania. These include outreach and advocacy to combat forest crime and increase revenue collection. An important issue is the need to increase community participation in forest management and improve local benefit flows.

Less than one year after the release of the report there are some promising outcomes evident. Civil society and community networks in partnership with the Government have formed a united front to combat forest crime, improve forest management and increase levels of revenue collection and equitable benefit flows.

In working towards this transformation, forest-adjacent communities must be fully supported to sustainably manage and better benefit from their forests. The improved management of forests comprises a major human development opportunity for many forest-adjacent communities, as the value of their forest produce, products and services continues to rise. Hence, the motto of the *Mama Misitu* advocacy campaign:

"Tumerithi, tuwarithishe"
"We inherit, that we bestow"



Illegal logs along a forest track in Lindi District, March 2008