



## POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Tanzania has a progressive policy framework for forest management. The National Forest Policy of 1998 and the Forest Act of 2002 were developed in the context of a move to decentralise forest management and encourage Participatory Forest Management (PFM).

The Forest Act of 2002 is further supported by the Forest Regulations of 2004.

### Participatory Forest Management

Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania is now a clearly articulated segment of the Policy and Act. The Forest Act encourages public awareness of the value of forests to sustainable development and decentralizes forest governance to the smallest unit of central government, the Village Council. The Act enables communities to manage forests and allows communities to enter into Joint Forest Management Agreements with private sector and government.

In 2001 the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) enacted the first general PFM guidelines. To further define PFM, the Community-Based Forest Management Guidelines were released in 2007 and guidelines for Joint Forest Management are currently under review. Both guidelines were created by teams of both policy-makers and civil society organizations.

Participatory Forest Management – as provided for in the Forest Policy and Laws – is implemented under Local Government Authorities which are under the Prime Minister's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government. This arrangement has allowed for strong inter-sectoral integration and coordination at district level under a District Natural Resource Officer who reports to the District Executive Director.

However the development of participatory management with communities has been constrained by continued overlaps in jurisdiction between local government authorities and the Forest and Beekeeping Division. In addition Participatory Management has been constrained by a lack of financial and human resources.

The implementation of the first policy and law are guided by the National Forestry and Beekeeping Programme (NBKP), 2001 - 2010. This provides a

strategic framework and co-ordination mechanism for the integration and harmonisation of forest and beekeeping activities at local, district, regional and national levels

### Relevance to MKUKUTA and national development

When discussing current policy issues in Tanzania an overriding document is the 2005 National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP). The NSGRP, more commonly known by its Swahili acronym, MKUKUTA, is a more holistic successor to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper of 2000. The MKUKUTA is organized around three major clusters: [Cluster 1] economic growth and the reduction of income poverty, [Cluster 2] improved quality of life and social well being, and [Cluster 3] good governance and accountability.

The MKUKUTA framework has strong connections to national forest legislation. For example, forestry presents both opportunities and threats for targets on sustainable growth and affordable energy. Despite under-collected royalties, revenue from forest products is a major contributor to some District budgets. However, the current rates of timber harvest will exhaust forests in another 20 years, thus destroying an invaluable source of national income and so making the potential for poverty eradication elusive.

Additionally, all seven goals of Cluster 3 [good governance and accountability] support responsible and participatory forest governance, an integral tenet of the Forestry Policy and related Acts and Guidelines. The implication is that continued mismanagement and underutilization of the forestry sector will hinder economic growth and national development.

### Forest Law Enforcement and Governance

In addition to domestic forestry policy making, Tanzania is active in the international arena. Tanzania is a participant in the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) Ministerial process of the World Conservation Union, which entails adherence to the Declaration and Indicative List of Actions (2003). Tanzania is also a signatory of Agenda 21, the UN Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development (2002). The forest Policy of Tanzania contributes to several important Forest Law Enforcement and Governance issues, and policy adjustment will be required to address a wider range of issues.