

LIAISON VISIT TO WAMI MBIKI AND JUKUMU WMAS

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Date: 23rd April 2007

Introduction

This field report is a result of the field visits that was done by the Community Liaison officer for TNRF in Morogoro region on 12th-20th April 2007. The aim of the visit was:

- Familiarisation with partners working on the similar activities in the field of wildlife management.
- Develop the initiative of establishing the linkage between the communities based WMAs and the Parliamentary Committee in Natural Resources and Environment.
- Collecting the information of activities being implemented.

1.0 The approaches used

The multiple approaches were used including the in-depth discussion with the partners on the conservation and management of natural resources with a specific reflection on the wildlife resource in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), field visit to witness the on-going activities as well as conduct meeting with the local community at their respective village.

2.0 Discussion with the partners

Some potential partners were earmarked for the visits and discussion, these included WAMI-MBIKI SOCIETY, JUKUMU, SUA-Department of Wildlife Management and Conservation and Management of Eastern Arc Mountain Forests Project. The discussion with SUA (DWM) and CMEAMF was exclusively based on the identification of potential areas where the institutions could have the technical cooperation.

On other side, the in-depth discussion with WAMI-MBIKI SOCIETY and JUKUMU apart from concentrating on institutional networking it was also concerned with the beginning of initiative of establishing the direct linkage between the PCNRE and community based WMAs. Nevertheless, the representatives from JUKUMU failed to turn up in the meeting.

With WAMI-MBIKI SOCIETY I had a lengthy discussion with a five members of steering committee (including John Balarin and Thomas Holst-These are also members of Danish Hunters Association-DHA). Our base of discussion was the concept proposal elucidating the essence of establishing Community Based Natural Resource Management Network with a specific focus of proper linkage between the parliamentarians and the communities involved in the WMA initiative.

Nevertheless, the discussion went on well however John and Thomas were critique about an approach used to establish the network. They suggested that prior to the establishment of the network the following points must be taken into consideration:-

- The legal institutional mechanism must be developed first in order to link the parliamentarians with the communities. This would assist the flourishing of CBNRM network and produce tangible benefits.
- TNRF in collaboration with other partners should strive to make sure that the WMAs are accorded with Authorised Association (AA) status and forest user rights.
- Working with the local communities implies working with the local government. Thus our working formulae to establish the network on CBNRM should involve the district authority.
- CBNRM network should be linked with DHA/DOF/WCST alliance so as to allow for capacity development of other NGOs through network experience and information sharing.

In replying to their critique, the Community Liaison Officer stressed on the following major points:- In the context of promoting the good governance at all levels of jurisdiction, incentive based approach which promote the proper linkage is very important. Because it aims to promote the pro-active involvement of the stakeholders and beneficiaries and this would results into the positive compliance. Therefore, by establishing the functional network there will be a significant reduction (and in the long run the total elimination) of the bureaucratic steps for stakeholders and beneficiaries to reach the decision making organ(s) at the apex which in turn would help to streamline the WMA process in the country.

2.1 Field visits

The planned field visit to the nearest WMA was not done due mechanical breakdown of the vehicle. The visit was scheduled to take place at Maseyu WMA.

2.2 Meeting with the local community.

The meeting with the local community was convened at Maseyu village. The meeting was organised by WAMI-MBIKI SOCIETY. During the meeting I introduced the concept and philosophy of CBNRM network. The community in the village had shown the positive reaction and welcome the idea.

3.0 Lessons Learnt

- The establishment of the CBNRM network would be the excellent move since to the large extent it would help the local communities particularly in WMAs to exchange the useful information. Moreover, the communities will derive the tangible benefits, pick up knowledge of the lessons learnt and replicate the experience in a better light.
- Reliable transport is a very crucial in the execution of the field activities. Thus careful consideration of transport facility to ensure the smooth implementation of the field activities should be prioritised.
- Awareness raising programme should be done by using the partners in the WMAs to educate the communities on the philosophy, methodology and essence of establishing the CBNRM network across the country.

4.0 Conclusion

The WMA process is new, there is no prior experience, no case studies or role models to emulate. This means that there is an element of re-invention of the wheel especially by the 16 pilot WMAs. Linking the Parliamentarians with the local communities involved in WMA initiative is a unique and innovative approach aiming at bringing the transformation and democratic governance of Community Based Wildlife Management in the country.