
MINUTES OF THE TANZANIA FOREST WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12th JUNE 2008 AT THE TANZANIA FOREST CONSERVATION GROUP OFFICES, MIKOCHENI, DAR ES SALAAM

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Tanzania Forest Working Group Coordinator, Cassian Sianga, opened the meeting at 10.30 hours by welcoming members to the meeting. He also requested the members to give a minute silence in memory of the late Dr. Andreas Böhringer, an active member of the DPG Environment who played an active role in facilitating the process of Mama Misitu initiative and all of TFWG activities. Dr Andreas passed late last month (May). Members also took this opportunity to sign a condolence card to his family. Thereafter, a quick introduction of members was done and the chair went on to introduce the agenda which had been sent to members earlier.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda circulated prior to the meeting as follows: -

1. Opening and self introduction
2. Preparatory and design phase activities implemented
 - 2.1 Preparatory and launch phase
 - 2.2 Design phase
3. Implementation approach
4. Mama Misitu partner's workshop
5. AOB and closing

3. PREPARATORY AND DESIGN PHASE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

3.1 Preparatory and launch phase

To recap on the activities that took place during the preparation and launch phase, Rehema Mtingwa presented to the group as under:

3.1.1. Building Partnership

On partnership building concentrated on relationship building with Mama Misitu partners by signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Partners who were unable to attend TFWG meetings were sent updates through email and by telephone. With regard to coalition building the challenge was to reach members of the private sector.

3.1.2 Mama Misitu launch

The launch took place on Thursday 10th April 2008 beginning with a debriefing session with Professor Wangari Maathai at Movenpick Hotel jointly organised by Femina HIP and TFWG followed by a grand officiating of the campaign at the Karimjee Hall.

The government was represented by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ms. Blandina Nyoni on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism and Director of Forestry and Beekeeping Dr. Felician Kilahama. Among the development partners who were there include The Norwegian Ambassador, Mr. Jon Lomoy and Deputy Ambassador of Finland, Ms. Satu Santala. Others who attended were TFWG members, members of the press, private sector and other organisations and individuals invited as guests.

3.2.3 Field visit

On Friday 11th April, the field visit to Ruvu South was done where the community had prepared well in hosting Professor Wangari Maathai and the whole delegation.

3.2.4 Other activities

Other activities included media follow up for press release and articles, filming of the documentary that was shown during the launch.

Recruitment to have a full fledged PIU took place. A Field officer and Assistant Administrator were earmarked and interviewed.

3.2.4 Conclusion

Members appreciated the participatory process and committed made since then, taking into account that this should solely be Mama Misitu initiative and not otherwise. This was also expressed by the members that full commitment will be given to the project to see it moving and achieving it's goal.

3.2 Design phase

Cassian Sianga presented an update of the design phase activities and the current status of funding by the MFAF through the consultative meetings that took place and the final document which was presented to Finnish Embassy. He also briefed members on the possibility of acquiring funds from WWF, so as to bridge the gap between now and the period when funds shall be released by the Finnish Embassy. He also said that all members shall be updated accordingly on whatever aspires as from now.

3.3. Current Mama Misitu work plan

The proposed current action plan for Mama Misitu and the progress reached was presented. Various comments were made on improving the work plan, as demonstrated hereunder:

- 3.3.1 Mpingo Conservation Project volunteered to provide information on timber trade companies, in addition to participating in the sustainable harvesting and international trade.
- 3.3.2 IUCN will also contribute in the international trade information pack in addition to compliance pack
- 3.3.3 Shayo from JET, also agreed to contribute/participate in the radio production and informed the members of the possibility of getting free air time on Radio One (Friday mornings) and ITV in their environment programmes.
- 3.3.4 PIU shall be ultimately responsible by circulating and stimulating discussion from members via emails.

Members were briefed on the proposed implementation approach by using the district cycles. This will be elaborated and discussed and agreed upon in detail during the planned implementation approach workshop. The date and venue shall be agreed and circulate to members at a later date.

4. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH AND MAMA MISITU PARTNER'S WORKSHOP

Members were informed that the implementation approach will be discussed in the implementation approach workshop to be held later. They were further informed that most of the implementation framework is already in the project document and focus will be on;

1. Implementation approach at district level
2. Organizational approach (decision making, technical aspects and liaison)
3. Use of MOU
4. Technical Advisory group
5. Steering Committee
6. PIU

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING

- **After Mama Misitu, What Next?**

It was agreed in the meeting that this agenda be brought next time but if possible to be discussed in the workshop to look at Mama Misitu implementation approach and findings be sent to the Forestry Working Group meeting.

- **IFM – TOR.**

Briefly members were informed on the IFM (independent forest monitoring) and its status, that Mama Misitu has taken off, and the development of the TOR is at a good stage. Once finalised will be circulated to members for their comment/input.

- **Gap left by Dr. Andreas**

It was felt that there is big gap which has been seen in the absence of the late Dr. Andreas. He was a link between the government and development partners which was very strong. Members observed the need for someone from the DPG Environment take over in facilitating this sector. After a lengthy discussion members could not come out with a specific name and therefore, proposed to everyone to take it as a home work and come up with some suggestion in the next meeting. In the same direction of nominees it was suggested to have a list of names of members of the SWAp steering committee to see who could be approached.

- **Way Forward:**

- Members were informed of the Forest Act Review which will currently be taking place at FBD. Members should keep their eyes open to see how the process will take place.

- **Biofuel**

There were concerns from members as a threat to Tanzanian natural forests and a challenge to Mama Misitu project. Cassian gave some feedback from the recently ended Morogoro workshop that there are more than 30 companies operating in various areas of Tanzania without the knowledge of TIC (companies in Kilwa, Kisarawe and Rufiji). A private company in Kisarawe which has reported to have acquired about 9000 ha of land and are cutting down trees to plant *Jatropha* and now erecting a sawmill to process the wood and may be selling timber freely without government's knowledge. Some companies have also secured land for planting sugar cane in Rufiji that they will use to extract ethanol. Hence the government is losing land at an alarming rate and if immediate action is not taken, this shall lead to big community land loss. Forestry and Beekeeping department may be not aware of the establishment of sawmill to process the logs and may also be a source of revenue loss. Logging will degrade the land and as the companies get the money from sale of timber rather than concentrating on what they initially planned the question was what the implication for this is?

- It was suggested by members explore out with TIC to see if the companies are operating according to their business plans; also information from the ground to be brought to the national level; follow up on the companies that operate in this areas without doing an environmental impact assessment (EIA) – through partners working on the ground and that JET offered to provide information to assist in raising awareness on land issues.
 - Some members were of the opinion that the problems were seen as the lack of clear guidance on *Jatropha* cultivation.
 - Biofuel is a new venture in Tanzania and taking up peoples' land therefore people should be made aware of the value of land versus *Jatropha* growing.
 - MM can linked to biofuel in its campaign activities but then it was later suggested that this issue (biofuel) also demands due weight in dealing with due to its serious impact and it might 'dilute' and confuse audiences on the issues to be addressed, hence we can fail to deliver the planned outputs in MM. Therefore biofuel should be a different project and will be discussed further in the next meeting.
- IUCN will start two new projects – Livelihood and Landscape Support in Rufiji and shall provide funds to support TFWG. Another project is Climate Change and Development. This shall be at field level in Rufiji and at national level

- **Closing**
The Chair thanked members for their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 13.00 hours.

A: LIST OF ATTENDEES

No	Name	Organization	Contact address
1	Rehema Mtingwa	TNRF – Mama Misitu	r.mtingwa@tnrf.org 0784605479
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5	Cassian Sianga	TNRF (Chair)	c.sianga@tnrf.org 0756 960496
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9	Joseph Shayo	JET	josefkilasara@hotmail.com 0754 764 789
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11	Yassin Mkwizu	IUCN	yassin@iucn.or.tz 0784 339293

B: ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

1. Dr. George Jambiya - WWF