



## **MJUMITA workshop 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 – Morogoro Summary report – Cassian Sianga**

### **Introduction**

In Morogoro participated in a two day workshop for MJUMITA addressing key issues of good governance in participatory forest management in Tanzania. MJUMITA is a Swahili abbreviation of Kiswahili words meaning a Community Forest Network; a network of Communities living adjacent to forest resources in Tanzania. The theme of the workshop was “Good Forest Governance and Forest Management in Tanzania”. Apart from communities living adjacent to the forests others who participated in the workshop include CBOs, NGOs and government authorities which are PFM practitioners.

The meeting was officially opened by the Morogoro Regional Commissioner Mr. Saidi Kalembo. Thereafter three papers were presented two of them by MJUMITA community members and one by Antony Sangeda of FAO together with Yassin Mkwizu of IUCN. From MJUMITA community presentation were made by Athumani Mtimbwa from Kilwa representing his network known as MKISOMA and the second one by Leneth Motto from Kilolo – Iringa. On the second day presentations were from FBD, NGO support to governance issues and the role of community to FLEG. All reports are available in Kiswahili.

### **First day presentation**

Athumani Mtimbwa presented a case from Kilwa District by explaining what good governance in PFM is. He further explained the importance of good governance in PFM and explained key problems in absence of good governance in PFM. He cited four examples from Kilwa which demonstrate shortfalls of good governance: -

- Delay in signing agreements (2003 to date) without good reasons for the interest of the government authorities;
- District Authorities involving community to protect forest resources but when they send names of defaulters the government authorities inform the defaulters;
- Government not taking measures on illegal ports (Marendego, Somanga, Matapatapa, Zinjiane and Ngwisimba-Miteja) transporting forest resources to Mafia and Zanzibar;
- Incidences where logging people or companies come with permits to log in their villages without being involved.

He finally said that to have good forest governance it is important for the government to be more transparent and take measures against its staff that are not loyal. He said that all stakeholders in PFM should be fully involved through their small networks and MJUMITA at large to have a common voice.

Leneth Motto who is also MJUMITA Secretary defined PFM, good governance and more specifically elaborated forest governance. She further explained qualities of good governance and said it must involve participation, accountability and transparency. She cited four examples from Iringa with weaknesses on governance as: -

- Receipt books taken from community by District authorities without consultations;

- Year 2005 the community observed that there was a lot of illegally harvested timber which was later found out that it was activities of the district staff;
- Some networks could not collect their revenues as they did not have management agreements and sometimes the forester was collecting revenue using district council receipts;
- There was a case of impounded timber which was later auctioned and from detailed investigation it was found out the timber belonged to one of the district staff.

She finally stressed that if it is to reduce poverty to the rural community, good forest governance must address. She said all the examples she gave were good examples of poor governance. She ended by saying that the small networks under MJUMITA should also address good governance in forest resource management.

Antony Sangeda presented a case of a project he is facilitating on good forest governance in Kilwa District. He stressed three pillars of good governance as participation, transparency and accountability as a way forward for good governance in forest resources in Kilwa district. He then explained the short comings of good governance citing those mentioned in the report from TRAFFIC. He finally said that to make a change there is a need of having a big campaign on good forest governance and that it is time for all stakeholders to be involved.

He was complemented by Yassin Mwizu presented what is FLEG (Forest Law Enforcement and Governance) with its historical background. He further explained the importance of discussing FLEG and expressed the involvement of IUCN in FLEG Eastern Africa initiatives. He mentioned that stakeholders meeting will be conducted in Tanzania to get their views. The stakeholder's workshop will involve communities with great involvement of MJUMITA, CSOs/NGOs and the government through IUCN projects of "Strengthening Voices for Better Choices – SVBC" and "Livelihood and Landscape Strategy – LLS".

### **Second day presentation**

FBD representative presented the current state of PFM in the country. He further distinguished between JFM and CBFM and gave detailed information on both. Members were concerned about how FBD is taking governance in PFM. It was agreed that both community and FBD should take equal roles in the management of forest resources and that they have to work together.

This was followed by a presentation from TNRF demonstrating what civil societies are doing in addressing good governance in forestry. Cassian from TNRF explained what they have done including the proposal of Mama Misitu and Independent Forest Monitoring. He emphasized the need for all being involved if good governance in forestry is to be successful. He further stressed the need of linking grass root recommendation to policy issues and that TNRF is there to do that.

Dr. George Jambiya stimulated group discussion on issues the community would prefer to be discussed during the FLEG meetings. He started by making a summary of all the presentation made relating them to good forest governance. Before breaking for group work he stressed that good forest governance is important basically because of three reasons;

- It is important for the economy of a country to grow if the country is to develop but the community has to be involved so that they can also benefit;
- In developing countries, economic growth is for the poor and in most cases is based on natural resources such as is expressed in MKUKUTA;
- Natural resources and basically forest resource is the basic economic source for the poor and that is why they fully depend on them.

After the presentation people went into groups and a plenary discussion followed thereafter. A full report will be made by the organizers and we will make it available once it is ready. This marked the end of the two day workshop which was attended by more than 160 MJUMITA members across the country including Zanzibar.