

Tanzania Natural Resource Forum Forestry, Governance and National Development: An Advocacy and Public Awareness Initiative

Forest Working Group Meeting

Held on the 13th August 2007 at the office of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group.

Attendees

1. Steve Ball, Mpingo Conservation Project
2. Andreas Böhringer
3. Tom Bromley, Forestry Division
4. Alfei Daniel, Farm Africa
5. Nike Doggart, TFCG
6. Adrien Kahemela, TFCG
7. Alfred Kalaghe, AfriCare Tanzania
8. Lea Hansen, CARE Tanzania
9. Aichi Kitanyi, ICRAF
10. Jasper Makala, Mpingo Conservation Project
11. Simon Milledge, Traffic
12. Edgar Mgeta, CARE
13. Leneth Motto, MJUMITA
14. Juliana Mwenda, MJUMITA
15. Cassian Sianga, TNRF
16. Freya St John, consultant to TNRF
17. Daniel S. MJUMITA
18. Andrew William, TNRF

Apologies

1. George Jambiya - WWF
2. A. Ndosì - TAF
3. G. Odhiambo – FARM Africa

1. Opening and self introduction

Cassian Sianga opened the meeting by welcoming the members and was followed by a self introduction.

2. Processes in developing the campaign

Cassian Sianga provided the meeting with a brief overview of the proposal development process;

- Last FWG meeting held on (March 1st 2007)
- Secretariat writing a proposal (April – GTZ)
- Forming a liaison group and holding a planning meeting (May 4th-5th)

- Conducting a consultative workshop (May 22nd – 23rd)
- Secretariat writing a proposal
- Conducting a FWG and Liaison meeting (June 29th)
- Conducting of a FWG (13th Aug)

3. Presentation of the Proposal

Freya St John provided the meeting with a brief presentation of key points within the proposal document. Comments included;

- The PCB is now named PCCB.
- Group 1, Message 3: the term forestry sector needs re-wording. 'The harvesting and export trade of timber....' Suggested.
- Group 2, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar should be removed as a key audience. Add the Min. of Finance & Min. of MPEE.
- Group 3, the Illegal Logging Unit is wrongly named, it should be written as the Forest Surveillance Unit.
- Group 3, delete message 1, it repeats message 2.
- Group 4, in the message text link biodiversity to potential tourism revenue. Add State Attorneys to key audience.
- Group 5, message 2, MNRT to be deleted & text revised to read 'Improve the full implementation and coverage of PFM in line with the National Forest Policy and Forest Act'.
- Add district councils to the key audience.
- Group 6, revise top box text to read 'Socially & ecologically responsible trade of Tanzania's indigenous timber will result in greater long-term gain for the country'.
- Group 6 – review Measurable Outcomes, targets are too high.
- Group 6, Message 2, delete the word 'product'.
- Group 6, add international consumer advocacy groups to key audience.
- Throughout the document the word donors should be replaced with Development Partners.
- Investors frequently approach their embassies to seek information on how to operate in Tanzania, as such Mama Misitu should consider producing guidelines for timber trade investors that can be distributed through embassies.
- For each Issue Group, Measurable Outcomes and Indicators should be reviewed.

What next for the proposal

1. Final comments on the proposal will be incorporated into the current document resulting in a final draft.
2. An initial draft of the MoU was circulated (hard copy) to meeting participants. A soft copy being circulated after the meeting, partners should return comments to TNRF by Monday 20th August 2007.
3. Comments will be incorporated in to the MoU which will then be sent to a lawyer for comments / approval. A legally approved draft will be re-circulated to partners for final comments.
4. Final version of MoU will be inserted in to the proposal document as Annex 2.
5. Partners to sign the MoU by 31 August 2007
6. The proposal will be submitted to donors on 3rd September 2007.

4. What next for FWG – all

- TFWG should continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss and disseminate best practices and new ideas.

- Information gained by Cassian whilst conducting his work for TNRF is of great value to the TFWG. Equally it is good that people in the field report back to TNRF so that the organisation understands what is working, or not working regarding policy implementation on the ground.
- It would be beneficial for TFWG members, as members of TNRF, could receive a monthly one page briefing on the activities of TNRF with regards to forestry so that members are kept up to date.
- This item will be set as the main agenda for the next meeting of TFWG. Members should come with well developed ideas for discussion.

5. AOB and closing

- Updates on the visit of Hon. Mathai
 - Visit has been postponed until end October 2007.
 - COMMENT: The campaign should be launched during her visit even if funding for the campaign as a whole has not been secured as it is such a good opportunity. It is highly likely that at least some parts of the campaign will be funded, so don't lose the opportunity.
- Likely impact of increase on license fees – Steve
 - 10 days ago debate in parliament – timber license fees will be increased from 70,000 to 250,000 TSh per square metre. Is this going to push loggers into more illegal activity as the cost of operating legally is now so high.
 - Simon Milledge has said publicly that we (TRAFFIC) do not support the price increases with regard to timber trade. Efforts should concentrate on improved revenue collection rather than on a price hike. Yet increasing the cost of products for export should only be carefully criticized. Currently law enforcement has increased but this may only last for the short term. But a point is perhaps being missed – collection of revenue must be improved.
 - Current information gap is the private sector opinion. One investor's opinion expressed to Simon has been that the end product is now twice above the global market price and as such they will close down operations. Currently the TFWG does not have enough evidence to criticise the price increase, discussion should be held with the private sector.
 - There is a need for an analysis of the affects of the increase in licenses.
 - A timber license has not increased in price for 10 years, hence the level of the increase. This increase in license fees so quickly has been so quick, it is likely to have been influenced by the findings of the TRAFFIC report with the quote of people at the village level on receive US\$ 3 whilst in China it is sold for vastly more. One quick fix is to rapidly and significantly increase the license fees. Sadly this comes partnered with negative impacts.
 - Interns (?) could be used to conduct research to fill knowledge gaps.
- Preparations for the coming EA-FLEG meeting and the expected TFWG engagement – Yassin
 - To be held in November 2007.
 - Tanzania is not yet a signatory of FLEG.
 - FBD have appointed a focal point for FLEG.
 - CSO in Tanzania have much to contribute to the FLEG process. Issues that need to be looked at include, but are not limited to charcoal, cross boarder trade and PFM.
 - Should IUCN as an Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO) be representing CSOs during the FLEG process, this is a issue to think about.

- Short update on forest policy review – Andreas
 - The process is still underway. Some studies needed to be commissioned. These studies will then be the subject of stakeholder consultations. Three studies;
 - 1) Process that lead to the development of the current policy – one finding was that there was very little stakeholder involvement, as such better stakeholder involvement and more time will be employed to develop the new policy.
 - 2) A NFP review will be done in September/October. A workshop will be held in October 15th to 18th and Cassian Sianga was nominated to participate. If there is more chance for a second member then Yassin Mkwizu can join. A template of information that will be needed in the review will be provided by FBD earlier in advance and be circulated to members to fill as their input to the review.
 - 3) Prepare an outlook from now to 2016 for forestry in Tanzania, being done as a local consultancy – timber, charcoal and the Indian economy are some areas being investigated.
 - In November / December stakeholder analysis' will start. A professional moderator has been employed to facilitate stakeholder analysis. Delays are anticipated.
- Farm Africa ToR for a sustainable livelihood research in PFM
 - Alfei Daniel presented the ToR, for whom Farm Africa require a suitable consultant.

The ToR will be made available through the TNRF website.

6. Contact details

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