



## **Feedback from Parliament Standing Committee Presentation 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 by George Jambia and Cassian Sianga**

### **General**

George Jambia – a Steering Committee member of TNRF made a presentation of the TRAFFIC report to the Standing Committees Planning and Economic Affairs (Kamati ya Fedha na Uchumi) and Cassian – member of TNRF Secretariat made a similar presentation to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. These are some of the reactions observed after the presentation:-

- A total of 25 MPs attended the session held by Dr. George Jambia and according to him the Vice Chairperson was very keen on the report. 6 other MPs were also very keen and the following discussion after the presentation (Tandahimba MP very excited) and 8 MPs were a bit quiet while 2 MPs were reading newspapers (Ijumaa and Sani). This is just like having a village meeting it is not possible to have all of them participating.
- After the presentation we have information that the MPs Rejected the budget presented to them by MPEE partly because of Dr. Jambiya's presentation. They told the MPEE to go back and to prepare a proper strategy for sustainable domestic revenue collection. We are also informed that the whole two day session has received quite a lot of press. The committee was very complimentary on the TRAFFIC report and the Committee Chair was asked by the Members to organize a separate session just on this report at a future date.
- 22 out of 30 MPs attended the presentation made by Cassian. The Chairman of the Committee - Hon. Job Ndugai was very positive and other members very vocal (Prof. Raphael Mwalyosi - MP Ludewa, A. Shah - MP Mafia, and Riziki S. Lulida - MP Lindi) and most if not all were following the discussion keenly.

### **Key issues observed**

From the two presentations made there are several key issues that we came up with which have been highlighted:-

- It is key for both committees to clearly understand the report as they are both important for natural resources policy change in Tanzania and increased revenue collection.
- The Environment and Natural Resources Committee said that they have not seen the report though it is with the ministry for more than a month.
- Concerned with the amount of revenue lost that can support other development initiatives the Committees wanted to visit the Ministry and have concrete figures of revenue loss and the staff involved.
- Question the chain of corruption in the whole process as the companies doing the business are known by the government and those importing are also known.
- Committee claim that they have been hijacked for not been informed of the real situation in the TRAFFIC report by MNRT.
- Committee promised that they will follow up the report in the Ministry of NRT
- As presenter George and Cassian) have a feeling that correct information from Ministry is not reaching MPs or committees either in time or not at all.
- Linking the TRAFFIC report to MKUKUTA and increased poverty at local level can lead to a lot of questions at all levels not only to these committees.

### **What next**

We think that we cannot let the contents of the report go at this stage but should push it further. Currently there are two areas that we can take the issue further.

- Hold a meeting in Dodoma during Bunge session on what information they need that we can provide, and what support they need from us. This will assist in empowering the committees further by building their capacities to question the government.
- The Tanzania Forest Working Group is in a process of developing an advocacy campaign based on the TRAFFIC report. Funding proposals for the campaign will be developed and hopefully will be funded.