



## **Tanzania Forestry Working Group Quarterly Report March – May 2007 – Cassian Sianga**

### **Forest Working Group Objectives**

The objectives of the Tanzania Forest Working Group is to develop its capacity and effectiveness to promote national Good Governance and effective forest management by collaboratively developing and implementing an information management programme with forest stakeholders to support long-term awareness raising, focussed advocacy and training needs'.

The Action Plan for year 2007 has been broadly developed from the Forestry Working Strategic Plan 2007 – 2008. It was decided that it would be best if the Action Plan was designed and implemented in rolling three month periods, drawing on the FWG Strategy and in response to changing needs and priorities.

The priority of activities set out in this Action Plan is the result of the last FWG meeting held in Dar Es Salaam on 1st March 2007, and takes into account practical considerations of time management and best use of resources available. In this regard, a primary consideration is what can realistically be achieved in relation to the human and financial resources currently available. The plan also takes into consideration other commitments that the Forest Governance Programme Officer is likely to have - such as having enough time to assist partner organizations as the need arises, and participating in occasional SWAP and other technical FBD meetings. This report covers the months of March to May activities that were planned and implemented and explains activities that were planned and not implemented with reasons behind them and activities that have been implemented but were not in the plan.

### **Planned activities and achievements**

- Attended an International Workshop on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) held in Addis with MNRT staff. This was a forum for practitioners, policy makers and researchers where they share information on PRM. In this workshop it was apparent that Tanzania was far ahead in terms of policies, regulations and guidelines towards the implementation of PFM. Tanzania is also implementing PFM as a programme compared to most of the other countries which are implementing PFM activities as projects.
- Mapping of partner organisation started by making field visits to southern Tanzania organisations. A visit to Rufiji and Kilwa was made and three organisations (Mpingo, IUCN and FAO projects) were visited. A report of the visit is available. It was planned to have more project visits but was not possible due to time constraint and availability of resources.
- Initially there was a plan by TFWG to have a meeting to develop road maps of timber trade. This idea was changed and other meetings were conducted by partners to explore ways of carrying forward the TRAFFIC report. These meetings were done in Dar where meetings were held with Simon Milledge – Director East and Southern Africa TRAFFIC, Steve Ball – Coordinator Mpingo Conservation Project, Charles Meshak – Executive Director TFCG and Adrian Coordinator - EMPAFORM. During the same period a proposal was written seeking funding for the advocacy and public awareness initiative on timber trade which was accepted and funded by GTZ. This was followed by formulating a liaison team proposed by the FWG to plan and organise a strategic plan for the forest advocacy initiative on timber trade. This team had a first planning meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 a report of which is available. After the liaison planning a stakeholder workshop for key forest working group members was held in Dar. The consultative workshop held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May aimed at developing a forest governance advocacy initiative on timber trade. A report is being written and will be available soon. I was involved in the planning, organisation and implementation of the workshop with Andrew Williams

(TNRF Coordinator), Freya St. John (Communication Consultant) and some members of the FWG on some consultations.

- A FWG meeting was scheduled for the period but did not take place. The reason for not having the meeting was an agreement by the liaison group that the minutes of the liaison group meeting and the workshop report be part of the key presentations to this FWG meeting. FWG members are important in giving comments and recommendations to strengthen the recommendations of the advocacy initiative.
- Attended a stakeholder's workshop to the PFM guidelines on cost and benefit sharing in PFM processes a proposal by FBD. The meeting was organised by FBD for its stakeholders in the PFM processes. FBD has seen the importance of communities involved in PFM to get some direct benefits in relation to the costs of their involvement on the whole process. This was seen by FBD as an important issue if they want the scaling up of PRM in the country. The proposal has been agreed by FBD but since it involves money is still not yet operational as it needs the endorsement of the Ministry of Finance.
- Circulations of reports were done as requests but the main aim was to put most of these reports on TNRF website. As soon as the website is finalised most of the reports will be posted there for members and whoever may be interested.
- Updates of members was made as need arose but will be finalised once the website is operational.

#### Activities done and were not planned

- A meeting was held in FARM Africa office to discuss a TOR preparation for a study they are intending to conduct on CBFM and JFM on sustainable forest based livelihoods. The meeting was attended by George Odhiambo – FARM Africa Country Director, Alfei Daniel – Coordinator of Forest Activities in FARM Africa and Saltari Tslaa – Planning Officer - FARM Africa. A continuation meeting planned for April 27<sup>th</sup> but was postponed because Alfei was committed to another mission.
- Attended Policy Forum annual meeting held in Dar.
- Attended a meeting to a presentation on review of donor funding strategy for civil society organisations in Tanzania. The aim was to be able to establish basic key principles for development partner's support to civil society organisations working in different ways on policy influencing in Tanzania and developing a set of criteria for support that the civil society organisations are prepared to respond and live up to. A PDF draft guideline can be available on request. During the meeting which was organised by the Foundation for Civil Society members were requested to make applications if they are interested to participate in Dodoma Bunge session in June.

#### Activities to be implemented in June to August

Six key activities will be undertaken during this period:

- i. The first activity which is also the main task will be **focussed advocacy and awareness-raising** on the '*Forestry, Governance and National Development: Lessons Learned from a Logging Boom in Southern Tanzania*' report. A concept pre-proposal on awareness-raising on forest governance has already been written and funding was provided. A liaison group was formed to do the planning on behalf of the FWG members and a consultative meeting was organised and conducted. A proposal funding proposal for a targeted advocacy and awareness-raising campaign, building on lessons learnt from within Tanzania and further a field will be developed.
- ii. The second activity will be beginning to **meet and map existing and potential FWG partners** in the country. Physical visits have already been made in southern Tanzania and other visits will be made as necessary and consultations held to discuss the work of the FWG and broadening links and developing collaboration on key emerging issues and information sharing and dissemination.
- iii. Third activity is to give feedback to the FWG on the meetings that have been going on in relation to development of the timber trade advocacy initiative.
- iv. The fourth activity will be a final review of the '**People and Environment**' guide, and beginning the collaborative development of a fund-raising proposal for a more strategic approach to providing better information materials for PFM (for example, FARM Africa have expressed a strong interest).
- v. The fifth activity is participation in Sector Wide Approach Programme Steering Committee meetings that will be organised by the Forestry and Beekeeping Department and circulating minutes of the meeting to members. This is the last decision making body which gives advice to the Director of Forestry and Beekeeping the approach and implementation activities of the Division.
- vi. The fourth activity is fundraising to cover the costs for the implementation of the activities.
- vii. The last is to participate in other meetings or attending other issues as members may request from the Secretariat.

