



The Tanzania Forestry Working Group

Background

The Tanzania Forestry Working Group (TFWG) was first formed in 2005 in an effort to coordinate advocacy initiatives and raise awareness on critical issues in the forestry sector. Hosted and coordinated by the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), the overall goal of the group has been to bring together a vibrant and effective coalition of non-state actors – organizations and individuals - working to improve forest governance in Tanzania. Through awareness raising and advocacy the group seeks to hold government as well as non-state institutions accountable and help provide appropriate support for these institutions to better manage forestry resources.

TFWG brings together members, often with some of their partners and other actors, to:

- Share ideas, build knowledge and facilitate lesson-learning opportunities on forestry and forest issues
- Strengthen skills and capacity for effective and well-coordinated advocacy efforts
- Identify key issues for collaborative action

Wherever possible, TFWG members take up and roll out lessons and actions identified by the group in their own individual or organisations' work and engagement with forestry related matters.

Since its inception, TFWG has been instrumental in a number of initiatives in Tanzania, including the design of a five-year campaign known as 'Mama Misitu Campaign (MMC)', which aims to improve forest governance in the country and contribute to the development of Tanzania's policies on forestry related issues. Members of the TFWG have been meeting regularly to discuss issues in forestry governance and respond to emerging problems and opportunities. The TFWG has its own strategy (2012 – 2016)¹ to guide its engagement with local, national and international processes and initiatives with clear, agreed and well-coordinated direction and action.

Vision and Mission of the Group

Vision

TFWG aspires to help achieve improved governance of the forest sector leading to equitable and sustainable forest management in Tanzania.

Mission

TFWG provides a dialogue platform for:

- Sharing information and knowledge on matters related to the forestry sector in Tanzania
- Advocating for improved governance of forests through better practice and effective policies, laws and programs

¹ More information about TFWG, including its strategy, can be accessed here: <http://www.tnrf.org/groups/forest>

Main areas of engagement

TFWG's main areas of action include:

1. *Focused dialogue*: Facilitating regular member meetings focused on clear agendas for sharing specific information and developing strong strategies for advocacy.
2. *Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG)*: Enabling particular attention to forest governance lesson-learning and tactical policy influence, links to private sector and government actors, and connection with international forums on forest and land use governance and justice.²
3. *Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)*: *Strengthening analysis and action in the forest sector to realize opportunities of CBNRM*.
4. *Mama Misitu Campaign*: Drawing lessons, testimonies and challenges from timber trade and forest management practices on the ground for advocacy at national levels and as learning opportunities for members.
5. *REDD+*: Sharing experience from REDD+ pilot projects and national strategy and developing joint positions and strategies to help improve REDD+ processes in the country.
6. *Resource development*: Securing adequate resources (financial, material and staff capacity) for growth and sustainability to implement this strategy.

Membership of the group and core values

Group membership is guided by strategic areas for engagement (such as, MMC, FGLG, CBNRM, REDD+ etc.) or emerging issues of relevance to the group. Membership of TFWG is **not** obligatory or registered, but is driven by issues or matters that require attention from the members engaged.

The following areas for engagement draw members to TFWG:

- Core membership is made up of civil society organizations that subscribe to and support the long term objective of the TFWG
- Relationship to projects and strategic areas for engagement as based on the specific areas of interest and competency of the members concerned (MMC, REDD, CBNRM, FGLG etc.)
- Membership to TFWG is also eligible for government officials, private sector, development partners and others who agree with the mission of TFWG

TFWG members are expected to share and practice the following core values:

- *Equity and gender awareness*
- *Responsiveness to members, partners and emerging issues*
- *Accountability (downward, up-ward and lateral) and integrity*
- *Participation of stakeholders in decision-making*

² The Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) is hosted in Tanzania by TNRF. FGLG is an informal alliance of in-country groups and international partners currently active in eight African and three Asian countries (<http://www.iied.org/forest-governance-learning-group>)

