

Dear Director of Forest Beekeeping Division from MNRT,

Mrs. Gladness Mkamba

Dear Representatives from Tanzania Forest Services,

Dear colleagues from Mama Misitu, TNRF, MJUMITA, NFBKP,

Dear Academician, Researchers and Media Representatives

Dear partners for development from the Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector and Mama Misitu, and dear guests.

It is with joy and satisfaction that the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation witness the Lunch of the Mama Misitu TV Campaign for a Sustainable Charcoal Value Chain.

Thank you for the invitation.

Future biomass demand in Tanzania will increase, whether we want that or not. Urbanization of Dar es Salaam and other cities in Tanzania will continue and the urban population will reach 30% or more percent. Because they will be lacking reliable alternatives in the two decades to come, the majority of these urban dwellers will buy and use charcoal, regardless of whether it will be sourced sustainably or not and of whether it is traded illegally or not. However, biomass from natural forests will not suffice. That's why on the one hand good village guardians of their forests are needed but on the other hand also alternatives to natural forests for biomass production – plantations owned by individuals or collectives – need to be available.

Because the Swiss Government believes that actual trends in charcoal may be both - a big opportunity – or a big threat for rural landscapes it is convinced that it is worthwhile working with Tanzania on the legality and the sustainability of the biggest cash crop of the country. Biomass energy

production may become the driving force for change and for sustainable forest management through communities and also for sustainable energy production in the country.

The necessary legal framework for a related private sector initiative including small scale farmers needs to be strengthened, villages and communities should be the ones profiting first and foremost from a sustainable management of their village forests as an incentive to sustainably use natural resources under their own auspices and own competence for their own development.

You heard it before, there are still challenges on the local operational level but also on the local policy level, not to speak about intermediate and national levels. If Tanzania's Charcoal is to be legalized we need stakeholders on all levels coordinated to tackle them.

Our vision is that

1. A realistic and modern policy shapes supply and demand for charcoal energy in Tanzania
2. Technical, financial and political capacity and advice on the local level to
 - do local land use planning;
 - practice sustainable forest management ;
 - advocacy for Community Based Managementon the villages level will be sustainable.
3. A sustainable biomass value chain exists and is preferred by urban consumers – at the same time it provides sustainable livelihoods to farmers, transporters and traders.

We need enduring communication platforms, fora and campaigns like Mama Misitu TV campaigns, bringing projects, different levels of government and different schools of thought together to work on the charcoal challenge together.

The Swiss fund Sustainable Charcoal Project in Kilosa was so far just a tiny pilot. It is with satisfaction to see an alliance of people from different levels of government, development partners, implementing partners and communication media is forming and growing stronger and becoming more coordinated thanks to activities like the Mama Misitu TV Campaign.

Switzerland is now with its partners from Local Government, TFCG, MJUMITA and TATEDO preparing the next phase of the Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector project, which will work closely with stakeholders from the Tanzania Finnish Sustainable Forest Management Project succeeding NFBKP.

We thank the stakeholders from Mama Misitu for the good work promoting the Kilosa example and are committed to further distribute the shared messages with Mama Misitu and wish your campaign the best possible success.