

HIMA - LUDEWA

PHYSICAL CATCHMENT SURVEY REPORT



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

L/2/Multi/98/1

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ludewa district is one of the five districts in Iringa region. The Natural Resources Conservation and Land Use Management Project (HIFADHI YA MAZINGIRA - HIMA) - Ludewa started in 1998. Two priority divisions, Mawengi and Mlangali were selected due to the following:

- (a) The two divisions are the main producers for both crops and livestock and have the highest population (over 50% of Ludewa district population)
- (b) Enviromental degradation in the two divisions is quite high in the divisions due to agricultural activities(crops and livestock production).

HIMA in carrying out its activities is using the catchment approach whereby catchments are used in the cause of applying interventions agreed upon between the stakeholders (farmers, extension staff and HIMA). Catchments to start HIMA activities in the two catchments had thus to be selected.

The methodology that was used in carrying out the physical catchment survey was by:

- ◆ Use of topographical maps.
- ◆ Use of transect walks.
- ◆ Use of discussion with some farmers.
- ◆ Use of binoculars in dangerous areas (wild animals, big gullies etc.) where the team could not visit.

The critenons which were used in selecting the priority catchments in each division were:

- ◆ Total water production.
- ◆ Dry season water supply.
- ◆ Extent of forest cover and need for forest resources conservation.
- ◆ Boundary intergrate.
- ◆ Level of biodiversity (endemism).
- ◆ Number of intakes and their importance.
- ◆ Extent of agricultural activities.

The priority catchment for Mawengi division is Luana which comprises Mawengi (although a small portion falls in Malisa catchment), Mbwila, Luana, Mholo, Ludewa urban, Ludewa rural, Milo, Mavala and Mapogoro villages. For Mlangali division, Malisa catchment was selected and the catchments comprises of Luvuyo, Madope, Utilili, Lusala, Lupanga Masimbwe, Itundu, Kiyombo, Ligumbilo, Lufumbu, Lupande, Madunda and Kiwe villages.

Demographic information gathered from the two catchments, Malisa and Luana indicate that Ludewa district has 53,607 females and 46,609 males according to 1998 census. There are 23,314 females and 20,764 males in the two catchments. As regards to migration pattern, age group of between 15 - 25 years are the ones who migrate more to town centres thereby depriving the villages of an important work force. The 1975 villagization land tenure policy still holds in Ludewa district and in the surveyed catchments. However, the "Lilungulu" customary land tenure system whereby land is owned customarily by family clans has infiltrated again after the slowing down of Ujamaa policy.

Most of the surveyed area is suitable for various types of livestock, but the current livestock husbandry i.e. extensive rearing is uneconomical. Extensive rearing system contributes much to land degradation due to overgrazing and burning of the grassland for fresh pastures.

Destruction of water sources is another disadvantage of this system. Nutritional benefits of the livestock are not obtained by the farm families due to the fact that animals are left unattended and thereby products not collected or utilized.

During this study, it was observed that there are no clear ward and village boundaries since there was no demarcation in the old and new villages. In future this will lead into boundary conflicts. Villages have no land use management plans hence land is not utilized as per land suitability and capability qualities.

Frequent uncontrolled wildfires in the district and within Luana and Malisa catchments are depleting the old and newly regenerating natural forests. Indiscriminate tree cutting for opening up of new farms and encroachment within the central government forestry reserves and miombo woodlands lead to diminishing of natural forests and biodiversity. Farmers, particularly in Malisa catchment, are faced with several shortages of construction materials and fuelwood. Women are forced to walk long distances for fuelwood collection and hence have less time for agriculture and activities related to income generation.