

**STUDY ON COMMUNITY BASED FOREST
MANAGEMENT FOR MAKETE**

A Final Report Submitted to HIMA MAKETE

by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One rationale for Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) is that when communities are given the responsibility to manage resources collectively, that sense of ownership of the resource turns these people into better managers. It has been argued by social foresters that, in many instances, the transfer of property rights from traditional user groups to state control largely eliminates the incentives for monitoring and restrained use, converts former owners into poachers and exacerbates the resource depletion it was intended to prevent. Experiences from elsewhere in Tanzania and Africa show that levels of poaching and other 'illegal' activities are significantly reduced when local communities are paid out a share of profits from wildlife safari hunting.

Another rationale for CBFM is the declining government capacity to protect forests. In Tanzania, for instance, both central and local governments' capacity to protect forest reserves is declining due to budgetary constraints.

The key concern for CBFM is to have a locally-based decentralised, people-oriented, ecologically sustainable forestry development, which can enrich dynamic balance between humanity and natural resources.

For CBFM to succeed, the communities surrounding forest resources must show their willingness and ability to manage their own resources. Evidence from the survey carried out in the ten villages shows that they are eager to manage the forests and they possess intimate technical knowledge of these forests. The local names given to literally every tree species in these forests and the different ways in which they can be used is a testimony to the extent to which they are best informed of the resources around them. In any case, they have already shown the direction of how they can manage through activities such as putting out wildfires and filing suits of some illegal users of forest resources to higher authorities.

Against this background, therefore, we propose a number of steps towards CBFM. First, only those villages that have customary land rights within the Numbe Valley Forest Reserve and Luwumbu public land forest be involved in the CBFM, that is: Luwumbu and Uganga for the Luwumbu; and Lugoda, Igenge, Nkondo, and Ujuni for Numbe. However, other villages can be involved in some form of CBFM in relation to their own "micro-forests".

Secondly, in the case of the gazetted Numbe Valley Forest Reserve, there should be some form of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry responsible, Makete District Council and the respective villages for a period of 15 years in order to eliminate any potential conflicts of protocol and management between the local and central government.

Thirdly, the establishment of boundaries of each village's forest area (Hifadhi ya Kijiji). Each village should appoint a boundary marking team jointly with neighbouring villages, for the purpose of agreeing and demarcating the in-forest boundaries they share.

Fourthly, through a series of meetings moderated or facilitated by the Divisional or Ward Forest Officer the villages in question should prepare elaborate village plans. The plans should indicate how the day to day management is to be operationalized, the responsibility of the Village Mazingira Management Team and detailed forest use rules which will form the basis for locally adapted by-laws.

Fifthly, in relation to institutional arrangements, Luwumbu and Uganga should establish their "Village Forest Reserve" while the Makete District Council should be the "owner" under memorandum of understanding of the Numbe Valley Forest Reserve delegating most management responsibilities and use rights to the four villages under the facilitation (not supervision) of the Matamba (and Bulongwa) Divisional or Ward Forest Officer. For these efforts to succeed, the whole exercise should be taken within the context of the entire socio-economic set-up of the respective villages.

Finally, indicators should be developed for monitoring and evaluating the proposed Community Based Forest Management Programme. Indicators determine how we can measure to what extent the objectives have been achieved at different times. Measurements can be both quantitative and qualitative. In the context of Logical Framework Approach (LFA), indicators specify performance standard to be reached in order to achieve the development objective; the intermediate objectives and outputs.