

Udzungwa Mountains Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation (UMFM)

Country	Tanzania
Sector	Environment
National Agency	Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT)
Implementing partners	District Catchment Forest Office (DCFO) in collaboration with <i>i.a.</i> the District Natural Resources Office, Iringa District Council, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Frontier (NGO), other NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and research organisations
Duration	Until December 31 st 2003
Starting date	June 1 st 1999
Overall Budget	DKK 19,970,000 ~ USD 2,371,734 (February 02) ~ Tsh 2,170,652,174 (August 02)

Description

The Udzungwa Mountains' forests form part of the Eastern Arc Mountain range and are of economic, social and environmental importance. The forests contain important sources of timber and non-timber forest products utilised by the local communities. These include building poles, fuelwood, household utensils, traditional medicines, honey, thatching materials and bush meat. These forests are also home of areas of local cultural importance, critical watersheds for Tanzania's hydro-electric power generation and they are internationally recognised sites of high biodiversity and endemism. Uncontrolled harvesting of forest products and ineffective forest management are the causes for the degradation of the Udzungwa Mountains forests. A key element of the new Forest Policy (1998) is the emphasis placed on Joint Forest Management (JFM) based on active community participation in the protection, management and use of the Forest Reserves (FR) currently managed by the Central and Local Governments.

Immediate Objectives

First, to develop, test and implement widely replicable Joint Community-based Forest Management models for Environmentally sustainable production, use, management and protection of natural forests and woodlands in the pilot areas.

Second, to support capacity development in natural forest, woodlands and biodiversity resource management in Iringa District.

The underlying strength of the Immediate Objectives is that they define the two crucial levels of MEMA activity: first, to assist villages and communities and, second, to support District-level capacity to sustain this activity.

The UMFM Component will be supported during Phase I for a period of 4 years. The outputs will be:

The first Immediate Objective requires seven outputs

1. Replicable participatory systems for mountain forest management developed.
2. Socio-economic, marketing, vegetation and biodiversity surveys undertaken.
3. Joint Forest Management Plans for pilot areas and indicators for impact monitoring established.
4. Village and forest boundaries mapped and demarcated in collaboration with local communities and relevant authorities.
5. Activities aimed at better forest management inside the target forest areas and improved forest resources management outside the targeted forest areas supported.
6. Marketing of forest products supported.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation System established.

The second Immediate Objective requires five outputs

1. Selected district-wide activities aimed at capacity development for improved natural resource utilisation and management supported.
2. Identify and develop local systems of revenue generation, collection and retention, which provide durable incentives for improved forest resource management.
3. District-level training and capacity building for technical and administrative staff of IDC and FBD established.
4. Research projects and bibliographies supported.
5. Management structures, staff equipment, vehicles and buildings necessary for project implementation established.

Phase I will be undertaken with a commitment of long-term follow-up support.

Pilot area

The Catchment Forest Reserves selected for first phase are:

- 1) Part of West Kilombero Forest Reserve (5.000 ha) west of Udzungwa National Park in the Eastern part of the district. Target villages are Udekwa and Ifuwa.
- 2) New Dabaga/ Ulongambi Forest Reserve (3.728 ha) 50 km South of Iringa town. Targeted villages bounding this reserve are Isele, Lulanzi, Lusinga, Ilamba, Kidabaga and Magome.

Management

The component is managed jointly with the Natural Woodlands Management Project (NWMP) by the Joint Project Management Unit (JPMU). The two components are comprising the MEMA Projects; which is an abbreviation of Swahili: Matumizi Endelevu ya Misitua ya Asili (Sustainable use of natural forests).

Contact

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