

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF TANZANIA (WCST)
THE ULUGURU MOUNTAINS BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROJECT
(UMBCP)**

**DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC LAND
FORESTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY FOREST RESERVES OF THE
ULUGURUS**

BY

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INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST) in collaboration with Danish Ornithological Foundation (DOF) established a DANIDA funded Biodiversity conservation project in Morogoro for the Ulugurus known as the Uluguru Mountains Biodiversity Conservation Project (UMBCP). The project implements its works in collaboration with four partners: Natural resources office, UMADEP, Catchment and WCST itself

The Natural Resources Office part of the UMBCP had in year 2000 undertook relevant activities that will enable to reach the indicators set out in the logical framework. The main aim being to promote conservation of the Ulugurus through provision of inputs that relate to the development of forestry activities and program reforestation in identified denuded areas/slopes.

As regards to output 3.2 of the logical framework the following activities were done: identification of the remaining public land forest in the area, developed relationship with village leaderships and the district forestry department and held committee meetings in several villages in the project area. Agreements with the village leaderships of villages were also made. Establishment and demarcation of village forest reserves has been completed in one village of Ludewa and is still continuing to four villages in the project area.

Committee meetings were also held in the villages. In addition, identification of areas for reforestation was done and still the work is continuing. Nevertheless, the output in question can not be achieved within the three-year life span. It needs more time for an output to be realized. Especially for the case of JFM as it need a lot of processes and commitments. This report gives progress that has been achieved by the natural resources office part of the Uluguru Mountains Biodiversity Conservation Project (UMBCP).

PROJECT AREA

The project area covers nine villages, which are in Tegetero and Kinole Wards of Mkuyuni Division (Fig. 1). Mkuyuni lies on the eastern side of the Uluguru North Forest Reserve 50 kilometres away from Morogoro town. Its elevation ranges from 300 – 1000 m.a.s.l at the Mbezi River and boundary of the forest reserve, respectively. The climate ranging from tropical humid (at the bottom) to subtropical (at the top) allows the production of tropical crops such as banana, pineapple and citrus for food and coconut coffee and spices for cash.

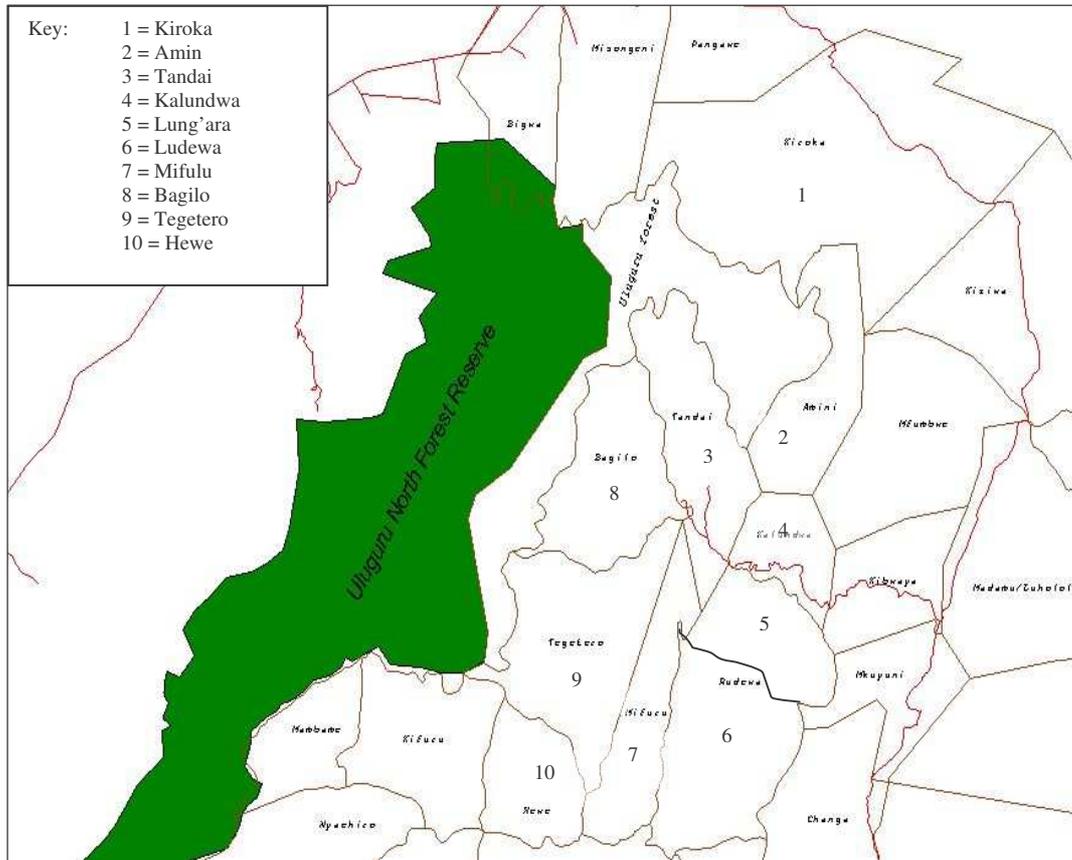


Figure 1: Map of Uluguru North showing the villages covered by the Uluguru Biodiversity Conservation Project.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL VILLAGERS OVER THE ALLOWED USE OF FOREST RESOURCES IN THE ULUGURU PUBLIC LAND FORESTS.

Development of relationship with village leaders and district forestry

Project staff under the Natural Resources Office and District Forest Officer paid courtesy visit to government leaders in the project area and get them introduced to them. In addition, the objectives of the project were also introduced. Leaders visited included Mkuuni Divisional Executive Officer, Kinole and Tegetero Ward and all Village Officers.

The project staff held several formal and informal meetings with some local people and other partner staff (i.e., UMADEP and RCFPO) stationed at Kinole. They also attended and discussed with the Tegetero and Kinole ward development committees. There was also a Kinole Ward Development Committee meeting that invited the Project staffs to attend. A copy of the minutes of this meeting was also made available to our office.

Workshops

One workshop on Joint Forest Management was conducted in collaboration with the Environmental Education Section-WCST to all village leaders. This workshop was meant to create awareness to these leaders on environmental conservation and issues pertaining to new vision of the forest policy.

Three members of staff attended a workshop that was organized by UMADEP to gain knowledge and experience on PARTICIPATORY EXTENSION APPROACH

Identification of the remaining public land forest.

Before developing any agreements with forestry department and villagers, identification of the remained public forests had to be done first. So far the preliminary surveys have been undertaken in four natural areas in the project area (Fig. 2).

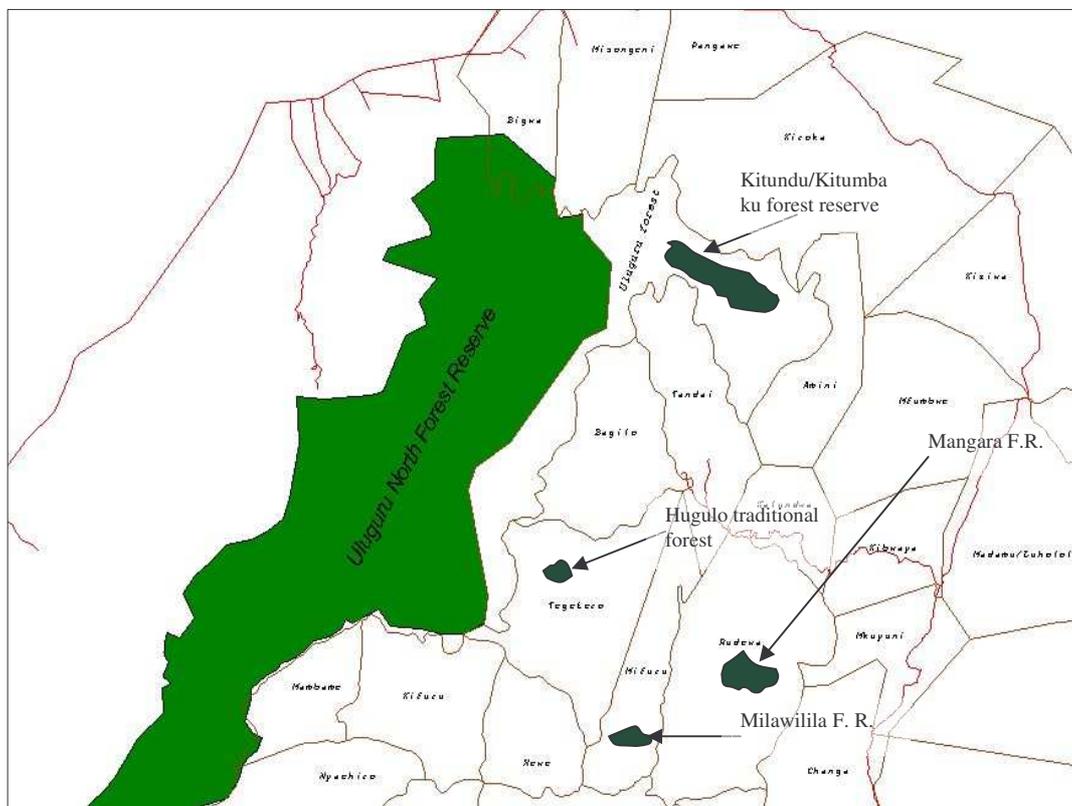


Figure 2: A map showing villages and remaining public forests already surveyed in the project area.

Milawilila natural forest

A survey was done in Milawilila natural forest that is in Mifulu village in Tegetero Ward. In this survey, signs of exploitation of valuable timber, e.g., *Milicia excelsa*, *Khaya anthotheca*, and *Newtonia buchananii* were seen. Encroachment was also rampant. Some indecent villagers have been clearing the forest for farms.

Kitundu (Kitumbaku) forest

A preliminary survey that was done at Kitundu forest on Tandai village side revealed that there are big forest patches remained with some trees. This forest reserve is a public land forest that is also surrounded by three other villages, namely Amin, Kiroka and Bamba. Amin and Tandai villages are in the project area but Kiroka and Bamba are not included. It was also observed that the cleared land and some of the forest patches belong to people. It was also noted that the clearing for farms and logging were still going on. Efforts have already initiated to meet with the village council to discuss about this issue and try to come up with a solution.

Kalundwa village forest reserve

A survey to set an area for establishing the Kalundwa village forest reserve was made on 2nd November 2000. Project staff stationed at Kinole, members of village council and the village forest committee, did the survey. The area that was surveyed is about 15 acres. This area was divided into two portions: one was earmarked for establishing village forest reserve and the second part was set for a secondary school that is in their long term plans.

It was agreed that trees would be planted along the farm boundary and scattered trees in the area that is set for secondary school. For the portion that was set for village forest it was agreed that, a *taungya* system would be adopted whereby trees will be planted concurrently with agricultural crops. Farmers will take care of both trees and crops in several seasons until when the tree crowns grow big enough to give no more chance for crops to establish. The village forest committee will divide the area into small farm plots to the villagers.

Hugulo traditional forest

Another survey of a traditional forest known as HUGULO of Tegetero village was made on 11/12/2000. This forest was estimated to be 3 hectares and was said to be intact in the past when it was under *wanyani* clan. Presently the boundary can not clearly be indicated because of encroachment. People have opened farms inside the forest and plant perennial crops like coffee. Most part of the forest is open with some trees that have their bark already peeled at diameter at breast height (DBH) for the purpose of drying them.

After a discussion with the village leaders, it was agreed that: All the destructive activities presently taking place in the forest should be stopped forthwith; and the forest boundary has to be resurveyed to disclose its original lines before encroachment took place. It was also agreed that all farmers who are bordering the forest were asked to honour the forest boundaries and that gaps inside the forest and the boundary of the forest have to be filled by planting indigenous tree species. UMBCP was requested to provide seedlings of *Khaya anthotheca* and “*Mbalazi*” when planting season is due.

All the activities mentioned above would be done by a group that was formed at the meeting known as VIJANA MLAMKE-TEGETERO and will be supervised by the village leadership and UMBCP staff. Lastly it was agreed that the traditional forest would remain under the ownership of the *wanyani* clan.

Village Meetings

To tackle the issue of JFM the project held a total of 18 village meetings in the project area including village council and assembly (Table 1) during 2000.

Table 1: Village meetings held in the project area during 2000 for JFM

Village	Village council meeting	Village assembly meeting.	Total
Amini	2	-	2
Tandai	1	2	3
Kalundwa	1	1	2
Bagilo	1	-	1
Mifulu	2	-	2
Lung'ara	1	-	1
Ludewa	1	1	2
Hewe	1	-	1
Tegetero	1	1	2
Kiroka	2	-	2
Total	13	5	18

From the table above it can be observed that Kiroka village, which is not in the project area, is shown. Actually, this is because it was disclosed that the Kitumbaku forest reserve that is one of the identified areas for implementing JFM covers four villages including Kiroka itself. There is no way of doing JFM without collaborating with this village.

Village Council Meetings

The project facilitated 13 village council meetings on JFM in the project area which constitute 59% of all the meetings held during 2000 (Fig. 3). Majority of villages in the project area had held one committee meeting. Only three villages had two committee meetings, namely Amin, Kiroka and Mifulu.

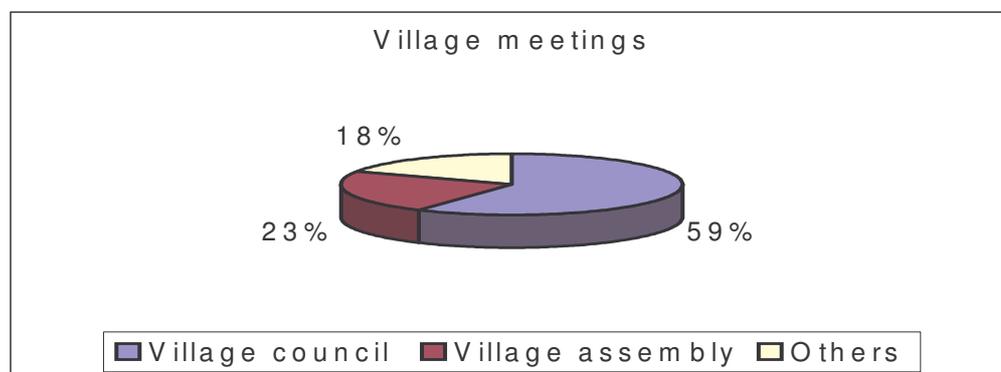


Figure 3: Village meetings held during 2000 for creating awareness on JFM in the project area.

In all the meetings the project staff sensitized members of the meetings on the importance of Uluguru Mountains and awareness on environmental conservation. The involvement of villagers to establish **Village/Private Forest reserves** as stated in the new national forest policy (1998) was elaborated. The procedures to gazette and declare a forest as “**Village Forest Reserves**” was given especially for villages that have forests already existing. The attitude of members towards establishment of village forest reserve in almost all areas was positive. In principle they agreed to declare the forest in their respective villages as VILLAGE FOREST RESERVES and agreed to manage them in collaboration with district forestry department. In these meetings knowledge on how to prepare a tree nursery and on how to establish individual wood lots was emphasized.

However, villages that do not have natural forests like Tegetero, Hewe, Kalundwa and Lung’ara, the village leadership had been asked to identify areas for establishing village forest reserves. It was noted that in Lung’ara, there are hills such as Lukenge and King’ino that before deforestation for farms were covered with heavy forests. Presently they are bare.

For villages that did not know how to formulate a village forest committee (VFC) (e.g., Hewe village) members were explained by project staff about it could be formed. In Hewe it was claimed by some members that, the village has a piece of public forest of about 1 acre called Kibano and that is rich of *colobus* monkeys. However, some other members said that the forest belongs to a certain family and that it is used to be a sacred area.

Village assembly meetings

Of all meetings held in the project area during 2000, 23% were village assembly. In these meetings project staff were given an opportunity to elaborate on the importance of Uluguru Mountains. Awareness on environment conservation was also created and elaboration on the new vision of the national forest policy (1998) in involving local communities in management of forest reserves was given. The staff facilitated on formation of groups for establishing tree nurseries. The disadvantages that would be encountered in the future if proper conservation measures are not taken instantaneously in the villages were pointed out.

In these meetings, it was noted that attitude of people towards conservation was positive and village forest committees (VFC) were formed on the spot. Most of the people showed an interest for planting trees Nevertheless, some villagers in Tegetero village seemed to oppose the notion of establishment of the community forest reserve without giving reasons why they were against the idea. Again the LOZABI area that was identified by the village council to be set for establishment of the village forest reserve raised some negative questions. The issue was eventually left to village chairman for more discussion. People in all meetings promised to form groups for establishing tree nurseries.

Other Meetings

There are other meetings that have been conducted in different villages in order to enable processes of JFM and environmental conservation in general to go as planned. These constitute 18% of all village meetings.

Tandai village

A meeting to discuss some achievements of environmental issues was held on November 13, 2000 at Tandai village between members of the village council committee and UMBCP staff of Kinole office. From matter arised from the previous meeting, the following were noted as achievements: The habit of dumping waste/garbage in the river from the hotels has completely stopped. Hotel owners have dug big pits for putting the wastes. The sheep and goats, which used to be a threat to the planted tree seedlings, have been stopped from roaming around. The Pombe (local brew) shop, which had no latrine before, has constructed one and is now in full swing.

The following problems still seem to exist in the village: The act of washing and bathing in the river. Some households have not yet constructed their latrines and bathing places. Latrine at market place has not yet been put in place

It was also agreed upon that follow-ups should be made to the following issues: The village health committee has to make an inspection survey from household to household to record those, which have no latrines and bathing places. To look into a possibility for constructing a latrine at the village market. To put posters in each sub-village to warn people from polluting water and environments while the village's by-laws are being drafted out.

Kiroka village

The village council, UMBCP staff and the District Forest Office (DFO) met at Kiroka village office on November 16, 2000. The main aim of that meeting was to discuss and explore ways of incorporate Kiroka village in the collaborative management of the Kitumbaku forest reserve. The following issues were discussed included the destructive activities that are being conducted in the Kitumbaku forest reserve, which were pointed out. And actions to be taken to conserve the forest were tentatively given.

Remarks noted from that meeting:

The attitude towards conservation of the forest reserve was positive
The Kiroka village council committee on behalf of the whole village agreed to conserve the Kitumbaku forest reserve in collaboration with other villages (i.e., Amin, Bamba and Tandai). However, it was agreed that since proper boundaries for all villages, which surround that forest reserve are not clearly known, the project was requested to call upon all leaders concerned to meet together on 13th December 2000 and resolve the matter harmoniously.

Bagilo village

Another meeting was held in Bagilo village on 23rd November 2000. The meeting that involved the UMBCP staff and members of the village council discussed about several

issues of environment conservation. Project staff raised awareness on the project itself, environmental conservation and the importance of the Ulugurus. The new National Forest Policy 1998 was elaborated. Knowledge on how to prepare tree nurseries was facilitated. Establishment of individual wood lots and village forest reserve was encouraged. The attitude towards conservation was positive and they all agreed to set aside an area for establishing a village forest reserve.

Special meeting held at Kinole P/School

A special meeting was held on 13/12/2000 at Kinole P/School. This meeting involved a representative from the DC's office, Mkuyuni Divisional officer, Kinole Ward Councilor, Ward Executive Officer, DFO, UMBCP staff and villager leaders of Bamba, Amini, Kiroka and Tandai.

The aim of the meeting was to bring together the leaders of the mentioned villages so that they could discuss ways for managing jointly the Kitumbaku forest reserve. And the DC's representative chaired the meeting. Project staff and DFO briefed the audience about the importance of the Ulugurus and the mission of the New Forest policy.

- ◆ After a long discussion, consensus was reached that different centres should be selected whereby leaders would meet to solve the conflict of village boundaries.
- ◆ The UMBCP was requested to invite experts from **the land survey, natural resources and agriculture offices** to participate in the survey so that they can show according to the existing maps, the village boundaries. Project staff were also given mandate for arranging dates to undertake the survey.
- ◆ Also it was agreed that the concerned village leaderships should request the people who are already in the forest to abandon their activities.
- ◆ It was also agreed that those villagers who have attacked the forest should be known by their names and that a list of such names should be made available to the division and district offices
- ◆ Agreed that after the boundary problem has been solved, each village would be responsible to set its own forest reserve.
- ◆ It was further agreed that any areas found open after reserving should be planted with indigenous trees by the assistance from UMBCP technical staff
- ◆ Agreed that the owners of the farms as personal property must plant all areas outside the reserve with trees.
- ◆ It was also informed that tree seedlings would only be distributed by the project for villages that have set areas for establish village (community) forest reserves.

Kiroka – Amin villages

The survey of forest boundary between Kiroka and Amin villages in Kitumbaku forest reserve was conducted on 16th December 2000 by village leaders, DFO, village members, Ward Councilor and UMBCP staff. The elders of the two villages agreed upon the setting of the boundary. Agreed that villagers whose plots are in Amin village that should be requested to stop cultivation activities immediately otherwise legal actions would be taken against them.

The Kiroka village leaders were asked to organize a meeting soon to notify the people who have farm plots in the Kitumbaku forest reserve and to make a pre-survey so that they decide where could the boundary line pass through.

Development of environment/forest committees in the villages

During the period under review, three villages –Kalundwa, Mifulu and Ludewa- formed their forest committee. We anticipate formulating four more forest committees in Tandai, Kiroka, Amin and Bamba before the end of June 2001. Village by-laws will be formulated after each the village has prepared its own forest management plan. This will be done from February towards the end of 2001.

Making agreements with the village leaderships

Since the process of establishing forest reserves in the public land is still in preliminary stages, there is no village that has reached a stage of making an agreement with district council. Most villages are in the stage of formation of VILLAGE FOREST COMMITTEES and MARKING OF VILLAGE FOREST RESERVES. However, project staff in collaboration currently prepares a draft of village forest management plan with village committee of Amin

Establishment of village forest reserves

The RNRO part of the project having established public forests in some villages and school forest reserves in the project area, is now aiming at establishing village forest reserves for the involved villages. These villages include Ludewa and all the villages that surround Kitumbaku forest reserve. Three forest reserves have already established in three villages, namely Amin, Kinole and Kalundwa (Fig. 4).

i) Setting of a Tandai forest reserve

One village meeting was held at Tandai village to discuss JFM matters among other issues. The village agreed to set aside 70 acres of the village land for establishing a VILLAGE FOREST RESERVE (VFR). Agreed by all members that, announcements be made to the whole village that the area which is already set for forest will be divided into small farm plots and given to whoever would require for cultivation in a *taungya* system. It was also agreed that, the environmental forest committee (EFC) to be formed has to make sure that the planted tree seedlings are managed properly.

It was also agreed that the existing patches of natural forest in Tandai village have to be surveyed to identify forest areas that may be managed as forest reserve. Agreed also that the village council committee should inform all the villagers who have farms inside those forests to come out. It was further agreed that a delegation of village leadership, chief's representative and project staff has to survey the forest patches tentatively on 27th and 28th November 2000. Unfortunately this was not fruitful.

ii) Demarcation of Mangara village forest reserve

Ludewa village demarcated Mangara forest as village forest reserve. A visit to notice the demarcated Ludewa Village Forest was done on 12th October 2000. The visit involved Regional Natural Resources Officer, District Forest Officer for Morogoro Rural, Project

Forest Officer, and project staff who are stationed at Kinole and some member of village council and its forest committee.

iii) Marking of Kitumbaku public land forest

Kitumbaku forest reserve is a public land forest that is surrounded by four villages, namely Amin, Tandai, Kiroka and Bamba. Amin and Tandai villages are in the project area but Kiroka and Bamba are not included. This public forest is the one that is where more efforts are been direct by the RNRO part of the project involve the surrounding community in conserving the remaining forests in collaboration with the district forestry department.

Marking boundaries of the Kitumbaku-forest on the side of Amin village as its forest reserve took place from 6th – 10th November 2000. In this work a team of six people was involved. Marking was done using white paint on tree's diameter at breast height (DBH). When marking operation was going on, the marking team found some people coming from Kiroka and Bamba villages cultivating inside the forest reserve. They were asked to abandon cultivation as that area is being set aside for reserve but they refused to do so and said that they were not informed. Then, this issue was sent to their village leaders for discussed on 16th November 2000 as shown in other meetings above.

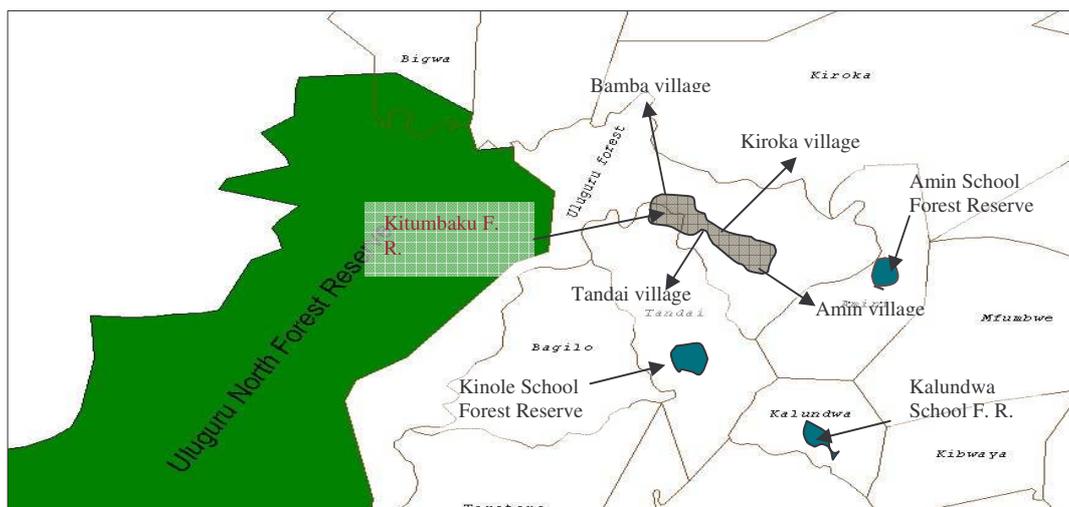


Figure 4: A map of Ulugurus showing a location of Kitumbaku public forest and villages that will collaboratively manage it and School forest reserves.

Exchange visits

- All Village Chairpersons from villages in Kinole and Tegetero Wards were taken to visit Duru-Haitemba and Lushoto to get more exposure on JFM
- Three project staff visited MEMA Projects Iringa to learn more on JFM issues.
- Visited by farmers from Dar Es Salaam and Coast regions **Misitu Yetu Project** on 14th – 15th December 2000. The aim of the visiting group was to learn among other things on how to manage a tree nursery

Visit to Matombo Division

Project staff made two visits to Tawa and Kibungo Juu in Matombo Division with the aim to find out possibilities for initiating nursery activities in those areas for supplying seedlings for planting denuded areas in the southern block of the Ulugurus. Separate reports for these visits were produced and are available in project office.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The work on Joint Forest Management is still at a very preliminary stage and since it has been initiated all means and efforts should be made to continue it to success. Presently more efforts are put towards getting the remaining Kitumbaku forest reserve. Regional Natural Resources Office part of the project will in 2001 make sure that this reserve is demarcated mapped and sub-divided according to the number of villages those surround it. Management plans of each village forest reserve will be established and probably respective by-laws. It is therefore strongly recommended that this issue of JFM be given a special treatment in terms of funds since its operations involve a lot of time and money. For example, more workshops should be conducted to create awareness to people who are actually involved in managing the forest including technicians and politicians.