

Progress on Strategy 1: Monitoring forest Governance and forest condition

Monitoring forest condition

Ruvu south forest reserve will be completely deforested by 2034 at the current rate of deforestation. From our biodiversity and disturbance research and satellite image analysis of the forest, it was revealed that the forest is heavily cleared for charcoal making by gangs who camp inside the reserve. In order to prompt action by the relevant authorities on illegal logging in Ruvu South, we arranged for 3 reporters to visit the forest. They produced 2 articles and two stories on television news. Prompted by this media coverage, FBD allocated 15 million shillings and removed several charcoal camps from the reserve. The FBD manager also offered to renew cooperation with communities.

In Uzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve, the FJT team found illegal logging and hunting causing serious damage to the forest and its biodiversity. Populations of primates and duikers appear to have crashed as a result of hunting pressure. Pressure on the forest is highest close to the villages. Despite the pressure, the team recorded populations of Abbott's duiker, a small antelope endemic to Tanzania, and the Iringa red colobus. Six community members including MJUMITA members from around the respective forests participated in the surveys in order to exchange knowledge.



Progress toward strategy 2: Enforcement promotion

Forty-three forest crimes were reported on our zonal hotlines by community members including MJUMITA members. Of these 43 incidents, 24 cases resulted in action. Some of these reported cases were addressed by the village governments using their bylaws whilst two cases were addressed at the district courts. The project supported MJUMITA members to make follow up on the cases taken to court. In most cases, reports made to the Districts on illegal forest activities did not result in any action. In some cases such as Kibaha and Lushoto, District Forest officers released those accused of carrying out illegal activities and even returned their equipment to them. Community members expressed discouragement at the District's response to their efforts.

Progress towards strategy 3: Research, analysis and communication.

FBD Budget Analysis

The project is committed to identifying the obstacles that prevent the forestry sector from operating in a more effective and equitable way. In light of the Government of Tanzania's commitment to the 'Open Government Partnership', we carried out research and analysis on the budget of the Forestry and Beekeeping Division and the Tanzania Forest Service in order to better understand the budgeting process within FBD and to identify how much is being allocated to manage the forests. From this exercise we learned that:

- It is difficult to get hold of 'published' budget data and much more transparency is needed in order for citizens' to engage effectively in budget discussions;
- The formats that are used in the published budgets make it difficult to relate budgets with activities or targets;
- FBD does not receive all of its approved budget and the budget cuts are passed on disproportionately to the regions;
- The budgeting process within FBD does not prioritise *in-situ* forest management for nationally important forests.

These results are planned to be shared with the government and parliamentary committee for land, environment and natural resources before the next budget parliament session.

Status of JFM in Tanzania

Whilst Tanzania has been lauded for its policy on participatory forest management, joint forest management, where communities manage government reserves in collaboration with local or central government, has stalled over the issue of revenue sharing. The project conducted a study to assess the current status of JFM in the country using 15 villages described by MNRT in 2008 as having operational JFM. The results showed that all of the interviewed communities had developed and approved their forest management plans, by-laws and joint management agreements. On average they approved the plans 7 years ago and submitted them to either FBD or respective districts. Since then only one agreement was signed by FBD with a copy returned to the respective village. However, even the village with the signed agreement has never received any revenue from the government for its participation in the conservation of the government forest. Regardless of all the challenges, communities said that they are still willing to engage in JFM with the government.

In order to understand the Government's response to these findings, we presented them to key staff in the Tanzania Forest Service including the PFM coordinator, the Coastal Forest Coordinator and the Assistant Director for Forest Development. In general the response was that they are working on this issue and are looking at how it could link with the Tanzania Forest Fund. In addition, the PFM coordinator said that they are considering including district councils as a third partner in joint conservation of the central government forest reserves.

In addition, the FJT team linked up MJUMITA members and other community members with journalists to publicise the ongoing problems in Pugu, Kazimzumbwi, Uzungwa scarp and Ruvu south forest reserves.



Charcoal kiln in Ruvu south forest reserve



Hunting of small mammals in Uzungwa scarp

Monitoring forest governance

In terms of monitoring forest governance, during this reporting period our focus was at the village level. The village governance 'dashboard' aims to measure the strengths and weaknesses of community forest governance with a view to improving it. In this reporting period, forest governance was assessed in 120 villages. The results are summarized below:

- 60% of the villages reported that forest destruction is decreasing especially in areas practicing CBFM; this suggests that participatory forest management is working to some degree in Tanzania to enhance forest management.
- Decision making processes and financial management are not transparent at village level. Village governments and village natural resources committee are not keeping records regarding natural resources management. Additionally, most villages were not able to find or did not have their forest management plan, forest bylaws, meetings minutes and other VNRC documents (i.e patrol book, expenditure, revenue obtained from fees and fines etc).
- 13 % of villages hold village assembly meetings the requisite 4 times per year; 13 % hold 0 meetings with the remainder of the communities who were interviewed, holding 2 to 3 meetings.

These results were shared with MJUMITA members during their annual general meeting, in November 2011.



Communities involved in the governance monitoring process in Korogwe



SHIWAMARU MJUMITA network secretary in an interview with a journalist about Ruvu South Forest Reserve