Introduction

Forest Resources: Forest resources are covering about 48.1 m. ha (36%) equivalent to 55% of Tanzania mainland's total area of 88.3 million hectares (INAFORMA 2004).

- 20.6 m. ha is production forests and 28 m. ha are protected forests.
- 59% are forests in non-reserved land and 41% are protected forest areas i.e. FR, Game Reserves & National Parks.
- Forest resources are categorized into woodlands - 44.6 m. ha (93%), and forest plantations, catchment, mangroves and coastal forests occupy 3.5 m. ha (7%) of the forestland.

Ownership of forests:
15.84 m. ha (35%) - CG ; TFS, 3.36 m. ha (7%) - LG, 3.36 m. ha (7%) - PS, 216 m. ha (0.5%), VOs, 2.4 m. ha (5%), GL and 480,000 hectares (1%) other ownerships (TFS Strategic plan July 2014 – June 2019).

Ownership of forests:

Demands and Supply of the forest resources in the country.

The allowable cut in production forest in 2013 was estimated at 42.8 m. m3/year. The annual wood demand stands at 82.3 m.m3/year. The deficit is about 19.5 m.m3/year. Illegal harvesting and forest clear felling of forests is contributing to annual deforestation rate of 372,000 ha/year (INAFORMA 2014).

Experience on the key challenges of SFM.

The key challenges of SFM include:
- Forest encroachment caused by unsustainable conversion of forestlands to other land uses;
- Shifting cultivation;
- Wild fires;
- Human settlements and
- Heavy grazing of livestock.

The conversion of forestland leading to deforestation.

Overdependence on biomass energy - 92% of energy needs is contributing to deforestation and forest degradation

Weak legal frameworks for promotion of private and community based forest management affect decisions to invest in forestry due to:
- Shortage of land;
- Lack of land use plans in the majority village lands and
- Some unclear land and tree tenure; as well as limited incentives

Poor infrastructure development in rural areas is impeding development of alternative sources of income generation for forest adjacent communities.

Markets of non-wood forest products not well developed such that there is over-harvesting of some species

Weak law enforcement on trade of forest products instigates over-exploitation and accelerating forest deforestation:

Population growth, expanding needs: search for farmland and general social economic needs for wood products lead to increased deforestation.

Strategies to reduce deforestation and promotion of SFM.

The effective strategies for SFM based on National Forest Policy Statements, are legally guided by Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 and Forest Regulations of 2004.

- TFS implements its mandate and operations based on Strategic Plan (2005 - 2018/2019).
- TFS is mandated to:
  - Manage sustainably forest and bee resources;
  - Provide forestry and beekeeping extension services;
  - Enforce and promote forest and beekeeping legislation;
  - Quality assurance and rehabilitation of degraded areas and
  - Revenue collection.

Some of the most important initiatives undertaken by TFS for promoting and achieving the SFM practices as well as to improve rural livelihood are as follows:

- TFS is encouraging both Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and Community Forest Reserves (CFR) or Private Forest Reserves.
- TFS is strengthening both Production Forest Management and Community Forest Reserves.
- TFS is continuing to prepare and updates the harvesting plans of production forest reserves.
  - The main advantage of the availability of harvesting plan is to avoid over-exploitation of the forest products from the production forests.
  - In order to have a high level of law enforcement for aiming at reducing the level of illegal harvesting of forest products from the forests.
  - TFS has formed the surveillance unit (in all seven zones) which is working closely with all traders of forest products, making an intensive forest patrols in and out of the forests and inspecting the legality of the forest products.
  - TFS has established strategic check points for further inspecting the legality of the transportation of forest products.
  - There is a country wise awareness sensitization of tree planting in degraded and on-farm areas.
  - The recommended tree species are planted in related planting areas.
  - Covering the deficit of annual wood demand, a total of 85 000 ha should be planted every year.
  - Emphasized by a National Tree Planting Day on 4* April every year.
  - TFS is encouraging both Participatory Forest Management (PFM) forms:
    - JFM that takes place in forests on “reserved land” that has been set aside by government as part of either Local Authority or National Forest Reserves.
    - In many National Forest Reserves, TFS is continuing to establish the JFM with the villagers adjacent to those forests.
    - TFS remain to be the owner of the National Forest Reserves while the villagers become the co-managers.
    - If JFM become in place once TFS and villagers have signed the legal Joint Management Agreement (JMA) of which it describes the cost-benefit-sharing of each part.
    - CBPF is that takes place on village land, on forests that are owned by the Village Council on behalf of the Village Assembly and leads to the establishment of Village Land Forest Reserve (VLFR), Community Forest Reserve (CFR) or Private Forest Reserves.

Conclusions

- The village Land Act (1999), The Local Government Act (1992), The Forest Act (2002) and the forest Regulations (2004) provide the legal base for villages to own and manage forest resources on village land in ways that are both sustainable and profitable.
- The Forest Act provides incentives to rural communities to “reserve” unprotected forests currently outside the forest reserves.
- The incentives include the following:
  - Waiving state royalties on forest produce.
  - Forest Act Section 78 (3).
  - Retaining 100% of revenue from sale of forest products. In many cases, however, they may choose and set the percentage to share with the district in return for services rendered. This does not mean, however, that other taxes (income tax, VAT) are avoided.
  - In areas where the PFM approach has been applied, there is a significant level of deforestation reduction and rate of forest degradation in many forests and high level of improved rural livelihoods.
- TFS has a unit of Publicity and Extension services, which creates awareness raising among the rural people by providing knowledge and skills on sustainable forest management. This is done through media, video shows, exhibition and village assembly meetings.
- Many people have benefited with this strategy through managing their forest resources sustainably by selling the forest products for income generation; in turn, they have improved their livelihoods.

- The village Land Act (1999) provides a legal framework for managing forests in a sustainable manner.
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Some of the most important initiatives undertaken by TFS for promoting and achieving the SFM practices as well as to improve rural livelihood are as follows:

- TFS is working on the updating and preparation of forest Management Plans to suit all 506 forest reserves including plantations.
- The 1998 National Forest Policy Statements (9, 6, 8 and 2) and (20) indicate that all types of forest reserves should be managed based on forest management plans.
- Part III of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002, provides legal backing and describes how planning and management can be achieved through Management Plans for all types of forests.
- Important aspects of the Forest Act (2002) is allowing the participation of relevant stakeholders in forest management plans implementation depending on the type of the forests: Government authorities/agencies, NGO’s, private sector and community representatives are partners.
- The villages have established forest reserves to protect and conserve forest ecosystems for the future generations.
- The reserves are managed by local communities and the government.
- The JFM is similar to the VBFR but is more effective and efficient system for improved financing and sustainable management of forest and bee resources.
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