

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS ROLE IN GOVERNING THE BIO MASS ENERGY SUB SECTOR

Achievements and lessons learned

**Hyatt Regency Hotel,
Dar es salaam**

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1.0 Background

- PMO RALG was re established in 2005 under PMO
- PMO RALG is the champion of D by D
- 25 Regions
- 168 LGAs
- 3338 Wards
- 2747 *Mitaa*
- 11812 Villages
- 31422 Sub villages (*vitongoji*)

2.0 PMO RALG Mandate

- According to the Ministerial Responsibilities Orders and the Presidential Instrument Notes No 494 of 17th December, 2010:
- PMO RALG is mandated for:
 - Championing and implement Decentralization by Devolution
 - Rural Development (Act
 - Urban Development (Act
 - Regional Administration.

Roles And Functions

- Facilitate LGAs to provide quality services
- Managing critical interfaces with MDAs, DPs and LGAs and formulating policies
- Monitoring support provided to LGAs by RS
- Providing quality and timely information
- Providing sound advice to LGAs on policies, approaches systems and planning methodology
- Capacity building
- Providing legal support advice to RA and LGAs,

LGA Mandate on Forest Management

- The National Forestry Policy 1998 (now under review) promoted substantial change in the way forests are managed. The policy aims to promote participation in forest management through the establishment of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs), where communities are both managers and owners of forests, as well as through Joint Forest Management (JFM), where local communities co-manage National Forest Reserves (NFRs) or Local Authority Forest Reserves (LAFRs) with central and local government authorities

LGAs Mandate on Forest Management cont...

- Management responsibilities including undertaking patrols, levy and fines for illegal forest users.
- Issue licenses for forest products; retain forest revenues, set rules and regulations.
- Implement and provide advice regarding the implementation of policies and laws related to forestry
- To receive and approve village forestry by-laws from the villages
- Monitor and assess all activities related to forestry resources management in the district,

LGAs Mandate on Forest Management cont...

- The policy recognizes the substantial area of forest that lies outside the formal forest reserve network and the levels of deforestation and degradation that takes place in these areas due to poor management and uncertain tenure.

The Land Act No. 4 of 1999 and Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999.

- The importance of village government institutions for managing natural resources is enhanced through their legal responsibility for management of village lands according to the Land Act No. 4 of 1999 and Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999.
- The Village Land Act (1999), The Local Government Act (1982) and Forest Act (2002) together provide the legal basis for villages to identify, declare, own and manage forest resources on village land in ways that are both sustainable and profitable

Forest Act 2002.

- The Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 makes explicit reference to the development of forest management by-laws by Village Councils, through the legal provisions provided for under the Local Government Act No. 7 of 1982. The Forest Act reinforces the role of the Village Councils through the formation of Village Forest Committees (which are generally now known as either Village Environmental Committees (VECs), or VNRCs. These elected bodies are defined as accountable sub-committees of the overall Village Council and wider Village Assembly.

Challenges Facing LGAs in the Management of Forest

- Most LGAs are faced with limited capacities in terms of human and financial resource
- The source of revenue for Most LGAs is generated from exploitation of forests and woodlands.
- Lack of coordination of stakeholders at LGAs level
- Political interference (personal interests vs. public duty) – at all levels
- Forest/Natural resources Management has less priority when compared with other sectors within local government
- Changes of leadership within LGAs

Challenges Cont..

- Conflicts between politicians and civil servants
- Contradictions / overlaps / gaps between different government policies
- “Leakage” of harvesting pressure from managed forests on village land to unmanaged village land forests
- Poor accessibility to the villages due to poor terrain
- Conflicts with other land users (eg: agriculture, cattle herders)
- Poor governance at village level – leadership conflicts
- Boundary conflicts in some villages
- Weak enforcement of by laws

Lessons Learned

- There are increasing signs that forest-based enterprises (such as sustainable timber and charcoal production) are creating important incentives for communities to protect and manage their forests.
- Sustainable management of Village Land Forest Reserves eg sustainable charcoal production, rather than strict protection may also be needed.

Way Forward

- A multi sector and Multi stakeholder approach is needed to guide the bio mass sub sector.
- The LGAs should mainstream biomass energy activities in their Development Plans to ensure sustainability of coordination and facilitation of the sub sector activities.
- Development of sector specific policies, strategies and guidelines that will foster sustainability in the charcoal production
- Strengthening frameworks that support private sector participation at LGAs level
- Formation of association(e.g Forest Management Units) economic groups across the whole charcoal value chain

Thank you for your attention

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