



How to Establish Participatory Forest Management

Professor Pius Zebhe Yanda
University of Dar Es Salaam



the Jane Goodall Institute



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

To establish PFM systems the process is broken into three distinct stages

I. Planning for PFM

- The development of an understanding about the forest users and other stakeholders;
- The establishment of an appropriate forest management group;
- The assessment and mapping of forest resources.
- Preparation of Management Plan

Stakeholders Analysis

- Specific questions that the stakeholder analysis ought to answer focus on four elements of forest use and management.
 - Who has what rights to use the forest? (Rights)
 - Who takes what actions in terms of forest management? (Responsibilities)
 - How do the different stakeholders relate to each other? (Relationships)
 - Who benefits from the forest? (Revenues)

II. Negotiating PFM

- The negotiation and signing of forest management plans (detailing forest management activities);
- The negotiation and signing of forest management agreements (specifying roles, responsibilities and rules).

III. Implementing PFM

- The implementation of the forest management plan, and
- Adherence to the forest management agreement by the community forest management group, supported by;
 - government;
 - joint plan and
 - agreement reviews and revision as part of monitoring and evaluation systems.

- Once the PFM process is complete, the system is legalized within an official signed Forest Management Agreement.
- PFM involves the legal transfer of forest resources (use rights) from the government forest services to a community management group.

- This transfer is enabled by, and dependent upon, a negotiated and documented Forest Management Agreement (FMA).
- The Forest Management Agreement clearly details:
 - the negotiated and agreed rights and responsibilities of both parties; and
 - the negotiated and agreed rules and regulations for the sustainable management of the forest resources.

- The FMA is a legally binding contract between a defined community-based institution;
 - (Forest Management Group) and the government (represented by the Forest Services).
- Practical forest management actions are set out in the Forest Management Plan (FMP) which sets out the management objectives.
- These objectives may range from;
 - The conservation of the forest and its environment to
 - The sustainable use of forest resources for economic returns.

- The Forest Management Plan has four thematic sections. These are:
 - forest development
 - forest use
 - forest protection
 - forest monitoring



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