

BRIEF REPORT OF THE 7:30 BREAKFAST DEBATE – MARCH 25th 2016

Illegal Logging in Tanzania: Governance, Opportunities and Challenges

There has been substantial changes in the forestry sector that have also brought in new experiences, challenges and lessons. Some of these developments include the establishment and operationalization of Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), re-focused Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FDB) and increased land and forest based investments such as plantation and local communities' forestry.

Despite this being the case, studies shows that the emphasis on collecting relevant logging and timber trade statistics and information management at the national level, had declined in the years previous to 2006, due to other priorities within MNRT.

As a result of the misplaced priorities in the parent ministry there were not only gaps in information, but the accuracy of the information was highly questionable and, with the exception of revenue information, not subjected to substantial scrutiny or analysis by senior management.

This is why Policy Forum dedicated its March debate on the topic entitled “Illegal Logging in Tanzania: Governance, Opportunities and Challenges”.

Kahana Lukumbuza, Independent Consultant was the presenter of the debate.

Mr. Kahana gave the presentation on **A follow-up study to the 2007 TRAFFIC's report “Forestry, Governance and National Development: Lessons learnt from a logging boom in southern Tanzania and** begun with a background to the study stating that this study was meant to show how far we've come along in implementing recommendations from the traffic report stating that the Mama Misitu advocacy campaign supported by the Finnish embassy in itself an outcome of the traffic report trying to produce advocacy messages from the findings.

He mentioned that there was an urgent need to review the status of implementation of the 2007 TRAFFIC report's recommendations on timber trade and national development and look at whether there have been any developments since the traffic report including the establishment of the Tanzania Forestry Services, substantial increase in investments in forestry in particular in plantations and also community forestry increase in cross border trade in the region with imports from Mozambique, DRC, Zambia and export to Kenya and other points. Due to these investments, there is an increase in dialogue between government and non-state actors

Mr. Kahana then went on to discuss the methodology of the study stating that two consultants worked together during the period 6th July – 31st December 2015. They then gathered information and data, reviewed literature including but not limited to policies, laws and regulations governing harvesting and timber trade, strategic plans and annual action plans for TFS and selected zones and annual harvesting and revenue reports, interviewed key informants from TFS, MNRT, FBD, and District Council forestry officers, private sector and conducted site visits to study areas (Southern, Northern and Southern Highlands Zones).

The top five key issues that were identified from the 2007 study include ; information gaps from the ministry leading to weak decisions not based on sufficient information , low transparency in decision making with possible incidences of corruption , problem in increasing revenues as activities were not implemented because the forestry division did not have the financial human resources , there was also an issue on how accurate the government monitored information in the forestry sector that affected decisions , issue of forest sector and local government ministry authority as forestry falls in both authorities.

Reviewing of developments has shown that there has been seen that there is better reporting in TFS that is regular and has been standardized and follows the country's MTEF, however, it was found that not all managers are using it. They also found standardized reporting formats for the financial reporting using the same official revenue codes and reporting schedule used by governments but still found that some zonal managers did not adhere to these.

Further findings from review of developments include reporting mechanisms at various stages of timber trade that if used properly leaves a paper trail of the trade chain but the question remains why aren't we getting good data, an increase in timber sourced from natural forest reserves and forest plantations but private woodlots. In addition it was found that TFS headquarters do not require sources of products hence records do not clearly indicate where harvesting is taking place exactly and at what rate, information readily from licenses, ERVs and transit passes and government does not receive information and most forest reserves were forest harvesting management plans.

The TFS's current strategy is to invest preferentially in plantations and boundary demarcation, investment in natural forests TZS 462.96 / ha (US\$ 0.22 / ha) compared TZS 35,846 / ha (US\$ 16.67/ha) of plantation). However, there are decreasing resource allocations to natural forest management and villages are increasingly opting for CBFM which gives them greater control over resources on village lands,

Mr. Cassian closed off the presentation discussing findings regarding transparency and knowledge sharing asserting that the relationship between TFS and Local Governments remains strained with District Forest Officers claiming their

involvement is tokenism. In addition, TFS mainly depends on harvesting for its revenues and revenues collected by TFS have increased by 40% over the last 4 years and similarly by 25% at Sao Hill Plantation during the same period. Lastly, he mentioned that coherence and clarity of roles and responsibilities between MNRT and PMO-RALG still remain blurred even though government notice describes roles and responsibilities of DFOs and DFM's but local governments do not support forestry and checks and balances are not effective.

Questions and Comments

- Sustainability plan for natural forests. Are there seedlings to practice afforestation where trees are harvested?
- Legal, economic, social and political recommendations regarding challenges stated and a way forward.
- In theory it is possible to practice re-afforestation while in truth trees planted in plantations are limited and it is expensive to start.
- Put a management system in place that takes advantage of trees natural growth cycle.
- Many recommendations such as the traffic recommendations that were sprouted by previous recommendations, NAOT also put up recommendations. The question would be why these recommendations are not being applied.
- What can be done so government can take on recommendations from different studies?
- People on grassroots levels should be made aware of the need for sustainability of forests be there should be away to provide incentives for them to harvest sustainably.
- Systems and incentives for people to keep planting trees.
- Little benefits from the industry currently and the country have not coordinated its citizens to benefit from it (lack of patriotism).
- Increase production of using timber within the country, need to develop culture of using timber and perhaps that will help people see the benefits of the industry and result into added revenue.
- Increased participation of villagers to increase sense of ownership and for them to be empowered to take care of these products.(combat illegal harvesting)
- TFS promoting auctioning of illegal timbers.
- Promoting co-operation with countries where timber comes from so as to cover up the current deficit facing the country.
- Strong regulations so as to limit illegal harvesting and trade of timber.
- Mainstream what type of products can be used with certain types of timber.
- Social economic issues need to be addressed such as finding sustainable energy source for the population combating charcoal burning and other energy sources that lead to deforestation.

- Re-afforestation and Afforestation needs to be promoted to reduce the gap.
- Need to address issues such as land use especially with an increasing population causing tensions between different sectors such as agriculture, forestry, housing making it necessary to co-ordinate and plan land use.
- Increased education of villagers so as to combat illegal logging.
- Establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that will create legitimacy to talk about other sections.
- Dissemination of knowledge from studies to the public and all relevant stakeholders.
- Implementation of policies and by laws is still an issue.
- Harmonization of activities needs to take place.

Mr. Cassian closed the discussion and he welcomed again participants for the next 7:30 Breakfast Debate.

