

NGOs and forest governance in East Africa

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Its started with the Illegal timber in Tanzania

- The TRAFFIC Report of Illegal Timber in 2007 was prepared in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and the Development Partners Group.
- The report focuses on the illegal trade in timber and key findings are:
 - Massive revenue shortfalls
 - Unsustainable rates of harvesting
 - Collusion among influential players
 - Irreplaceable losses of biodiversity

After the findings...

- The findings were a strong wake up call for government civil society and the nation.
- Although illegal logging has long known to be an issue in Tanzania, the report now detailed the extent of the problem, which is far greater than many had thought.
- It is not just a Tanzanian problem it's a problem in Mozambique as well.

The Illegal trade

- However, until recently ***much of this timber is illegally harvested.***
- In Tanzania alone it is estimated that in 2005, 94% of timber was illegally harvested.
- Why?
 - This is ***due in part to the limited capability of its government (local and national) to implement and enforce forest law.***
- This has come at a cost to Tanzania:
 - in 2005 the loss in revenue due to illegal logging was estimated at US\$58 million – the equivalent of 10,000 secondary school classrooms or the provision of mosquito nets to 11 million people, a quarter of the population.

The regional dimension

- In recent years, in both northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania, ***China has become a key player in the timber trade.***
- Since 1997, Tanzania's export of wood to China has increased in value by almost 1,400%
- Today more than ***80% of timber*** from these two countries is ***exported to China***, with Mozambique being the larger exporter of the two.

Issue of unsustainable utilization

- Harvesting is also occurring at an unsustainable rate, with predictions that in Mozambique the resource will be exhausted in 5-10 years
- At these rates, it is estimated that within 20 years most valuable forests will be depleted in Tanzania. (Forest Governance in Zambezia: Chinese Takeaway, C Mackenzie (2006))

Uses of East African Timber

- The majority of this wood is exported as logs, and to a lesser extent sawn wood, to Guangdong Province, in China, where it is ***used to make furniture, flooring and decorations both for China's growing domestic market and for export to the US and EU.***
- A smaller proportion of the exported wood is used to make wind instruments.

The positive approach of the Government of China

- ***The Chinese Government recognises*** that for trade to be sustainable there is a ***need to ensure that it promotes sustainable development and good environmental practices*** in it's overseas investments.
- WWF sees this as a ***unique opportunity for Tanzania and Mozambique.***
- Hence support at ***national, regional and international levels***

WWF - Coastal East Africa and China for global shift initiatives

- Together these two initiatives will work with key actors in both China and Eastern Africa to:
 - Support ***technical collaboration between China and Eastern Africa*** on issues relating to sustainable forest management, environmental impact assessment and renewable energy technology transfer.
 - Support the ***development and piloting of investment guidelines*** for China's outward investment to Africa.
 - ***Awareness raising and training*** for Chinese operators in Eastern Africa.
 - ***Supporting civil society*** in Eastern Africa to ***track and monitor investments***.
 - Support governments, private sector, civil society and key investors to ***develop strategic vision and plans for trade and investment in Eastern Africa's natural resource sector***
 - The CEA NI has developed ***strong governance and forest components that take into account both the challenges and opportunities under trade, investments and forests***.

In Tanzania -The Mama Misitu campaign

- The ***Mama Misitu*** campaign is an outreach programme to build awareness of the economic value of forests and to advocate for improved forest governance.
- The strength of the ***Mama Misitu*** campaign comes from its partners – 17 influential civil society organisations holding jointly over 190 years of project implementation experience in Tanzania.
- These partners are the lead implementers of ***Mama Misitu*** activities. Their contributions will vary based on specific expertise their geographical location and campaign needs.
- They work closely with government and in a way increase the capacity of government to deal more effectively with forest governance issues in Tanzania

Six issues frame the campaign's awareness messages

1. Increasing stakeholder awareness about the economic value of forests and the need for improved forest governance;
2. Challenging corruption and encouraging improvement of moral values;
3. Improving stakeholder understanding of forest harvest compliance supported by increased availability of information;
4. Increasing local awareness about law compliance and improved prosecution of forest crime;
5. Emphasizing the need to strengthen PFM and improve the speed of its roll out;
6. Improving stakeholder awareness about the need to increase timber export standards.

Conclusions

- The challenges in legal forestry and in forest governance are considerable but not impossible – change is happening
- Forest trade and forest governance are now priority issues in Africa and China
- Closer cooperation is fundamental if there is going to be any success
- China has shown the potential for viable opportunities in the forest industry and trade
- It is an opportune time to seek out these opportunities
- NGOs are supporting these initiatives