



IMPACT OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MONITORING ON PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT, THE CASE OF LINDI AND NACHINGWEA.

The qualitative study conducted to assess the impacts of Social Accountability Monitoring Training on forest management in Lindi and Nachingwea. November 2016

POLICY FORUM
JANUARY, 2017

Executive Summary

This report is meant to provide the key findings of the evaluation conducted in Lindi and Nachingwea on the contribution of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) in the forest sector governance. The design of this study employed qualitative approach in data gathering around the contribution of Social accountability and monitoring in Participatory Forest Management (PFM) using the case of Lindi and Nachingwea.

The evaluation team used different data collection methodology namely Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KII). The main respondents of the study who participated in FGDs were community members and Village Natural Resources Committee members (VNRC). The participants for key informants interviews were Village Executive Officers, Village Chairpersons, Forest product traders, District Planning Officers and District Forest Officers. The collected data were analyzed using an Inductive approach which is usually used to analyze qualitative data. The obtained results were organized and presented based on the objectives of this evaluation.

The findings of this study indicated that the SAM training have improved leader's accountability at district and village level. There is an increased information sharing on the village expenditures among district, village leaders and community members. Previously, only government leader's would sit in the office, plan for their village development priorities and implement them without asking for the community approval. But since the coming of SAM intervention the leader's attitudes and perceptions towards community participation has become very positive. That being the fact, SAM has made great contribution in increasing community participation.

In regard to forest management, there is an increased ownership of the community resources such as forests. The community have been participating through village meeting, engaging in conducting patrols around the village forest reserve. Moreover, information posted on the village noticeboards have also increased the community awareness on what is happening in the village.

In order to make sure that there is sustainable use of forest management, evaluated villages demonstrated different measures taken. The most mentioned include: provision of education on

the importance of forest in human life and fighting against illegal harvesting of forest resources. The interviewed people stressed that use of chain saws to process timber is an offense and is punishable by the laws. It was clear from the field that, the role of managing forest resources is not for the village or district leaders alone, but every individual citizen. That being the fact, the finding indicated that there is high community participation in managing resources, community are voluntarily conducting patrols and providing information to the village office in case of identified illegal activities.

Apart from many benefits that can be accrued from managing forest resources, majority of the interviewed community identified several challenges encountered. These include: encroachment of forest land by the nearby districts and villages, there is still land/border conflicts which has kept on destroying the efforts made in managing the forests. This calls upon the immediate government interventions in resolving these conflicts.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Table of Contents.....	iii
List of abbreviations and acronyms	iv
1.0. Introduction.....	1
2.0. Evaluation Framework.....	2
2.1. Background of the Evaluation.....	2
2.2. Evaluation Objectives	3
2.3. Methodology	3
2.3.1 Evaluation design	3
2.3.2 Target population.....	3
2.3.3 Sampling design.....	3
2.3.4 Evaluation sites	4
2.3.5 Data collection	4
2.3.6 Data analysis.....	4
2.3.7 Limitation.....	5
3.0 Evaluation findings.....	5
3.1 Demographic Characteristics	5
3.1.1. KII Demographic characteristics	5
3.1.2. FGD Demographic characteristics	5
3.2. The impact of SAM intervention on participatory Forest Management at local government	6
3.2.1. Improved awareness among leaders on the importance of community participation	6
3.3. Measures taken to manage forest resources at district and village level	8
3.4. Local communities awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management ...	12
3.4.1. Role of VNRC in managing forest resources.....	13
3.4.2. Measures taken against use of chain saw in village forest.....	14
3.4.3. Community benefits of the participatory forest management	15
3.5. Challenges encountered.....	15
3.6. Key lesson learned on SAM intervention.....	16
4.0 Recommendations.....	17
5.0 References	18
6.0 Annex.....	19

List of abbreviations and acronyms

DFO	District Forest Officer
DPO	District Planning Officer
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PAPI	Pen and Paper Interview
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation
SAM	Social Accountability Monitoring
TASAF	Tanzania Social Action Fund
TFF	Tanzania Forest Fund
TFWG	Tanzania Forest Working Group
TNRF	Tanzania Natural Resource Forum
VEO	Village Executive Officer
VNRC	Village Natural Resources Committee

1.0.Introduction

This report provides findings from the evaluation conducted to assess the contribution of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) in the forest sector governance in Nachingwea and Lindi districts as part of strengthening the capacity of forestry stakeholders in the Mama Misitu Campaign. The evaluation was conducted in collaboration with MJUMITA and TNRF from 16th November to 19th November 2016.

Mama Misitu is a communications and advocacy campaign aiming at improving the governance of Tanzania's forests and reduces illegal harvesting of forest resources so that the people of Tanzania can increasingly benefit from sustainably managed forests. Mama Misitu Campaign is being implemented by Tanzania Forest Working Group (TFWG) currently coordinated by Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF).

Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) is a monitoring approach that addresses the right to social accountability and the realisation of social and economic rights through the effective management of public resources. Therefore, it is a right based approach to service delivery keeping in mind that, all human beings are equal and are equally entitled to the resources required to realise their fundamental human rights and capabilities.

Likewise, Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) recognise the role of civil actors in helping strengthen the social accountability system by demanding justifications and explanations for the use of public resources; demanding corrective action is taken where these resources are misused or abused; monitoring and engaging in evidence-based advocacy on each of the five social accountability processes; and effectively participating in each process, thus giving effect to the right social accountability and promoting the progressive realization of people's socio-economic rights through the delivery of public services.

2.0.Evaluation Framework

2.1.Background of the Evaluation

Tanzania has about 38.8 million hectare of forests. This is about 41% of the total land area. These resources are under enormous pressure from human settlements and activities such as illegal harvesting, fires and mining¹. These pressures lead to deforestation, estimated to be more than 300,000 hectares per annum. Forests play an important role in the livelihoods of Tanzanians. It is estimated that more than 90% of the population uses wood energy for domestic. Forests also provide various non-wood products and are important for water catchment.

The forest resources need sustainable management for the benefit of the present and future generations. For a long time forests in Tanzania have been managed without full participation of the local communities and other relevant stakeholders living around the forest resources.

Local communities have a significant role in improving forest management and their participation can therefore contribute significantly to effective management of these resources. Strategies of involving communities and other stakeholders in forest management in Tanzania are referred to Participatory Forest Management (PFM). Community participation in forest management will not be effective if there is no willingness and accountability of the village leaders on their actions and decisions. The more citizens are able to put their leaders into account the more meaningful participation of the community in forest management. In order to compliment the efforts of PFM, Policy Forum is implementing Social Accountability Monitoring training to all stakeholders working around the forest management in Tanzania.

Since 2015 Policy Forum in collaboration with MJUMITA delivered training on Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to various forest stakeholders in Lindi Rural and Nachingwea districts. The SAM training involved district staff, councilors, community local networks representatives, village leaders, and forest product traders. The reason behind undertaking SAM is to promote responsible investment and management of forest resources to ensure maximum benefits of forests to adjacent communities.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/ARTICLE/WFC/XII/0813-CI.HTM>

2.2.Evaluation Objectives

The overall objective of the study was to assess on the contribution of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) to Participatory Forest Management (PFM). The specific objectives of the study were as follows:

- To assess the practice of SAM intervention at local government on participatory Forest Management.
- To assess local community's awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management.
- To identify challenges encountered on participatory Forest Management.
- To highlight key lesson learned on SAM intervention in participatory Forest management

2.3.Methodology

2.3.1 Evaluation design

Basing on the study objectives, this study employed qualitative approach data collection and analysis. That being the fact, qualitative research methodology was adopted using Key Informant Interviews and focus group discussions to solicit information on the impact of SAM intervention using face-to-face pen and paper (PAPI) interviews.

2.3.2 Target population

The primary population target for this study were community members, village government leaders (VEO, Village chair), members of the Village Natural Resources Committee, District Forest Officers, District Planning Officers and business men who received Social Accountability Monitoring training.

2.3.3 Sampling design

According to the objective needs of the study, purposive sampling was adopted to select the key informants who had participated in the SAM training. Table 1 indicate that the study reached 9 KII's of which 2 were district forest officers, 2 district planning officers,4 VEO and 1 timber land trader from Lindi and Nachingwea.

On the other side, Non- probability sampling was employed to get the desired sample from the Village Natural Resources Committee for FGD and simple random sampling techniques was used to get the desired sample for (FGDs). A total of 4 groups ranging from 8-10 participants was selected, each group was composed of some Village Natural Resource Committee and community members of different age and sex.

2.3.4 Evaluation sites

The study was conducted at district level and village level. At district level, the study was conducted in Lindi and Nachingwea. At village level, the study was conducted at Ngunichile, Kiegei, Muungano and Mahima.

2.3.5 Data collection

Data was collected through face to face interviews and discussions by three moderators from Policy Forum, MJUMITA and TNRF from 16th to 19 November 2016. The Key guiding questions were developed based on the objectives of this study and especially in responding to the following SAM questions: what are practice of SAM intervention at local government on participatory Forest Management? what are the local community awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management? what are the challenges encountered on participatory Forest Management? What are the key lesson learned on SAM intervention in participatory Forest management?

2.3.6 Data analysis

This study used an inductive approach in analyzing the collected qualitative data. According to David R. Thomas (2003)², The primary purpose of the inductive approach is to allow research findings to emerge from the frequent, dominant or significant themes inherent in raw data, without the restraints imposed by structured methodologies. Key themes are often obscured, reframed or left invisible because of the preconceptions in the data collection and data analysis procedures imposed by deductive data analysis such as those used in experimental and hypothesis testing research.

² <http://www.frankumstein.com/PDF/Psychology/Inductive%20Content%20Analysis.pdf>

2.3.7 Limitation

Qualitative approach is always limited by its typical small sample size which hinder the generalizations and external validity of findings. Furthermore, it limits the scope of research as it is difficult to assess the impact the research or evaluation has on real world situations. It also takes more time to gather qualitative data. Interviews and focus groups take hours to produce results. More importantly, the qualitative research suffer much from the biasness as all decisions on the sample depends on researcher's. On the other side, qualitative analysis does not rely on statistical methods to analyze results and make correlations or provide causation. This being the fact, might have jeopardized the presented results.

3.0 Evaluation findings

3.1 Demographic Characteristics

3.1.1. KII Demographic characteristics

The study reached a total of 9 participants through KII. At district level, interviews were done to 2 DPO's and 2 DFO's from Nachingwea and Lindi district and 1 timber trader from Lindi. At village level, interviews were done to 4 VEO's from Ngunichile, Kiegei, Muungano and Mahima villages. Below is a table showing participants characteristics distributed according to sex, age group and educational level.

	Sex		Age				Educational level			
	M	F	21-35	36-50	51-65	65+	Std 7	Form 4	Form 6	Higher Education
# of participants	9			8	1		4			5
Total	9		9				9			

3.1.2. FGD Demographic characteristics

The study reached a total of 39 participants through FGD's that were conducted in 4 villages (Ngunichile, Kiegei, Muungano and Mahima). The study had 4 groups, 3 groups had 10

participants and 1 group had 9 participants. Most of the groups comprised of members from the VNRC (n=24, 62%) and some community member's representatives (n=15, 38%). Below is a table showing participants characteristics distributed according to sex, age group and educational level.

Sex		Age					Educational level			
	M	F	21-35	36-50	51-65	65 above	Std 7	Form 4	Form 6	Higher Education
# of participants	22	17	9	26	4		39			
Total	39		39				39			

3.2. The impact of SAM intervention on participatory Forest Management at local government

3.2.1. Improved awareness among leaders on the importance of community participation

This study found that SAM training has impacted on the perceptions and attitudes of many of the district and village government officials who participated towards increasing transparency and accountability of their work to the community. Majority of respondents reported that they now have enhanced competence and ability to lead, manage and increase quality of their daily activity performance including forest management. This is an indication that before the training many of the village leaders were not applying any of the SAM principles neither following any of its step towards their daily activities. Community participation was not taken into consideration thus created a gap between leaders and the community. But since SAM training was conducted, situation has changed whereby the community participation has now been an instrumental towards realization and understanding of the community needs.

I have been able to convene and use village assembly in making major decision involving the whole community. In the meeting, I do present the agenda and let the community members discuss and make decision.

VEO-Ngunichile village

The study also found that the understanding and application of good governance at local government level has been widened. Comparing from the past, top-down approach was used which never allowed the community to have any say and specially to participate in planning and setting up their development priorities. This evaluation witnessed an increased awareness among government leaders in applying the down-top approach by giving more opportunity to community to participate in making decision on their development priorities.

In the past we leaders we used to make decision about our village development priorities on behalf of the community, but since we received SAM training everything is now decided by the community members through village assembly. Addition to this, the training has broadened my level of understanding on good governance, I now know the duties of everyone in my leadership thus we are operating effectively without overlapping with each other.

VEO-Ngunichile.

3.2.2. Improved financial management skills among leaders

The training has increased accountability level among community in managing village/community resources such as funds, people and natural resources for the benefit of all. It was reported that

I have improved my financial management skills by understanding how to make and manage village budget. In terms of managing the village expenditures, I know that any money spent has to be accompanied by well documentation such as genuine receipts.

VEO-Kiegei village

there is an increase in knowledge and understanding of using the available village resources for the benefit of all citizens. Furthermore, there is an increased monitoring and accountability in all activities implemented and a clear understanding of the right based approach. For example, VEO-Ngunichile reported that “by understanding and applying the right based approach , I am now aware on what to and what no to do. I am using noticeboards as a way to inform the community members on various issues happening in my village such as timber auctions”.

3.2.3. Increased transparency and accountability among district and village leaders.

Despite of the fact that Country laws requires all village leaders to conduct quarterly village assembly and share the meetings minutes to the ward and district authorities, these were not happening in the past. But since the SAM training the level of conducting meeting and use of noticeboard to share pertinent information has increased tremendously.

Increased awareness on leaders and community fundamental rights. It was reported that just before SAM training majority of the village leaders and their community members did not know their rights such as the right of information.

I am now applying all SAM five steps in monitoring all activities conducted at district, ward and village level.

DFO-Nachingwea

3.3. Measures taken to manage forest resources at district and village level

This study observed a mix of responses on the various measures that have been taken by district and village leaders in managing forest resources in their particular areas as indicated.

3.3.1 Participating in Mama misitu campaign: community awareness activities such as use of brochures, simplified government guidelines related to forest management and community meetings was implemented at village level on the importance of forest management. Greater and broader discussion platform was initiated between district, village leaders, community members and other stakeholders on the importance of community participation in managing and thus improving governance on forest resources.

3.3.2. Education provision to community on forest management: after the SAM training, district, village leaders and community members who participated started spreading this knowledge to their fellow community members. As a result of the education, there is an increased influence of VNRC and community members on the forest Management. It was suggested and agreed that in every village assembly there should be

Village Natural Resources committee who have participated in the training have also provided the same education to the fellow VNRC members.

DPO-Nachingwea

at least one agenda discussed about the forest resource management. The provision of education was done through one to one and village meeting whereby sometime some forest (District Forest Officers) from district level were invited to assist in training the community members. Moreover, the Lindi and Nachingwea districts have a future plan to continue using their forest specialist in provision of education on using forests sustainably

3.3.3. Monitoring and implementation of all activities according to country laws and by-laws on forest Management: This study observed a huge community awareness and participation on forest management through monitoring of what is going on in their reserved forests. In making sure that there is an improved control of forest harvesting, district and village government have been very keen in assurance of harvesting permits as per harvesting guidelines for village and land forest reserves.

3.3.4. Banning of the shifting cultivation: some villages have taken measure to ban all activities related to shifting cultivation in order to protect areas reserved for forests from being destroyed by agricultural activities. That being the case, there is an idea of practicing modern agriculture whereby permanent agricultural plots will be established and tractors will be used.

3.3.5. Allowing the presence of various NGO working on Natural resources management to support the government efforts. For example, in Nachingwea District, TASAFA is currently implementing the tree nursery in the district (located in Ntila and Lionja villages). The community members are encouraged to buy them and do the reforestation in their village lands. In Lindi District, Tanzania Forest Fund (TAFF) has provided some funds to be used in supporting community to obtain trees for reforestation.

3.3.6. Supporting the villages to have a forest management fund: One of the reported challenge in

“I have written and distributed letters signed by the district executive director (DED) to all village governments in my district to make sure they keep 40% of their village revenues to be used for forest management and 60% should go for other village development projects”.

forest management was the small budget available to support the forest management activities at local level. This study found that there is huge demand for dedicating a specific fund for forest management.

“at district level we have set a budget of 50 Million for forest management activities in three (3) villages including Mbondo, Kiegei B, Majonanga and Mamtua”.

3.3.7. Supporting villages in preparation and use of forest harvesting plans: forest management need to go hand in hand with the best use of land and forest harvesting plans. Following the discussion with Nachingwea District Forest Officer, He said that the plan is underway to develop and implement forest harvesting plans in making sure that the forests are managed sustainably.

I have written letters signed by the District Executive Director (DED) sent to all village governments instructing them to start using their land-use plans.

DFO- Nachingwea

3.3.8. Community contribution in management of forest resources

This study indicated that there is successfully community involvement in the management of forest resources. This came out as a result of SAM training which acted as an eye opener to many of the district and village leaders. Various ways that are used in making sure that there is community involvement at local level are:

- **Installing ownership by raising community awareness** on the importance of forest management: forums and village community meetings were some of the ways used to install ownership of forest resources to community. This was reported to increase morale among the community in protecting the forest resources.

“I allowed the community members to ask/question anybody they find him/her harvesting timbers confirming if that person has a legal permit or not”.

VEO-Muongano

“through the provision of education to the community on the importance of forests has increased their morale and willingness to manage forests through doing patrol and provision of information to the village government offices related to any incidence of illegal harvesting of reforest”.

VEO-Kiegei

- **Involvement of the community in conducting patrol** around the reserved forests: it is the responsibility of Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) to make sure they coordinate the patrol in the reserved forests. This study found that community members are also involved whenever patrol is conducted. As a result, it brought a sense of responsibility among community.
- **Participating in Village assembly:** this is the main platform used at the village level for the information sharing and the highest meeting for decision making. According to the collected data, each village is required by the law to at least conduct four (4) quarterly meeting annually. In these meetings various agenda are discussed and village reports are presented to the general public. For example, this platform is used by the village leaders to present the revenue and expenditure of the village in a particular quarter. Moreover, the community makes decisions on various issues such as setting up of the development agenda.
- **Use of noticeboards available in the village government offices:** Apart from village meeting, noticeboards are used to inform the community on the various issues happening in the village. For example, whenever, there is any emergency issue which need to be shared by the public, noticeboard is used for such purposes.

3.4. Local communities awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management

- **Community participation in the management of village collection, expenditure and performance:** Increased community awareness in managing of the village resources such as forests and financial resources has a role to play in improving the governance practices at local government. This study observed the fact that community monitoring of public activities and especially revenues collection and expenditures has increased. Moreover, the fear that holds them from not questioning on how the village leaders are collecting revenues and how public fund is used has gone.
- **Village meetings:** there are four (4) planned meeting annually. The village government presents various agenda including village revenues and expenditure to the meeting. Then community members get an opportunity to either ask questions or seek clarification from their leaders, thereafter the rest of the decision is made publicly. While village meeting is thought to be the main way used in making community members to participate, some of the interviewed people had some different opinions about community participation in major decision makings. Community members are normally involved in some later if not last stages after everything has been done or agreed then are invited in the village meeting for them to get information and buy in their inputs if any. It was also reported that most of the villages do not develop priorities that being the fact no estimated revenues and expenditures to be reflected on.

In reality, village governments and its available committees tend to plan and prepare all the village expenditures in absence of the community members, and at later stages they call upon village meeting just to read/present to them and ask if there are any questions or issues to clarify. In my understanding this is not right. Community members need to be involved from the beginning up to the end.

Community member- Mahima village

- **Conducting patrols in all reserved forest:**

There are about 3-4 scheduled patrol per Month whereby members of the Village Natural Resources Committee and some community members are involved for this exercise. There are other more unplanned patrols that are conducted by the community members whenever they visit their forest. After the patrol

“when I did my visit in Ngunichile village I found women doing patrol in the reserved forest”. Not only that, I also visited Namatunu village whereby I received a lot of feedback on how forest has been invaded by people from neighboring districts and turned into settlement and grazing area”.

DPO-Nachingwea

is done, reports and other related information is presented to the village government office and more of this information is discussed during the village meeting.

- Participating in all village auctions for selling confiscated of their harvested timbers.
- Provision of information on the forest illegal activities such as illegal harvest encroachment.
- Use of Noticeboard whereby various posts are made including the monthly revenues and expenditures incurred by the village. Moreover, all information about the auctions are made through noticeboards.

3.4.1. Role of VNRC in managing forest resources

The presence of various village committees including Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) is as requested by the Local Government Act, 1982³ and the Forest Act of 2002⁴. Apart from different roles that each members of the established committees have, the following are some of the roles and contributions of the VNRC in managing forest resources as reported by respondents during the interview.

- Participating in conducting patrols: it was reported that most of the regular patrols around reserved forests are coordinated by Village Natural Resources Committee. Not only coordinating but also themselves are responsible of being part of the patrol team.
- Provision and receiving information about destruction of the forest and report it to village government offices for further steps.
- Sensitizing other community members on the importance of managing forest resources.

³<http://www.policyforum-tz.org/sites/default/files/LocalGovtDistrictAuthoritiesAct71982.pdf>

⁴http://www.tfs.go.tz/uploads/Forest_Act_2002.pdf

- Working closely with village government and other VNRC members in conserving and managing forest resources.
- Making sure that our forest and village borders are kept safe.

3.4.2. Measures taken against use of chain saw in village forest

The use of chain saw processing logs and timber in reserved and village forests in Tanzania is illegal. The fact being that the available Tanzania laws and by-laws do allow the use of chain saw in felling down the trees. When coming to the next step whereby trees are processed get timber is not allowed. Moreover, whenever chain saw is used should be closely supervised by the local authority, District forest officers or police officers in order to minimize its misuse. Based on this study findings, the following are the suggested measures against use of chain saws.

- The general use of chainsaw is banned: though in some villages there has been reported to be difficult in controlling its uses due to the distance between village and the forest and the general expansiveness of the reserved forest. Following of this situation, it is hard to hear or notice the use of chain saw.
- Punishment including fine is used whenever people using chain saw are caught. For example, in Muungano village with support of police officers caught people using chain saw and then were fined a total of 952,000/= and the Chainsaws were confiscated.
- Provision of education to community on the negative impact of using chain saw to the forest resources. Apart from being environmentally harm, chain saw has been reported to reduce the number of timbers to be produced in one logging/tree. For example, it was reported by our respondents that if one logging/tree could produce 50 timbers through use of hand saws, using chain saw would give out only 30 timbers.
- Ending of group membership: in Nachingwea and lindi there is an established group of business men dealing with timber production. In making sure that the control use of chain saws among business men, if one of their members arrested three times for using chain saw, they will end his/her membership right away.

3.4.3. Community benefits of the participatory forest management

It is no doubts that there are many benefits that can be accrued by community members in the process of participatory forest management. Some of these can be grouped as ecological, social and economic benefits. The conducted evaluation found the following mentioned benefits,

- The share obtained from forest management (provided during the REDD pilot project) has been used in various community development such as making of desks for our children, constructing of the village government offices, schools and water wells/pumps.
- Villages have been able to earn/get money from forest products such as timber. As an outcome the obtained money has been used in various village development projects hence reduce the burden from the community members.
- Easily getting the construction materials from our forests.
- Forests helps us in getting the rainfall.

3.5.Challenges encountered

Social Accountability and Monitoring (SAM) training has reported to have brought huge impacts to community, district and village leaders in both Lindi and Nachingwea. The level of community participation to public activities has increased as compared to the situation before. However, despite of all good achievement realized, the following are some challenges that need to be addressed.

- No full realization of benefit from the forest management as has always been expected.
- Encroachments of some nearby community members from neighboring villages to reserved forests is still high. For example, Kindepe forest in kiegei village is being encroached by their neighboring villages Nanjii and Nahimba. As part of solving village border conflicts, the Kiegei village government is working closely with support from District level to resolve the boundary issue.
- Failure in measuring carbon stock consumed ny trees in some parts of the reserved forests due to the resistance from the intruders who are already living in the reserved forest. For example, Noto area in Muungano village, Lindi.

- Little support available from the district to village level.
- Village border conflicts.
- Lack of patrol gears such as boots and transportation.
- Little understanding of the country laws and by-laws among community members and members of the village committee including VNRC. For example, the issues of issuing fines is not observed, there is the tendency of charging high fines different from what is indicated in the by laws.
- Delay in getting village shares from their efforts in forest management. All villages reported that it is over 3 years due without receiving their shares.
- Lack of the reliable timber markets.
- Forest fire is still a threat to our efforts in forest management.
- Integrity is still a challenge to some of the village leaders.
- Little budget allocation on forest conservation/management from the government.
- Climate Change.
- Very few forest specialists available at District level and completely no at village and ward levels. This is thwarting the desired efforts in forest conservation/management. Most of the forest covered areas are located in rural areas where no forest specialists are available. Whenever their support is needed is not found on time.
- The use of chain saws is still happening in some reserved forests. Villages have been unable to stop it due to various reasons including lack of good patrol gears, most of the forests are distant from the village settlements and the reserved forests are too large to be managed well by the villagers.

3.6.Key lesson learned on SAM intervention

The process of applying SAM at the local government level has resulted into different lessons. Some of the specific key lessons are as indicated below:

- Need to empower village communities to embrace SAM for improved accountability and transparency in the management of Village Land Forest Reserve. Since there are incomes generated from the sale of forest products at village level; development of simplified SAM

tool for use at village level will be the best way to enhance accountability and benefit sharing in the forest sector

- SAM training has increased capacity and interactions between rights holders (forest adjacent communities) and service providers (Govt) to understand relevant processes and institutions to demand for increased accountability in the management of forest resources. The case of Mihima Village whereby village communities demanded the conduct of audit in their village to determine integrity of their leaders when making decision on timber harvesting is demonstrating their improved capacity.: -

4.0 Recommendations

- There should be some policy amendment in regard to the use of chainsaws. The current policies do allow the partial use of chainsaws, thus being the fact, it should be used only to cut trees down and it should not be used in trimming and slicing the logging to get timber. The respondents recommended that policies should be clear by burning the general use of the chainsaws in harvesting forest resources otherwise the government has decided differently.
- More Social Accountability Monitoring trainings need to be regularly scheduled to take place at local government level and especially involving community and village leaders. It is not supposed to be one-time event. That being the fact, Policy Forum, MJUMITA and all development actors should work together in order to develop the community awareness on their responsibilities and making their leaders accountable.
- In order for the villages to realize full benefits of the forest resources, it was recommended that government should speed up in resolving the land/ border conflicts that have existed for quite long time now. These conflicts have hindered some villages not to start harvesting the forest resources up to now as the permits were suspended.

5.0 References

David, R, (2003), **A general Inductive Approach for qualitative data analysis**, School of population Health, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

United Republic of Tanzania, (1982), **The Local Government Act, 1982**, Government of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam.

United Republic of Tanzania, (2002), **The forest Act, 2002**, To the Gazette of the United Republic of Tanzania No.23, Vol 83. Printed by the Government of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam.

6.0 Annex

Proposed study

Assessment on the impact of SAM intervention to participatory Forest Management.

Main Objective

To gather feedback on the impact of SAM intervention on participatory Forest Management.

Specific Objectives

1. To assess the practice of SAM intervention at local government on participatory Forest Management.
2. To assess local communities awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management.
3. To identify challenges encountered on participatory Forest Management.
4. To highlight key lesson learned on SAM intervention in participatory Forest management

Objectives in linkage with the research questions

1. **To assess the practice of SAM intervention on participatory Forest Management at local government** (*District planning officer, District forest officer, Village chairperson, VEO*)
 - What is the contribution of SAM training to your daily activities?
 - How does SAM influence participatory forest management?
 - As a leader, what measures have you taken to manage forest resources?
 - How do you involve community in the management of forest resources?
2. **To assess local communities' awareness and their contribution towards participatory forest management.** (*Village natural resource committee*)
 - How do village participate in the management of village collection, expenditure and performance?
 - As a member of the VNRC, what have been your contributions in managing forest resources?
 - As a community member how have you benefited from the participatory forest management?
3. **To identify challenges encountered on participatory Forest Management.** (*All participants*)

- What challenges have you come across with in managing forest resources?

4. To highlight key lesson learned on SAM intervention (*District planning officer, District forest officer, Village chairperson, VEO*)

Research methodology

Means of data collection

The study will use key informant interviews and focus group discussion. KII will be administered to 12 people from the local government and focus group discussion will involve 30 community members from the VRNC.

Sample size

The study will involve a total of 46 people whereby some of the participants will be from the local government who have participated in the SAM training (2 District planning officer, 2 District forest officer, 6 village chairperson and 6 VEO) and the local community who will be presented by the Village Natural Resource Committee (30 members)

Study site

The study will be done in Lindi and Nachingwea

Research Questions

Key Informant Interviews (*District planning officer, District forest officer, Village chairperson, VEO*)

1. What is the contribution of SAM training to your daily activities?
2. How does SAM influence participatory forest management?
3. As a leader, what measures have you taken to manage forest resources?
4. How do you involve community in the management of forest resources?
5. What challenges have you come across with in managing forest resources?
6. In implementing SAM what have been the key lesson learned?

Focus Group Discussion (VNRC/Community members)

1. How do village participate in the management of village collection, expenditure and performance?
2. As a member of the VNRC, what have been your contributions in managing forest resources?
3. What measures are taken when chain saw is used in your village forest?

4. As a community member how have you benefited from the participatory forest management?
5. What challenges have you come across with in managing forest resources?

Timetable

Area	participants	Time
District	DPLO	30 mins
	DFO	30 mins
Village	Village chairperson	30 mins
	VEO	30 mins
	VNRC and community representatives	1 hour