

**People's Perception on Community-based Forest
Management: The Case Study of Njombe District, Tanzania**

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Abstract

This study aimed at examining the perceptions of the local communities on Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in two villages in Njombe District, Tanzania. This was important because CBFM is a bottom-up strategy that involves local communities as owners or users of forest resources. The study used face-to-face interviews, guided by a questionnaire, observations and focus group discussion and documentary review. The findings showed that 70 percent of the respondents complained that the District Council was not supplying enough funds to carry out the CBFM activities, including extension services, while 90 percent complained of the shortage of extension services in forest management activities. Hence, it recommends the need for empowering local communities to enable them support their forest activities.

Introduction

Tanzania, like many other sub-Saharan African countries, has been actively implementing community-based forest management (CBFM) as a bottom-up approach to forest management. This is an intervention that aims at ensuring fundamental outcomes of sustainable forest management and sustainable rural livelihoods. It has been in response to the ongoing global and local changes on forest policies which call for community participation in forest management (URT, 1998). Under Community Based Forest Management local communities assume owner/user rights and management decisions over forest resources (DANIDA 2002). Thus Wily (2002) points out that the local communities are both owners and duty bearers that is they are owners, users and managers of their own forests. They have a responsibility of sustainably managing their forest and reap benefits out of it.

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However, Nayak (2002), raises some doubts on the sustainability of CBFM by asking whether village communities would plan for, and have time enough for their village forest to build a succession of species, that yields more stand of trees, shrubs and grasses, of endemic species, and its complement of fauna and flora, that would not only meet their diverse needs, but also conserve ecosystems, and life support systems for future generations. This was particularly the case because most rural communities where forests are usually located depend on forest resources for their survival. Thus, this study examines local communities perceptions of the community based forest management in relation to forest resources and people's livelihoods.

Conceptual Framework

Fig. 1 shows that top-down forest management tend to limit local communities' involvement in decision-making. It leads to limited access to power structure and resources. This has led to unsustainable forest management as the local people continue to access the forest resources illegally knowing that it belongs to the government to which they are not part. Thus lack of local people involvement in the management of forest resources is regarded as the key missing factor that can act as an important incentive to the forest dwellers to develop a sense of ownership, empowerment, and feel the benefits of the forest resources.

However, the effectiveness of the community-based forest management is dependent upon interrelated set of widespread processes within a society and the functioning of the state. Community Forest Management can develop by laws that safeguard the interests of local people and forest resources. Empowered local institutions can enforce by-laws governing access to forest resources. It can help people living near the forest resources to develop sense of ownership and commitment in the forest management. This process can result into sustainable management of the forest, increased wood and non-wood forest resources which can enhance local people's livelihoods such as income level, energy consumption which would act as a catalyst for the local people to manage forests sustainably.

The Research Problem

Community Based Forest Management has been seen as a panacea for sustainable forest resource management particularly because the top down approach has not been very successful (Kajembe, 2003). Community-based forest management has been regarded as the solution for the well recognized setbacks of the centralized forest management system because of its limited reach to the people; its inability to sustain the required local action; its limited adaptation to local environment and its creation of dependence on the government institutions. Thus empowering people's participation seems to ensure project sustainability and social acceptability as beneficiaries participate in the project). However, in most rural areas in Tanzania poverty is prevalent. Thus one of the factors that force people to exploit unsustainable forest resources is poverty. Most rural communities meet their day to day needs by using forest resources such as fuelwood, charcoal and poles. This may have implications in the CBFM because as owners of the forest the villagers need to generate funds for supporting forest activities in the village. Hence, this study examines the perceptions of the local people on community Based Forest Management in relation to forest resources and peoples livelihoods (Bamberger, 1991).

The main objective of the study

To examine the perceptions of the local communities on the community based forest management in the study area in relation to forest resources and peoples livelihoods.

Specific objectives

1. To examine the perceptions of the local communities on community based forest management in relation to forest resources conservation.

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2. To examine the perceptions of the local communities on community based forest management in relation to people's livelihoods.
3. To evaluate the measures of policy makers on the improvement of community based forest management.

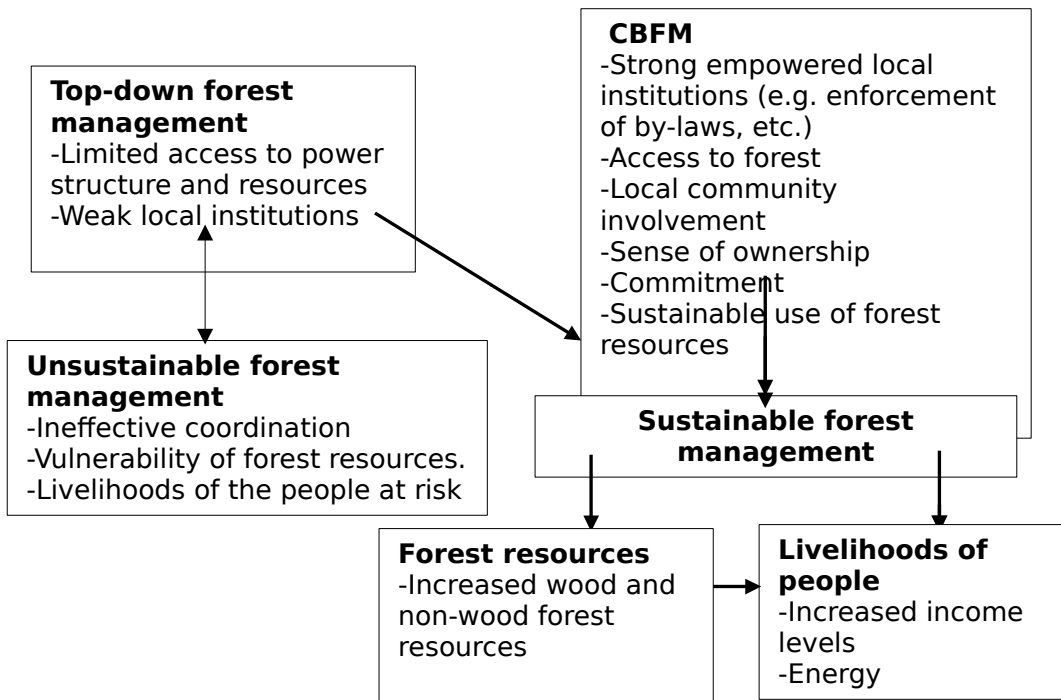


Figure 1: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: Modified from Fabricius *et al.* (2004).

Literature Review

Community-based forest management is a strategy established to achieve sustainable forest management by promoting the management of forest and woodland resources by the communities living closest to the resources (NFP, 1998). It is characterized by the forest-local communities assuming owner/user rights and management decisions of power (devolution) over the forest resources. It is conceptually part of an overall development strategy which aims at improving rural livelihoods and thereby helps to protect the environment (DANIDA, 2002). It also means that the communities involved with a forest have the legal right, the institutional base, and the economic incentives to take substantial responsibility for the sustained use of that forest (Heermans *et al.*, 1999). Thus in community-based forest management the local communities are both owners and duty bearers, that is, owners, users and managers (Wily 2002). This kind of approach creates a sense of ownership and responsibility for the resource among community members (IIED, 1994).

Based on community based forest management it is suggested that if development is to benefit the local people, they must participate in planning and implementing their development plans. That is to say the central orientation or strategy of community participation is to ensure the participation of the beneficiaries in the process of planning, developing, implementing and evaluating development projects (Makupa, 2007). Meghji (2003) stated that, local communities have a significant role in improving forest and woodland management, and their participation can contribute significantly to the sustainability of forest resources. WRM (2004) emphasized that not only active involvement of local and indigenous communities in managing forest areas must be ensured, but also the benefits generated by these areas must be shared.

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The emphasis was that the people who draw their livelihood direct from forest products should play their role in the partnership to conserve the forest. Essentially these people have to be made fully aware of any plans and participate fully in the preparation and execution of policies and activities that involved their forests (WB, 1998). The main idea behind participation of local people has been that as local communities are located so close to the forest resources they are thus equipped with both the incentives for and knowledge for their sustainable management (Brosius *et al.*, 1998; Vihemäki, 2005).

Timothy (1997) argued that to ignore local community's participation is to ignore the rich resource of knowledge from the local people. Ignoring local communities' rights to forests and other natural resources perpetuates conflict, hastens degradation of environmental resources, and undermines economic growth and fail to achieve conservation goal (Kajembe *et al.* In so doing the programme can eventually acquire legitimacy from the people.

However, in order to be effective, people's participation must occur throughout programme planning process. As it is argued by Michael (2006) that early community involvement in development programme normally smoothen later programme design and implementation. Therefore, full participation of the beneficiaries is seen as the critical ingredient for the success (Bamberger, 1991:282). Empowering a community to manage and regulate the use of a resource will reduce the pressure on the resource because by the mere fact it is owned by a certain community it will not be an open access, rather more sustainable practices are likely to be implemented (Ascher, 1995).

Henceforth, by 1990 more than 35 African countries had enacted new forest laws and policies changing the character of central forestry administrations to local governments (Wily, 2002). According to Makupa, (2007) about 16 percent of the total area in Sub Sahara African countries are under CBFM. For instance, African countries' forest laws and policies changed to suit CBFM are The Gambia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya, among others (Wily, 2002).

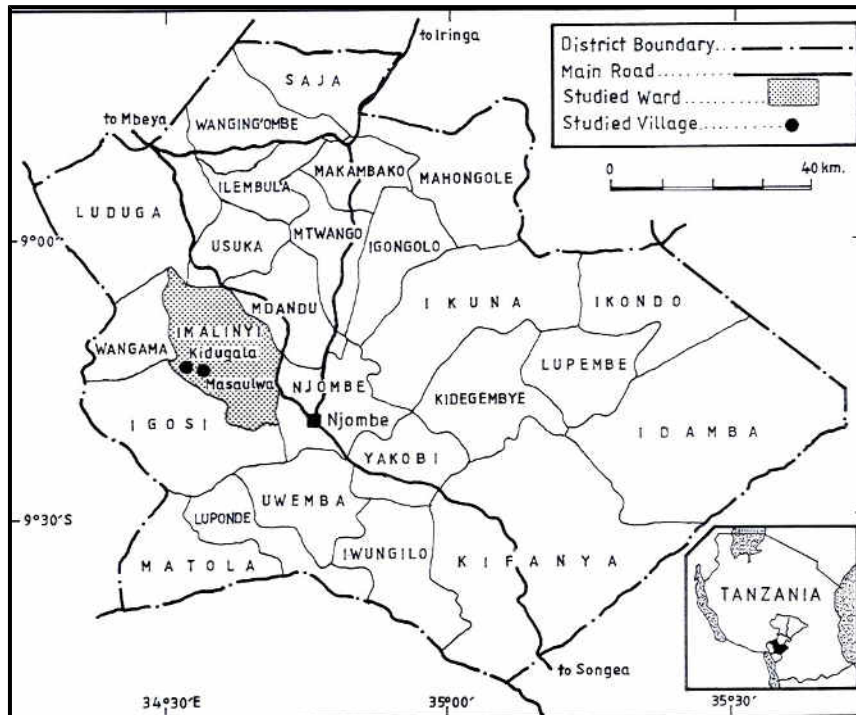
The Methodology

The study area

Njombe District in Iringa Region was selected because it is among the areas where Community-based Forest Management is being undertaken (URT, 2007). Also it is a rural district where the majority of local people livelihoods depend on forest resources.

Administratively, the Njombe District is divided into seven (7) divisions, 25 wards and 170 villages. The total land area is 10,241square kilometers (URT, 2002) Kidugala and Masaulwa villages are found in Imalinyi ward (See Map 1.). These two villages are located in the west of Njombe town. Kidugala village administratively made up of eight sub-villages namely Mkeha, Tengelemembe, Kilagano, Ugungule, Sengele, Lungemba and Mwalivale. In the village there is Chauyiva forest reserve covers 82.76 ha of the total area of the village. Masaulwa village on the other part administratively composed of five sub-villages namely, Ikaula, Uheni, Kilongo, Yeriko and Bomani. There is Kilongo forest reserve in the village that covers 58.21 ha of the total area of the village.

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Economic Activities

Agriculture has always been the most important economic activity in Njombe District, encompassing the production of crops and the keeping of livestock. More than 90 per cent of the households in the district are farmers. Maize is the most important food crop in the area while irish-potatoes serve as important cash crop. Other crops cultivated include; beans, cowpeas, sweet-potatoes, sorghum, finger millet, groundnuts, sunflowers, wheat and bananas. The main cash crops grown in the district have, however, been wheat, tea, tobacco, pyrethrum, sunflower, coffee and citrus fruits. Forestry activity is also of great importance in the district where wattle and pines are planted heavily. The Tanganyika Wattle Company (TANWATT) for example, produces tannin from wattle barks, mainly for export. The other land uses in the area include *vinyungu* cultivation (growing of vegetables along the river banks) (Hasen, 1992). By the 1980s, for example, the district was producing almost one third of all Tanzanian tea, two-thirds of the country's pyrethrum, and a considerable amount of wheat (Howe and Bryceson 1988:29-35).

Things changed, however, with the coming of the era of economic liberalization between the 1980s and early 1990s. With the onset of the economic crisis of the early 1980s, the production began to decline as timely delivery of farm inputs by government parastatals was disrupted and land degradation began to take its toll (Wardell 1991). This had some implications on forests too.

Vegetation

Although large areas of the district is now under cultivation but the vast majority of the land is still covered by natural vegetation. Generally the predominant natural vegetation is Miombo woodland (Hasen, 1992). Also there are 13,400 ha of land planted with black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and Pines (*Pinus patula*) by the Tanganyika Wattle Company, a subsidiary of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). There are 3,783 ha of forests under Participatory Forest Management, 348.2 ha Community-based Forest Management and 297.9 ha Joint Forest Management. Though still some village land forests are not yet demarcated as the table below shows (Njombe District Report, 2009).

Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

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Field research was carried out in Kidugala and Masaulwa villages in Imalinyi ward. The two villages were selected purposively because it is where the participatory forest management started to operate early by 2003/2004 in the district. Also they were selected based on their ease access.

The study included 101 heads of households from both villages who were interviewed. They were obtained with respect of different categories namely; households, sex, and age. In addition 6 village natural resources committee members from each village, 1 village chairpersons from each village, 1 ward executive officer, 1 ward forest extension officer and 1 district forest officer were interviewed.

The two villages were selected purposively, as it has been stated above that it is where the participatory forest management started to operate early by 2003/2004 in the district, a fifth year now since its start. Then lists of heads of household were obtained from both village governments. Using a table of random numbers, a sample of 68 Kidugala households and 33 Masaulwa households were selected randomly. The two villages had a total of 1,282 households (URT, Census 2002), therefore, a sample of 8% of all the households was involved in this study. In a sampled household, only persons aged 18 years or above were interviewed. This is limited to this percentage due to time constraints and manpower shortage. Also 6 village natural resources committee members from each village, 1 village chairpersons from each village, 1 ward executive officer, 1 ward forest extension officer and 1 District forest officer were purposively sampled on the basis of their positions and responsibilities in the conservation activities.

Types and Source of data

Both primary and secondary data was collected for the study. The primary data was collected through, interviews, questionnaire, focused group discussions, and observation. Secondary data was collected from diverse of documents, books and electronically stored information like internet. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed in data collection. The study employed a variety of methods and techniques for data collection, as described below:

This method was used to provide statistical data about environmental projects and management of forest resource. Experience from the past practices concerning nature conservation was obtained from internet, books, journals, periodicals, news papers and magazines and both published and unpublished dissertations and theses.

Focused Group Discussion was used to identify community's knowledge and implementation of the community-based forest management programme in their localities. This method facilitated free discussion which stimulated richer responses (Debus, 1986).

Discussion of Research Findings

Characteristics of the respondents

Age Structure

The age of the respondents ranged between 21 and 70 years. Most of the respondents were 41 years and above. (See Figure 2). This was an important group as they were able to understand the socio-economic and ecological dynamics taking place in the study area. The study, for instance, revealed that aged people had broader knowledge on some mushroom species e.g. *Termitomyces singidensis* (Witali), *Termitomyces letustui* (Wikulwe) and *Amanita zambiana* (Wilelemi) which were rare in the study area.

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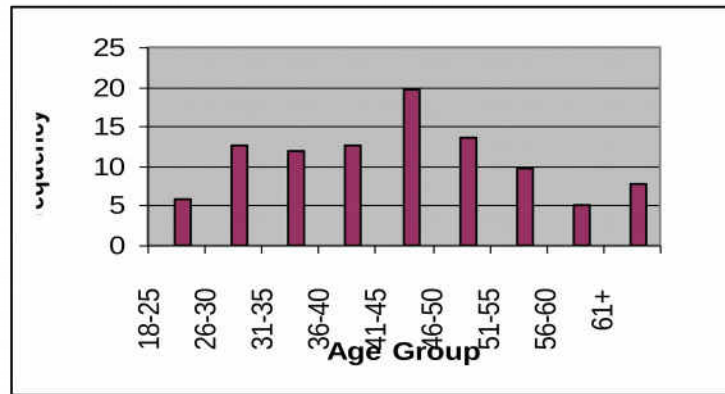


Figure 2: Age Structure

Household Size

The household size in the study ranged from a minimum of two to a maximum of thirteen.. The average household size was 4.0. Household size is important in determining the rate of exploitation of the forest resource in particular area.. In the study villages, it was found that consumption of firewood was greater in larger families than in smaller ones. (Table 1)

Table 1: Household Size of the Study Villages

Family Members	Frequency
1-5	42
6-10	37
11+	22
Total	101

Source: Field Survey Data 2008

Marital Status

78 percent of the respondents in the study villages were married and 8 percent were single and the remaining were widow, widower and divorced (See Table 2). It was noted that married women were more informed on the wood resources than married men but lacked participation in decision making, they could not for example respond to some questions on land ownership

Table 2: Marital Status in the Study Villages

Villages	Marital Status					Total
	<i>Married</i>	<i>Singl</i>	<i>Wido</i>	<i>Widowe</i>	<i>Divorce</i>	
	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>d</i>	
Masaulwa	29	3	1	-	-	33
Kidugala	50	6	5	3	4	68
Total Frequency	79	9	6	3	4	101
Percent	78.2	8.9	5.9	3.0	4.0	100

Source: Field Survey Data 2008

Education Level of Respondents

The findings showed that 75 percent of the respondents had completed primary education. 9 percent had no formal education, 9 percent had adult education, 6 percent had secondary education and 1percent had university education (Table 3). Education is an important component of the human resource base because it influenced someone's knowledge on the use of forest resource. It was observed in the study area that less educated people were less informed about proper forest resource management.

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Table 3: Education Level in the Study Village

Villages	Level of education						Total
	Illiterate	Adult Educ.	Primary Educ.	Sec. Educ. O-level	Sec. Educ. A-level	Univ. Level	
Masaulwa	3	1	27	2	-	-	33
Kidugala	6	8	49	3	1	1	68
Total Frequency	9	9	76	5	1	1	101
Percent	8.9	8.9	75.2	5.0	1.0	1.0	100

Source: Field Survey Data 2008

Perception of the Local Communities of the Forest Resource Use and Degradation
Local People’s Awareness of the Forest Resources

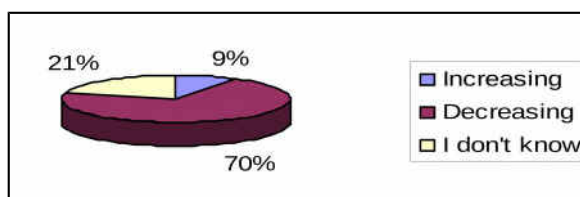
The villagers seemed to be knowledgeable about the uses of forest resources. It was found out that wood resources were the most well known forest resource use. It included firewood (41%), charcoal (14%), poles (9%) and timber (8%), followed by the non-wood forest resources like wild fruits (5%), mushrooms (4%), traditional medicines (3%), pasture land (4%) and roofing grass (3%). Few people were aware of the forest services provided by forest as the table below shows (See Table 4). None of the respondents thought of using forest resources for recreation, tourist attraction and aesthetic purposes.

Table 4: Local people’s Awareness of the Forest Resource

	Frequency	Percent
Firewood	41	40.6
Poles	9	8.9
Charcoal	14	13.9
Timber	8	7.9
Wild fruits	5	5.0
Traditional medicines	3	3.0
Mushrooms	4	4.0
Ritual functions	3	3.0
Roofing grass	3	3.0
Pasture land	4	4.0
Source of water	3	3.0
Soil fertility	2	2.0
Climate modification	2	2.0
Total	101	100.0

People’s Perception on Forest Resource Degradation

With respect to the availability of forest resources in the public forest land, within the last 10 years ago, the result showed that 70 percent of the respondents admitted that the forest resources were decreasing. They noted that some wild animals and wild birds that were seen in the past are currently not seen and some water sources have dried up. And 9 percent of the respondents said that the forest resources were increasing. About 21 percent of the respondents pointed out that they did not know. (See Fig. 3).



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Figure 3: Trend of forest Resources Availability in the Study Villages

Factors that led to Forest Degradation

When the respondents were restricted to mention only one, the most common human activities that cause deforestation, the following were the results. 37 percent of the respondents said agricultural activities caused forest degradation (See Plate 1) followed by cutting down of trees for fire wood 29 percent, 12 percent by animal grazing, 10 percent by brick making, 6 percent by uncontrolled fire, 4 percent by charcoal burning, (See Plate 2) 1 percent by honey harvesting by fire, 1 percent by lumbering and 1percent by hunting by fire. (See Table 5) Thus agricultural activities were major threats to forest availability in the study villages.

Table 5: Human Activities that cause deforestation

	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	37	36.6
Cutting trees for firewood	29	28.7
Bricks making	10	9.9
Uncontrolled fire	6	5.9
Hunting by fire	1	1.0
Honey harvest by fire	1	1.0
Animal grazing	12	11.9
Lumbering	1	1.0
Charcoal burning	4	4.0
Total	101	100.0

Source: Field Survey Data 2008



Plate 1: A forest has been cut down to open a new farmland at Masaulwa village. Agricultural activity is a major cause of deforestation in the village.



Plate 2: Bags of charcoal in Kidugala village ready to be transported to Njombe town. Since

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Role of Community Based Forest Management

People’s Involvement in the Planning, Decision Making and Implementation of the CBFM

Responses from the community members showed that 62% of the respondents reported that the district council introduced the CBFM in the village assembly, 18 percent said that the village environmental committee members introduced it to them, 11% said the village government and 9% said the all villagers participated in the general assembly at the initial stage of introducing the CBFM in the village. This implies that not all the community members participated in the planning stage. This could be attributed to various factors such as reluctance of some villagers to attend village meetings. Thus one of the village committee members remarked.

You know poor attendance of some villagers in general village meetings makes the village environmental committee members sit down and decide on their behalf, and then sub-village chairpersons are ordered to inform their people and give them instructions for implementations. However, monitoring and evaluation is done by the village environmental committee members.

The focus group discussion revealed that the Village Environmental Committee Members and village leaders in the two villages were the people involved in planning and decision making of the CBFM. However,. the involvement of the local community in the management of forest was an important thing so as to ensure sustainable forest ecosystem. Poor participation had excluded people who were also part of the ecosystem to manage the forest resources in which their actions towards forest resources had an important impact on the sustainability of the resources and their livelihood.

Research findings revealed that Village Environmental Committee oversaw most of the forest management issues of the village forest reserve. Table 6 shows that 89 percent of the respondents did not participate in patrol activity, 90 percent of the respondents said they did not participate in the demarcation of the village forest reserve, 90 percent said they were participating in the making firebreak and 91 percent were being involved in the tree planting activities. The chairman of the village forest management committee in Kidugala village, during FGD, complained that most of the activities were being done by the committee. This showed that local communities were not involved in the management of forest.

Table 6: People’s Involvement in forest management activities

	% Yes	% No	% I don’t know	Total
Patrolling the village forest reserve	1	89.1	9.9	100
Demarcation/Measurement of the Village forest reserve	1	90.1	8.9	100
Making firebreak	90.1	1	8.9	100
Tree planting	91.1	2	6.9	100

Source: Field Survey Data 2008.

Land Ownership and Planting of Trees

The study revealed that 89.1 percent of the respondents owned land mainly being acquired by inheritance out of that only 26.7 percent had planted trees in their plots of land (Table 7). For those who had planted trees when they were asked the cause of their decision to plant trees they said that it was to implement what they had heard in the village general assembly that people were to plant trees. 62.4 percent of the respondents who owned land had not planted trees in their plots. In the FGD it was noted that many people did not plant trees because they had no tree seeds

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that the government had not given them for planting. Others complained that they had been trying to plant trees but the big problem they face is unreliable rainfall and termites which attack young trees. This showed that communities were largely dependent on the local government supply of seedlings and other materials. However there were some villagers who had their own seedlings (See Plate 3).



Plate 3: A tree nursery of *mlingoti* (*Eucalyptus Genus*) established by one villager in Masaulwa village. Trees intended to be planted to his plot

Table 7: Land Ownership and Planting of Trees

		Planting of Trees				Total	
		Yes	%	No	%	Freq.	
Land Ownership	Yes	26		64		90	89.1
	No	1		10		11	10.9
Total		27	26.7	74	73.3	101	100

Source: Field Survey Data 2008

Perceptions of Local Communities on the role of CBFM on Forest Resources

With regard to the current status of forest resources in the study area (Table 8), 76.2% of the respondents acknowledged to have seen some changes in forest cover since the adoption of community based forest management. About 21.8% reported that somehow there were some changes while 2% said there were no any changes occurred in the village forest reserve.

Table 8: Perceptions of the Local Communities on CBFM

	Village		Total	
	Masaulwa	Kidugala	Frequency	%
Yes	24	53	77	76.2
No		2	2	2.0
Somehow	9	13	22	21.8
Total	33	68	101	100.0

Source: Field Data 2008.

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The research findings in Table 9 shed light on the extent to which respondents reported improvements of forest resource and non forest resources. About 73.3 percent reported increased forest cover, (See Plate 4) 70.3 percent increased roofing grass, 58.4 percent previous dried water source started to give some water out, 57.4 percent reduced fire onset cases and 49.5 percent wild animals and bird varieties started to inhabit and 48.5 percent reported an increased honey harvest.

Table 9: Distribution of Respondents on perceived changes on forest and non forest resources

	Yes	No	Somehow	I don't know	Total
	%	%	%	%	
Increase in forest cover	72.3	2.0	21.8	4.0	100
Increase of roofing grass	70.3	2.0	24.8	3.0	100
Increase of honey harvest	48.5	5.0	42.6	4.0	100
Wild animals & bird varieties started to inhabit	49.5	4.0	41.6	5.0	100
Water sources started to give some water out	58.4	5.0	32.7	4.0	100
Reduced fire onset cases	57.4	5.0	35.6	2.0	100



Plate 4: A formerly heavily disturbed forest of Chauyiva at Kidugala village, now under village forest reserve being acknowledged to have regenerated after adoption of the CBFM.

People’s Perception on the Role of CBFM on their Livelihoods

The study revealed that only 15.8 percent of the respondents reported improvement of their livelihood and that had a direct link with the management system. While 83.2 percent of the respondents said that there was no improvement on people’s livelihoods as no harvesting of forest resources had been allowed since the introduction of the CBFM five years ago (See Table 10).

Table10: Perception on Improvement of people’s livelihoods

	Frequenc	Percen
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	y	t
Yes	16	15.8
No	84	83.2
Somehow	1	1.0
Total	101	100

Source: Field Data 2008.

However, it was noted that for those who said there were some improvements included the mushrooms gatherers, roofing grass and thatch collectors and honey collectors. (See Plate 5)



Plate 5: A traditionally made beehive, the owner acknowledged an increased harvest hence more sales since adoption of CBFM of the Kilongo forest reserve in Masaulwa village.

Challenges facing Community Based Forest Management

Respondents were asked first to identify the constraints hindering the effectiveness of the CBFM. They asserted that lack of community willingness to participate in forest management activities was a big problem in both villages. In the FGD it was found out that people were unwilling to participate in such activities because they did not see immediate benefits. It was also reported that prolonged drought was a cause for failing to manage the seedlings. Frequent failures made some of the community members loose interest in Community Based Forest Management.

Lack of funds for implementing forest management activities was also mentioned to be the constraint. 70 percent of the respondents complained lack of financial assistance from the District Council. They said that if they could be supplied with funds they could use it to buy tree seeds, anti-termites chemicals which attack young trees and polythene bags for seedlings preparation. The chairman of the village environmental committee acknowledged that in spite they had been given two bicycles for fire alert but they were functionless as long as the area was a hilly they could not ride a bicycle. District Forest Officer acknowledged shortage of funds which setback smooth implementation of forest management. He said that annual forestry and beekeeping budget was only 5 000 000/=Tshs, amount which was not enough.

Also 90 percent of the respondents complained of the shortage of manpower in the forest management activities. They said that they were attended twice since the adoption of CBFM. When the District Forest Officer was interviewed he acknowledged that shortage of qualified manpower to all natural resource sectors, to guide resource use in the district was a problem that contributed to slackening of forest management activities.

Policy Measures for Improving Community Based Forest Management.

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About 38.6 of the respondents emphasized sensitization programmes that included education and training on community forest management and wise use of forest resources. (See Table 11). 21.9 percent of the respondents proposed the need for increasing forest experts at local level who could help them in forest management activities. 27.7 percent emphasized the strengthening of tree planting campaign by providing the local community with tree seedlings, ant-termites chemicals, polythene tubes and transport. Moreover, they also proposed the enforcement of various principles and by-laws (6.9%) which would guide resource use in the District. Others proposed the improvement of community's financial capital for the implementation of forest management (4.9%). The chairman of the village environmental committee of Masaulwa village emphasized the need for increasing natural resources extension staff in order to improve extension services in the District. The District Forest Officer proposed that community participation in forest management should be promoted by the District Council in collaboration with various NGO's, institutions, private sector and individual farmers in planting trees and managing the forest resources as a whole.

Table 11: Suggestions for Sustainable Forest Management

	Frequency	Percentage
More education and training	39	38.6
Strengthen tree planting campaign	28	27.7
Increase forest experts	22	21.9
Enforcement of various by-laws	7	6.9
Improvement of financial capital	5	4.9
Total	101	100

Source: Field Survey Data 2008

Conclusion

Community Based Forest Management has not been well understood by the local communities as they have continued to depend on government institutions to run and fund forest activities that are owned by the village. The village communities do not feel that they own the forest and hence are responsible for funding their forest activities. Some of the villagers become disinterested in forest activities as they do not see the benefits of their forest. Thus it has been largely because of the work of the village environmental committee and the local government that some success have been realized through CBFM in the two villages. Hence there is need for the government to empower the local communities so that they understand their responsibilities as owners of the village forest and thus contribute to sustainable forest management,

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