



partageons les connaissances au profit des communautés rurales
sharing knowledge, improving rural livelihoods

Rural Radio Resource Pack

No 02/3

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



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The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area.

Rural radio

Radio remains, despite all the interest in the new ICTs, one of the most important communication tools in ACP rural communities. CTA began supporting rural radio back in 1991. Every year since then we've produced a set of Rural Radio Resource Packs (RRRPs).

Each pack is on a specific topic – anything from crop storage and cassava to small ruminants and soil fertility. The choice of topics depends on what ACP partners suggest. The number of topics covered has now reached 51. Inside each pack are materials for a radio programme on that topic – interviews on cassette or CD, a transcription and a suggested introduction for each interview, technical information on the topic, advice for how the pack can be used and a questionnaire for users to provide feedback to CTA.

You can find most of the RRRP material on CTA's Rural Radio website
<http://ruralradio.cta.int/>.

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CTA

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Sustainable Forest Management

TECHNICAL INFORMATION
(and suggestions for using RRRPs in the studio)

Background

Forests are an extremely valuable resource for three main reasons:

- Commercial value: Forests are a source of raw materials; timber and wood pulp are two main ones, but there are also non-timber forest products which can be harvested and sold
- Supplying daily needs for local communities: people living close to forests may depend on them as a source of firewood, building materials, grazing, other non-timber forest products like fruit, honey, edible plants and medicines, organic matter for soils
- Environmental value: forests have many vital ecological functions, housing wide bio-diversity, protecting soils from erosion, maintaining watersheds and encouraging infiltration of rainwater, providing habitat for wildlife, holding carbon and releasing oxygen, increasing rainfall, and protecting land from desertification

But in many parts of the world forests are being lost, because they are not managed in sustainable ways. This has major implications for national economies, for local people, and for the environment.

Whose responsibility is the management of forests?

This will vary between different countries; in some, government forestry departments may be managing large areas of forest, in others, private forestry companies and logging companies may be the most important players. In many places the communities who live in or close to the forests will have the greatest impact on how forests are managed. In this Rural Radio Resource Pack we focus particularly on the role of local communities in sustainable forest management.

Issues covered in the pack

The interviews in this pack come from west, east, central and southern Africa. They examine strategies adopted by communities and forest departments to protect forests from over-exploitation, and to aid recovery and regrowth. They also look at how communities can earn income from trees and forests without causing deforestation, and how the needs of agriculture and forestry can be balanced. They examine the importance of forest ownership for local people, and how government

forestry departments and local communities can work together to conserve forest resources. Some interviews feature traditional rights and management systems, while others look at how government policy can support sustainable forest management. Many speakers advocate the need for communities to be given more responsibility for the management of forests.

Sustainable management strategies

Controlling the extraction of firewood and timber are the most common strategies for protecting forests. The reports from Kenya (*Stop, think, participate!*), Zambia (*Forestry for farmers*) describe local forest management plans and agreements that have been set up voluntarily by communities, to achieve this. One of the reports from Zimbabwe (*Supporting good traditions*) describes a traditional system for the same purpose. Protecting forests from fires, and replanting to replace cut trees are described in *Against the odds*. Taking pressure off natural forests by domesticating beneficial forest trees features in *Short or long term gains?*, and *From conflict to co-operation* includes measures to prevent damage by forest fires and livestock.

Generating income from living trees and forests

Timber, firewood and other forest products are a vital source of livelihood to rural communities. If those people are to support conservation of forests, they need ways of making money from their forests without destroying them. *Wild trees bear fruit* gives one example, where local communities in Malawi have started to earn substantial income from indigenous fruit trees, making fruit juices from Baobab and Tamarind fruit. However, as *Short or long term gains?* makes clear, exploitation even of a tree fruit, needs to be done carefully if it is to be sustainable.

New sources of resources deals with an area of Cameroon where local communities have been excluded from a national park. To compensate for their lost resources, they are being supported in cultivation of non-timber forest products, such as spices, and in livestock production. They also earn money from work in the national park, and from tourism. The Gambian community in *Against the odds* also hope that tourism could be a way of earning income from their protected forest in the future.

Balancing the needs of farmers and the needs of forests

Clearing of forest land for agriculture is one of the most common causes of deforestation. In *Forestry for farmers*, Cecilia Polansky explains how her project began their forest protection work, by promoting and teaching more productive farming methods, which would enable farmers to grow more on their existing fields, and reduce the need to clear more land in the forests. The authorities of Meru Forest Park (see *From conflict to co-operation*), allocate farming plots on forest land that has already been cleared, so as to prevent uncontrolled clearing. How much forest land should be made available to farmers is a difficult question. In Nigeria farmers have been given up to 2 hectares each, but Ebohon Afehodyon argues that this is too much, in *Plots and plantations*.

Government support for community management and ownership

In many countries, forests have been the property and responsibility of the government. As a result, local communities have often felt little incentive to protect the forests, or use them sustainably. However, as several reports in this pack show, there is now a widespread move towards giving communities rights and responsibilities for forest management. For example, at the time that this pack is being made, an Environmental Management Bill is being debated in Zimbabwe, which would put much more power over natural resource management in the hands of rural communities (see *Supporting good traditions*). There is also a similar situation in Kenya (see *Stop, think, participate!*). Our report from The Gambia shows how the Department of Forestry has been supporting the Jabang Kunda clan, supplying seedlings for planting, training in management methods, and most importantly, officially recognising the community's rights to the forest.

Other examples of co-operation include the Meru Forest Plantation in Tanzania (*From conflict to co-operation*), where villages receive farming plots, access for firewood collection and cash payments in return for some management responsibilities.

Non-government organisations facilitate change

In Zambia's Eastern Province, the Co-operative League of the United States has been helping the forestry department to develop forest management plans in partnership with villagers - see *Forestry for farmers*. They have spent considerable time gathering the views of villagers about how they could be more involved in management, and about the strategies that would be needed. For example, villagers have contributed information about how best to encourage regrowth, and which trees are best suited to which purposes. Also in Zambia, the Green Living Movement is working with slash-and-burn cultivators, the Lala people, to help them reappraise their farming methods which, owing to increased population densities, are no longer sustainable. *Stopping slash-and-burn* is notoriously difficult, but by sending volunteers to live with the forest communities, the Movement has managed to build up a trusting relationship with the Lala, and together they have explored new ways for the community to make a living from the forest.

Using this RRRP in the studio

You will need to consider the current status of forest management in your country to judge how to approach the subject. Obviously listeners will be much more interested in issues that are locally important. Forest management is potentially a good subject for discussion or phone in programmes, because it is controversial. As many of the interviews in this pack make clear, most destruction of forests is caused by poverty; people feel it is the only way for them to survive. Careful management of forests for the long term can seem like a luxury that few rural people can afford. It would be good to invite one or more guest speakers to discuss the most urgent issues in your country. Some of them may be found below:

What kind of management systems and strategies are needed to achieve sustainable forest management?

You may wish to interview someone who can explain how forests can be managed for sustainable production of timber, firewood and other resources, without causing unacceptable damage. For a good summary of how communities can set up good management systems, you could use *Stop, think, participate!*, which describes management methods, punishments for those who break the agreements, and the need for government support and awareness raising.

How can communities exploit forests and trees without destroying them?

On the one hand, sustainable management means that forests will continue to supply the raw materials that communities depend on. But if done carefully, there may be additional ways for them to generate income from their forests. For example, using indigenous fruits or herbs, or developing a tourism industry. You may be able to talk to someone involved with this kind of project. *New sources of resources*, *Wild trees bear fruit* and *Short or long term gains?* are three examples in the pack.

Should local communities have rights of ownership over their forests?

Most of the interviews in this pack support the need for local ownership and management, as it gives local people the incentive to manage their forest resources for the long term. You could discuss the current situation in your country regarding ownership, and whether this needs to be a focus for government policy. Several of the interviews in the pack could contribute to this discussion, particularly *Supporting good traditions* and *Stop, think, participate!*.

How else can government forestry departments support community based management efforts?

Is there a programme supporting community forestry in your country? You may be able to talk to a forestry extension officer about it. If there is not, should it be a priority? *Against the odds* gives a good example of how forestry services can help, and *Plots and plantations* describes other policies that governments could use to support sustainable management. The need for forestry departments to listen to communities, as well as teach them, is addressed in *Stopping slash-and-burn*.

Farmers need land. How can this be balanced with the need to stop further deforestation?

You might want to invite two or more speakers to discuss this question - perhaps representatives of farming and environmental organisations. You may know of a case in your country where the need of farmers for land has either been over-ridden by environmental concerns, or has taken precedence. It might make a good subject for discussion. Practical options presented in the pack include increasing farmer productivity - *Forestry for farmers* - and controlling how much land is allocated to farmers - *From conflict to co-operation*.

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Sustainable Forest Management

Contents	Duration
<i>Stop, think, participate!</i>	4'50"
A co-ordinator of the Kenya Forests Working Group describes how it has been working with local forest management committees, to set up forest use agreements and educate communities in improved forest management methods.	
<i>Forestry for farmers</i>	4'49"
A forestry advisor for the Co-operative League of the United States describes a programme to build co-operation between the forestry services and local communities in eastern Zambia. The programme has involved stakeholder workshops to write management plans, and support for more productive agriculture.	
<i>Against the odds</i>	4'33"
In The Gambia's Kombo district land-grabbing for settlement is the norm. However, one community has stood against this, asserting their traditional rights to their forest, and carrying out extensive conservation work to preserve it for future generations.	
<i>New sources of resources</i>	4'13"
The project manager at Kalup National Park in Cameroon explains how local rainforest communities, who have lost their access to the park are being supported in finding new ways to earn income, and how the project is making them aware of the need to manage their community forests sustainably.	
<i>Wild trees bear fruit</i>	3'38"
In Mwanza district, Malawi, thirteen villages have, for the last five years, been involved in a project to make fruit juice from indigenous species - Baobab and Tamarind. As a result people in the area are now planting more indigenous trees, rather than cutting them for charcoal and firewood.	
<i>From conflict to co-operation</i>	4'32"
The manager of Meru Forest Plantation in northern Tanzania describes how the plantation has made agreements with local communities to share responsibilities and benefits. As a result conflicts over livestock grazing have been minimised, corruption over land distribution has been reduced and no forest fires have taken place for three years.	

Supporting good traditions

4'48"

Namo Chuma, of the NGO Environment Africa, explains how traditional arrangements have protected trees in Zimbabwe, and how a new piece of legislation could empower communities to protect their forests against illegal exploitation by commercial interests.

Short or long term gains?

3'21"

An agroforester from Zimbabwe describes how a system of 'tree tenure' encourages sustainable harvesting of indigenous fruit trees, explains ways of adding value to the fruit, and how domestication of indigenous fruit trees can take the pressure off natural forests.

Plots and plantations

3'13"

A forest superintendent from Nigeria explains how policy needs to change in order to reduce the amount of natural forest that is lost to cash crop plantations and agriculture.

Stopping slash-and-burn

3'46"

An NGO in Zambia has volunteers living with forest communities, in order to build up trust and work together on alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture.

Sustainable Forest Management

Stop, think, participate!

CUE:

In Kenya, forests are the property of the government and local communities have no legal basis to manage them. As a result, forest conservation organisations have found it very difficult to persuade local people of the need to preserve the forests for the long term. Since they do not own the forests, few are concerned about managing them sustainably, with the result that the area of forest cover in the country is now very small.

There are, however, many organisations that are working to raise public awareness about the issue. Many of these have combined their efforts under the Kenya Forest Working Group, and together with local people are now developing community-based management plans. The Group is also campaigning hard for a new bill, under which local communities will share in responsibility for forest management. Enoch Kanyanya, a technical co-ordinator of the Group, spoke to Eric Kadenge about the work they have been doing with rural people, their challenges and achievements.

IN: “We work with local communities ...

OUT: ... conserve what we have.

DUR’N 4’50”

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Enoch Kanyanya asking fellow Kenyans to help restore the countries lost forests.

Transcript

Kanyanya We work with local communities, when it comes to preparation of community-based forest management plans. Currently we are preparing one for Eburu Forest.

Kadenge *So in Eburu, what are some of the ways through which you are helping these farmers to ensure that they utilise this forest, and at the same time do not destroy it? For example, getting firewood. How is this done so that the forest is not destroyed?*

Kanyanya Well there is a community forestry management committee. This committee advises the local people on how they can still collect firewood, without destroying the forest. And therefore there are some local agreements, that once one goes to the forest to collect firewood, he should only collect dead wood, so that they leave the growing trees to continue, and in that way we are able to maintain the forest. And also harvesting of medicines, we are trying to educate the community so that we use methods that are non-destructive. Another major use that is destructive to the forest is charcoal, and the community around has actually banned the removal of charcoal from the forest.

- Kadenge** *What measures have you put in place, let's say in the form of punishment for those people who do not adhere to the agreed ways of using the forest?*
- Kanyanya** It's not us that put the conditions, but those are done by the community themselves. When they meet they agree on what they will be doing to safeguard the forest, as well as use the forest. In that agreement they put penalties, and say 'We'll ban you from collecting firewood' or something like that.
- Kadenge** *What are some of the challenges that you get to face as you go about trying to sustain our forests?*
- Kanyanya** As you may be aware, the current Forest Act does not allow participation of the local community in forest management, but there is a bill that has been formed and has yet to be taken to Parliament, that allows the community to participate in forest management. So one of the challenges, I would say, is that we are doing this but we are not backed by law, and we are trying to see to it that the Parliament debate the bill, the Forestry Bill 2000, so that the communities are allowed to participate in the conservation of the forest, so that they are able to determine their future of forest conservation in Kenya.
- Kadenge** *Any other challenges?*
- Kanyanya** There are also other challenges, like, say, the community we are working with. It would be better off if the awareness was high, but it is still low, and we are struggling to make sure that every individual living around the forest is aware of the consequences of, say, setting fire in the dry season, or misusing the forest, over-grazing in the forest, or such like things.
- Kadenge** *Other than the challenges and the negative side of the story, do you have any pointers of success in your activities?*
- Kanyanya** You realise that forestry issues in Kenya are taking centre-stage. And we believe this is out of improved awareness. This is a step forward. And also there are a number of applications to the forest department, that communities living around the forest, want now to participate in the conservation of the forest. This is something that never used to be there. Now despite the fact that there is no law protecting them or supporting them to manage the forest, we can see there are many, many applications from all over the country to the forest department, that they want to participate in the conservation of the forest, and this is I think, a step forward as far as we are concerned.
- Kadenge** *Now if you were to tell someone listening to you right now, one thing about sustainable management of forest resources, what would that be?*
- Kanyanya** I would want that every Kenyan stops to think about forestry issues, and we should increase our little forest cover, which is just 1.7% as opposed to the required 10% of

country cover. I would urge that all Kenyans participate, first in planting so that we can increase the forest cover in the country, and increase the resources that we get from the forests, and also conserve what we have. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Forestry for farmers

CUE:

In Zambia, many forest areas have been managed by the state Forestry Department for as much as forty or fifty years, yet during this time they have never had proper management plans. As a result, forestry officers have not had clear guidelines for how the natural resources of the forest are to be exploited. How many poles can be removed? How much timber for construction? How much bark for making rope? There have also been no plans to guide how much forest land should be cleared for farming.

Cecilia Polansky is a Forest Advisor for the Co-operative League of the United States, an organisation which is supporting community-based natural resources management in Zambia's Eastern Province. She has been working to improve co-operation between the government Forestry Department and the local communities, so that together they can write plans for how the forest can be managed for the long-term future. Chris Kakunta asked Cecilia about the project, and what it has achieved so far.

IN: "Well so far we started...
OUT: ... cash into their households."
DUR'N 4'49"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Cecilia Polansky, summarising the importance of community forest management .

Transcript

Polansky Well so far we started in 1999, in Chiulukire local forest. That's a forest that has got almost 11,000 hectares in it. And at that time when we started we did some village interviews of all these villagers that live around the forest, and there are over 70 new villages that were not in existence at the time when the forest was set up. So now the Forestry Department does not have enough time to do patrols everywhere in that forest, or to properly manage the forest. So we did interviews, to find out people's interest in managing those resources within that forest.

Kakunta *So how are the communities being involved in managing this forest?*

Polansky Well, after those interviews in 1999, we developed a strategy of bringing some of the representatives of those communities, together in workshops, to talk about the products they get from that forest, and to write actual chapters for a management plan for that forest. So the people gave us very good ideas about the rates of use of those products, and the best ways to regenerate specific trees which are used for specific products, and we incorporated some scientific information from research in

miombo ecology that has already been done, with the community's knowledge about the same products, and how they regenerate, how much they need to use, and how much income they get from all those products in their areas. So we incorporated those into one management plan that contains one chapter for each user group, and also chapters on administrative aspects so that Forest Department can join in the book-keeping and some of the legal aspects, and the traditional hierarchy is also involved as important in announcing policies that relate to forest ecology.

Kakunta *So would you be able to say that, in as far as sustainable forest management is concerned, your programme has had a great impact in achieving your objectives?*

Polansky Well we like to think it has had an impact, but it is a bit early. The thing about forest management is it is very long term, and although we managed to write a very good plan for miombo forest in two years, now the implementation will also take time to measure the actual impact on the environment and on people's attitudes towards protecting their forests better.

Kakunta *So, in a nutshell, what would be some of the lessons you have learned in terms of protecting the forest?*

Polansky We realised very soon that we need to address the problem of agriculture along with the problem of forest management. Because the main destruction of the forest right now does seem to be people cultivating inside the boundaries of government-managed and controlled forest.

Kakunta *So are there alternative measures that you are putting, so as to enable these communities not to go into the forest, as far as agriculture is concerned?*

Polansky Yes, well the main push at the beginning of the project, in the first three years, was to do extension work in conservation farming, to raise yields per hectare of crops, and as a side line, there has also been value-adding to agricultural crops. And the objective is to raise incomes enough for farmers around these forests so that they don't need to look for so much alternative land, and new land to cultivate, but also to raise their yield per hectare, and that way they also don't need so many hectares to cultivate for their families.

Kakunta *Is there anything that you would like to put across, in as far as sustainable natural resources management, in particular forests, is concerned?*

Polansky Well from the government side, I know the government needs to reaffirm its commitment to maintaining the forests that they have already, and the key to doing that is going to be involving communities surrounding those forests. And on the community side, they need to also realise that if they are too selfish about their own families' needs, and are not interesting in improving their yields per hectare, then we will have a problem with deforestation, that will make it so that eventually, they

won't even be able to get medicines out of the forest, or those economic resources that both women and men depend on to bring cash into their households. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Against the odds

CUE:

In The Gambia's Kombo district, land-grabbing for settlement purposes is the order of the day. Yet one community there has gone against all the odds. With assistance and support from the Department of Forest Services, they have claimed their rights to their traditional forest, and resolved to preserve it for future generations.

Two years ago the Jabang Kunda clan created the Falaa Community Forest Park, a protected area of about four square kilometres. They also established a management committee to enforce rules about how the forest could be used. Now the entire clan, young and old, men and women, are involved in management and conservation of the park, and those who break the rules are fined. Ismaila Senghore spoke to Momodou Bojang, the head of the management committee, about why the clan had decided to claim their rights, and how they are both using the forest and protecting it for the future.

IN: "We are right here in ...
OUT: ... benefit of our future generation.
DUR'N 4'33"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Ismaila Senghore reporting from The Gambia.

Transcript

Senghore *We are right here in the Falaa Community Forest Park, and it is situated just about a kilometre or so in the outskirts of the village of Jamburr, towards the west. This place, just the air that you breathe in here, and the trees that you see around, and of course the singing birds will tell you it is a natural forest that really needs preservation. I think this is one of the reasons that might have lead the Jabang Kunda clan to conserve this forest of theirs. But as we have Mr. Momodou Bojang, who is the head of the management team here, I would like to ask him some of the reasons that lead the clan to conserve this forest. Mr. Bojang.*

Bojang [Vernac.] We were greatly inspired to take up this community forest initiative, because if you look at our environment, the natural forest is dying out completely, and we should try to conserve that little remaining natural forest that we have, at least for the benefit of our future children. That being the case, this has motivated us to do all that we can to make sure that natural things in the forest, such as animals, which our forefathers were seeing, and ourselves are seeing, to make sure that they still remain in the forest for the benefit of our children in the future.

- Senghore** *What conservation and management practices do you carry out on the forest?*
- Bojang** [Vernac.] First of all, we make all effort to make sure that the forest is being protected against fire by making a firebelt around the forest.
- Senghore** *How do you ensure that whatever you extract from the forest, you replace adequately, to ensure the regeneration and conservation of the forest?*
- Bojang** [Vernac.] After cutting some trees we replace them with beneficial trees such as malaina, mahogany and other trees, to replace them in the forest.
- Senghore** *What are the resources that you expect this forest can generate when it is in full operation?*
- Bojang** [Vernac] In the long run, if the forest is well developed in the future, when all animals and birds, some tree species and wild fruits will be available in the forest, and that can encourage eco-tourism in the area, and in our community in particular.
- Senghore** *Now what kind of support have you received from either government, or from whatever source it might have come from?*
- Bojang** [Vernac.] The Department of Forestry do assist us in bringing seedlings, malaina seedlings, cashew-nut seedlings and also in providing us with some skills and techniques in how to bring up a community forest, during the process.
- Senghore** *How far do you think you reserve the rights of ownership of your forest, and how does that right affect your inspiration in your management activities?*
- Bojang** [Vernac.] With the concept of community forest, the land belongs to the community of Jamburr, and more so to our clan, and this has been testified by our surrounding people, all confirm that this land belongs to us. It has been documented by the Department of Forestry Services that the land belongs to us as a community forest. This has encouraged us as we are now assured of the total ownership of the land, and we now embark on developing the land to make it a successful community forest.
- Senghore** *Finally Mr. Bojang, do you think others would like to emulate your example because of your success?*
- Bojang** The only advice I would have for the entire country and the community at large is, let everyone endeavour to at least make sure that we conserve the little remaining forest that we have in our environment, for the benefit of our future generation. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

New sources of resources

CUE:

Protecting natural forests from over-exploitation can be a difficult business. Many forest communities find it hard to believe that their natural forest resources can ever be finished. They may argue that their parents and grandparents have always used the forest, so why should they change their way of life? One way of convincing them of the need to use their forest in a sustainable way might be to show them some areas where the forests have been lost, and let them talk to the communities there. Indeed, this is one of the methods being tried by the Kalup National Park Project in south-west Cameroon.

In our next report, Dr Hanson Njiforti, the project manager, talks to Martha Chindong about how the Kalup project has been helping local communities to get the right balance between conservation and exploitation. The park itself has become a ‘no go’ area for local people, but at the same time they have received some benefits from increased tourism in the area, and the project has also tried to introduce alternative ways for them to get vital resources and income.

IN: “When people don’t derive ...

OUT: ... to show them examples.”

DUR’N 4’13”

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Dr Hanson Njiforti, showing how experience has been the best teacher for rainforest communities in Cameroon.

Transcript

Njiforti When people don’t derive any benefit from whatever you want to conserve, it will be very difficult for you, right through your work. And when you are conserving a forest, you take care of the conservation aspect itself, conservation proper, and you take care of the needs of the people, what economic benefits people will have. So with us, the conservation aspect is mainly the national park. We have also community forests, where people exploit these forests and use the money for their own development. So we have development activities out of the national park, and in the national park we are doing conservation proper.

Chindong *So how are the people around benefiting from this conservation proper?*

Njiforti You can imagine that when tourists come to the park, they leave money. People who are working, taking care of tourists get money; the hotels and bar owners and so on get money from the tourists.

- Chindong** *Apart from tourists coming to bring in some money for the local people, are there other ways they are gaining from this sustainable management of the forest?*
- Njiforti** We have tried to teach people, for example, to grow non-timber forest products, like ‘gansa’, ‘eru’, those commonly used spices that women used to trek for hours to go and harvest; most of them can now grow them in their backyard. So a lot of people are cultivating these and they are selling. You get a truckload of all these ‘eru’s and ‘gansa’ from the area, delivering it to other towns in Cameroon, and even out of Cameroon to our neighbouring countries.
- Chindong** *That is an idea for keeping them out of the forest, from harvesting those trees. What of livestock?*
- Njiforti** OK, as you might not have realised, domestic cattle do not do very well in the project area. We have to improve a local breed called a ‘muturu’ cattle, which is very resistant to trypanosomiasis. So that was one way of stopping them from going into the forest for wildlife. We promoted piggery and all other aspects linked to animal husbandry.
- Chindong** *When you say ‘promote’ what do you do in actual terms?*
- Njiforti** For the moment we are working with muturu cattle in collaboration with FAO. This breed was almost disappearing, and we have tried to promote breeding and increase the breeding of these cattle, and the population is increasing actually. Piggery, the project in the past did a lot to teach people how to do piggery, poultry and everything, and many people are already doing their own piggery.
- Chindong** *As somebody working with farmers in the fields, what do you think are the best sustainable forest management practices?*
- Njiforti** If people have never realised anything important in the forest, it will be very difficult for them to buy any ideas that you are selling. You need to show people that if they manage their forest well, they will get more income; if they manage their forest well, they can leave something for their children; if they manage their forest well, they will have basic natural resources constantly. But it is very difficult to sell sometimes.
- Chindong** *Yes, they will always think that their parents lived on this forest and they left the forest for them.*
- Njiforti** You know, people in the village might be thinking in terms of ‘my grandfather’, twenty years or ten years. When we are talking conservation, we are talking hundreds of years, and it is very difficult to perceive this at the level of the village where our knowledge is limited to that of our grandfather and our grandmother. What we do now for example, is to take people to other areas where the resources are already finished. They will get the stories from the people from there, and that is when the people believe that their own too might one day disappear, because many people

don't believe it when you say, 'If we exploit irrationally these animals may disappear.' They say 'It's a lie! My grandfather used to use it!' So the best way is to show them examples. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Wild trees bear fruit

Cue:

Cutting down wild, or indigenous trees to make charcoal or to sell as firewood is one way for rural communities to earn some much needed income. The problem is that unless the cutting is carefully managed and new trees planted, it is not a long-term solution, and can even increase poverty by encouraging soil erosion. However, there are other ways of earning income from wild trees. Our next report comes from Mwanza district in Malawi, where for the last five years, thirteen villages have been involved in a project which has allowed them to generate income from indigenous tree fruits. Patrick Mphaka reports.

IN: " It has been said that ..."

OUT: "... into a large area. "

DUR'N 3'38"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Misozi Khonje, on a project in Malawi to help villagers to earn extra income from their indigenous tree fruits.

Transcript

Mphaka *It has been said that communities deplete forests not out of pleasure, but out of desperation. It is poverty that drives them to cut down trees which they sell as firewood or charcoal. If one wants a community to sustainably manage its forests, one has to give the community another source of income. This is the approach the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi has taken. Sustainable Management of Indigenous Forests Project involves the production of Tamarind (Tamarindus indica) and Baobab (Adansonia digitata) fruit juice. I caught up with the project's Production Manageress, Ms Misozi Khonje for a chat.*

Khonje We started the research for the juices in 1997, and by 1998 it was established. From 1998, the communities organised themselves into committees and these committees are where these people that produce juice come from.

Mphaka *Now can you tell me what happens, how did the juice, or the fruit itself get collected from the bush, and then to end up with you producing the actual fruit juice?*

Khonje In the first place the communities collect the fruits and sell them to the project office. The project office keeps the fruits and in turns the communities come for the production. Then when they come, they crack the fruits, the fruits are then soaked, the juice is sieved, and after sieving, the juice is heated, and then they add the sugar and the preservatives. Then they bottle the juice.

- Mphaka** *When you do the selling, how do you share the money, do you give the whole amount to the communities or you keep it yourselves?*
- Khonje** The communities receive 20% of the total income. The other percentage is left for the running of the whole project. The juice production project is self-sustaining.
- Mphaka** *The aim of all this is to make sure that trees are managed sustainably. Would you say you have accomplished this goal, are the trees being protected?*
- Khonje** At first the people used to cut down these trees, mainly the *Tamarindus indica* tree for charcoal and firewood. But now since they have seen the use of these fruits, they are now keeping them and they are also planting some of these trees in their fields.
- Mphaka** *Planting natural or indigenous trees is a difficult exercise. How do you assist them in that?*
- Khonje** We all know that indigenous trees take some time to grow. But after they take care of them, they can see how profitable these trees can be. So we are still now encouraging them to take care of the already existing trees, and planting some more.
- Mphaka** *How do you see the future of the project? You have already said it is self-sustaining now which is very good news. Do you have any plans to extend to any other areas knowing that these trees are found in many places in Malawi? Do you have any intentions maybe to go to other areas or what are the limitations?*
- Khonje** Most of the people that are now selling the fruit to the project office, are not from the project area. That is to say, we are involving everyone who has got the fruits. But for the production, it is only those people that are in the thirteen villages that we are working with. If we could have another donor who could assist us, we could extend this project into a large area. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

From conflict to co-operation

Cue:

Meru Forest Plantation, which lies close to Arusha in northern Tanzania, was designated as a government forest back in 1920. Since that time the forest managers have experienced considerable conflict with local people. The area is home to farmers and to pastoralists with large numbers of cattle, and many have been angry that they cannot graze and farm the land occupied by the government plantation.

A few years ago, the government of Tanzania decided to embark on a new approach to try to change the situation from conflict to co-operation. Government plantations and surrounding villages were encouraged to write an agreement, known as a memorandum of understanding, by which communities agreed to respect and protect the forests, in return for some concessions from the forest authorities. Edgar Masunga, manager of the Meru Forest Plantation explained to Lazarus Laiser how the system began in his area.

IN: " We started it in 1998/99 ..."

OUT: "...which are still persisting."

DUR'N 4'32"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Edgar Masunga, on the need for communities to be more involved in the management of forests in Tanzania

Transcript

Masunga We started it in 1998/99 by having a pilot project with three villages in Oldonyosambu. We had memorandum of understanding with those villages. They were supposed to curb all illegal activities, like tree-felling, illegal tree-felling in the forest. Also they were supposed to extinguish any fire which could be started either accidentally, or by arson, or any type of fire in the forest. And our task was to give them free access to the forest, to take fuelwood for domestic purpose, and also in the clear felled areas, we agreed that we were going to allocate them some plots to plant some maize, potatoes and beans. And again we agreed that we were going to give them some amount of money, and now they are getting about 50,000 shillings per village per month.

Laiser *How many villages are involved now, up to the moment?*

Masunga Up to now we have fourteen villages which we have signed a memorandum of understanding with them. But we are facing some problems. Most of the people around they keep cattle. They do not have the grazing areas, so they take a lot of

cattle to our forest. Formerly, when we had no agreement with the villages, whenever we were trying to destock the animals from our forest, we were getting a very great resistance from them. But after signing this memorandum of understanding, the conflicts have been minimised, so we think that they are helping us in managing this forest sustainably. For the past three years, we have never seen any serious fire in the forest, and even the distribution of the plots has been so smooth. We just give the number of plots to the village government, and they just do the distribution themselves, in the villages, and this has reduced the problem of corruption.

Laiser *Now, what training are you giving to the local communities, to encourage them in sustainable forestry?*

Masunga On the question of education, we don't provide any formal education to the villages, because it will be very expensive. But we are giving them informal education, just to create awareness. And we are doing seminars, workshops with the environmental committees, which are representing the village governments. So the environmental committees act as a bridge, a link, between a village and the management team. And also we took some of the members of the environmental committees to other areas, to see how other people are doing in management of their forest there.

Laiser *What suggestion do you have to the government about forestry management?*

Masunga You cannot manage forests as an island. The destruction of most of the forests is done unintentionally. You see most of the people around, their level of education is very low. So the government has to stress in education, environmental education, from the primary level up to the college level. And also you cannot solve this problem in isolation. Most of the destruction is done because people are poor. So the forest is just nearby to their villages, and they consider to have easy money. So the government has to plan on how to improve the income of its people, and I think it is high time to give some part of the area as a pilot project to the local people. If they can be given three hundred hectares, and teach them how to manage it sustainably. And after some time, if they are doing it in a proper way, then you give them more, you give them more share. Because if they know that this forest is their property it means they will take more care, and there will be no destruction, and it will be easy for us to manage it and reduce the conflicts which are still persisting. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Supporting good traditions

Cue:

In many rural areas, forests and forest resources are protected by long-standing community traditions, which govern the times when people can harvest wood from the forest, and what types of tree can be used for which purposes. However these traditional arrangements are being increasingly threatened and when they fail, national or regional laws are often too weak to protect the forest.

Our next report comes from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, an area where many trees are being cut to provide wood for the curio carving business. An NGO, Environment Africa has been working with local communities in the area, helping them to reach agreements on how to best use and protect their forest resources. Busani Bafana asked Namo Chuma about the management systems the communities had set up, and what effect a new Environmental Management Bill might have for natural resources management in Zimbabwe. The Bill, if it is passed, will hand over much more management responsibility and power to local people. Busani began by asking whether local communities really understood the concept of sustainable forest management.

IN: " The local communities do understand ..."
OUT: " ... and re-green Zimbabwe."
DUR'N 4'48"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Busani Bafana calling on Zimbabweans to restore their lost forests.

Transcript

Chuma The local communities do understand the concept of sustainable utilisation of forests, but they understand it from a traditional perspective, from their cultural perspective.

Bafana *By 'cultural perspective', what do you actually mean?*

Chuma I mean that the communities have set aside pieces of land or some forest, which are not accessed by members of the community during certain times of the year, like during the rainy season those areas are protected, and members of the communities are not allowed to go in there. They can only use those pieces of forest during the dry season. And also communities know which species of trees to harvest, and when to do it and how to do it.

Bafana *Would you say these efforts have yielded any great benefits?*

- Chuma** Yes I would say these efforts have actually yielded a lot of benefits to the communities themselves, particularly with certain species of trees which are protected in our traditional society. There are certain species of trees which we know, and when we grow up we are told you cannot use that piece of wood when you want to make fire, or you cannot use it when you want to build your homestead, and these trees have been protected.
- Bafana** *As far as protecting the forests, which are not only a source of various products, but also a source of livelihood, what local solutions have the communities that you work with come up with?*
- Chuma** Some communities have come together, and they have agreed that, when you want to go and harvest timber or wood in the forest, you are supposed to follow certain procedures. You are supposed to go through the head man, or through the kraal head, and only the kraal head can authorise the amount of wood that you are going to cut in that particular forest. And also, the head man, together with his community advisors, let communities know when certain forests will be open for them to go and cut wood for both carving and building their homes.
- Bafana** *What problems have you encountered as far as trying to help the local people utilise the principles of sustainable forest management?*
- Chuma** Yes, we have encountered some problems, particularly with people who want to go into commercial ventures using products from the forest in the communal lands. At the end of the day, you discover that the communities are not benefiting from these commercial ventures. It will be one or two people who are benefiting from these commercial ventures, and it becomes very difficult to control these people, because they don't liaise with the kraal heads, they don't even have permits from the Hwange Rural District Council, which is the local authority in charge of these two wards where we are working. So we have had serious problems with such people.
- Bafana** *How do you think the government can support initiatives, such as those being implemented by Environment Africa?*
- Chuma** If you look at legislation at the moment, if you are found cutting down trees the fine that you have to pay is not deterrent enough. You cut down a 'mukwa' tree that took about fifty years to mature, and you are only asked to pay a fine of fifteen dollars. And I also believe that the government should provide the resources to communities, so that communities are empowered to manage the resources in their localities, instead of having extension workers managing forests on behalf of communities.
- Bafana** *What if at all will the impact of the Environmental Management Bill, if it is passed into law, have on sustainable management of forest by local people?*
- Chuma** We welcome the introduction of the Environmental Management Bill. We believe that the moment it becomes law, it is going to empower communities to manage their

resources. In one of the sections of the Bill, it is stated that the communities are going to be given appropriate authority status. And the moment the communities get appropriate authority status, which means they have the mandate, they have the power to manage resources in their localities, by so doing we will be empowering the communities and they are going to be associated with those resources, because they have the mandate to manage them.

Bafana *And maybe just to round off, last month former South African president, Nelson Mandela, launched an initiative started by Environment Africa called 'Tree Africa'. What bearing does this have on the local efforts to manage forests?*

Chuma *As Environment Africa we realised that we are losing a lot of trees, and at a very fast rate. So we launched a campaign in March which is called 'Tree Africa'. Our aim is to plant about five million trees in two years. So we are calling on every Zimbabwean to be part of this campaign.*

Bafana *There you are, the campaign is on! Plant a tree and re-green Zimbabwe! End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Short or long term gains?

CUE:

The marketing of fruit from indigenous trees is becoming increasingly popular in many African countries. As a result, rural communities are finding a new way of earning income from their forest resources. However, if the exploitation of these fruit is done carelessly, trees can be damaged and the resource lost. One cause of careless exploitation is uncertainty over ownership; if the trees do not belong to anyone, nobody is responsible for ensuring that they are harvested responsibly.

The World Agroforestry Centre, also known as ICRAF, is working in Zimbabwe to support sustainable use of indigenous fruit trees. In our next report, Livai Matarirano, an agroforestry development facilitator, explains to Sylvia Jiyane how some communities in Zimbabwe have established a system of ownership for wild fruit trees, and how ICRAF is helping them to earn more money from their fruit marketing. He also warns of the dangers of over-exploitation and suggests an alternative way for farmers to boost their fruit harvests without damaging the natural forests. Sylvia began by asking to what extent rural communities were already practising sustainable management of their forest resources.

IN: “There are cases whereby ...
OUT: ... the demand on the forest.”
DUR’N 3’21”

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Livai Matarirano, pointing out how growing indigenous trees on farm can reduce the pressure on natural forests.

Transcript

Matarirano There are cases whereby communities are managing their resources in a sustainable way, but in the majority of cases this is not the case. There is a lot of deforestation, a lot of desertification that is coming on, as a result of the removal of trees. But just to highlight examples of where sustainable management of forest resources is, one is where communities have seen the economic benefit of exploiting a natural resource. I’m talking here about indigenous fruit trees, which has developed into tree tenure. People know that they can harvest fruit from it and sell it and get some money, and what is happening is now they are cultivating around the trees and one that is cultivated, it means that somebody owns it. Now by caring for the tree, and also that there is individual ownership, you will find that the harvest and productivity of that tree is extended for quite a long time, and that leads to sustainable utilisation of resources.

Jiyane *Do you sometimes carry out some activities together or joint projects, with the community?*

Matarirano We have quite a number of activities that we do with communities. One is on value-adding of indigenous fruits, where we have been looking at ways of marketing these indigenous fruits rather than just sending them to the market raw. Is there anything that you can do to improve on the quality or the way that you present it to the market? One of the ways that has been developed is to make them into flour, grind them and make them into flour, and that flour can be made into porridge, can be added to milk to make yoghurt, or it can be just added to water, and you have a drink, maybe fresh or you can have it frozen and so forth. And by providing that variety, the market is acceptable, and then you have income coming in, so that's one direct benefit.

Jiyane *In your opinion, what have been some of the main threats to sustainable use of forest resources?*

Matarirano The main threat is immediate gains. People want money but forest resources don't grow as fast to match that demand, so many a time when a benefit, an economic benefit has been realised by the farmers, they will go and exploit forest resources such that they are depleted, and there is a lot of deforestation. For example, there is this plant called *Sclerocarya birrea*, which people brew into 'marula'. In South Africa they produce a wine, marula wine. Now if there is a market that is readily available for it, people will just go into the forest, harvest, and bring it to the market. Yet when you look at what happens in the forest, because the demand is so high, the care is not there, such that the produce will get less, and less, and less. But we say that if people can be taught about the use of these things, how they can be grafted or planted, so that you reduce the period from planting to production, then it means more trees can be produced and maybe that will also reduce the demand on the forest. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Plots and plantations

Cue:

In Nigeria, government forest officers are responsible for most forest management. Local people are, however, given access to forests and forest products, and are also issued plots of land within forests reserves for cultivation of crops. Revenues are paid to the state forest departments for these activities. It is also common for state authorities to make forest land available to commercial companies for production of cash crops, such as palm oil and rubber. However, some of these policies have been criticised for causing the destruction of the natural forests. To find out how forest management could be improved, Tunde Fatunde spoke to Ebohon Clifford Afehodyon, assistant forest superintendent at the Nigerian Forestry Institute in Ibadan, who is responsible for co-ordinating forest guards and officers in the southern part of the country. He began by asking about the current level of involvement for local communities in forest management.

IN: " There is no community managed ..."

OUT: "... conservation of the ecosystem."

DUR'N 3'13"

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Ebohon Clifford Afehodyon, with some suggestions for how forests could be better conserved in Nigeria.

Transcript

Afehodyon There is no community managed forest reserve in the southern part of Nigeria. However, government provides forest officers for managing such forests. They work in collaboration with local communities, and the results in most cases are usually not too bad. Forest guards ensure that economic trees are not illegally taken away. The forest officers on the other hand, see to the day-to-day running of the forest, including collection of revenues.

Fatunde *How would you from experience describe the attitude of local communities towards government supervision of forest reserves?*

Afehodyon Local communities are well disposed towards government supervision, because of what they have at stake. The forest reserves are the source of their livelihood. It provides jobs for surrounding communities; it provides food, fuelwood, medicines, craft materials, and building materials.

Fatunde *From your own experience, what kind of complaints are lodged by local communities on how these forest resources are being managed?*

- Afehodyon** The communities complain about some aspects of the usage of the forests, especially the establishment of rubber and oil palm tree plantations, within the forest enclave. These cash crops prevent the local communities from obtaining other benefits from the forest, such as bushmeat, medicinal herbs, and firewood. Another source of complaint is the malaise of illegal tree fellers, because they perceive these activities as a threat to their livelihood.
- Fatunde** *Faced with the growing destruction of forest reserves in the south western part of Nigeria, what kind of policies should be put in place by the government in order to conserve the ecosystem in these forest reserves?*
- Afehodyon** First and foremost, the government should ensure that the present policy of giving out forest reserves to companies to establish cash crops should be discouraged, because they give rise to deforestation. Secondly, the present policy of allocating between 1.2 and 2.0 hectares of land per household, for farming purposes, should be reduced by about 50%, so as to check deforestation within forest reserves. And thirdly, the efforts of the Nigerian Conservation Fund (NCF), should be encouraged and complemented by various state governments, and other NGOs that are concerned with conservation of the ecosystem. *End of track.*

Sustainable Forest Management

Stopping slash-and-burn

Cue:

Slash-and-burn is one of the oldest forms of agriculture, and in areas with low population density it can still be a sustainable way of survival. But forest land which has been cleared and cultivated needs a long time to recover; when population increases, recovery times for the land are reduced, and in time it becomes degraded and exhausted. However, changing the methods used by slash-and-burn cultivators is notoriously difficult. Many countries have found that sending in government extension officers to train in better methods simply does not work.

Non-government organisations, however, have a better track record when it comes to working closely with communities. They often use a participative approach, helping people to work out their own solutions to their problems, rather than imposing solutions from the outside. One example is the Green Living Movement, an organisation which is working with the Lala people, slash-and-burn cultivators who live in a remote part of Zambia. In our next report, Emmanuel Mutamba of the Green Living Movement talks to Daniel Sikazwe about how the organisation is working with the Lala people to make their management of the forest more sustainable.

IN: “Basically the Lala people ...”
OUT: “...can advise the people properly.”
DUR’N 3’46”

BACK ANNOUNCEMENT:

Emmanuel Mutamba hoping a better relationship between Zambia’s forest services and indigenous tribes in the future.

Transcript

Mutamba Basically the Lala people in that area are getting most of their livelihoods from the forest, through the use of ‘chitemene’ which is a slash-and-burn system of agriculture, which has resurfaced after a while. During the beginning of the 1990s, we saw the chitemene system coming back to life after the government policy changed towards agriculture. People were no longer able to get free inputs through government loans, so they reverted back to what was almost dying, the chitemene system. Now it is in full force and the threat on the forest is quite high. So this is one of the areas that we are really working towards, to help our communities start looking at sustainable management systems.

Sikazwe *And these sustainable management systems, you work with the community. But then getting those people together requires some very good skills on your part. Just what are some of these specific methods that you are using to work with the community there?*

- Mutamba** In this case we are looking at an area where people are cut off from the main areas of economic activity, so you have to really appreciate that their basic life-supporting system circles around the forest, or the natural resources. And while we are trying to help people manage their resources, we also realise that they have to use them. So we have to strike a balance at conservation and utilisation. So basically those are the systems that we are using. But we are going further. We are not just going there to train the people, we are going there to also learn about the difficulties that people are going through. Then when we start learning the difficulties that people are going through, we create a relationship, and once we create a relationship, we start understanding the intra-conflicts that exist in communities and natural resource management. You go there not as an expert, but as a partner with the people. So you give them what you have learned from school, but if it does not work, it does not work, so you revise what you have learned, you start thinking anew.
- Sikazwe** *Can you give me an example of one method that you have had to re-do or rethink, as you have said, in the joint forest management?*
- Mutamba** Well one of them is the thinking that the chitemene system, for instance, is bad. Just going there and saying, ‘The chitemene system is bad! Stop!’ is not the best approach. The best approach is that we start looking at why do we say the chitemene system is not sustainable. So we start looking at the issues like the population has increased; it means that we shall have more forest felled in a short period of time, because we are now many. The population has increased, it means that if we all go and attack the forest upstream, which means that the impact on the streams, our water, will be enormous. So you start looking at all these resultants of certain activities. So people start appreciating these issues.
- Sikazwe** *Let me take you back a little. You talked about going to live with the community. What exactly do you mean?*
- Mutamba** Basically what I mean there is you go and stay there, let’s say for a period of three months up to six months.
- Sikazwe** *Do you have specific officers that do that?*

Mutamba Yes we have got what we call field volunteers. Most of them have got some skills of some kind, we have had even qualified foresters staying with people in the villages. And they train them on new management systems. They also learn of what the indigenous people do to manage the forest. Then together they come up with workable programmes. Now when these volunteers, field volunteers, come out of the field, then they have quite a wealth of knowledge that they have learned themselves from their experiences. And in future we hope that if these people are sort of employed in the mainstream forest department, then we think that we will have people with the right attitudes who can advise the people properly. *End of track.*