

SUB-HUMID ZONE CASE STUDY 3

Successful Community-based Management of Duru-Haitemba Miombo Forest, Babati District, Northern Tanzania¹

BACKGROUND

Duru-Haitemba forest is in Babati district (lat. 4°15' S long. 35°45' E, 1300 – 1800 m a. s. l.), Manyara region, northern Tanzania. The district has a total area of 6,069 km². The Duru-Haitemba forest has a total area of about 6,968 ha and is surrounded by a total of 8 villages with a total population of about 20,000 people. Total district population is about 330,000 people with a growth rate of 3.8% per annum and a density of 54 people per km².

Babati district is characterised by bi-modal and irregular rains ranging from 300 to 1200 mm per year with a mean of 790 mm per year. Mean annual temperature is about 23°C with a minimum of 18°C and a maximum of 28°C. Soils are vertisols or latosols.

The forest is dominated by *Brachystegia microphylla*, *B. spiciformis*, *Julbernardia globiflora* and some *Albizia versicolor*. The condition of the forest varies from more or less intact to severely degraded, with loss of canopy species and marked absence of young trees. Nonetheless, the forest remains important to the local community providing different items for household use, acting as a source of water and ensuring soil protection.

The main farming system is agro-silvo-pastoral. Livestock keeping is mainly extensive though there are some zero grazing and semi-intensive systems. Part of the grazing is done in the natural forest, which contributes to land degradation.

Before and during the colonial period, local leaders of the many hamlets scattered around and within the Duru-Haitemba forest exercised considerable control over the way the forest was used through traditional laws or rules. Some forests named *Qaymanda* for spiritual purposes were protected from any consumptive use. At least thirty such untouched forest patches remain operational in Duru-Haitemba forest today. With the establishment of village governments (1974), authority and control of the forest shifted into the hands of village government. Under village governments, new rules for forest resource utilization began to be made, and the need to get permission for certain uses was formalised.

In 1980, following establishment of District Councils, the forest was taken over by the Babati District Council. The withdrawal of authority from the local area appears to have much more dramatically weakened control and responsibility in regard to the forest than the case with the establishment of village government. The Babati District Council declared the forest a preserved area under the Local Government Act. During this period, there was increased degradation due human activities due . It was not until 1994 that a decision was reached to hand over the forest back to the villages. The Government with support from The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), started a project to support the Duru-Haitemba communities to rehabilitate and sustainably manage the forest.

¹ This case study has been compiled by S.A.O. Chamshama and J.B. Nduwayezu, based on work of Wily L., 1994.

OBJECTIVE

Communities surrounding Duru-Haitemba forest rehabilitate and manage the natural resources on a sustainable basis.

APPROACH

The main project strategy was to protect the forest from human and livestock impacts and allow natural regeneration. The following approaches were used:

- The District Forester with expert support held seminars and workshops with village and sub-village chairmen during which roles and responsibilities were assigned.
- The villagers were also assisted to draft by-laws and prepare management plans.
- The villagers formed village forest management resources committees to oversee implementation of the plans.
- Finally, forest guarding was actively instituted; involving selected young men in the community, thereafter exempted from providing other work inputs in the village, and “rewarded” with a share of the fine payments levied on offenders.

Partners in the project included the government (co-funding through provision of staff), Sida (financial support) and the local communities who were the main beneficiaries.

RESULTS

The five main results from the project are:

- Improvement in under-storey vegetation including useful trees and grasses,
- The return of bee swarms to the forest,
- Significant reduction in illegal activities,
- Increase in size of the forest,
- Provision of incentive to the forest guards through share of income generated from fines.

REASONS FOR SUCCESS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The sense of ownership and control over the use and future of the resource by the communities has contributed to the sustainable management of the woodlands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

Based on the results of this case study, it is recommended that community-based management of forests be promoted in other areas.

Management

Communities should be provided with the capacity to prepare and implement management plans.

Research

- Monitor flora and fauna changes over time following the management of the forests by communities.
- Study the impact of community forest management on the livelihoods of the people.