Timber Production from Native Forests in Tanzania

Key Issues and Forest Management Standards
The Native Forest Resource

- Approximately 30 million ha Miombo.
  - Loss of Forest of 90 - 130000ha/yr.

Resource inventory.
- What is it?
- Where is it?
- What condition?
- Who has rights over it?
- How fast is it growing?
  - <$1 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha/yr}$ to $>4\text{ m}^3/\text{ha/yr}$
Commercial Forestry v Subsistence Forestry

**P Historical Perspective.**
- Commercial forestry is highgrading.
  - Sequential economic extinction of species.
  - Need to maximise NPV leads to a once only system.
- Subsistence forestry concentrates on small dimensions.
- Canopy opening.
  - Grass growth
  - Fire intensity
  - Loss of recruitment.

**P Need for a new approach.**
- Commercial forestry must offer substantial benefits to communities.
  - Value of forest in formal economy must exceed value in subsistence sector.
  - Jobs.
  - Industry.
- Firewood production should be a byproduct of forest management not the objective.
Market Development

P Historical Concentration on a few high value species.
  < Good timber properties
  < Rarity

P Market requires volumes.

P Timber properties poorly known.

P High economic potential.
  – 50% of non reserve forest managed for sawlog production
    = 10 million Ha.
  – Producing a conservative 1 m3/ha/yr of hardwood.
  – Sawlog price of US$200
  < US$2,000,000,000 = 25% of GDP.
  < Add processing value 50% of GDP?
Adaptive management

50 yrs of research has not given us a generally accepted management system.

Management must be based on precautionary principle.

Adaptive management.
  - Try different interventions
  - Monitor vegetation response
  - Improve management practices

Optimise yields and timber quality over time.
Forestry Plantations v Native Forest Management.

PTanzania needs everything.
<Plantations of low value timber to provide construction wood and service wood.
<Plantations of high value timber to provide export wood.
<Native forest management to provide export wood.
<Firewood should be a by product of forest management.

PAreas?
<500000 ha plantation for internal consumption.
<500000 ha plantations for export.
<10 million ha native forest for export.
Land Tenure and Forestry

P Security of tenure is a requirement for forestry investment.
< Right to carry out forestry activities.

P Tanzania at an advantage over many African countries in its ability to offer long leases.

P Concessions usually not a good system for forest management.
< Discourage investment in future crop.
< Lead to resource destruction.

P Renewable concessions based on independent verification by certification auditors a possible solution.
A primary objective of forest management is to change the system to make it more productive.

- Low level management, natural regeneration.
- High level intervention and clearfelling in plantation systems.

Environmental impacts are inevitable.

- Resources
  - Roads, Soils, Biodiversity
- Environmental Services
  - Local Climate, Hydrology.

Mitigation is necessary.
Social Benefits

P Costs and Benefits must be shared equitably between stakeholders.

P Historically exploitation by outsiders common.
  <Benefits accrue to outsiders
  <Costs are felt by local communities
    – Nuisance, Opportunity costs, Loss of environmental services, restrictions on resource use.
  <Forests have no perceived value

P Communities must value forest in order to keep it.
Forest Certification

Market instrument.

Voluntary

Advantages of Forest Certification over government regulation.

- Companies perceive benefits.
- Auditors are less corruptible because of international accreditation and public scrutiny.
Forest Certification Standards for Tanzania

P Standard is a political document.
< Negotiated agreement about how to carry out forestry.
< Social, Economic, Environmental stakeholders.
< Open Process

P Forest Act is supportive.
< Forest management plans
  – Need to develop technical capacity.
< Environmental impact assessment.

P Hands off approach of Forest Act.
< Responsibility of stakeholders to take the initiative.
How to encourage the Industry

- Incentives
- Resource rights
- Support for processing plants
- Technology transfer
- Control of timber flows