


# Evolution of Forest Sector Reforms in Tanzania Eastern Africa

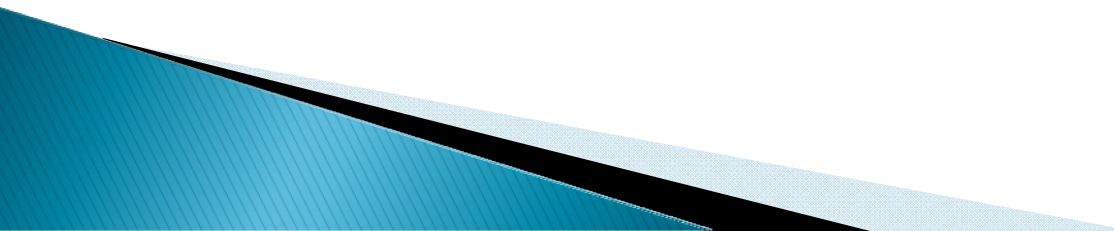
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# Background


- ▶ Most of the African economies have in the recent years instituting profound reforms in forest management.
  - ▶ The fundamental orientation of the reforms have focused on addressing weaknesses toward regulation and enforcement of forest legislation, and realization that forest protection and management could no longer be undertaken independently of the needs of rural communities.
  - ▶ Prior to 1980s, central governments provided overall policy guidance for the forestry sector, and some technical oversight and supervision, and in addition assumed the primary roles and responsibilities of managing the forests.
  - ▶ Hence, much of the management and protection of forest reserves was the responsibility of the government.
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# Key Focus of the Reforms in Forest Management


The specific focus of the reforms in the forest sector aims to address the following areas;

- ▶ Address legal and regulatory weaknesses that accounts for ineffective forest management system
  - ▶ Strengthen poor institutional framework for forest management that partly account for extraordinary forest destruction and rampant deforestation set to increase
  - ▶ Review of forest policy and Action Plans to cater for the changing economic and social environment
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# Forces Behind Forest Management Reforms

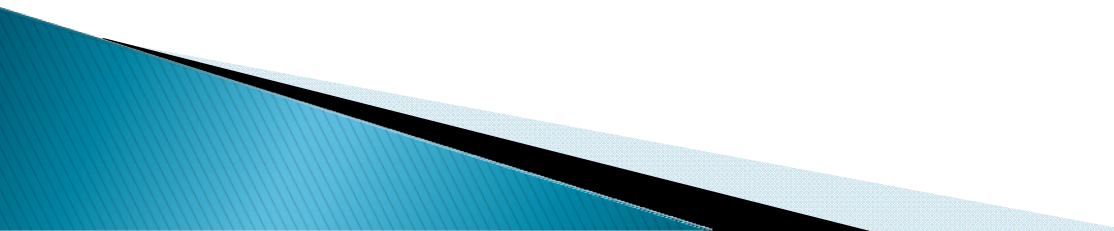
- ▶ The forces behind the reforms have partly emerged from overall need for economic and social reforms after poor economic performance,
  - ▶ Extraordinary increased problems of deforestation and forest degradation for all range of reasons well documented.
  - ▶ The other rationales for reforms are that institutional framework was considered to be problematic and in needed reform to reflect the recent needs and changing economic and political environment.
  - ▶ At the same time, there was very limited capacity to take on wider issues associated with biodiversity conservation.
  - ▶ Poor governance and the lack of accountability and supervision were important constraints to manage the forests.
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# Essence of the Forest Sector Reforms

- ▶ The strategy of the reforms has relied on instituting changes on policy, laws and institutional arrangements.
  - ▶ These changes allow for a much greater role of non-state actors in the management of Tanzania's forests and in particular community-based approaches to securing and managing forests.
  - ▶ These approaches, referred to as Participatory Forest Management (PFM), have become a central strategy of these countries to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of forests.
  - ▶ The forest sector policy reforms recognized the need for substantive institutional reforms especially need for decentralization of the forest management.
  - ▶ Most importantly, however, the reforms argued that local institutions and communities should have a central role in forest conservation and management.
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# More on Essence...

PFM has occurred in two basic forms;

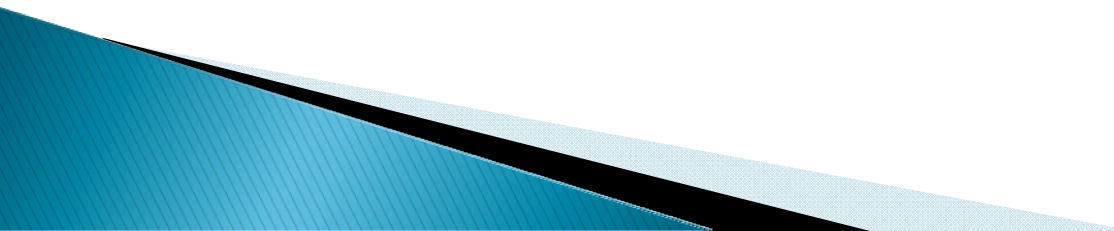
- ▶ Joint Forest Management (JFM) – where communities enter into agreements with central or local governments over the joint (or shared) management of forest resources
  - ▶ Community Based Forest Management (CBFM), which recognizes local property rights and ownership over forests in village land and transfers management authority to village government
  - ▶ The reforms have allowed for other forms of community involvement in forest management such as Private Forest Reserves and Community Forest Reserves, both on village land, as well as establishment of woodlots and nurseries.
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# Decentralization by Devolution

- ▶ Decentralized forest management has typically entailed two layers: decentralization at the local government level and devolution of authority to the community level.
  - ▶ A wide variety of institutional arrangements have been put in place primarily designed at placing more authority and control in local hands.
  - ▶ For example devolution to local level government, creation of new village level institutions, and allocation of new powers to an existing traditional leadership based structure.
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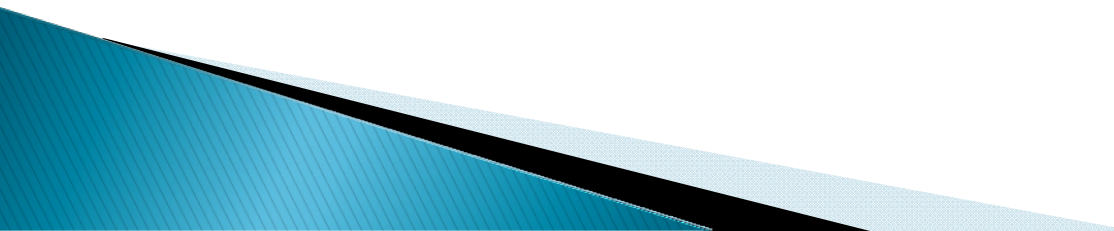


# Specific Forest Policy Reforms Targets

- ▶ To ensure sustainable supply of forest products and increase the size of forestland under well defined ownership.
  - ▶ Increased employment and foreign exchange earnings through sustainable forest-based industrial development and trade;
  - ▶ To ensure ecosystem stability through conservation of forest biodiversity, water catchments and soil fertility;
  - ▶ Enhanced national capacity to manage and develop the forest sector in collaboration with other stakeholders.
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# Land Tenure Reforms and Implications to the Forest Sector

- ▶ The national Land Policy of 1995 and the forest policy of 1998 encourages individuals companies and villages to acquire title deeds in form of Rights of Occupancy,
  - ▶ The Land Act No.4 of 1999 define the Right to Occupancy of this sort in two forms; a) a granted right of occupancy and b) a right derivative of a granted right of occupancy simply called a derivative right.
  - ▶ The maximum term of occupancy is 99 years. In villages, the main form of right to occupy land is in form of customary right. The village council can offer customary rights to occupy land and there is no limit of time.
  - ▶ The land tenure system of forestland in Tanzania defines various rights over forest land to interested parties.
  - ▶ Statutory rights over forest land use are granted by the state to companies, persons and associations. Customary forest land rights are deemed rights to natives hence are based on customs of a tribes. The obligations and rights to own forestland depend on the customs of the tribe, which are inherited from the ancestors.
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# What are the Impact of All these Reforms?

- ▶ The change of forest management paradigm under the reforms introduced has enabled local communities to have more responsibility in forest management under PFM (CBFM and JFM). Based on PFM goals, its progress can be assessed with regard to:
    - ▶ 1) To what extent has forest quality and condition improved?;
    - ▶ 2) Have the reforms enhanced livelihoods of the communities adjacent to the forests?; and
    - ▶ 3) How forestry governance has improved?.
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