

CFM Progress Report

Debriefing note for Mpanga CFR Progress of CFM Field Mission

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Introduction

This report is a debriefing note for the progress of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) proposed around Mpanga Central Forest Reserve (CFR) in Mpigi District. It provides a summary of proceedings of the activities conducted by African Union of Conservationists (AUC) and National Forest Authority (NFA) in March 2017. The report notes important progresses during this year, and provides a next step of the CFM preparations among the groups.

This document only provides short highlights of the activities that have been deliberated on approach, and our observations. It does not present comprehensive results of the interventions; it falls short of a detailed narration of what has been done, which are just described briefly here. A more detailed presentation of the issues discussed below will be given in the project progress and subsequent reports.

The approach

At the beginning of the year we briefed the communities of Mpanga CFR of our project mission in 2017. We discussed the chain of events and they indicated activities required to be done.

We held short meetings with the range office, the forest supervisor, the NFA headquarters CFM team and local communities who form the CFM groups to follow up with the application. After Mpanga CFR meetings, we have internally at AUC met to deliberate on the way forward and form a collaborative team to foster the fast trucking of the next step of the project.

The team met included:

At NFA

- Ms. Fiona Driciru
- Stephen Galima
- Justine Aheebwa

At the range

- Mr. Leo Twinomuhangi
- Ms. Patience Kembabazi

At Mpanga CFR

- Mr. Tumwebaze John
- Mr. Mugisha Jonan

It is worth mentioning that among the local communities we engaged, they were worth their salt of a strengthened CFM team members.

A validation of CFM membership and proposed activities for the Mpanga CFR and CFM members was conducted. This included a consultative meeting held on 16th March, 2017 at the

Range Offices with Mr. *Leo Twinomuhangi* Range Officer and MS. *Patience Kembabazi* the *CFM Supervisor*, along with AUC representative. This meeting aimed at a follow up on the CFM application submitted to NFA offices (Offshore, NFA Offices) for action in June 2016 by *Mpanga Conservation Association (MCA)*.

Meetings and realizations

We observed that local knowledge about CFM implementation procedures was generally better in all the communities and proposed action in the CFRs. However, Mpanga is more than prepared for the CFM as their obligation.

The range manager affirmed in a meeting that sat at Namanve OffShore Range that Mpanga CFM application was received by his office and appreciates the community's efforts towards conserving the forest indicated in Mpigi District. However there were gaps that needed to be addressed and included the;

- Need to know the legality of the membership
- Understanding of the existing group
- Finding an alternative land for nursery
- Review of membership to find out doubted member "Pastor" is a real member of the association.

There was also a concern about the commitment of the partners AUC facilitating the process of CFM around the Mpanga CFR.

A directive was given to the office of the CFM range officer to visit the area as soon as possible which would eventuate into appropriate recommendations on the application by the range and forward it to the NFA head office for further considerations.

Observations

The following observations were made and deliberated on during the field visit and the meeting that was held between the communities surrounding Mpanga CFR along with the sector manager;

On the issue of the commitment by AUC, was responded by the representative that there a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NFA that was signed in 2014 and AUC is still committed towards conserving the biodiversity and key and central the reserves as indicated therein.

Capacity building

AUC has continuously built the capacity of communities adjacent the forests and supported the forest supervisor of Mpanga CFR Mr. Tumwebaze John in mobilization, sensitization and participated in the process of application preparation. Thus a continuous commitment towards working with the adjacent communities of Mpanga CFR through CFM activities to conserve the forest.

Community membership participation in the CFM

Members agreed that the consistency of individual attendance in meetings, the payment of membership fee, and registration of members is more evident. In Fig.1 was a considerable number of members present during the field visit. The presence of NFA officers, would be always to give appropriate guidance to the communities since the forest supervisor is well conversant with the adjacent communities and their membership in the association. The CFM officer instructed the chairperson of the association to avail photocopies of members' national identification cards from members to avoid externalities.



Photo by Kansime Phionah

Figure.1: Members of the association present at the meeting including the NFA staff

Doubt about the association

Concerning whether the association is “a fake or real”, A suggestion that since the association was registered under the local government which is also a government entity and the association was confirmed by the presence of a certificate of CBO, it is easy to consult with the responsible department at the District Fig. 2 is Mpanga Community Environmental Association (MCEA) registration Certificate below.

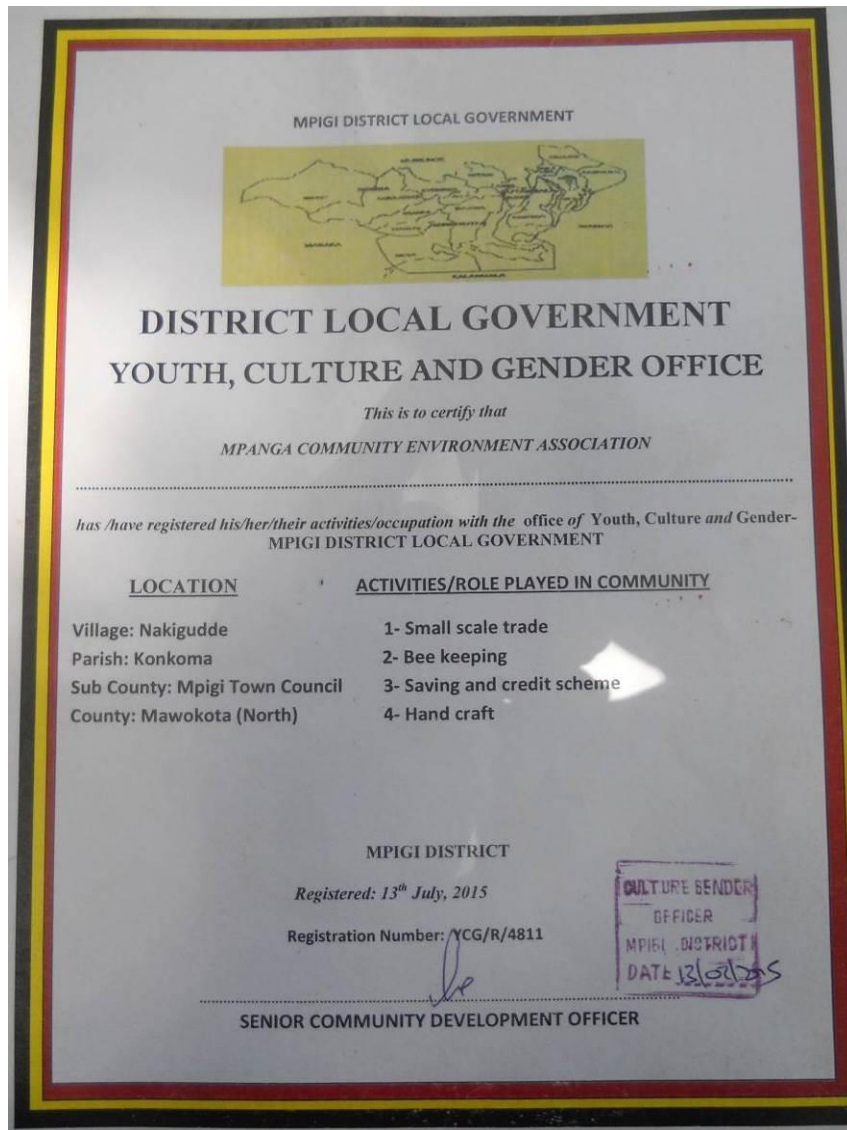


Figure.2: Certificate of Registration from Mpigi Local Government

Alternative land for Nursery

The NFA forest supervisor informed the meeting in Fig. 3 that there is another small piece of land which is near a water source and it is easily accessible considering its nearness to the

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road. The alternative land was visited by all present members and the officers from NFA approved the space available to be suitable for the proposed activity.



Photo by Kansime Phionah

Figure 3: CFM Community members with NFA staff inspecting the area proposed for nursery bed

Doubt on individual members such as “Pastor”, the NFA forest supervisor affirmed that pastor is a paid up member of the association, and highly interested in one activity bee keeping and is staying in the adjacent village that make him a legible member of the association.

The chairperson of the association *Mr. Lule Joseph*, presented a list of the recent elected committees of the proposed activities to the NFA officers. And they were guided by CFM range officer to include more committees; disciplinary committee, forest protection unit, conflict resolution.

The association secretariat was then advised in Fig. 4, to always compile monthly reports and update the forest supervisor of Mpanga Eco- tourism.



Photo by Kansime Phionah

Figure .4: NFA range CFM coordinator addressing present members of the community

Conclusion and next step

AUC is satisfied with the readiness of the Mpanga communities for the CFM during this mission level. We have laid a good foundation for the CFM progress and subsequent activities.

NFA should make plans for future to support Mpanga CFM completion the main purpose of this project.

In our planning as AUC we thought that by May 2017 the most reasonable requirements for the CFM agreements will have been completed. This however may be delayed to a limited degree not from AUC. Our efforts are hampered by the delayed response from NFA.