

# Involvement or Control?

## Agencies and Interests in Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania

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# Introduction

- Approaches to nature conservation changed over time
- Climate Change brought new emphasis on North-South dynamics
- NGOs have become more important development actors
- Paper analyzes agencies in PFM in Kilwa and Liwale, Tanzania



# Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

- Decentralization of forest resources where local communities have authority over the resources
- Emerged in the 1990's with strong donor support, influenced policies
- In Tanzania: Community Based Forest Management and Joint-Forest Management



# Actor-Oriented Political Ecology

- Agency system where actors aim to influence others, discourse as their resource (Long 1992)
- Building networks and collective actors (Vihemäki 2009)
- Social actors often unequal in resources (Olliver de Sardan 2005)
- Power is "complex struggles and negotiations over authority, status, reputation and resources, and necessitates the enrolment of networks of actors and constituencies." (Long 2004:30)



# Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI)

- Mpingo (East African Blackwood) is one of the most valuable timbers in the world but over cuts are a significant threat.
- MCDI supports villages in PFM and forest certification (FSC).
- MCDI has roots in study trips made by students from the University of Cambridge in 1996-2003. Registered as an NGO in 2004.
- The aim is a win-win situation where higher timber prices generate sustainable forest management and human development.
- Various actors have interests in the project.



# Profitable Deal?

- In 2009 first harvest under FSC in Kikole village. 63 trees harvested → 1800 USD
- Money used in forest management and to build a house for midwife
- Harvesting quota for 5-year period is 83 trees. Already 63 harvested. Motivation?
- System is dependent on MCDI
- Plans to turn MCDI into a non-profit company and charge villages for services.
- Estimation of the charge: 10 000 USD /year/village when incomes from harvesting are 100 000/village.

# Short History of Angai

- Liwale less densely populated and poor district
- Angai Forest Reserve almost 14 000 ha
- First District initiative to make LGFR in 1993
- Donor influence: communities!
- In 2000: Angai Villages Land Forest Reserve proposal and demarcation of boundaries
- 13 surrounding villages, MUHIMA advocacy and cooperation union

# Angai now

- Districts controversial role
  - Villagers confused – some benefit
  - Does MUHIMA fit in?
  - CCI and MCDI conflicting views
  - Coordinating action research from Helsinki?
  - LIMAS will make it all work...
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- Actors common agenda and holistic approach
  - Sufficient resources
  - Coordinating long-term agency



# Conclusions

- Benefits and motivation for PFM involvement: incentives need to be adequate, so far not
- The interests of donors and actors change: a long-term process like PFM cannot keep up
- Complex processes about control over natural resources, on the other hand inadequate resources in facilitation
- Strong external input necessary
- FSC and REDD: transferring control over resources?

# Conclusions

Based on the two case studies:

- Tanzanian PFM on its own not sufficient instrument in poverty reduction and sustainable natural resources management
- Still: current initiatives of market based instruments aiming at win-win situations through community involvement pose problem to communities' control over their natural resources.





# Thank you!

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