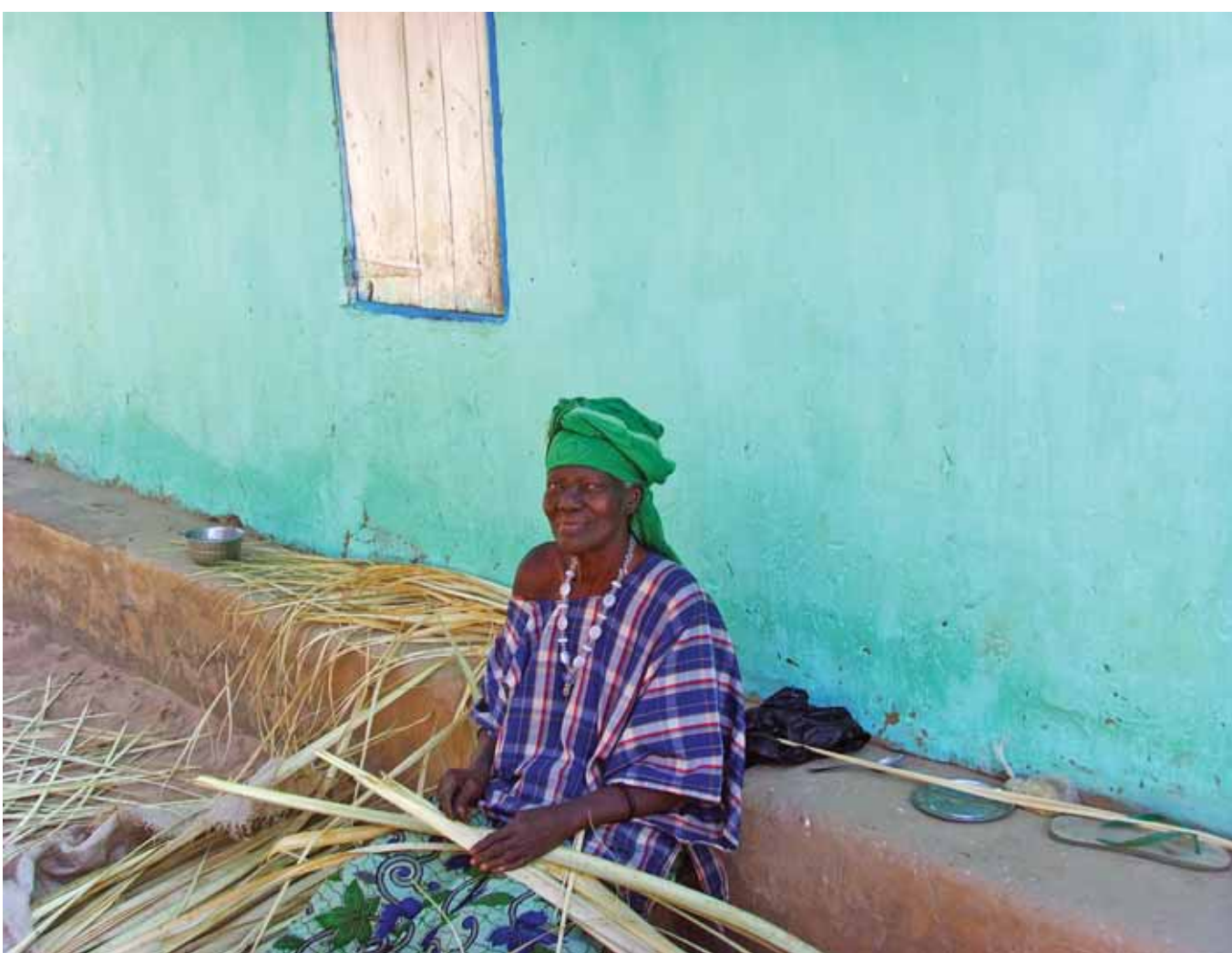


Socio-Economic Evaluation of Community-Based Forest Enterprise Development using the Market Analysis and Development Approach in Community Forestry in the Gambia



Socio-Economic Evaluation of Community-Based Forest Enterprise Development using the Market Analysis and Development Approach in Community Forestry in the Gambia

The Department of Forestry of the Gambian Government
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

By Kanimang Camara in collaboration with
Alkali Jarjusey, Demba Sanyang and Hatab Camara

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For further information, please contact:

Sophie Grouwels
Forestry Officer, Community-based Enterprise Development (CBED)
Forestry Department, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: Sophie.Grouwels@fao.org
Web site: www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/en

Comments and feedback are welcome.

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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|---|
| AATG | Action Aid the Gambia |
| AC | Administrative Circle |
| AFET | Association of Farmers, Educators and Traders |
| BAFROW | Barakiss Foundation on Research & Women's Health |
| CCSF | Community Controlled State Forest |
| CBED | Community- Based Enterprise Development |
| CF | Community Forest |
| CFC | Community Forest Committee |
| CFM | Community Forest Management |
| CFMA | Community Forest Management Agreement |
| CRR | Central River Region |
| DPWM | Department of Parks and Wild Life Management |
| DOSA | Department of State for Agriculture |
| DOSH | Department of State for Health |
| DWR | Department of Water Resources |
| EDP | Enterprise Development Plan |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FAOR | FAO Representation |
| FD | Forestry Department (of the Gambia) |
| FI | Financial Instructions |
| FOND | Forest Policy and Information Division of FAO |
| FRG | Federal Republic of Germany |
| GFMC | Gambia Forest Management Concept |
| GO | General Order |
| GTR | Government Treasury Receipt |
| IA | Implementation Area |
| IG | Interest Group |
| JATIFIF | Jamorai Timber and Firewood Federation |
| JFPM | Joint Forest Park Management |
| LRR | Lower River Region |
| MA&D | Market Analysis and Development |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| NACO | National Consultancy on Extension Service and Training |
| NEA | National Environment Agency |
| NFF | National Forestry Fund |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| NRMC | Natural Resources Management Committee |
| NTFP | Non Timber Forest Product |
| PCFMA | Preliminary Community Forest Management Area |
| PFMU | Participatory Forest Management Unit |
| PIWAMP | Participatory Integrated Water Shed Management Project |
| PLA | Participatory Learning and Action |
| PRA | Participatory Rural Appraisal |
| PRSP | Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper |
| PTA | Parent Teachers Association |
| RFO | Regional Forest Office |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| TYAM | The Association of Youths Against Malaria |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |
| VISACA | Village Savings and Credit Association |
| WR | Western Region |
| 4H | Clean Hands, Clever Head, Good Health & Warm Heart |

Background

COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONCEPT IN THE GAMBIA

Beginning in the early 1990s in the Gambia, the concepts of Community Forest Management (CFM) have been developed and implemented by the Gambian Forestry Department (FD), largely through several forestry projects, supported by Germany and implemented cooperatively with The Gambia. These CF concepts evolved as a response to the failures of conventional forest management approaches which excluded local communities from playing an active role in managing forest resources. Since 1990, when Community Forestry was first piloted in the Berefet area of the Foni District, it has gradually spread to all parts of The Gambia. Over 350 villages country-wide now participate in Community Forestry, managing a total of about 34,000 ha of forestland.

The Gambian CF approach attempts to fully involve the local population in the sustainable management and utilization of forest resources by vesting in them legal ownership of surrounding land and trees. The Gambia's CFM concept stipulates that, in the future, most of the country's natural forests should be owned and managed by the local population as Community Forests (CF), affording local communities a greater share of the benefits coming from forests and giving them an increased stake in the management of that resource. This approach creates incentives for communities to protect the forests around them from destruction and to utilize forests sustainably.

A program entitled the Community Forestry Program facilitates the transfer of ownership using a formal three-phase model. In this process, legal ownership of forest areas is handed over to communities that are able to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable forest management, to be carried out by Community Forest Committees (CFCs), the responsible body within the community, in a step-wise and gradual process. The three phases are structured as follows:

- **Start-up phase:** Communities who declare their interest to the Forestry Department (FD) are further sensitized to CF procedures; they identify a suitable forest area within their customary land and a Community Forest Committee (CFC) representing the community is formed.
- **Preliminary phase:** The CFC, the Forest Department, NGO staff and villagers develop a management plan. The communities are then tasked with demonstrating their ability to manage the forest and protect it from fire and illegal exploitation for a period of anywhere from 18 months to 3 years. Throughout this phase, regular advice and assistance is provided by local forestry and NGO staff.
- **Consolidation/Ownership phase:** If the Preliminary phase is successfully completed, final ownership is legally transferred through a Community Forestry Management Agreement to communities for their exclusive and sustainable use, guided by a yearly village planning process. This means that villagers may begin activities to generate income from the forest according to the provisions of their forest management plan and supported by their Enterprise Development Plan (EDP). An EDP is a plan that incorporates all the strategies and services needed by the enterprise in order to succeed in the running of an enterprise management.

Any revenue realised from CFM is subject to a 15 percent tax, levied by the FD and paid to the National Forestry Fund (NFF). Of the net (post-tax) benefits received by the participating community, 40 percent must be reinvested into CF development activities, and the remaining 60 percent are to go to community or village development activities.

The CFM approach was formally embraced during the development and adoption of the 1995-2005 Forest Policy. A revised Forest Act (1998) and Regulation (2000) further support the implementation of CFM. In 2006 the Forest Policy was revised to include recent developments on the CFM concept, such as Community Forest Enterprise Development using the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach, Community-Based Fire Management, and the Gambia Forest Communication Concept. The cabinet and legislators have yet to approve the newly drafted Forest Policy. The holistic approach envisioned in CFM now forms the main thrust of the FD and it is hoped that by the expiration of the current

Forest Policy in 2016, nearly half of the forest cover in the country will be under community management.

Additional momentum has grown for community participation in the management and controlled utilization of the nation's forests with the new concept of Community Controlled State Forests (CCSF). This concept envisions local community stewardship and maintenance of forest areas adjacent to community forests and an equal sharing of accrued benefits between the community and the government.

This CCSF concept has not yet been fully embraced by many within the Forestry Department and the collaborating agencies charged with providing extension and support services for participatory forestry. Additional orientation sessions for both FD senior staff members, as well as front line staff are needed.

The FD is not alone in their hesitation. Initial attempts to excite local communities about the concept in 2003 were received with lukewarm reception, due to the villagers' caution about entering into agreements with the government. An example of this is the village of Tumani Tenda, which was approached in 1990 to act as a CF pilot. The village, however, resisted the invitation due to their previous experiences of not reaping benefits from being next to a forest park. When approached about starting CFM, they were highly wary and lacked trust that community forests would be a truly different and beneficial tool for providing benefits to the community. Over the initial few years of CF implementation elsewhere, Tumani Tenda was able to observe the community benefits arising from CFs and to see how different they were from the restrictive forest parks and in 1996 they asked to become involved in CFM themselves.

MARKET ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT (MA&D) APPROACH

Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) is a participatory training methodology aimed at empowering individuals and communities with a direct stake in forest resources by assisting them in the development of forest-based income-generating enterprises while also sustainably managing natural resources. The strength of MA&D is that it helps to establish a link between natural resource management, conservation activities and income generation opportunities. It systematically includes social, environmental and institutional concerns alongside consideration of a product's commercial and financial aspects. Assessing the sustainability of local environments is an integral part of identifying and planning potential enterprises.

MA&D includes several well-known participatory assessment tools, some of which have been adapted to focus on marketing elements. These include resource mapping, livelihood analysis, production calendars, Venn diagrams, analysis of marketing channels and activity profiling. The MA&D process is flexible and should be adapted to the context in which it is applied. MA&D consists in a preliminary planning phase and three successive phases of activities, as follows:

Phase one:

- identify target group of potential entrepreneurs;
- determine financial objectives;
- inventory existing resources and products; and
- eliminate non-viable products based on key constraints of market system.

Phase two:

- select the most promising products;
- identify potential markets; and
- discuss the means to commercialize the products.

Phase three:

- prepare the enterprise strategy and business plan; and
- initiate the pilot enterprises.

A map of the process and the Manual constitute the MA&D tools for project managers and field practitioners. These are complemented by Field Facilitator Guidelines, a set of practical participatory methods to guide field facilitators step by step in implementing the MA&D process with future entrepreneurs.

MA&D IMPLEMENTATION IN THE GAMBIA

Since 2000, the FD has introduced the Market Analysis & Development (MA&D) methodology in the 3 Regions of the country for use in the management of Community Forests the MA&D was adopted in 22 CFCs as a sustainable forest management and conservation tool.

The purpose of this socio-economic evaluation of MA&D impacts is to determine the extent to which participating villagers are benefiting from application of the MA&D approach in the development of their forest based enterprises, as compared with those villagers not employing the MA&D CF methodology.

The socio-economic evaluation of MA&D impacts is intended to equip the FD with information necessary for convincing policy makers of the substantial contribution made by the forestry sector to the improvement of livelihoods in the country and to poverty alleviation. Evaluation results are also shared amongst stakeholders so that they may learn from the results of the evaluation to formulate better strategies for eradicating poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The evolution of the MA&D Process in the Gambia

The three MA&D phases were adapted to the local Gambian context and since 2003, community members have started implementing their Tree and Forest product enterprises for sustainable development. Most of these enterprises received their initial seed capital from the existing Village Development Committees. Phase 3 of the MA&D process has been repeated for routine monitoring and planning with the help of FD field facilitators and collaborators¹.

The MA&D methodology is now being embraced by the Forestry Department as an important tool for promoting sustainable forest management in the country. What began as a trial in the Western Region has now been extended to two other Regions (the Central River and Lower River Regions), and there is good reason to believe the approach will reach all regions in the next few years.

Below is a presentation of the evolutionary trends:

- **October 2000:** Two representatives from The Gambia, one from the FD and one from the Gambia-Germany Forestry Project (GGFP) were introduced to the MA&D concept during an international training workshop organized by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome, Italy.
- **November 2000:** The first training for FD staff was organized by GGFP, targeting Kafuta Administrative Circle (AC) in the Western Division. The choice of this area was based on many of the communities being in the consolidation phase of the CF process after the signing of the Community Forestry Management Agreement (CFMA), which permits them to commercially utilise their forests.
- **December 2000:** Sensitisation meetings on the MA&D process were held in eleven villages having CFMA status.
- **January to March 2001:** Collection of data was carried out as part of the first phase of MA&D in the same eleven villages.
- **April 2001:** An Associate Professional Officer was sent by FAO unit then known as the Community Forestry Unit (CFU) to evaluate the implementation of Phase 1 of MA&D that had been carried out and to introduce the information needed to begin Phase 2.
- **Between June and November 2001:** The CFU of the Forest Policy and Information Division (FOND) sent staff on technical missions to improve and move forward the MA&D methodology adaptation.
- **March/April 2002:** Another mission was conducted by FOND to assess the results of the MA&D Phase 2 process. The final steps of MA&D Phase 3 were also introduced.

¹ Details about the MA&D approach are presented in the manual entitled "Community-Based Tree and Forest Enterprises: Market Analysis and Development" and in the Field Facilitators Guidelines *The MA&D Field Manual (Isabelle Lecup, Ken Nicholson, FAO, 2000)*, is addressed to project managers and field practitioners, while the *Field Facilitator Guidelines (Isabelle Lecup, Ken Nicholson, FAO, 2004)* are addressed to field facilitators and consist of a set of practical participatory methods to guide them in implementing the MA&D process with future entrepreneurs.

- **February 2003:** A Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) agreement was signed between the Gambian FD and FAO. The project was implemented over an eighteen-month period.
- **March/April 2003:** The CFU of FAO provided an international consultancy mission to conduct and facilitate a participatory assessment of the results of the MA&D pilot experience in the Western Region.
- **March 2003:** A fair was organized at Kafuta to mark the beginning of the process of building strategic alliances between NGOs, the private sector and other government departments for the provision services to villagers in the MA&D pilot area.
- **2003 to 2005:** The MA&D approach was expanded into the Lower River Division and the Central River Division through FAO's Technical Cooperation Program.
- **2005:** The Federation of Product Groups was able to access more opportunities in the value chain of their products.
- **2005:** A review of CF Implementation Guidelines was developed to include elements of MA&D in the Guidelines through funding from the Central River Forestry Project.
- **2006:** The concept was introduced in the North Bank Region through the usual Government allocation to the FD from the NFF.
- **2007:** A product development training was organized by the FD for handicraft groups in LRR and WR.
- **2007:** A workshop with key stakeholders to introduce the concept to their respective institutions was organized by Concern Universal.
- **2008:** Government noticed the contribution of CF Enterprises in alleviating poverty in rural areas of the Gambia as enshrined in the Country PRSP report.
- **2009:** FAO commissioned an impact assessment study on MA&D.
- **2009:** UNDP funded training for frontline staff of the FD and collaborating institutions.
- **2009:** MA&D was identified as a national priority in the NFP Facility of The Gambia.

OBJECTIVES OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The monitoring and assessment of the MA&D approach is intended to illuminate its impacts on CF beneficiaries, especially related to the socio economic situations of target groups. Several activities were conducted as part of the case study, including:

Assessment of the benefits experienced by those villages participating in CF and using the MA&D approach as opposed to those villages engaged in CF but not using the MA&D approach. This included documenting the identified ecological, economic, and socio-cultural impacts and developing suitable indicators and assessment methods, a data collection strategy, a data analysis, and a presentation and discussion of the findings from stakeholders.

The impacts study explored the following questions in each of the 2 MA&D CF Villages and non- MA&D CF Villages:

- Are farmers aware of Participatory Forest Management procedures and features, especially CF?
- Are farmers accepting and participating in CF Programmes, do they allow equal access to women?
- To what extent do farmers participate in planning processes and implementation of forest protection, management and utilization?
- What is the current situation in regards to illegal forest product extraction?
- Are the tenure contracts consistent with agreed upon standards?
- Are there conflicts? What are they? What issues generally lead to conflicts?
- Has FD extension staff received sufficient training in bottom-up project planning and implementation?
- How many village development activities have been catalysed by Forest-Based Enterprises?
- What is the perception and capacity change of farmers who are participating in an Enterprise Development initiative and how do they compare with non- participating farmers?

The study aimed at assessing and analysing changes to the livelihoods of both those CF communities that did and of those that did not implement MA&D. However, a baseline of comparative data to be able to monitor changes to the target groups' livelihood conditions was not established in the beginning for non MA&D CF communities. Further, CF indicators did not clearly address to what degree socio-economic development of the target group would have been foreseen. It is, as a result, difficult to draw conclusions about the situation in CF non-MA&D villages. Concerning CF MA&D communities, some information was found at the forest station level. Other information was derived through participatory methods which were used to allow the target group to draw up a picture of their perception of the past and to describe the occurred changes. This data was then used as a basis for comparison and evaluation of the socio-economic and environmental impacts

Methodology

MA&D IMPACT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

In order to conduct the MA&D impact assessment and monitoring, the following steps were undertaken:

- Objectives of the impact assessment with the PFMU Head were redefined;
- Areas of impact to be monitored were agreed upon;
- Linkages between forestry development objectives and improved livelihoods were drawn;
- Existing monitoring systems of the FD were cross-checked;
- Impact indicators and suitable participatory data collection methods as well as other accompanying research tools and elements were developed;
- CF beneficiaries were involved in the development of indicators and in information generation methods;
- Pre-testing and refinement of indicators and methods were carried out;
- Sampling and planning were conducted for field level data collection and analysis; and
- Impact assessment and monitoring results were shared with stakeholders.

Empirical research was carried out in 26 villages in the rural part of the Gambia. A series of 52 interviews and 78 Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)² elements served in the systematic assessment of MA&D impacts in rural communities, as well as to assess capacities of CFCs in forest management. A standardized questionnaire was distributed and responses were documented in their full wording (from Mandinka, Fula, Jola or Wollof ethnic groups).

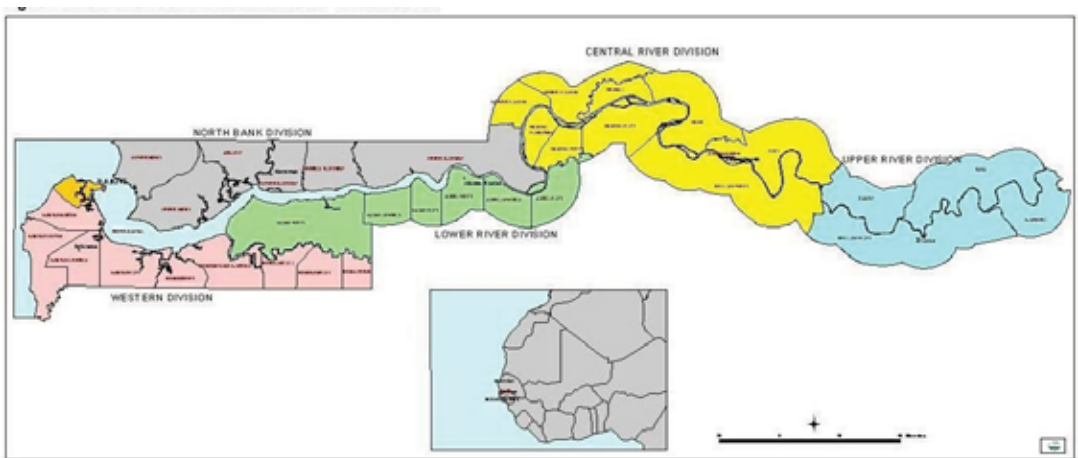


FIGURE 1: **Administrative divisions of the Gambia**

The group interviews (5- 10 person per group) included 440 villagers. The age of those interviewed ranged from 17 to 90 years, the majority being of the typical labour force age between 30 and 50 (a copy of the questionnaire used for the research can be found in Annex 2).

² Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) is an umbrella term for a wide range of similar approaches and methodologies, including Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Learning Methods (PALM), Participatory Action Research (PAR), Farming Systems Research (FSR) and many others. The common theme to all these approaches is the full participation of people in the process of learning about their needs and opportunities, and about the actions required to address them (see <http://www.planotes.org/> for more details).

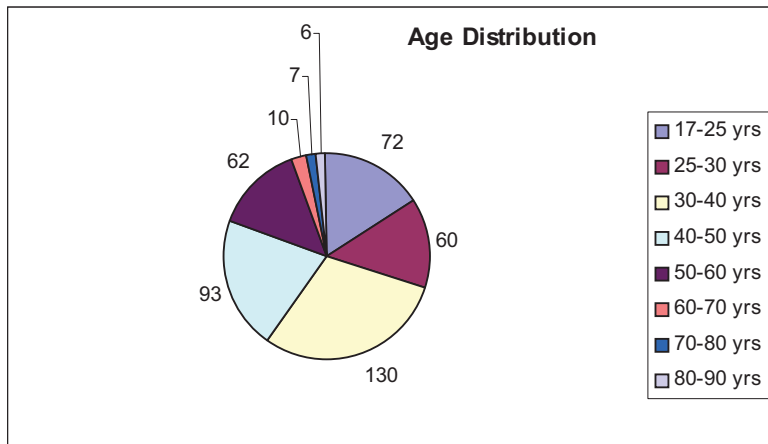


FIGURE 2: **Age Distribution in the Sample of Interviews**

The group interviews lasted between two to two and a half hours, while the application of PLA elements took an additional one and a half hours. Two categories of group interviews were conducted in each study village. The first group interviewed included representatives of CFCs; the second included other village Kafos (village associations) and interested villagers. The philosophy behind this type of interview system was both to enlarge the scale of the sample and to increase the variety of opinions represented. In assembling these groups, particular effort was made to include as many women as possible, with 32,7% of all those interviewed having been women.

A large majority of the interviewed persons were farmers (56%) or farmers/herders (20%), making farming the main livelihood activity for close to 76% of those interviewed (see Figure 3).

The ethnic composition of the informants was diverse in all the study Regions. In the WR, the majority of the informants were from the Jola ethnic group, a group originating from Southern Senegal and Guinea Bissau. Forests, in particular palm trees, are important to the Jola due to their use of them for rituals and for the production of palm wine, palm oil and handicrafts. They are also engaged in the cultivation of rice and other cereals.

In the CRR, the majority of informants were from the Mandingo ethnic group, whose livelihood depends on agriculture. The Mandingoes, who settled in SeneGambia and the Niger Regions, were originally from the ancient Mali Empire. This ethnic group performs artisan activities such as black smithing, leather working and weaving. Some men are also engaged in hunting, fishing and petty trading.

The Fula ethnic group, spread over the three study regions, is comprised of herders who migrate from place to place looking for pasture. The Fulas are found in most West African countries. In The Gambia, as in other Sahel countries, cattle herders move to higher ground from the riverbanks during the rainy season but return to the riverbanks during the dry season to graze their cattle.

The Wolof ethnic group are believed to have migrated from the Sahara Dessert and are mostly found in the Central River and North Bank Regions alongside the Greater Banjul Area. They were the first settlers in this region prior to it becoming dessert. The Wolof engage in blacksmithing, weaving, leather working and wood carving.

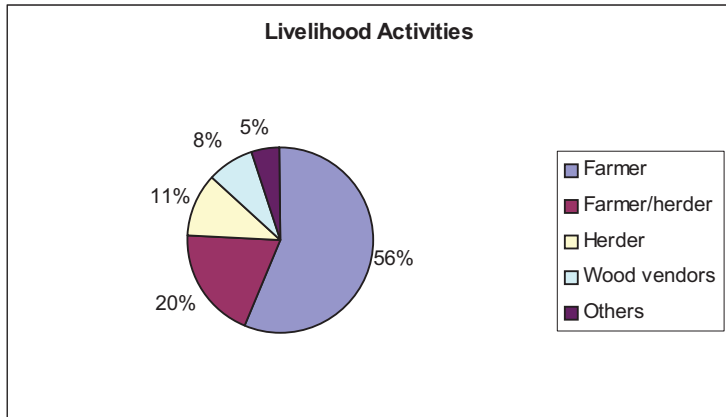


FIGURE 3: **Distribution of Livelihood Activities**

Given the importance of the research work to gaining information on the impacts of CBED using the MA&D approach in CFM at the local level, the sample of villages where the interviews were conducted was composed to include a balanced number from the following two different categories (13 villages per category):

Category 1: Villages involved in Community Forestry and known to have applied the MA&D approach (CF MA&D) for enhancing CBED

Category 2: Villages involved in Community Forestry and known to have not applied the MA&D approach (CF non-MA&D)

These categories served as a basis for comparison in determining whether there were systematic differences in the livelihoods of CF managers, their attitudes and in capacities to carry out sustainable forest management between CF villages known to have applied the MA&D approach and those that have not.

Initial background information from experienced forestry field staff was used to differentiate between villages having a good record on community livelihood improvement through CBED (category 1) and those which have not been involved (category 2).

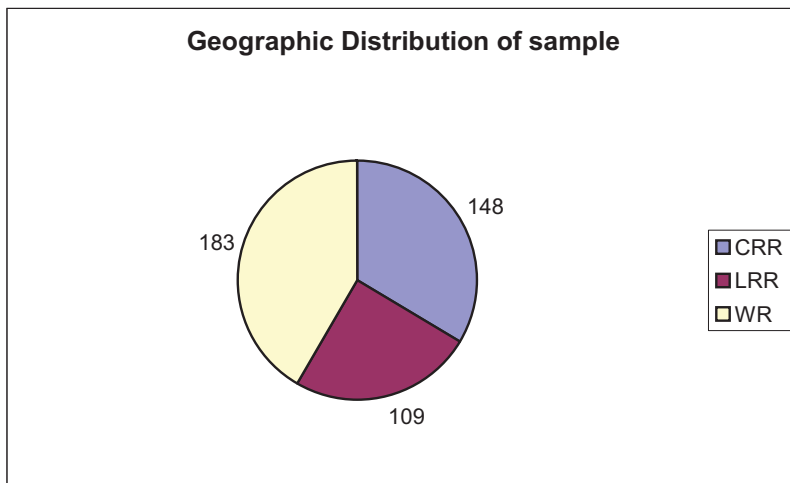


FIGURE 4: **Geographic Distribution of the Sample**

The study area included three of the five administrative regions of The Gambia, namely: the Western Region, the Lower River Region and the Central River Region (see Figure 4). In these Regions, the MA&D approach has been introduced at different times: in 2000 in the WR, 2002 in the CRR and 2003 in the LRR.

The evaluation of MA&D impacts people’s perceptions about their livelihoods over time, due to its introduction as part of CF. Assessment was also done of CF village files, in which the

benefits from commercialization of forest products and services in CFs was examined to allow a more thorough understanding of the economic and financial benefits to the target groups.

The assessment of socio-economic impacts focused on:

- improvement in the variety and quality of forest product commercialization opportunities;
- utilization and management of benefits accrued through commercialization;
- gender issues awareness; and
- level of knowledge and organizational skills.

Awareness, knowledge and organizational skill are the basis for successful CF management.

Monetary incomes from CF management through commercialization were investigated in the villages by applying the “village development influence matrix” with the target group as well as in forest station records.

To understand the use of the benefits gained from CF management and the degree of organizational capacities, the monitoring books of the CFCs were checked and information was gained through interviews. The amounts of money which accrued from the commercialization of forest products and services and the use of these funds were recorded and cross-checked with FD data and the results of the exercises on village development influence matrix.

The degree of organizational capacities were further assessed through the comparison of CF related activities the village had mentioned in the CF management plans/enterprise development for the current season, and the ones they had in fact carried out. This information was attained via interviews and self evaluation/capacity scoring by CFC members.

The assessment additionally attempted to clarify whether CF management creates additional work for women and/or advantages through improved availability of forest products. The role of women in decision making and in CF related activities broadly was also of interest.

Photo documentation was administered in order to document the visible impacts of CF during the case study, for instance, on forest regeneration or on village projects financed with money from the CF fund, like the rice production project in the photo below.



Rice production in Bustaan Category 1 village, funded by enterprise proceeds

The ecological and socio-economic dimensions of forest management are highly interconnected and most of the information gathered through the interviews and participatory methods was analyzed with this in mind.

REVIEW OF PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS, FOREST REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

A review of past and existing legislation and policy frameworks related to forest management by communities in the Gambia was conducted. The purpose was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various instruments at both national and community levels.

WORKSHOP ON DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The results obtained from the field surveys and the trainings were presented and discussed with stakeholders from the Forestry Sector, CFC representatives, the National Environment Agency, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the local administrative authority (Chief), NGOs, media and a Legislator (National Assembly Member) in a joint reflection workshop conducted in Welligara in the WR. This discussion process served as a forum for receiving feedback from those directly concerned with Participatory Forest Management issues at the local level and to develop strategies for providing an enabling environment for the participatory field implementation of the CF Concept and CBED.

Selected interviews under each of the impact areas were presented to the participants as a mechanism for initiating and facilitating an exchange of ideas and experiences. In this context, it was meaningful to not only use quantitative results, but also to present complete statements and opinions from the survey and field training, especially the recommendations given by interviewees at the end of the interviews.

Main Results of the study in MA&D CF villages and Non MA&D CF villages

POLICY APPROACHES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM FOREST ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY USING THE MA&D METHODOLOGY

The most important policy measures for involving CF managers and owners in the development of viable and socially accepted enterprises, based on tree and forest products and services, are the revised *Gambia Forest Management Concept (GFMC) 2001, Rules governing the management of forest by communities* (as described in the CFMA terms and conditions), the *Local Government Act 2002* and the *draft Forest Policy 2006-16*.

It has been just 10 years since the enactment of the Forest Act and Regulation, and there is a clear need to revise certain portions and incorporate additional clauses to comprehensively enhance the participation of local communities in sustainable forest management.

The GFMC describes the approaches to be undertaken in order to reach the targets specified in the Forest Policy document. It promotes the nucleus concept, which aims at integrating CF into the management of Forest Parks. It also underscores the importance of diversifying the CF implementing structures by creating a strategic alliance between the FD and other stakeholders in the nation-wide promotion of the Community Forestry concept. The participation of local communities in the protection, management and judicious utilization of resources is advocated for in the GFMC and the draft Forest Policy 2006 - 2016.

Prior to the inception of the CBED using the MA&D approach in CFM, the local communities felt that forest management could not yield economic benefits. There were inadequate incentives for villagers to sustainably manage forests (as the results in CF-MA&D villagers revealed). Under the terms and conditions of the CF concept, local populations have full access to benefits accruing from forest management after attaining CFMA status.

“With the devolution of power and authority over forests to the villagers alongside provision of adequate extension support services, there are improved chances of communities developing forest-based enterprises which eventually contributes to improved livelihoods” (interview/ int. 35 category/ cat. 1 village).

AWARENESS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FORESTRY CONCEPT

An assessment of villager awareness about the CF concept shows that the principal features of the CF concept are well understood by the majority of the rural population, as observed in both categories.

Throughout the 52 interviews, there are only 8 responses that see no difference between the CF start-up and the Consolidation/Ownership Phases. Interestingly, all 8 of those responses come from just 4 villages, all belonging to Category 2.

As for awareness about rights and responsibilities, there is an impressive amount of information known by the Category 1 villagers. Interviewees of this category describe the steps involved in CF management, such as:

- Identification of the proposed CF area;
- Forming a forest management committee;
- By-law formation;
- Application for a Preliminary Community Forest Management Agreement;
- Development of a preliminary management plan;
- Plan implementation and monitoring;
- Final demarcation of the CF area;
- Development of a 5-year forest management plan;
- Protect the proposed Community Forest and other surrounding forests from bush fires and other illegal forest product exploitation;
- Application for CFMA;
- Protect the CF and surrounding forest areas;
- Establish, every five years, a management plan and annual work plans;

- Organise and mobilise the community to carry out the field activities specified in the management plan;
- Monitor and document activities;
- Regulate the administration and disposition of funds;
- Ensure that the quantities of all forest products harvested are determined, recorded, and made regularly known to the Forest Officer in charge;
- Pay all proceeds of the sales of forest products extracted from the Community Forest into a bank account which shall be opened in the name of the committee and administered by three elected members;
- Spend at least 40% of revenue on forestry development activities and the balance on community development; and
- Pay 15 % of all revenues to the National Forestry Fund (NFF).

The inhabitants of the MA&D CF villages of Category 1 have the greatest level of knowledge about the concept. The ratio of respondents who can name at least one objective of the CF approach is 80% in category 1 villages compared to just above 51% in category 2 villages.

| Category | Question 26. What are the objectives of Community Forestry? | | Total |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|-------|
| | Correct Answer | Incorrect Answer | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 164 | 41 | 205 |
| % within category | 80% | 20% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 120 | 115 | 235 |
| % within category | 51% | 49% | 100% |
| Total Count | 284 | 156 | 440 |
| % within category | 65.50% | 34.50% | 100% |

TABLE 1: **Questionnaire Results on Awareness about the CF Concept**

The CF consecutive steps focus on the possible loss of supplies for everyday life, which come from the forest, despite the involvement of local communities in forest resource management. A key factor driving the move towards greater involvement in CF is the sluggish rural economy caused by a steady decline in both agricultural productivity and the deteriorating marketing possibilities for farm produce. A lot of rural communities resort to forest utilization to fill the income gap created by declining agriculture. To secure and legitimise their involvement in forest product utilization, many communities are now opting for recognized community forest management.

The knowledge and awareness of the local population on user rights and tenure issues were checked by using a “True/False” quiz. In each sample, eight individuals were asked some questions in relation to user rights, tenure security, rights and responsibilities of villagers in CF initiation thru consolidation. The results indicate some gaps in knowledge for most informants of category 2 villages.

The knowledge about participation in CF activities is low in Category 2 villages (around 10% on average) with the majority of the informants believing that only the CFCs are responsible for CF activities, instead of the entire community being responsible. In Category 1 villages, most individuals judged that men and women are equally involved. Especially in CF MA&D villages in the Western and Central River Regions, this more balanced participation is perceived to be a result of the provision of social services such as simple processing machines (coose and rice milling machines) to minimize the drudgery traditionally encountered by women’s groups. Clean drinking water and investment in the school systems (including payment of salaries for the teaching staff as well as investment in learning and educational materials) are also evident in category 1 villages. All these above mentioned services are funded from the proceeds of the CF Enterprises.

| Category | Question 27. Are you personally participating in CF activities? | | Total |
|---------------------------|---|-----|-------|
| | Yes | No | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 185 | 20 | 205 |
| % within category | 90% | 10% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 23 | 212 | 235 |
| % within category | 10% | 90% | 100% |
| Total Count | 208 | 232 | 440 |
| % within category | 50% | 50% | 100% |

TABLE 2: **Questionnaire Results on Participation in CF Activities**

More than 90% of the interviewed individuals in category 1 villages have taken part in activities related to CF, as well as having effectively managed fires when it comes to farm land preparation. Around 10% know about the planned CF activities but could not participate due to various reasons (cultural ceremonies, business trips, etc.). Only a few in category 2 villages, about 10%, know about planned CF activities.

In category 1 villages, all the sample villages have applied to extend their Community Forest areas since 2005³. To date, no concrete steps have been taken to respond to these applications. This is an indication that CF is well embraced by the population and an encouraging trend is emerging from CF MA&D villages which could jeopardize the national target of transferring 200,000 hectares of forestland to community ownership by 2016.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT APPLIED BY THE STUDY VILLAGES

Section 40 of the Forest Regulation states that: “no community member shall exploit any forest produce for commercial use in a community forest without the consent of the forest committee which may request the payment of fees according to the rates set out in the by-laws and in accordance with the management plan.”

One observation in the analysis of MA&D impacts was the clear absence of Forest Management and Enterprise Development Plans at village and station levels. The amount of experience in developing realistic forest management plans is inadequate at both the field staff and community levels, and more efforts are needed to strengthen the capacity of the FD as well as CFCs. More than 50% of the sample villages do not have a valid 5 year management plan, a requirement for implementing Sustainable Forest Management activities. These management instruments can help to prevent and resolve conflicts that can emerge and derail the course of community forestry.

This lack of Forest Management and Enterprise Development Plans has caused many communities to stop selling products from their CFs even though the resource base is rich, and they could have satisfied some of the community needs. Such a situation is leading to conflicts in some communities through individual harvesting of the resource for commercial purposes, and it has also created mistrust between the CFCs and villagers who see “*many development activities taking place in other villages that have the same ownership status as us*”. (Interview number 33, Category 2).

Notwithstanding, there is a difference between those villages that have gone through the MA&D process and have studied the market (i.e. have identified market constraints to determine what customers want and will offer for their products) and those who have not. In the short run, villagers of category 1 have ready markets for their products. It was also observed during the study that some of the category 2 villages harvested CF products without conducting a market survey or a valid CF Management Plan. As a result, some of the products which did not sell ended up lying in the villages, rotting or becoming infected by termites.

³ This is reported in “Empowering Communities through Forestry: Community-Based Enterprise Development in The Gambia Project Terminal Report” FAO, 2005.



Confiscated logs from Category 1 villages

The CF Management and Enterprise Development Plans prepared during the Consolidation / Ownership Phase by category 1 villages foresees the establishment of village nurseries for the production of tree seedlings or purchased planting stocks from the proceeds of the enterprises which are used for enrichment plantings. Some of the nurseries which were established were limited in size, with a yearly production around 300-500 seedlings. The nurseries encouraged villagers to “enrich” areas with poorly stocked stands and to favour certain highly demanded tree species. Furthermore, these enrichment plantings served to strengthen the Category 1 communities’ sense of ownership as well as their understanding of sustainable management principles.

There is growing evidence in all the categories that the 40 % allocation from village CF funds are hardly reinvested into forest development activities; instead they end up footing other community development bills. The highest contributors to skills development and control over forest resources in Category 1 villages are likely to be the skills training opportunities created by CBED using the MA&D approach.

More than 80% of Category 1 villagers observed an increase in various populations and in species composition. Especially in WR and CRR CF MA&D villages, people observed (50%) an increase in the number of different species, especially birds, antelope, reptiles, hyenas and the indigenous Gambian timber tree. A decrease in number and in species is observed in category 2 villages.

| Category | Question 21. What is the present situation of resources in the Community Forest? | | Total |
|---------------------------|--|------------|-------|
| | Changes observed | No changes | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 178 | 27 | 205 |
| % within category | 87% | 13% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 49 | 186 | 235 |
| % within category | 21% | 79% | 100% |
| Total Count | 227 | 213 | 440 |
| % within category | 54% | 46% | 100% |

TABLE 3: Questionnaire Results on the Ecological Changes Observed in the CF

AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST FIRES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

There is an insufficient amount of data on forest fires in The Gambia because of inadequate staffing at field levels and an unwillingness of the rural population to state the origin of the fires or expose fire offenders for prosecution. What is clear is that most of the state-owned forestlands burn annually. The losses resulting from this are huge considering the incalculable amount of timber, wildlife and firewood destroyed and the low agricultural productivity resulting from soil degradation.

The prevention and control of forest fires are considered a crucial element of the CF approach. Communities have strong obligations to prevent fires in their Community Forests and in the surrounding State Forests. The ability of the community to keep forest fires under control is the main criteria used in evaluating it for issuance of a Preliminary Community Forest Management Agreement (PCFMA) and a Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA).

Despite nearly eighteen years having passed since the first forest ownership transfer to local communities, there has not yet been a significant reduction in the frequency of forest fires nationwide. There are a few areas in category 1 villages where forest fires are becoming increasingly rare, and it is encouraging that the awareness level of the population about forest fires has grown. There is a clear indication that as a result of the local forest ownership transfers, people are willing to change their attitudes positively towards the forest and its resources. This was confirmed by both categories of villages. The effects on the local population of this gradual change in attitude are already visible. When asked about the changes in forest fire occurrence over the last 10 years, 187 out of 205 respondents in category 1 villages said that less area is now being burned. Also, 60% of them also see less frequency in fire occurrence. The differentiation between fire frequency and affected area is not artificial. While the frequency of uncontrolled fires relates to fire use patterns and prevention measures taken, the area that actually burns in a fire incident ultimately depends on the alertness and willingness of the local population.

“Previously we were seeing the forest as state owned, so when there was a fire incident we were careless about its consequence but now it is different because we are involved in its management” (Interview number 1, Category 1).

Consistent enforcement of the fire regulations in the Forest Act 1998, together with the incentives created by Community Forestry, could bridge the gap between the high level of awareness and the only gradual change in attitude. Most people (98%) view starting forest fires as a grave offense and are in favour of severe punishment of culprits.

The survey revealed that Category 1 villages with valid CF Management and Enterprise Plans utilize a two-pronged approach for forest fire prevention, including control and management. The following technical and legislative approaches are often employed:

- Establishment of firebreaks along the peripheries of CF areas;
- Internal cattle tracks to enhance the chance of containing fires in the CFs;
- Early controlled burning;
- Fire fighting;
- Awareness creation; and
- Enforcement of the Forest Act and the community by-laws for fire offenders.

| Category | Question 39. When we clear our fields, we just set fire to burn everything | | | Total |
|---------------------------|--|-------|--------------|-------|
| | True | False | I don't know | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 20 | 185 | 0 | 205 |
| % within category | 10% | 90% | 0% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 129 | 82 | 24 | 235 |
| % within category | 55% | 35% | 10% | 100% |
| Total Count | 149 | 267 | 24 | 440 |
| % within category | 32.5% | 62.5% | 5% | 100% |

TABLE 4: Questionnaire Results on Fire Management Awareness

Category 2 villages take a laissez-faire approach to the management and control of fires. Respondents from Category 2 complained of increased frequency, of areas affected by uncontrolled fires and of a lack of internal by-laws concerning fires.

| Category | Question 40. How do you estimate the extent of yearly bushfires in your area? | | | | Total |
|---------------------------|---|---------|------|--------------|-------|
| | Complete | Partial | None | I don't know | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 10 | 195 | 0 | 0 | 205 |
| % within category | 5% | 95% | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 153 | 70 | 0 | 12 | 235 |
| % within category | 65% | 30% | 0% | 5% | 100% |
| Total Count | 163 | 265 | 0 | 12 | 440 |
| % within category | 35% | 62.5% | 0% | 2.5% | 100% |

TABLE 5: Questionnaire Results on Capacity to Manage Bushfires

PERCEPTIONS

Perception of the Forestry Department staff by villagers

The relationship between villagers having participated in CF process and FD staff was analysed by asking villagers if they perceived FD staff more as “police” or as “partner,” and whether in the past their perception had been different. In all the categories (except for interviews number 21, 22, 27 & 28 of category 2), respondents replied that the FD staff had formerly been seen as “police,” while now they are seen as “partners.” These answers were confirmed by statements, such as:

- *“FD staff need to desist from only motor cycle riding and hanging over their shoulder, and actively participate to ensure the protection of the forest, and also desist from illegal forest activities” (Interview number 22, category 2 village)*
- *“Forestry staff should be tolerant and committed to their task instead of policing for better management of the forest for our future generation”. (Interview number 27 category 2 village).*
- *“Now we are equals in forest management.” (Interview number 18 category 1 village)*
- *“We even suggested to them attaching the satellite villages to Bamakuno and Ketelenge Forest Parks and forging a collaborative management approach for the government forest parks”(Interview number 35, Category 1 village)*

The frequency of FD staff visits to CF villages has been remarkably high for the Category 1 villages, where almost 85% of the respondents noted a greater number of visits. CF non-MA&D villages of Category 2, which are less visited by FD staff, expressed feeling abandoned and helpless.

| Category | Question 33. How often does (s)he come? | | | Total |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | Less visit (quarterly visits) | Increased visit (twice a month) | Abandoned (no visit in 6 months) | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 31 | 174 | 0 | 205 |
| % within category | 15% | 85% | 0% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 63 | 0 | 172 | 235 |
| % within category | 27% | 0% | 73% | 100% |
| Total Count | 94 | 174 | 172 | 440 |
| % within category | 21% | 42.5% | 36.5% | 100% |

TABLE 6: Questionnaire Results on the Frequency of FD Staff Visits to Communities

Perception of the villagers by Forestry Department

The results from the staff survey indicate that villagers are “*now generally considered to be effective forest managers.*” According to them, this is evident from the number and frequency

of forest fires and the reduction of illegal forest activities in areas where Participatory Forest Management Concepts have been implemented. However, it has been reported that some category 2 villagers deliberately set forests on fire in order to access forest products for individual product exploitation. According to FD staff, “CF was a dream to communities but when they started to operate sustainable forest-based enterprises it becomes a reality to them.”

CAPACITY SCORING / SELF EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEES

CFC members were scored on their capacities in CF management (in relation to their roles and responsibilities stated in the CFMA terms and conditions).

The graphs in Figure 5 give an overview of the results of the exercise in Buiba village (Category 2) and Kafuta village (Category 1).

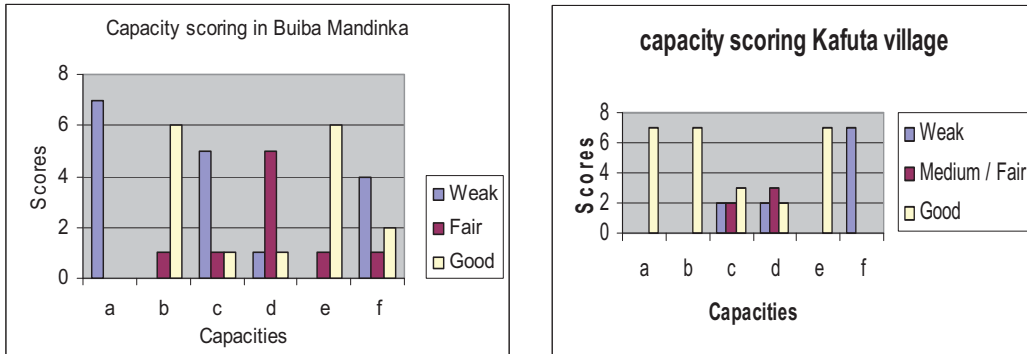


FIGURE 5: **Capacity scoring and self-evaluation of CFCs (Buiba Mandinka - Category 2 and Kafuta villages - Category 1).**

(Key: A: Organizing and conducting of meetings; B: Patrolling of forest areas; C: Monitoring and record-keeping; D: Control of illegal forest activities; E: Fire management (early controlled burning and fire fighting); and F: Nursery management.)

All thirteen CFCs in Category 1 assess themselves as being weak in nursery management. They are conscious of having a responsibility to produce their own planting stock, but they feel ill-equipped financially and technically to implement that task.

One out of the 26 villages showed that they do not have sufficient capacity for implementing effective forest fire management measures. As a result, the village assessed itself as being very weak on fire management. This score, from a Category 2 village, might be attributable to the proximity of the village to the Cassamance (southern Senegal) border where no formal forest management is carried out.

“Communities alleged that uncontrolled forest fires originate across the borders and are difficult to fight.” (Interview number 34, Category 2 village)

In Category 2 villages, almost 98% of the sample admits that the organization of meetings (Committee and General) still poses serious problems. They lament the low turnout of CF members as well as the local population. Three out of the thirteen villages from Category 1 rated their capacity level as medium/fair.

| Category | Question 46. Turnout/participation in meetings? | | Total |
|---------------------------|---|-----|-------|
| | High | Low | |
| CF MA&D Village Count | 195 | 10 | 205 |
| % within category | 95% | 5% | 100% |
| CF Non MA&D Village Count | 5 | 230 | 235 |
| % within category | 2% | 98% | 100% |
| Total Count | 200 | 240 | 440 |
| % within category | 45% | 55% | 100% |

TABLE 7: **Questionnaire Results regarding Participation and Turnout in Meetings**

Patrolling and control of illegal forest activities was assessed as fair in all Category 2 villages.

In terms of capacity for monitoring and record keeping, 12 out of 26 CFCs scored as being fair or weak as reported by category 2 informants. The study observed that the composition of the CFCs is being periodically reviewed and reshuffled by communities and, as a result, some of the secretarial positions are being filled by people unable to read or write in Arabic or English. These actions have led to potential conflicts or inaction by CFC members. The local population should have unrestricted access to information concerning the CF, especially information concerning the administration of CF village funds. There is a need to train CFC members, particularly those that are new, in simple record keeping, monitoring and management of community resources and finance.

TRENDS IN FOREST PRODUCT UTILIZATION

The study confirms that more than twice as many products are commercialized in the Category 1 villages (21) than in Category 2 villages (9). This could be attributed to the resource and environmental conditions and opportunities created by adopting the MA&D approach for development of viable and sustainable enterprises.

In Category 1 villages, positive trends with regards to the variety and quantity of forest products commercialized and to the increased regeneration potential were observed. Among Category 1 informants, 95% said that 9 products were commercialized ten years ago and 14 are commercialized currently. In Category 2 villages, 7 of the 13 villages studied have yet to realize revenue from forest product commercialization.

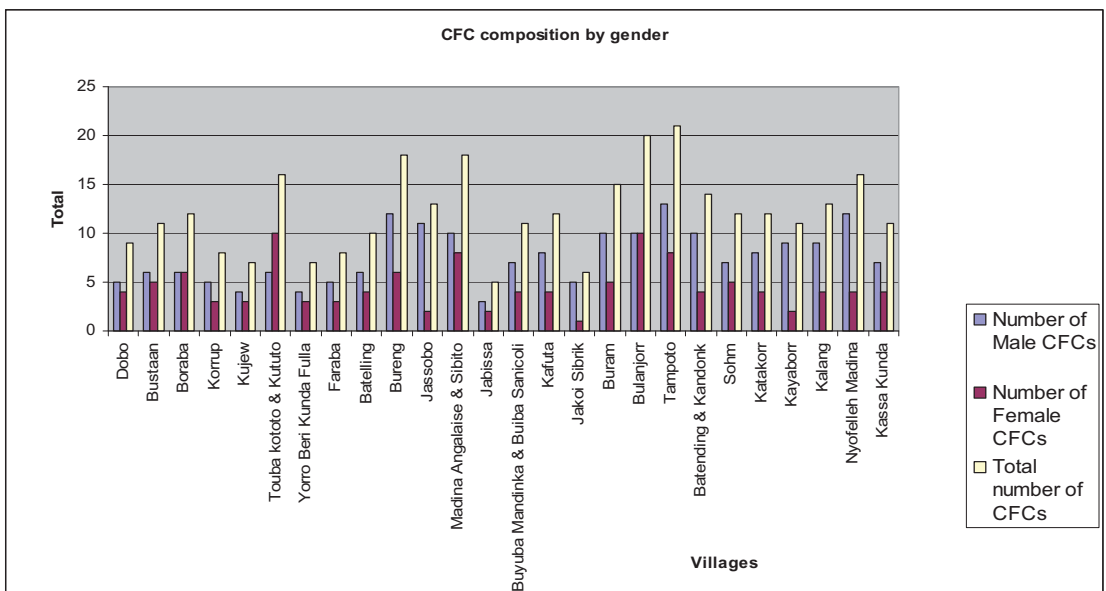


FIGURE 6: **Composition of CFs by Gender**

Women are highly involved in small –scale forest product commercialisation. They sell firewood (branched firewood in particular), fruits, herbs and leaves. Though these products are of low economic value in comparison with products like timber and split firewood typically sold by men, they provide an important alternative source of income for women. Some of the key positions in the CF Committee membership are filled by female representatives, holding positions such as treasure and cashier. Women are also involved in the decision-making process related to enterprises (see Figure 6).



Female entrepreneur in Kafuta weaving basket

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MA&D COMMUNITIES

The study revealed that the enterprise development component of the Participatory Forest Management approach has, over the past nine years, catalyzed many village development initiatives. Interest groups have been formed in villages in the Western, Lower River and Central River Regions to undertake small-scale forest enterprises like beekeeping, firewood, timber production, forest fruits, poles and posts, handicrafts and eco-tourism.

The results of the village development influence matrix provided information on some of the developmental initiatives the villages have accomplished, such as:

- Purchase of commercial vehicles to ease transportation difficulties in the community;
- Construction of new village mosques and rehabilitation of old ones;
- Distribution of sugar to the communities during the month of Ramadan;
- Funding of the annual recitations of the Holy Quran in the village;
- Payment of the village annual compound rates and taxes;
- Provision of a loan facility to villagers to encourage rural entrepreneurship;
- Support for funeral arrangements for many disadvantage families in the village;
- Village electrification and provision of clean village water systems;
- Purchase of cooking utensils for village use;
- Funding of yearly vaccination for livestock;
- Road rehabilitation;
- Construction of schools;
- Purchase of farm inputs;
- Procurement of fire fighting materials;
- Provision of salaries for village teachers;
- Purchase of canoe for river transport;
- Purchase of bicycles for forest patrol; and
- Procurement of cereal milling machines and maintenance.

In the socio-economic evaluation of MA&D impacts, the scores given to the influence of Enterprise Development at the community level were very high (since funds generated by the

enterprises has been invested into “social services”) in Category 1 villages versus those in Category 2.

Samples of the village development influence matrix for each category are given in Table 8a and 8b for the villages of Bustaan and Kujew of the CRR, respectively.

| Development Activity (last 10 years) | Influencing factors | | | Remarks |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | Community Forestry | Philanthropist/ others | Non-Governmental Organizations/Government Organizations | |
| Access to farm inputs | 4 | 1 | 2 (DOSA) | Inputs such as fertilizer, sprayers, fuel for the rice irrigation machine, kerosene and lamps procured yearly to be used communally to promote agriculture. Technical advice on the use of the inputs obtained through the extension agents of the Department of State for Agriculture (DOSA) |
| Mosque construction | 4 | 1 | 1 | Funded from the profits of the forest-based enterprises and some construction materials such as Rhun palm splits and frames harvested from the village CF |
| Road rehabilitation | 4 | 2 | 1 | Hire of a tractor and truck for re-gravelling of the road leading to the ferry crossing point and the rice fields, supported from the CF village cash box and donations and by community labour contributions. |
| Village hand pump | 4 | 1 | 3 | The Department of Water Resources (DWR) initiated the project through the German rural water project. Maintenance and replacement of worn out parts for the pump are being supported from the village CF cash box |
| Access to cooking utensils (pots, ladles and large spoons) | 4 | 1 | 1 | Utensils are being managed by the CFCs upon hire and proceeds deposited in the CF village cash box |
| Payment of yearly compound rates and taxes | 4 | 1 | 1 | Yearly taxes collected by the Local Government Ministry on houses, fire insurance and livestock fees from the communities are supported from the CF village cash box. This amount ranged between D12,000.00- D15,000.00 |
| Cereal milling machine (labour saving device) | 4 | 1 | 1 | The CFCs decided to reduce the work load of the women by procuring a mill with money from the village CF cash box |
| Improved communication | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 pedal bicycles bought with the profits of the enterprises in order to ease communication and patrolling of the forest areas by the designated patrol men |
| Fire fighting equipment | 4 | 1 | 1 | According to rules governing CFM, at least 40% of revenue realized from CF should be reinvested in forest development. Therefore, communities procured equipment to be used for fire suppression and fighting. |
| Access to literacy classes | 1 | 1 | Peace Corps (4) | This program in the village is supported by the US Peace Corps. |

TABLE 8A: **Village of Bustaan in the Northern CRR - Development Activity Influence Matrix**

Key: (Activity influence matrix)

1= very low influence

2= moderate influence

3= high influence

4= very high influence

| Development Activity (last 10 years) | Influencing factors | | | Remarks |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | Community Forestry | Philanthropist/ others | NGOs/GOs | |
| Gaining access to farming tools and inputs | 2 | 1 | (CRS) 4 | The NGO provided the tools and inputs on soft loan to the community while the wooden handles for some of the tools were harvested from the village CF area |
| Bridge construction at the village rice field | 1 | 1 | (PIWAMP) 4 | The project provided equipment, communities contributed labour |
| Cereal milling machine | 1 | 1 | (4H) 4 | Provided by 4H program (Clean Hands, Clever Head, Good Health & Warm Heart) to the communities; at the time of conducting this survey the machine broke down. |
| Livestock fattening program | 2 | 1 | (4H) 4 | The program is being managed by the village women's group. The livestock graze in the CF and SF areas. |
| Malaria prevention program | 1 | 1 | (Department of state for health - DOSH) 4 | Annual distribution of bed nets and sensitization by the Ministry |

TABLE 8B: **Village of Kujew in the Northern CRR - Development Activity Influence Matrix**

Key:

1= no influence

2= some influence

3= high influence

4= very high influence

FEDERATED PRODUCT GROUPS

Before MA&D was introduced in CF, product groups were not able to form a federation (i.e. they took an “island approach” to marketing). As a result, vendors and other players along the value chain were taking advantage of the situation. In all the three Regions of The Gambia where MA&D has been piloted, an interesting development was the emergence of federated groups.

Three federated groups, namely Jamorai Timber and Firewood Federation (JATIFIF) from the WR, Forest Kambeng Kaafo of the CRR and the LRR group, Wulaa Kaafo, were established. All federations have developed constitutions and are registered in the Anthony General's Chambers and National Bee Keepers Association of The Gambia (NBAG).

The grass-roots bodies of these groups were formed in anticipation of coordinating standardized market prices for forest products originating from CFs, and of sharing market information and costs amongst its members. The overall task of members is to monitor the quantities of forest products extracted from CF areas as specified on various CF Management and Enterprise Development plans, in order to avoid over exploitation of the resource base and to formulate joint project proposals to access support. These developments increased the profit margin of the enterprise along with creating rural employment and improving skills in the villages.

CONFLICTS DURING COMMUNITY FOREST IMPLEMENTATION

Natural Resource conflicts are part of normal life for resource dependent communities and are sometimes unavoidable. Conflicts may be exacerbated by increasing human and livestock populations, market economies and an ever-shrinking resource base.

In The Gambia, as a result of successful implementation Participatory Forest Management Concepts (CFM & Joint Forest Park Management (JFPM)), many people and communities have seen the advantages of getting access to forest resources. These opportunities will continue to spur conflicts in many parts of the country as there continue to be multiple traditional ownership claims over forest areas.

In response to Questions 55, 56, 57 and 58, the obtained results indicated that all the categories of villages had experienced conflict at some point in the approach. Throughout the

52 interviews, only 9 persons did not see customary land ownership claims as issues leading to CF conflicts. Other issues related to benefit-sharing within a village or between several villages. Illegal activities were reported in 80% of the category 2 villages, as compared with 20% in category 1 villages. Over 80% of these conflicts mentioned are as yet to be managed or solved, consequently derailing the CFM implementation process,

It is due to this that the Forestry Department staff and staff of collaborating institutions involved in the implementation of the various forest management regimes need to be trained on Natural Resource Conflict Management techniques so that they handle conflicts as they surface.

Conclusion and Recommendations

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOCIOECONOMIC EVALUATION OF MA&D IMPACTS

The study showed that in those villages involved in Community Forestry and known to have applied the MA&D approach (Category 1 CF villages), the CF enterprises component has helped with poverty reduction strategies because the livelihood of the communities has improved through:

- Increased access to basic family needs, such as commercial transportation services, communication facilities, employment opportunities, education, health and transfer of appropriate technology;
- Increased rights and power over forest resources;
- Increased unity amongst community members (this is attributable to joint decision making and problem resolution practiced in the villages);
- Increased quantitative and qualitative access to resources especially non- timber forest products (NTFPs) such as honey, eco-tourism, handicrafts and forest fruits;
- Increased income through sustainable extraction of forest resources in the CFs;
- Increased access to soft loans amongst communities; and
- Improved socioeconomic situations for women through commercialization of NTFPs and horticultural products.

For the villages that did not apply the MA&D approach (Category 2 CF villages), such social services have yet to be enjoyed by the local communities. It was evident in category 2 villages that since they secured ownership over the forests, communities have not undertaken sustainable forest management activities to generate cash income and develop or modify local institutional arrangements to enhance livelihoods and village level governance issues. Few of the CFs in this category escape annual fires.

There are encouraging indications from the category 1 villages that the forest cover under management will increase tremendously as soon as the requests of the communities for CF expansions are honoured and immediate actions taken. The right to sustainably utilise the community forest resides with the forest management committee, which is the structure representing the entire community. Under section 39, the Forest Regulation confers the rights to the forest committee to exploit forest products in community forests, as long as the use is in accordance with the management plan and with a valid license or permit issued to the forest committee by the Forestry Department and under the provision of section 90 of the Forest Act. However, some of the CF Non-MA&D villages failed to abide by the agreement to utilize forests based on approved management plans. This created a bottleneck in the study as researchers struggled to conduct sound and detailed statistical analysis of the earnings by the enterprises.

There are possibilities for improving the services and products from the enterprises. This can be achieved through frequent training and monitoring of activities (resource base and the day to day running of the enterprises).



Price list in Tumani Tenda ecotourism camp

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CFM AND CBED USING THE MA&D APPROACH

The challenge for the Forestry Department now is to further expand and consolidate CFM nationwide and to make it more economically attractive for the local population, and worthy of their efforts, time and commitment. At the end of the day, the ability of the Forestry Department to deal with community requests for CFM participation and consolidation of existing ones will depend on the quality and quantity of the staff in the field. Additional manpower should be devoted to the Department to have a reasonable coverage in the country. The level of training for FD staff should be enhanced to better prepare them for field operations. The field staff should be able to read and interpret clearly the GFMC framework, the Forest Act and Regulations for local communities and authorities. Sometimes, misunderstandings crop up because the various participants in CF implementation do not fully comprehend their respective roles.

CF enterprises are expected to grow in the future, as long as an enabling business environment is sustained. An enabling environment means having political stability, vibrant policy frameworks, sustainable biodiversity and adequately supported community outreach programs. It is projected in some of the Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) that the annual growth for some enterprises could increase by 20%. The price for wood and NTFPs continues to rise, and the product-based Interest Group (IGs) members are determined to maintain their competitive advantages over other forest products originating “illegally” from the neighbouring country and from other illegal sources. Emphasis has been made on sustainable use of forest products for domestic use, including grazing and promotion of eco-friendly activities. The IG members lament the rapid invasion of the local market by illegal forest products. In order to combat this type of competition in the market, they suggested the use of strategies like strengthening and enforcing the Forest Act and Regulations, crafting communal by-laws and regularly conducting sensitization sessions on legal forest exploitation measures.

Some of the frequently mentioned internal and external challenges of CF MA&D villages and CF Non MA&D villages are presented in the boxes below:

| Internal challenges | External challenges |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proper management of revenue generated by the enterprise. ▪ Capacity building of members on entrepreneurial and group management skills. ▪ Maintaining standards and the reputation of the enterprise while also sustaining bio-diversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish and maintain collaboration with other institutions to access support/service. ▪ Lobby the government to include rural-community enterprises, based on forest products and services in national and international trade fairs. ▪ Create a regional network of community-based forest enterprises for coordination of prices, conduct joint promotional campaign and share operating costs. ▪ Securing tenure over the remaining forest areas on customary village land to increase the forest cover under communal management and create more opportunities for the expansion of CBED. ▪ Increase access to new markets to sell the products and services of the enterprises. |

BOX 1: Internal and external challenges of CF MA&D villages

| Internal Challenges | External Challenges |
|---|---|
| <p>Control of illegal forest activities by some CFC members.</p> <p>Creation of income generating revenue for communities involved in the management of natural forests.</p> <p>Mobilization of labour force from the rest of the village population to implement planned activities.</p> <p>Timely and adequate information sharing about CF developments.</p> | <p>Establishment of linkages with other sectors to provide capacity building programs on Market Analysis and Development</p> <p>Access to extension and support services related to CF.</p> <p>Application of Sustainable Forest Management principles.</p> |

BOX 2: Internal and external Challenges of CF non MA&D villages

There are key opportunities for sustainable growth of the enterprises and the communities at large, as listed below:

- Availability of forestlands for CF expansion, rich bio-diversity and culture.
- Securing tenure over the remaining forest cover on customary land through the CF programme.
- Investment in social services in the communities using profits from the enterprises.
- Regular capacity building of IG members for effective customer service delivery.
- Availability of communal labour and resources to implement planned CF activities.



Bereset ecotourism camp

Based on the experience from the IGs, the most appropriate good practices for a forest based enterprise model for the country should have the following principles and characteristic features:

- Legal backing for long-term tenure security over the resources (trees and land) for the rural population;
- Regularly provided capacity building programs on product development (value addition) of the IG members;
- Consideration of four areas of enterprise development (Science and Technology; Market and Economy; Social and Institutional; and Resource and Environment issues surrounding the products and services);
- Improvement in livelihoods;
- Ecologically and socially accepted enterprises developed having economic viability;
- Support FD field staff with resources to enable them to execute extension services;
- Forging partnerships with other stakeholders; and
- Minimizing over-dependency.

Small-scale forest-based enterprises could help sustain communities in the following areas:

- Creation of employment opportunities for the communities could reduce rural-urban drift;
- Provision of social services such as roads, classrooms, electricity and water supply;
- Reinforcing Participatory Forest Management concepts by creating economic benefits for forest dependent communities; and
- Ensuring long term availability of minor forest products for domestic use (grazing, herbal medicine and domestic fuel).



Berefet ecotourism camp

To ensure the sustainability of small scale forest-based enterprises, it is strongly recommended that the focus be on the trade of Non-Timber Forest Products to reduce pressure on the shrinking resource base. The local markets should also be targeted because the demands for NTFPs are high and supply currently remains unmet.

For the benefit and sustainability of the community forestry concept, efforts should be made to spread/extend the MA&D approach to other communities that have attained the CFMA/Ownership status over their community forests. These communities have been protecting their CFs for decades and have proven to be good managers; however they lack the capacity to economically benefit from them. If they do not acquire the skills and knowledge which would enable them to access viable markets for their products, they will not be able to carry out the required developments at the village level as have been their fellow managers who have been trained in the MA&D approach.

If trends continue, some communities may end up doing individual production, as is the case in two of the sample category 2 villages. This situation urgently needs to be addressed. This approach can lead to over-exploitation of the resources and the production of a huge volume of products for less money.

In conclusion, the local NGOs and international organizations could continue to play the following roles as partners in development:

- Implementation of capacity building programs for entrepreneurs;
- Provision of micro-finance opportunities with low interest rates;
- Facilitating tenure arrangements for land and forests to guarantee long-term ownership of the resources;
- Patronizing community based eco-tourism structures by conducting workshops and seminars to boost the incomes of the enterprises;
- Creation of linkages with other actors along the value chain;
- Supplementing the efforts of the enterprise in community development activities; and
- Creation of an enabling policy framework for the effective operation of community-based enterprises.

MAJOR CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEAM

Inadequate capacities and skills for forest management and for the creation of economic benefits for participants in category 2 samples

Throughout the socio-economic impact evaluation of MA&D in sample 2 villages, the local population indicated that after attaining the CFMA status, their interactions with the FD field staff in terms of extension support has been poor and in most cases the interaction with FD focuses more on issuance of felling licenses and permits to outsiders of which *“we are informed that we are to facilitate those operations, the whole of Badibu were issued felling permits to operate in and around Mutaro Kunda Forest Park “* (Interview number 27, Category 2 village).

The FD Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit is currently problematic; the state of existing records both at the field, regional and national levels are in deplorable condition; and in several instances, forest management plans, forest management agreements and CF overviews have not been updated.

Day-to-day monitoring of the enterprises

Since monitoring of the daily operations of the enterprises cannot be done solely by the FD, possible collaboration with other stakeholders who could play a monitoring role on behalf of the FD should be considered. Many NGOs and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) have substantial experience in conducting day-to-day monitoring of rural finance operations.

Maintaining standards and discipline at field level

The CF Guidelines (2005) clearly described the roles and responsibilities of participants in the CF implementation program. The frontline change agents in the program are the Administrative Circle (AC) heads, Implementation Area (IA) heads and the staff of collaborating institutions. However, some of these categories of staff are not adequately acquainted with village approaches and, as a result, are shy to implement without back-up support from the AC heads. Notwithstanding, some AC heads are also failing in the delivery of their duties and are more concerned with the other big ‘C’ (Commercialization) of the GFMC, instead of with forest conservation and CF. Additionally, field staff are frequently absent at the community level and have been known to fast-track certain CF steps to achieve their own objectives. This unethical behaviour aggravates latent conflicts at the community level.

The study strongly recommends the introduction of a community “exercise book⁴” initiative at the village level. The rationale behind this suggestion is to monitor the level of extension support and other community outreach programs rendered by support/service institutions. It also can serve as a visitor’s book for communities involved in CF. Consecutive steps involved in the participatory development of the Plan of Operation (PoP), semi-annually, monthly and weekly plans of the Regions should also be revived to enhance efficiency for service delivery and to create opportunities for field implementers to meet and share experiences.

⁴ “Exercise book” is the term used to describe blank notebooks in the Gambia.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF CF INFORMANTS

| Village | Total number of informants | Sex | | Number of CFC informants | | Sex | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Dobo | 16 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Bustaan | 13 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Kujew | 14 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Touba Kuta | 29 | 18 | 11 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Boraba | 18 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Yorro Beri Kunda Fulla | 25 | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Faraba | 18 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Korrup | 15 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Subtotal CRR | 148 | 101 | 47 | 60 | 34 | 26 | 26 |
| Bureng | 25 | 22 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 3 |
| Jabissa | 13 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Buibba Mandinka | 28 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Jassobo | 14 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Batelling | 14 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Madina Anglaise | 15 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Subtotal LRR | 109 | 88 | 21 | 43 | 34 | 9 | 9 |
| Kassa Kunda | 11 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Nyofelleh | 16 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Sohm | 11 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Kafuta | 14 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Kalimu, Kayaborr, Gifoni | 20 | 14 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Kalang & Bantanjang | 12 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Katacorr | 23 | 19 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Buram | 27 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Batending & Kandonk | 8 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Tampoto | 12 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Bulanjorr | 17 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Jakoi Sibirk & Nyangit | 12 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Subtotal WR | 183 | 123 | 60 | 70 | 44 | 26 |

ANNEX 2: CF STATUS QUO IN THE STUDY VILLAGES

| Managing Village (s) | Region | Name of CF Area | Size (hectares) | Date of First Contact | Number of years involved in CF | CFMA Handing over date | Remarks |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Dobo | CRR | Kaniabu | 204.9 Ha. | 05.96 | 12 Years | 04.00 | CF Management Plan not seen both at Administrative Circle (AC) and Implementation Area (IA) levels |
| Bustaan | CRR | Fankanta | 35.33 | 12.96 | 12 | 04.00 | See above |
| Kujew | CRR | Mari Dala | 50.90 | 12.96 | 12 | 06.04 | CF Management Plan developed alongside annual work plan |
| Touba Kuta / Touba Koto | CRR | Kunkudala | 59.25 | 01.96 | 12 | 05.03 | CF Management Plan developed alongside annual work plan |
| Boraba | CRR | Kapesaba | 64.71 | 04.96 | 12 | 04.00 | CF Management Plan not seen both at Administrative Circle (AC) and Implementation Area (IA) levels |
| Yorro Beri Kunda Fulla | CRR | Yorro Beri Wulo | 113.60 | 01.97 | 11 | 08.02 | See above |
| Faraba | CRR | SalaBato Wulo | 43.51 | 09.96 | 12 | 04.02 | See above |
| Korrup | CRR | Sutujiang Wulia Santo | 18.89 49.30 | 08.96 | 12 | 08.02 | See above |
| Bureng | LRR | Folanko | 96.90 | 09.95 | 13 | 05.05 | See above |
| Jabisa | LRR | Selendingo | 57.20 | 01.99 | 9 | 12.05 | CF Management Plan development in progress |
| Buiba Mandinka | LRR | Laiwetto | 33.20 | 03.99 | 9 | Evaluation positive since 2005 | CFMA yet to be awarded to community despite positive PCFMA evaluation since 2005 |
| Jassobo | LRR | Kabarr Kunda | 30.71 | 10.95 | 13 | 03.00 | See above |
| Batelling | LRR | Nganinkoi | 496.90 | 08.94 | 14 | 12.99 | CF Management Plan not seen both at Administrative Circle (AC) and Implementation Area (IA) levels |
| Madina Anglaise / Sibito | LRR | Wendu Njundu | 147.80 | 06.96 | 12 | 04.02 | See above |
| Kayabour, Gifoni, Kalimu | WR | Kanjammeh | 136.00 | 02.94 | 14 | 05.04 | CF Management Plan development in progress |
| Kanlang, Bantanjang | WR | Manduworr | 87.81 | 04.96 | 12 | 02.00 | See above |
| Katacorr | WR | Konkoba | 21.06 | 11.95 | 13 | 06.04 | CF Management Plan developed annual work plan yet to be developed |
| Buram | WR | Sibac | 31.86 | 04.97 | 11 | 02.00 | CF Management Plan not seen both at Administrative Circle (AC) and Implementation Area (IA) levels |
| Bulanjoorr | WR | Brinkimai | 140.00 | 03.91 | 17 | 01.01 | CF Management Plan developed annual work plan yet |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|--|--|--|--------|-------|----|-------|--|
| Jakoi Sibirik, Njangit | WR | | | | 79.97 | 11.93 | 15 | 12.99 | to be developed See above |
| Batending, Kandonk | WR | | | | 82.79 | 11.92 | 16 | 12.99 | See above |
| Tampoto | WR | | | | 20.01 | 04.96 | 12 | 01.98 | See above |
| Kafuta | WR | | | | 450.20 | 07.94 | 14 | 02.00 | CF Management Plan developed alongside annual work plan |
| Sohm | WR | | | | 102.80 | 12.95 | 13 | 02.06 | CF Management Plan development in progress |
| Kassa Kunda | WR | | | | 43.84 | 07.97 | 11 | 11.01 | CF Management Plan not seen both at Administrative Circle (AC) and Implementation Area (IA) levels |
| Nyofelleh Madina | WR | | | | 79.91 | 04.96 | 12 | 04.01 | See above |

ANNEX 3: OVERVIEW OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

| No. | Date | Village | Region | Category | No. of Communities | Ethnic composition | Pop. | Interview type | Sex | Age | Occupation/ Social status within the village |
|-----|----------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|---------|--|
| 01 | 24.11.08 | Dobo | Central River | 1 | 69 | Mandinka Fula | 750 | CFCs | 4 M, 2 F= 6 | 29 - 45 | CF Committee members, Village health worker, School PTA Members & Organizing committee member of a political party |
| 02 | 24.11.08 | Dobo | Central River | 1 | | | 750 | Non- CFCs | 7 M, 3F, =10 | 40 -60 | VDC Women representatives, PTA members, herder, members of village Keba Kaafu & VDC Youth representative |
| 03 | 25.11.08 | Bustaan | Central River | 1 | 50 (2 occupied) | Mandinka Fula Wollof Serre | 325 | CFCs | 2 F, 3M,=5 | 27 - 47 | Village Head, VDC Members, CFC Women representative & CFCs |
| 04 | 25.11.08 | Bustaan | Central River | 1 | | | 325 | Non- CFCs | 3 F, 5 M= 8 | 30 - 65 | Members of the Women Kaafu, Keba Kaafu members & Youths |
| 05 | 26.11.08 | Kujew | Central River | 2 | 13 | Mandinka Fula | 350 | Non- CFCs | 8 M, 1 F = 9 | 36 - 55 | Iron binder, Village Keba Kaafu member, Youth representative VDC Organizer & tailor, VDC Youth Organizer, VDC President, Maisoner & Chain saw operator & Baker |
| 06 | 26.11.08 | Kujew | Central River | 2 | | | 350 | CFCs | 2 F, 3 M = 5 | 40 - 70 | CF Committees, PTA Members |
| 07 | 27.11.08 | Touba Kuta | Central River | 2 | 39 | Mandinka Fula | 460 | CFCs | 7 F, 6 M = 13 | 37 - 68 | CF Committees, Village Head, VISACA Committee, TBA |
| 08 | 27.11.08 | Touba Kuta | Central River | 2 | | | 460 | Non- CFCs | 4 F, 12 M = 16 | 30 - 57 | VDC Committees, AATG Committee |
| 09 | 28.11.08 | Boraba | Central River | 1 | 41 | Mandinka Fula | 550 | Non- CFCs | 2 F, 6 M = 8 | 17 - 70 | VISACA Committee, Representative Women Kaafu, Primary Health Care, TBA, Toleh Kaafu |
| 10 | 28.11.08 | Boraba | Central River | 1 | | | 550 | CFCs | 6 F, 4 M = 10 | 30 - 70 | Alkalo, CFC members, IG Members, Women representatives |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---------------------------|---------------|---|----|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|----------------|---------|--|
| 11 | 29.11.08 | YBK Fulla Kunda | Central River | 2 | 38 | Fula Mansuanka Mandinka | 450 | Non- CFCs | 4 F, 14 M = 18 | 20 - 70 | Village Head, VDC Committees, Imam, Herders, Firewood collector |
| 12 | 29.11.08 | YBK Fulla Kunda | Central River | 2 | | | 450 | CFCs | 3 F, 4 M = 7 | 40 - 60 | CFC members, Political Party Chairman, Village Health worker, VDC Members |
| 13 | 30.11.08 | Faraba | Central River | 2 | 20 | Mandinka Fula | 500 | Non- CFCs | 3 F, 10 M = 13 | 29 - 80 | Alkalo, VDC Members, VHW, PTA Committee |
| 14 | 30.11.08 | Faraba | Central River | 2 | | | 500 | CFCs | 2 F, 3 M = 5 | 40 - 60 | Fishermen, CFCs, VDC Members, Council of Village elders |
| 15 | 30.11.08 | Korrup | Central River | 1 | 9 | Fula | 180 | CFCs | 2 F, 7 M = 9 | 21 - 40 | CFC members, herders, carpenter, Village Head, IG Members |
| 16 | 30.11.08 | Korrup | Central River | 1 | | | 180 | Non- CFCs | 1 F, 5 M = 6 | 26 - 76 | VHW, Council of Village Elders |
| 17 | 1.12.08 | Bureng | Lower River | 1 | 58 | Mandinka Fula Jola Sarahuleh | 2500 | CFCs | 3 F, 10 M = 13 | 23 - 65 | CFC members, Village Head, VDC members, Family Planning Committee |
| 18 | 1.12.08 | Bureng | Lower River | 1 | | | 2500 | Non- CFCs | 12 M = 12 | 42 - 70 | Imam, Islamic Scholar, Village Water Committee, PTA, Fisherman |
| 19 | 2.1.2.08 | Jabisa | Lower River | 2 | 16 | Mandinka Fula Fula | 325 | CFCs | 1 F, 3 M = 4 | 40 - 55 | CFC Committees, VDC Members, Village Council of Elders, Fisherman, Carver & Carpenter |
| 20 | 2.12.08 | Jabisa | Lower River | 2 | | | 325 | Non- CFCs | 9 M = 9 | 14 - 90 | VHW, Village Head, Village Water Committee VDC Members |
| 21 | 3.12.08 | Buiba Mandinga & Sanicoli | Lower River | 2 | 59 | Mandinka Manjako Fula | 420 | CFCs | 1 F, 6 M = 7 | 38 - 67 | Village Head, VDC Members, CFCs |
| 22 | 3.12.08 | Buiba Mandinga & Sanicoli | Lower River | 2 | | | 420 | Non- CFCs | 5 F, 16 M = 21 | 15 - 72 | Village Garden Committee members, VDC Lady President, Village Facilitator, Hunter, Fisherman |
| 23 | 4.12.08 | Jassobo | Lower River | 1 | 21 | Mandinka Serere Balanta Fula | 425 | CFCs | 2 F, 5 M = 7 | 35 - 86 | CFCs, VHW, Islamic Committee, Village Facilitator, BAFROW Committee |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------------|----------------|---|---------|------|-----------|--------------|---------|--|
| 24 | 4.12.08 | Jassobo | Lower River | 1 | | 425 | Non- CFCs | 4 F, 3 M = 7 | 32 - 70 | Fishermen Committee members, Council of Village Elders, Fishermen, Carpenter |
| 25 | 5.12.08 | Batelling | Lower River | 1 | 24 | 600 | CFCs | 1 F, 5 M = 6 | 24 - 70 | CFC Members, VDC Members |
| 26 | 5.12.08 | Batelling | Lower River | 1 | | 600 | Non- CFCs | 1 F, 7 M = 8 | 35 - 60 | IG Members, VDC Member, Black smith, Herder |
| 27 | 6.12.08 | Madina Anglaise & Sibito | Lower River | 2 | 70 | 1500 | CFCs | 1 F, 5 M = 6 | 50 - 60 | CFC Members, Herder |
| 28 | 6.12.08 | Madina Anglaise | Lower River | 2 | | 1500 | Non- CFCs | 2 F, 7 M = 9 | 18 - 65 | Imam, Village Youth, Herders |
| 29 | 14.12.08 | Kassa Kunda | Western Region | 2 | 94 | 2650 | CFCs | 1 F, 3 M = 4 | 35 - 58 | CFC Members, VDC, Alkalo, Elders Council |
| 30 | 14.12.08 | Kassa Kunda | Western Region | 2 | | 2650 | Non- CFCs | 3 F, 4 M = 7 | 22 - 46 | Village Kafo members, Mosque Committee, Youth REP. |
| 31 | 15.12.08 | Nyofelleh | WR | 2 | 45 | 750 | CFCs | 3 F, 5 M = 8 | 43-70 | CFC Members, VDC Chairman, Alkalo |
| 32 | 15.12.08 | Nyofelleh | WR | 2 | 45 | 750 | Non-CFCs | 5F,3M=8 | 21-80 | Imam , Traditional Birth Attendant , VDC member, |
| 33 | 16.12.08 | Sohm | WR | 2 | 91 | 2750 | CFCs | 1F,3M=4 | 40-60 | CFC Members, District Chief, Patrolman , School Committee Member |
| 34 | 16.12.08 | Sohm | WR | 2 | 91 | | Non- CFCs | 2 F, 5 M = 7 | 22- 75 | Alkalo, Council of Elders, Religious and Water committee |
| 35 | 17 12 08 | Kafuta | WR | 1 | 40 0 | 4750 | CFCs | 3F, 4M= 7 | 42-60 | CFC Members, Imam, Health Committee, VDC, Council of Elders |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------------|----|---|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|-----------|---------------|--------|--|
| 36 | 17.12.08 | Kafuta | WR | 1 | 400 | Ghanian | | Non-CFCs | 2F, 5 M= 7 | 24-45 | PTA Members, TAYAM rep. Women rep. |
| 37 | 18.12.08 | Kalimu, Kayaboarr Gifoni | WR | 2 | 32 | Jola, Fula | 606 | CFCs | 1 F, 2 M = 3 | 30-37 | CFC Members |
| 38 | 18.12.08 | Kalimu, Kayaboarr Gifoni | WR | 2 | 32 | | | Non- CFCs | 6 F, 11 M= 17 | 18-75 | Alkalo, VDC Members, Nyomuta Kafoo Anyokanu Kafoo |
| 39 | 19.12.08 | Kalang & Bantanjang | WR | 2 | 9 | Jola | 142 | CFCs | 1 F, 3 M=4 | 40-70 | CFC Members, Alkalo, Women rep. |
| 40 | 19.12.08 | Kalang & Bantanjang | WR | 2 | | | | Non- CFCs | 3 F, 5 M=8 | 30-65 | VDC Chairman, Women rep. |
| 41 | 20.12.08 | Katacorr | WR | 2 | 48 | Jola, Mandinka, Fula, Manjako, Wollof | 613 | CFCs | 2 F, 3M = 5 | 24-63 | CFC Members |
| 42 | 20.12.08 | Katacorr | WR | 2 | 48 | | | Non- CFCs | 4 F, 14 M= 18 | 25-70 | Alkalo, Imam, PTA Members |
| 43 | 21.12.08 | Buram | WR | 1 | 15 | Jola, Mandinka, Manjako, Fula | 325 | CFCs | 2 F, 7M =9 | 30-80 | CFC Members, VDC, NRMCMembers |
| 44 | 21.12.08 | Buram | WR | 1 | 15 | | | Non-CFCs | 10 F, 8 M= 18 | 19-55 | Village Kafolu members, |
| 45 | 22.12.08 | Batending & Kandonk | WR | 1 | 85 | Jola, Mandinka, Fula, Manjako | 600 | CFCs | 2F, 3 M= 5 | 25- 45 | CFC Members, VDC Chairman |
| 46 | 22.12.08 | Batending & Kandonk | WR | 1 | 85 | | | Non-CFCs | 1 F, 2 M =5 | 35- 60 | Women rep. PTA, Alkalo |
| 47 | 23.12.08 | Tampoto | WR | 1 | 32 | Jola, Fula, Bainunka | 215 | CFCs | 2F, 4 M= 6 | 32-70 | CFC Members, Women rep. Youth rep. Council of Elders |
| 48 | 23.12.08 | Tampota | WR | 1 | 32 | | | Non- CFCs | 4F, 2 M = 6 | 20-45 | CRS Committee, AFET Committee, Women rep. |
| 49 | 24.12.08 | Bulanjoorr | WR | 1 | 24 | Jola, Fula | 350 | CFCs | 4F, 6 M= 10 | 35-65 | CFC Members, VDC Member, Imam, Alkalo |
| 50 | 24.12.08 | Bulanjoorr | WR | 1 | 24 | | | Non-CFCs | 3F, 4 M | 35- 80 | VDC Members, Women reps. |
| 51 | 24.12.08 | Jakoi Sibirik & Nyangit | WR | 1 | 36 | Jola, Fula | 430 | CFCs | 2F, 4 M= 6 | 35-60 | CFC Members, Alkalo, Imam, VDC |
| 52 | 24.12.08 | Jakoi Sibirik & Nyangit | WR | 1 | 36 | | | Non-CFCs | 6F, 4M= 10 | 18-65 | VDC Members, Tolleh Kafo Members |

ANNEX 4: QUESTIONNAIRE

MA&D Impact Assessment Study Questionnaire (CF MA&D & Non- MA&D CF Village)

Interview No. -----

Date-----

Time-----

Interviewer-----

Documentation-----

Personal data:

Individual:

1. Sex: f m

2. Age: -----

3. Ethnic group: -----

4. Education: -----

5. Occupation: -----

6. Family status: -----

7. Status within village: -----

Group:

8. No. of women []

9. No. of men []

10. User group (s) -----

11. Age range _____

12. Statuses within Village _____

Village Sheet
For interview No. _____

13. Village name: _____

14. District: _____

15. Number of Compounds: _____

16. Number of inhabitants: _____

17. Ethnic composition: _____
18. Livelihood activities: _____
19. Livestock: number of heads: _____
20. Total number: _____
21. What is the present situation of the resources in the Community Forest?

- 22 We need to get organized in order to get better income for our forest products
 True False I don't know
23. Have you heard about CBED?
 Yes No I don't know
24. Is your village involved in CBED?
 Yes No I don't know
25. For how long has your village been involved in CBED? / MA&D & Non MA&D for how long has your village been involved in CF _____
26. What are the objectives of Community Forestry?

27. Are you personally participating in CF activities?

28. Does CF benefits you personally?
 Yes No I don't know
 If yes
29. How? _____
30. Which other Organization comes to this village to speak about Forestry plus other sector related issues?

31. What is the name of the officer? _____
32. What is (s) he talking about?

33. How often does (s) he come?

34. Our living condition has changed positively in relation to forest activities
 True False I don't know
35. Perception of FD Staff by the Villagers now Partner Police others
36. Perception of FD Staff by the villagers in the past Partner Police others
37. We do not graze in CF instead we graze only in the State Forest
 True False I don't know
38. We fell/ cut down the stem of a tree when we want to collect the fruits
 True False I don't know
39. When we clear our fields, we just set fire to burn everything
 True False I don't know
40. How do you estimate the extent of yearly bushfires in your area?
 complete partial none I don't know

41. Have you notice any change in the occurrence of bushfires in the last ten years?
[] yes [] no [] I don't know

If yes

42. What has changed? Area? / Frequency?

43. How often/ regularly do you meet? _____

44. How often / regularly do you meet alone (without the foresters)?

45. Who calls in meetings (Foresters or Committee President)?

46. Turnout / Participation (equal per village / regularly)?

47. We have to contact FD when we want to commercialize forest products from state forest.
True [] False [] I don't know []

48. We have to liaise with FD when we want to commercialize products from a Community Forest
True [] False [] I don't know []

49. Training received (formal / on the job)?

50. We are only engaged in CF activities in our village and nothing else
True [] False [] I don't know []

51. We don't need a management plan in commercial forest utilization
True [] False [] I don't know []

52. We don't need to pay anything to the FD upon commercial forest utilization
True [] False [] I don't know []

53. We invest all the money we have from CF on village development activities
True [] False [] I don't know []

54. There is no need to reinvest on the forest
True [] False [] I don't know []

55. Have you ever experience/ encountered conflicts in CF Management?

56. What are issues to those conflicts?

57. How many conflicts are solved/ managed?

58. How many are pending/ unsolved?

59. It is better if more people can participate in community organizations
True [] False [] I don't know []

60. Suggestion for the future (to the committee, to the village to outside actors to the Forestry Department)

ANNEX 5: STAKEHOLDER SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The second part of suggestions and recommendations was developed through a CF implementation workshop held in Wellingara Horticultural Model Centre on January 20th & 21st 2009 with stakeholders and showed the following results:

Responsibility: Central Government

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | To expand Community Forestry on a large scale alongside the introduction of MA&D approach to sustain CF concept |
| 2 | Increase the number of staff working especially in terms of sensitization, so that people's level of understanding will be increased |
| 3 | Allocate more funds to CF activities from the NFF |
| 4 | Monitor the expenditure from the NFF |
| 5 | Collaboration between Forestry, fire-service, Army and the police to ensure sustainable management of forests and prevention of conflicts over resource use |
| 6. | Local Government to introduce tax holidays on market fees levied on CF products |
| 7 | Enforcement of government regulations on every citizen whether you are a Forestry Department staff or not |
| 8 | Use the mass media to continue to sensitize villagers about forest management and sustainable livelihoods |
| 9. | Create Government policy statement on forest fires |

BOX 3: Proposition of Stakeholders in the feedback workshop

Responsibility: Forestry Department

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Should endeavour to build the capacity of field staff on village approaches to enable them render the required extension support services to communities on various PFM concepts |
| 2 | Expose more field staff to the MA&D approach and to ensure its integration in the CF process at the start-up phase to consolidation/ ownership phase. |
| 3 | PFMU make available at field level field forms, equipments and stationeries required for CF implementation (Compasses, Paint for CF demarcation, CF Map drawing facilities, PCFMA& CFMA form sheets, Extension materials, CF Guidelines 2005, MA&D Field Facilitators Guidelines etc.) |
| 4 | Revive the annual, semi-annually, monthly and weekly planning meetings at all levels |
| 5 | Revisit the recruitment procedures for entrance at the National Forestry School in Kafuta to ensure qualified candidates are enrolled in the school |
| 6 | Adhere to the requirements of the civil service General Orders (GO) during staff redeployments especially on handing over exercises |
| 7 | Proper orientation to staff as soon as postings are made |
| 8 | Provide certificate of attendance to participants for all conducted field trainings |
| 9 | Train CFCs on simple record keeping, group management and leadership |
| 10 | Create mass awareness on forest categories as enshrined in the Forest Act & Regulation 1998 & 2000 respectively to prevent conflicts over resource use |
| 11 | Strict control on the use of forest areas outside Forest Parks and Community Forests to give opportunities to legal products originating from sustainable managed forests in order to make CCSF attractive to the local population |
| 12 | Decentralize training funds at regional level and assign trainers to backstop |
| 13 | Issue Government Treasury Receipt (GTR) to communities as soon as contribution are made to the NFF or Royalties to ensure transparency and accountability |
| 14 | FD Revenue collectors and field staff to follow the civil service Financial Instructions (FI) when handling state funds |
| 15 | Intensify staff monitoring to ensure that staff remains at their posting |
| 16 | Review the current Forest Act and Regulations to reflect the realities on the ground |
| 17 | Ensure that CF Communities at CFMA status reinvest the 40% allocation from CF Funds on forest development activities |
| 18 | Assignment of responsibilities to staff should be based on seniority and qualification |
| 19 | Equal distribution of FD staff among regions according to the established IA & AC structures |
| 20 | Discourage staff opting for non- sector related courses to avoid losing them at the end of their studies |
| 21 | Improve mobility for staff |
| 22 | Conduct more thorough market survey with special regards to Non- Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) |
| 23 | Support M&E Unit to develop Market Information System on forest products and services (data bank) |

| | |
|----|---|
| 24 | Update the CF Manual to incorporate the new developments on the concept as detailed in the CF Implementation Guidelines 2005 (MA&D, Designation of CF, Community-Based Fire Management, Gambia Forestry Communication Concept etc.) |
| 25 | Conclude Memorandum of Understanding with more NGOs |

BOX 4: Proposition of Stakeholders in the feedback workshop

Responsibility: Communities

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Ensure investment of the 40% allocation from CF village funds to develop forest areas |
| 2 | Promote public accounting on CF Village funds |
| 3 | Collect Government Treasury Receipts (GTRs) as soon as payments are made to FD for National Forestry Fund & Royalty |
| 4 | Be more vigilant and report all illegal forest activities to the nearest forest station |
| 5 | Communities should make their own by- laws on committee constitution and administration of CF Funds |
| 6 | Creation of fire committees in villages to support the CFCs and Village Heads (Alkalolu) in the fire management |
| 7 | Select CFCs using set criteria and competent requirements for identified positions |
| 8. | Inform FD and others as soon as CFCs are re-constituted such that capacity building programs could be arranged for new members (Roles and Responsibilities, Forest Act & Regulation, Technical forestry skills etc.) |
| 9 | Develop realistic forest management plans prior to CF product exploitation |
| 10 | Introduce the community "exercise book" scheme to all support and service institutions working in the village and ensure that all extension services and visits are documented using the scheme |
| 11 | Conduct more thorough market survey with special regards to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) |

BOX 5: Proposition of Stakeholders in the feedback workshop

Responsibility: Field Staff

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Organize Farmer to Farmer filed visits for Non-MA&D CF villages to MA&D CF villages to share experiences on CBED |
| 2 | Collaboration within the Multiple Disciplinary Facilitation Teams of the decentralized structures (Extension Agents of Non-Governmental and Governmental Organizations) to facilitate and sensitize communities on the opportunities created by the Forest Policy |
| 3 | Train CFCs on simple record keeping, group management, leadership and technical forestry skills |
| 4 | Revive the annual, semi-annually, monthly and weekly planning meetings at field level |
| 5 | Create mass awareness on forest categories as enshrined in the Forest Act & Regulation 1998 & 2000 respectively to prevent conflicts over resource use |
| 6. | Issue Government Treasury Receipt (GTR) to communities as soon as contributions are made to the NFF or Royalties to ensure transparency and accountability |
| 7 | Follow the civil service Financial Instructions (FI) when handling state funds |
| 8 | Ensure that CF villages at CFMA status reinvest the 40% allocation from CF Funds on forest development activities in order to fulfil their obligations under the terms and conditions of CFMA |
| 9 | Maintain frequent contacts with communities participating in CF |
| 10 | Support communities to develop realistic forest enterprise development plans prior to CF product exploitation |

BOX 6: Proposition of Stakeholders in the feedback workshop

Responsibility: Non- Governmental Organizations & Others

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Seek further technical and financial support from donors in order to maintain the momentum of PFM implementation |
| 2. | Conduct more thorough market survey with special regards to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) |
| 3. | Provision of credit and training to new forest-product based groups so that they can undertake the marketing of forest produce / services for their members |
| 4 | Organize Farmer to Farmer filed visits for Non-MA&D CF villages to MA&D CF villages to share experiences on CBED |
| 5 | Organize workshops to familiarize the field staff with PFM concepts |
| 6 | Provide certificate of attendance to participants for all conducted field trainings |
| 7 | Support FD in the day to day monitoring of Community Forest Enterprises |

| | |
|-----|--|
| 8. | Conclude Memorandum of Understanding with FD for nation-wide implementation of the PFM concepts |
| 9 | Support FD M&E Unit to develop Market Information System on forest products and services (data bank) |
| 10. | Sensitize opinion leaders to influence politicians and the general population on the need for CFM |
| 11 | Lobby for the creation of Government policy statement on forest fires |

BOX 7: Proposition of Stakeholders in the feedback workshop

Forest Policy & Economics Team (FOEP)
Forestry Department



FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations