



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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The Pangani Basin is one of the most productive areas of Tanzania with nationally important agricultural outputs, (almost 90% of the surface flow in the Pangani river basin is used for irrigation) and hydropower generation. In addition, the basin has forest and biodiversity resources of global importance.

Despite available water resources, Pangani Basin is water stressed having less than 1,200 cubic meters of water per person per year and already inadequate supplies threaten the basin's natural resources, livelihoods, agricultural and hydroelectric productivity. Many conflicts are emerging among water user groups – between upstream and downstream water users, farmers and pastoralists, small-scale and large scale water users, etc. These conflicts are expected to worsen as uncoordinated abstractions and climate change jeopardize water supplies.

WATER RESOURCES POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The 2002 National Water Policy (NAWAPO) and the 2009 Water Resources Management Act provides for stakeholders' participation in water resources management within a decentralised framework. The policy and the Act therefore make provision for the establishment of WUAs (Water User Associations) as a mechanism for stakeholders' participation. The Act defines WUA as comprising any water user from a common stream irrespective of the purpose of that use. The role of WUAs as spelt out by the Act is as follows:

- to manage, distribute and conserve water from a source used jointly by the members of the association;
- to acquire and operate any Permit under the provisions of this Act;
- to resolve conflicts between members of the association related to the joint use of a water resource;
- to collect water user fees on behalf of the Basin Water Board; and
- to represent the special interests and values arising from water used for a public purpose, such as in an environmental or conservation area, or for the purpose of managing a Groundwater Controlled Area.

The Act states that members of the



Pangani Project Steering Committee members meeting with a community

WUAs shall elect a Management Committee for the association which shall be the executive organ of the association. In addition to the WUAs, the 2009 Act, provides for the establishment of Catchment and Sub Catchment Water Committees whose general functions include to:

- Coordinate and harmonize catchment or sub-catchment integrated water resources management plan,
- Resolve water resources conflicts in the catchment or sub-catchment, and
- Perform other delegated functions by the Basin Water Boards.

The formation of the WUAs including their registration and supervision of their activities as well as the establishment of the Catchment or Sub-catchment Water Committees according to the Act, is to be facilitated by the Basin Water Board.

KIKULETWA CATCHMENT FORUM

It is within the policy and legislative framework that the Pangani River Basin Management Project is assisting the Pangani Basin Water Board (PBWB) to establish sub-catchment WUAs, which will form part of the members of Catchment forum up on establishment by the responsible Minister.

The establishment of the Kikuletwa Catchment Forum is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- * To recommend to the basin water

board names of person to be appointed as members of the Catchment or Sub catchment water committee,

- * To advise the catchment or sub catchment water committee on different matters,
- * To promote integrated water resources management planning.

The subsidiary roles of the forum will be;

- Promotion of enhanced dialogue, collaboration, consensus and awareness raising among WUAs on water related issues;
- Integrating community-level, WUAs, district and regional concerns into basin-level planning;
- Lessons learned from the process of establishing Kikuletwa Catchment Forum is scaled up to strengthen national support and inform other communities, basins and countries.

PROCESS OF ESTABLISHMENT

The process of establishing the Kikuletwa Catchment WUAs is a three stage process, which includes development of inventories; the establishment or design of the association; and association operationalization. Below is a summary of the progress on each of these three stages:

1. INVENTORY STUDIES STAGE

As a first step in developing the Kikuletwa sub-catchment WUA, the project partners in 2007/8 conducted

(Continued overleaf)

detailed inventories to provide background information about the basin characteristics in terms of water resources and uses; organizational landscape; relevant Tanzanian policies, legislation; and comparative experiences from around the world of participatory involvement of communities in water resources management. A summary of each inventory is provided below:

a) Water Resources and Uses in Kikuletwa Catchment – This includes existing information on water yields, sources and availability in the catchment, along with available data on water abstraction in the catchment. Information also includes whether water abstraction was legally sanctioned, customary use or through illegal abstractions. The inventory tracks trends in water availability and utilization.

b) Organizational Landscape – This inventory contains information on various groups including: functional (formal) community groups (character and number), promoted by the various sector ministries and departments, of relevance for water abstraction and use; and informal (traditional) community groups (character and number) involved in water management in the catchment.

An overview of other water users in the catchment (character and number), e.g. industry, urban users, private sector is provided along with a description of governance structures of relevance to water management in the catchment. The inventory provides analysis on relations between the different and divergent water users, and insight into which groups and/or institutions are seen as legitimate and representative.

c) Policy Inventory - The water policy of 2002 is the defining framework for water management in Tanzania, however a number of other policies (and their implementation) are of relevance and are summarized in this inventory. The decentralization policy affects the mandate and structure of local authorities, which are key actors in water planning and management. The privatization and investment policies create incentives for water use, as does

the irrigation, agriculture and forestry policies. An overview of these various policies and how they relate to each other (including possible anomalies and contradictions) as well as how they affect local development is a crucial requirement for the design of the catchment forum.

d. Comparative Experiences

The inventory provides aggregated information on community participation in water management from various countries. This includes: how divergent community interests can be effectively represented at a higher level; what are best practices in relating up- and downstream users within a catchment; which different interests need to be represented at a lower-level management forum; and what are roles, mandates and experiences with meso-level natural resource management fora.



Drafting WUA constitution with beneficiaries of Upper Kikuletwa Sub-catchment

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGN STAGE

A core team comprising membership from PBWB and SNV was formed in 2009 to facilitate the design stage. The team went through extensive coaching from experts who had experience in community participation in water resource management. The activities carried out in this stage of the process included: stakeholder consultations, establishment of a reference group to guide forum establishment, and training and formation of sub-catchment facilitation teams.

The core team conducted detailed stakeholder consultations through workshops and meetings with local government authorities including districts, municipal councils, wards and villages to collect and collate the views

of stakeholders concerning the structure, roles and responsibilities of the Kikuletwa Catchment Forum or WUA.

A Reference Group was established to guide design process in terms of advising and informing the core team where necessary. The Reference Group draws its membership from the following: PBWB; Local Government Department (from the project area); Agriculture and Land Use Department; Irrigation; Energy; Water Utilities at district and Urban Levels; Natural resources and environment; Cooperatives and community development; Livestock and fisheries; and Institutional development experts.

Given the size and geographical coverage of Kikuletwa the catchment was divided into 4 sub catchments (Upper Kikuletwa; Sanya-Kware; Lower Kikuletwa; and Kikafu – Weruweru-Karanga). A sub-catchment facilitation team (SCFT) for each sub-catchment, with a membership of between 4 – 6 people, was established to facilitate stakeholders to establish WUAs and elect their interim officials. The composition of the sub-catchment facilitation teams included staff from the PBWB; District Councils and local NGOs and CSOs representing interests such as community development; natural resources and environment; irrigation; agriculture; livestock; water; public health and co-operatives.

3. OPERATIONALISATION STAGE

By the end of 2010 all the four WUAs were established and registered. Following the registration, 6 members from each of the four sub catchment WUA were trained on how to run their offices. They were also provided with working tool such as; financial record keeping documents, technical and general record keeping files and relevant acts and regulations.

In 2011 the four operating sub-catchment forums will be registered as an umbrella (apex) WUA association. Subsequently, the PBWB will monitor the performance of the Associations, continue providing support to it, distill and disseminate lessons learnt during its establishment and operations for both national application and international learning.



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