

Official Inauguration of Community Forests Climax in Community Celebrations

Certificates of Declaration of Community Forests handed over

By Wycliffe and Wolfgang in Rundu

In the week ending June 9, "Community Forestry in North Eastern Namibia" (CFNEN) organised regional ceremonies in three project areas of Caprivi, Kavango and Western Tsumkwe, to honor the eight gazetted community forests supported by the project. The honored communities include Ncaute, Ncumcara, Ncamagoro and Mbeyo in Kavango region, Masida, Lubuta and Bukalo in Caprivi Region and M'kata in Western-Tsumkwe.



The ceremonies were coloured by the presentation of certificates of recognition to the communities by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Kahijoro Kahuure.



Foreground - Left to Right: Hon. Governor of Kavango Region John Thighuru, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Kahijoro Kahuure, Director of Forestry Joseph Hailwa, DED Architect Ivonn Kramm, CFNEN Project Coordinator Rolf Sprung and Consultant Architect Paul Mukungu visiting the new craft shop at Ncumcara community during the inauguration celebration.

The certificates mark the climax of the empowerment process, in which forest use rights are transferred to the communities. The gazetted communities are now able to control the sustainable use and protection of valuable wood and non-wood forest resources against over-utilization, illegal harvesting and wild fires. The communities now have the right to issue permits for the use of trees, firewood and other forest products and to use these resources on the basis of forest management plans and related use regulations (by-laws). Generated benefits can help to

support both community development and natural resource management.

In Kavango, the ceremonies included the official opening of the community forestry buildings in Ncumcara and Ncaute. The low cost buildings were constructed mainly with local available building materials and with remarkable labor contributions of the community members.

The buildings will house offices for forest management operations, meeting rooms, storage for forest products and will host other non-forest, community relates

activities. In Ncumcara community for instance the meeting room also serves as a craft shop where nicely arranged crafts attract customers.

High-ranking officials from the Government, the German Embassy, German Development Service, Traditional Authorities as well as the civic society attended the parties and enjoyed the attractive programme including traditional dancing performances but also field trips to several project areas providing opportunities to know about the project's developments and achievements.

Kahenge Community Forest Wins 2005 Community Forest Fire Competition In Kavango

By Andreas Haita and Henry Mahenga
of Kahenge/Katope Operational Unit

Kahenge community of Kahenge constituency has emerged the winner of the 2005 community forests fire competition in Kavango region. The competition was held between all participating community forests supported by the "Community Forestry Programme" of the Directorate of Forestry. It carries a cash prize of N\$ 2,500 to the winning community.

The cash prize is meant to motivate communities to use improved forest management practices to protect their forest resources against veld and wild fires. Communities can also use awareness as a tool in combating forest fires.

Contrary to other communities in Kavango region, for the year 2005 Kahenge community has never experienced any fire invasions, thanks to its hard working Forest Management Committee. The community therefore won the N\$ 2,500



Top: Community members listen to the FMC words of courage from FMC Chairman, Right: FMC members and community enjoying the "fire competition winning banquet", Bottom: Guinea Fowl Project

which went into their management fund.

Some of it was now used to organize a celebration to congratulate themselves and invite the sponsors, CFNEN to the occasion.

Commenting on behalf of the Directorate of Forestry, the Chief Forester North Eastern, Mr. Simeon Hengari commended the good partnership and working relationship existing between the community and the Directorate's community forestry programme. He also commended the hard work

exhibited by the community members which resulted in this victory over destructive fires.

The FMC Chairman of Kahenge, Mr. Ngoma Andreas Mbambo expressed his appreciation on the good support from the community forestry programme and promised that his team will keep up the working spirit. Meanwhile the Guinea Fowl



project initiated by CFNEN in Kahenge a year ago is doing well. Currently more than 20 fowls are in stock.

CFNEN in Exhibition on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism the traveling photographic and poster exhibition is being conducted to raise awareness of the action taken at the local level by Government projects to meet the MDGs. With its strong commitment to the Governments programme of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), CFNEN contributes essentially to the achievement of the MDGs in Namibia.

Exhibition start: 5th of June at National Art Gallery in Windhoek

The eight MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Bukalo Benefiting From Sustainable Forest Management Operations

Only Dead RoseWood Harvested For Income

By **Andreas Mench, Katima**

One important subject for the community based sustainable management and conservation of forest resources is that the corresponding communities have the possibilities for generating sufficient income. This income is supposed to be used for the management costs of the resources, for some community expenditures or investments or for the creation of job opportunities in the communities.

The 27th of January 2006 saw Bukalo Community Forest receive a block permit for dead woody resources. The block permit was granted by the Directorate of Forestry (DoF), District Forestry Office in Katima Mulilo. The permit comprises 428 dead timber trees and 255 m³ of dead mopane firewood. The block permit has a validity of 6 months but the period can be extended.

With the block permit the use rights for the resources mentioned on the permit are transferred from the DoF to the Bukalo Community Forest. This means that now the Forest Management Committee (FMC) of Bukalo has the right to issue permits



Top - a dead rosewood tree being cut into logs. Bottom - a local contractor operating bandsaw machinery to make planks from deadwood.



for those granted resources by themselves and that the revenue will remain in the cashbox of the Community Forest.

The FMC Bukalo has now started to harvest dead timber

trees, mostly Rose wood (*Guiburtia coleosperma*) which were thrown down by elephants some years ago. Unfortunately, some of the trees had already been burned by past forest fires

or destroyed by termites and other insects. For the remaining logs the outer sap wood was already rotten but the inner heartwood was still strong and of good quality. Looking from this point of view it was high time that these resources were utilized before they could go completely worthless.

So far the FMC Bukalo sold 90 logs of dead Rose wood (11.5606 m³) and a lot of good job opportunities (like cutting the logs in the forest, skidding them to the road or loading them onto a trailer) could be created for community members. Unfortunately, the Rose wood timber is too hard for cutting into planks by pit-sawing in the community so that this value adding activity had to be given to local contractors with band saw machines.

The income generated from this so far sold dead logs amounts to N\$ 5,931.00, but further orders for more than 100 logs are still to be accomplished. N\$ 4,200 was paid as labor costs members of the community, the rest went to the Community Forest bank account for further management activities and Community development purposes.



Homemade insecticides

In a workshop held recently in Ncamagoro community, horticulture unit of CFNEN trained 20 people of Ncumcara, Ncamagoro and Mbeyo community in preparing homemade insecticides. The homemade insecticides are composed out of garlic, chili, green soap, cigarette stumps, etc.

The self-made low-cost drugs enable the local home garden owners to prevent their vegetables and fruits from infections of plant diseases and pests. The drugs can be produced locally with minimum costs and without any negative effect on the environment. Part of the Workshop also included the use of beneficiary insects to control some of the common pests identified.

Permanent Secretary of MAWF and Director of Forestry testing the new “Kavango Strip Burning Technique”

By Carsten Schusser, Rundu

On the 07th of May 2006 CFNEN organized a field trip to the Ncaute Community Forest. The trip was escorted by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry S. Kahijoro Kahuure, the Director of Forestry Joseph Hailwa, Mrs. Luehl from the German Embassy, the Country Director of the DED Achim Mortier, two journalists, members of the Ncaute Forest Management Committee and CFNEN staff members.

Within the bounds of the field visit, Carsten Schusser presented a technology to establish cutlines with the use of fire. A cutline is a strip, in Namibia normally 10m wide and cleared of vegetation, established in the forests to stop forest fires and to provide access for fire fighting activities.

With the support of CFNEN, members of the community forest areas established hundreds of kilometers of cutlines in the past,



Permanent Secretary of MAWF Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure setting fire during a strip burning demonstration in Ncaute community forest.



Cutline - constructed with the strip burning technique

surrounding their community forest areas. The practice, however, has shown that the input on labor and

the costs involved are disproportional high compared to the effectiveness of the cutlines.

Together with people from the Ncumcara Community Forest CFNEN therefore developed the “Kavango Strip Burning Technique”.

Instead of removing the vegetation for a single 10 m wide cutline, only three cutlines each 1 m wide are cleaned. The distance between the three cutlines is 4 m or rather 23 m. First, the vegetation between the two closer strips is removed through pushing fire from both sides all over. After that and good wind conditions provided, a fire set from the third 1meter stripe finally widens the Cutline to a 30 m Cutline.

This technique allows the communities to install a more effective 30 m Cutline with less costs and less labor involved. The best time to use the new burning technique is June. The forest vegetation is still green enough to prevent hot burning and intensive fires and thus betters the chances for young trees and plants to survive. During the field visit Mr. Kahuure and Mr. Hailwa lighted the fire on a pre-prepared cutline and both were impressed about the way it worked.

Improvement of skills and job opportunities



Twelve young men from Cuma community participated in a one-week lasting workshop in pitsawing, organized by CFNEN second week of June. The workshop conducted by Daniel Lufino - chairperson of the FMC Mbeyo was aimed to upgrade skills and technique in plank sawing in order to improve the job opportunities of the participants and to contribute to the remaining of added value in the community. As a result of the workshop 69 nicely sawn planks are ready to be sold out.

CRAFT SHOP Ncumcara Community



The unique craft shop between Windhoek and Katima (35 km south of Rundu), in the community forest building, offers a fine selection of locally produced handicrafts.