



## **Tanzania Community-Managed Forests Certified Group**

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### **MAIN PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR FOREST CERTIFICATION**

For a forest to be certified it must be managed and conserved sustainably, and the following principles must be considered and fulfilled. These principles are essential criteria laid down by a forest certification body known as **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**.

There ten main principles, but only nine principles and criteria are applicable to our environment which are:-

#### **Principle 1: Fulfilling laws and FSC requirements.**

- Forest management must respect and consider all operating state laws together with any international treaties signed by the state. *E.g. Forest Act of 2002, Forest Policy of 1998 and other plans.*
- Forest management must respect local government, byelaws and management requirements. *E.g. Local Government Act 1982, Village Byelaws and District Council Byelaws.*
- Tax, levies and local cesses and other legally required payments must be paid.
- The village government should pay income tax and value added tax (VAT).
- Community forests must be protected against illegal felling, settlement in the forest and any other activities that are not allowed.
- Forest managers must show an upfront commitment to follow FSC requirements for a long period of time.

#### **Principle 2: Land Ownership, Rights and Responsibilities**

- Permanent ownership of land, the right to use the land and forest resources must be clearly shown and legally declared. *This is clearly set out in the forest management plan.*
- All documents showing permanent ownership of land should be present. *E.g. village land certificate, certificate of land ownership, traditional ownership.*

#### **Principle 3: Rights of Local Residents**

- The right of communities to own, use and manage the land and natural resources must be recognized and respected. *(This is clearly shown in the forest management plan.)*
- Forest management should not jeopardize in any way land ownership for residents.
- Areas of traditional, religious or social significance must be clearly shown by involving indigenous people of concerned areas and should be respected. *(There is a sub-section of the management plan dealing with this.)*

#### **Principle 4: Social Relationship**

- Forest management activities must take into account long term economic and social benefits to communities.
- Forest management must take precautions against bringing any negative impacts to communities.
- Important steps must be taken to resolve conflicts arising regarding forest management.

#### **Principle 5: Forest Benefits**

Forest management activities must insist on proper use of forest natural resources and other forest ecosystem services to obtain economic, environmental and social benefits.

## **Principle 6: Negative Environmental Impact**

- Forest management should consider biodiversity conservation, and conserve all organisms in the forest, water sources, soil and the forest environment in general.
- Where there are important areas for wildlife like birds' breeding site these should not be disturbed by forest management activities.
- All waste must be taken out and disposed of outside the forest. *E.g. papers, tin cans, and other rubbish left over after working in the forest.*
- Use of chemicals is not allowed in the forest. *E.g. fertilizers.*
- Planting of non-indigenous tree species should be avoided.

## **Principle 7: Management Plan**

- A forest management plan must be prepared, implemented and updated regularly. Long term strategies and how to achieve them should be clearly shown in the management plan.
- A map of the forest and other relevant information must be annexed to the plan.
- The management plan must be updated from time to time to incorporate changes revealed during inspection, professional advice and environmental, social and economical changes. *(It is stated that management plan can be updated every after five years.)*

## **Principle 8: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation must be implemented to track the state of the forest, forest products, management works and social and environmental impact. *MCP and communities will conduct assessments from time to time so as to monitor changes of forest status; monitoring visits also will be made by certifiers each year.*

## **Principle 9: Conservation of Important Forests**

Conservation of endemic and endangered animals and plants must be considered. *An area equal to 10% of the forest should be set aside for conservation only and from which there will be no harvesting.*