
*the **M**pingo **C**onservation **P**roject*



**MCP Tanzania Community-Managed
Forests FSC Group**

SD06 Health & Safety in the Forest

English Translation – Version 1.0 – 02/02/10

First Aid Kit

Because of the hazards encountered during forestry operations and the frequent remoteness of work areas from medical facilities, a first aid kit should be available at all times when people are working in the forest. As a minimum the kit should be stocked with:

- Cotton wool
- Antiseptic solution
- Adhesive plaster
- Bandages
- Spirit
- Tincture iodine
- Crepe bandages
- Gloves
- Candle and match box
- Gentian violet
- A notebook for keeping records

Pain killers are not allowed to be kept in the kit. This is to avoid any cases in which forest workers might overdose themselves.

The following general standards should be observed:

- The kit should be clearly marked “FIRST AID” and contain only items appropriate for giving emergency first aid.
- The Forest Manager should designate a single responsible person, who has been trained in first aid, to maintain the First Aid Kit, and a notice declaring who that person is affixed to the inside of the box containing the first aid kit.
- The first aid kit must be manned by a qualified first aider, normally this would either be the Logging Supervisor (during logging operations) or the designated person responsible with the Forest Manager.
- The Logging Supervisor should ensure that the kit is stocked with all of the above listed items before logging commences.

Procedure in Case of an Accident

1. All accidents should be reported immediately to the Logging Supervisor.
2. The Logging Supervisor, or another trained First Aider, should provide first aid treatment for the minor injuries.
3. Vehicle transport should be available at all times to take anyone injured to medical treatment facilities immediately they are hurt.
4. In case of incidences which need only basic treatment they should be taken to the Village Dispensary. In the case of major injuries such as broken bones the injured person should be taken to the District Government Hospital. (All logging crew should be insured under the National Health Insurance.)
5. Any personal injury which occurs in the VLFR should be reported to the Group Manager within 30 days using form *SF11 Report of Personal Injury*.
6. As required by the Occupational Health & Safety Act 2003, any serious injuries should be reported by the Forest Manager to the local representative of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Other Workplaces (normally the District Labour Officer) within 24 hours, and a written report using the government-prescribed form submitted within 7 days.
7. The Group Manager will keep a record of all reported personal injuries in *EF09 Register of Personal Injuries*. Following a report of personal injury, the Group Manager will consult with the Logging Supervisor who was on duty and complete a new Risk Assessment using form EF15. The Group Manager shall then make recommendations for the future avoidance of such, and communicate these recommendations to all Group Members and all Approved Logging Supervisors by letter.

Compensation Procedure

Community members who are permanently injured whilst working in the forest should be compensated by the Forest Manager from forest revenue. In the case of Village Governments, the Village Council should sit and decide the appropriate compensation. Forest Managers may ask the Group Manager for advice and assistance in determining the appropriate level of compensation. Due attention should be paid to official government compensation rates and charts.

Where possible compensation should be paid out of existing financial resources, but if none are available the Forest Manager can pay out of future revenue. In such cases the compensation due should take priority over all other uses of the revenue, except for payments necessary to raise the revenue, e.g. loggers' fees. This may necessitate delays in other plans for expenditure of forest income.

An injured person who is dissatisfied with the level of compensation they have been awarded may appeal the decision to the Group Manager. See the Complaints & Appeals Procedures set out in ED01 and SD01.

Fire Management

Fire is a significant hazard in managing dry forest such as Miombo. Fire poses a risk to the forest, and can negatively affect regeneration and other natural processes. Here we shall focus on the risk it poses to those working in the forest. We shall not go into great detail since local communities are very familiar with the risks of wild fires and the deliberate use of fire to clear land and create fire breaks.

Dealing with Uncontrolled Fires

When in the forest you should always stay on the lookout for wildfires, especially during the latter part of the dry season. If you become aware of an uncontrolled fire heading in your direction you should seek to get out of the way as soon as possible. Pay particular attention to the direction that the wind is blowing. Most fires can easily be evaded in this manner. Once you are behind the fire you should be safe, especially when surrounded by vegetation that has already been burned.

If it is not possible to circle round the fire, escape to a vehicle, or reach a refuge surrounded by firebreaks, then you need to look for a natural refuge of some sort. This is an area with either minimal dry vegetation or plentiful wet vegetation which will not easily burn. You can augment this by clearing all dead and dry vegetation from the ground near you. As the fire gets closer arm yourselves with freshly-cut branches to use as fire-beaters. When surrounded by fire always stay as low as possible as smoke rises and you will get cleaner air low to the ground.

Anyone who has suffered burns or inhaled significant quantities of smoke should get medical attention as soon as possible after the fire has passed, see the previous section.

Using Fire as a Management Tool

When using fire as a management tool, e.g. in early burning, the following procedure should be used:

- Select areas within the forest where it wasn't burned the previous year
- Start with lighting a small fire in a controlled area
- Exclude the conservation zones
- Put out the fire using tree branches immediately it starts going off limits
- Avoid to burn around trees with bird nesting.

Training

Community Based First Aid training will be offered with yearly refresher courses. For the first year it will be conducted by Tanzania Red Cross Society, but thereafter maybe conducted by experienced MCP staff who have qualified as First Aid Trainers.

Training on Community Based First Aid will cover amongst other topics the following,

- Providing Community Based First Aid
- Preventing Accidents
- Accidents reporting
- Preparing for emergencies and disasters
- Protecting the environment
- Responding to emergencies and disasters
- First Aid kit and its components
- Improving the health of the community.
- Field Practical on how to provide Community First Aid

At the end of the training participants will seat for examination. Certificate of attendance will be given to all participants.

Lecture on HIV/AIDS either by the District Community Development Officer or another qualified trainer, e.g. from TCRS.