BRIEF ESSAY FOR THE ESTABLSHMENT OF KAMFUTU MALAWI/ZAMBIA (MAZA) COMMON MARKET

**Background;**

The Kamfutu Zambia /Malawi TFCA is situated along Chama Muyombe road where the Bambanda Zaro Sanctuary is established in conjunction with the Malawian government .The road in question is used as a physical boundary for the two Countries. The Mafinga mountain range marks the Zambia /Malawi Water Shade. The Kamfutu Malawi /Zambia TFCA is about 56 Km from Chama Boma, which is the nearest place for accessing social requirements. On the Malawian side, the people access their daily needs from Rumphi Muzinda but also Mzuzu which is a far place.

The people around Kanfutu area are of the Senga tribe under Senior Chief Kambombo. In this case even those coming from Malawi are assimilated to speaking the common language Senga as they practice similar cultural and traditional beliefs following some inter marriages carried out. In another development, these people are agriculturalists who practice both substance and commercial farming. They grow crops such as maize, groundnuts, tobacco, and cotton both for cash and consumption.

The Farmers face challenges on how to sale their grown products as there are no ready market nearby the area. Hence, they are subjected to travel long distances when trying to find market. This scenario meant that some of their perishable products would go to waste, there by leaving the people in adverse poverty. The Farmers have also a serious challenge when it comes to storage of farm inputs and storage of relief food at times of disasters. However, the two governments provide seasonal markets for a short period of time for only maize and tobacco

It is against this background, that the Community is initiated for Malawi/Zambia Common Market (MAZA) and Fire Manage that can service both Communities throughout the year .This move can be used as a mitigation measure for protecting wildlife and bio-diversity in the TFCA which has suffered poaching for many years now by the surrounding Communities. People’s livelihood in the (TFCA) will also definitely change for the better.

**ANSWERS FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MAZA) TFCA**

* In another development, People of the TFCA have ever experienced uncontrolled bush fires since time in memorial. The bush fires occur every crop season which there and then, affect their farm products during harvest and after harvest in storage rooms
* The bush fires usually start from the nearby bushes, mostly Lundazi forest and Musalangu GMA protected areas which are adjacent and end and sprayed up to the surrounding villages. Also, areas surrounding Bambanda ZARO sanctuary and Vwaza Game Reserve. These fires are mostly caused by the following factors;
* Honey gatherers
* Poachers while hunting in the bush
* The fire have
* Firewood Collectors
* Mice diggers
* Smokers
* Farmers when opening up fields
* Charcoal burners
* The fire causes damage to people’s houses and crop field including storages. The arson and agriculture cases are common and registered with Social Welfare department at Chama district seeking survival assistance. The fires prove to be out of hand as they occur and being reported frequently with the department and at times the department failed to provide help to the victims due to meager resources.

The Fire Management Project under way is really a sound mitigation to the Community outcry .This is also evident with the positive responses the Community is providing through Broadcasting Programs at phone questioning times with Kwenje Local Radio Station where Fire and Common Market related issues are announced.

These fires have also adverse effects to Wildlife and the environment as a whole (BIO-DIVERSITY)

The following are some of the notable effects among others;

* Influence on climate such as change in the rain Patten i.e. from the month of December to April instead of November to May of each crop season. This has serious effect to the Community on agriculture related issues.
* Drying up of rivers following the experienced droughts in the TFCA, thereby affecting our wildlife with shortage of foliage.

The TFCA had no such Fire Management programs for mitigating un wanted bush fires until this time GIZ Provided funding opportunities to the community through ZAWA, and things are moving well. No reports of fire dangers have been reported from the area with the broadcasting sensation information being provided for on Fire Management Project for early burning. The Community have also been sensitized on the benefits of establishing fire breaks using fire and created fire breaks with hoe and slashes. In short, benefits of early burning in the TFCA.

* In another development, management of fire in the protected areas is done by field staff from outpost camps while conducting patrols without involving the community. It is likely that field staff conduct burning without adequate management capacity. The community also, may be doing burning without any better know how of what they do, mostly the practice of late burning so that they preserve grass for domestic use in their villages.
* Management of fire in this case, by people from the two countries MAZA is well coordinated with GIZ Fire Management funding because it has a clear cut involvement on the part of the community.
* Management of fire by the Community is done using traditional methods particularly use of tree branches as fire extinguishers instead of the rubber fire bitters. They also use animal dung to serve for matches’ .They also conduct burning during day time because lacking torches use to use by evening.

As already alluded GIZ has made things easy by providing funding for procurement of necessary equipment to be used during fire management.

* The forest department under Ministry of Land, Environment and Natural Resources is a legal advisor to ZAWA during the implementation of the MAZA Fire Management Project.

2**. ANSWERS FOR COMMON MARKET QUESTIONS.**

The Community situations over Common Market project is well understood and welcome Project to the Community. This is evident with the mobilization of up front building materials to the site and response to Community sensitization meetings.

* The typical families in the TFCA earn their livelihood through substance farming involving in tobacco, maize, ground nuts growing etc. The formalities for construction are at an advanced stage by the MAZA working committee. The community in the TFCA have other livelihood activities such as illegal hunting which off course is done under risk .Charcoal burning is not common in the area because of lack of marketing point. Above all the community use hired labour more from the Malawian side, since the area has no cattle to involve for farm labour.
* The Community in the TFCA has HH that most of them live below US dollar per day and others cannot afford three normal meals per day.
* Off course a Community of such life style cannot be bypassed with malnutrition which is common in an African set up. Lots of fewer than five children either suffer from malnutrition or die out of it.
* Children in most cases fail to go to school because of the financial co straights and end up indulging in early marriages. Children are also discouraged with the long distances they cover to go school.
* Information as regards child mortality is available at Rural Health Facility and the main district Hospital registry and data Office.
* Most of the typical maintain between 7 and 12 households because of the orphan child adoption dependence and most of which live in a pole and mad or Traditional improved structures.
* Farm products are usually sold among themselves and people traveling from far places also those looking for farm products for re selling in the urban areas. They are either followed up or lift the items on the head or bicycles to a central marketing point but not well organized market.
* The Farmers have poled and mad crop storage where they store their products and sell the products bit by bit. But as for tobacco they sell at once to briefcase buyers from town
* The Farmers lose some of the products due to lack of Market especially the perishable ones. The products get attacked with some pests in the fields and while under storage with poor room temperature
* The Community travel long distances to nearby towns to go and buy products which they cannot produce themselves.
* The prices in towns they go to may be fair but they incur extra costs for transportation.
* The next market is about 56 km from the Community in the TFCA. People may only do their shopping once per month and not per week.
* There is no guarantee for women to get together and discuss or share information on social matters apart from funeral gathering , traditional wedding and when they leave their homes for firewood collection
* The formal and informal organization existing are such as Football clubs and netball clubs. But also (PTA) Parent and Teachers Association in areas closer to existing Primary School and cooperative committee for Agriculture .Most of the information provided for under this arrangement is evident from the District Administration various departments e.g. Community Development and Special Welfare.