



**SUOMI
FINLAND**

FORESTRY AND VALUE CHAINS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FORVAC)

-

ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2023
TO 22 JULY 2024**



June 2024

PREFACE

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PROGRAMME AREA



PROGRAMME FACT SHEET

Document:	Annual Report for the period from 1 July 2023 to 22 JULY 2024
Programme title:	Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC)
Sub-sectors:	Forestry Development, Private Sector Development
Geographical coverage:	Tanzania – institutional development nationwide Lindi Cluster: Liwale, Ruangwa and Nachingwea Districts Ruvuma Cluster: Namtumbo, Tunduru, Songea, Mbinga and Nyasa Districts Headquarters in Dodoma
Duration:	Six years (7/2018–7/2024)
Programme financing:	Government of Finland: € 14,150,000 Government of Tanzania in kind contribution (salaries, operating expenses and office space): € 200,000 Programme total budget: € 14,350,000
Competent authorities:	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania
Consultant:	FCG Finnish Consulting Group Ltd till November 2023, from December 2023 onwards Cowater International
Impact:	Reduced deforestation and increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands
Results of the Programme:	Expected outcome: Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social service Output 1: Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector Involvement in the forest sector increased Output 2: Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced Output 3: Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed Output 4: Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened
Distribution:	Steering Committee, Supervisory Board Programme website: https://forvac.or.tz/publications/administrative-and-management-reports/

CONTENTS

PROGRAMME AREA.....	3
PROGRAMME FACT SHEET	4
ABBREVIATIONS.....	7
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	9
1 Introduction and the Programme description	17
1.1 Background	17
1.2 Institutional framework	17
1.3 Results framework	18
1.4 Annual Workplan and Progress Report 07/2023-7/2024	19
2 Progress towards the achievement of the expected results.....	20
2.1 Impact – Reduced deforestation and increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands	20
2.2 Outcome – Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social services	23
2.2.1 Cumulative Outcome level achievements.....	26
2.3 Implementation and achievements by Outputs	28
2.3.1 Output 1. Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased	28
2.3.1.1 Establishment and mobilization of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR), Output area 1.1... Forest Management Planning (FMP).....	30
Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)	30
Gazettement of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs)	31
Establishment and gazettement of bee reserves	31
2.3.1.2 Support to value chain development, Output area 1.2.....	32
Timber harvest and sales.....	32
Promotion of alternative / lesser-known timber species (LKTS).....	34
Establishment of community-owned mobile sawmills and solar timber drying kilns.....	36
Timber harvest and sawmilling – employment opportunities and community benefits.....	39
Establishment of CBFM village associations.....	40
Development of CBFM market information system	41
Improved honey value chain	41
2.3.2 Output 2. Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced	45
2.3.2.1 Improved institutional and management capacities of Village Councils and VNRC to implement CBFM and develop forest value chains, Output area 2.1	47
Community level training under MCDI partnership	47
Business planning training for CBFM associations	48
Financial management and record keeping training.....	48
Fire management training	49
Training certified sawmill operators.....	49
Training of beekeepers	49
Gender Action Learning System (GALS) handbook	50
2.3.2.2 Improved capacities to support and monitor CBFM/forest and related value chains incorporating HRBA aspect, Output area 2.2	51

Timber business planning	51
Timber grading	51
Solar kiln business planning.....	52
2.3.2.3 Forest products value chain/market systems and business development skills incorporated in relevant training institutes	52
MSc and BSc curriculums for forest value chain and business development and support to MSc dissertations	52
2.3.3 Output 3. Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed	53
2.3.3.1 Enhanced extension and communication services, Output area 3.1	54
Lindi Investment Forum.....	54
FORVAC in media.....	54
2.3.3.2 Monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) established, Output area 3.2	55
Joint monitoring mechanism	55
Miombo timber species and Participatory Forest Management databases	55
FORVAC results sharing workshop	56
2.3.4 Output 4. Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened.....	57
2.3.4.1 Improved policy and regulatory framework for forest value chain development, Output area 4.1	59
Technical review of GN 417	59
Multi-stakeholder workshop to enhance enabling environment for VLFR timber	59
National public timber procurement guidelines	60
Simplification of the PFRA approach	60
Study on VLFR benefit sharing mechanism	61
3 Resources and budget	62
3.1 Human resources in the FORVAC framework	62
3.2 Summary of expenditure and revisions in the budget.....	64
4 Assumptions and risks	65
5 Cross-cutting objectives	66
5.1 Gender equality.....	66
5.2 Non-discrimination.....	67
5.3 Climate resilience	68
5.4 Low-emission development	68
5.5 Environmental Protection	69
6 Lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations.....	71
ANNEXES	
Annex 1 Revised Annual Workplan 7/2023-7/2024	76
Annex 2 FORVAC supported Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs), Forest Management Plans (FMP), Harvesting Plans (HP), and gazetted Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR)	87
Annex 3 Recommendations towards growing the honey industry in Ruvuma Cluster.....	90
Annex 4 Steps and processes, which could be adopted or adapted for simplification of the PFRA method ..	95
Annex 5 Suggested simple processes on undertaking VLUPs	97
Annex 6 Budget follow-up, July 2023 – June 2024.....	98

ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AWP	Annual Workplan
BTI	Beekeeping Training Institute
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CC	Cluster Coordinator (FORVAC)
DFO	District Forest Officer
EoF	Embassy of Finland
EU	European Union
FBD	Forest and Beekeeping Division (of the MNRT)
FITI	Forest Industries Training Institute
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMP	Forest Management Plan/Planning
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FORVAC	Forestry and Value Chains Development (Programme)
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GN	Government Notice
GoF	Government of Finland
GoT	Government of Tanzania
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
KVTC	Kilombero Valley Teak Company
LAMP	Land Administration and Management Programme
LGA	Local Government Agency
LIMAS	Lindi and Mtwara Agribusiness Support
LKTS	Lesser-known Timber Species
LUP	Land Use Plan
MCDI	Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)
MNRT	Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSA	Market Systems Analysis
NAFORMA	National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment
NFBKP II	National Forestry and Beekeeping Programme Phase II
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPC	National Programme Coordinator (FORVAC)
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Product
PD	Programme Document

PFP 1	Private Forestry Programme – Panda Miti Kibiashara
PFP 2	Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PFRA	Participatory Forest Resource Assessment
PIM	Programme Implementation Manual
PiVP	Persons in Vulnerable Positions
PLWD	Person Living with Disability
PMO	Prime Minister’s Office
PMT	Project Management Team
PO-RALG	President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government
PMT	Programme Management Team
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SC	Steering Committee
SVB	Supervisory Board
SHIVIMITA	Tanzania Forest Industries Federation
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TA	Technical Assistance
TFCG	Tanzania Forest Conservation Group
TFS	Tanzania Forest Services Agency
TFWG	Tanzania Forestry Working Group
TGA	Tree Growers Association
TLAS	Timber Legality Assurance System
TNRF	Tanzania Natural Resources Forum
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority
TZS	Tanzanian shilling
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VC	Village Council
VICOBA	Village Community Bank
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
VLFR	Village Land Forest Reserve
VLUP	Village Land Use Plan
VNRC	Village Natural Resource Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forestry and Value Chains Development (FORVAC) is a 6-year Programme (7/2018-7/2024) implemented in partnership between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA Finland) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania (MNRT).

FORVAC was designed to strengthen Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in Tanzania. CBFM was developed in response to the previous top down government control approach which had been established during colonial times. This top down and exclusionary approach alienated communities from their customary forests, the forests in effect became de facto open access, with forest destruction rife. CBFM was set up to formalize community control and to re-establish the bond between communities and the forests design to incentivize better stewardship over the forests by communities.

However that stewardship over the forest comes at a cost. There are significant direct protection and management costs of the forests for communities, as well as indirect opportunity costs of maintaining a forest and not converting it to other land uses. If the costs outweighed the benefits, including insufficient financial benefits for communities, the long term viability of CBFM will be questionable. This is where FORVAC came in, to help address this 'secondary' issue, to focus on how to better balance the responsibilities for forest management with benefits generated from sustainable forest use and through value addition of forest products.

FORVAC has a dual approach of supporting community based sustainable forestry and improving livelihoods from sustainable forest benefits. The expected outcome of the Programme is therefore dual; "Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social services".

The FORVAC Annual Workplan and Budget (AWP) for the final year of the Programme from July 2023 to July 2024 was reviewed in the PSC meeting in June 2023, revised and resubmitted and approved by the Steering Committee (SC) on 17 August 2023. This document is a Annual Progress Report of the implementation of this workplan over the period from 1 July 2023 to 22nd July 2024. It presents the progress towards the achievement of the expected results (Impact, Outcome and Outputs) defined in the Programme results framework.

This is the final year of the programme and in addition to the Annual Report a Programme Completion report was developed with higher level outcomes, impacts and lessons learned noted for the whole six 6 years of the programme implementation.

Some cumulative outcomes and impact highlights

As this is the final annual report, and although the project completion report goes into more detail it is good to also highlight some of the cumulative achievements from the entire programme over 6 years as well as the achievements over the last year. As mentioned above there are two key - dual goals of the programme, supporting community based sustainable forest management and secondly improving livelihoods based on sustainable forest use and value addition. FORVAC commissioned independent studies over the last few months to look into outcome and impact, and key results are shown in the table that follows.

Table: The main outcomes and impacts for the two key programme forest related and livelihood related outcomes. Outcome level indicators and achievements. Traffic light indicators: **green**=achieved/exceeded, **orange**=progress but not achieved, **red**=no progress.

Programme Target	Cumulative achievement of FORVAC	Comment
Forest related outcome: 450,000 ha of natural forest under community based sustainable forest management plans.	460,000 ha (102%) of natural forest at FORVAC supported sites are under community based sustainable forest management plans. In an independent impact assessment on VLFRs under FORVAC sites, conducted by SUA, CBFM forests (VLFR) are performing better than nearby government forest in terms of avoided deforestation – with around 7 times lower deforestation rates with the lowest – almost no deforestation detected in those VLFRs with the highest income from sustainable timber harvesting.	This does help prove that when under community control and sustainable management the 'forest that pays, is the forest that stays'.

Livelihood related outcome: 10% increase in Household income in households using forest products.	More than 4 million Euros (9 billion Tanzania shillings) were generated through sustainable timber enterprises supported by FORVAC, with 55% of income going to social services. Around 1500 entrepreneurs were supported – focusing on timber and non-timber products, and targeting a significant proportion of women and the vulnerable. According to an independent socio-economic impact assessment the percentage of community members deriving financial benefits from the forest increased from 9% to 27% with these households having a contribution of 12% of the annual household income (around TZS 439,671) coming from sustainable forest use. This exceeds that target of 10%.	This improved livelihood performance it must be noted did not come at a cost for the forest just the reverse, the forests with higher income from sustainable harvesting had less deforestation. So this points to a ‘win, win’ for both the forests and communities. This is exactly the impact FORVAC intended ‘ Increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands, and reduced deforestation ’. It might seem rather counter- intuitive that deforestation is reduced at the same time as increasing income from the forest, but that is exactly what is happening – increasing the value of the forest makes it a more competitive land use and therefore less prone to clearance. The sustainably managed forest provide a perpetual source of livelihood support and the benefits from the forest incentivize forest maintenance and management.
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Annual achievements from July 2023 to July 2024

During the reporting period, 38 FORVAC-supported villages sold sustainably harvested standing timber a total of 10,618 m³ with a value of TZS 2,775,438,300 (EUR 1,110,175). In addition to standing timber sales, three (3) villages produced approximately 570 m³ of sawn timber worth TZS 369,974,400 (EUR 147,990) as set out in the table below. The villages used a remarkable part of the timber revenue to improve social services in the villages, approximately TZS 1,7 billion (EUR 660,000).

Cluster	District	Timber sales, July 2023 – June 2024							
		Standing timber				Sawn timber			
		No of	m3	TZS	EUR	No of villages	m3	TZS	EUR
Ruvuma	Tunduru	2	273	82,800,500	33,120	-	-	-	-
	Namtumbo	1	10	2,930,000	1,172	-	-	-	-
Lindi	Ruangwa	5	700	149,089,100	59,636	1	41	10800000	4,320
	Liwale	23	8,806	2,288,008,700	915,203	2	528	359,174,400	143,970
	Nachingwea	7	829	252,610,000	101,044	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		38	10,618	2,775,438,300	1,110,175	3	570	369,974,400	147,990

These achievements as well as other major results of the Programme implementation are given by Outputs below.

Output 1: Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased

The main results for Output 1 are listed below.

<p><u>Support to establishment & mobilization of VLFRs (base activities)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 forest management and harvesting plans (FMPs) produced and approved at the community level (7,345 ha), 1 FMP / 3,240 ha obtained approval at the District level, and 11 FMPs endorsed by the MNRT. • Cluster-wise cumulative annual allowable cut (AC) for sustainable community timber is 24,200 m³ in Ruvuma, 106,808 m³ in Lindi and 10,537 m³ in Tanga, totaling almost 141,545 m³. • 5 Government Notices (GN) for the 5 bee reserves (5,059 ha) prepared and gazettment of 5 bee reserves (5059 ha) completed. • Gazettment of 4 VLFRs (14,677 ha) completed in Songea District in Ruvuma Cluster. <p><u>Support to value chains development</u></p>
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- **Timber trade:** 38 villages (35 villages in Lindi and 3 in Ruvuma Cluster) sold a total of 10,618 m³ of timber with the value of 2,775,438,300 (EUR 1,110,175).
- **Sawmilling:** Three community owned portable sawmills were used by three villages in Lindi Cluster generating income of TZS 369,974,400 (EUR 147,990) in total.
- **Solar timber drying kilns:** The solar kiln established in Liwale District has been used by Mtawatawa and Chimbuko villages which received an order for 12,654 (628 m³) dried planks. The other solar kiln, established in Ruangwa District, has not yet been used due to the lack of orders as at present, national buyers are largely not prepared to pay extra for kiln-dried wood no international orders.
- **Timber value chain** created temporary employment for a total of 1,674 (1,416M/258F) villagers in FORVAC supported villages from July 2023 to June 2024.
- **Marketing of alternative timber species:** A catalog/database introducing the properties and other information of alternative timber species included in the new public procurement guidelines compiled and published on the MNRT's website. Additionally, a brochure that introduces the most prominent 15 species that are well available in Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) was produced and 1,000 copies printed.
- The development of **CBFM Market Information System** was finalized www.trcm.or.tz.
- FORVAC supported the establishment of **6** district level **CBFM Village Associations** to help create economies of scale in Ruangwa, Liwale Nachingwea, Tunduru, Namtumbo, and Songea. These associations have also been supported by FORVAC consultants to undertake wood value chain analysis and develop simple business plans.
- **Honey value chain:** FORVAC contracted 2 consultants to support building a successful and sustainable honey value chain in Ruvuma Cluster and has followed this up by organizing a hands on training for the five (5) new beekeeping associations aimed at increasing production, training 'para-professionals' from within the associations and supporting stronger links to TFS extension services. Again, all necessary for a smooth 'exit' of FORVAC and sustainability.

Output 2: Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced

FORVAC works on increasing the capacities in CBFM and related value chain development from the community level to districts and further the national level and the scientific community and educational institutions. Main results under output 2 are listed below.

Community level

- **1,596 (1,089M/507F) members of Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs) and Village Councils (VCs) were trained** in various subjects related to timber business planning, financial management, sawn timber measurements, volume calculation, and harvesting operations, logging supervision, and fire management.
- **17** community representatives (all men) from Liwale and Nachingwea Districts, in Lindi Cluster were trained in the safe operation of sawmill and saw maintenance. They all are now **certified sawmill operators**.
- **146 (95M/51F) beekeepers** were trained in the best practices of beekeeping.
- **Gender Action Learning System (GALS) manual** produced based on the experience gained during the pilot in the FORVAC operational area in early 2023.

District, regional and national level authorities

- **8 (4/4)** District officers trained on **timber business plan** development.
- **11 (10M/1F)** Local Government Authorities attended a one-week short course on **timber grading**.
- **8 (8M)** Local Government Authorities drafted a **business plan for the timber drying solar kilns**.
- However in all the trainings government officials were included as trainer of trainers, with the aim of training them as trainers for subsequent support of community members when FORVAC exits. This was a key strategy so that the capacity building will continue in the absence of FORVAC.

Education, training institutions

- **2 MSc students who received support from FORVAC got their dissertations approved and graduated** in May 2024. 2 other MSc students will graduate later in 2024.

Output 3. Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed

Major results of Output 3 during the reporting period are set out in the textbox below.

- FORVAC supported 5 villages from Ruangwa District to participate in the **Lindi Investment Forum**.
- FORVAC also supported community representatives to attend a forum in Dar Es Salaam in October 2023 to meet timber buyers directly and to aim to secure timber deals and forge direct relationships.

Joint monitoring

- In August 2023, the Programme supported District authorities to conduct monitoring and technical backstopping visit to FORVAC interventions in a total of 25 villages in Liwale, Nachingwea and Ruangwa Districts.
- In September 2023, The Embassy of Finland (EoF) conducted a field visit to Lindi Cluster.
- In October 2023, The MNRT conducted a monitoring trip to Liwale and Nachingwea Districts in Lindi Cluster and Songea and Nyasa Districts in Ruvuma Cluster.
- In November 2023, Programme has supported District authorities to conduct monitoring and technical backstopping visit to FORVAC interventions in a total of 15 villages in Nachingwea and Ruangwa Districts.
- In March 2024 the NPC from MNRT conducted a review of the Programme in all the Programme districts, feeding back the results for action at the Programme management level.

Output 4 Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened

Output 4 is implemented through two interventions, namely 4.1 Support training to increase understanding of policies and laws relevant for CBFM development; and 4.2 Forest law enforcement, forest governance and trade of legally sourced timber. The main results of this Output are listed below.

- In July 2023, FORVAC supported **technical review of GN 417**, involving participants from MNRT, LGAs, TFS, Attorney General, and other key stakeholders and developed a replacement GN which clarified some of the more misunderstood aspects of the previous GN.
- In October 2023, FORVAC, in collaboration with FBD/MNRT, organized a **multi-stakeholder workshop** to enhance enabling environment for VLFR timber organized. The workshop identified barriers hindering VLFR timber sales and prepared action plans on how to overcome the challenges.
- The priority policy action to increase VLFR timber sales was the restriction in government procurement guidance that stated only two (2) well known species should be used in public buildings. **FORVAC supported the government to revise the national procurement guidelines to include a broader range of timber species**, including those prominent in VLFRs. **A new national procurement guidelines and supporting brochure on alternative timber species were developed and printed in July 2024.** This is expected to greatly benefit communities to sell a broader range of timber species to government and in doing so help inform the market about the suitability and availability of alternative timber species.
- In recognition of another policy related barrier – the high and increasing cost and lack of standardization in the forest management planning process of VLFRs. **FORVAC commissioned a study of VLUP, FMP and within that the PFRA processes.** This study took a critical look at the range of different approaches applied, and identified ways to streamline and standardize. This sets the groundwork for a future trial of a simplified and more cost effective approach.
- Study on the current **VLFR benefit sharing mechanisms** conducted.

Financial report for the year

The following table lays out the financial situation for the year, in terms of spend versus budget up to the end of June 2024. The overall programme spend was in line with the budget and the spend is where it should be in both the operations (OP) and the consultancy (TA) (this includes FORVAC technical team and all consultants) spend at 90% with less than 1 month of the programme left. The programme successfully managed the finances to stay within budget and keeping spend on track across the line items.

Table. Overview budget and realized expenditure by main categories (OP & TA) from July 2023 to July 2024.

Budget category	Revised annual budget for 7/2023-7/2024	Accumulated usage 7/2023- 6/2024 (will be updated to 7/2024 when accounts are in)	% of the usage from the AWP 23-24 budget
OP - Operations & management	EUR 889,427 (TZS 2, 223,567,500)	EUR 807,325 (TZS 2,018,312,050)	91%
TA - Technical Assistance (also including ST consultancies)	EUR 761,400 (EUR 1,903,500,000)	EUR 680,692 (TZS 1,701,729,582)	89%
TOTAL	EUR 1,650,827 (TZS 4,127,067,500)	EUR 1,488,017 (TZS 3,720,041,632)	90%

Lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations from operational and management issues

As the programme phases out it is important to harness and build on some lessons for the future – especially with a new successor programme FORLAND planned to start later in the year.

- 1) **Use it or lose it!** The biggest lesson learnt is that the evidence clearly shows that once forests are under community control and sustainable management, that increasing benefits from forest use directly leads to reduced deforestation. The CBFM forest that pays, clearly stays. This is a very important lesson at a time internationally when more exclusionary approaches to forest conservation are being supported and with climate finance approaches supporting more preservationist approaches (See Point 7). The biggest threats to the forest as pointed out by international evidence and by community members themselves, is forest clearance. When sustainable use and value addition is conducted within Community Based Forest Management it actually helps incentivize the maintenance and management of the forests.

Recommendations: Need to get better at promoting and communicating the ‘use it or lose it’ approach. It will be extremely important that the successor programme FORLAND builds on and from the evidence based approach, further increasing the benefits from CBFM products and therefore further strengthening the direct livelihood bond between communities and CBFM forests as a ‘win win’ approach, reducing deforestation whilst improving livelihoods. It is also clear that more has to be done to promote this key ‘use it or lose it’ message of FORVAC. It is indeed a complicated and counterintuitive message to sell. Therefore it is recommended to generate more evidence on the approach ‘use it or lose it’ within CBFM, and package the evidence in better ways for a wider audience, including government officials, donors, and even international audience, making better use of video, social media etc.

- 2) **In the future need to encourage communities to select VLFRs or expand closer to communities.** One important aspect of VLFRs in FORVAC sites, is that during the VLUP process, generally far away sites were selected, sometimes 50km away from communities. This was sometimes because other lands were set aside for farmland etc. but it has been speculated by numerous stakeholders that a contributing factor was lack of trust in CBFM. Communities were risk averse and were unsure if the forest was being actually given to them or taken away from them and reserved. The forests being far away poses problems related to the cost of patrolling, management as well as access to products, for example beyond highly valuable timber it was often not worth the while for community members to collect NTFPs or honey from forests that are so far away, or for subsistence use. This was particularly a problem for women.

Recommendation: When new VLFRs are selected during the future VLUP process, first expose communities to existing VLFRs and VNRCs so that they can see that the forests will be handed to them to control and manage and that rather than their use being stopped, they will have stronger use rights. Also there should be a low cost way to expand VLFRs, through addendums to VLUPs and FMPs rather than having to go through the full expensive process (See point 3 below).

- 3) **Streamlining the costs of establishing VLFRs and Forest Management Plans (FMPs).** The high cost was highlighted in a study of VLUP and FMP processes in a study commissioned by FORVAC. With recent increases in DSA costs, the costs have become even more problematic. This will limit the ability to expand VLFRs, meaning more forests remains vulnerable to conversion. Also this issue does not only affect new CBFM sites but existing sites because currently the FMPs are required to be renewed every 5 years whereas the VLUPs every 10 years.

Recommendations: One key recommendation is firstly to extend the validity of the FMPs from now on to 10 years, this would reduce the cost significantly of renewing for communities and give them sufficient time to build up sufficient income to renew themselves. Another key recommendation is identifying and piloting ways to streamline both the development process but also the renewal process. For the development process, there has been such improvements in satellite imagery, that a lot of the designation of land uses could be done on a satellite image using a participatory process with relevant stakeholders, rather than the need to survey all the land boundaries on the ground with GPS. Some ground truthing would still be necessary to ensure all key stakeholders on the ground are consultant and particularly where boundaries are not clear and where there are contested areas or conflict.

- 4) **Need to further strengthen CBFM associations at district level.** The 6 district level associations were established during FORVAC and business plans developed with them. However much more needs to be done to incubate them as viable associations so they can stand on their own two feet and maximize the advantages of the higher level organization.

Recommendations: FORLAND to support the incubation of the district associations with some seed money invested in the business plans, after assessing them. This should include support for timber yards, timber stores, hiring equipment, market linkages, promotion materials and institutional capacity building (see point 5 below). Once the associations are functioning, links to no or low interest loans could be supported.

- 5) **Even with the 4 mobile sawmills operating communities need more options to move up the value chain, as still selling too much timber as standing trees.** A key lesson is that although the introduction and operation of the full 4 mobile sawmills has increased the amount of timber the communities can process and therefore add value to, they still sell at least 95% of the timber as standing trees to buyers. This means that the buyers add all the value. The capacity of 4 small mobile sawmills is not enough to process all the wood. However what they have done is inspire communities to appreciate the importance of adding value, and before FORVAC ended this was demonstrated by a community buying its own mobile sawmill. However there was a range of options that were identified during FORVAC for ways of communities to capture more value from the wood value chains these included;

Recommendations:

- **Further work to reform policy barriers which remain the biggest hindrance to VLFR/CBFM enterprise sustainability (See point 6).**
- **Establishing timber yards and stores/showrooms at district level for processed products.** This would be an obvious step up the value chain for communities and indeed some buyers have stipulated that they would only buy wood if they could collect it from district centers and also if they can see the wood itself. One community member compared it to marketing vegetables, asking would farmers make more money by asking buyers to buy tomatoes that they have to go and pick from the plants themselves in the field, or from the convenience of the market where they can see the produce and easily transport them. It would also be important to have samples of all wood and catalogues of what the wood properties are.
- **Establishing buyer/CBFM association forums.** One key way for communities to jump over middle men is to promote producer/buyer forums periodically, at least once a year in Dar es Salaam, where CBFM associations could showcase their wood, products, catalogues to a range of timber dealers, furniture and craft makers etc. The forums should also be used to build direct communications between CBFM associations and buyers through WhatsApp groups etc.
- **Transport.** One key way that middle men and buyers add value is not only by processing but by investing in transport, often final buyers advance pay the costs of transport. This would be a clear 'low hanging fruit' for CBFM associations to invest in hiring trucks to transport wood themselves.
- **Mobile sawmills and deals with stationary sawmills.** As mentioned the communities have already invested profit in buying their own sawmills, it should also be explored if arrangements could be made between communities and stationary sawmills to process more wood.
- **Legal pitsawing is happening anyway so best that communities take control of it and benefit from it.** Pitsawing is legal if licensed and although discouraged, it is important to deal with the reality that pitsawing is still a key part of many timber operations in the VLFRs. However buyers of community wood are either bringing their own pitsawing teams or hiring local community members on day labouring payments to pit saw wood. This might provide local employment but it also means that the buyers are capturing the added value of processing wood in this way, community members only get the value from selling standing trees as well as wages paid for labour. It is therefore important that communities take over the pitsawing operations and increasingly sell the processed/semi-processed wood. This will also allow them to generate more profit more quickly and invest in other means of processing, although it must be noted that as pitsawing is labour intensive it does provide employment for a larger number of people than a sawmill. Pitsawing might be less efficient in terms of conversion rates but as communities are harvesting below the sustainable offtake, any option other than selling

standing trees is better from a value addition perspective and will not cause deforestation if harvesting in accordance with the Annual Allowable Cut.

- 6) **Policy barriers are still the priority barriers to communities getting more revenue from timber sales.** The forest policy and regulatory environment is still playing ‘catch up’ with providing a conducive enabling environment for CBFM timber enterprises. This is a legacy of the past with a more ‘command and control’ bureaucratic approach designed to heavily regulate legal use of timber, however by making legal use of timber in natural forests difficult especially for small CBFM enterprises, makes it much harder for them to compete against illegal enterprises. There is a need to shift towards a more streamlined ‘enabling’ environment for legal CBFM enterprises, as this would then help undermine the illegal enterprises. This was noted by many stakeholders in the forest value chains, they wanted engage in legal and sustainable timber businesses from VLFRs but found it too complicated, bureaucratic and costly to do so. Various policy and regulatory barriers still remain to CBFM enterprises, these are listed under recommendations.

Key policy recommendations:

1. **Issue a directive and communicate it to all concerned stakeholders that mobile sawmills are allowed to operate within VLFRS.** The ban on sawmills from being inside natural forests was intended for large stationary sawmills and among other things was designed to discourage deforestation, avoid illegal over use and stop fires starting from the sawmills. However the whole point of a mobile sawmill, is that it is **mobile!** Currently communities are hauling wood out from inside the VLFRs to the mobile sawmills outside the forest. Some community members with mobile sawmills have stated that they would rather sell standing trees than go to the trouble of hauling trees out of the forest to the sawmills. Mobile sawmills have a low fire risk and operations are tightly controlled and according to forest management plans and Annual Allowable Cuts. It is therefore recommended that a directive is issued to have an exemption from mobile sawmills to allow them to operate under supervision in VLFRs as long as precautions taken against fires and that they adhere to the prescribed and authorized cutting volume.
 2. **Fixed price for natural forest timber set nationally, meaning that the price is too high for local buyers.** The fixing of timber prices at national level means that the price of wood in Dar es Salaam is the same as the price locally. This creates a malfunctioning timber market, where local buyers in the rural areas can not afford to buy legal wood from the natural forests, this again makes it more attractive to buy illegal wood. One option would be for the ‘market’ to set the price for the legal wood, therefore this was naturally allow for an elevated price in Dar es Salaam and other large urban centres and a lower price need the source of the wood in the more rural areas. If this is not possible, then a second option would be to have different prices set for different regions/districts. So for example in a district like Liwale where there is a large supply of wood, prices should be set relatively low to make the wood affordable locally. Then there could be a different price in Dar es Salaam.
 3. **Export licenses for communities.** Currently community organizations do not have export licenses, so have to operate through ‘middle men’ intermediaries to export wood. With district level associations formed it will be important to support these associations to obtain export licenses.
 4. **Enable transport of natural wood at night.** Currently the transport of natural wood at night is prohibited. This makes transporting wood very expensive as if a truck is hired, for half the time it sits idle. Checkpoints are still open at night for other products including plantation wood to pass, so there would still be checks in place to ensure the natural forest wood is legal. It is therefore recommended to lift the ban.
- 7) **Potential risks from carbon finance to community forestry and sustainable forest management and utilization.** One important lesson that can have relevance to the future is the case of Suledo community forest. FORVAC started to scale down activities in Tanga Cluster in 2022, and the Forest Management Plan of SULEDO was approved by the District in April 2023. There had been considerable support to Suledo since 1994 from other programmes and considerable support to supporting Sustainable Forest Management there. After FORVAC ended its support to SULEDO, a new carbon offset project approached SULEDO, and it seems that they have made an agreement to stop sustainable timber utilization totally from the forest. This potentially causes all sorts of problems, it means that timber demands will now have to be found from other sources, often illegal and uncontrolled, which undermined the reason carbon offsetting. It also means that rather than the community and community forest being economically self-sufficient, they are instead forced into dependency on outside financial support. What will happen to the motivation of the community to maintain and manage the forest if the carbon finance benefits stop or they do not meet their expectations? It has also been noted in

FORVAC sites that buyers are coming from parts of Tanzania where sustainable utilization is now banned under carbon offsetting schemes, which again points to the fact that these schemes are simply displacing use elsewhere. If timber harvesting is banned in the FORVAC sites, most likely the utilization will be displaced to uncontrolled illegal use elsewhere. Also note that internationally there are numerous examples where carbon finance benefits did not materialize for community members, despite big promises, benefits were captured by intermediaries, with communities left shouldering the high opportunity costs of forest protection. There are some that argue that it does not matter whether 'forests pay their way' from sustainable utilization or carbon finance, however clearly making CBFM reliant on a fickle international carbon market with 'buyers' of carbon credits far away in Europe etc. with lots of uncertainties, rather than the certainty of local benefits from perpetually harvested forest resources increases the vulnerability of both CBFM and communities.

Recommendation: Urgently need to be clear that if carbon finance comes into communities where sustainable timber harvesting is ongoing, carbon finance should not require the cessation of sustainable harvesting of timber but rather be seen as a complement. With FORVAC phasing out and a gap between FORVAC and FORLAND, to avoid what happened in Suledo happening elsewhere it is imperative that where carbon finance supports CBFM where timber harvesting is taking place, that it must be combined with timber harvesting not preclude it. Communities should not be forced to choose between either timber harvesting or carbon finance, especially as it has been proven by FORVAC that in VLFR forests with **high income from sustainable timber harvesting there is almost no deforestation** so banning use would undermine the key incentive for avoiding deforestation. Also it will be important to ramp up the benefits that communities get from timber harvesting, as this will create a strong rational for them not to forego timber based revenues for carbon finance, and rather place them in a much stronger negotiating position. If carbon finance does come in and if it cannot be combined with sustainable timber harvesting, it would be better targeted to degraded forests are watershed forests that are under protection, such as in Mbinga and Nyasa, where the communities are struggling to generate income to fund patrolling and management etc. In an ideal world of course carbon finance should fund sustainable forest management and use, including CBFM timber enterprises that way it would consolidate rather than undermine the proven links between sustainable timber harvesting and avoided deforestation in CBFM. However it appears that currently most carbon offset schemes require a cessation of timber harvesting, so the successor programme of FORVAC, FORLAND could try to influence the design of carbon offsetting schemes to include support to sustainable timber harvesting and related enterprises. As seen by the results of FORVAC those VLFRS with highest income from sustainable timber harvesting have the lowest, almost zero deforestation. The carbon is locked in the extracted wood products, and Miombo woodland thrives on some disturbance, harvesting stimulates regrowth and a growing forest capture more carbon, than a stagnant forest. So in terms of 'carbon capture' arguments banning sustainable timber use in carbon offsetting schemes is clearly counterproductive on many levels. **Piloting carbon offsetting of forests with sustainable timber harvesting in CBFM might be an important research component of FORLAND, to promote the 'win, win' benefits of sustainable utilization on avoided deforestation and carbon capture.**

1 Introduction and the Programme description

1.1 Background

Forestry and Value Chains Development (FORVAC) is a 6-year Programme (7/2018-7/2024) funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA Finland) and implemented under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania (MNRT). It contributes to increasing economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands. The expected outcome of the Programme is *“Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social services”*.

FORVAC builds on the activities, experiences and lessons learned from three bilateral programs in Tanzania financed by Finland: National Forest and Beekeeping Programme II (NFBKP II, 2013–2016), Lindi and Mtwara Agribusiness Support (LIMAS, 2010–2016), and Private Forestry Programme (PFP 1, 2014–2019). NFBKP II and LIMAS have worked for the Community-Based Forest Management regime to advance sustainable forest management and generate income and employment to communities from declared Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs). Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme (PFP 2, 2019-2023) is working solely in plantation forests but, together with PFP 1, has created important experiences to share in value chain development, mobilization of rural communities for economic activities, and developing training and extension services for small-scale forest enterprises.

The key assumptions of the ‘problems’ underpinning the FORVAC approach is that the vast majority of natural forest is lost, not from use, but from conversion particularly to agriculture and that ‘de facto’ open access where communities have no legal responsibility or gain few legal benefits from the forests, was contributing to the motivation to clear the forest. The programme is therefore designed to strengthen Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) which is where the control and sustainable management of natural forests are devolved to local communities. With this local control comes a mixture of legal responsibilities and rights, the responsibilities include not converting the forest to agriculture and ensuring that harvesting of products is done on a sustainable basis according to management plans.

FORVAC focuses on forest value chain development based on production of timber, charcoal, and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)/Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the Programme Districts and areas allocated there to local communities (CBFM within Village Land Forest Reserves). The Programme also supports the development of forest law enforcement, as it is relevant to the development of CBFM, and improvements of conditions for the trade of legally sourced timber, charcoal and other forest products originating from the project area. Legal and policy frameworks are improved and harmonized to guide and improve sustainable forest management and trade procedures.

1.2 Institutional framework

The Programme Competent Authorities (CAs) are the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania (MNRT) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). The Implementing Agency is the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) of the MNRT, and the Programme is carried out in close collaboration with the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) District Authority, responsible for Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR), and the Tanzanian Forest Services Agency (TFS). Communities have a main implementation responsibility together with Districts under the PO-RALG, and private sector entities and NGOs as service providers. VLFRs are managed by Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs), and they are accountable to the Village Councils.

The decision-making system of the Programme includes the Supervisory Board (SB), the Steering Committee (SC) and the Programme Management Team (PMT). At the local level, coordination is managed by the Cluster Coordinators (CCs) in the respective Regions/Clusters in cooperation with District Councils, through appointed officers, and Village Councils, through Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRC) at the village level.

After phasing out support in Tanga Cluster (Tanga, Dodoma and Manyara Regions) in 2022-2023, FORVAC continued working in two regions of Tanzania:

- Lindi Cluster: Liwale, Ruangwa and Nachingwea Districts;
- Ruvuma Cluster: Namtumbo, Tunduru, Songea, Mbinga and Nyasa Districts;

During its implementation, FORVAC operated in total of 128 villages, including supported villages in Tanga Cluster.

The operational area of FORVAC is presented in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1. Map of FORVAC target areas.

1.3 Results framework

The FORVAC results framework and the Programme Document (PD) were amended during the planning process for the Programme extension in 2021-2022. Reporting in this document takes place against the amended framework, indicating results (Impact, Outcome and Outputs), related indicators, baselines, annual targets, end of Programme targets, means of verification and assumptions. Additionally, the Programme results are given below:

- Impact: Reduced deforestation and increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands;
- Outcome: Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social services.

The outcome is achieved through the accomplishment of the following four outputs:

- Output 1: Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased;
- Output 2: Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced;
- Output 3: Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed; and
- Output 4: Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened.

1.4 Annual Workplan and Progress Report 07/2023-7/2024

Annual Workplan 2023-2024

The Annual Workplan and Budget for the Year 6 (July 2023-July 2024) is in line with the overall workplan and budget included in the amended Programme Document and follows the established results framework as well as having a cross cutting focus on the Human Rights Based Approach. The final year workplan of the programme was developed in a way to 'catch' any remaining issues as well as to be responsive and prioritize so that the workplan could contribute as efficiently and effectively to the programme outcome and sustainability post programme as possible.

The workplan was developed in a very participatory way first engaging a sample of VLFR managing communities in every district of the programme, then bringing district teams in cluster level review and planning workplans, and finally a national multi-stakeholder review and planning workshop was held. This process was not only intended to engage a wide range of stakeholders to ensure a range of views were considered, but also to engender ownership over the workplan. In addition to this comprehensive and participatory review two evaluations were carefully considered, from the External Review and Evaluation Team (ERET) conducted in March/April 2023 and the second from an evaluation conducted by MNRT in March 2023.

The Annual Workplan and Budget (AWP 2023-2024), also including Cluster workplans and a plan for the Programme coordination/PMT, was approved by the FORVAC Steering Committee on 20th June 2023. "PMT" herewith refers to the activities implemented under direct coordination of the FORVAC Programme Management Team (PMT). However, during the implementation of the workplan, the PMT realized that the AWP had in effect spread itself too thin in terms of activities and required a consolidation of focus on priorities that are linked to FORVAC phase out, some of the priorities require more investment. Herewith, the Programme presented the revised AWP 2023-2024 in the Steering Committee meeting on 8th February and the Committee approved it without conditionality. The revised Annual Workplan and Budget and annual targets set out during the planning process are presented in a tabular form in Annex 1 (Revised Workplan 7/2023-7/2024).

Annual Report 07/2023-07/2024

The implementation of the above-discussed Workplan started on 1 July 2023. This document is a Annual Progress Report of the implementation over the period from 1 July 2023 to 22 July 2024. It presents the progress towards the achievement of the expected results (Impact, Outcome and Outputs) defined in the Programme results framework. Under Outputs, it also discusses implementation of the related activities. Moreover, it specifies resources and budget used during the reporting period as well as assumptions and risks. Furthermore, it briefly discusses sustainability and cross-cutting objectives of the intervention and findings and recommendations made based on the Programme implementation.

2 Progress towards the achievement of the expected results

2.1 Impact – Reduced deforestation and increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands

Operational area

During its implementation, FORVAC operated in 128 villages, including Tanga Cluster, from where FORVAC phased out in 2022-2023. The operational coverage of the Programme is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Operational coverage of FORVAC in each District.

Cluster	District	Output area 1.1:			Output Area 1.2:	Output Area 2.1:		Total No of Villages where FORVAC Operates
		VLUPs by FORVAC	FMPs by FORVAC	VNRCs Formed/ Remobilized	Value Chain Development by FORVAC	Capacity Building at the Village Level by FORVAC	Support of Fund Raising Activities by FORVAC (VICOBAs & VSLAs)	
		No of Villages						
RUVUMA	NAMTUMBO	6	5	6	6	8	2	8
	SONGEA	4	6	6	7	7	1	7
	MBINGA	6		6	7	7	7	7
	NYASA	4		4	7	15	5	15
	TUNDURU	1	3	3	3	4		4
LINDI	RUANGWA	5	5	5	5	11	6	11
	LIWALE	5	25	26	11	27	8	27
	NACHINGWEA	2	11	11	4	12	8	14
TANGA	HANDENI	2	4	3	5	5	4	5
	KILINDI	3	1	3	8	5	1	8
	MPWAPWA	3		3	9	6	1	9
	KITETO		13*			13*		13
Total No of Villages		41	73	76	72	120	43	128

* SULEDO Community Forest Reserve in Kiteto District covers 13 villages.

The progress taken (achievements) by FORVAC against the Impact indicators was measured in the End Impact assessment, which fieldwork was conducted in April-May 2024, except the deforestation analysis conducted by remote sensing comparing the years 2018 and 2022. The end of the Programme targets and achievements are presented in Table 2 below and discussed in detail in the End Impact assessment and the completion report of FORVAC available on the FORVAC website (<https://forvac.or.tz/publications/technical-reports/>).

Table 2. Impact level indicators and achievements.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme															
Differences in changes in forest cover area (and GHG emissions) between FORVAC and other public forest areas	Deforestation and GHG emission reduced. Analysis shall take place during the year 2023.	Deforestation (and GHG emissions) in FORVAC covered villages reduced compared to public forest area	Deforestation rates were 7 times lower in the CBFM forests than in other forests in the area, this also results in carbon emissions reductions of a similar order to the lower deforestation rates compared to forests outside VLFRs. An important observation is that almost no deforestation detected in those VLFRs with the highest income from sustainable timber harvesting – a significant correlation between income from the VLFRs and avoided deforestation. This does help prove the ‘forest that pays, is the forest that stays’ premise of FORVAC. Figures 2 and 3 visualize the forest loss between 2018 and 2022 in Lindi and Ruvuma Clusters																
Percentage of households having assets: - livestock - motorcycles - bicycles - bee hives	Assets increased	Target (difference from baseline) - 70% (+5%) - 23% (+5%) - 54% (+5%) - 23% (+20%)	Percentage of households having assets: <table><tr><th>Indicator</th><th>Endline status (%)</th><th>Difference from baseline (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Livestock</td><td>18</td><td>-52</td></tr><tr><td>Motorcycles</td><td>25</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>bicycles</td><td>29</td><td>-20</td></tr><tr><td>bee hives</td><td colspan="2">Not reported</td></tr></table>		Indicator	Endline status (%)	Difference from baseline (%)	Livestock	18	-52	Motorcycles	25	7	bicycles	29	-20	bee hives	Not reported	
Indicator	Endline status (%)	Difference from baseline (%)																	
Livestock	18	-52																	
Motorcycles	25	7																	
bicycles	29	-20																	
bee hives	Not reported																		

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme
- pesticide sprayers		- 29% (+10%)	pesticide sprayers 28	9
			The proportion of households owning livestock and bicycles has declined significantly from the baseline. This might be because, the baseline survey included five other districts (Mpwapa, Kilindi, Handeni, Songea and Mbinga), which were not part of the endline study. Historically, these districts have experienced migration of agro-pastoralists, which may have influenced the state of ownership of these basic assets during the baseline assessment.	
Percentage of households being income poor	Percentage of income poor household decreased	<25%	Baseline value: 33.2% Endline value: 21,6% A reduction in the proportion of households living below the poverty line (being income poor) is 11.6%.	
Percentage of households that find service delivery systems well-functioning (disaggregated by sex, age categories and disability)	Percentage of households finding service delivery systems well-functioning increased	25% for all categories	63 % saying social services had improved since FORVAC.	

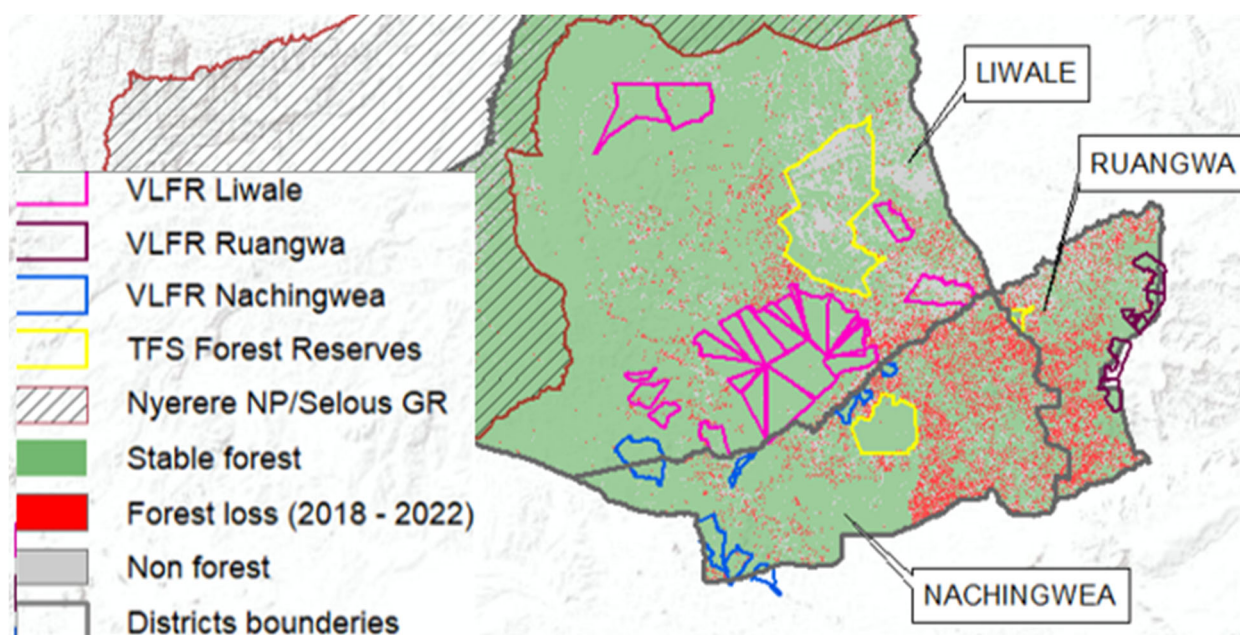


Figure 2. Forest loss between 2018 and 2022 in Lindi Cluster

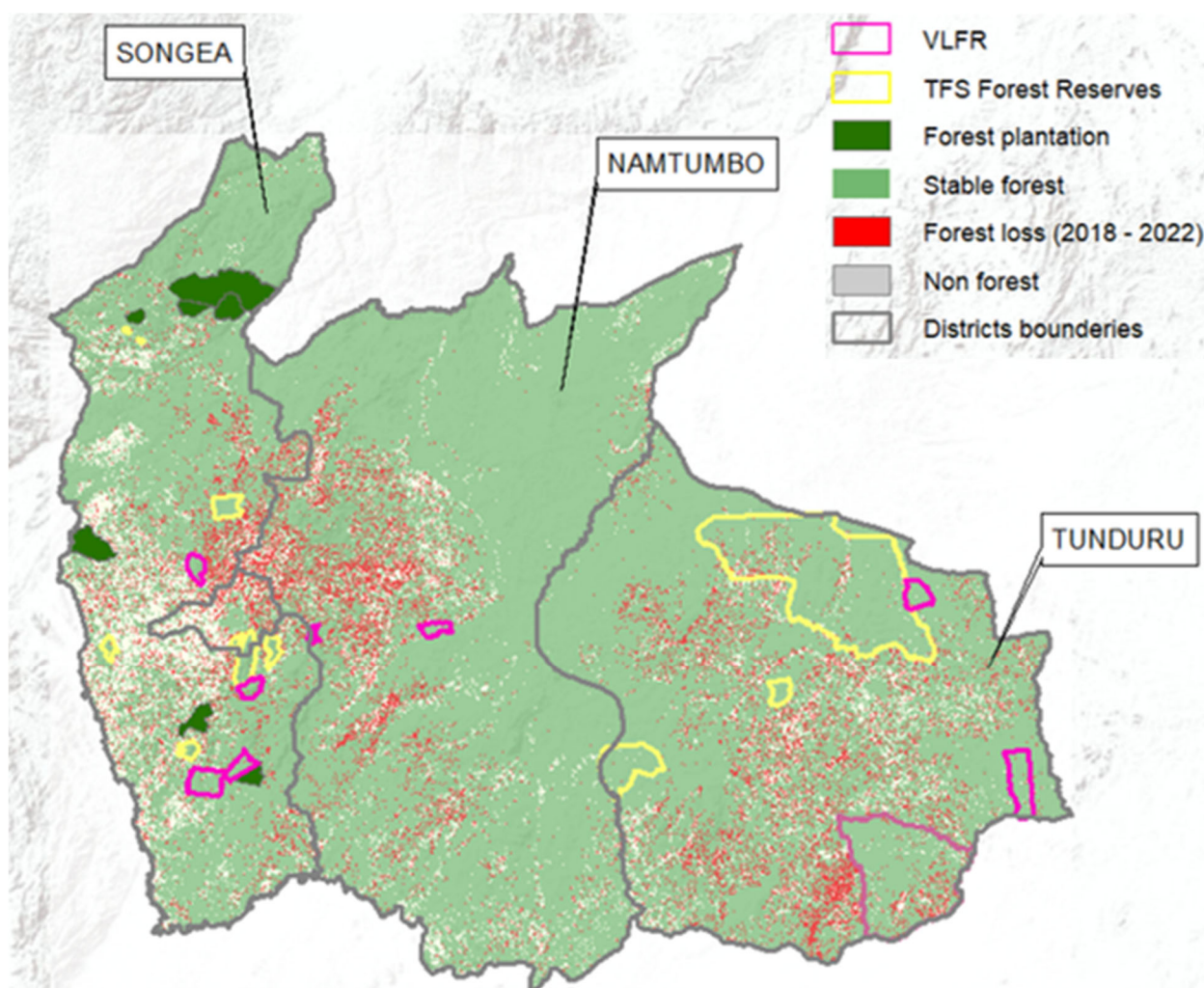


Figure 3. Forest loss between 2018 and 2022 in Ruvuma Cluster.

2.2 Outcome – Sustainably managed forests and forest-based enterprises generating income for community members and revenue for community social services

In the results framework, Impact refers to the higher-level development policy objectives. The direct Programme goals (outcome) should contribute towards achieving this impact. Table 3 below indicates progress taken against Outcome indicators defined in the Programme Document.

Table 3. Outcome level indicators and achievements. Traffic light indicators: green=accomplished, yellow=progressed, red=no progress, white=not measured with explanation of any deviations.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Area in hectares under Sustainable Forest Management regime	5 villages supported with the FMPs, VLFR area of 10,000 ha. Gazettement completed and GN prepared for the 4 villages	450,000 ha (based on 69 FMPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 FMP / 3,240 ha obtained approval at the District and Ministry level; - 3 FMPs / 7,345 ha waiting for District level approval; - Gazettement of 4 VLFRs completed in Songea District, Ruvuma Cluster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70 villages (including SULEDO) supported with FMPs have obtained approved plans at the District and/or Ministry level, covering a total VLFR area of 460,518 ha in 73 VLFRs - 3 village (7,345 ha) are waiting for District level approval - 31 VLFRs gazetted, 200,588 ha in total 	<p>A national monitoring system for FMPs is missing and getting correct information on the approval status of the FMPs (as well as VLUPs) is challenging. This caused that one of the FMPs included in the AWP of the final year had already received District level approval the year before, so the correct target of the final year should have been 4 instead of 5.</p> <p>The relevant District Council meetings, that will approve the 3 pending FMPs, are planned to be arranged in August 2024.</p> <p>MNRT offered final endorsement for 11 FMPs, covering a total VLFR area of 55,029 ha.</p>
Percentage of total income increase from households involved in forest-based businesses sourced legally from VLFRs	Income increased	10% increase of HH income from forest-based enterprises/businesses	<p>Baseline value not measured.</p> <p>Endline status: 27% of community members engaged in forest-based enterprises. For these households forestry contributed 12% of the annual household income (around TZS 439,671).</p>		

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation																								
Percentage of adult community members employed in VLFR management and forest-based enterprises (disaggregated by sex, age categories and disability; and differentiated for timber and other VCs)	Percentage increased	Timber VC: 15% of adult community members: 20% M / 10% F NTFP VCs: 15% of adult community members: 15% M / 15% F To be disaggregated by age categories and disabilities	Timber value chain created temporary employment for a total of 1,674 (1,416M/258F) villagers in FORVAC supported villages from July 2023 to June 2024.	Baseline: 9% of community members engaged in forest-based enterprises. Endline: 27% of community members engaged in forest-based enterprises; 5,5% in timber value chain and 21,5% in NTFP value chains, disaggregated as follows: <table><tr><th>%</th><th>Total</th><th>Men</th><th>Women</th><th>PLWD</th><th><35</th><th>35-60</th><th>>60</th></tr><tr><td>Timber</td><td>20</td><td>79</td><td>21</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>17</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>NTFP</td><td>80</td><td>63</td><td>37</td><td>7</td><td>14</td><td>50</td><td>16</td></tr></table>	%	Total	Men	Women	PLWD	<35	35-60	>60	Timber	20	79	21	3	2	17	1	NTFP	80	63	37	7	14	50	16	
%	Total	Men	Women	PLWD	<35	35-60	>60																						
Timber	20	79	21	3	2	17	1																						
NTFP	80	63	37	7	14	50	16																						
Volume (m3) and value (income, TZS) of legal timber sold from VLFRs: i) total; ii) lesser-known species; and iii) primarily processed (e.g. for sawmilling)	i) 10,000 m³ / TZS 2,700,000,000 (total volume/value) ii) 1,500 m3 / TZS 300,000,000 (LKTS) iii) 250 m3 / TZS 320,000,000 (primarily processed)	20,000 m3 / TZS 4,000,000,000 (total volume/value) 2,000 m3 / TZS 400,000,000 (LKTS) 2,000 m3 / TZS 800,000,000 (primarily processed)	i) Standing timber: 10,618 m3 / TZS 2,775,438,300 (EUR 1,110,175) ii) LKTS: 1,659 m3 / TZS 335,299,100 (EUR 134,120) iii) Sawn timber: 570 m³ / TZS 369,974,400 (EUR 147,990)	i) Standing timber: 34,138 m3 / TZS 9,278,960,947 (EUR 3,711,582) ii) LKTS: 5,111 m3 / TZS 1,005,492,932 (EUR 402,197) iii) sawn timber: 824 m³ / TZS 702,860,570 (EUR 281,144).	Total annual income from standing and processes timber sales was TZS 3,145,412,700 (EUR 1,258,165). FORVAC put efforts into VLFR timber sales and, e.g., facilitated the approval of annual harvesting quotas for 38 villages in Lindi Cluster and 11 villages in Ruvuma Cluster, totaling 105,000 m3 to be allowed to be harvested during the final year of the FORVAC. Although 38 villages sold timber, timber sales and sawmilling have not yet progressed well in Ruvuma, where the stock of well-known and highly valued timber species, such as Mninga and Mkongo, is low.																								
Value of (income derived from) NTFP, total/per household involved in the Programme supported producers' groups and/or microbusiness support, disaggregated by gender and disability	Total value of NTFP: TZS 50,000,000 Total income/household: TZS 625,000 Women 40%, PLWD 5%	TZS 125,000,000 / TZS 625,000 Women 40%, PLWD 5%	TZS 18,696,400 / EUR 7,479 Note: Information from Liwale is missing	Total approximate income through beekeeping (638M/477F, 22 PLWD), honey processors (9M/15F, 1 PLFD), mushroom (10M/56F, 2 PLWD), bamboo (39M/52F, 1 PLWD) & pottery (18F): TZS 139,903,212 (EUR 55,961) Women 47%, PLWD: 2%	Due to the bad weather conditions (heavy rains) in this reporting year, the amount of honey the beekeepers produced decreased. Information of the income within July 2023-June 2024 is missing from Liwale District.																								

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Amount (TZS/EUR) of social funds from forest produce sales used/distributed from FORVAC supported VLFRs (specified for types of support, including to vulnerable people)	EUR 680,000 / TZS 1,700,000,000	EUR 470,000 / TZS 1,175,000,000	TZS 1,655,982,105 / EUR 662,393	TZS 5,349,429,720 / EUR 2,139,772 The fund has been used for different development purposes, e.g., health care, education, and village offices.	The figures bases on the estimation that in average, 55% of the income of standing timber sales and 35% of the income of sawn timber sales (the whole profit) is used for social development purposes.
Number of students that are and have been enrolled in FORVAC-supported curricula/training contents	0	100	0 (reasons for deviation)	0 (see reasons for deviation)	Various bureaucratic challenges getting full curriculum approved and there are various levels of approval. However it was noted by SUA that elements of the curriculum have been adopted and used in other courses in the university so that that are indeed students benefiting from the FORVAC developed curriculum, even if the full course/curriculum has not yet been approved.
Enabling policy environment and forestry extension services available supporting establishment and management of sustainable CBFM and related VCD	Enhanced policies, improved extension services	Enabling policy environment available supporting establishment and management of sustainable CBFM and related VCD: 69 VLFRs established and operational; 200 new microenterprises/ businesses operational	Policies and extension services enhanced	Several key policy documents developed which directly contributed to the outcome related to establishment and management of sustainable CBFM and micro-enterprise support notably the Charcoal Strategy and Action Plan and the Timber Legality Framework Handbook.	FORVAC in collaborating with FBD/MNRT and other relevant stakeholders enhanced policies and extension services relevant to CBFM as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public procurement guidelines were revised and new guidelines printed. The new guidelines include 41 alternative natural hard wood species in addition to 2 species that were previously only accepted. - GN 417 reviewed and as a result, a new GN 255 prepared to tackle the challenges stakeholders had identified when implementing the GN 417. - A multistakeholder workshop was organized to enhance enabling environment for VLFR timber. The workshop identified barriers hindering VLFR timber sales and prepared action plans on how to overcome the challenges.

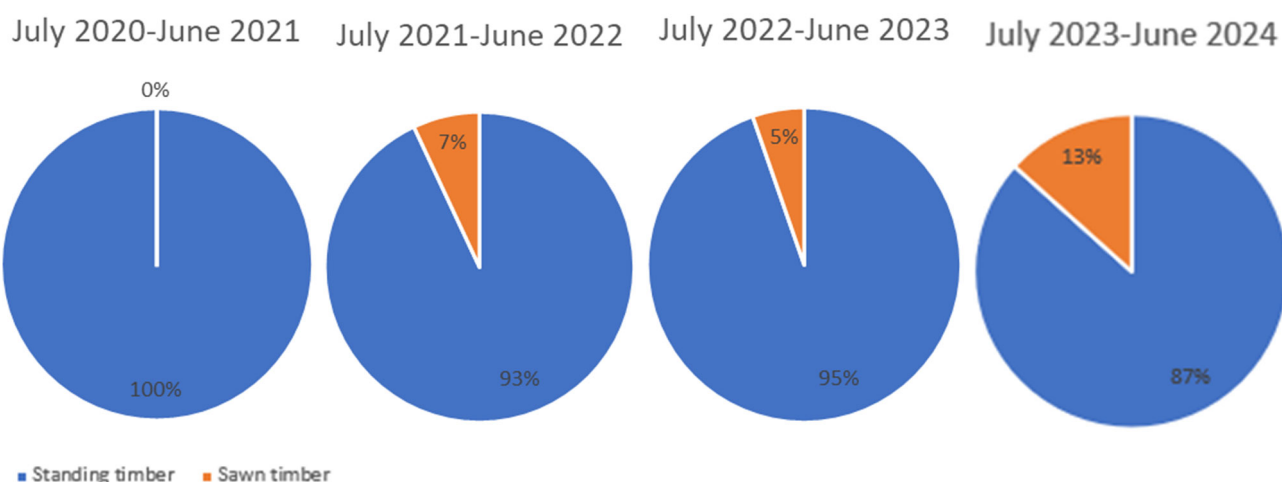
2.2.1 Cumulative Outcome level achievements

FORVAC has supported the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) in the development of several key policy documents that enhance the development of enabling policy environment of Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and related value chains in Tanzania. In its final year, the Programme concentrated to solve some specific key policy barriers it identified with its stakeholders notably the procurement restriction to two common species which hindered the sales of alternative prominent timber species from the VLFRs:

- i) Understanding of the GN 417 varies among stakeholders, additionally, the particular GN may have some bottlenecks that affect the implementation/development of CBFM and CBFM enterprises;
- ii) The Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA) is costly and complicated;
- iii) The harvest licensing process for VLFRs is inflexible and slow;
- iv) The public procurement system only considers Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Mkongo (*Afzelia quanzensis*) tree species; and
- v) Only mobile sawmills are allowed to be used in the timber processing within Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR).

Despite the policy barriers mentioned above, FORVAC has managed to bring under a sustainable forest management regime 460,518 ha of community-owned forest by supporting 70 villages to implement forest management plans (FMPs) by July 2024. This is already sufficient to reach the target set for the end of the Programme. However, three (3) villages (covering VLFR are of 7,345 ha) are pending for District level approval. These plan are expected to be approved in August 2024. Additionally, FORVAC has supported the gazettment of 31 Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) out of 73 VLFRs, where forest management planning was implemented through FORVAC support, with a total forest area of 200,588 ha to guarantee the strongest possible tenure for the forest area.

Based on the approved FMPs, 45 villages have sold 34,138 m³ of standing timber worth TZS 9,278,960,947 (EUR 3,711,582). Out of this harvested volume, 5,111 m³ were so-called lesser-known timber species (LKTS) worth TZS 1,005,492,932 (EUR 402,197). These harvesting volumes already exceed the targets set for the Programme. Sawn timber production and sales progressed well during the final year when three (3) out of four (4) purchased sawmills were used by the communities. Herewith, 88% of the cumulative monetary target set for the processed timber value was reached by the end of the Programme. Evaluating the volume of processed timber has turned out to be tricky and the reported volumes do not show the progress as reliably as the value of timber sales. The below chart shows how the share of the sawn timber sales (monetary value) from standing timber sales has developed in FORVAC-supported villages from July 2020 to June 2024. Sawn timber sales include only the sales of timber processed and sold by the VLFR communities themselves.



Graph 2. The development of the share of the sawn timber sales (monetary value) from standing timber sales has in FORVAC-supported villages from July 2020 to June 2024.

The good progress in timber sales has resulted in the target amount communities have used for social development purposes has been exceeded.

In addition to the timber value chain, FORVAC has supported honey, mushroom, bamboo, and pottery (improved cooking stoves made from clay) producers' groups/micro-businesses, involving 1,314 (696M/618F) entrepreneurs to develop their businesses. During the reporting period, FORVAC implemented back-stopping visits for some of the businesses and contracted consultants to support building a successful and sustainable honey value chain in Ruvuma Cluster. The percentage of community members engaged in forest-based enterprises increased during the FORVAC implementation from 9% to 27%.

The communities FORVAC has supported have started to realize the long-term benefits of sustainable forest management and forest-related value chain development. A good example is Mtawatawa village in Liwale District, where a portion of the revenue from timber sales was used to buy an own sawmill machine (Wood Mizer) to speed the processing of logs and not only to rely on the availability of the sawmill purchased by FORVAC and owned by the CBFM association of Liwale District.

More narration for the above-discussed indicators follows in the next Section 2.3, where achievements and activities implemented by FORVAC are discussed in more detail by Outputs.

2.3 Implementation and achievements by Outputs

The FORVAC implementation takes place under four Outputs: i) Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased; ii) Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced; iii) Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed; and iv) Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened. The following sections describe activities conducted under these Outputs during the reporting period as well as achievements against the Programme results framework and related Indicators. In Annex 1, implementation follow-up against FORVAC Annual Workplan 2023-2024 has been presented.

2.3.1 Output 1. Sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased

Herewith we present FORVAC's achievements in relation to the indicators of Output 1 "sustainable forest management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased". The presentation covers the following Output areas (Interventions):

1.1 Establishment and mobilization of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR)

1.2 Support to value chain development

Indicators and achievements under Output 1 are set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Indicators and achievements under Output 1. Traffic light indicators: green=accomplished, yellow=progressed, red=no progress, white=not measured.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Number and area of operational VLFRs: - Number and area of village land use plans prepared - Number and area of forest management plans prepared/ updated - Number of VNRCs formed/remobilized and percentage of women membership - Volume of AAC in FORVAC covered VLFRs	VLFRs 5 / 10,000 ha: -FMPs 5 / 10,000 ha -AAC in FORVAC covered VLFRs 3000 m ³ -1000 ha strictly protected (10% of VLFR area)	VLFRs 69 / 450,000 ha: - LUPs 41 / 620,000 ha - FMPs 69 / 470,000 ha - VNRCs established/ mobilized 69; membership 30% women - AAC in FORVAC covered VLFRs 175,000 m ³ Area of strictly protected forest in VLFRs 10%	- 1 FMP / 3,240 ha obtained approval at the District and Ministry level; 3 FMPs / 7,345 ha waiting for District level approval; - AAC 365 m ³ (1 plan approved at the District level) + 2,847 m ³ (3 plans approved at the village level) - 354 ha strictly protected	VLFRs 73 / 460,518 ha: - Approved VLUPs 39 / 590,790 ha (additionally, 2 VLUPs / 29,297 ha waiting for approval) - Approved FMPs 59 / 460,518 ha (additionally, 3 villages / 7,345 ha waiting for District level approval) - 76 VNRCs formed/ remobilized, 35% of women membership - AAC in FORVAC covered VLFRs 146,177 m ³ - 52,609 ha strictly protected (11% of VLFR area)	A national monitoring system for FMPs is missing and getting correct information on the approval status of the FMPs (as well as VLUPs) is challenging. This caused that one of the FMPs included in the AWP of the final year had already received District level approval the year before, so the correct target of the final year should have been 4 instead of 5. The relevant District Council meetings, that will approve the 3 pending FMPs in Ruvuma Cluster, are planned to be arranged in August 2024. Heavy rains delayed the forest management planning, but the two already prepared plans (Njalamata village/Namtumbo District and Matimila A village/Songea District) should receive the village level approval in June 2024.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Area of strictly protected forest in VLFRs					
Number of established Bee reserves	The GN prepared, after which the establishment and gazettment of 5 bee reserves (5059 ha) completed	5 Bee reserves established and gazetted (5059 ha)	5 Government Notices (GN) prepared and the establishment and gazettment of 5 bee reserves (5059 ha) completed.	5 bee reserves established and the gazettment approved, totaling the reserve area of 5,059 ha.	Completed.
Number of lesser-known species with market potential identified, studied and marketing commenced	14	14	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical properties and commercial value/marketability analyzed for 14 species - Miombo timber species database launched under the MNRT's website. - Timber marketplace website established - Leaflet introducing the most prominent alternative species produced and printed 	<p>12 species out of 14 species FORVAC studied were included in the new public procurement guidelines, which offer alternative species to Mninga (<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>) and Mkongo (<i>Afzelia quanzensis</i>) suitable for the construction and furniture industries.</p> <p>The database listing information of all 43 natural hard wood timber species, which are part of the procurement guidelines, integrated under MNRT's website.</p> <p>Leaflet introducing the most prominent alternative species produced and printed in July 2024.</p>
Number of forest-based businesses supported and linked with traders (disaggregated by type of enterprise, sex, and vulnerability)	<p>Beekeeping :30 enterprises linked with traders</p> <p>Carpentry: 5 enterprises exposed on different market channels to reach buyers e.g., social medias.</p> <p>Carving: 2 enterprises exposed on different market channels to reach buyers e.g., social medias</p> <p>Bamboo: 1 enterprise exposed on different market channels to reach buyers e.g., social medias</p>	<p>200 enterprises / micro-businesses</p> <p>1,000 beneficiaries (40% women)</p> <p>At least 10 % of FORVAC supported businesses involve directly vulnerable people or indirectly people living with disabilities (PLWD)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charcoal: 2 Charcoal Making Groups: 60 members, 38% women, 14 PiVP (age over 60) - Beekeeping: 61 enterprises, 312 (157M/155F) beneficiaries, 50% women, 6 PLWD - Pottery (improved cooking stoves): 2 enterprises, 18 beneficiaries, 100% women, 3 indirectly PLWD - Carving: 1 enterprise, 9 beneficiaries (9M) - Carpentry: 1 enterprise, 5 beneficiaries (5M) 	<p>In December 2023, FORVAC contracted two (2) consultants to support building a successful and sustainable honey value chain in Ruvuma Cluster. The consultants discovered that no beekeeper is failing to sell their honey, and the price is generally considered to be fair, from the beekeepers' perspective. When there is no surplus honey, which keeps prices high, it does not attract big buyers to enter new area.</p> <p>FORVAC staff together with District officials conducted technical backstopping visits to the supported micro-businesses. Ideas were shared on how the businesses could reach external markets as still many of the businesses rely on the local market at the village.</p> <p>3 mushroom businesses from Matimila A village in Songea District were linked with a local NGO called PADI who has continued supporting the businesses.</p>

2.3.1.1 Establishment and mobilization of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR), Output area 1.1

The programme is designed to strengthen Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) which is where the control and sustainable management of natural forests are legally devolved to local communities. FORVAC was specifically designed to address 'secondary' CBFM issues, notably enhancing the direct benefits that communities generate from their forests – improving the direct financial value communities get from forest product value chains. This income covers the management costs and responsibilities of protecting and sustainable management whilst generating significant revenue for the communities to help the forest under CBFM 'pay its way'.

However, during the first years of the Programme, significant support was required by FORVAC on 'primary issues' related to the establishment of CBFM, as in many of the FORVAC sites CBFM had not yet been established. Establishing VLFRs and developing Village Land Use and Forest Management Plans are a prerequisite required for communities to legally harvest forest products from VLFRs.

The focus of FORVAC operations started to be shifted from 'primary' issues to the 'secondary' issues, development of timber, charcoal, and non-wood forest products value chains, during the AWP 2020-2021. For example, new Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs) were not developed since the AWP 2021-2022, but still, at the end of the FORVAC Programme 2024, two (2) VLUPs are pending approvals from the relevant Districts, even though FORVAC has tried to influence the process to get them approved. One of the VLUPs belongs to Masuguru village in Namtumbo District, and the approval of VLUP is pending due to a boundary conflict with a village that is not under the FORVAC Programme. The process of solving the conflict was started with a former District Commissioner (DC), but unfortunately, he was transferred to another District, and now the process should be started again with the current DC. Another pending VLUP belongs to Matimila A village in Songea District. The Regional Forest Officer has requested the District Forest Officer to organize the approval of this VLUP in a normal District Full Council meeting, as it has been done in other Districts, instead of FORVAC financing an additional meeting for the Council. The cumulative information of all the FORVAC-supported VLUPs since the beginning of the Programme is presented by villages in Annex 2.

Forest Management Planning (FMP)

After forest management planning has been implemented and a Forest Management Plan (FMP), including a harvesting plan prepared, the FMP must go through a 3-stage approval process:

1. Approved by the Village Assembly Meeting;
2. Approved by the District Council Meeting; and
3. Endorsed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT).

The MNRT has 60 days to offer objections for the FMP. If the MNRT does not send the final endorsement letter or any objections, the village can start implementing the FMP after 60 days.

During the AWP 2023-2024, FORVAC supported the following number of FMPs to be approved and endorsed as per approval stages:

1. Three (3) plans (7,345 ha) approved at the village level in Ruvuma Cluster.
2. One (1) plan (3,240 ha) approved in Nachinwea District in Lindi Cluster and three (3) plans (7,345 ha) in Songea District in Ruvuma Cluster are waiting for District Council Meeting that is planned to be arranged in August 2024.
3. 11 plans (55,029 ha) endorsed by the MNRT.

In Annex 2, the cumulative information of all the FORVAC-supported FMPs, including the area of strictly protected forests, since the beginning of the Programme is presented by villages.

Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

All Forest Management Plans (FMPs) include a calculation of the sustainable off-take, the amount of wood that can be harvested on a sustainable basis without depleting the forest resource. This is called the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), with the wood harvested being replenished by forest growth.

So far, the FORVAC-supported 59 Forest Management Plans (approved by the relevant District Council and/or MNRT) have produced a total annual allowable cut (AAC) volume of **141,545 m³** in the Programme area. This logging quota is given per Cluster and relevant District in Table 6. However, after FORVAC ended its support to SULEDO Community Forest in Kiteto District, Tanga Cluster in 2022, a new carbon offset project approached SULEDO, and it seems that they have made an agreement to stop sustainable timber utilization totally from the forest. The AAC of SULEDO was as big as 8,586 ha.

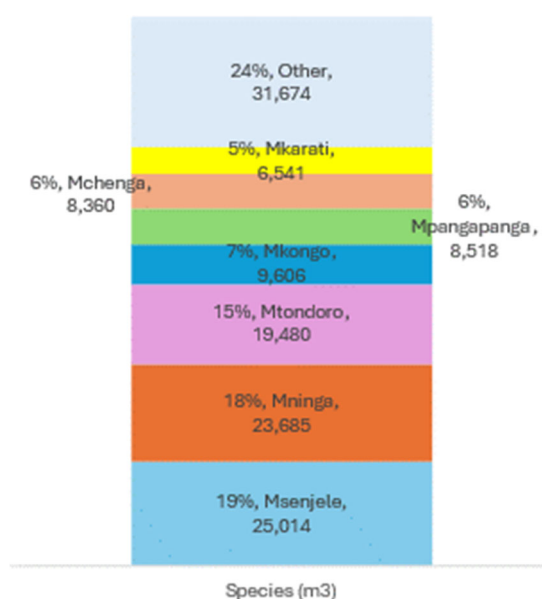
Table 5. Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) generated by the FORVAC supported and approved FMPs.

Cluster	Ruvuma Cluster	Lindi Cluster	Tanga Cluster	Total AAC generated
District	Namtumbo: 15,161 m ³	Ruangwa: 3,537 m ³	Handeni: 796 m ³	141,545 m³
	Songea: 5,237 m ³	Liwale: 90,384 m ³	Kilindi: 1,155 m ³	
	Tunduru: 3,802 m ³	Nachingwea: 12,887 m ³	Kiteto: 8,586 m ³	
Total AAC:	24,200 m³	106,808 m³	10,537 m³	

Miombo forests have a rich diversity of different timber species. The approved total AAC in Ruvuma and Lindi Clusters includes over 50 different timber species, but the majority of them can be harvested only in small volumes each year. Graph 2 illustrates on how only seven (7) species cover three-quarters of AAC. These species are namely

- I. Msenjele (*Acacia nigrescens*)
- II. Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*)
- III. Mtondoro (*Jubernadia Globiflora*)
- IV. Mkongo (*Azelia quanzensis*)
- V. Mpangapanga (*Milletia Stuhlmanii*)
- VI. Mchenga (*Brachystegia spiciformis*)
- VII. Mkarati (*Burkea Africana*)

Among these seven (7) the most abundant species, the more commonly known varieties in the market, Mkongo and Mninga, cover one-third of their quantity.



Graph 2. Available annual harvesting quotas per species based on approved forest management plans in Lindi and Ruvuma Clusters.

Gazettement of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs)

Forest gazettement, a public notification at the national level through an announcement by the Minister in the Government Gazette that a forest has been reserved, is not necessary for a VLFRs to be legally recognized. However, it guarantees a strong tenure for the related areas. In September 2023, the gazettement of four (4) VLFRs in Songea District in Ruvuma Cluster was finalized. These VLFRs are located in Liweta (1,408 ha), Litowa (1,397 ha), Ndongosi (4,174 ha), and Mhukurulilahi (7,698 ha) villages.

In total, FORVAC has supported the gazettement of 31 Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) out of 73 VLFRs, where forest management planning was implemented through FORVAC support, with a forest area of 200,588 ha in total. Four (4) of the gazetted VLFRs locates in Tanga Cluster, four (4) in Ruvuma Cluster and 23 in Lindi Cluster.

Establishment and gazettement of bee reserves

Bee reserve is an area of land administered and managed for the purpose of sustainable development of beekeeping and bee fodder resources. To ensure the sustainability of these resources, the National Beekeeping Policy of 1998 encourages the establishment and management of bee reserves. It emphasizes setting aside sufficient forest areas for the purpose of developing and managing honeybees as well as maximizing the production and utilization of bee products. The bees and bee fodder resources are at high

risk due to illegal human activities such as livestock keeping, tree felling, mining, and crop cultivation. Hereby, FORVAC supported National Beekeeping Policy Implementation Strategy (2021- 2031) directs to gazette Bee Reserves of 114,000 ha by June 2031.

FORVAC started supporting the establishment of bee reserves in five (5) villages in Tanga Cluster in 2021, totaling a bee reserve area of 5,059 ha. The establishment is almost completed as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has signed the five (5) Government Notices (GN) and sent them to the Office of the Attorney General for endorsement. The approved bee reserve areas are as follows:

- Three (3) villages in Mpwapwa District
 - Ikuyu 104 ha
 - Chiseyu 3951 ha
 - Chitemo 760 ha
- Two (2) villages in Kilindi District
 - Mnkonde 190 ha
 - Kwamwande 54 ha

2.3.1.2 Support to value chain development, Output area 1.2

Timber harvest and sales

After approval and endorsement of Forest Management Plans (FMP), CBFM communities must annually apply an approval for harvesting quota from the respective District Harvesting Committee meeting before they can harvest and sell timber from the respective Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR). FORVAC facilitated the approval of annual harvesting quotas for the year 2023-2024 for 38 villages in Lindi Cluster and 11 villages in Ruvuma Cluster. The approved harvesting quotas by District for the year 2023-2024 are presented in Table 6. Additionally, to secure the smooth exit of the Programme, FORVAC facilitated the villages to apply annual harvesting quotas for the year 2024-2025 in Lindi and Ruvuma Clusters.

Table 6. Approved harvesting quotas for the year 2023-2024 by District.

Cluster	District	No of villages	Approved quota m ³
Lindi	Liwale	25	81,544
	Ruangwa	5	1,877
	Nachingwea	8	9,288
Sub Total Lindi		38	92,709
Ruvuma	Songea	4	4,447
	Namtumbo	4	6,318
	Tunduru	3	2,375
Sub total Ruvuma		11	13,140
Total		49	105,849

During the reporting period, out of the 38 villages that have obtained approved harvesting quota for the year 2023-2024, 35 villages harvested and sold timber in Lindi Cluster (five villages in Ruangwa, 23 villages in Liwale, and seven villages in Nachingwea). The villages in Ruangwa District sold 700 m³ of timber (standing tree volume), up to a total value of TZS 149,089,100 (EUR 59,636); the total sale in Liwale District was 8,806 m³ with a worth of TZS 2,288,008,700 (EUR 915,203); and in Nachingwea District the timber sale of 829 m³ generated an income of TZS 252,610,000 (EUR 101,044) to forest communities.

In Ruvuma Cluster, the stock of well-known and highly valued timber species, such as Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Mkongo (*Afzelia quanzensis*), is low, which has partly caused that the timber sales in Ruvuma has not progressed as well as in Lindi Cluster. During the reporting period, the harvesting took place only in two (2) villages in Tunduru District, where 273 m³ of well-known timber species (Mninga, Mkongo, and Mpingo (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) species) was harvested, and in one (1) village in Namtumbo District, where the buyers bough 10 m³ of Mninga. The value of harvested standing timber in Ruvuma Cluster was TZS 85,730,500 (EUR 34,292).

In Tanga Cluster, the CBFM villages, FORVAC supported in the past, didn't manage to sell any timber due to a lack of buyers.

The timber sale volumes and values by district and village during July 2023 – June 2024 are presented in Table 7. The total volumes and value of timber sales in the FORVAC-supported villages are the following:

No of villages	Timber sold in total, m ³	Value, TZS	Value, EUR
• 38	• 10,618	• 2,775,438,300	• 1,110,175

Box 1 – Monitoring harvesting operations

Forest Officers from the District Council and TFS frequently monitor timber harvesting occurring in Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR). In November 2023, the officers visited Kajima and Mkowela villages in Tunduru District, where harvesting was taking place mostly under the supervision of Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC) members. Herewith, the forest officers saw it necessary to verify the volumes harvested so that the timber buyers get what they had paid for. During the verification process of the harvested mpingo logs in Kajima village, the VNRC members were also retrained on timber measurement and volume calculation by using a simplified formula.

The verification process revealed that the Kajima village had harvested 62 m³ of mpingo logs instead of the ordered 20 m³. The buyer was requested to pay an additional TZS of 14,700,000 (EUR 5,880), which he agreed. The value of the total contract was thus TZS 21,700,500 (EUR 8,680).

In Mkowela village, the forest officers verified timber volumes harvested by two private buyers, 101 m³ in total. The harvesting was done properly, but the officers used the opportunity to conduct refresher training on timber measurement and volume calculation also for the VNRC members of Mkowela village.



Figure 4. Forestry officers from Tunduru District Council and TFS inspecting the amount of mpingo (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) logs harvested from the Village Land Forest Reserve of Kajima village.

Table 7. Data of the sold standing timber by district and village during July 2023 – June 2024, including timber that has been used for sawmilling.

Cluster	District	Village	Standing timber sales		
			July 2023-June 2024		
			m3	TZS	EUR
Ruvuma	Namtumbo	Limamu	10	2,930,000	1,172
	Tunduru	Mikowela	211	61,100,000	24,440
		Kajima	62	21,700,500	8,680
SUB TOTAL RUVUMA			283	85,730,500	34,292
Lindi	Ruangwa	Lichwachwa	127	21,165,000	8,466
		Mchichili	60	14,565,000	5,826
		Nahanga	245	52,604,100	21,042
		Nandenje	188	44,805,000	17,922
		Ng'au	80	15,950,000	6,380
	SUB TOTAL RUANGWA		700	149,089,100	59,636
	Liwale	Nanjegeja	110	29,100,000	11,640
		Mahonga	60	11,900,000	4,760
		Chimbuko	935	256,615,000	102,646
		Barikiwa	633	183,589,700	73,436
		Naujombo	210	60,900,000	24,360
		Luwele	679	196,910,000	78,764
		Darajani	305	70,400,000	28,160
		Nahoro	721	197,490,000	78,996
		Mtungunyu	286	82,940,000	33,176
		Nangano	210	59,450,000	23,780
		Mtawatawa	983	265,144,000	106,058
		Kitogoro	260	56,775,000	22,710
		Mikuyu	525	86,905,000	34,762
		Chigugu	215	55,550,000	22,220
		Litou	140	31,900,000	12,760
		Ngongowele	314	85,460,000	34,184
		Kibutuka	190	45,000,000	18,000
		Mihumo	397	84,090,000	33,636
		Likombora	594	143,405,000	57,362
		Lilombe	245	71,050,000	28,420
		Ngunja	290	73,075,000	29,230
		Kiangara	137	39,730,000	15,892
		Turuki	367	100,630,000	40,252
	SUB TOTAL LIWALE		8,806	2,288,008,700	915,203
	Nachingwea	Mbondo	165	43,670,000	17,468
		Majonanga	224	75,220,000	30,088
		Kilimarondo	166	54,260,000	21,704
		Nanjihi	113	32,770,000	13,108
		Namatunu	10	2,900,000	1,160
		Kiegei 'B'	136	39,440,000	15,776
		Lipuyu	15	4,350,000	1,740
	SUB TOTAL NACHINGWEA		829	252,610,000	101,044
SUB TOTAL LINDI			10,335	2,689,707,800	1,075,883
TOTAL			10,618	2,775,438,300	1,110,175

Promotion of alternative / lesser-known timber species (LKTS)

FORVAC, together with Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative (MCDI), has promoted the lesser-known timber species (LKTS), and during the reporting period, 11 different LKTS, namely Msufipori (*Bombax rhodognaphalon*), Mtondoro/Myombochai (*Brachystegia glaberrima*), Njiligwi (*Maprounea africana*),

Mgongachuma/Mjembe (*Erythrophleum africanum*), Mgongachuma (*Amblygonocarpus andongensis*), Mpangapanga (*Millettia stuhlmannii*), Mtondo (*Jubernadia globiflora*), Mtondo / Mtondoro (*Jubernadia globiflora*), Mnepa (*Pteleopsis myrtifolia*), Mchenga (*Brachystegia spiciformis*), msekeseke (*Swartzia madagascariensis/Paurosa*) were sold with the following amount and value:

- Sold timber of lesser-known species: 1,659 m³
- Value: TZS 335,299,100 (EUR 134,120)



Figure 5. A brochure that FORVAC and its stakeholders used in marketing and advertising alternative timber species.

As FORVAC's final effort to promote alternative timber species, FORVAC supported the Government of Tanzania to change the public procurement guidelines that previously limited the Government requests for tenders only considering Mninga or Mkongo. The new national guidelines, published in July 2024, include 41 of the most suitable natural hardwood timber species, in addition to Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Mkongo (*Azizia quanzensis*), for the construction and furniture industries. To assist in marketing and promoting these alternative species, FORVAC compiled a catalog/database introducing the properties and other information of these species. The public procurement guidelines, as well as the database, are available on the MNRT's website (<https://maliasili.go.tz/>). Additionally, FORVAC produced an informational brochure that introduces the most prominent 15 species that are well available in Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) and are part of the new procurement guidelines. 1,000 copies of brochures were printed as well as 1,000 copies of the public procurement guidelines with the support of FORVAC in July 2024. This is expected to greatly benefit communities to sell a broader range of timber species to government and in doing so help inform the market about the suitability and availability of alternative timber species.

Notice that the line between lesser-known and well-known species is not straightforward. For example, Mpangapanga (*Millettia stuhlmannii*) was not well utilized earlier, but after successful promotion, the demand for the species increased, and in August 2020, the Government changed its price classification from TZS 260,000/standing tree m³ to the highest category (TZS 290,000). Though in this report, the Mpangapanga is considered as LKTS as its stock in the VLFRs is good, and the general public is not aware of the properties of the species yet.

Box 2 – Marketing alternative timber species

Through MCDI partnership, the wood samples of 13 lesser-known timber species (LKTS) (available in VLFR forests) were processed and delivered to three (3) potential buyers in Dar es Salaam.

The species were as following:

1. Mkarati, *Burkea africana*
2. Miombo, *Brachystegia boehmii*
3. Mgongachuma, Not yet established
4. Mchenga, *Isobertinia* spp
5. Mnangu, *Hymenia verrucose*
6. Mnepa, *Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia*
7. Mlondondo, *Xeroderris stuhlmannii*
8. Msenjele, *Acacia nigrescens*
9. Mnepa, *Brachystegia tamaridhoides*
10. Mparambulu, *Boscia salicifolia*
11. Mtondoro, *Julbernardia globiflora*
12. Mvule, *Milicia excelsa*
13. Mpangapanga, *Millettia stuhlmanii*

Below is the statement from the Elmarie, the CEO of The Green Room company upon receiving the samples:

“The sample wood arrived on Thursday. I'm so excited! We will make two stunning coffee tables, and I'll keep you updated. If I can work directly with these guys and we cross-promote each other, that would be amazing. We are happy to act as a showcase for them and use these beautiful woods.”

Companies like the Green Room, which is renowned for its innovative furniture designs in the market, can catalyse trends and styles and hereby influence the preferences of end customers. Getting companies to display quality end products on the shop floor is a great advertisement for LKTS.

Figure 6. The wood samples of 13 LKTS distributed to potential buyers in Dar es Salaam.



Establishment of community-owned mobile sawmills and solar timber drying kilns

FORVAC has been partnering with Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative (MCDI) in supporting Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) since 2019. FORVAC and MCDI have set targets to improve forest-based income, livelihoods, and environmental benefits deriving from CBFM. One strategy that the partners are pursuing to achieve this is to increase the income of the rural communities through value-added sawn timber production.

To improve the sawn timber production, FORVAC purchased the first two (2) community owned portable sawmills (Nordwood) in 2021 and two (2) more in 2022. Additionally in 2022, the Programme purchased two (2) units of solar timber drying kilns which are located in Liwale and Ruangwa District in Lindi Cluster. During the reporting period all three (3) sawmills located in Lindi Cluster were in use but the sawmill, owned by the CBFM communities from Nachingwea District, was temporarily transported to Chimbuko village in Liwale where the demand for sawn timber was high while there were no orders in Nachingwea (See Text Box 2). Additionally, the solar kiln located in Liwale District started operating. The solar kiln in Ruangwa District is still waiting for timber buyers who want quality timber processed by forest communities.

The sawmill located in Ruvuma Cluster was not used during this reporting period, partly due to the poor experience from last year, when the village natural resource committees (VNRCs) were told that they are not allowed to take the mobile sawmills in the village land forest reserves (VLFRs), instead, they had to transport logs outside the VLFRs to be processed by the mobile sawmill. This resulted in higher operational costs and

a lack of motivation to use the sawmill. Solving this policy barrier was part of the AWP 2023-2024 of FORVAC, but it remained unsolved.

The sawmills produced approximately 570 m³ of sawn timber worth TZS 369,974,400 (EUR 147,990) during July 2023 – June 2024, as presented in Table 8. The sawn timber produced in Mtawatawa and Chimbuko villages in Liwale District (529 m³), which required drying, was transported from the village to the District center to be seasoned in the solar kiln before transporting to the buyer.

Table 8. Sawn timber volume estimation, and value of sawn timber produced by FORVAC supported community-owned portable sawmills during July 2023 – June 2024.

Cluster	District	Village	Sawn timber sales		
			July 2023-June 2024		
			m3	TZS	EUR
Lindi	Ruangwa	Nahanga	41	10 800 000	4 320
	Liwale	Mtawatawa	276	183 112 400	73 245
		Chimbuko	253	176 062 000	70 425
Total			570	369 974 400	147 990

Box 3 – Sustainability of the sawmills and solar kilns

All four (4) mobile sawmills and two (2) solar timber drying kilns are owned by the newly established District level CBFM associations, and all the operations are overseen by the District Authorities in partnership with FORVAC/MCDI. After FORVAC ends, MCDI will continue supporting the communities in sustainable forest management and timber production as per signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all Districts it operates. Before the establishment of the CBFM associations, these assets were owned by one village on behalf of all the CBFM villages in each District.

FORVAC organized business planning training for all the all five (5) associations in Liwale, Ruangwa, Nachingwea, Tunduru, Namtumbo, and Songea Districts to ensure that the villages achieve financial autonomy and hence, reduce donor reliance.

Regarding the sawmills, in 2021, the FORVAC Programme commissioned Forest Industries Training Institute (FITI) to conduct a 12-day short course training on the operations and maintenance of the mobile sawmill for a total of 38 community members from Songea, Namtumbo, and Ruangwa Districts. In Nachingwea and Liwale Districts community representatives had received 'on the job training' from MCDI, but to ensure there are certified sawmill operators amongst community members and their district associations in all districts, FORVAC commissioned FITI to arrange the certification training in June 2024. In Tunduru District, community sawmill operators were supported by WWF to gain FITI certification.

Regarding the solar kilns, district staff representatives in Ruangwa and Liwale Districts have been trained on solar kiln operation and management. These are the key persons who will be responsible for ensuring the smooth run, management, and maintenance of the solar kilns during and after the Programme timeframe as the solar kilns are established at the district offices' yard. Additionally, MCDI trained the selected village members to operate the kilns.

The two villages (Mtawatawa and Chimbuko) that sold sawn timber in Liwale District during the reporting period were supported to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for the sawn timber trade. The activity involved analysis of operation costs in relation to the pre-determined costs as per village timber business plans. The analysis revealed that the expenditures exceeded the planned budget due to the impacts of extreme storms resulting in increment in fuel prices. Therefore, the profit was lower than expected, but still fair as Mtawatawa made a profit of 43% more compared to if they had sold round logs, and Chimbuko made 17%.

Box 4 – Progress of sawmilling and solar timber drying in Liwale District

Sawmilling and solar timber drying has progressed well in Liwale District, where the demand for quality sawn timber was so high that the respective communities and Districts agreed to transport the sawmill that FORVAC had purchased for CBFM communities in Nachingwea, where there were currently no orders, to Liwale District. In Liwale District, Mtawatawa and Chimbuko villages have received big orders for quality dried sawn timber as stated in the table below.

Village	No of planks ordered	Estimated m3	Value, TZS	Value, EUR
Mtawatawa	7,000	375	271,000,000	151,200
Chimbuko	5,654	253	176,062,000	70,425

Unfortunately, heavy rains stopped harvesting and processing in Mtawatawa village after they had processed 276 m3. Hereby, the sawmill that was used in Mtawatawa village was transported to Chimbuko village, where two portable sawmills were used to complete the order of 253 m3.



Figure 7. Transporting the mobile sawmill from Nachingwea to Liwale District, and solar kiln in use in Liwale.

The villages FORVAC has supported have started to realize the long-term benefits of sustainable forest management and forest-related value chain development. A good example is Mtawatawa village, where a portion of the revenue from timber sales was used to buy an own sawmill machine (Wood Mizer) to speed the processing of logs and not only to rely on the availability of the sawmill (Nordwood) purchased by FORVAC and owned by the CBFM association of Liwale District. Additionally, the community is planning to rent the machine to wood processors to receive an extra income while the machine is not in their own use. The community decided to by Wood Mizer instead of Nordwood due to the following reasons:

- 1) The price of Wood Mizer was more affordable compared to Nordwood;
- 2) Spare parts are easily available for the community to purchase from Dar es Salaam, unlike Nordwood, which spare parts are ordered through MCDI; and
- 3) Local private business entities had shared good experiences of using Wood Mizer.

The Mtawatawa village will use its own sawmill to produce the remaining quota (99 m3) of the contract during the next harvesting season starting in July 2024.



Figure 8. The sawmill purchased by Mtawatawa village in Liwale District to enhance value addition in timber sales.

Timber harvest and sawmilling – employment opportunities and community benefits

The timber value chain offers employment and livelihoods at a community level. VNRCs are responsible for organizing and monitoring forest harvesting operations. During the reporting period, harvesting was conducted in tree (3) villages in Ruvuma Cluster and 35 villages in Lindi Cluster. Harvesting, processing, and skidding logs to a landing site offered temporary employment for 407 (372M/35F) people, monitoring of harvesting was conducted by 624 (418M/206F) VNRC members, transportation employed 311 (309M/2F) and sawmilling 332 (317M/15F) people. The number of people employed in forest harvesting-related activities in FORVAC-supported villages is presented per District in Table 9.

From July 2023 to April 2024, the timber harvesting and processing provided the following total number of temporary employment for the community members:

<i>Total number of villagers employed</i>	<i>Male, total</i>	<i>Female, total</i>
1,674	1,416	258

Table 9. Number of persons employed in forest harvesting- and sawmilling-related activities in the villages within July 2023 – June 2024.

Cluster	District	Harvesting, processing and skidding logs to landing site			Monitoring of harvesting (done by VNRC)			Transportation			Sawmilling		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Ruvuma	Tunduru (2 villages)	21	0	21	19	14	33	13	0	13	12	0	12
	Namtumbo (1 village)	0	0	0	6	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lindi	Ruangwa (5 villages)	48	6	54	52	28	80	34	0	34	41	0	41
	Liwale (23 villages)	246	23	269	271	121	392	221	2	223	213	11	224
	Nachingwea (7 villages)	57	6	63	70	42	112	41	0	41	51	4	55
TOTAL		372	35	407	418	206	624	309	2	311	317	15	332

VLFRs are often located far from the villages. Therefore, engaging people living with disabilities (PLWD) is difficult. Through VNRCs, women participate in monitoring activities, but work tasks requesting more muscular strength are still mainly done by men, as shown in Figure 4, where men load the trailer in the forest and unload it manually on the roadside/sawmill site. On the other hand, forest workers need additional commodities and services, such as catering, which has offered business opportunities for several women in the villages.



Figure 9. Villagers transporting timber from the forest to the roadside.

During July 2023 – June 2024, 38 villages under FORVAC support sold sustainably harvested timber (standing and sawn timber) and earned approximately TZS 1,655,982,105 / EUR 662,393 for community development

purposes that benefit all community members. The approximation is based on Forest Management Plans that include also the decision on how the income of timber sales will be used. The division of the income varies between villages but on average the income is divided as follows:

- 1) 35% is for VNRC for forest management purposes, including forest patrolling, renewal of FMP and supervision of timber harvesting;
- 2) 55% is for Village Council for village development projects (e.g. health care and education) and other social services such as medical health insurance. The decision making process on the use of the revenue is transparent with the Village Assembly having the final say.; and
- 3) 10% is reserved for the District Council to cover extension services and technical support expenses.

Establishment of CBFM village associations

As discussed above, FORVAC, in partnership with MCDI, has supported and offered capacity for villages to trade timber and make contracts with buyers and been already able to launch the timber trade on a relatively large scale, though the supply of timber from the community forests is higher than the demand. Additionally, FORVAC has contributed to the value addition of wood production within VLFRs by supporting the establishment of four (4) community-owned portable sawmills and two (2) solar timber drying kilns, but these machines' production capacities have not been fully utilized yet.

The VLFR communities operate individually and because of this, there are many bottlenecks to sustainability both in terms of organizational skills and economies of scale for value addition. Therefore, FORVAC supported the establishment of six (6) CBFM/VLFR market-driven bottom-up associations that are expected to enable communities to 'climb up the value chain' and significantly increase forest-based income generation through CBFM wood value chain development as well as offer a stronger voice to lobby. These six associations, which were registered at the District level as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), involve 70 villages in 6 districts (Songea, Namtumbo, Tunduru, Nachingwea, Ruangwa, and Liwale), one in each District as below:

- I. Songea District: 4 villages (UVIHIMISO)
- II. Namtumbo District: 7 villages (UVIHIMINA)
- III. Tunduru District: 13 village (UVIHIMITU)
- IV. Nachingwea District: 13 villages (UVIHIMINACHI)
- V. Ruangwa District: 7 villages (UVIHIMIRU)
- VI. Liwale District: 26 villages (UVIHIMILI)



Figure 10. The logos of four (4) newly established CBFM village associations.

All the associations have obtained TIN certificates from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and opened bank accounts. The TIN certificate will support communities to sell sustainably harvested timber more widely in Tanzania and abroad. Additionally, all the associations agreed and stipulated on the associations' constitutions that the mobile sawmills and solar kilns purchased by FORVAC are owned by the CBFM associations. Before the establishment of the CBFM associations, these assets were owned by one village on behalf of all the CBFM villages in each District.

The sustainability and self-sustaining of these associations were enhanced by taking lessons learnt from the Kilwa CBFM association established in 2022 and training association representatives on the association's role

and responsibilities for VLFR management and administration, harvesting, monitoring, processing, marketing, and stewardship of the mobile sawmills and other assets secured through forest-based revenues. Additionally, the associations were supported to develop annual workplans and association business plans to guide the associations as community forest enterprises. However, as the associations are newly established, it is very likely that they will need more external support after FORVAC to become self-sustaining bodies that can, for example, actively find timber buyers for their members.

Development of CBFM market information system

FORVAC has collaborated with MCDI also to develop a CBFM market information system. The market information system will help to connect rural communities with timber buyers/customers. The system is web-based, but only timber buyers need to have access to the online marketplace, as the villages receive orders through text messages with full information about customers' requirements. The system has been designed in a way that an average literate villager will be able to use it.

The villages can market both the standing timber and sawn timber stocks through the marketplace. In addition to the community that receives the timber order, the relevant District Forest Officer (DFO) and MCDI will receive the email of the order to assist the community in doing the business if required.

The marketplace is now fully functioning on the website address www.trcm.or.tz, and it can also be found on the Google Search Engine by using keywords for searching the marketplace.

Improved honey value chain

During its implementation period, FORVAC has supported the development of honey value chain from the policy level to the grassroot level. It has, for example, supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania developing the National Beekeeping Policy Implementation Strategy (2021- 2031) and provided 2,867 modern beehives (1,863 beehives in Ruvuma cluster, 364 beehives in Lindi cluster and 727 beehives in Tanga cluster) for 135 beekeeping businesses, which received micro-business support in phases I or II.

Despite the wide range of different support methods for the beekeeping value chain, during the reporting period, FORVAC identified several challenges that were hindering the expansion of beekeeping in its operational area. These challenges include:

- Honey production is not popular or fully practices in all the areas supported by the programme and reasons for this not fully understood.
- Production volumes have been low and variable with unsatisfactory coordination and links between producers and buyers, meaning the full potential for sales has not been reached. Although attempts to link producers to buyers have been tried, they have sometimes failed, partly because of the lack of sufficient economies of scale, low organization between producers and prices sometimes not being attractive.
- Although FORVAC is designed to increase value of products from the VLFRs, the VLFRs are often quite far away from the village and community members prefer to place modern hives closer to their homes for ease of management. This has weakened the link between honey production and the VLFRs.
- Colonization rates of modern beehives has sometimes been low, and the reasons behind this and practical solutions have not been fully identified.
- It is planned that beekeeping associations might help increase economies of scale and create better links to buyers, an association has been set up in Ruvuma, however a challenge is to ensure the association is driven by the producers themselves, add value for community members and are fit for purpose and self-sustaining.

To overcome these challenges, FORVAC contracted two (2) consultants to support building a successful and sustainable honey value chain, especially in Ruvuma Cluster. The consultants conducted an investigation in all five districts (Songea, Namtumbo, Tunduru, Mbinga, and Nyasa) in Ruvuma Cluster in February 2024. The

conclusion of their investigation and analysis was that the Ruvuma region has the resources and climate to support a successful beekeeping economy but currently, this positive development has been obstructed by challenges driven by multiple intersecting factors including; inexperienced beekeepers, lack of application of local ecological knowledge, lack of motivation for adequate follow-up, lack of large bulk honey buyers, and beekeeping being carried out on too small a scale. Positive findings of their investigations were that the colonization rate had continued improving and was about 67% which is fair and comparable with other locations in Tanzania and beekeepers have managed to sell all their honey.

The consultants identified practical recommendations on how to enhance the beekeeping value chain, especially in Ruvuma Cluster. The actions that can be implemented in a short time frame are the following:

- Lobby District Councils to allocate budget for District Beekeeping Officers to do fieldwork, to support inexperienced beekeepers.
- Promote individual ownership of beehives.
- Ensure every beekeeper has access to good information about their beekeeping calendar
- Convene establishment meetings for each district beekeeping association (when certifications are ready) and support them to create mechanisms for information and expertise sharing – for their own beekeeping community.
- Invite a bulk honey buyer to speak to beekeeping associations and tell them their business model – for information and looking forward, not necessarily to forge immediate market link.

The above mentioned as well as ten (10) other medium- and long-term recommendations with clarifications on how to achieve the recommendations are presented in Annex 3, and the whole consultancy report is available on the FORVAC website <https://forvac.or.tz/publications/technical-reports/>

To tackle some of the challenges identified by the consultants, FORVAC hired one consultant from the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) Southern Zone and another from Beekeeping Training Institute Tabora in June 2024. The consultant supported the associations in developing action plans on how to, for example, improve support to honey producers in the region and how to improve the viability of the associations, better links to buyers, and how to climb up the value chain. The 4-days class session included also an introduction to the national beekeeping monitoring system (Honey Traceability System), where the participants were guided to register their apiaries and hives and insist other beekeepers do the registration to the respective District Beekeeping Officer as well.

Additionally, the consultants offered a practical hands-on training focusing on training trainers ‘para-professionals’ in a whole range of best practice techniques for improving production volumes and quantities of honey.

As FORVAC is ending in July 2024, it won’t have time to tackle all the challenges identified by the consultants, but local government officials and other relevant stakeholders, as well as future projects, can use these recommendations to support the growth of the honey industry in Ruvuma Cluster. In fact, FORVAC was informed that the Ruvuma Regional Office will conduct a Regional Stakeholders Beekeeping workshop where the beekeeping association leaders and some members, District Beekeeping Officers, TFS, NGOs, and major bee products dealers from within and outside the region will be invited in August 2024. The reports prepared by the honey consultants contracted by FORVAC will be the key documents used in the workshop to prepare a Regional Beekeeping Action Plan (2025-2035).



Figure 11. The beekeepers learnt on how to control pests and predator, e.g., water boundary approach prevents ants' and termites' invasions.

Box 5 – Beekeepers – the guardians of forests

Currently, beekeeping in FORVAC-supported communities is mostly done in patches of forests close to homesteads. The beekeepers are not using VLFRs because they are too far away, but scale is a factor here. If a beekeeper has hundreds of hives, he/she will need to look for places further away from the village to place them, such as the VLFR, but with less than 50 hives – that is not necessary. Walking a long distance to tend to hundreds of hives makes more economic sense also.

Getting beekeepers to place their beehives in VLFRs would support protecting forests due to a number of mechanisms (1) the beekeepers have a vested interest to maintain the forest, instead of using the land for farming, (2) the beekeepers have a vested interest to stop other people from damaging the forest, (3) other people are more likely to respect an area of forest that is apparently being used by someone for their livelihood, compared to 'the bush', and (4) some people fear bees and just stay away.

At Chengena village in Namtumbo District, beekeepers were asked, if beekeeping fails what will happen to that forest where they are keeping bees. They simply answered; "it will be turned to farmland". The beekeeping consultants offered a solution to support scaling beekeeping activity in VLFRs by allowing beekeepers to use one tree per hectare to make a hive. This 'use trees and save forests' -approach would fall within the Annual Allowable Cut and the low-cost of hives would allow beekeepers to scale up the beekeeping activity rapidly.



Figure 12. This forest patch is regenerating after being previously used for farming; now used for beekeeping in Chengena village in Namtumbo District.

2.3.2 Output 2. Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced

In this Section, we present FORVAC's achievements in relation to the indicators of Output 2 "stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced". The presentation covers the following Output areas (Interventions):

- 2.1 Improved institutional and management capacities of Village Councils and VNRC to implement CBFM and develop forest value chains;
- 2.2 Improved capacities to support and monitor CBFM/forest and related value chains and incorporating HRBA aspects; and
- 2.3 Forest products value chain/market systems and business development skills incorporated in relevant training institutes.

Indicators and achievements of Output 2 are set out in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Indicators and achievements under Output 2. Traffic light indicators: green=accomplished, yellow=progressed, red=no progress, white=not measured.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Benefit sharing guideline for VLFRs, addressing the issues of HRBA (e.g. vulnerable groups, people living with disabilities, gender equality, elder people and youth)	Study on benefit sharing conducted with recommendations for future guidelines.	Benefit sharing guideline for VLFRs established, disseminated and in use.	Study conducted.	-	Consultants analyzed the current benefit sharing mechanism and offered recommendation and guidance for the future.
Number of CBFM/VLFR community members trained in forest management and value addition techniques, disaggregated by sex	VC, VNRC: 2,000 (35% women) Community members / Individuals: 600, >40% women	VCs, VNRCs: 15,000 (35% women) Individuals / community members: 2,000 (40% women)	VCs & VNRCs: 1,596 (1,089M/507F), 32% women Individuals / community members: 163 (129M/34F), 21% women	VC, VNRC: 15,737 (10,508M/5,229F), 33% women Individuals / community members: 2,437 (1,581M/856F), 35% women *Cumulative total participation in different training events: - Business planning - Forest value chains - CBFM techniques - Plantation forestry - Tree nursery	80% of the annual target set for the VCs/VNRCs achieved. 27% of the annual target set for the individuals/community members achieved. However, backstopping support was offered to the entrepreneurs who received micro-business support in the previous years.
Number of VSLAs/ VICOBA's established and operational, amount of savings (membership, disaggregated by gender and PLWD)	Target: All No new groups to be established, the information will be collected through CDOs and TOTs.	80 micro-saving groups (VSLAs, VICOBA's) formed and operational Women >50% PLWDs 2%	Based on the sample of 58 VICOBA/VSLA groups, the average amount of savings was TZS 3,300,000 / group.	79 micro-saving groups (VICOBA's & VSLAs) formed and operational, 1,717 members (614M/1,103F, 33 PLWDs) Women 64%, PLWD 2%	During the reporting period, FORVAC has implemented monitoring and backstopping visits to some of the established groups, and those groups have been performing well.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Number of government staff trained in forest management and value addition techniques, disaggregated by sex and main subject/field	300 (22% women)	1,300 (22% women)	159 (125M/36F) (23% women)	1,219 (935M/284F), 23% women Training and events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBFM Annual Stakeholder Forum - International Scientific Conference - Forest inventory planning, implementations and inventory data analysis - Forest value chains - CBFM techniques 	53% of the annual target achieved.
MSc Curricula for Forest Value Chain and Business Development formulated in SUA	MSc: The developed (2019-2022) Forest Value Chain and Business Development related curricula to be endorsed by the Senate of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)	i) MSc Forest Value Chain and Business Development related curriculum and ii) BSc Forest Value Chain and Business Development related curriculum established for SUA and under implementation	MSc curriculum is awaiting the approval decision of the University Senate of SUA	BSc and MSc Curricula for Forest Value Chain and Business Development formulated in SUA under FORVAC support during the AWP 2019-2020 i) MSc curricula approved by the Post-Graduate Committee in August 2020. In Nov 2022 the curriculum was submitted to the University Higher Authority ii) BSc curricula was approved by the Collage of Forestry and Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT) board, but hereafter, a stakeholder meeting refused it	With close follow up, the process has progressed but the bureaucracy at SUA to approve Masters Curriculum is slow. SUA has taken some experience from the FORVAC supported curriculum and incorporated the value chain aspect in other curricula, e.g., Bachelor of Science in Wood Technologies and Value Addition that is still in the approval process.
Number of forest training institutes that have integrated VC aspects in their training contents		2 institutes: SUA and FTI	SUA: MSc curriculum is awaiting the approval decision of the University Senate of SUA	SUA: i) MSc curriculum approved by the Post-Graduate Committee in August 2020. In Nov 2022 the curriculum was submitted to the University Higher Authority ii) BSc curriculum was approved by the Collage of Forestry and Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT) board, but hereafter, a stakeholder meeting refused it	

2.3.2.1 Improved institutional and management capacities of Village Councils and VNRC to implement CBFM and develop forest value chains, Output area 2.1

Community level training under MCDI partnership

The key task of Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) is to improve the capacity and competence of VCs and VNRCs to sustainably manage their VLFRs and become independent over time. The involvement of MCDI in providing support between buyers (communities) and sellers has been crucial as MCDI has supported the communities and timber buyers to organize and navigate various administrative hurdles, including:

- a. Ensuring legal compliance;
- b. Drafting contracts and agreements;
- c. Developing harvest plans based on resource distribution; and
- d. Assisting in cost recovery if communities fail to deliver as per agreement.

For example, during the reporting period, MCDI supported and capacitated Mtawatawa and Chimbuko villages to negotiate timber sales contracts with a buyer. As a result, the communities managed to sign contracts for sawn and kiln-dried timber worth TZS 430,000,000 in total. For those communities who have been involved in timber processing, MCDI has trained the communities to make a cost-benefit analysis for sawn timber production.

As the FORVAC-supported communities do not have a long history in the timber trade, backstopping support from MCDI and District officials during the whole process from contracting, harvesting, and processing has been needed to ensure good and quality customer service. The community level capacity building has always been implemented in close collaboration with District Officers and TFS.

The main trainings implemented under the MCDI partnership during the reporting period were the following:

- In August-September 2023, MCDI capacitated members of Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRCs) and Village Councils (VCs) from four (4) villages (Mtawatawa, of Likombora, Luwele, and Chimbuko) on timber business planning. During the training, all the villages managed to prepare timber business plans. The business plans will guide timber sales from the respective VLFRs. The training involved a total of 130 (80M/50F) VNRCs' and VCs' members.
- Refresh training to a total of 148 (92M/56F) VNRCs' and VCs' members on harvesting operations, logging supervision, safe and efficient harvesting practices from Barikiwa, Mtawatawa, Kitogoro, Nangano, Nahoro, and Chimbuko villages in Liwale District and Kajima and Mkowela villages in Tunduru District was arranged. The repeat training was important as it was observed that villages were failing to measure and record timber records properly. Wrongly harvested timber volumes had led some villages into problems with buyers, such as what happened for Kajima village which received a timber order of 20 m³, but the village accidentally harvested 62 m³, as discussed in the chapter 2.3.1.2 (Support to value chain development) above.
- 239 (207M/32F)M/32F) community representatives from Liwale, Nachingwea, Ruangwa, Tunduru, Namtumbo, and Songea Districts were supported and capacitated to establish CBFM village associations. Additionally they were trained on policies and regulations relevant to forest management (1998 Forest policy, Forest Act 2002, and Village Land Act) as well as value addition, good governance, branding, and marketing strategies.



Figure 13. Training of VNRC and VC members on timber measurements and volume calculation.

Business planning training for CBFM associations

FORVAC contracted a consultant to support the six (6) newly formed CBFM associations to prepare business plans in Liwale, Ruangwa, Nachinwea, Tunduru, Namtumbo, and Songea Districts. The training involved a total of 35 (22M/13F) CBFM associations' leaders. The business planning exercise was important not only in terms of producing business plans as outputs, but also in terms of imparting business thinking among the district associations' leaders as the training also included the identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) in the timber and other forest-product value chains.



Figure 14. CBFM association leaders involved in analysing timber value chain in Liwale District.

Financial management and record keeping training

After the approval of 2023-2024 harvesting quotas of over 13,000 m³ from VLFRs in Songea, Namtumbo, and Tunduru Districts, FORVAC supported District Forest Officers and District Council Finance Department to conduct training for VNRC members and representatives of Village Councils on financial management and record keeping. The training was urgent as the trained six (6) villages (Kilangalanga, Chengena, and Masuguru villages from Namtumbo District; and Kajima, Mkowela, and Liwangula villages from Tunduru District) hadn't done timber sales earlier. After the training, two (2) of the villages conducted timber sales successfully. The villages have been reminded to allocate sufficient funds for the renewal of the Forest Management Plans (FMP) after five (5) years.

The same financial training was organized also in Liwale District, where seven (7) villages (Kiangara, Litou, Kibutuka, Kitogoro, Lilombe, Chigugu, and Nanjegeja), and Nachingwea District, where six (6) villages (Ngunichile, Lipuyu, Kiege 'B', Nanjihi, Namatunu, Kilimarondo, Majonanga & Mbondo) were capacitated to keep proper timber sales records.

Fire management training

In Liuli, Mkali A, Mkali B, Lipingo, and Nkalachi villages in Nyasa District, where FORVAC has supported the establishment and management of teak plantations, the programme collaborated with TFS in the formation and training of a fire crew for each village in August 2023. 75 (63M/12F) fire crew members were recruited and trained in their roles and responsibilities of controlling indiscriminate dry season fires, which are one of the main threats to teak plantations, especially in the dry season. The training also facilitated the fire crews to prepare bylaws to control fire incidences in the villages.

The training was based on the training manual "Integrated Fire Management for Commercial Forestry in Tanzania" developed by the Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme (PFP2), and the lead facilitator was the PFP2's Project Manager of Njombe region. At the end of each training, TFS donated ten (10) fire beaters to help newly formed fire crews in controlling fires. TFS will also support the preparation of an integrated Fire Management Plan for the five (5) villages in the near future.



Figure 15. Trained fire crew members with new fire beaters from Lipingo village.

Training certified sawmill operators

In June 2024, Forest Industries Training Institute (FITI) conducted sawmill operator training for 17 community representatives (all men) from Liwale and Nachingwea Districts, in Lindi Cluster. Training concentrated on improving skills in the safe operation of sawmill and saw maintenance. FITI worked with and capacitated both District Forest Officers from the respective Districts and community representatives (i.e., sawmill operators and saw doctors) in adopting best practices to operate and maintain narrow band sawmills (Norwood LumberPro HD36). After the training, the participants received certifications that allow them to operate the sawmills.

Training of beekeepers

During AWP 2022-2023 FORVAC supported the establishment of five (5) District-level beekeeping associations in Songea, Namtumbo, Tunduru, Mbinga and Nyasa Districts. Capacitating these associations to

better understand their roles and responsibilities on how to support local beekeepers and the development of beekeeping value chain continued during this annual workplan year 2023-2024.

In January 2024, two experienced honey value chain consultants worked with all the associations and other key stakeholders in the beekeeping sector to strengthen and increase the viability and economy of scale of the associations as discussed above in the chapter “Improved honey value chain”. In June 2024, a practical hands-on training focusing on training trainers ‘para-professionals’ in a whole range of best practice techniques for improving production volumes and quantities of honey was held by two consultants, one from TFS Southern Zone and another from Tabora Beekeeping Training Institute. During this training, the associations were supported to develop action plans on how to, for example, improve support to honey producers in the region and how to improve the viability of the associations, better links to buyers, and how to climb up the value chain. These training sessions involved 146 (95M/51F) beekeepers.



Figure 16. Beekeeping para-professionals trained in best practices for improving production volumes and quantities of honey.

Gender Action Learning System (GALS) handbook

FORVAC activities are mainly conducted at group or community level, including communication and decision-making processes. However, not all community members are active and assertive. In particular, women and people living with disabilities (PLWD), widows, elderly, persons affected by illness and other groups, face socio-cultural norms that tend to exclude them from community processes, especially in village meetings and forest management activities. In November 2022, FORVAC planned a consultancy to pilot GALS as a tool to

address this. The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) was developed in Uganda and replicated in many countries. There has been only limited use in Tanzania until now.

During 2023, FORVAC implemented a consultancy piloting the GALS approach in three communities, aiming for empowerment of women and persons in vulnerable positions (PiVPs) and strengthened integration in FORVAC activities in selected communities. It was led by Ms Grace Murungi, who is one of the early developers of GALS. The manual was produced from that experience (adapting the earlier manuals of GALS), and the tools are explained and made available for further development and replication. The manual is available on the FORVAC's website <https://forvac.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/GALS-Manual.pdf>.

In 2024, after one year of the implementation of the GALS training, FORVAC monitored its influence at the field level. As the feedback from the participants after the training indicated, the training was valuable for the participants and even for the entire communities. The participants reported that they have started sharing household work more equally, and communication has improved within the family. For example, in the past, the husbands were responsible for financial issues, but after the training, the husbands and wives started sharing income information and planning investment purposes together. This has reduced conflicts in families and helped the families to achieve investment goals such as building a home or expanding farming areas. Some community leaders had taken the lessons of GALS training into active use at their work when advising families to improve communication to achieve peace in the family. Additionally, some participants have shared the GALS lessons with other community members as the pilot aimed. Based on the good results of the pilot, it is hoped that the process can be replicated in the future in other communities.

2.3.2.2 Improved capacities to support and monitor CBFM/forest and related value chains incorporating HRBA aspect, Output area 2.2

As FORVAC is implemented in very close collaboration with the local government, government officials always participate in all trainings and capacity-building sessions targeted to the community members. This ensures that the officials have up-to-date information and knowledge that will help them to continue supporting forest communities post-FORVAC. During this reporting period, relevant district officials had an important role in guiding the consultants FORVAC had hired and simultaneously gaining good practices regarding the topics the following consultancies covered:

- Establishment of CBFM associations;
- Development of the CBFM associations' business plans;
- Improving honey value chain in Ruvuma Cluster; and
- Strengthening the beekeeping associations and training beekeeping paraprofessionals.

Additionally, the relevant District officials were always involved in trainings arranged by MCDI. In total, 132 (101M/31F) government officials were involved in trainings.

Timber business planning

In September 2023, FORVAC, in collaboration with MCDI, conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) to Liwale District Facilitating Team on timber business plan development. A total of eight (4M/4F) Facilitating Team members were trained on how to use the latest village timber business planning template, which includes the calculations of revenues, variable costs, and fixed costs. The training was guided by lessons and experience in implementing village timber business plans in Ruangwa and Kilwa Districts.

Timber grading

Through MCDI-partnership, 11 (10M/1F) Local Government Authorities (LGA) attended a one-week short course on timber grading in November 2023. The training was organized in Mtawatawa village in Liwale District, where timber processing was ongoing. The trained officers have now the capacity to support CBFM communities in timber grading to ensure the quality of timber delivered to buyers.

Solar kiln business planning

In November 2023, FORVAC in collaboration with MCDI, supported eight (8M) Local Government Authorities (LGA) to draft a business plan for the timber drying solar kilns purchased by the Programme in 2022. Additionally, the participants were trained in timber harvesting, processing, and marketing.

2.3.2.3 Forest products value chain/market systems and business development skills incorporated in relevant training institutes

MSc and BSc curriculums for forest value chain and business development and support to MSc dissertations

Starting from the beginning of the Programme, FORVAC has cooperated with the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT) of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) from Morogoro. MSc curriculum for Forest Value Chain and Business Development were formulated in SUA under FORVAC support during the AWP 2019-2020. The MSc curriculum was submitted to the University Higher Authority in November 2022, and it is waiting to be presented to the University Senate of SUA. If the Senate approves the curriculum, it will be submitted to the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) for review and final approval. The slow bureaucracy at SUA to approve new curricula has delayed the approval process.

During the AWP 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, FORVAC collaborated with SUA and supported in total four (4) dissertations related to forest products value chains/market systems and business development relevant to CBFM. These studies and relevant graduates/postgraduates are as follows:

- Analysis of formal institutions and power relations along timber value chain in Liwale and Nachingwea Districts, Tanzania, by Mary Magiri, who graduated on 23rd May 2024. Her dissertation-based article was published in the International Journal of Natural Resource Ecology and Management 8(3), August 2023: 118-124, the article is available online <https://sciencepublishinggroup.com/article/10.11648/j.ijnrem.20230803.13>
- Impact of community forest-based projects on livelihoods and conservation of village land forest reserves: A case of honey and timber production in Liwale and Songea districts, by Angela A. Mlawa, who graduated on 23rd May 2024. Her dissertation-based article was published in the International Journal of Natural Resource Ecology and Management 8 (2), June 2023: 70-77, the article is available online www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/journal/paperinfo?journalid=207&doi=10.11648/j.ijnrem.20230802.15
- The role of small and medium enterprises for forest based value chain development in Ruvuma Region, by Doreen K. Rubaratuka. She has submitted her dissertation for external examination.
- Value chain analysis of spices, fruits, and nuts from miombo woodlands and their impact on communities' livelihoods in Lindi, by Fatma Abdulla Al-Harthy. She has submitted her dissertation for external examination.

Additionally, William Marandu, who received support from FORVAC within the AWP 2020-2021 to conduct a study called 'Analysis of Charcoal Market System in Handeni, Kinondoni and Magharibi A Districts', has published a dissertation-based article in a very reputable science journal called Trees, Forests and People 16 (2024), and it is available online <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666719324000499>

All the approved dissertations FORVAC has supported since 2019 are available on the FORVAC website <https://forvac.or.tz/publications/technical-reports/>



Figure 17. Angela Mlawa (on the left) and Mary Magiri (on the right) in the graduation conferred on 23.5.2024 at Edward Moringe Campus, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro.

2.3.3 Output 3. Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed

This Section described FORVAC's achievements in relation to the indicators of Output 3 "extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed". The presentation covers the following Output areas (Interventions):

3.1 Enhanced extension and communication services; and

3.2 Monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) established.

Indicators and achievements of Output 3 are set out in Table 11 below.

Table 11. Indicators and achievements under Output 3. Traffic light indicators: green=accomplished, yellow=progressed, red=no progress, white=not measured.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-7/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Number of implementation Strategies and Extension Manuals of Forestry and Beekeeping Policies developed through FORVAC support and in use		Beekeeping Policy Implementation Strategy and Forest Policy Implementation Strategy developed and disseminated 4 extension manuals		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FBD/MNRT upgraded the English and Swahili versions of the Grassroots Level Manual for Forest Based Value Chains (developed under FORVAC support in 2020) to be government manuals, 100 pcs of the English and 1,000 pcs of the Swahili versions printed and disseminated in Nov-Dec 2022 - National Forest Policy Implementation Strategy (2021-2031) produced in 2020-2021, and printed and distributed in July 2021 - National Beekeeping Policy Implementation Strategy (2021-2031) produced in 2020-2021, and printed and distributed in July 2021 - CBFM Apex Body approach defined during AWP 2020-2021 	
PFM Facts and Figures 2020 developed and the VLFR database established	The VLFR database taken into use	PFM Facts and Figures published and disseminated The VLFR database updated and taken into use	The VLFR/PFM database, as well the soft copy of facts and figures 2022 document, published under the MNRT's website.	- PFM Facts and Figures formulated and the VLFR database established 2020, during AWP 2021-2022, updated to be "PFM Facts and Figures 2022" and published by MNRT/FBD, 1,000 pcs printed and disseminated in September 2022	The existence of the massive data after FORVAC ends is secured.

2.3.3.1 Enhanced extension and communication services, Output area 3.1

Lindi Investment Forum

FORVAC supported five (5) villages from Ruangwa District to participate in the Lindi Investment Forum. The event was used as a platform for marketing and showcasing available timber from the Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs). The event was also an opportunity for VLFR villages to demonstrate their capacity to produce high-quality sawn timber by using the mobile sawmills FORVAC has purchased. As a result of the event, ten (10) timber buyers indicated interest in sourcing timber from VLFRs in the future.



Figure 18. Communities showcasing timber value addition and quality of products in an exhibition forum in Ruangwa District.

FORVAC in media

The main events that got wide range of media visibility for FORVAC and CBFM in Tanzania in traditional and social media during the reporting period were

- The multistakeholder meeting organized in Dar es Salaam in October 2023 (see the chapter 2.3.4.1 Improved policy and regulatory framework for forest value chain development, Output area 4.1); and
- The FORVAC results sharing workshop organized in Dar es Salaam in June 2024 (see the chapter 2.3.3.2 Monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) established, Output area 3.2).

Online publications (YouTube videos and Blog texts) related to these events in addition to other news can be found from the Programme's website (<https://forvac.or.tz/forvac-in-media/>). Some of the broadcasted TV news are also available at the same address.

Additionally, on the International Day of Forests (21st March 2024), the East African newspaper published an article about FORVAC and its 'use it or lose it' approach in Tanzanian community-based forest management. The East-African newspaper is read in addition to Tanzania in Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. Over 100,000 copies of the newspaper were printed and the article is also available on the newspaper's website <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/sponsored/tanzanian-finnish-collaboration-supporting-a-use-it-or-lose-it-approach-in-tanzanian-community-based-forest-management-4563846>

FORVAC continued raising awareness about the Programme and its interventions as well as development cooperation and its importance on its Facebook page. The activity on Facebook and publicity of FORVAC also in other media have increased the number of Facebook page followers from 1,502 to 1,650. Additionally, in February 2024, FORVAC created an Instagram account with the profile name forvac_tz.

In March 2024, a video making consultant started documenting a series of five (5) films with the themes being the following:

1. The rationale for the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and FORVAC Programme;
2. The objectives of FORVAC and the establishment process of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs)/CBFM;
3. Timber value chains;
4. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs), gender and vulnerable people; and
5. Results, outcomes/impacts, lessons and recommendations of FORVAC for the future.

The videos were used to raise awareness about the CBFM, its strengths, benefits, and challenges based on the achievements, lessons, and recommendations of FORVAC.

The MNRT has published the key information, documents and films produced by FORVAC on its own website (<https://maliasili.go.tz/resources/projectsandprograms/summary/view/3>), where it will be stored and available after the Programme ends.

2.3.3.2 Monitoring and Management Information System (MIS) established, Output area 3.2

Joint monitoring mechanism

The FORVAC PMT monitors implementation of service contracts and consultancies, and specifically Cluster Coordinators monitor implementation of the field activities. The Programme also applies a joint monitoring mechanism to monitoring and evaluation (M&E). During the reporting period, the relevant District officers, also involving representatives of PO-RALG and TFS, conducted monitoring visits to the target Districts to assess Programme-supported activities and report findings. Periodically also representatives of central level authorities and the Embassy of Finland (EoF) participate in the M&E and workplanning missions.

The main joint monitoring missions during the reporting period were the following:

- In August 2023, the Programme supported District authorities to conduct monitoring and technical backstopping visit to FORVAC interventions in a total of 25 villages in Liwale, Nachingwea and Ruangwa Districts.
- In September 2023, the counselor for forestry and innovation cooperation accompanied by the coordinator of development cooperation from EoF conducted a field visit to FORVAC Lindi Cluster. The EoF team had meetings with the Regional and District authorities and programme beneficiaries from Nandenje village in Ruangwa, Mtawatawa village in Liwale and Mbondo village in Nachingwea.
- In October 2023, The MNRT conducted a monitoring trip to Liwale and Nachingwea Districts in Lindi Cluster and Songea and Nyasa Districts in Ruvuma Cluster.
- In November 2023, the Programme has supported District authorities to conduct monitoring and technical backstopping visit to FORVAC interventions in a total of 15 villages in Nachingwea and Ruangwa Districts.
- In January 2024, the Programme has supported District authorities to conduct monitoring and technical backstopping visit to FORVAC interventions in two (2) villages in Nachingwea District.
- In March 2024, the National Programme Coordinator conducted a comprehensive monitoring visit to all programme districts. Challenges were fed back to the PMT and addressed.

Miombo timber species and Participatory Forest Management databases

FORVAC supported the Department of Forest Engineering and Wood Sciences of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to create miombo timber species and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) databases. The former database introduces the technical properties, characteristics, and recommended uses of the species, and the latter database offers precise information on all PFM forests in mainland Tanzania as of the year 2020.

FORVAC, together with the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) and other key stakeholders, concluded that the MNRT's website is the most relevant and

reliable place to establish these databases to secure the existence of the data after FORVAC ends and reach a wide audience. These databases were published on the MNRT's website in July 2024.

FORVAC results sharing workshop

On 24th June, FORVAC arranged a results sharing workshop in Dar es Salaam. In the workshop, the results and impact of the project were shared with a wide stakeholder group. There was a deliberate focus on engaging district officials and representatives of the new district level CBFM associations to discuss remaining challenges and priority actions for sustainability, as part of the FORVAC exit strategy.



Figure 19. A wide stakeholder group attended in the FORVAC results sharing workshop.

2.3.4 Output 4. Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened

This Section describes FORVAC's achievements in relation to the indicators of Output 4 "legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened". The presentation covers the following Output areas (Interventions):

4.1 Improved policy and regulatory framework for forest value chain development; and

4.2 Forest law enforcement, forest governance and trade of legally sourced timber.

Indicators and achievements of Output 4 are presented in Table 12 below.

Table 12. Indicators and achievements under Output 4. Traffic light indicators: green=accomplished, yellow=progressed, red=no progress, white=not measured.

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-6/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Number of methodologies and guidelines for VLFR management developed, printed, and disseminated	4-6 concrete improvements in terms of policy instruments (GN, directives, guides etc.) that demonstrably improve the enabling environment for VLFR enterprises.	10 different guidelines	2 concrete policy improvements achieved: - In July 2023, FORVAC supported the technical review of GN 417, and as a result a new GN 255, that clarifies some of the more misunderstood aspects of the previous GN, was developed. - New national public procurement guidelines that include 43 natural hard wood species developed and 1,000 copies printed in July 2024. - 800 pcs of CBFM action plans printed in July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New national public procurement guidelines that include 43 natural hard wood species developed and 1,000 copies printed in July 2024. - Guidelines for the Preparation of Management Plan for National, Local Government Authority and Private Natural Forest Reserves in Tanzania produced and 3,500 pcs printed - Guidelines for Establishment and Management of Bee Reserves and Apiaries in Tanzania, produced, printed and disseminated in July 2021 - Guideline for Management and Use of Honeybee Colonies for Pollination Services in Tanzania prepared, approved, printed and disseminated within AWP 2021-2022 - MNRT taskforce supported to commence preparation of an investment profile and guidelines for the national forest industries in May-June 2022 (taskforce workshop in June 2022) - CBFM Action Plan reviewed and amended, and published in 2022 (process mainly financed by TFCG). FORVAC supported the printing of 1,400 pcs of the document - CBFM books reviewed and amended, 4,500 pieces printed (10 different books/guidelines) 	<p>In October 2023, FORVAC, in collaboration with FBD/MNRT, organized a multistakeholder workshop to enhance enabling environment for VLFR timber organized. The workshop identified barriers hindering VLFR timber sales and prepared action plans on how to overcome the challenges.</p> <p>The key priority policy barrier related to procurement guidelines being restricted to 2 species has been revised to include prominent alternative species in the VLFRs.</p>

Indicators	Annual target 7/2023-6/2024	End of the Programme target 7/2018-7/2024	Achievement (7/2023-7/2024)	Cumulative achievement since the beginning of the Programme	Annual deviation and reasons for deviation
Forest legislation (Forest Act and regulations) updated and approved	Completed	Forest Act approved; related information disseminated in project area (with consideration to accessibility for all potential users)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beekeeping Act No: 15 of 2005 translated into Swahili, Dec. 2021 - Stakeholders working sessions on improving Assessment Document to the review of the Forest Act No: 14 (2002), held at the Forestry Training Institute – Olmotonyi Arusha, December 2020 	
National Charcoal Strategy developed through a multi- stakeholder process, printed and disseminated	Completed	National Charcoal Strategy developed 750 pcs of National Charcoal Strategy printed and disseminated		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Charcoal Strategy and action plan approved by MNRT in 2023 and 945 pcs printed in April 2023 - Report for “Assessing Potential and Identifying Optimal Strategies for Nat. Charcoal Sub-Sector Development in Tanzania” finalized in 2020 - Inception Report for Preparation of the National Charcoal Policy (NCP) developed by the Task Force and submitted to decision makers in September 2019 	
Tanzanian Timber Legality Framework established to contribute to the development of the National Timber Legality Assurance	0	Tanzanian Timber Legality Framework established		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FBD/MNRT reviewed and approved the Timber Legality Framework Handbook to be part of the government documents, 1,000 pcs printed and disseminated in November 2022 - Tanzania Timber Legality Framework report and handbook submitted in June 2022 - Review of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Support to Trade of Legally Sourced Timber (FLEGT) implemented in Nov.-Dec. 2018 and reported (“FORVAC – Approach to the Development of Forest Law Enforcement, Good Forest Governance and Trade of Legally Sourced Timber”) 	
Chain of Custody for TZ community timber defined	Evidence that timber can be tracked to its VLFR of origin.	Chain of Custody for TZ community timber established			

2.3.4.1 Improved policy and regulatory framework for forest value chain development, Output area 4.1

Technical review of GN 417

In July 2023, the technical review of GN 417 was conducted involving participants from FBD/MNRT, LGAs, TFS, Attorney General -AG, and other key stakeholders as required and directed by the MNRT Management. As a result, GN 255 was prepared to improve some challenges stakeholders had identified when implementing the GN 417. Most of the identified issues were mainly based on mere translation rather than legal sentiments, for example, one of the concern of stakeholders was that harvesting committee should be convened more than once per annum, hence the issue is now stated in the GN 255 as following: "District Harvesting Committee should be convened at least once per year".

Multi-stakeholder workshop to enhance enabling environment for VLFR timber

Communities selling timber is a relatively new approach in Tanzania. FORVAC, together with its stakeholders, had identified a need to reshape policy instruments to enhance the enabling environment for VLFR timber harvesting, processing, and marketing. Herewith, FORVAC, in collaboration with the Forestry and Beekeeping Division (FBD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), organized a multi-stakeholder workshop, which involved representatives from the government, relevant NGOs, villages, and private sector in October 2023.

As a result of the workshop, action plans were prepared to overcome the challenges and barriers identified during the workshop for the following themes:

- 1) The legality of VLFR timber harvesting, processing, and transportation;
- 2) Forest management plan and harvesting application processes;
- 3) Harvesting and processing of VLFR timber; and
- 4) Transportation and marketing of VLFR timber.

Furthermore, the workshop was used as a platform to connect and engage the most prominent timber dealers/buyers from Lindi, Ruvuma, and Dar Es Salaam with the communities in the FORVAC area. Additionally, the representatives of the Government were requested to familiarize themselves with the properties of Lesser-Known Timber Species (LKTS) and consider substitute species for Mkongo (*Azelia quanzensis*) and Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) to be used for public procurement, as currently, government tenders accept only these two species. This later topic became the focus of subsequent policy support work, where the government was supported by FORVAC to revise the national procurement guidelines to include a broad range of alternative timber species that are prominent in VLFRs.



Figure 20. Group working ongoing in the multistakeholder workshop.



Figure 21. Government representatives discussing suitable species for public procurement

National public timber procurement guidelines

From FORVAC's and MNRT's perspective, it is a priority both economically to help release the full potential of the value of the timber species from the VLFRs but also ecologically, it is better if a broad range of species is the target of extraction, rather than only two. Hereby, the key priority policy barrier the FORVAC supported the MNRT to solve was the national timber procurement guidelines that previously restricted government tenders only to Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Mkongo (*Afzelia quanzensis*).

The new national guidelines include 41 of the most suitable natural hardwood timber species, in addition to Mninga (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) and Mkongo (*Afzelia quanzensis*), as well as nine (9) plantation timber species, for the construction and furniture industries. The guideline was published and 1,000 copies were printed in July 2024. Additionally, FORVAC compiled a catalog/database introducing the properties and other information of these species. The public procurement guidelines, as well as the database, are available on the MNRT's website (<https://maliasili.go.tz/>). Additionally, FORVAC produced a brochure that introduces the most prominent 15 species that are well available in Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR) and are part of the new procurement guidelines. 400 copies of the Swahili version and 100 copies of the English version of the brochure were printed and disseminated in July 2024.

Simplification of the PFRA approach

The external evaluations of FORVAC, conducted in 2021 – 2023, identified some processes to be very complex and expensive, including village land use planning (VLUPs), Participatory Forest Resource Assessment (PFRA), and the development of forest management plans (FMPs). Both VLUPs and VLFRs take quite a lot of time and resources. A large part of these costs are used to pay out on daily subsistence allowances for district staff who act as facilitators for all these processes. After the increase of the national daily subsistence allowances in 2022, the recent estimation for establishing one village land use plan is TZS 125,000,000 / EUR 50,000 per village and nearly TZS 46,250,000 / EUR 18,500 per Forest Management Plan. These amounts include all costs up to the final approval of the VLUPs and FMPs. VLUPs have to be renewed every 10 years, while FMPs are renewed every 5 years. The enormous costs for these processes are quite prohibitive for a sustained CBFM without donor support and communities with limited revenues cannot afford.

Hereby, FORVAC contracted a consultant to study if there is a possibility to simplify the current PFRA process to make it more cost-effective for local communities to implement without substantive external finance and offer recommendations on streamlining the VLUP process.

The PFRA process bases on the national guidelines prepared by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) in 2007. Since then, several projects have been using the guidelines and some NGOs have gone further in improving the PFRA guidelines. The consultant, contracted by FORVAC, reviewed three different versions of inventory guidelines that have been used in the FORVAC Programme area. These versions are so called MCDI, MJUMITA, and SUA (the Sokoine University of Agriculture) approaches based on the organization that has developed the version.

The consultant reviewed the methods with the idea that accommodating participation of the communities in the PFRA process would not only reduce implementation costs but enhance the communities' ownership of the inventory process which will ensure the self-driven CBFM process and sustainability of activities. All the reviewed PFRA methods offer opportunities for conducting inventory and arriving at final results that could help communities to write FMPs but they differ on the amount of resources such as time, funds, and human capacity utilization needed. The consultants summarized the different PFRA versions as follows:

- The National PFRA guidelines are too complex and need further simplification of steps and requirements. This calls for MNRT to review and produce a simplified version that will be used by all actors and practitioners of CBFM in Tanzania.
- The MCDI approach could be further simplified but offers opportunities for communities to adapt and possibly undertake PFRA at very minimal costs and supervision.
- MJUMITA approach offers a wide range of improvements and could also be streamlined and simplified to accommodate multiple purposes beyond timber and charcoal.
- The SUA approach is a bit complex and requires high level expertise. This is far beyond from the concept of participation of communities and needs complicated data analysis methods.

The recommendation on how to simplify the national PFRA method offered by the consultant is given in Annex 4. Regarding the VLUP process, the consultant noticed that other than forestry land sectors lack closer land management as a result, land use and management become uncontrolled and conflicts arise, and sometimes affect VLFRs. Therefore, the consultant recommended that other relevant sectors within VLUPs to take further steps in supporting communities and building capacities for land use management, especially in agricultural and livestock grazing areas. The other recommendations are given in Annex 5 and the whole consultancy report is available on the FORVAC website <https://forvac.or.tz/publications/technical-reports/>.

Study on VLFR benefit sharing mechanism

FORVAC hired consultants to study current Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) benefit sharing mechanisms. The basic benefit sharing guidance for FORVAC villages is stipulated in the Forest Management Plans or forest bylaws for each village. The decision on the use of revenues is legally subjected to a comprehensive planning process led by the district planning officer, where villages are required to conduct participatory rural appraisals to identify Opportunities and Obstacles to Development through sub-village meetings. A pairwise ranking is undertaken to prioritize village development projects, which are then incorporated into a comprehensive village annual implementation plan and budget. This plan and budget must be approved by the village general assembly before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The current benefit sharing mechanisms include many challenges and weaknesses, but the model has also significant strengths and also some opportunities. The recommendations on how to improve the mechanisms are offered in the consultancy report available on the FORVAC website <https://forvac.or.tz/publications/technical-reports/>

3 Resources and budget

3.1 Human resources in the FORVAC framework

The main human resources used for the FORVAC implementation during the reporting period are presented by categories in Table 13 below.

Table 13. Human resources.

Type of resources	Human Resources / Roles	Comments
PMT - Programme Management Team (FORVAC core team)	<u>Technical Assistance:</u> Chief Technical Advisor (Int.) Finance and Administration Manager (Nat.) Forest Management Expert (Nat.) Value Chain Advisor (Int.), intermittent input Two Cluster Coordinators (Nat.) <u>Support staff:</u> Assistant Financial Manager (AFAM) National Junior Expert, NJE (VCD) Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication Expert (Int.)	The contract of the National Junior Expert, specialized in value chains development, ended on 31 st December 2023. Support staff is financed through the operational/management & admin. budget.
	National Programme Coordinator, NPC	Assigned by FBD
	five (5) drivers	
Home office Support	Home Office Coordinator Technical Backstopper	From Home Office, with periodic interaction with PMT and regular visits to the Programme. The consultancy company / home office was FCG Finnish Consulting Group Ltd till November 2023, from December 2023 onwards Cowater International
Focal Persons	Two persons representing TFS and PO-RALG respectively, to liaison with FORVAC aiming at facilitating interaction among key partners	Appointed
Service Providers	Of different kind (NGOs, private actors, research institutions, etc.) depending on the specific needs to support actions in the field/at the institutional level	To be engaged based on specific terms of references and/or MoUs or Service Contracts
Technical short-term support	Pool of experts (Int. and Nat.) to provide key support on specific actions, through short-term assignments or studies	Based on specific terms of references after needs identification
Type	Human Resources / Roles	Comments
Service contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pulsans Technology Limited: Service provision contract to establish and maintain the FORVAC website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.forvac.or.tz Signed on 12 September 2019. Regarding maintenance and technical support the related contract continues to the end of the Programme.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORVAC – MCDI Partnership Agreement on Support to Develop CBFM and Related Value Chains in Ruvuma Cluster (Phase 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 September 2022 - 15 July 2023 Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORVAC – MCDI Partnership Agreement on Support to Develop CBFM and Related Value Chains in Lindi Cluster (Phase 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 September 2022 - 15 July 2023 Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORCONSULT – SUA, Service Contract for Support to MSc Dissertations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 December 2022 - 31 October 2023 Completed 2 postgraduates students didn't graduate by the end of FORVAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORVAC – MCDI Partnership Agreement on Support to Develop CBFM and Related Value Chains in Lindi and Ruvuma Clusters (Phase 5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 August 2023 – 30 April 2024 Completed

Type of resources	Human Resources / Roles	Comments
Technical short-term support (Short-term Consultancies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy on improving honey value chain especially in Ruvuma Cluster (4 consultants) 	63 working days from December 2023 to March 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy on assessing forest cover and deforestation rates in VLFRs 	37 working days from February to June 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to support formation and strengthening of VLFR – district level CBFM associations with a view to sustainability. 	65 working days from December 2023 to July 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to study on simplification of PFRA methods 	31 working days from February to April 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy on film documentation of FORVAC impact and lessons 	69 working days from February to June 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to support communities (VLFR associations) in timber value chain development and business sustainability. 	40 working days from March to May 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to conduct socio-economic impact assessment 	50 working days in April and May 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to support the preparation of the national public procurement timber guidelines and related brochure. 	15 working days in May and June 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ST consultancy to train beekeeping para-professionals. 	30 working days in June 2024

3.2 Summary of expenditure and revisions in the budget

The following table lays out the financial situation for the year, in terms of spend versus budget up to the end of June 2024. The overall programme spend was in line with the budget and the spend is where it should be in both the operations (OP) and the consultancy (TA) (this includes FORVAC technical team and all consultants) spend at 90% with less than 1 month of the programme left. The programme successfully managed the finances to stay within budget and keeping spend on track across the line items.

However there were some adjustments within the budget, due to the need for responsiveness, for example:

- Six (6) new district based community forest management associations were formed instead of the target of two (2).
- An additional training of community sawmill operators so they become certified, so that they are legally allowed to use the sawmills after FORVAC leaves without the need to hire in trained operators.
- An additional training for beekeeping associations, to train paraprofessionals within the associations who can provide technical assistance to members. This training also links the beekeeping associations to TFS service provision, very important for sustainability post FORVAC.
- Insurance for the fleet of cars for July 2024 until June 2025 to ensure cars are insured until the follow on programme (FORLAND) as well as costs to cover transfer of assets to be safely stored in Mafinga (PFP2 training centre) for the follow on programme.

These additional activities required some reallocations across line items which were approved by the PSC in February 2024 and SvB in June 2024. Note that in the year 2023 to 2024, FORVAC did not have a contingency fund. The contingency fund was allocated to cover the costs of a previous grant provided as a bridging fund for PFP2 in 2019.

Table 14 below summarizes the FORVAC expenditure for Operations (Outputs 1-4) and management until the end of June 2024 against the Annual Workplan and Budget 2023-2024. The financial report, covering costs of Operation and Management (OP) and Technical Assistance (TA), is given in more detail in Annex 6 of this document.

Table 14. Overview budget and realized expenditure by main categories (OP & TA) from July 2023 to June 2024.

Budget category	Revised annual budget for 7/2023-7/2024	Accumulated usage 7/2023- 06/2024(note this will be updated to the 07.2024 when accounts are finalized for the programme).	% of the usage from the AWP 23-24 budget
OP - Operations & management	EUR 889,427 (TZS 2, 223,567,500)	EUR 807,325 (TZS 2,018,312,050)	91%
TA - Technical Assistance (also including ST consultancies)	EUR 761,400 (EUR 1,903,500,000)	EUR 680,692 (TZS 1,701,729,582)	89%
TOTAL	EUR 1,650,827 (TZS 4,127,067,500)	EUR 1,488,017 (TZS 3,720,041,632)	90%

4 Assumptions and risks

The risk matrix and risk analysis of the Programme Document were updated during the first half of 2022. The main assumptions identified and presented in the amended Programme Document remain, and they are not commented on in this Semi-Annual Report of Year 6. However, below we present some additional specific critical issues, including assumptions and response measures.

The timely and efficient implementation of FORVAC include the following new **assumptions**:

- New interventions like carbon offsetting are supportive of the continued development of Sustainable Forest Management and wood extraction-based enterprises in natural forests within CBFM and do not restrict or preclude it. For example, during the year 2022 – 2023, the SULEDO community forest in Tanga Cluster joined a carbon offsetting scheme that precluded timber harvesting, despite the considerable support from FORVAC to enable the community to harvest timber sustainably according to a management plan.
- Political will for CBFM and sustainable timber utilization with CBFM remains strong.
- The enabling policy environment is conducive to timber utilization in CBFM and profitable enterprises.

The timely and efficient implementation of FORVAC includes the following new **risks**:

- Costs of implementation may significantly change due to changes in government DSA rates, inflationary pressures and unexpected complexity and costs of processes on the ground, which can all create unexpected budgetary constraints.
- Especially in Lindi Cluster, elephants are a safety risk for forest workers.
- Pastoralists, who are now moving from other areas to Lindi, do not respect VLFRs and their boundaries, which causes conflicts between pastoralists and communities.

5 Cross-cutting objectives

Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) has guidelines for supporting mainstreaming of cross-cutting objectives and human rights-based approach in MFA financed development cooperation. As Finland's development policy bases on the Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement, climate aspects through low emission development, climate resilience, and environmental protection have been emphasized in addition to the gender equality, and non-discrimination (especially PLWD rights).

5.1 Gender equality

FORVAC works with both officially elected structures (Village Council, Village Natural Resources Committees, Village Land Use Management Teams) and non-official non-elected groups (VICOBAs, VSLAs, different business groups). Female engagement is encouraged throughout the activities, but with the elected, formal structures, FORVAC has less power to have an impact on the composition.

Forestry is typically a very male-dominated field, and women are in several areas not considered to be strong enough e.g. to take part in long patrols which require sleeping in the forest. Regardless of this prejudice, in average 35% of the members of the VNRCs, which FORVAC is working with, are female. FORVAC has directed capacity building to VNRCs that are responsible of managing village forests. Female members of VNRCs have been encouraged to be active and, for example, the females are equally operating the two mobile-sawmills FORVAC has supported in Ruvuma and Lindi Clusters.

At the time of land use planning, female engagement is of utmost importance. In all FORVAC project areas, women are typically mainly responsible for fetching water, collecting firewood, and farming for family's needs. Therefore, almost all land-related decisions affect the daily lives of women more than men. To ensure that female community members' needs and views are taken into account during the village land use planning process, Government of Tanzania guides at least 30% of the team members to be female. In the FORVAC supported land use planning processes, the formed VLUM teams have in average 41% female members.



Figure 22. FORVAC supports the development of the mushroom value chain, which is a female-dominated business area.

FORVAC supports several forest-related businesses, either individuals or groups involving them. Even though forestry related activities are rather male-dominated, e.g. carpentry, some NTFPs are collected and marketed mainly by women, e.g. mushrooms. When selecting the businesses for the micro-business support Phase I and Phase II, female-owned enterprises or female members in the group businesses were rewarded in the scoring, resulting in a total of 37% of the supported entrepreneurs were women in Phase I and 48% in Phase II. Additionally, the formed VICOBA and VSLA savings groups include more women (64 %).

5.2 Non-discrimination

Typically, the forestry sector is dominated by men but through communication and Programme activities FORVAC encourages women and vulnerable groups to participate in forest value chains and works on the decision-making processes to be non-discriminatory. Non-discrimination is in the heart of human rights-based approach (HRBA). HRBA concerns the right to the process, rather than to the outcome: all human beings have the right to participate in their social, political, economic, and cultural development. Within the base activities (CBFM, LUP), government guidelines for non-discrimination are followed, and important decisions are shared in the village assemblies transparently.

The whole community, including the vulnerable groups, benefit from FORVAC Programme indirectly when villages with VLFRs get income from harvesting operations. This income is used for financing sustainable forest management and social services such as water, sanitation, health care services, and schools in the villages. In average, 55% of the income of standing timber sales and 35% of the income of sawn timber sales (the whole profit) is used for social development. By the end of June 2024, 45 villages under FORVAC-support have sold sustainably harvested timber, and they spent approximately TZS 5,4 billion / EUR 2,1 million for community development purposes.

When considering the CBFM derived funds to the community, awareness-raising and community involvement are required, so that the village assembly knows that they can choose how to use the funds. As discussed in the “Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania: 1993- 2009” paper by FBD, if communities are not aware of their rights, CBFM benefits can disappear due to elite capture, and the poorer parts of the community do not benefit or even suffer from the CBFM regime. Through service providers and District officers, FORVAC supports training to improve CBFM related governance and awareness in the village level and promotes the involvement and empowerment of women and persons in vulnerable positions (PiVP).

It is also in the focus for FORVAC to foster gender equality, the inclusion of vulnerable groups and work on making forest value chains equally inclusive to all groups. During the selection of micro-businesses for the support scheme, it has been noticed that even if vulnerability grouping was added as a weighted characteristic in the scoring, many of the applications by the people living with disabilities (PLWD) did not fill other criteria that were set for the businesses selected for the support. A direct linkage between PLWD and value chain development has been found challenging also in other projects worldwide. Instead, the secondary/indirect impact (impact on family/household members) is easier to reach and more effective in numbers. Examples of FORVAC’s inclusive activities and impact are given below:

- Through micro-business support, 24 PLWD have been directly supported, and indirect beneficiaries are in total 36. Additionally, the support reached 321 PiVP who are either PLWD beneficiaries, single parents, or age over 60 years old.
- The poorest households and mostly women are active in the mushroom value chain. FORVAC has supported a total of 66 mushroom collectors of which most are women (10M/56F). FORVAC has concentrated to develop the mushroom value chain in Mbinga and Songea Districts, where the collectors have been trained on wild mushroom collection and processing and additionally, all the collectors have been trained on an exotic mushroom farming to sustain their income generation through the year.
- Also, honey has been identified as an accessible value chain for poorer households, although it requires more skills and investment as compared to mushroom business. FORVAC supports the development of honey value chain from the grassroots to the extension services. A total of 1,115 beekeepers (43% of women) have received support from FORVAC.

- All village members, age above 18, have had an equal right to apply a plot for teak plantation in five (5) villages in Nyasa District. At the moment, around 22% of woodlot owners are female and additionally, six (6) PLWD own a woodlot. Moreover, youth have been encouraged to participate in teak plantation activities to be woodlot owners in the future.



Figure 23. A carving entrepreneur, who is living with a disability, received a tricycle from FORVAC to assist his moving.

5.3 Climate resilience

Ensuring the existence of natural forest cover through sustainable forest management and supporting forest-derived livelihoods is linked to climate resilience in multiple ways. Adaptation is improved through ecosystem services like watershed management, micro-climate stabilization, and control of land erosion, but also, forest livelihoods add to the household income and reduce dependency on agriculture, which is highly at risk to face climate change-related challenges like extreme weather events, droughts, and pests.

Fire has been identified as a risk factor to the VLFRs and to the teak plantations in Nyasa. In Nyasa, the TGA members have established fire breaks and lines to protect the plantations from fire and fire crews have been formed. Additionally, fire control/management training has been held to VNRCs in Ruvuma and Tanga Clusters.

Beekeeping is prone to climate effects, especially fire and pests. In the training, the resilience actions focus on the placement of hives (shadow, high, close to water) and timely and frequent checking for pests.

5.4 Low-emission development

In Tanzania, 72.7 % of the carbon emissions stem from land use change and forestry (USAID Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fact Sheet, 2018), and according to the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the proportion of Tanzania's deforestation that is directly related to wood fuel production is as high as 70 %. Despite the forest management and harvesting plans, illegal logging may still occur in Village Land Forest Reserves. The type of illegal logging depends on the area and existing market: in remote areas forest degradation is a likelier option through the extraction of valuable timber species by selective logging, whereas closer to market centers in addition to the demand for timber, also demand for charcoal is a driver for deforestation. The analysis of deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions in the operational area of FORVAC showed that deforestation rates were 7 times lower in the CBFM forests than in other forests in the area, including forest under government management. An important observation is that almost no

deforestation detected in those VLFRs with the highest income from sustainable timber harvesting. This does help prove the 'forest that pays, is the forest that stays' premise of FORVAC.

In addition to increasing communities' motivation in keeping the forest intact through increased income flow, FORVAC has addressed illegal logging through MJUMITA partnership by establishing a platform for reporting illegalities in VLFRs in Ruvuma and Tanga Clusters. VNRCs' capacity to patrol has been supported through training, and by providing motorbikes and gear. FORVAC has also co-facilitated the development of Tanzanian Timber Legality Framework with TRAFFIC and is in discussions to support the development of a technological solution for tracking VLFR timber from stump to market.

Charcoal is a major driver for deforestation, but also a potential source of income for forest communities. The reality is that the annual demand of over 2.3 million tons (figure for 2012, a quantity predicted to double by 2030, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, 2014) of charcoal is not going to disappear and parallel to shifting to alternative fuels, also models for sustainably producing charcoal are needed. TFCG has been piloting sustainable charcoal production in Kilosa. FORVAC has piloted an additional more intensive model for the CBFM context together with TAFORI and SUA. The goal is to ensure scalability through simplified startup and low initial investment. By raising the recovery rate from the current appr. 15% to 47%, requires only around one third of the biomass burned currently to answer to the same market demand, hence directly reducing the harvested timber volumes.

5.5 Environmental Protection

Environmental aspect is an integral part of Village Land Use Planning and Forest Management Planning processes. The land is the main source of livelihood for rural people, which causes pressure on land resources. The Village Land Use Plan (VLUP) secures that the village land area is used sustainably. In the VLUP, the land area is shared between different activities such as water protection. Land preparation, cutting, or other activities that affect microclimate are not allowed in the protected areas, but, for example, beekeeping can be practiced (Figure 15). FORVAC has supported the development of 41 VLUPs with a land area of 620,087 ha.

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) describes how the forest should be sustainably managed by taking into consideration its ecological and economic importance. FORVAC has supported 73 villages to develop FMPs for the forest area of 460,518 ha. Strictly protected areas, where forest management activities are not allowed, are optional within Village Land Forest Reserves, but 11% (52,609 ha) of the FORVAC-supported forest management area is protected to protect biodiversity.

Additionally, FORVAC has supported the establishment and gazettement of five (5) bee reserves (5,059 ha), which are protected for the purpose of sustainable development of beekeeping and bee fodder resources.



Figure 24. The area in the picture has been protected for water source and beekeeping.

6 Lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations

Lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations from operational and management issues

As the programme phases out it is important to harness and build on some lessons for the future – especially with a new successor programme FORLAND planned to start later in the year.

- 8) **Use it or lose it!** The biggest lesson learnt is that the evidence clearly shows that once forests are under community control and sustainable management, that increasing benefits from forest use directly leads to reduced deforestation. The CBFM forest that pays, clearly stays. This is a very important lesson at a time internationally when more exclusionary approaches to forest conservation are being supported and with climate finance approaches supporting more preservationist approaches (See Point 7). The biggest threats to the forest as pointed out by international evidence and by community members themselves, is forest clearance. When sustainable use and value addition is conducted within Community Based Forest Management it actually helps incentivize the maintenance and management of the forests.

Recommendations: Need to get better at promoting and communicating the ‘use it or lose it’ approach. It will be extremely important that the successor programme FORLAND builds on and from the evidence based approach, further increasing the benefits from CBFM products and therefore further strengthening the direct livelihood bond between communities and CBFM forests as a ‘win win’ approach, reducing deforestation whilst improving livelihoods. It is also clear that more has to be done to promote this key ‘use it or lose it’ message of FORVAC. It is indeed a complicated and counterintuitive message to sell. Therefore it is recommended to generate more evidence on the approach ‘use it or lose it’ within CBFM, and package the evidence in better ways for a wider audience, including government officials, donors, and even international audience, making better use of video, social media etc.

- 9) **In the future need to encourage communities to select VLFRs or expand closer to communities.** One important aspect of VLFRs in FORVAC sites, is that during the VLUP process, generally far away sites were selected, sometimes 50km away from communities. This was sometimes because other lands were set aside for farmland etc. but it has been speculated by numerous stakeholders that a contributing factor was lack of trust in CBFM. Communities were risk averse and were unsure if the forest was being actually given to them or taken away from them and reserved. The forests being far away poses problems related to the cost of patrolling, management as well as access to products, for example beyond highly valuable timber it was often not worth the while for community members to collect NTFPs or honey from forests that are so far away, or for subsistence use. This was particularly a problem for women.

Recommendation: When new VLFRs are selected during the future VLUP process, first expose communities to existing VLFRs and VNRCs so that they can see that the forests will be handed to them to control and manage and that rather than their use being stopped, they will have stronger use rights. Also there should be a low cost way to expand VLFRs, through addendums to VLUPs and FMPs rather than having to go through the full expensive process (See point 3 below).

- 10) **Streamlining the costs of establishing VLFRs and Forest Management Plans (FMPs).** The high cost was highlighted in a study of VLUP and FMP processes in a study commissioned by FORVAC. With recent increases in DSA costs, the costs have become even more problematic. This will limit the ability to expand VLFRs, meaning more forests remains vulnerable to conversion. Also this issue does not only affect new CBFM sites but existing sites because currently the FMPs are required to be renewed every 5 years whereas the VLUPs every 10 years.

Recommendations: One key recommendation is firstly to extend the validity of the FMPs from now on to 10 years, this would reduce the cost significantly of renewing for communities and give them sufficient time to build up sufficient income to renew themselves. Another key recommendation is identifying and piloting ways to streamline both the development process but also the renewal process. For the development process, there has been such improvements in satellite imagery, that a lot of the designation of land uses could be done on a satellite image using a participatory process with relevant stakeholders, rather than the need to survey all the land boundaries on the ground with GPS. Some ground truthing would still be necessary to ensure all key stakeholders on the ground are consultant and particularly where boundaries are not clear and where there are contested areas or conflict.

- 11) **Need to further strengthen CBFM associations at district level.** The 6 district level associations were established during FORVAC and business plans developed with them. However much more needs to be done to incubate them as viable associations so they can stand on their own two feet and maximize the advantages of the higher level organization.

Recommendations: FORLAND to support the incubation of the district associations with some seed money invested in the business plans, after assessing them. This should include support for timber yards, timber stores, hiring equipment, market linkages, promotion materials and institutional capacity building (see point 5 below). Once the associations are functioning, links to no or low interest loans could be supported.

- 12) **Even with the 4 mobile sawmills operating communities need more options to move up the value chain, as still selling too much timber as standing trees.** A key lesson is that although the introduction and operation of the full 4 mobile sawmills has increased the amount of timber the communities can process and therefore add value to, they still sell at least 95% of the timber as standing trees to buyers. This means that the buyers add all the value. The capacity of 4 small mobile sawmills is not enough to process all the wood. However what they have done is inspire communities to appreciate the importance of adding value, and before FORVAC ended this was demonstrated by a community buying its own mobile sawmill. However there was a range of options that were identified during FORVAC for ways of communities to capture more value from the wood value chains these included;

Recommendations:

- **Further work to reform policy barriers which remain the biggest hindrance to VLFR/CBFM enterprise sustainability (See point 6).**
- **Establishing timber yards and stores/showrooms at district level for processed products.** This would be an obvious step up the value chain for communities and indeed some buyers have stipulated that they would only buy wood if they could collect it from district centers and also if they can see the wood itself. One community member compared it to marketing vegetables, asking would farmers make more money by asking buyers to buy tomatoes that they have to go and pick from the plants themselves in the field, or from the convenience of the market where they can see the produce and easily transport them. It would also be important to have samples of all wood and catalogues of what the wood properties are.
- **Establishing buyer/CBFM association forums.** One key way for communities to jump over middle men is to promote producer/buyer forums periodically, at least once a year in Dar es Salaam, where CBFM associations could showcase their wood, products, catalogues to a range of timber dealers, furniture and craft makers etc. The forums should also be used to build direct communications between CBFM associations and buyers through WhatsApp groups etc.
- **Transport.** One key way that middle men and buyers add value is not only by processing but by investing in transport, often final buyers advance pay the costs of transport. This would be a clear 'low hanging fruit' for CBFM associations to invest in hiring trucks to transport wood themselves.
- **Mobile sawmills and deals with stationary sawmills.** As mentioned the communities have already invested profit in buying their own sawmills, it should also be explored if arrangements could be made between communities and stationary sawmills to process more wood.
- **Legal pitsawing is happening anyway so best that communities take control of it and benefit from it.** Pitsawing is legal if licensed and although discouraged, it is important to deal with the reality that pitsawing is still a key part of many timber operations in the VLFRs. However buyers of community wood are either bringing their own pitsawing teams or hiring local community members on day labouring payments to pit saw wood. This might provide local employment but it also means that the buyers are capturing the added value of processing wood in this way, community members only get the value from selling standing trees as well as wages paid for labour. It is therefore important that communities take over the pitsawing operations and increasingly sell the processed/semi-processed wood. This will also allow them to generate more profit more quickly and invest in other means of processing, although it must be noted that as pitsawing is labour intensive it does provide employment for a larger number of people than a sawmill. Pitsawing might be less efficient in terms of conversion rates but as communities are harvesting below the sustainable offtake, any option other than selling

standing trees is better from a value addition perspective and will not cause deforestation if harvesting in accordance with the Annual Allowable Cut.

- 13) **Policy barriers are still the priority barriers to communities getting more revenue from timber sales.** The forest policy and regulatory environment is still playing 'catch up' with providing a conducive enabling environment for CBFM timber enterprises. This is a legacy of the past with a more 'command and control' bureaucratic approach designed to heavily regulate legal use of timber, however by making legal use of timber in natural forests difficult especially for small CBFM enterprises, makes it much harder for them to compete against illegal enterprises. There is a need to shift towards a more streamlined 'enabling' environment for legal CBFM enterprises, as this would then help undermine the illegal enterprises. This was noted by many stakeholders in the forest value chains, they wanted engage in legal and sustainable timber businesses from VLFRs but found it too complicated, bureaucratic and costly to do so. Various policy and regulatory barriers still remain to CBFM enterprises, these are listed under recommendations.

Key policy recommendations:

5. **Issue a directive and communicate it to all concerned stakeholders that mobile sawmills are allowed to operate within VLFRS.** The ban on sawmills from being inside natural forests was intended for large stationary sawmills and among other things was designed to discourage deforestation, avoid illegal over use and stop fires starting from the sawmills. However the whole point of a mobile sawmill, is that it is **mobile!** Currently communities are hauling wood out from inside the VLFRs to the mobile sawmills outside the forest. Some community members with mobile sawmills have stated that they would rather sell standing trees than go to the trouble of hauling trees out of the forest to the sawmills. Mobile sawmills have a low fire risk and operations are tightly controlled and according to forest management plans and Annual Allowable Cuts. It is therefore recommended that a directive is issued to have an exemption from mobile sawmills to allow them to operate under supervision in VLFRs as long as precautions taken against fires and that they adhere to the prescribed and authorized cutting volume.
 6. **Fixed price for natural forest timber set nationally, meaning that the price is too high for local buyers.** The fixing of timber prices at national level means that the price of wood in Dar es Salaam is the same as the price locally. This creates a malfunctioning timber market, where local buyers in the rural areas can not afford to buy legal wood from the natural forests, this again makes it more attractive to buy illegal wood. One option would be for the 'market' to set the price for the legal wood, therefore this was naturally allow for an elevated price in Dar es Salaam and other large urban centres and a lower price need the source of the wood in the more rural areas. If this is not possible, then a second option would be to have different prices set for different regions/districts. So for example in a district like Liwale where there is a large supply of wood, prices should be set relatively low to make the wood affordable locally. Then there could be a different price in Dar es Salaam.
 7. **Export licenses for communities.** Currently community organizations do not have export licenses, so have to operate through 'middle men' intermediaries to export wood. With district level associations formed it will be important to support these associations to obtain export licenses.
 8. **Enable transport of natural wood at night.** Currently the transport of natural wood at night is prohibited. This makes transporting wood very expensive as if a truck is hired, for half the time it sits idle. Checkpoints are still open at night for other products including plantation wood to pass, so there would still be checks in place to ensure the natural forest wood is legal. It is therefore recommended to lift the ban.
- 14) **Potential risks from carbon finance to community forestry and sustainable forest management and utilization.** One important lesson that can have relevance to the future is the case of Suledo community forest. FORVAC started to scale down activities in Tanga Cluster in 2022, and the Forest Management Plan of SULEDO was approved by the District in April 2023. There had been considerable support to Suledo since 1994 from other programmes and considerable support to supporting Sustainable Forest Management there. After FORVAC ended its support to SULEDO, a new carbon offset project approached SULEDO, and it seems that they have made an agreement to stop sustainable timber utilization totally from the forest. This potentially causes all sorts of problems, it means that timber demands will now have to be found from other sources, often illegal and uncontrolled, which undermined the reason carbon offsetting. It also means that rather than the community and community forest being economically self-sufficient, they are instead forced into dependency on outside financial support. What will happen to the motivation of the community to maintain and manage the forest if the carbon finance benefits stop or they do not meet their expectations? It has also been noted in

FORVAC sites that buyers are coming from parts of Tanzania where sustainable utilization is now banned under carbon offsetting schemes, which again points to the fact that these schemes are simply displacing use elsewhere. If timber harvesting is banned in the FORVAC sites, most likely the utilization will be displaced to uncontrolled illegal use elsewhere. Also note that internationally there are numerous examples where carbon finance benefits did not materialize for community members, despite big promises, benefits were captured by intermediaries, with communities left shouldering the high opportunity costs of forest protection. There are some that argue that it does not matter whether 'forests pay their way' from sustainable utilization or carbon finance, however clearly making CBFM reliant on a fickle international carbon market with 'buyers' of carbon credits far away in Europe etc. with lots of uncertainties, rather than the certainty of local benefits from perpetually harvested forest resources increases the vulnerability of both CBFM and communities.

Recommendation: Urgently need to be clear that if carbon finance comes into communities where sustainable timber harvesting is ongoing, carbon finance should not require the cessation of sustainable harvesting of timber but rather be seen as a complement. With FORVAC phasing out and a gap between FORVAC and FORLAND, to avoid what happened in Suledo happening elsewhere it is imperative that where carbon finance supports CBFM where timber harvesting is taking place, that it must be combined with timber harvesting not preclude it. Communities should not be forced to choose between either timber harvesting or carbon finance, especially as it has been proven by FORVAC that in VLFR forests with **high income from sustainable timber harvesting there is almost no deforestation** so banning use would undermine the key incentive for avoiding deforestation. Also it will be important to ramp up the benefits that communities get from timber harvesting, as this will create a strong rational for them not to forego timber based revenues for carbon finance, and rather place them in a much stronger negotiating position. If carbon finance does come in and if it cannot be combined with sustainable timber harvesting, it would be better targeted to degraded forests are watershed forests that are under protection, such as in Mbinga and Nyasa, where the communities are struggling to generate income to fund patrolling and management etc. In an ideal world of course carbon finance should fund sustainable forest management and use, including CBFM timber enterprises that way it would consolidate rather than undermine the proven links between sustainable timber harvesting and avoided deforestation in CBFM. However it appears that currently most carbon offset schemes require a cessation of timber harvesting, so the successor programme of FORVAC, FORLAND could try to influence the design of carbon offsetting schemes to include support to sustainable timber harvesting and related enterprises. As seen by the results of FORVAC those VLFRS with highest income from sustainable timber harvesting have the lowest, almost zero deforestation. The carbon is locked in the extracted wood products, and Miombo woodland thrives on some disturbance, harvesting stimulates regrowth and a growing forest capture more carbon, than a stagnant forest. So in terms of 'carbon capture' arguments banning sustainable timber use in carbon offsetting schemes is clearly counterproductive on many levels. **Piloting carbon offsetting of forests with sustainable timber harvesting in CBFM might be an important research component of FORLAND.**

ANNEXES

Annex 1 Revised Annual Workplan 7/2023-7/2024

Output 1. Sustainable forest management mechanisms established and forest based value chain developed

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ results	Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			L	R	Lead	Support	EUR
1	Sustainable forest Management mechanisms established, forest-based value chains developed and private sector involvement in the forest sector increased												
1.1	Establishment and mobilization of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR)												
1.1.4	Demarcation of the forest area, forest inventory and production of VLFR/CFR Management Plans (Participatory Forest Timber Inventory; Analyzing the Inventory Data; Drafting the VLFR Management Plan)	I. Support finalization and submission of 12 VLFR Management Plans for final endorsement at the Ministry level (3 in Liwale & 1 Nachingwea District, 1 Namtumbo, and 2 Songea District). Also ensure support sustainability of this activity in subsequent years post FORVAC.					FMPs	4	3	CCs	MCDI, DFOs, MCDI,	7,072	17,680,0000
		II. Support from MCDI to conduct a rapid review/assessment of Forest Management Plans not yet approved and fast track assessment and endorsement with TFS etc.. Also ensure support sustainability of this activity in subsequent years post FORVAC.					FMPs	10	8	NPC, CTA FME	MCDI,CCs, DFOs, MNRT, TFS DNRECO, MCDI (if required)	8,278	20,692,307
		III. Support the facilitation and fast tracking of the application and approval of harvesting licences/quotas for all eligible VCs/VLFRs and VNRCs through the entire license application approval process in July 2023, to harvest in year ahead (sawn & stand tree volume) in 43 villages (26 Liwale, 5 Ruangwa & 12 Nachingwea) and 11 in Ruvuma (Namtumbo 4, Songea 4, Tunduru 3).					Harvesting licence	43	11	CCs	MCDI, DFO, RFO, TFS, FME	Work started in June so funded from 2022-2023 budget	

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ results		Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			L	R	Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
		Capacity built so can be self-financed after the final year.												
1.2	Support to value chain development													
1.2.4	Wood products, NTFP/NWFP, Charcoal: Business plans and business skills development in all areas	I. Exit strategy for wood products and NTFPs, tailing off the capacity development of micro businesses to ensure sustainability through improved marketing and market linkages, and linking to finance (e.g. CRDB Embeju product) so that they can be profitable and self-sustaining before end of programme.					No. of businesses		70		NJE, VCA	FME, CCs, potentially service provider	12,000	27,692,307
		II. Consultancy: Honey value chain consultant(s) will look at ways to strengthen honey value chain support, improve links to VLFRs where possible, improve colonization, improve marketing – more deals done with buyers and improve associations etc. and ensure sustainability and exit strategy.					Honey value chain improved in Lindi and Ruvuma				VCA	FME, CCs, Consultant	TA budget	
1.2.6	Support institutional arrangements/business models with market linkages (e.g. MoUs, joint ventures, PPP & other partnerships,													
		I. Support establishment of demand driven bottom up CBFM/VLFR village associations to oversee timber trade, marketing, communication and advocacy. Must be self-sustaining and profitable by end of programme.					Viable CBFM/VLFR village associations		3	3	FME, CCs	DFOs, DNRECOs and consultant (see below)	31,248	78,120,000
		II. ST consultancies: Institutional development consultant(s) to support the formation of bottom up VLFR associations to create economies of scale, ability to climb up the value chain and have stronger voice					Viable CBFM/VLFR village associations		2		FME, CCs	DFOs, DNRECOs and consultant	TA budget	

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ results		Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			L	R	Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
	groups/association/cooperative initiatives	III. Supporting a forum to link VLFRs with the existing National Timber Traders Association to promote links and timber deals					Event		1		CTA, MNRT, CCs	FME, DFOs, MNRT, National Timber Traders Association, TAWOFE, SHIVIMITA and others	6,800	17,000,000
		IV. To support capacity building to beekeeping association at District level and links to national organisations and to change to be oriented to a profitable self- sustaining community driven association					No. of associations		5		CCR, NJE	PCCs, DFOs, API-Support, VCA	3,800	9,500,000
1.2.7	Assist communities to improve the quality of timber harvested from community forests and link their production with market (demand)													
		I. To accelerate sales of VLFR Lesser known Timber Species through links to timber traders as well as District Councils for public procurement by phone / social media, meetings, media promotion, and marketing training. (Depending with achievement of 4.1.2.)					Event		6		FME, CCs	VCA, NJE, DFOs, TBS	22,893	57,232,500
		II. Training VNRCs in timber volume calculations and simple appropriate seasoning/drying techniques and simple business planning					VNRC		4	3	FME, CCs	VCA, NJE, PFP2 or MCDI or other	7,200	18,000,000
		III. ST consultancy: Support on exit strategy for 4 mobile sawmills and 2 solar dryers – must be viable self-					Strategy developed				FME, CCs	MCDI, DFOs	TA budget	

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ results	Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		L	R	Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
		sustaining businesses with maintenance costs and responsibilities etc. clear in long term plan											
		IV. To identify and Train Sawmiller operators in Sawmill operation & maintenance, management, Saw doctoring					Event	1	1	CCs	FME, DFO, PFP2 or MCDI	8,000	20,000,000
		V. Consultancy: Technical support for above activities and related activities by wood value chain extensionists/consultants to support fast tracking wood value chain in programme sites – role to maximize returns in practical site specific ways and promote sustainability of VLFR wood value chains to communities before end of FORVAC. Operational funds activities undertaken by MCDI					Good value chain improved and sustained			CTA, FME	CCs VCA, NJE, Either PFP2 extensionist, MCDI or other consultants (TBC later)	10,000	23,000,000
1.2.15	Improved capacities of VNRCs, tree growers and SMEs within the value chain so that management of VLFRs, volume, quality of tree growing and processing will be improved	Technical support on Teak plantations management with a focus on Fire Management and tending					No. of villages		5	CCR	FME, DFO	4,000	10,000,000
Output 1. Total Budget												120,491	301,27,500

Output 2. Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ Results	Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		L	R	Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
2	Stakeholder capacity on CBFM and forest value chain development enhanced												
2.1	Improved institutional and management capacities of Village Councils and VNRC to implement CBFM and develop forest value chains												
2.1.1	Capacity building in VLFRs/CFRs, LUP, laws and regulations related to value chain	Support training to VNRC & VC on laws and regulations related to VLFR right and responsibilities in the management plan, forest bylaws, forest management, harvest licensing application, harvesting, processing and transport etc.					VNRCs & VCs trained	5	4	CCs	FME, DFO, TFS	8,436	21,090,000
2.1.4	Training of VNRCs in financial aspect (feasibility calculations, business planning)	Training of VNRCs & VCs in financial management and record keeping (feasibility calculations, simple business planning,) – ensure sufficient funds are allocated for FMP renewal, harvesting license application, forest management plan renewal and patrolling operations and finally investing in ways to move up the value chain for VLFR products					VNRCs & VCs	5	4	CCs	FME, DFO, District Treasurer	6,400	16,000,000
2.1.7	Support fund raising activities for the development of new value adding activities (grants and loans from existing service providers, such as TaFF, VICOBAs/VS&L/SACC O)	As part of exit strategy strengthen/create microfinance groups (VICOBA/VSLA) prioritizing those directly linked to VLFR products and product processing, including processors and carpenters that are linked to VLFR wood provision to incentivize the VLFRs. Groups must be self- sustaining by end of programme.					Groups	4	5	CCs	FME, DFO, CDO	5,848	14,620,000
2.2	Improved capacities to support and monitor CBFM/forest and related value chains and incorporating HRBA aspect												

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ Results	Target		Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		L	R	Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
2.2.12	Support district facilities during implementation of FORVAC activities	I. As part of exit strategy to support training of district staff on timber seasoning, grading, storing so that they can then advise the VCs and VNRCs after FORVAC					No of LGA staff trained	3	3	CCs	FME, TFS, MCDI	11,336	28,340,000
		II. As part of exit strategy support to capacitate district council to provide technical support to villages in harvesting, processing and marketing (sawn timber business and new villages in CBFM)					No of VNRCs & VCs trained by LGA staff	42	11	CCs	FME DFOs, MCDI	31,733	79,332,500
2.3	Forest products value chain/market systems and business development skills incorporated in relevant training institutes												
2.3.2	Support training institutions to develop/mainstream forest products value chain/market system and business development in undergraduate curricula	Follow up on the previous support and troubleshoot any bottlenecks regarding the status of MSc. curriculum at SUA and fasten the approval process					Curriculum MSc.	1		CTA	NPC, SUA, M&E	1000	25000
2.3.3	Support studies and thesis/dissertations related to forest products value chain/market system and business development relevant for CBFM	Explore possibility of fully funded post graduate students from the UK to conduct studies relevant to the research and lesson learning needs of the programme. Students have been attached to MCDI and the same institution in the UK has approached FORVAC. Learn from MCDI experiences first.					Research students and relevant research papers shared/published?	1		CTA	PMT, MCDI, FME and CCs	Self-funded	
Output 2. Total Budget												73,759	184,390,000

Output 3. Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
3	Extension, communication, and monitoring systems developed											
3.1	Enhanced extension and communication services											
3.1.1	Supporting Districts & FBD on Forest and beekeeping related events (marketing events)	Marketing strategy to support VLFRs to promote VLFR products including LKTS at national platforms resulting in increased sales					Increased sales (revenue) of VLFR products	10%	FME, CCs, VCA, PMT	Other consultant support as required	9,000	22,500,000
3.1.2	Assist active journalists committed to forest issues to be further involved in forestry related activities to report and learn new concepts emerging in the forest sector – workshops and other forums, dialogues	ST Consultancy: Produce five short films for website and social media and other users highlighting the link between VLFR income and sustainable forest management and improved livelihoods within the key theme of the ‘Forest that pays is the forest that stays’ highlighting the win win win for forests, communities and governments and also key lessons learned. Also for lesson learning workshop Also newspaper and TV pieces through journalists					Short films and articles or broadcasts	5	M&E, VCA, CTA	Appropriate consultants working closely with programme stakeholders	13,600	34,000,000
3.1.4	Develop Implementation Strategies and Extension Manuals of Forestry and Beekeeping Policies	Miombo timber species, VLFR database and other info from FORVAC integrated in to MNRT website in user friendly accessible format as part of exit strategy/ sustainability – maintenance of website and cost long term agreed.					Website addition to MNRT website		NPC, CTA, M&E	MNRT IT, SUA, possible consultant support	8,400	21,000,000

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
3.2	Forest products value chain/market systems and business development skills incorporated in relevant training institutes											
3.2.1	Support district & national authorities in monitoring of FORVAC interventions	1.Quarterly technical review meetings/backstopping in clusters to review lessons learned to feed into responsive planning					Review and planning undertaken	6	CTA	FME, CCs, DFOs, RFOs	Management costs	
		II. To support quarterly monitoring & technical backstopping to FORVAC interventions by district authorities troubleshooting any problems and responding with action to any concerns raised					Monitoring and responsive actions	6	CCs	FME, DFOs	16,380	40,950,000
		III. To support quarterly monitoring and backstopping of FORVAC interventions by regional authorities responsively dealing with any issues or concerns					Monitoring and responsive actions	6	CCs	FME, RFO	7,200	18,000,000
		IV. National monitoring visits by MNRT – twice a year					Monitoring and responsive actions	2	NPC, CTA	MNRT, FME, CCs	10,080	25,200,000
		V. FORVAC Results and lesson sharing Workshop and all associated publications/information materials (hard copy and digital)					FORVAC results widely shared	1	M&E, CTA	MNRT, FME CCs	20,000	50,000,000
3.2.5	End of programme impact assessment	VST consultancy Outcome – Impact level Assessment: Assessing and Communicating through appropriate media the relationship between higher income / lower deforestation in VLFRs etc.					Clear communication of FORVAC approach/impact		CTA, M&E	Appropriate consultant	4,800	12,000,000

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
3.2.6	Monitoring forest cover in the Programme area (target villages)	ST consultancy: Develop and pilot a satellite image - based monitoring of forest cover (deforestation) in the Programme area VLFR sites versus control sites outside VLFRs						Deforestation rates compared in VLFRs and controls	CTA, M&E FAM	Appropriate consultant	TA budget	
Output 3. Total Budget											89.460	223,650,000

Output 4. Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023- 6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
4	Legal and policy frameworks for CBFM and forest value chains strengthened											
4.1	Improved policy and regulatory framework for (VLFR) forest value chain development											
4.1.1	Support to development of Natural Forest Management Planning Guidelines and CBFM books and their dissemination	I. Consultancy: Study on the simplification/more cost-effective approach to the PFRA process drawing on FORVAC sites and linking with other actors to aim to collaborate on development of national simplified guidelines					Study and workshop	2	CTA, NPC	Appropriate Consultant, FME, CCs, M&E	8,000	20,000,000
		II. Consultancy: Study and guidance on VLFR benefit sharing mechanisms in FORVAC sites and aim to collaborate with others on national guidance.					Study	1	CTA, NPC,	FME, M&E Appropriate consultant	4,000	10,000,000
4.1.2	Capacity building to increase understanding of policies and laws	I. Based on reviews by MNRT, ERET and AWP process consultations various issues identified that require MNRT support/directives/communication to stakeholders to improve policy environment for VLFR					Directives issued and communicated to all programme sites and nationally to resolve		NPC, CTA	MNRT, Regional and District	8,680	21,700,000

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
	relevant for CBFM and VCD development	enterprises and alleviate key identified barriers to CBFM/VLFR enterprises. Notably – but may also be others; 1. Communicate the importance of operating the 2 new mobile sawmills and solar dryers ASAP. 2. Clarification that mobile sawmills can enter inside VLFRs. 3. Local government should procure timber from VLFRs as a first preference where available. 4. Local government must specify in procurement that the desirable species are not only the 2 most common but also other lesser-known species. 5. Clarification that no royalties paid on local wood use from the VLFR in the VLFR managing communities. 6. To ensure that there is complete clarity regarding the issuance of harvesting licenses in VLFR community forests (including roles between TFS, DFO regarding license and TP).					around 4 to 6 issues – often as outputs of other activities but requiring refinement meetings or dissemination.			authorities, CCs		
		II. Technical Review of GN 417 involving team form MNRT, LGAs, TFS, Attorney General -AG, and other key informants as required and directed by MNRT Management – with a specific focus on barriers to CBFM enterprises and revisions/practical steps to solve the barriers.					Bottlenecks in GN417 or its understanding ironed out		NPC, CTA	MNRT and supporting stakeholders	20,000	50,000,000
		III. Collaborate with relevant actors to establish MoU between MNRT, PMO, PO-RALG and private sector on					VLFR harvesting and licensing		NPC, CTA	MNRT, PMO, PO-RALG	6,000	15,000,000

Code (#)	Main Activity	Sub Activity	Schedule 7/2023-6/2024				Units/ Results	Target	Responsibilities		Budget	
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Lead	Support	EUR	TZS
		roles and responsibilities to clarify, streamline and expedite the harvest licensing process for VLFRs.					process/procedures streamlined					
		IV. Ascertain key institutions pertaining to facilitating LKTS procurement. Engagement with PPRA and TBS and key institutions to ascertain procurement and Marketing procedures to support legal LKTS with aim of developing a new GN to guide procurement.					PPRA and TBS revised to support LKTS – specific GN number		NPC, CTA	MNRT, PMO, PO-RALG and key institutions	9,336	23,340,000
		V. Organize a full multi stakeholder forum to discuss the challenges in the enabling environment hindering timber production and trade from VLFR and exploring opportunities (marketing strategies – mechanisms) and challenges on the private sector involvement in VLFR value chains- can be combined with the support for the national CBFM forum.					Full multi-stakeholder workshop and actions committed to	1	CTA, NPC, M&E	MNRT, MJUMITA, TFCG, SHIVIMITA, TAWOFE other private sector etc.	20,000	50,000,000
Output 4. Total Budget											76,016	190,040,000

Annex 2 FORVAC supported Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs), Forest Management Plans (FMP), Harvesting Plans (HP), and gazetted Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFR)

Cluster	District	Village	VLUP Area (ha)	VLUP Approved at District level	VLFR Area (ha)	Area of VLFR Gazetted	FMP Area (ha)	Protected Area (ha)	FMP & HP Approved at Village Level	FMP & HP Approved at Higher Levels	Annual Allowable Cut (m3)
Ruvuma	Namtumbo	Kumbara	5,587	6/2020	750						
		Limamu	73,192	6/2020	16,391		16,391	3,697	2/2021	Ministry level 6/2022	4,205
		Njalamatata	13,449	3/2022	2,021		1,570		7/2024	Not yet approved	1,998
		Chengena	14,789	3/2022	844		844	2	11/2022	District level 12/2022	10,956
		Kilangalanga	10,979	3/2022	835		835				
		Masuguru	16,676	Not yet Approved	2,924		2,924				
	Songea	Liweta	13,488	12/2019	1,408	1,408	1,408	0	9/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	563
		Litowa	17,100	12/2019	1,397	1,397	1,397	0	9/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	966
		Kikunja	21,692	12/2019	3,475		3,475	0	10/2023	Not yet approved	484
		Ndongosi		Existing LUP valid		4,174	4,174	0	9/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	1,865
		Mhukurulilahi		Existing LUP valid		7,698	7,698	0	9/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	1,843
		Matimila A	12,621	Not yet Approved	2,300		2,300		7/2024	Not yet approved	2,150
	Mbinga	Ndongosi	6,894	12/2019	944						
		Kindimba juu	10,389	12/2019	1,618						
		Kindimba chini	11,162	12/2019	4,807						
		Amani makoro	9,947	2/2023	1,784						
		Kiwombi	4,256	2/2023	653						
		Barabara	6,710	2/2023	1,980						
	Nyasa	Litumbakuhamba	3,536	11/2019	1,094						
		Hinga	5,343	11/2019	2,663						
		Litoromelo	3,306	11/2019	260						
		Mkali B	1,524	5/2022	91					Area for tree planting	
	Tunduru	Misechela	65,681	8/2021	4,934						
		Liwangula		Existing LUP valid			6,124	661	3/2021	District level 4/2021	1,615
		Kajima					3,497	349	6/2021	District level 8/2021	654
		Mkwela		Existing LUP valid			14,221	1,453	9/2021	District level 3/2022	1,533

Cluster	District	Village	VLUP Area (ha)	VLUP Approved at District level	VLFR Area (ha)	Area of VLFR Gazetted	FMP Area (ha)	Protected Area (ha)	FMP & HP Approved at Village Level	FMP & HP Approved at Higher Levels	Annual Allowable Cut (m3)
Lindi	Ruungwa	Lichwachwa		Existing LUP valid		2,414	2,414	246	8/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	594
		Mmawa	1,416	11/2019	446						
		Nandenje		Existing LUP valid		5,084	5,084	926	8/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	1,666
		Nahanga	8,167	7/2022	3,053	3,053	3,053	340	8/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	629
		Chingumbwa	4,507	11/2019	1,690						
		Mchichili	11,046	7/2022	6,188	6,188	6,188	591	8/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	387
		Machang'anja	8,918	11/2019	2,460						
		N'gau		Existing LUP valid		4,095	4,095	423	8/2020	Ministry level 3/2021	261
	Liwale	Mikunya		Existing LUP valid		1,369	1,369	139	3/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	5,422
		Mtawatawa		Existing LUP valid		12,391	12,391	1,239	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	1,799
		Nangano		Existing LUP valid		8,822	8,822	882	3/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	1,799
		Mtungunyu		Existing LUP valid		18,992	18,992	1,900	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	2,834
		Nahoro/VLFR 1		Existing LUP valid		20,905	20,905	2,980	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	8,422
		Nahoro/VLFR 2		Existing LUP valid		1,028	1,028	128	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	771
		Naujombo		Existing LUP valid			6,737	674	9/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	932
		Chimbuko		Existing LUP valid			18,915	1,892	10/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	7,406
		Barikiwa		Existing LUP valid		19,268	19,268	1,927	9/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	9,601
		Darajani		Existing LUP valid			5,035	540	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	1,309
		Kitogoro		Existing LUP valid		8,275	8,275	828	6/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	3,548
		Likombora	16,947	12/2019	11,006	11,006	11,006	1,100	3/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	1,860
		Turuki	14,625	12/2019	9,086	9,086	9,086	908	10/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	3,220
		Chigugu/VLFR 1	15,600	8/2021	3,601		3,601	360	3/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	1,244
		Chigugu/VLFR 2			3,564		3,564	364	3/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	1,174
		Lilombe	25,314	8/2021	17,314		17,314	1,744	3/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	1,432
		Luwele/VLFR 1	40,605	8/2021	6,332		6,332	633	5/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	284
		Luwele/VLFR 2			9,929		9,929	993	5/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	3,207
		Mikuyu/VLFR1		Existing LUP valid		11,644					
		Mikuyu/VLFR2		Existing LUP valid		1,373	1,373	138	7/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	3,526
		Mahonga					4,781	511	12/2020	Ministry level 4/2022	1,532
		Nanjegeja					2,646	264	12/2020	Ministry level 4/2022	628
		Ngumbu					13,712	6,440	8/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	340
		Legezamwendo		Existing LUP valid			483	48	6/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	1,154
		Kiangara		Existing LUP valid			641	65	6/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	156
		Kibutuka		Existing LUP valid		5,654	5,654	565	6/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	5,775
		Mihumo		Existing LUP valid		8,709	8,709	870	6/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	12,167
		Ngongowe VLFR1		Existing LUP valid		6,475	6,475	647	10/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	1,897
		Ngongowe VLFR2		Existing LUP valid		5,474					
		Litou		Existing LUP valid		1,805	1,805	180	10/2022	Ministry level 8/2023	1,138
		Ngunja		Existing LUP valid		6,557	6,557	656	10/2022	Ministry level 7/2024	5,807
	Nachingwea	Nanjih		Existing LUP valid			3,572	0	10/2019	Ministry level 4/2022	2,947
		Kilimarondo		Existing LUP valid			4,900	505	3/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	556
		Malekwe	31,123	10/2021	3,240		3,240	354	9/2021	Ministry level 7/2024	365
		Majengo	16,644	10/2021	1,054						
		Nahimba		Existing LUP valid			1,817	182	7/2019	Ministry level 1/2021	2,702
		Mbondo		Existing LUP valid			2,673	265	1/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	399
		Kiegei A		Existing LUP valid			1,841	183	3/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	202
		Kiegei B		Existing LUP valid			13,824	1,403	1/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	2,648
		Namatunu		Existing LUP valid			8,600	926	6/2020	Ministry level 1/2021	1,078
		Ngunichile		Existing LUP valid			1,468	156	2/2021	Ministry level 4/2022	599
		Lipuyu		Existing LUP valid			1,061	114	5/2019	Ministry level 1/2021	1,208
		Majonanga		Existing LUP valid			5,317	532	5/2018	Ministry level 1/2021	183

Cluster	District	Village	VLUP Area (ha)	VLUP Approved at District level	VLFR Area (ha)	Area of VLFR Gazetted	FMP Area (ha)	Protected Area (ha)	FMP & HP Approved at Village Level	FMP & HP Approved at Higher Levels	Annual Allowable Cut (m3)
Tanga	Handeni	Kitumbi	27,215	11/2019	7,705		7,705	771	8/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	105
		Gole		Existing LUP valid			6,679	632	7/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	659
		Kwedikabu		Existing LUP valid		3,472	3,472	347	7/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	32
		Kwamsundi	5,023	11/2019	460						
		Kwamsisi				1,080					
		Mazingara		Existing LUP valid			1045	365	6/2022	Not yet approved	244
	Kilindi	Mnkonde	12,743	11/2019	1,095		1,095	107	7/2020	Ministry level 12/2020	1,155
		Turiani Kwedjoro	17,431	11/2019	565						
		Komazi	5,117	11/2019	353						
		Kwamwande				920					
		Kimbe				772					
	Mpwapwa	Chiseyu	9,046	11/2019	4,041						
		Ikuyu	9,183	11/2019	1,368						
		Chitemo	11,096	10/2021	2,489						
	Kiteto	SULEDO (13 villages)					77,502	7,832	6/2022	District level 04/2023	8,586
Total (ha or m³)			620,087		150,212	200,588	468,908	52,974		*460,518	146,421
									*Area of FMPs approved at District or Ministry level		

Annex 3 Recommendations towards growing the honey industry in Ruvuma Cluster

no.	Recommendation	Impact on Value Chain	Time-frame	Stakeholders	How this could be achieved
1	Lobby District Councils to allocate budget for District Beekeeping Officers to do fieldwork, to support inexperienced beekeepers.	Enhances knowledge and skills, towards achieving greater yield	Immediate	FORVAC. District Councils. MNRT.	End of project presents opportunity to lobby DCs to invest in beekeeping as the donor has invested a lot - now DCs should shoulder more responsibility. Donated motorbikes are for beekeeping support and need to be fuelled - otherwise waste of donor resources.
2	Promote individual ownership of beehives. Some groups have already divided hives amongst themselves. DBOs should suggest (not oblige) other groups do the same, asking them to decide amongst themselves how to handle any person who neglects their hives in future e.g. should they relinquish them?	Enhances motivation, towards achieving greater beekeeper investment	Immediate	District Beekeeping Officers.	End of project presents opportunity to emphasise that donated hives now belong to the beekeepers (they are not FORVAC hives) - and they need to be treated as valuable assets. Opportunity for DBO to discuss ownership arrangements with groups and make changes in some cases. During these discussions the question should be asked, "what happens if a person neglects donated hives ... should they relinquish them after a warning?".
3	Ensure every beekeeper has access to good information about their beekeeping calendar – note there are marked differences within districts. We learned that beekeeping calendars have been prepared. These must be widely shared.	Enhances knowledge and skills, towards achieving greater yield	Immediate	District Beekeeping Officers.	End of project presents opportunity to check that resources created with project support, i.e. beekeeping calendars, are within reach of the beekeepers.

4	Convene establishment meetings for each district beekeeping association (when certifications are ready) and support them to create mechanisms for information and expertise sharing – for their own beekeeping community.	Strengthens knowledge and skills, motivation and empowers beekeepers	Immediate	FORVAC. District Beekeeping Officers. Beekeeping associations.	One meeting in each district. Associations should be helped to establish their objectives and mode of operating. Avoid being too ambitious in terms of aims - they need to start with moderate aims they can achieve, not ambitious goals they cannot reach.
5	Invite a bulk honey buyer to speak to beekeeping associations and tell them their business model – for information and looking forward, not necessarily to forge immediate market link.	Creates pull-effect of bulk market for large volumes	Immediate	FORVAC. District Beekeeping Officers. Beekeeping associations. Bulk buyer e.g. Swahili Honey or another.	The bulk buyer is invited to the meeting (above) so they can share their business model and explain the scale of volume of honey they are seeking. If there are five beekeeping associations, that suggests 5 meetings which is quite a big undertaking. An alternative lower cost approach might be to interview a bulk buyer, make a video and show the video at the meetings.
6	Identify experienced beekeepers and encourage the new beekeeping associations to empower them to share their local knowledge and skills with new beekeepers.	Enhances knowledge and skills, towards achieving greater yield	Medium-term	District Beekeeping Officers and TFS beekeepers. Beekeeping associations.	Identify a cohort of community-based experienced beekeepers and ask them to help others - this could form a key role of beekeeping associations. They may need an incentive - this could be arranged locally. For example, if a new beekeeper needs help to harvest honey, they could share some of the honey with the helper.
7	Arrange a study tour for leaders of beekeeping associations and aspirational beekeepers, for learning and inspiration, and to show what serious beekeeping looks like.	Enhances motivation, towards achieving greater beekeeper investment	Medium-term	District Beekeeping Officers and TFS beekeepers. Beekeeping associations. Development partner.	It is understood that study tours had previously been arranged by FORVAC. The reports from these study tours should be reviewed and some previous participants interviewed - perhaps to gauge if they have a strong impact. Otherwise this activity is expensive and would need donor support.

8	Oblige individual beekeepers using VLFR to commit actions or money to support the VNRMC.	Strengthens feedback loop towards beekeeping incentivising forest protection	Medium-term	VNRMC and beekeepers.	Obliging beekeepers to pay to use VLFRs may back-fire and discourage beekeepers from using them. The alternative is to ask them to commit actions to safeguard the forest e.g. patrolling, fire mitigation - as this helps the beekeepers as well. They are likely to be more willing to do activities, than contribute money.
9	Encourage overlap between VNRMC and beekeeping activity – so for example beekeepers who wish to use the VLFR can take on some of the responsibilities of the VNRMC, and VNRMC members can help beekeepers by checking on safety of hives when doing patrolling.	Strengthens feedback loop towards beekeeping incentivising forest protection	Medium-term	VNRMC and beekeepers. District Beekeeping Officers. Development partners.	VNRMC members could be supported / trained to become individual beekeepers. Then when they do their community work (VNRMC management) - they can do their individual work (beekeeping in the VLFR) at the same time.
10	Support individual aspirational beekeepers who show potential, to scale up their business	Enhances motivation, towards achieving greater beekeeper investment and greater volumes.	Medium-term	District Councils. Development Partner. Serious beekeepers.	This recommendation would need to be back-up by scoping exercise - to identify the beekeepers and craft a fully costed business plan of what a scaled-up beekeeping business would cost to grow, run and what it would yield.
11	Support local buyers to grow into bulk buyers	Creates market pull-effect in the value chain.	Medium-term	District Councils. Development Partner. District-based honey buying / packing companies.	This recommendation would need to be back-up by scoping exercise - to identify the honey businesses and craft a fully costed business plan of what a scaled-up honey business would cost to grow, run and what it would yield.

12	Study the honey yield capacity of the area (in different locations) in order to establish realistic targets.	Helps set realistic targets, enriches the enabling environment for the sector	Long-term	Researchers / students / experts. Development partners.	It is important that targets are rooted in evidence. This type of investigation could be undertaken by a research institution.
13	Explore options for using the natural tree capital available in VLFRs, in a managed way and within the annual allowable cut, to make more hives, allowing beekeepers to scale-up and earn more. Instead of asking the beekeepers to pay for trees upfront, ask them to pay an annual sum to the VNRMC or do work in-kind, in direct support of VLFR conservation. If they locate their hives in the VLFR it makes more sense for them to multi-task, visit their hives and patrol at the same time.	Supports scale-up, towards achieving greater yield	Long-term	Researchers / students / experts / MNRT officials. Development partners.	This recommendation would need to be backed-up by a feasibility study to explore what would be possible and acceptable within the management guidelines governing the VLFRs.
14	Study and model the full economic cost/benefit of beekeeping in the project area - using range of different assumptions and profile in comparison with other livelihood activities	Helps to identify support needed to make beekeeping more profitable and attractive, to incentivise more beekeeper investment	Long-term	Researchers / students / experts. Development partners.	A study of this kind would be suitable for a university student. The economic analysis should consider time spent beekeeping compared to other activities and situate beekeeping within the wider livelihood portfolio of people in the project area. One stakeholder said that people were less committed in beekeeping in one village, because they had too many other profitable options, making beekeeping 'not worth their time'. This needs to be understood.

15	District Councils seek funds and build processing facilities (appropriate scale) and offer to rent it out to private entrepreneur/bulk honey buyer. Seek a development partner to provide soft loan or grant to an entrepreneur as working capital, to cover costs until businesses becomes profitable. The beekeeping associations can help by handling some of the collection logistics to make the business viable.	Creates pull-effect of bulk market for large volumes	Long-term	District Councils. Development Partner. Private sector buyer.	This recommendation would need to be backed-up by a feasibility study to explore what would be possible, what would it cost, roles and responsibilities. Whilst development partners are 'traditionally' willing to spend USD50,000 on buying and donating beehives to beekeepers, they are less willing to providing working capital to a new honey trade entrepreneur. The reasons for this are known and understood. Nevertheless, it could be strongly argued that investing in the market-pull is more impactful and sustainable. What is need is bold vision and well-crafted partnerships.
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Annex 4 Steps and processes, which could be adopted or adapted for simplification of the PFRA method

Steps	National PFRA Guideline instructions (shortcomings)	Simplification of the major step (Suggested)
Planning and Preparations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forestry tools are suggested of which some are quite expensive and cannot easily be handled by PFRA teams from VNRCs 2. The national PFRA guidelines lacks trade off in terms of labour costs; the investment of effort required by communities, and the financial cost of that effort (both to communities and technical facilitators) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the purpose of PFRA to the whole village, including hamlets/sub villages and find out communities objectives and purpose for management of the VLFR and preferences on forest product utilizations. Estimated quantity of forest products and non-timber forest products can also be established. 2. Train the PFRA team members (mostly composed of VNRC members and tree identifiers with local forest knowledge) and agree on roles & responsibilities. 3. Obtain equipment and simple tools. These include GPS, tailors tape measure, long tape measure, writing pads, data collection forms and pencils. Machetes and other available local tools for tracking in the forest could be provided by PFRA team. 4. Acquire Forest Map – it is suggested to the facilitation team i.e. foresters, to print a large satellite map with high resolution so that all features can be easily identified by PFRA team. Locate sample plots on the base map, and conduct participatory pre planning for the systematic sampling design. This will help to gain the knowledge from the PFRA team who knows better the VLFR. Lay out the sampling plots on the map with forest management units (FMUs). In case there is a new VLFR that has been approved from the VLUPs, an application for registration and acquire Job Number (JB) for the reserve should be done immediately from the FBD headquarter. Boundary inspection should be done by zonal TFS officers and/or Land surveyors to complement the JB number designation.
Sample Plot Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The guidelines suggest several sampling design and mostly square and round plots, which are guided by sampling intensity. This is suitable for general inventory, probably not for CBFM with small and medium sized areas not exceeding 20,000 Ha 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transects with plots: Find transect starting point and locate sample plots. It is important that the PFRA team understands the starting point and in case of two PFRA teams, one team should begin on the other end of the VLFR or transect and meet at the mid points. 2. Data recording: Assessing and recording sample plot information should be carefully entered into the recording forms. One or two member of the PFRA team should be chosen among others depending on the sample plots. A member with good knowledge on data recording should be selected. This will minimize errors and missing

		correct data while the team is conducting assessment.
Information Compilation and Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Analysis is mostly conducted by experts and shared back as final documents. 2. Production of histograms and charts are also unnecessary and communities may not need them. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participatory data analysis: The compilation and analysis of sample plot information should be participatory. While the PFRA team can merge and collate all data forms from various sample plots, the final data analysis should be done by a qualified forester. This can be done in the village or in the office with computer facilities. 2. Estimate sustainable off-take quantities should also be carefully done by experts/foresters. Any overestimate could lead to depletion of forest products or certain species of interest. While the national PFRA guideline remains silent on establishing allowable cut, it is suggested that for better estimates of allowable cut a confidence limit of about 75% should be adopted.
Preparation of Management Plan (and Harvesting plan)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PFRA guidelines does not cover all the processes involved with preparing management plans but covers only steps for assessment of the forest resources use of information for management planning. 2. Confidence limits are calculated at 95% which is too high and may lead to overharvesting of some species if not done properly. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of the compiled information to village council and village assembly. This gives opportunity for communities to get an insight of the forest resources that exist in their VLFRs. These include tree species that are suitable for timber harvesting as well as other usage as identified at the preparation phase. 2. Drafting of bylaws is conducted at this phase and communities are guided by district foresters/district lawyers on establishing workable bylaws. 3. Drafting of Harvesting Plan is also done at this stage, using information from the PFRA team. Total volumes and Annual Allowable cut volumes are presented and agreed at the village assembly.
Approval of Management Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provisional steps for approval of the Management Plan is not covered in the PFRA guideline 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-approval at village assembly and approval at District Councils are considered to be levels of approving the management plan and harvesting plan. Both Management and harvesting plans goes into iterative support of district foresters and lawyers, who guide the communities to set bylaws with relevant penalties which could be applicable at village level. 2. Approval of the management plan by the Director of Forestry is mandatory according to the legislation but there should not be further bureaucracy for field visit by senior ministerial staff for inspections. It is recommended for relevant TFS zonal offices to perform the field visit (if necessary). This may save much of the costs and time.

Annex 5 Suggested simple processes on undertaking VLUPs

From the land use planning and implementation process, the following are suggested:

- For communities with timber revenues or any other income from the forests, they could set aside budgets for land management along with other sectorial supports from agriculture, water, livestock, or land & settlements. In this way it will reduce the burden of each land sector to manage its own land parcel as well as reduce land use conflicts in the village jurisdictions. Furthermore, the NLUPC guidelines are quite bureaucratic and complicated, requiring much time in planning and training at district level i.e. PLUM team and the VLUM teams in villages.
- The VLUP approaches could be adjusted with fewer inputs from the costly district PLUM team since the local institutions at village level could be enabled to deal with most of the land use management issues themselves at minimal costs and time spend. This could include undertaking intensive trainings for village institutions and their committees. The committees include: Village Council, Village land use management committee, village natural resources committees, village water users committees, village health committees or any other relevant committees, a village council may deem necessary to establish as directed by the Local Government Act (District Authority Act, 1982).
- Consultations with MNRT and other public, non-government organizations (NGOs) and private institutions at national, regional and district level in building on the lessons learned from long time Participatory Land Use Planning and Management undertaken in the country, with focus on land management and implementation of land use plans, streamline the establishment of VLFRs process and developing FMPs. This should also couple with supporting local institutions and other similar sectors (water, livestock, agriculture, etc.) for capacity building and improving governance of the village land.
- In collaboration with NLUPC, use of technology and digital methodology should be fully adopted in the project area. The methodology used for the VLUP process in Iringa and Njombe, especially the use of MAST and satellite imageries is good, as this will reduce time and increase engagement of communities and district PLUM teams, while building their capacities and active participation.
- Support the communities in completing step 5 and 6 of the PLUM in order to authoritatively ascertain the existing land rights, ownerships and secure boundaries of the village land and customary rights. This will effectively reduce land conflicts at a very high level between land users.

Annex 6 Budget follow-up, July 2023 – June 2024

FORESTRY AND VALUE CHAINS PROGRAMME					
BUDGET VS EXPENDITURE TO JUNE 2024					
		Eur			% of spending
Code	Description	Budget for 2023/24	Expenditure July 2023 - June 2024	Variance	
Output 1	Improved VCs & increased PS involvement in Forest sector	119,623.00	119,641.63	(18.63)	100
Output 2	Stakeholder capacity to implement & promote forestry value chain development enhanced	67,989.00	67,987.99	1.01	100
Output 3	Functional extension, communication, monitoring systems & MIS	99,460.00	89,790.09	9,669.91	90
Output 4	Legal and policy frameworks in forestry supported	65,731.00	69,316.56	(3,585.56)	105
	Programme Management	360,063.77	317,644.26	42,419.51	88
	Support Staff (AFM, M&E and NJE)	176,560.00	142,944.29	33,615.71	81
Total OP Budget & Expenditure for FY 2022/23		889,426.77	807,324.82	82,101.95	91
Total TA Budget & Expenditure for FY 2023/24		761,400.18	680,691.83	80,708.35	89
Grand total budget & Expenditure for 2023/24		1,650,826.95	1,488,016.65	162,810.30	90

Note that the budget versus spend will be updated when the final accounts to the 22nd of July, 2024 are in.