RESPeCT

Realizing equitable, sustainable and profitable community-based forest management in Tanzania

Purpose of research

RESPeCT was initiated in July 2018 and is exploring the social and environmental costs and benefits of community-based forest management (CBFM) for local communities. The work is based in fourteen villages in the Districts of Kilwa, Liwale and Nachingwea. Seven of the villages were selected based on the presence of a CBFM whereas the other seven were selected based on a series of matching characteristics such as distance from paved road, population size, size of forested area, but lack of CBFM.

This poster summarizes the data collected during the first project year and focuses on the social dimensions of CBFM – namely, wellbeing and how it has changed in the last 10 years (2008-2018). The project will continue over the next year and hopes to contribute to the growth of community-based forest management in the country.

Wealth ranking

First we gathered a small group of individuals with the help of the Village Council to define and rank the wealth level of each household present in a village. Wealth definitions for very poor, poor, normal, and rich were decided by the group. Then each household was assigned a wealth category for two time periods – 2008 and 2018, to help capture social changes through time in areas with and without CBFM.

Wellbeing questionnaire

Forty individuals in each village were randomly selected to be interviewed. Themes in the interview were based on former work in Tanzania characterizing wellbeing and included questions on household demographics (eg education, number of people in the household), land, livestock, livelihoods, assets, forest (CBFM, where applicable), health, hope/ self-esteem, and security. Similar to the wealth ranking exercise, the questionnaire focused on two time periods – 2008 and 2018.
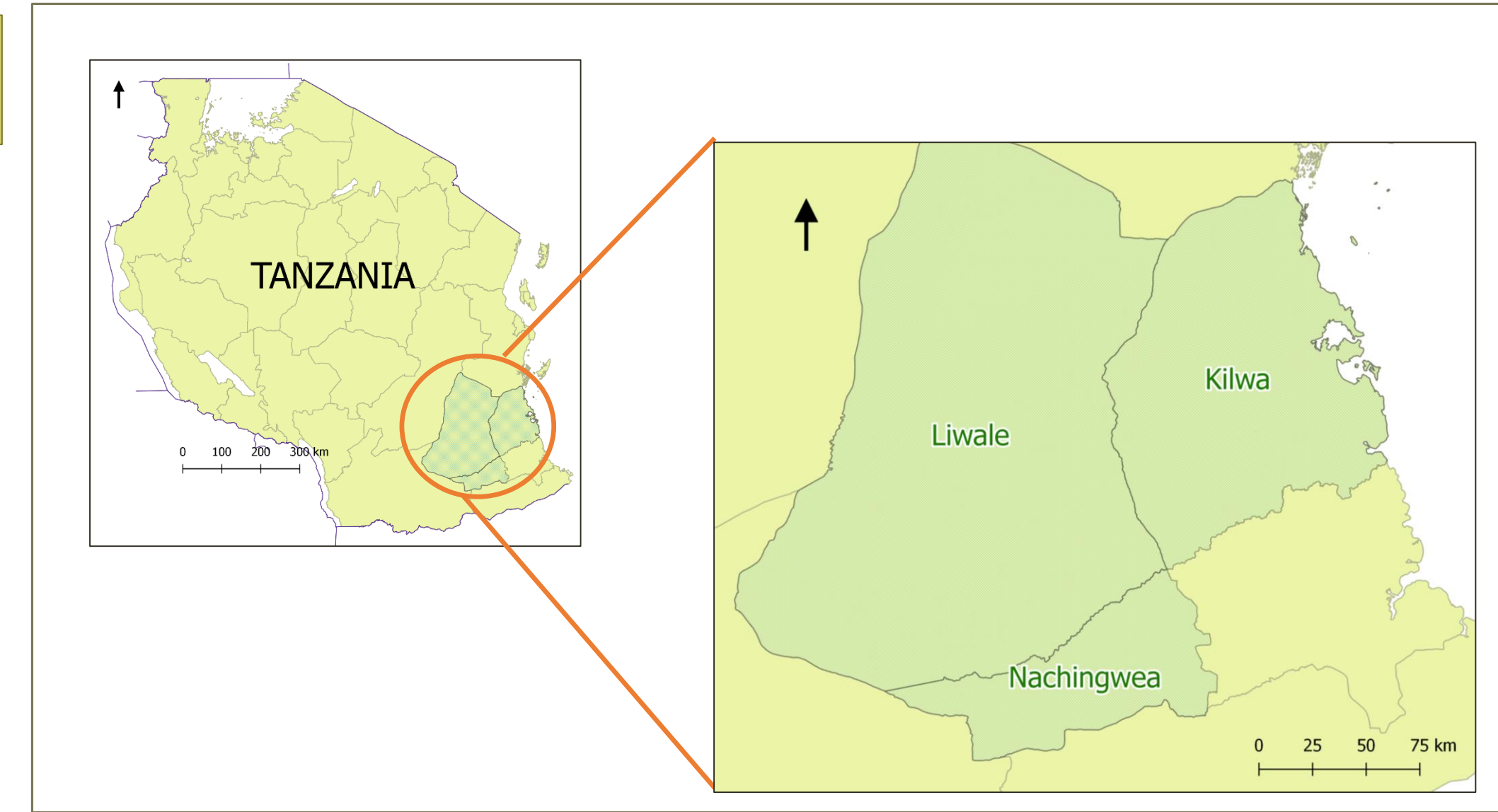
Governance questionnaire

Approximately 10 people in each village were gathered to discuss various components of governance in their village. Individuals were selected with the help of the village council and included representatives from the VC, VNRC or environmental committee, and other individuals whose livelihoods were reliant on the forest. Thematic areas explored included: organization, communication, forest access, forest management, decision making, gender equity, economic development, conflict management and network development.

## Results: how have aspects of wellbeing changed from 2008 to 2018?

Study villages

CBFM (paired with)	Non CBFM
Kikole	Mtandi
Lionja B	Marendego
Liwiti	Njinjo
Mchakama	Kiwawa
Mikunya	Kichonda
Nainokwe	Kimambi
Nanjirinjini A	Makangaga

We interviewed a total of 550 individuals from separate households (40 per village in 14 villages). 332 were men and 218 women. Approximately 19% of the households were female-led.

Households on average had been in the village on average 23 years, 82% married and 92% Muslim.

The size of a household has been growing since 2008 (on average 4.8) to 2018 (5.4).

Livelihoods

Agriculture   Livestock   Forests
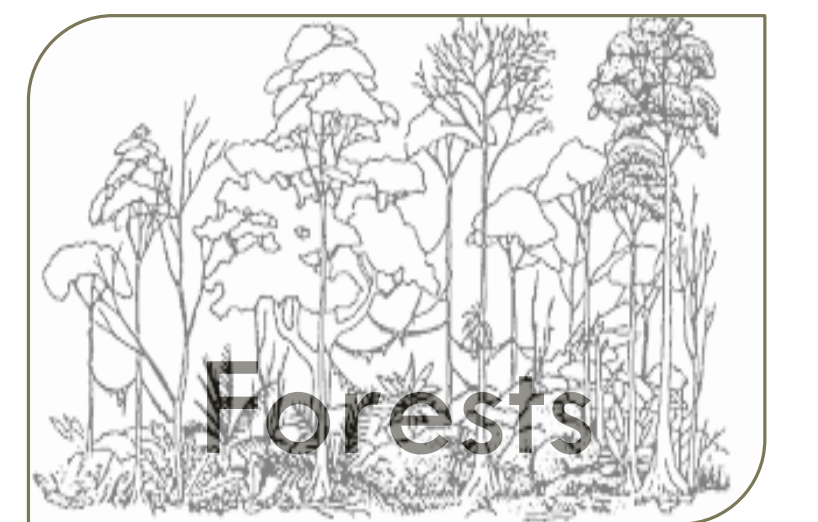
Households describe most of their income being generated from agriculture followed by livestock (mainly chickens) and the household consumption of forest items. There is no difference in areas with or without CBFM.

Wealth ranking

Households in villages with and without CBFM have similar levels of wealth, generally improving.
- Female-headed households also increased but significantly less than male-headed households.

Wellbeing questionnaire

CBFM and non-CBFM villages showed similar changes in many areas but differences in others. In particular, CBFM households showed:
1. More households have solar electricity,
2. More are using pesticides*,
3. An increase in crop raiding*,
4. less debt,
5. Greater sense of collaboration and teamwork in the village*,
6. Higher sense of hope*.

(* indicates statistically significant)

Women are experiencing some differences than men.

Women's attendance of **village assembly meetings** has decreased from 75% in 2008 to 65% in 2018. (Men remained stable at 90% with no difference in areas with and without CBFM). Yet, men seem supportive of their wives ability to attend, eg willing to help with household activities and childcare to enable women to attend (KIWOPAU data). This support is stronger coming from non-CBFM villages.

Hope is significantly higher for men.

Men are generally more positive in their ability to make decisions that impact their lives (**agency**) with no difference in areas with and without CBFM (96% men versus only 85% women).

There is equal agreement that men should be able to have sex with their wives whenever he pleases (KIWOPAU data).
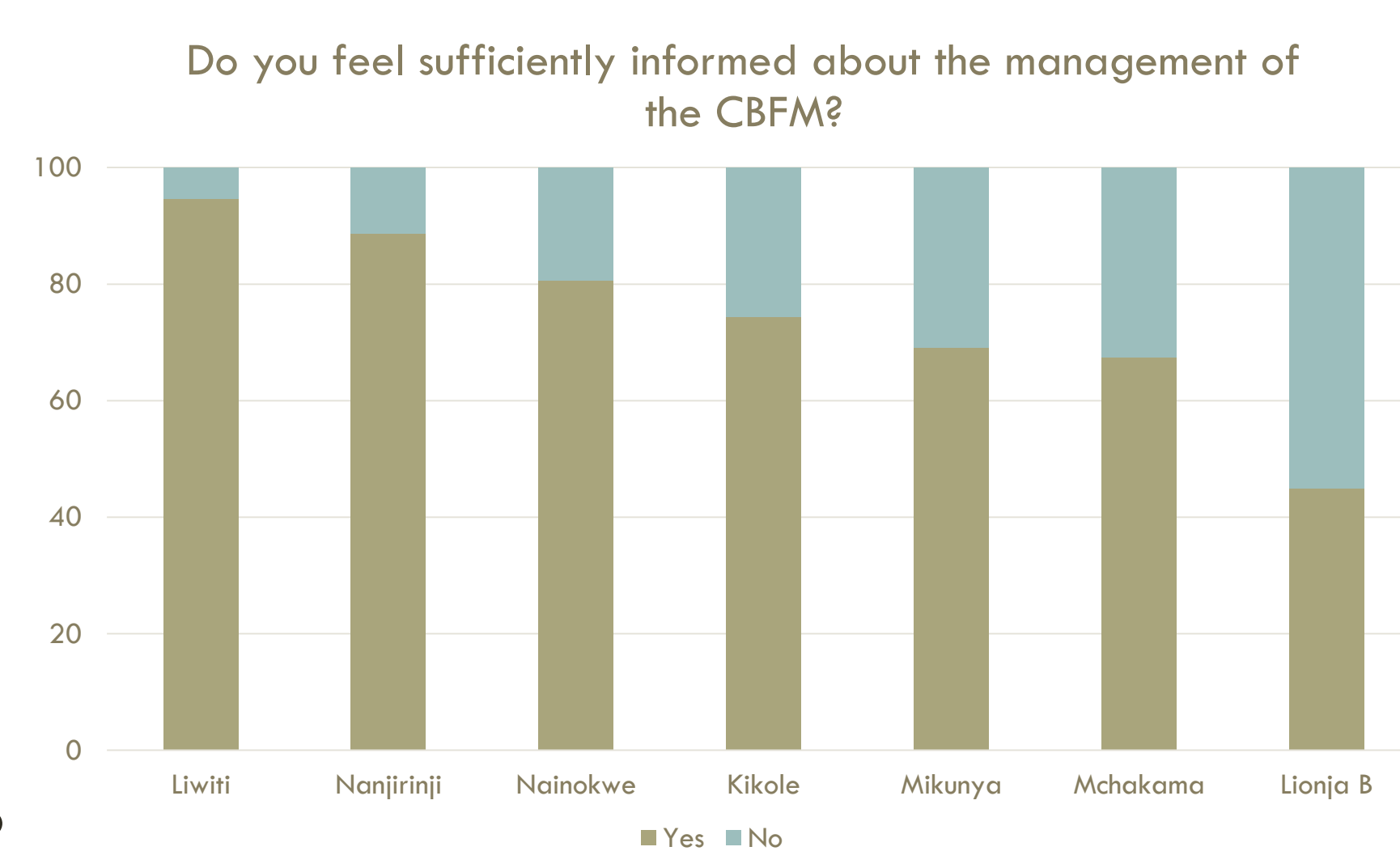
Governance data

CBFM villages score significantly higher overall as compared to villages without CBFM. In particular, CBFM villages are better organized, communicate better, have more developed networks, forest management protocols, and more transparent decision making.

There was **no difference**, however, in how villages governed forest access, economic development, conflict management or issues of gender equity.

In CBFM villages

- People were generally aware of the CBFM and the VLFR boundaries and management.
- There were similar levels of support for the CBFM in 2008 and 2018 in all CBFM villages, 92 to 95%.
- Most people knew who the CBFM leaders were (90%) with slightly less feeling able to exert influence on these leaders (84%).
- Villages varied in their feeling of being sufficiently informed about management of the CBFM (74% overall but see village breakdown to right).

Do you feel sufficiently informed about the management of the CBFM?

Liwiti Nanjirinji Nainokwe Kikole Mikunya Mchakama Lionja B
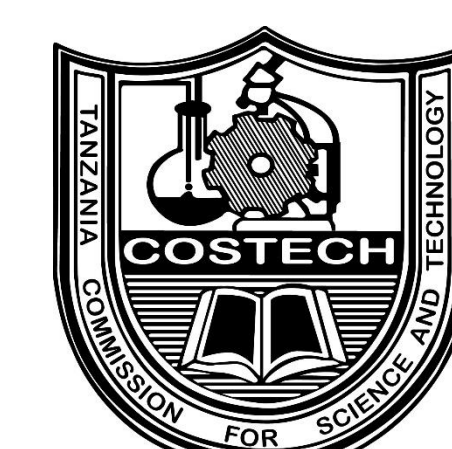
■ Yes ■ No

What do our results suggest?

CBFM has variable impacts (some positive, some negative) at the household level. For example individuals in areas with CBFM have a greater sense of collaboration in their village and higher levels of hope. In contrast, these areas seem to experience more intense crop raiding.

At the community level, villages with CBFM appear to have better governance than those without CBFM, but still struggle with forest access, equity (gender, subvillage, forest dependent), conflict management, and economic development.

CBFM *may* be able to improve on some of these broader issues, like gender equity, but likely require more explicit attention.

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