

**STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIONS REPORT FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON  
PROPOSED OIL PALM BIO-DIESEL & RICE  
PROJECT AT MNGETA,  
KILOMBERO, TANZANIA**

**SUBMITTED TO:**

**InfEnergy Tanzania Ltd**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Floor, NSSF Nyerere Pension Tower**  
**Bibi Titi Street/Morogoro Road**  
**P.O. Box 78934**  
**DAR ES SALAAM**

**Cell Phone: 255 754 580 316**

**Prepared by:**

*C.G. Mung'ong'o, PhD*  
*James Lyimo, PhD*  
*Freelance Consultants*  
*P.O Box 35097 Dar es salaam*  
*Cell Phones: 0787 56 65 30; 0784 91 51 51*

**September 2007**

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
1.0 BACKGROUND.....	3
2.0 FINDINGS.....	4
2.1 Observations and Responses of People Consulted.....	4
2.1.1 Consultations in Kilombero District.....	4
2.1.2 Consultations in Dar es Salaam .....	6
2.2 Geophysical Conditions .....	7
2.3 Socio-Economic Conditions .....	7
2.3.1 Human Population.....	7
2.3.2 Economic Activities .....	7
2.4 Land Use Types.....	8
2.4.1 Crop production .....	8
2.4.3 Livestock keeping.....	12
2.5 Description of the Project Area .....	13
3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
References .....	16

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

In November 2006 InfEnergy Tanzania Ltd commissioned Environmental Association of Tanzania (ENATA) to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of oil palm bio-diesel production project on Mngeta Farm, Kilombero District. Since the project is large-scale cultivation it necessarily falls under the list of projects that require an EIA in accordance to the Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations, 2005-GN No. 349 of 2005. The ENATA consultants together with officials from RUBADA in Dar es Salaam carried out a scoping exercise, which included a site visit at Mngeta from November 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. The scoping exercise was to ensure that the stakeholders participate through meetings in order that the interested and affected parties are well informed of the project. The Report of that EIA was, however, heavily criticized for not doing enough consultations and ignoring some crucial land use issues.

Following discussions held on Sunday, September 2, 2007 at the Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam, an independent Team comprising Dr. Claude G. Mung'ong'o and Dr. James Lyimo was given the task to undertake some fieldwork as an input to the improvement of the Draft EIA Report for the Mngeta Farm (No. 411). The proposed tasks included:

- i) To undertake thorough consultations with key stakeholders who were left out in the earlier EIA. These were to include:

- a) At village level, in-depth consultations with primary stakeholders - mainly communities within the project area and those who in one way or another would influence the project. This would involve focus group discussions with selected farmers in the project area to solicit their views on the project. Also discussions would be held with selected prospective out-growers. There would be discussions with local NGO's such as church organizations and other relevant local institutions.

- b) At district level, consultations were expected to involve the following:

District Agriculture and Livestock Development Officer  
District Planning Officer  
District Community Development Officer  
District Land Officer, and  
Some relevant NGOs operating in the District.

- c) At the national level, other important stakeholders in Iringa and Dar es Salaam were to be met, including:

Officer-in-Charge, Rufiji River Basin Water Office, Iringa  
Regional Agricultural and Livestock Development Advisor, Morogoro  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Irrigation and Crop Development Divisions)  
Ministry of Energy and Minerals  
Wildlife Division (currently dealing with wetlands), and  
Division of Environment

- ii) In-depth analysis of land use issues were also to be undertaken, including:  
Assessment of different land use types in the project area and surrounding villages,  
and  
Assessment of existing and potential land use conflicts in the project area

The Team left Dar es Salaam on Monday, September 10, 2007 for Ifakara. This Report outlines some of the major observations and experiences gained during that trip.

## **2.0 FINDINGS**

### **2.1 Observations and Responses of People Consulted**

#### **2.1.1 Consultations in Kilombero District**

##### 1. Mr. Eng. E. Ndikilo, District Commissioner, Kilombero District, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

On Tuesday, September 11, 2007 the Team paid a courtesy call to the District Commissioner's Office. The aim of the visit was also to seek for permission to undertake the tasks listed above at the District Headquarters and among communities in the concerned villages. In the District Commissioner's Office we met Eng. E. Ndikilo, the District Commissioner for Kilombero District, who had very strong reservations with the assignment, in particular, and the bio-diesel project in general.

On the assignment, the DC informed the Team that he had written RUBADA a letter (Ref. No. A.20/34/157 of 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007) asking them to avail the DC with a Business Plan for the development of Mngeta Farm as agreed at an earlier Meeting (Minutes of "Mkutano wa Utekelezaji Mradi wa Kilimo Mngeta wa tarehe 27/3/2007"). RUBADA had apparently not complied with that request. Hence, the DC said he could not endorse anything regarding the proposed assignment and the Project.

He further reiterated that the proposed Project was, after all, not in line with FAMOGATA objectives that aim to make Morogoro Region become a national granary by producing both rain-fed and irrigated up-land rice. Hence the Project must show how it would be involved in rice production rather than production of palm oil for manufacture of bio-diesel.

According to FAMOGATA, Kilombero District has been given the task of cultivating 8,153 ha of irrigated rice. Of these 5,818 ha are expected to come from the Mngeta Farm. The district is planning to distribute the land to villagers living in the nearby villages, namely Mchombe, Mkangawalo, Chita and Mbingu for block farm rice production. RUBADA were supposed to be aware of this intention as they participated in the above mentioned "Mkutano wa Utekelezaji Mradi wa Kilimo Mngeta" of 27/3/2007.

Hence, the DC emphasized that he would not allow the Team to carry on their proposed tasks in the district until RUBADA responded to the said letter and provided a Business Plan for Mngeta Farm No. 411.

Despite the DC's restraint, the Team visited Mngeta Farm No. 411 and held some unofficial discussions with individual villagers and district officials as outlined below.

2. Dr. K.S. Minja, District Agricultural and Livestock Development Officer, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Dr. Minja comments were in line with the DC's. He was concerned that the project was not in line with FAMOGATA since it would be involved in palm oil production rather than rice. The district would like to see the farm to produce rice as a major crop as one of the means of meeting the objective of making Morogoro a national granary.

3. Mr. P. Mtiganzi, District Water Engineer and Acting DED and Mr. L.B.M. Shio, District Agricultural Extension Officer, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Both Mr. Mtiganzi and Mr. Shio were more optimistic about the project. They all agreed that the project could be a good source of diversifying household food crop production and improvement of household income through prospective employment opportunities. They were of the opinion, however, that the project must be clear on how it would address the issue of FAMOGATA, which is currently a district and regional priority.

4. Mr. Moses Kisujite, Farm Manager, Mngeta Farm, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The Farm Manager provided background information on the farm, including its history - when established, major activities undertaken and the different companies that had managed the farm, et cetera.

- The farm was established in the 1980's under a political agreement between the governments of Tanzania and the People's Republic of Korea as part of South-South cooperation.
- As a result KOTACO was established to manage the farm.
- 1986/87 Site mobilization including survey and design started
- 1988/89 Rice cultivation begun with 400ha yielding 206 tons
- 1989/90 803 ha were cultivated and gave a yield of 1,384 tons
- 1990/91 1,570 ha of rice were planted with a total yield of 3,286 tons
- 1991/92 2,500 ha of rice, about half of the total farm size, were cultivated and gave yield of 3,600ton.
- 1992/93 a total of 1,500 ha were cultivated, giving a yield of 1,400 tons
- 1993/94 only 153 ha were cultivated with a yield of 153 tons. During the same period the Koreans left and left RUBADA to manage the farm, machinery and infrastructure
- From 1994 to 1999 the farm remained idle. No cultivation was done.
- In 1999 a new company Kilombero Holding Company (KIHOCO) under Mr. Eric Winston and one Dr. George Mlingwa entered into an agreement with RUBADA to manage the farm. Under KIHOCO management the farm was, however, unable to produce rice the way it used to do before the Koreans left. Although KIHOCO started building an irrigation infrastructure the project could not take off. Production remained very low. Due to poor performance of the farm KIHOCO returned the farm to RUBADA on August 7, 2007. Nevertheless, it is believed Dr. Mlingwa and one Mr. Mike Martin have formed a new company under the name of AMTAN and are bidding to get a new contract to take over the management of the farm.
- The Farm Manager also revealed that, despite of the government's directive to reduce livestock population in Kilombero Valley, there is high influx of livestock into the Farm and surrounding areas, especially from 2005 onwards. Consequently, there have been numerous conflicts between livestock keepers and farmers as animals feed onto crops. Some of the livestock keepers have even built settlements within the Farm.

5. Mr. Plasdius Kinyonge, Resident of Mngeta Village, 12th September 2007

Mr. Kinyonge complained that since the collapse of KOTACO people have been poor without money to pay for school fees and other domestic needs, as well as money to invest into rice farming. Hence, he was very positive that any project, which would create employment to the people and diversify sources of income, would be very welcome in Mngeta village and the surrounding villages.

## **2.1.2 Consultations in Dar es Salaam**

Back in Dar es Salaam the Team continued with consultations at the national level institutions. It visited the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Wildlife Division (Wetlands Unit) and RUBADA offices in Ubungo. Details of the emerging issues are analyzed and discussed in the following sections of this Report.

6. Honourable Prof. R.B.B. Mwalyosi (MP) and Chairman of the RUBADA Board of Directors, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Prof. Mwalyosi was very impressed with the InfEnergy's Business Plan and expressed his optimism about the capacity of the Company to manage the Farm. He, however, wanted the Company to particularly address the following salient issues for improvement of rural livelihood and maintenance of ecological integrity of the area:

- Most of the households in the villages around the farm are poor subsistence farmers using poor technology and their agricultural productivity is very low. The village communities should be empowered, including extension support to increase their productivity and consequently enhancing their food security, farm income and livelihood improvement in line with MKUKUTA objectives. The investors must address such issues.
- Crop diversification is important assurance to household food security. This will enable farmers to diversify their sources of income and reduce their vulnerability incase of adverse events/ disasters such as drought.

7. Aloyce Masanja, Director of Consultancy and Technical Services, RUBADA

This officer was earlier on consulted by ENATA and his views are recorded in the Draft EIA Report. He, however, provided the present Team with useful documents about RUBADA and Mngeta Farm, as well as an introductory letter to the various stakeholders. He also informed the Team that RUBADA had already applied for a water right for use of both two rivers, Mngeta and Kimbi.

8. Dr. Moses Mnzava, Assistant Director, Irrigation Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007

- Kilombero district is potential for irrigation. There are various projects established to exploit such potential. However, there is concern that water availability is variable depending on time of the season and year. Use of up-to-date and reliable hydrological data is important to make appropriate water use budgets which will support irrigated crop production and maintain environmental flow to sustain both flora and fauna in the ecosystem.
- For any irrigation related investment it must consider the socio-economic aspect of the community as well as involving them in terms of their participation and understanding the project whenever, required in line with Irrigation Master Plan..

- Given high demand of irrigation and concern on low water availability it is important to use efficient water irrigation technologies, such as dripping system, as well as to grow crops which do not require much water for irrigation (e.g. bananas when compared to rice).

9. *Ms Miriam Zakaria, Wetlands Unit, Wildlife Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007*

This officer could not be visited in her office, as she was busy with other important commitments outside the Wildlife Division. She was thus contacted by phone. She confirmed that Mngeta Farm is indeed within a Ramsar Site. However, since such sites are multiple land use areas the farm's land use should take cognisance of this function and abide by any forthcoming Integrated Management Plan for the Site.

## 2.2 Geophysical Conditions

Kilombero District has two rain seasons. Short rains (Vuli) which start in October to January and the long rain season, which starts in March to May. The average annual rainfall is 1200mm and temperature ranging from 26 to 32 degrees centigrade. The soils of Mngeta ward are a mixture of sand and clays. They are suitable for the growing of rice, maize, bananas, cacao, sunflowers, simsim, sugar cane and a variety of fruits.

## 2.3 Socio-Economic Conditions

### 2.3.1 Human Population

Analysis of census reports has shown that the population of Kilombero District is increasing. According to 1978 Census the district had a population of 133,013 people (URT 1989). The population increased to 187,593 people in the year 1988 and reached 332,161 in the year 2002 (URT 2003). This is an indication of increasing resource use pressure in the area. Table 1 below shows the population growth in the wards surrounding Mngeta Farm.

Table 1: Population of Selected Wards Surrounding Mngeta Farm

Wards	Population Census Years		
	1977	1988	2002
Mbingu	2,226	4,396	6,389
Mofu	2,792	3,202	4,886
Mchombe	17,289	11,077	27,207
Chita	4,852	8,252	16,768
Mlimba	7,926	16,033	16,033
Total	35,085	42,960	71,283

Source: URT 1982; 1989; 2003,

It is clear that the establishment of the farm will attract many more people from nearby villages seeking for farm employment and/or doing business.

### 2.3.2 Economic Activities

Agriculture and livestock keeping are the major economic activities Mngeta Division. Moreover, few households undertake river fishing. More than 80% of the Kilombero

inhabitants are involved in crop production as the main source of livelihood. Moreover, some few farmers are also involved in livestock keeping and non-farm income earning activities. A majority are subsistence farmers who do not use modern farming technologies.

## 2.4 Land Use Types

Agriculture and livestock keeping are major land use activities. Moreover, few households undertake river fishing. More than 80% of the Kilombero inhabitants are involved in crop production as the main source of livelihood. Moreover, some few farmers are also involved in livestock keeping and non-farm income earning activities. A majority are subsistence farmers who do not use modern farming technologies.

The total arable land in the district is about 445,896 ha. Of this area actual area under cultivation is 65,463 ha and land earmarked for grazing is 120,000 ha. The small area under cultivation is due, among other reasons, to subsistence farming. Most of farmers use hand hoes, do not use improved seeds. They use ox-ploughs where animal power is available. Few farmers can afford to hire tractors. Such a situation limits the expansion of farm acreage. Also those people owning large-scale farms do not have enough capital for full-scale development of their farms.

### 2.4.1 Crop production

Kilombero District is divided into three major production zones (Table 2)

Table 2: Crop Production Zones in Kilombero District

Production zone	Ward covered	Type of crops grown
North eastern zone	Kidatu and Mang'ula	Sugar cane, maize, vegetables, sweet potatoes, cassava
Central zone	Ifakara	Maize, rice, cassava and vegetables
Western zone	Mngeta, and Mlimba	Rice, cassava, maize,bananas, sunflower,

Source: DALDO 2006

Type of crops produced include:

- i) *Rice production:* Kilombero District is known for production of rice. The crop is used both as a cash and food crop.
- ii) *Maize production:* The crop is produced for domestic consumption.
- iii) *Banana:* It is produced for domestic consumption and for sale. However, due to limited access to transport and perishability of the crop it has been difficult for many farmers to access good market.
- iv) *Cassava:* The crop is produced for domestic consumption.
- v) *Oil palms:* Oil palms are not a new crop, especially in Mngeta Division where it is produced in a very small scale. In most areas oil palm trees are intercropped with bananas or maize. Oil is locally extracted and used for domestic consumption.



However, there is a potential to expand production of the crop as a source of income.

Due to subsistence nature of the farming system in the district, the current crop productivity encountered by most of the farmers is very low compared to potential yield as illustrated by Table 3.

Table 3: Crop Productivity of Different Crops in Kilombero District

Type of crop	Current production (Tons/ha)	Production potential using modern technologies (Tons/ha)
Rice	1.9	5.0
Maize	2.2	3.7
Banana	12.5	35.0
Cassava	15.0	25.0
Sugarcane	56.0	80.0

Source: DALDO, 2006

From this table it is clear that most of the farmers are getting very low yields per unit area compared to potential yield, as the majority do not use modern farming technologies such as improved seeds and proper crop husbandry. Most of the farmers are small farm holders using mainly the hand hoe for cultivation.

#### **2.4.2 Irrigation**

Due to the presence of various drainage systems (38 rivers flowing across the valley to join Kilombero River) and flat terrain the district has high potential for irrigation to ensure food security. According to DALDO (2006) the district has an area of about 35,269 ha. Out of which only 1,908 ha are currently under irrigation. Table 4 shows the different agricultural irrigation schemes in Kilombero District

Table 4: Irrigation Projects in Kilombero District

<b>a) Traditional Irrigation scheme</b>				
Name of Scheme	Crops grown	Potential area (ha)	Cultivated area (ha)	Remarks
1. Mkula	Rice Sugarcane	254	40	The project still under construction Funded by Food Aid Counter Part Fund
2. Njage	Rice	395	75	The project still under construction Funded by DADPS
3. Msolwa,	Maize Rice	500	50	The project is still under development Funded by PADEP
4. Lumemo	Rice	90	38	The project has stopped due to high running costs
5. Kisawasawa	Rice	200		The implementation of the project has just started Funded by PADEP
6. Maki-Sonjo	Rice	292	60	Request for fund sent to DADPS
7. Kilama	Maize, rice & vegetables	200	20	Topographic survey is progressing Funded by PADEP
8. Ikule	Rice	210	180	Project write-up has been finished and sent to PADEP for request of fund
9. Kisawasawa	Rice	200	-	Project has started. Funded by PADEP
10. Kiberege	Rice	200		Project has started. Funded by PADEP
11. Sululu (Signalali)	Rice and vegetables	200	60	The implementation of the project has just started Funded by PADEP
12. Udagaji	Rice	210	-	Project write-up completed and sent to PADEP for funding
13. Mkwangawalo	Rice	220	-	Project write-up completed and sent to PADEP for funding
14. Kisegese	Gardening Rice	200	-	Project write-up completed and sent to PADEP for funding
<b>Total area</b>		<b>3,171</b>	<b>523</b>	
<b>b. Private owned large irrigation projects</b>				
ILLOVO	Sugarcane	1,5000	1385	Commercial production
Mngeta Farm	Rice	5,818		The farm stopped producing rice. Of the total farm size, there are about 25 ha of bananas cultivated. The District Council has proposed to revive the project and distribute the land to nearby village communities to produce rice

Source: DALDO, 2006

Table 5: Crop Production Projections per Hectare, 2007 – 2010

District	Maize		
	Hectare	Ton/Hectare	Tons
Morogoro (V)	27,159	5	135,795
Morogoro (M)	1,850	5	9,250
Mvomero	26,000	5	130,000
Kilosa	68,800	5	344,000
Kilombero	24,609	5	123,045
Ulanga	21,132	5	105,662
<b>Region</b>	<b>169,550</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>847,752</b>
District	Rainfed Rice		
	Region	Ton/Hectare	Tons
Morogoro (V)	13,524	4	52,744
Morogoro (M)	3,050	4	11,895
Mvomero	12,512	4	48,797
Kilosa	24,849	4	96,911
Kilombero	40,000	4	156,000
Ulanga	40,220	4	156,858
<b>Region</b>	<b>134,155</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>523,205</b>
District	Irrigated Rice		
	Region	Ton/Hectare	Tons
Morogoro (V)	14,500	13	188,500
Morogoro (M)	1,544	13	20,072
Mvomero	16,000	13	208,000
Kilosa	8,144	13	105,872
Kilombero	8,153	13	105,989
Ulanga	4,735	13	61,555
<b>Region</b>	<b>53,076</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>689,988</b>
District	Beans spp		
	Region	Ton/Hectare	Tons
Morogoro (V)	19,072	3	57,216
Morogoro (M)	60	3	180
Mvomero	8,257	3	24,771
Kilosa	12,800	3	38,400
Kilombero	1,124	3	3,372
Ulanga	6,325	3	18,975
<b>Region</b>	<b>47,638</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>142,914</b>

Source: Regional Commissioner's Office (2007). Operesheni Fanya Mkoa wa Morogoro kuwa Ghala la Taifa (FAMOGATA) 2007/08 – 2009/10. Morogoro.

Besides such irrigation potential in the district, it is very important to have clear understanding of irrigation potential of various areas, including availability of adequate water for both agricultural activities and support of fauna and flora in the Kilombero ecosystem.

### 2.4.3 Livestock keeping

Kilombero District has been one of the areas characterized by high influx of livestock, including some of those evicted from Usangu plains. Despite the recently government directive to reduce number of livestock in Kilombero still there is evidence of the presence of high livestock populations in some of the villages, including those in Mngeta, Mang'ula and Mlimba Divisions (Table 6).

Table 6: Livestock Populations in Kilombero District

S/N	Division	ward	Village	Livestock keepers	Livestock population		
					Cattle	Goats	Sheep
1	Kidatu	Kidatu	Msolwa St.	18	985	71	32
2	Mang'ula	Kiberege	Kiberege	23	2215	522	663
			Signali	51	3342	398	429
			Sagamaganga	19	1186	316	140
3	Ifakara	Ifakara	Lipangalala	10	293	63	61
			Katindiuka	4	1100		
		Kibaoni	Lungongole	37	8763	632	512
			Kikwawila	4	130		
		Lumemo	Mahutanga	5	30		
			Ihanga	5	35		
		Idete	Miwangani	6	1223	41	13
			Namawala	47	6780	1200	3200
4	Mngeta	Mofu	Mofu	37	9577	1907	393
		Mbingu	Mbingu	42	2450	48	12
		Mchombe	Mkangawalo	30	6400	4300	
		Chita	Chita	14	2000		
5	Mlimba	Mlimba	Merera	52	7000		
			Kalengakelu	29	2045	34	21
			Msolwa	8	113	14	9
			Miembeni	75	1683	36	2
			V/sitini	8	113		
		Utengule	Ngalimila	20	2147		
			Utengule	6	4000	300	
			Chisano	5	280		
		Uchindile	Mpanga	22	2284	208	319
			Uchindile	12	507		
			Kitete	5	60		
			Lugala	7	80		
						622	66,821

Source: DALDO, 2006

## 2.5 Description of the Project Area

Mngeta Farm covers about 5,818 ha. It is located in Mngeta Division, Ifakara District. The farm is surveyed and has a title deed certificate. The farm is owned by RUBADA and it was initially managed by KOTACO, a Korea – Tanzania partnership, until 1993 when the Koreans left the project and handed over the farm equipment and infrastructure to RUBADA. From 1994 to 1999 the farm was not cultivated. Later in 1999 RUBADA contracted the farm to Kilombero Holding Company (KIHOCO) from 1999 to August 2007 the date that KIHOCO handed over the farm to RUBADA after it had failed to manage it.

Initially the farm under KOTACO was intensively involved in rice production. Since the collapse of KOTACO in 1993/94 the farm has no longer been involved in rice production. At present there are 25 ha of banana plantation managed by RUBADA. It was noted that at the time KOTACO collapsed they had already cleared up to 50% of the farm. In 1991/92 KOTACO planted maximum of 2,500ha of rice and realized a yield of about 3,600 tons. About 50% of the farm which was not cleared is characterized by dense grassland with scattered trees mainly acacia spp. (Photo 1).



Photo 1: Part of uncleared Mngeta Farm characterized by dense grassland with scattered trees. (Photo by J.G. Lyimo).

The formerly cleared part under rice production is characterized by regenerating grassland, which are used as grazing areas by the agro-pastoralists. (Photo 2).



Photo No. 2: Part of formerly cleared Mngeta farm characterized by open grassland (Photo by J.G. Lyimo)

Future clearing of such land is likely to contribute to loss of such vegetation and its related biodiversity.

Livestock keeping was noted to be one of the increasing activities in the farm. It was noted that the number of agropastoralist settling in the project area is increasing as new settlements and bomas are established yearly. According to the farm manager there are about 200 households in the farm. The number may be much higher as many livestock are coming unnoticed despite the government directives to reduce number of livestock in Kilombero valley. Thus, many agropastoralists have settled illegally, including Sukuma and Maasai with livestock grazing in the areas as well as crop cultivations (Photos No. 3 & 4)

Photo 3: Part of Mngeta Farm with permanent squatter settlements and a maize crop on the right. (Photo by J.G. Lyimo)

Photo 4: Mngeta Farm has also been invaded by livestock keepers who use the farm as a grazing area as shown in this photograph. (Photo by J.G. Lyimo).

### 3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussions held with many of the stakeholders listed above and from reading the detailed Project Business Plan:

- 3.1 The project to a certain extent will fulfill the FAMOGATA objective. This is due to the project's intention to grow upland rice for three years before it enters into full palm oil production. The project's intention to grow oil palms should thus be seen as one way of diversifying the household economy, which is currently much dependent on maize and rice production. The inhabitants of the nearby villages will get income through employment in the project. Such income can be used to improve rural livelihood as well as being injected into farming activities such as rice production, which is capital intensive.
- 3.2 Production of palm oil is already beneficial to the local community even in the absence of the project. The coming of the project will improve the technological capacity of these communities to grow oil palms. The outgrowers programme envisioned by the project is a step in this direction. Unlike crops such as Jathropa, palm oil can be consumed and exported as edible oil, which will earn income to the rural community in Mngeta and the nation at large.
- 3.3 Despite these positive impacts of the project, some politicians and influential people in the district and regional administration are critical of the project. They would rather see the farm fragmented into smallholder units distributed to the local communities for cultivation of irrigated rice. This has led to the existence of a highly charged political undercurrent in the area.
- 3.4 It is recommended, therefore, that the project suspend the outgrowers programme for the time being and concentrate on developing the farm per se as planned. Once the surrounding communities start adopting the technology the project can then step in and propose the outgrowers programme, which will be demand driven and acceptable to the local communities.
- 3.5 Many knowledgeable stakeholders pointed out that besides the irrigation potential in the district, in general, and in the Mngeta Division, in particular, it is very important to have clear understanding of the availability of adequate water throughout the year for irrigation activities and support of fauna and flora in the Mngeta ecosystem.
- 3.6 About 50% of the farm, which was not cleared by KOTACO is characterized by dense grassland with scattered trees, mainly of acacia spp. Future clearing of such land for the expansion of the farm is likely to contribute to loss of such vegetation and its related biodiversity. Species of conservation value need to be identified and proper action taken to conserve them.
- 3.7 Furthermore, concern has been raised about the fact that the Mngeta Farm lies within a Ramsar Site. Hence, although the farm preceded the Ramsar Site designation, its future

land use should take into account this function and abide by any forthcoming Integrated Management Plan for the Site.

- 3.8 And lastly, livestock keepers who use the farm as a grazing area have invaded Mngeta Farm. It was noted that the number of agropastoralists had as well settled in the project area with new settlements and bomas increasing annually. Consequently, there have been numerous conflicts between livestock keepers and farmers as animals feed onto crops. Although these invaders are essentially squatters, a humane eviction plan needs to be put in place so as to avoid politicizing the process.

## **References**

- District Agriculture and Livestock Development Office (2006). Taarifa ya Maendeleo ya Kilimo na Mikakati Kuendeleza Kilimo kwa Kipindi cha Miaka Mitatu – 2006/07 – 2008/09 – Wilaya ya Kilombero. Ifakara.
- Environmental Association of Tanzania (2007). Report for Environmental Impact Statement on Proposed Oil Palm Bio-Diesel & Rice Project at Mngeta, Kilombero, Tanzania. Report Submitted to NEMC, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, June.
- Regional Commissioner's Office (2007). Operesheni Fanya Mkoa wa Morogoro kuwa Ghala la Taifa (FAMOGATA) 2007/08 – 2009/10. Morogoro.