

TOOL 3

TIMELINE AND TRENDS

ALL VILLAGE MEMBERS SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE TOOLKIT EXERCISE

AIM: TO RECORD A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY AGAINST WHICH TO PROJECT A PICTURE OF CHANGES IN FOREST RESOURCES, IN AGRICULTURE, IN LOCAL LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES AND IN SOURCES OF INCOME

The history of a community, especially change in the land use system, provides important background information. The purpose of this tool is to develop a timeline of key events which can then serve as a background against which to discuss trends and the current situation. This is a good tool for wide community participation. It can be conducted with the group of 40 participants selected for Tools 3-5. The field team should decide whether to conduct the tool with the group as a whole, or, if they are concerned that this will limit participation from less confident members of the community (e.g. poorer people or younger people), in separate groups of 10. The team should work to make certain that there is good participation from the various participants during the discussion.

Materials needed: Large pieces of flip chart paper, color markers, and sticky tape.

STEP 1

Tape two or three pieces of paper together to make a long wide rectangle. Draw a long straight horizontal line across the top of the page. At the far right-hand side, write NOW.

STEP 2

Ask the community about events in local history which mark off key periods of time starting say, 30-40 years ago or less. As each period is identified, ask what the key events were which happened in each time period.

STEP 3

When the village decides the timeline is complete, discuss a series of trends¹ across the timeline. This information may already have been mentioned, but the trends discussion usually produces a more coherent picture.

- How have forest resources (both area and quality/diversity) changed over the timeline period?
- What was happening in agriculture in each of these periods?
- What have been the changes in local livelihood strategies?
- What changes have taken place in the area in terms of the arrival of roads, schools etc., and their impact on natural resources?
- How have people's sources of income changed over the period of the timeline?
- Any key changes in the lives of men? Women? Children?

Write in the answers for each period of the timeline, adding paper to the timeline underneath the original sheets if needed. Make sure to include changes in key areas of natural resources and governance (e.g. forestry, agriculture, land tenure, institutions) but allow the villagers to include any other categories they believe to be important (e.g. one set of villagers in Madagascar wished to include gender relations as a key area of change over time).

1 It is important to discuss trends in roads, agriculture, schooling, etc. because these have a bearing on our main object, forest trends.

WORKED EXAMPLE FROM TANZANIA

In this example, from Shinyanga in Tanzania, participants established their timeline with reference to a series of political eras and events and more recently simply decades. They chose four themes to run across the timeline: cattle, forests, land ownership, and the political institutions which deal with land.

Time periods	1960s Colonial period to Independence	1970s Ujamaa and Villagization	1980s Nyerere retired 1985, slow end of Ujamaa	1990s	Now 2000- 2006
Cattle	Bush areas which used to harbour tsetse fly gradually cleared from the 1920s onwards. Cattle then multiplied. Heavy deforestation resulted.	Great growth in cattle and human numbers.	Growth in cattle and human numbers	Growth in cattle and human numbers	Too many cattle—and nowhere to feed them.
Forests	Original vegetation, woodland/ bushland. <i>Ngitilis</i> set aside by Sukuma people as dry season grazing reserves, when forest cleared for agriculture. Trees were incidental - just shade protecting the grass.	Ujamaa and Villagization destroyed many indigenous natural resource systems. Many <i>ngitilis</i> destroyed when people were moved into villages and the forest they had protected was left unattended.	HASHI ² project launched in 1986. HASHI wanted to revive the <i>ngitilis</i> . Some still there but very depleted; some newly created by HASHI. People cautious at first - watched and judged activities.	But by the 1990s people had seen that creating more <i>ngitilis</i> was a very good idea. They began to be created rapidly. This time they were not just used for fodder, but for a wider range of tree products.	Communal <i>ngitilis</i> are not always in the right place. More demand for <i>ngitili</i> products than can be supplied, especially for the poor. Complaints that there is not enough land for any more <i>ngitilis</i> .
Land ownership	Land ownership originally followed Sukuma custom. There were private fields, private grazing reserves and communal forest areas.	The Ujamaa and villagization of Nyerere created state ownership of rural lands, not private ownership. It caused degradation because actually all lands were open to anybody.	HASHI wanted to help people own their resources again.	People rushed to create their own private <i>ngitilis</i> , as well as communal village <i>ngitilis</i> . They sometimes bought land to do it.	About half of <i>ngitilis</i> are small private ones and half larger communal ones. Most owned by men—women may use them. There is a growing land shortage and some people are now landless, having sold land to others.
Institutions	A council of elders ruled the village and imposed punishments on those breaking land use rules.	Traditional institutions which used to manage <i>ngitilis</i> were destroyed	—	In 1999 the Village Government became the lowest government level.	Village Government has the right to control <i>ngitili</i> allocation and use.

2 HASHI – Soil Conservation, Shinyanga (Hifadhi Ardhi, Shinyanga). The program was supported by the Norwegian Government for many years.

WORKED EXAMPLE FROM UGANDA

In this second example, from the Nyantonzi parish of Masindi district in Uganda, changes in forestry and agriculture are described for three recent periods, distinguished by the changing political regime.

TIME PERIOD	1985/ 86-1995 People gained confidence in the new Government, leading to a new constitution in 1995	1996-2000 The first national presidential elections were made in 1996	2001-2007 The 2nd and 3rd presidential elections were made in 2001 and 2005 respectively
FORESTRY			
Ownership	Taungya in communal forests.	Rich people outside Masindi started pitsawing.	A few people have started planting trees. Residents joined outsiders to cut timber illegally from Budongo Forest Reserve
Abundance	Forest canopies were closed.	-	-
Access for women	Fetching firewood.	Fetching firewood.	Fetching firewood.
Access for men	Looking for timber and poles.	Looking for timber and poles.	Looking for timber and poles.
Management	Forest Department (FD) was not caring for the forests		Sensitisation of the people on forest importance by NFA.
Utilization	No interest in forest encroachment, land was abundant.	Less abundant land, people cultivating on their own farms.	Undertaking of shifting cultivation in privately owned forest lands
AGRICULTURE			
Land ownership	Community heads allocated land for cultivation to households	Some people started buying land.	Land acquisition is expensive and there are land conflicts too.
Size of land holdings	Very big chunks of land	—	Land holdings are about 5-10 acres to a household
Types of crops	Many grew tobacco for sale and millet for home consumption.	Maize, cassava, and sorghum were grown for food, tobacco for sale.	Rice cultivation is very recent because of the market.
Productivity	Productivity was very high	Tobacco production reduced as its price fell.	
Agricultural practices	Agricultural practices were poor	—	NAADS and BUCODO training has brought in better practices.
LIVESTOCK			
Ownership by women and men	Owned pigs and goats in small quantities	Owned pigs and goats in small quantities	Men sometimes sell without the consent of their wives knowledge
Types of animals	Hunted wild pigs and baboons for food (these eat their crops), goats were also reared.	Owned pigs and goats in small quantities	Own pigs and goats in bigger numbers
Fodder/ pasture	Fodder was very abundant.	Abundant.	Fodder is still abundant.
MARKET, TRADE AND PRICES			
Forest products	—	Not many people were involved in timber trade.	Many people harvest timber but NFA and the CFMs regulate them
Agricultural products	People were organised in co-operative unions to sell tobacco (e.g. Bunyoro Growers Union)	Mangoes were eaten free because of their abundance; tobacco prices fell and it was abandoned by some people because of over production.	There is no market for mangoes, tobacco prices are picking up and rice prices are increasing (Ushs 750-1100@ kg).
Livestock products	—	—	Some livestock sold more than in the past
EXTENSION & TRAINING			
Forestry		Illegal pitsawyers bribed forest officials.	NFA and ECOTRUST teach people about tree planting but no tree seeds/ seedlings have been given to the community members yet.
Agriculture	BAT only sensitized the farmers on tobacco growing related issues.	Mastermind (BAT's competitor) provided extension services for tobacco production.	BAT and Mastermind still carry out some extension services NAADS introduced extension services in agriculture generally. BUCODA also provides extension services but on contract basis.
Livestock			Exotic chicken and goats were introduced

