



REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP  
ON  
FOREST PLANNING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT IN DIFFERENT FOREST TYPES IN EASTERN  
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
VENUE: ARUSHA, TANZANIA  
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## **Data and Information used in Forest Planning**

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Existing situation
- Proposed guidelines
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# Introduction

- Good Practices:
  - ✓ Accurate and up-to-date data on forest cover, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.
  - ✓ Reliable information on forest resources, including timber volume, species composition, and age-class distribution.
  - ✓ Comprehensive maps and spatial data on forest boundaries, land use, and land ownership.
  - ✓ Long-term monitoring data on forest dynamics, including growth rates, regeneration, and carbon sequestration.





# Introduction

- Good Practices:
  - ✓ Socio-economic data on local communities dependent on forest resources, including their livelihoods, needs, and aspirations.
  - ✓ Indigenous and local knowledge, including traditional ecological knowledge, to enhance understanding of forest ecosystems and their management.
  - ✓ Climate data and projections to assess climate change impacts on forests and inform adaptation strategies.
  - ✓ Information on protected areas, conservation priorities, and threatened species to guide conservation efforts.





# Introduction

- Good Practices:
  - ✓ Stakeholder engagement and participatory processes to gather diverse perspectives, local knowledge, and ensure inclusivity in decision-making.
  - ✓ Integration of scientific research, best practices, and lessons learned from other forest management projects.





# Introduction

- Bad Practices:
  - ✓ Outdated or incomplete data that does not reflect the current state of the forest or its resources.
  - ✓ Lack of spatial data or inaccurate maps, hindering effective planning and management.
  - ✓ Insufficient monitoring, leading to limited understanding of forest dynamics and potential risks.
  - ✓ Neglecting socio-economic data, resulting in inadequate consideration of local communities' needs and impacts on livelihoods.





# Introduction

- Bad Practices:
  - ✓ Disregard for indigenous and local knowledge, overlooking valuable insights for sustainable forest management.
  - ✓ Failure to consider climate change data, leading to inadequate adaptation measures in forest planning.
  - ✓ Lack of information on protected areas and conservation priorities, compromising biodiversity conservation efforts.
  - ✓ Limited stakeholder engagement, excluding important perspectives and marginalizing local communities.





# Introduction

- Bad Practices:
  - ✓ Ignoring scientific research and best practices, leading to ineffective and unsustainable forest management.
  - ✓ Inconsistent or inadequate data collection methods, hindering the accuracy and reliability of information used in forest planning.







## Existing situation

- Most of the plans are not based on recent national forest inventories
  - ✓ instead, they are based on estimates whose sources are not clear or are based on projections from past national forest inventories.
- The same is true for information on consumption, supply and demand of forest products.
- For the plans based on forest inventories, the accuracy and reliability of such inventories is questionable in some plans.
- In some cases, the forest inventory information is accurate enough for application at national level but is of too low accuracy for application at individual forest reserve level





# Existing situation

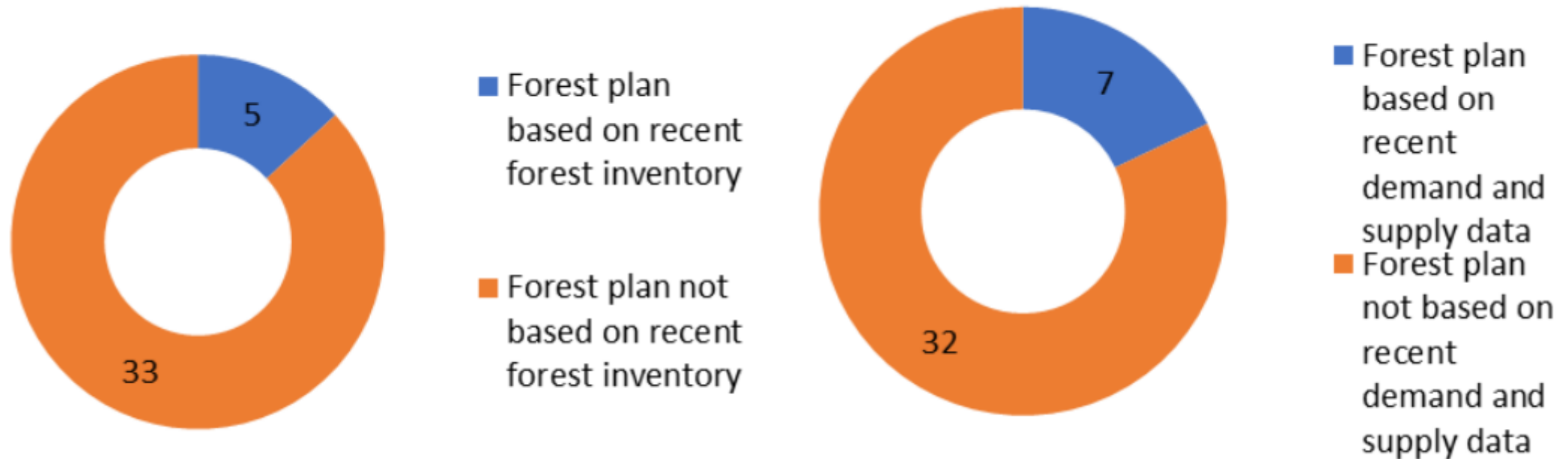


Figure 1. Distribution of number of national forest programme documents by use of data from recent forest inventory and demand and supply surveys in selected African countries. Source: Nzunda 2022





# Proposed guidelines

- Efforts should be made to search for and use recent forest inventories as well as information on consumption, supply and demand of forest products
  - ✓ instead of using estimates whose sources are not clear or are based on projections from past forest inventories.
- Where information from coarse scale inventories and surveys is not of sufficient accuracy and reliability for finer scale planning, the planning process should include forest inventory and surveys of demand and supply of forest products that are relevant for the scale.
- This is important because in most countries national forest inventory information is not adequate for local forest planning.





# References

1. Nzunda, E.F. 2022. Assessment of forest planning and management in different forest types in selected African countries. AFF Working Paper. African Forest Forum, Nairobi





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

