

Regional Training Workshop on Forest Planning and Management in different forest types in Eastern and Southern Africa

Arusha, Tanzania; 24-28 July 2023

Recap for Day one

Opening session – remarks by ES, AFF Prof. G. Kowero

- Welcomed members to the workshop; organized by AFF and Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology
- Technical meeting in forestry and focuses on how to improve forest planning and best practices in forest management
- First event to be co-organized by AFF and NM-AIST, many to be organized in future
- Wild fires, floods, consumer preferences should be taken into account in FP&M; also changes in policies; emergence of new products too
- Necessity to address the changes and risks to business makes planning critical. FPs should address the economic, environment, social and cultural changes that may affect the forests
- Existing MEAs (e.g. Paris agreement), change in requirements for forest products determines how the forests are manage
- AFRI100, Agenda 2063, AU SFM framework 2020-2030, Regional blocks policies, national forest polices, policies on macro-economics – all these affect FP
- There is a concern whether FMPs in Africa are on course; how are they contributing to forests provision of products and services
- There is no adequate attention to FP&M in view of external and internal changes ; AFF is working to improve the FP&M
- There is need to develop FMPs that can sub-regional and regional forest management strategies – go beyond stand FPs e.g. pests and diseases don't have boundaries

Dismas Mwakilia, PNRMO, EAC

- Thanked participants for taking time to attend the workshop, indicating its importance
- Forestry contribute to most of the SDGs, and contribute significantly to GDP though the contribution is undervalued.
- However, the sector threatened by **inadequate governance**, inadequate institutional frameworks, funding, climate change, unsustainable utilization
- Capacity building of stakeholders is needed to address the threats – PFM, value addition, partnerships
- Capacity of stakeholders in FP&M should be strengthened hence the key objective of this workshop.

Self-introductions: Participants introduced themselves - name, country,
what they do

Chief Guest, Prof. Suzana Augustino

- Thanked AFF for having organized the workshop – and particularly in Arusha
- The workshop is timely for practitioners and it will contribute to SFM
- Appreciated the work of AFF in building capacity in the continent on SFM
- Congratulate AFF for excellent logistic arrangement bringing together participants from 13 countries
- 150 participants are attending this w/s – physical and virtual
- With changes in socio-economic and cultural dynamics, there is need to capacity build stakeholders in FP&M
- AFF have developed tools for FP&M through support of SIDA, thanked government of Sweden for the financial support
- Most forest plans are not based on accurate research but inadequate information
- Institutional and administrative constrains, women and youth are also left behind
- Information on the dynamics of forests in Africa is lacking leading to forests not being sustainably managed
- Development of plans shall guide SFM for supply of ecosystem services and products
- AFF have developed guidelines on FP&M that will improve forests management for supply of services and products for improved human well being
- The guidelines are timely due to emerging global developments that Africa forests can contribute to, and benefit from e.g. transition to low carbon approaches & NBSs are emerging opportunities
- W/S will enhance capacity in FP&M at all levels, community, national, sub-regional, and regional.
- Encouraged participants to share experiences, knowledge and network - to enhance capacity. NM is committed to support capacity hence places great importance on the workshop, and as they are beneficiaries

- **Background, objectives, programme and expectations were shared including the AFF membership (3,000 members)**
- **Background information on the project under which the workshop is organized was also highlighted**

Session I: Forest Planning process - Prof Labode Popoola

- **Overview of forest planning** – a systematic process of managing of forests
- **Importance of FP** - helps owners and managers identify what they want from the forest and provide a course of action to meet objectives; enhances participation of stakeholders; sustainability
- **Steps involved** – preliminary assessment; forest resources assessment; participation and consultation with stakeholders, setting objectives and zoning – also approval of plans by authorities
- **Understanding conventions**, policies and guidelines in FP which are tools for setting standards and provide guidance and direction towards achieving goals
- **Tools and resources in FP** – instruments, research, education and stakeholders' participation are essential tools.
- **Incorporating social, legal, institutional, economic and ecological factors in FP**. Trade is becoming important in FP
- Contemporary approaches to FP – **integrate multiple objectives** e.g. all SDGs are affected by or affected forest; also consider **6 global forest goals**; **AU SFM framework's 5 goals** which are specific to Africa
- Data and technologies are key to FP
- **Challenges and opportunities in FP implementation**
- **FP requires recent forest inventory, capacity building, commitment to global practices; good quality data in good quantity**
- Goals of FP and their significance

Q&A – forest planning process

- Do we have tools that can quantify benefits derived from forests? How do we bring on board farmers? **Yes, we have tools the challenge is applicability, e.g. what works in Nigeria cannot work in Tanzania**
- Foresters are conservative, old fashioned; do you think integrated landscape management planning can ensure SFM? **We cannot have good agriculture without forests, we can also combine agriculture and forestry through agroforestry. Forestry is about integration of so many elements**
- Political issues not highlighted yet affects forests; Examples where biodiversity goes beyond nomenclature to the use. **We need information and knowledge to convince politicians.**
- Forests managers are self-centered, prepare plans without looking around other elements; how do we balance human needs with forests and biodiversity? – **forests need other sectors; since they impact each other**
- Benefit sharing schemes related to carbon trading; concern is on the enumeration of the credits, what will be the simplest ways to measure carbon? **Africa is not sure of the resource base, we need recent inventory data; carbon stock data is needed and value should be attached to it**
- Forest issues differ from country to another; how best can we come up with solutions/mutual understanding to addressing forest issues using the same language? **SDGs are global, but countries should domesticate them, global forest goals should be translated into local country conditions**
- How can be communities be integrated in the inventories, and planning? **Gender participation, and a collaborative approach as they have rich ITK**
- Forests is source of energy to 90% in Malawi, how can we harness alternative sources to save forests? **Its about policies, the government should develop policies. Export market of charcoal is increasing; hence we can take advantage ad plant more trees for charcoal production**
- How to integrate forests services and goods in GDP? **We need to undertake valuation of forest resources**
- How can forest certification be integrated in FP? **Certification is one of the tools in FP**

Governance of forestry sector in EAC– Dismas Mwikilia

- Vision, mission of EAC
- Statistics - area 4.8 million square meters; 280 million people (2019); GDP Nominal 279.1 Billion USD
- Forests cover 15.8% of EAC land area minus DRC
- EAC working on removing trade barriers including for forest products
- Proper valuation methods required to calculate the actual contribution of forests to GDP in EAC as the contribution is undervalued.
- Highlighted the threats to conservation of forests
- Adoption of common policies, strategies and guidelines part of the governance framework to address threats to forests
- Transboundary ecosystem management Bill adopted by EALA
- There is forestry policy 2022 for EAC
- EAC forestry strategy 2022-2030 – to provide clear structure of governance

Q&A – EAC forest governance

- **Politicians killing forests; what message is being sent to politicians in EAC on the value of forests?**
- **What is the overall GDP contributed by forests? Illegal timber is flowing into market, what is the % illegal timber flowing into EAC market? Common market protocol facing challenges due to illegal products**
- **Do you have monitoring systems at block level for planning? We are depending on partners' states**
- **What is EAC doing to inform the politicians on the value of forestry sector in block level?**
- **Have done benefit/cost analysis of policy and strategy? – are new documents being finalized for implementation**
- **15.8%, is it natural forests/plantations? All forests landscape – plantations, natural and mangroves though DRC was not considered and hence may go up to 20-25%**
- **How regional approach has contributed to SFM? What specific interventions deployed to address the rigidity? Sensitization being undertaken to enhance the knowledge for perception change, also advocacy and awareness creation. Dissemination of research findings/information**
- **Parliamentary forum to deal with FM? EALA committee on agriculture, environment and natural resources**

Stakeholders and their roles in FP&M – Grace Loubota

- 1 billion people derive livelihoods from forests in Africa
- Important to include all stakeholders in planning
- Local stakeholders have high stake/interest than national level e.g. government and international levels
- How to identify stakeholders using the matrix of the importance and influence of stakeholders
- Roles of different stakeholders e.g. including community, government, forest managers shared
- Stakeholders participation – and best practices of stakeholders highlighted e.g. baseline consultation, regular communication
- Challenges to stakeholders' participation highlighted e.g. disputes among stakeholders, language barrier etc.
- **Forest is a common asset – hence important to include all stakeholders in planning**

Q&A - Stakeholders and their roles in FP&M

- **Can tourism actors be considered as stakeholders? Do they have roles in FP?** Other stakeholders including those in tourism industry, transport, agriculture could be included
- No FP process goes without disputes – it's about building consensus among stakeholders for common agreement – **comment**
- In practice, FP is a complex process – than what is in theory e.g. agreeing on benefits sharing – **comment**
- **Which method is better for stakeholders' identification?** What is more important is the matrix of importance and influence, then either method (pyramid/circular) can be used

Gender consideration in FP – Emmanuel Nzunda

- What is gender issue in one society may not be an issue in another due to different definitions
- Gender should be considered in planning

Q&A – Gender consideration in FP

- Gender has been taken to mean women, which is not true. Should be looked from the roles and responsibilities perspective – **comment**
- **Men being beaten by wives, is it cultural, is there affirmative action to protect men?** **Same protection should be given to men just like the case of women.**
- **Husbands may not allow women to travel far into forests? Is the gender or jealousy? This is a debate that requires further discussion.**
- **Can we have a blue print that can be applied across cultures? How can we integrate the gender complexities across cultures?** **Gender should be broader and not limited to men/women**
- **Women in Ethiopia participate in FM, but not Tanzania and Angola; what can we do to help TZ and AG?**
– **Government policies on gender issues could address the cases**
- **Many forest activities are government led, can you help simplify what it entails in integrated gender in FP?** **Gender is a social contract varies from community to community, hence further discussion is required**

Data and information used in FP – Emmanuel Nzunda

- Good practices: Socioeconomic data, Climate data, ITK and evidence of stakeholders' engagement in the process.
- Plans should be based on recent inventory data – should be accurate at individual forest level
- Data should include demand and supply of forest products to develop plans specific to the products

Q&A – Data and information used in FP

- PSPs could be established for inventory; inventory using different plots can provide varied information leading to planning from different knowledge understanding – **comment**
- **The inventory data is old/outdated and hence we are managing what we don't know. What are we doing wrong? What should we do differently?** **Group work will help provide a way forward**
- Governments need to invest in inventories/planning – have periodic inventories – **comment**

General discussion – all presentations

- There is need to have good sampling intensity to give good quality data – **comment**
- **Are there studies showing shifts in species due to climate change?**
Checking on google to get information on such studies

Group work

Thank you!