



ADEQUACY OF THE PLANS: Constraints to, and Strategies for, their Implementation

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A Recap on Forest Plans

- Yesterday, we had a general overview of Forest Planning Process...
- ...an organised logical process of managing forests by evaluating resources therein, setting objectives, and implementing strategies;
- ...covering the identification of current conditions in a forest ecosystem, addressing potential threats, and developing measures to conserve its natural values.
- ...outlining the management goals and regulations of a particular area of land, what activities can take place on it, and how those activities should be conducted.





A Recap on Forest Plans ...

- These plans offer guidance on how forests can be sustainably managed by balancing multiple uses, such as recreation, timber, wildlife, and ecosystem health.
- They also provide a foundation for decision-making that maximizes benefits to the public, while ensuring the long-term protection of the forest ecosystem.
- We concluded that forest plans should be based on recent forest inventory and up to date analysis of demand and supply of forest products and services.





Basis and Focus of this presentation

- In recognition of the critical roles played by forests in livelihoods and economies globally; and the unsustainable status of forest management in African countries, occasioned by multiple challenges, many of which we have been discussing since the commencement of this programme; the AFF conducted capacity gaps analyses on forest planning and forest management in some Anglophone, Lusophone, and Francophone countries in Africa through an evaluation of forest planning and forest management processes in different forest types.
- This presentation is based mainly on the report of the studies carried out in Eastern and Southern Africa





Basis and Focus...

Specifically, the evaluation analysed:

- a) The adequacy for forest planning processes in different forest types
- b) The extent of compliance to plans by implementing institutions, the constraints experienced and how to overcome them
- c) The state of management of different forest types, the constraints experienced and measures to improve various operations that characterise forest management
- d) The effectiveness of current forest management practices in different forest types at achieving the supply of forest ecosystem goods and services





Study Coverage

- The study covered 28 countries (Anglophone, Lusophone, Francophone-Table 1), with fieldwork in four countries (Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia-Fig. 1) taking into cognizance, the following elements:
- Conventions, policies and guidelines
- Stakeholder participation
- Gender consideration in Forest planning
- Time span covered by forest planning





Table 1: The Countries covered in this Case Study

Country	Country	Country
Angola	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Botswana	Lesotho	Somalia
Cape Verde	Liberia	South Africa
Equatorial Guinea	Malawi	South Sudan
Eritrea	Mozambique	Sudan
Ethiopia	Namibia	eSwatini
Gambia	Nigeria	Tanzania
Ghana	Saint Helena	Uganda
Guinea-Bissau	Sao Tome and Principe	Zambia
		Zimbabwe





Selected Forests for field work

- Angola: One production forest- Mayombe Forest
Two protection forests- Umpulo Forest Reserve and Brito Teixeira Forest Reserve
- Zambia: One production forest- Katanino Forest Reserve
One protection forest- Ichimpe Forest Plantation
- Tanzania: Two production forests- Sao Hill Forest Plantation and Kitulanghalo Forest Reserve
One protection forest- Mkingu Nature Forest Reserve
- Zimbabwe: One production forest- Stapleford Plantation Forest
One protection forest- Gwaai Gazetted Indigenous Protection Forest





Adherence to Conventions, Policies & Guidelines

- Angola and Zambia considered international conventions and national policies, but not continental directives
- Tanzania and Zimbabwe considered sub-regional directives, excluding the continental directives and international conventions
- In Tanzania and Zimbabwe forest planning considered specific guidelines but these were international for Zimbabwe and national for Tanzania.
- Only in Angola and Tanzania was forest planning linked to the directives of the **“ruling party and directives from political leaders”**
- These imply that none of the countries complied completely (100%) with conventions, policies and guidelines for planning. Table 2 outlines the situation





Table 2: Conventions, Policies and Guidelines

Countries	International Conventions	Continental Directives	Sub-Regional Directives	National Policies
Angola	√	X	X	√
Zambia	√	X	X	√
Tanzania	X	X	√	X
Zimbabwe	X	X	√	X





Stakeholder Participation and Their Roles

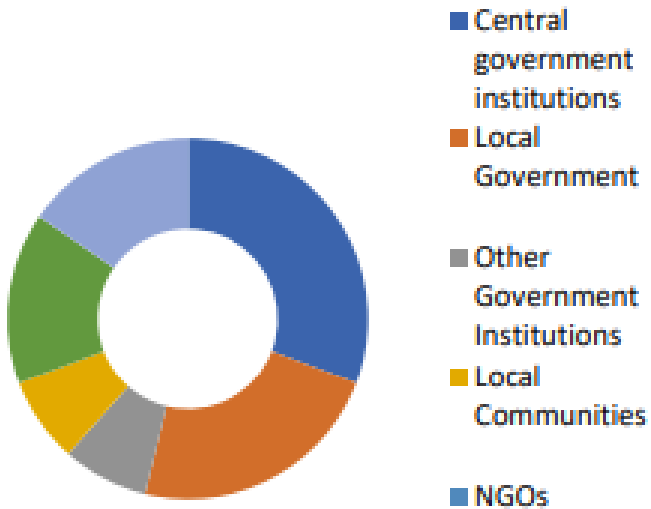
- The stakeholders identified in the report included central governments, local governments, other government institutions, local communities, NGOs, PSOs and the international community.
- In Tanzania these stakeholders have various roles within categories of normative activities, operative activities, and facilitation and monitoring (Figure 2).
- The roles of stakeholders may depend on forest type, and especially on ownership and management rights (Wily 2002, Figure 3) and obligations.
- Public forests are more likely to involve local communities in forest management than private forests.
- The roles of the stakeholders may also depend on the state of peace and security of the country (FAO, 2004a), and in particular, around the forest environment



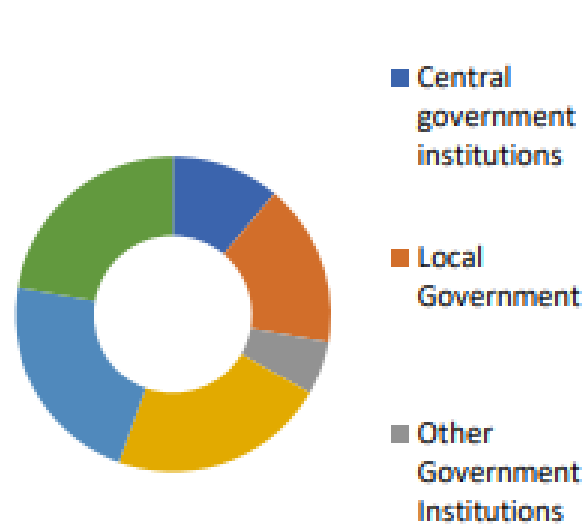


Stakeholder Participation and Their Roles

Normative activities



Operative activities



Facilitation and monitoring

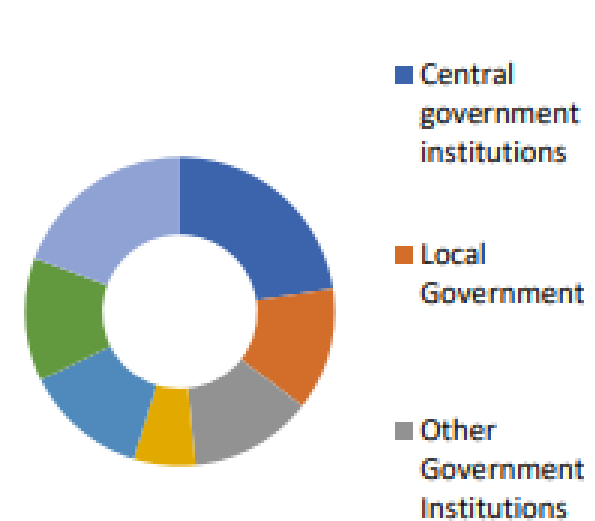


Figure 2. Stakeholders and their roles in forest planning and management in Tanzania guided by the country national forest programme. NGOs have no normative role. International Community have no operative role. Source: Chart prepared using data from (URT), (2001)





Stakeholder Participation and Their Roles

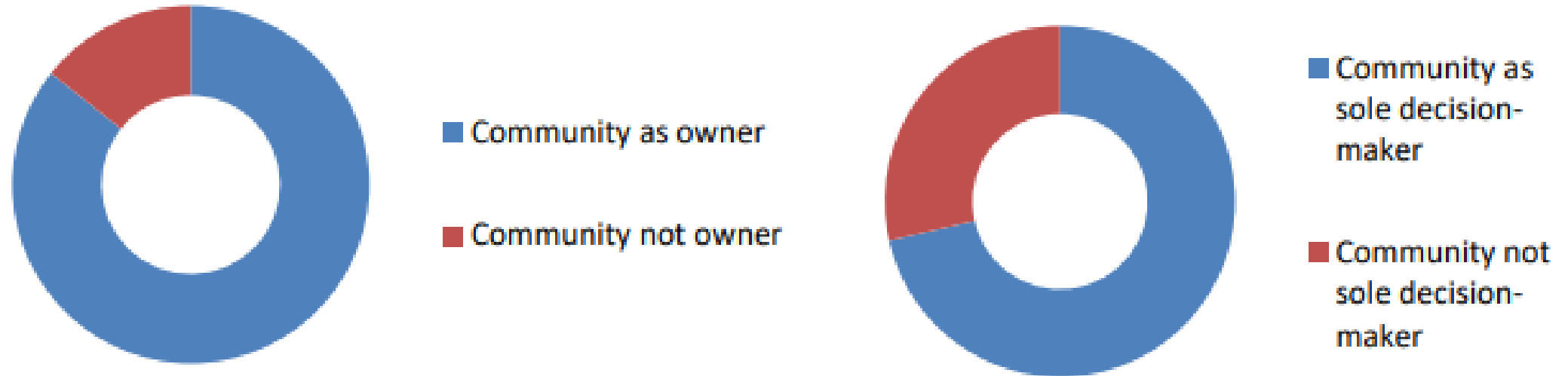


Figure 3. Local communities' involvement in forest planning for community forests in selected African countries. Even when communities are designated forest owners still they may not be sole decision makers. This is based on data for 14 African countries (Wily, 2002)





Table 3: Stakeholder Participation...

Countries	Central Govts.	Local Govts.	Govt. Institutions.	Local Communities	NGOs	PSOs	International Community.
Angola	√	X	√	√			
Zambia	√	√	√	√			
Tanzania	√	√	√	√	√		
Zimbabwe	√	√	√	√	√		





Gender Consideration in Forest Planning

- Gender was taken into consideration in some countries' national forest plans, but not considered in others
- For example, from the review, eleven plans did not mention gender while one mentioned it 80 times and another one 85 times (Figure 4).
- There was a tendency to consider gender for more recent documents than older ones, because gender considerations have been receiving more attention in recent times.
- The implication of this is that gender consideration has become an important element of forest planning and must be internalized in all countries





Gender Consideration in Forest Planning

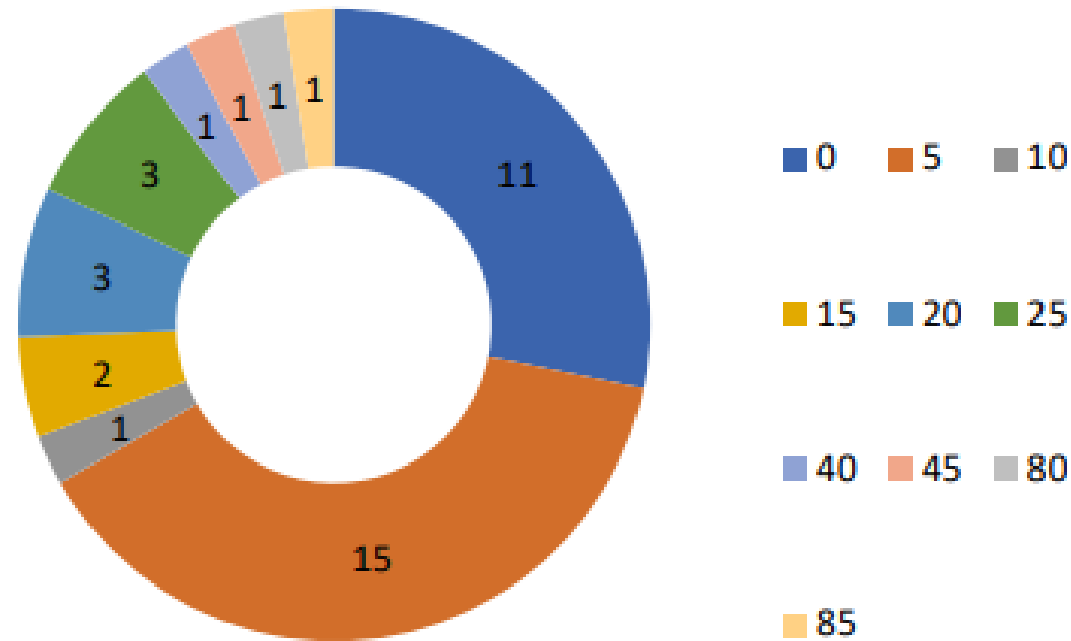


Figure 4. Distribution of number of national forest programme plans according to how many times gender is mentioned in the document for selected African countries.





Time Span Covered by Forest Planning

- Most countries had a planning horizon of 5 years or less (Table 4). Some exceptions include Liberia, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Tanzania which had more than 5 years for their plans.
- The five year planning horizon is made to correspond to the five year terms held by governments between elections. Forest Management Plans should not be guided by political consideration or election cycles,
- The longer term planning horizons are set to correspond to longer-term plans such as national poverty eradication strategies (RU, 2013).
- It appears that plans written for submission to the Convention on Biological Diversity are guided to cover five years because most countries do so.
- For production forest, forest planning in Angola is carried out annually. This is through the regulation of the opening periods of the forest exploitation season, the list of species to be conserved, and the process of designing exploitation licenses.
- In Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the aim is to have forest management plans for every five years, although financial constraints may sometimes result in failure to fulfill the aim. For the three countries, the five-year strategic plan is operationalized using one-year annual plan of operations (APO).





Table 4: Time Span Covered by Forest Planning

Countries	5 Years or less	10 Years or above	20 Years or above	30 Years or above
Angola	√	X	X	X
Zambia	X	√	X	X
Tanzania	X	√	X	X
Zimbabwe	X	√	X	X





Adequacy of the Plans

- **Accuracy, reliability, and adequacy of information used:**

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 (Figure 5).

The same is true for information on consumption, supply, and demand of forest products (Figure 6).

For the plans based on forest inventories, the accuracy and reliability of such inventories is questionable in some plans, though in others the accuracy and reliability of such plans is adequate (DFID, 2004; KFS, 2013)

- **Tools / techniques/ models used for planning and for moving the forest to a desired future structure**

Most of the forest plans studied applied popular statistics and not specific demand and supply analysis (Figure 6). Some of the plans used only analysis of demand and supply based on one or a few forest products such as timber or charcoal.





Adequacy of the Plans

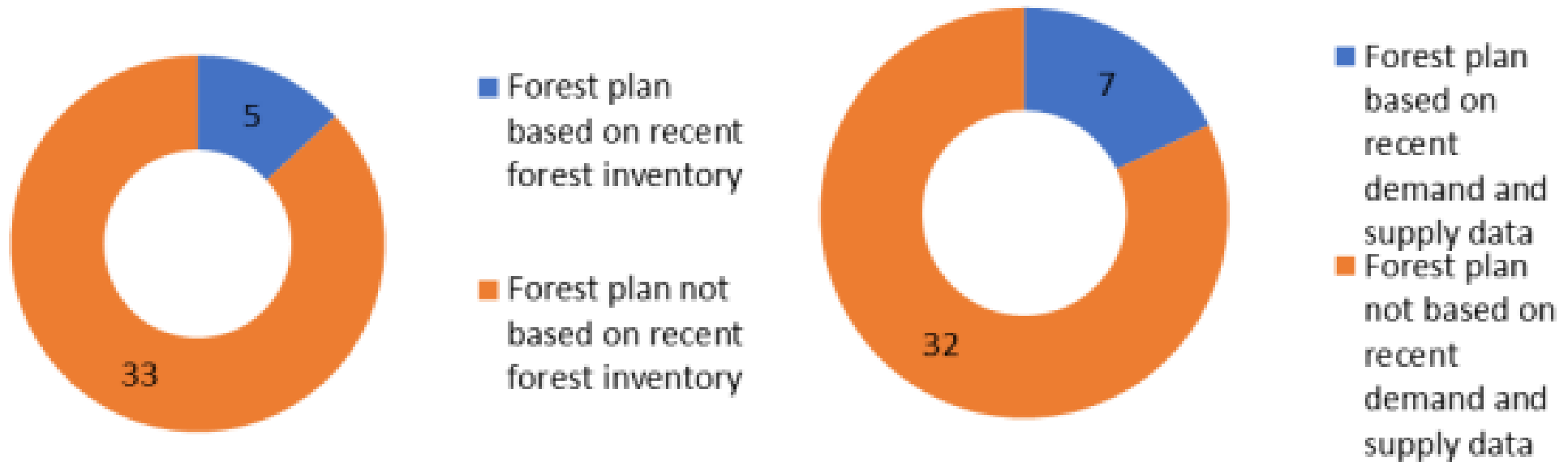


Figure 6: Distribution of number of national forest programme plan documents by use of data from recent forest inventory and demand and supply surveys in selected African countries





Adequacy of the Plans

- **Adequacy of knowledge and skills for their development**

Knowledge and skills of the experts who worked on the plans were not listed (Figure 7). However, on the basis of an index calculated from considerations of gender, source of data for forest resource dynamics, and source of data for demand and supply of forest products, most plans reflect low knowledge and skills in developing the plans (Figure 8).

- **Strategies for implementation of the forest plan**

Strategies for implementation of the forest plans should be based on principles of national forestry programmes (NFP) (Mayers, 2003; FAO, 2006). The main pillars of the principles are three, namely (1) national sovereignty and country leadership, (2) consistency within and integration beyond the forest sector and (3) participation and partnership (FAO, 2006).

Most of the countries did not significantly pass this test. In most cases, it was partial compliance with the principles and strategies for implementation

The numbers and qualities of the experts that prepared the plans, and those for implementation were also questionable





Adequacy of the Plans...

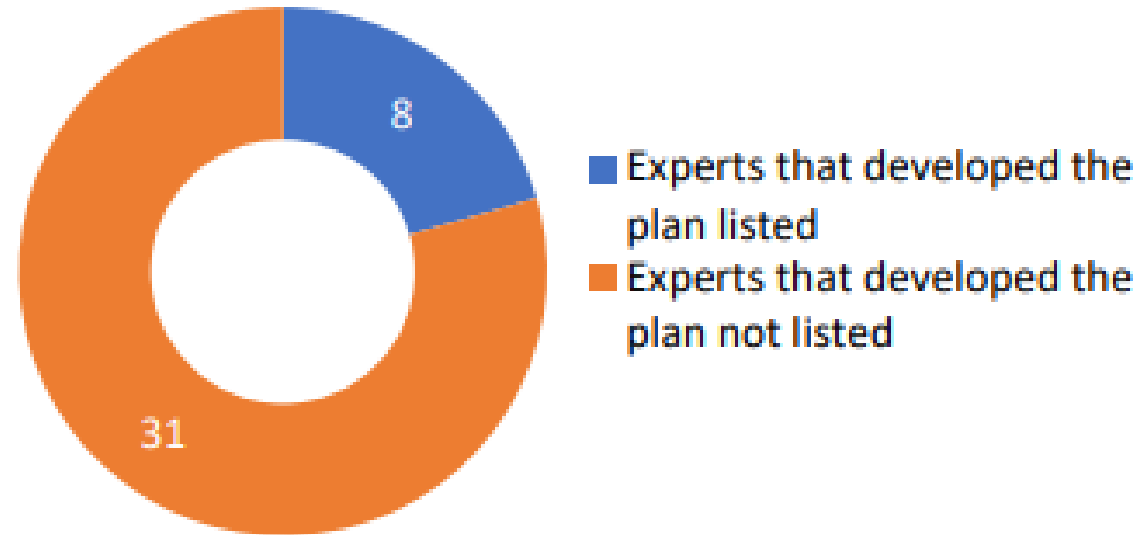


Figure 7. Distribution of number of national forest programme plan documents by listing of experts that developed the forest plan in selected African countries





Adequacy of the Plans

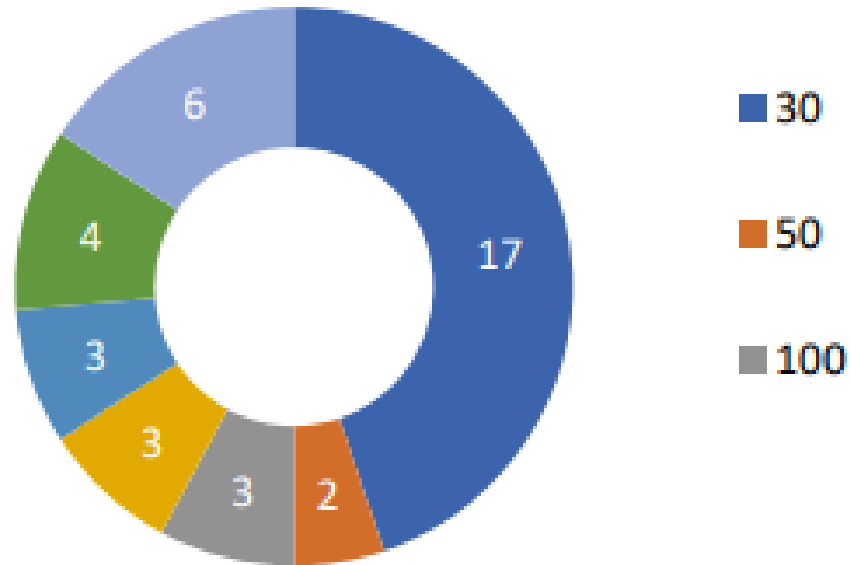


Figure 8. Distribution of number of national forest programme plan documents based on an index of adequacy of knowledge and skills for development of forest plans.





Table 5: Adequacy of the Plans...

Countries	Info. Source	Tools/Models /Tech.	Knowledge	Skills	Gender	Strategy	Best Practice
Angola	√	√	√	√	NA	√	NO
Zambia	√	√	√	√	NA	√	NO
Tanzania	√	√	√	√	NA	√	NO
Zimbabwe	√	√	√	√	NA	√	NO

NB: Each country had different approaches to these but they all claimed they produced positive outcomes based on their respective targets, goals and objectives.





Table 6: Constraints to Forest Planning

Countries	Finance	Human Capacity	Technical Capacity	Knowledge & Skills	Organisational Structure	Focus Protection. Vs Conservation	Coordination & Guidelines	Data
Angola	X	X	X	√	X	√	X	X
Zambia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tanzania	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X
Zimbabwe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

NB: All the countries are facing almost all the problems, and have developed different approaches to resolving them.





Constraints to Forest Planning

- Finance
- Human and Technical Capacity
- Inadequate knowledge and skills
- Structural organizational weakness
- Population growth, widespread poaching, and human encroachment
- Too much emphasis on forest protection as against forest management
- Poor intra- and inter-sectoral coordination
- Inadequacy of data and information both in quantity and quality
- Contradictions among guidelines





Conclusion and Future Directions for Forest Plan Implementation

- We need to realize that effective planning and management require adaptive approaches.
- Countries need to be abreast of international and regional conventions, national laws/regulations to guide their efforts at planning and management of forests
- By continuing to learn from the management process, stakeholders can adapt and improve management for a changing environment. Collaboration and transparency are fundamental to implementing Forest Plans.
- Addressing environmental challenges and inequality in resources management requires stakeholder involvement in the management process. Research should continue to focus on understanding and improving the effectiveness of Forest Plans.





THANK YOU

