

1. Background

Forests/woodlands and grasslands cover more than 60% of the country. The forests/woodlands represent an important resource in terms of construction, energy, building, crafting, forage, and maintaining environmental balance etc. The forests and woodlands play an essential role in the environmental, socio-economic and development of this country. Traditionally they are a source of food, construction and building materials, medicine, biodiversity and carbon-sink are significant services that they also provide. These woodlands/forests are found largely on tribal land

Similarly to many other developing countries, wood accounts for over half of Botswana's energy consumption and it is a vital material for building and construction (Environment Statistics, 2000). However there has lately been a clear sign of decline of wood resources and biodiversity in forest reserves emanating from wild fires and wildlife (elephants) damage etc (Wegge, 1992). Agricultural expansion especially arable agriculture, and fuelwood are also some of the major contributing factors towards the dwindling wood biomass particularly in the eastern part of the country. (Environment Statistics, 2000)

The decrease in tree vegetation is more pronounced around major population centres, and fuel-wood harvesting is widely believed to be one of the main causes of such trends (Environment Statistics, 2000). There has also been a steady change in plant population structures and densities of various species because of changes in land use patterns.

Sadly to date, very limited studies to assess the impact of these multi end-uses of woody biomass and other forest resources have been undertaken. In broader perspective, the general decline in forest resources particularly woody biomass and changes in plant

population structures and densities, is by and large attributed to many factors and among them are the:

- Lack of national forestry action plan
- Landscape alteration by ever-increasing elephant population

- Lack or flawed legislative measures to control forest resource harvesting particularly in communal lands
- Poor forest resource management practices
- Inadequate skilled and experience manpower
- Lack of scientific research to make informed decisions

All these factors combined needs to be addressed adequately so as to accomplish conservation, and sustainable or better management of our forest resources.

2. Objectives

2.1 Broad objectives

To promote the protection and restoration of the country's dry forest ecosystems for conservation of biodiversity, provision of essential environmental services, and socio-economic development.

2.2 Narrow objectives

- 2.2.1 To ensure the long-term sustainable management of forest resources for socio-economic , development and environmental services*
- 2.2.2 Prevent loss or degradation of the forest resource, while furthering development and the wise use of existing natural resources;*
- 2.2.3 Promote the sustainable use of the dry forest ecosystems, whether exploited or not exploited for the production of timber and wood, in such a way that the genetic resources they contain are safeguarded;*

- 2.2.4 Encourage and facilitate the integrated management of forest ecosystems to provide wildlife and non-wood crops with minimal disturbance of the ecosystems and associated wild genetic resources;*
- 2.2.5 Promote the conservation and management of samples of ecosystems as reservoirs of species diversity.*
- 2.2.6 To ensure the integrity and productivity of the country's ecosystems*
- 2.2.7 Promote sustainable management of the country's germplasm through in-situ and ex-situ conservation*
- 2.2.8 Promote the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded landscapes through afforestation, enrichment planting, and community forestry informed by appropriate land-use practices to enhance environmental quality and sustain the supply of raw materials for domestic and industrial consumption and for environmental protection*
- 2.2.9 To provide integrated wildland fire management approach that enhances the fire management capacity, promote biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, enhance human health and safety, and promote social, cultural and economic benefits*
- 2.2.10 To promote research development that meets the forestry sector needs.*
- 2.2.11 Promote socio-economic and environmental benefits which are derived from forest resources*
- 2.2.12 Promote implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures*

According to FAO Tropical Action Plan, the conservation of ecosystems and the conservation of genetic resources are worldwide endeavours. They attempt to ensure that species and the intra-specific variation inherent in species are preserved in perpetuity and, at the same time, contribute to present development and human well-being. This requires that the systems of protected areas should be comprehensive and that their management should be sound.

3. Implementing agencies

- Department of Forestry and Range Resources
- Department Wildlife and National Parks
- Department Meteorological services
- Department of Tourism
- Department Museum and Art Galleries
- Botswana Tourism Organisation

- Department of Crop Production
- Department of Animal Production
- Department of Water Affairs
- Landboards
- Lands Department
- Tribal Authorities
- CBOs and NGOs

4. Activities of the project:

- i. Undertake sustainable management and utilization of forests, and savannah ecosystems.
- ii. Embark on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded landscapes through development, community forestry, woodlot development, and natural regeneration.
- iii. Promote reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through climate smart agriculture and agro-ecological farming within the forest areas, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity.
- iv. Development of viable forest based industries and livelihood enterprises, particularly in the value added processing of forest resources.
- v. Institutional and legislative reforms for transparent governance, equity sharing and stakeholder participation in forest resource management.
- vi. Promoting innovations, capacity development, research and technology development that supports sustainable forest management.
- vii. Development of sustainable and predictable financing instruments to support forestry sector activities.

- Protecting forest ecosystems.
- Strengthening the socio-economic status
- Contributing towards global efforts to reduce ghg emission
- Identifying appropriate scope, scale, distribution of benefits, institutional support, and safeguards for the implementation of REDD-plus

4.1 Project Site: National

4.2 Paradigm shift in pilot areas

5. Period of project : 3 years

6. Approximate budget

7. Benefits

- Restoration of forests and woodlands
- Maintenance of biological diversity
- Enhancement of carbon stock
- Access to clean water
- Soil stability
- Forest products
- Secured livelihood of forest dwellers and users

8. Monitoring and evaluation

- Reports (quarterly/yearly) to be produced as a means of tracking progress

9. Risks assessment

There has been an increasing interest in considering non-traditional regulatory instruments for control of environmental risks. Traditional regulation has relied on liability, in various forms, after risky events have actually occurred. There is concern that traditional instruments do not provide adequate signals to firms regarding social costs of risks.

10. Safeguards issues

Like in many other modern day natural resource program/project, social and environmental safeguards, will be invoked. The project of this nature is bound to have possible social and environmental risks against which safeguards measures would be designed and progress made against them as part of the project monitoring and evaluation.