

Case 22: Z A M B I A

Decentralized Forest and other Natural Resources Management Programme – Introduction Project Zambia

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With the overall goal to contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality as well as improvement of environmental conditions, the Project supports implementation of Policies and Plans relating to the decentralisation of responsibilities and functions, from the centre through devolution to local authorities and other key stakeholders, covering the management and conservation of natural resources. With a focus on rights, rights-holders and benefits, the project works with District Councils to engage communities to bring their surrounding natural resources under local management and control. With clear rights and responsibilities, rural communities can protect their areas from outside interests and encroachment. With a secure and sustainable supply of natural resources, community groups and individual households can develop income generating opportunities that would otherwise not be feasible.

Implementing Organization	Forestry Department, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Local Government and Housing Add : P.O Box 50042, Lusaka, Zambia Email : dfnrmp@indufor.fi WEB URL : www.dfnrmp.org.zm
Funding Source	Finnish Government, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Implementing Period	01/2015 – 12/2017
Project site	Mwinilunga, Ikelengi and Kasempa districts in North-Western Province, and Nakonde, Chinsali and Shiwang'andu districts in Muchinga Province

Key Words: Community forestry, Secure property rights, Decentralisation, Enterprise development, Integrated landscape approach



Participatory resource mapping:
gender group feedback at community meeting



Gender group discussion:
Women's group discussing areas of importance around their village

Background of the Project

Key development problem to be addressed by the project is: “wide spread poverty of rural communities and households depending on forest and other natural resources for their livelihood on the one hand, and high rates of deforestation and degradation of natural resources in the project districts on the other hand, creating a vicious circle with adverse impacts on the well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the communities and on the environment.” Poverty is not only considered a result of natural resource degradation but also an underlying driver for unsustainable natural resource utilisation, especially in combination with population growth. Additional issues of unfavourable governance and legal conditions, and inadequate service provision are identified.

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

Goal: Reduce poverty and inequality, and improve the environment through devolved integrated sustainable forest and other natural resource management

Objective: Set up an enabling framework, strengthen and operationalise devolved integrated sustainable forest and other natural resource management system including improved livelihoods in project districts and communities

Challenges and limitations of good practice implementation

- ✓ Limited time for implementation.
- ✓ Capacity gaps for service provision on the ground in terms of Government Personnel and resources (transport and funds).

Major Activities

Component 1: Institutional development for Natural Resource Sector Devolution:

The project will strengthen the enabling policy and regulatory framework for sustainable Forest and other Natural Resources Management (FNRM) focusing on mechanisms to regularise the benefit sharing arrangements from forests, retaining benefits at the local levels including wood and non-wood forest product production. The project will strengthen district-level structures, and service providers for integrated natural resources planning and implementation.

Component 2: Integrated Sustainable Forest and other Natural Resources Management:

The project will strengthen the methodology for integrated sustainable forest and other natural resource management at district and community level through developing improved management models and related guidelines that builds on current projects and initiatives. A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach will be followed. The project will also develop the capacity of key institutions and local communities in sustainable management, and support them to implement adopted integrated models.

Component 3: Improved rural enterprises and alternative livelihoods:

The project will support forest dependent communities within the six Project Districts to develop small scale forestry and other natural resource-based livelihoods and enterprises based on sustainable use and management. This aims at reducing the drivers of natural resources degradation. The project will achieve this by facilitating business development services focusing on inclusive pro-poor value chains and products with greatest potential to reduce poverty, linking up with private sector and civil society organisations as service providers.

Component 4: Effective and efficient project management, results-based monitoring and evaluation systems, applied research and communication:

The project will identify and strengthen management, coordination and cooperation structures to support implementation. It will establish and operationalise the Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation, and Management Information Systems to help manage for results, improving project implementation as well as support policy decision-making. The system will also identify and provide results on priority areas for applied research that will inform learning and sustainable model development.

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ Supported the Forestry Department Drafting and testing subsidiary legislation that facilitates the devolution of rights over forests resources to community groups
- ✓ 27,846 hectares brought under community control
- ✓ 16 Community Natural Resource based governance structures elected through democratic process
- ✓ 16 communities have applied to the Director of forestry for recognition as community forest management groups and have since been recognized
- ✓ 13 community forest management groups have requested to enter into a legal agreement to control, use and manage their surrounding

Indirect Impact of the Project

At the end of the three-year project period, it is expected that the following mechanisms are functioning:

- ✓ Transparent and accountable institutional arrangements for integrated sustainable Forests and other Natural Resources Management at district, and community level,
- ✓ Market-oriented natural resource-based enterprise development, involving and benefiting local communities,
- ✓ Policy and legislation instruments that facilitate sustainable FNRM and enhance partnerships involving CSOs and private sector; and;
- ✓ Improved stakeholder capacity for more effective technical service delivery.

Intervention of Central/Local Government

The project is implemented through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Local Government, and the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, as the three key ministries responsible for land management and administration. The project promotes the implementation of the Government Policies and legal framework, the decentralisation and National Forestry Policy in particular.

Way Forward

Moving from piloting to full scale roll out of Government policy and legal framework for PFM.

Reference Documents/Materials

Decentralized Forest and Other Natural Resources Management Programme: www.dfnrmp.org.zm

Resource Persons

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