



Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

Improving lives through Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Promoting shared management & restoration of protected forest areas: Mpomwa Local Forest - practice brief #1

Context

The Protected Forest Areas (PFAs) within Eastern Province are increasingly under threat through deforestation and forest degradation. An assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the Province has indicated that more than 46% of emissions are coming from the degradation of standing forests in the Province and 16% from conversion of forest to agriculture (forest loss), with 14% from poorly managed agricultural soils. The key drivers of these emissions relate to demand for fuel wood use for household firewood, charcoal production and tobacco as well as degradation due to fires, deforestation for small scale (shifting) agricultural expansion. This is in part due to low productivity and insecure land tenure systems, as well as loss of soil carbon from poor agricultural practices.



Respect for protected areas is diminishing and the ability of the State to control these through law enforcement alone is challenging. The Policy and Legal framework in Zambia recognises these challenges and directs more local control and community and traditional leadership participation in the management of these areas including benefit sharing. Practical solutions are required to support local management and control with a view to reducing and reversing forest degradation and deforestation.

Respecting the challenges of tackling entrenched encroachment and settlement within key PFAs, the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is supporting the Forestry Department to engage local stakeholders and agree new strategies for management and restoration.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

The Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is a Government initiative in the Ministry of Green Economy & Environment, supported by the World Bank and partners. Its aim is to reduce deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion while improving the livelihoods of rural households in Eastern Province. ZIFLP is assisting rural communities to better manage the resources of their landscapes so as to enhance benefits they receive from forestry, agriculture, and wildlife. Importantly to also reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

Piloting new approaches

A pilot approach to test and refine a participatory multi stakeholder engagement process that secures the local protection and management leading to restoration of a protected area, is being applied in Mpomwa Local Forest. This is a challenging test site as it cuts across 3 Chiefdoms (Jumbe, Chikuwe and Mishoro) and 3 district boundaries (Mambwe, Chipangali and Kasenengwa).

The project is supporting the Forestry Department to conduct a multi-stakeholder engagement and planning process in order to develop a strategic plan for Mpomwa Local Forest which supports community control, use and management of the protected forest area in partnership with the Forestry Department. This will translate to formal agreements with the communities through the mechanisms of the Forest (Community Forest Management) Regulations, Statutory Instrument #11 of 2018.



Methodology

The key steps of the multi-stakeholder engagement and planning process involve the following:

1. Forming a strategic planning team and agreeing the approach, processes and responsibilities.
2. Consultation with each Chief to sensitise and seek approval for the multi-stakeholder planning process.
3. Conducting meetings of Indunas to sensitise on the policy and legal framework applying to the collaborative management of protected areas, the proposed strategic planning approach for Mpomwa Local Forest, issues and exploring opportunities for a multi-stakeholder partnership for Mpomwa.
4. Conducting a multi-stakeholder strategic planning exercise with community representatives from each Chieftdom to agree the process for local community level engagement following the Community Forestry process and National Guidelines.
5. Implementing the **community forestry approach** across the Chieftdoms adjacent to the Local Forest. This will include development of a forest management and restoration plan, local resource use rules leading to signing of a community forest management agreement with the Director of Forestry. It also involves identification of potential forest based enterprises and agreeing support if required.

The process follows closely the steps of the **National Guidelines for Community Forestry in Zambia, 2018** with adjustment for the strategic planning and shared management responsibilities. These CFM steps cover:



Key is agreeing the role and function of the Protected Forest Area, discussing the original reasons for reservation and the original process followed in the consultation and agreement with traditional leadership at the time, documented in the files. In terms of Mpomwa Local Forest, the team also related to the specific objectives of a Local Forest (according to Forests Act, 2015, sect 19) and used the slogan – **“Local forest, for local needs, with local issues, require local solutions”**.

This and agreeing a common Vision for the future assists developing a consensus and local commitment for change. The PFA is zoned according to resource condition and use, permitted and non permitted activities are agreed as well as future management arrangements, structures, position, roles and responsibilities.



Strengthening capacity & roles

ZIFLP is assisting the Forestry Department to better carry out their functions including management of selected forest reserves in Eastern Province for which they are responsible. This includes undertaking forest resource assessments, engaging surrounding local communities and developing plans for the shared management of critical resources for local communities and of national importance.

The steps and learning will be documented through a series of further **Practice Briefs**. Please contact the address below for further details and copies.

Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project is a five year initiative which aims to provide support to rural communities in the EP to allow them to better manage the resources of their landscapes so as to reduce deforestation and unsustainable agricultural expansion; enhance benefits they receive from forestry, agriculture, and wildlife; and reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

The ZIFLP is a product of cooperation between the Government of Zambia, the World Bank & partners.



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