

Ministry of Green Economy & Environment

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 #3 Gaining consensus for change through key stakeholder meeting

Summary

Protected Forest Areas (PFAs) within Eastern Province are increasingly under threat of deforestation and forest degradation. Unfortunately, respect for protected areas is diminishing and the ability of the State to control these through law enforcement alone is challenging. 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. The project is supporting the Forestry Department to engage local stakeholders and agree new strategies for management and restoration. This includes a process of multi-stakeholder engagement and planning for Mpomwa Local Forest which supports community control, use and management of the protected forest area in partnership with the Forestry Department. This is the **third Practice Brief** that shares approaches and learning from the pilot in Mpomwa Local Forest.



Mpomwa Local Forest is a challenging test site as it cuts across 3 Chieftdoms (Jumbe, Chikwe and Mishoro) and 3 district boundaries (Mambwe, Chipangali and Kasenengwa). Being at the periphery of the administrative and customary areas has resulted in illegal activities including encroachment and settlement. This can only be addressed through stakeholder engagement and building a consensus for tackling the issues and agreeing a way forward.

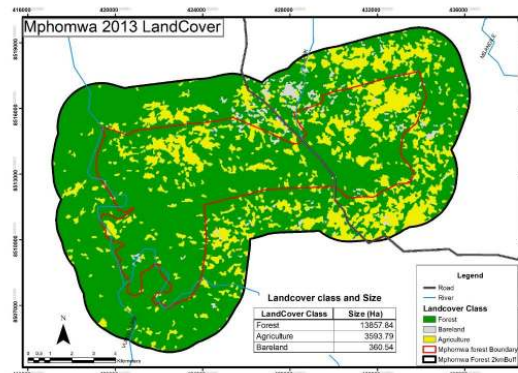
Engaging local leaders

Traditional leaders were already consulted and approvals to proceed were granted from the Royal

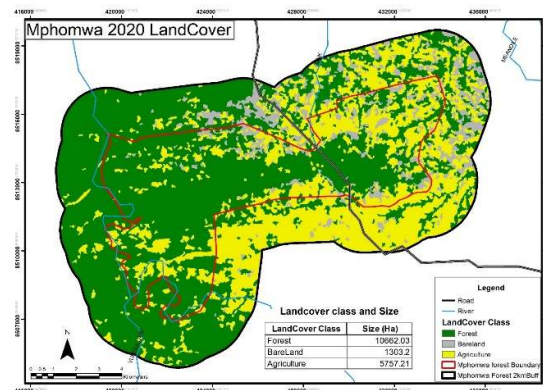
Establishments. Preliminary meetings were held with local Indunas in each Chieftdom to sensitise on the policy and legal framework, the proposed strategic planning approach, issues and exploring opportunities for a partnership for management of Mpomwa following the **community forestry** process.

Forest change analysis

The project secured forest cover imagery from COMACO for 2013 and 2020. This proved very useful in the stakeholder engagement process and greatly supported the messaging of forest loss in the area within and surrounding the Local Forest.



The participants were able to relate to the areas of forest and forest loss through agriculture and settlement across the Local Forest and surrounding areas. This was used to focus discussion on issues, support the participatory mapping exercise and subsequent zoning of the forest for management strategies, agreeing permitted and non-permitted activities within each of the identified zones.



Discussing issues, agreeing a roadmap for change

The first sessions covered participatory mapping, conducting a situational analysis of issues affecting the PFA, developing a vision for the local forest, agreement on institutional arrangements, agreeing the strategies for management of Mpomwa. As the Local Forest covers different Chiefdoms comprising different cultural groups there were disagreements over the Chiefdom boundary which runs through the reserve. Therefore the institutional arrangements for management needed to be crafted in a way that doesn't reinforce or aggravate conflicts, therefore, agreeing future management arrangements structure, position, roles and responsibilities was key. As a statement of intent, a declaration to collaborate was agreed and signed by representatives from the chiefdoms.



Visioning

Through the analysis of issues raised and converting those into positive statements, a vision was agreed as follows:

A productive forest that will bring value and development to the local people, improve the flow of rivers, soil fertility, now and for future generations.

Zoning for management and restoration

The forest cover images and participatory maps identified areas which were intact, areas degraded and some cases, areas cleared of trees and settlements. With discussion on values of different areas, the emphasis was on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) as a process for regaining ecological functionality, increasing availability of resources and therefore enhancing values across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. The approach for Mpomwa Local Forest is to secure areas with forest cover and restore areas of lost forest cover with people's participation in order to improve environmental, social and economic impacts. In order to capture this value, the main management strategies identified included:



- Protect the forest areas where the forest is intact;
- Restore the forest where it is deforested or degraded by regeneration encouraging regrowth of local species, afforestation or replanting tree species with people's participation.
- Increase forest cover through planting agroforestry species. These can help in increase tree cover, soil fertility, provide fodder and small biomass for energy needs. This can be planted in the fields where cropping is taking place.

Strengthening capacity & roles

ZIFLP is assisting the Forestry Department to better manage selected forest reserves in Eastern Province. This includes 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 are 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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