

Publication Draft



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT



MPOMWA LOCAL FOREST: P89 MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 2035

APPROVAL PAGE

MPOMWA LOCAL FOREST No. P89 - FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Notice of completion

This Forest Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 40, Part IV of the Forests Act, 2015. National and local enquiries were conducted as required to obtain representation from the local community, Chief and other stakeholders in the prescribed manner. Further, consultations were conducted with holders of rights and the local community in the area and account taken of their submissions.

In accordance with section 43 of the Forests Act, 2015, I therefore cause notice of completion to be published in the Gazette.

Director of Forestry

Date: _____

Registration of the Forest Management Plan

Following receipt of notification from the Director of Forestry, that the Forest Management Plan has been notified in the Government Gazette in accordance with the provisions of section 43 of the Forests Act, 2015, I therefore cause this Forest Management Plan to be registered and approve a notice of registration to be published in the Government Gazette.

Minister for Green Economy and Environment

Date: _____



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

FOREWORD

Forests provide essential functions and services to the local community and the country at large, conserving and protecting biodiversity, social and livelihood wellbeing. Zambia has adopted a participatory approach to forest management allowing community based natural resource management in respect to forest management between the Forestry Department whose function is to control, manage, conserve and administer Local and National Forests, promoting partnership with communities and civil society organizations. This forest management approach is driven by the need to promote sustainable use and management of forests across the country and reduce forest degradation and deforestation. The high demand for forest resource products and services due to increase in human population, and the ever-changing environmental conditions have highlighted the need to hasten the partnership approach to the management of forests in a planned manner. It is for this reason that Mpomwa Local Forest Management Plan (MLFMP) has been formulated.

Signature:

Director of Forestry

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Forest Management Plan was made possible through support from the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP). The Forestry Department would like to recognize and appreciate the efforts of their Royal Highnesses, Headmen and the community around Mpomwa Local Forest for the commitment to support this plan and importantly the sustainable management of the Local Forest.

In addition, the Forestry Department, Eastern Province, would like to recognize and appreciate the efforts of the participants in the consultation workshop for their valuable contribution to the development of the Forest Management Plan.

The production of the Plan would not have been possible without the input from ZAMSTATS and present and past officers of the Forestry Department. The contribution of the members of the forestry inventory, livelihood data collection, analysis and reporting teams who made it possible to generate the needed information to develop this forest management plan is acknowledged. Local community contribution was vital in both the livelihood and biodiversity surveys as well as in the participatory discussion. Their Royal Highness' contributions during the awareness meetings leading to livelihood survey for the development of the FMP are also highly appreciated.

The Forestry Department acknowledge the financial support of the World Bank and its partners through the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) in the development of the draft FMP. Finally, since it is not possible to mention each person engaged in the development of the FMP, the contribution of all persons who participated directly or indirectly in the preparation and completion of this document is appreciated.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Forests, woodlands and trees are among the nation's most important natural heritage resources. The vision of the National Forestry Policy, 2014 is to attain sustainable forest management at all types of forests to enhance forest products and services that will contribute to mitigation of climate change, income generation, poverty reduction, job creation and protection and maintenance of biodiversity. The Policy encourages participatory forest management anchored on the active participation of local communities, traditional institutions, private sector and other stakeholders in the management and utilisation of forest resources at all levels of decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Translating this into practice requires a Forest Management Plan to be developed and subsequently implemented in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Forests Act, 2015.

This Forest Management Plan has been prepared for Mpomwa Local Forest with the aim of equipping the management team and other interested stakeholders with a capable tool of directing the approach to be followed, guiding the process of partnerships with key stakeholders and addressing the challenges facing the management of the forest at present. These in the case of Mpomwa Local Forest are extreme and if not addressed immediately may result in the loss of the forest and the functions it was reserved to protect. Adjacent communities can play an important role in the rational utilisation of the existing forest through participation in decision making, active management, protection and benefit sharing. Thus community collaboration is an imperative so as to protect the remaining forest cover of Mpomwa Local Forest from degradation in order for it fully contribute to local and national development as well as for the benefit of the future generations of Zambia.

Translating Policy into practice

This management plan translates national policies into a well thought-out strategic framework to guide the preparation of annual operational programmes for effective and efficient management of this Local Forest. The management plan will regulate forestry activities for a period of 10 years through the application of prescriptions that specify targets, actions and control arrangements. In this respect this plan will form part of the general forest management system that regulates protection, silviculture practices, conservation, monitoring and other relevant operations to ensure sustainable management of the forest.

Community based natural resource management is core to this Forest Management Plan. Through promoting community involvement in the management of Mpomwa Local Forest, rights to forest products and uses of the forest have been negotiated whilst agreement on obligations and other responsibilities for protection and management activities with local communities has been determined. This is intended to achieve the parallel goals of ending open access, promoting enhanced forest management, whilst unlocking the full potential of sustainable forest use for economic development in the local communities. Surrounding communities have both the most to lose from its destruction and most to gain from its good management. The Community Forestry approach followed in Zambia provides an incentive mechanism and capacity development process to make this a reality.

To ensure effective implementation, including monitoring, this plan has been prepared using up to date and accurate information on the reserve covering: location

and extent; ownership and rights; topography, climate and soils; flora and fauna; potential income and other benefits; challenges and opportunities for sustainable management. This forest management plan has the purpose not only of setting out approved management objectives and specified actions, but equally important, communicating these to the resource users and other stakeholders who are concerned with the implementation of the plan.

The Forest Management Plan was prepared through a consultative, interactive and participatory strategic planning process involving all key stakeholders. The data collection and consultation process was financed through the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) a Zambian Government initiative in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment.

Forest resource & community well being assessment

During 2021 and 2022, the Forestry Department undertook forest resource assessments, engaging surrounding local communities and their traditional leaders as part of the enquiries for the purpose of preparing this forest management plan in accordance with the Forests Act, 2015. In parallel, ZAMSTATS undertook forest livelihoods and economic surveys with communities surrounding the Local Forest.

Traditional leaders were consulted and approvals to proceed with data collection and subsequent participatory land use planning processes. Local stakeholder meetings were held with community representatives, local organisations and other Government Departments to raise awareness of climate change issues, the sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the Province, sensitise on the policy and legal framework, the proposed collaborative planning approach, issues affecting the specific forest areas and exploring opportunities for a partnership for management. In addition, a forest restoration analysis assessment with imagery and limited ground truthing was conducted in late 2023. This indicated that approximately around half of the forest was remaining, with one third in severe degradation and around one fifth under informal settlement and cropping.

The information collected allowed assessment of the condition of the forest, the value of the forest both economic as well as biodiversity value in terms of species diversity and abundance. Past management, exploitation as well as current management and pressures on the forest can be seen in the species abundance and size distribution in the areas assessed. This confirms the status of Mpomwa Local Forest as a forest not achieving optimum growth potential. This information as well as the current Policies and development priorities can guide the short, medium and long term management of Mpomwa Local Forest.

Summary socio economic analysis

The livelihood survey conducted in 2021 indicated that Mpomwa Local Forest is surrounded by approximately 158 farming blocks and villages with a total population of 2,846. These households depend on farming as their main occupation, the principal crops grown are maize, sunflower and groundnuts from land holdings ranging between 0.25ha to 6ha. Almost all households use firewood as their energy for cooking. The survey revealed that 86 percent of all the households were willing if called upon to voluntarily support management of the forest reserve with Forestry Department. At the time of survey, there were serious encroachment in the reserve including schools and clinics within the forest.

Forest change & issues analysis

A consultation meeting of stakeholders for Mpomwa Local Forest was held on 21st December 2023, at Mambwe Council Chamber. Participants were requested to review the uses and users of the forest, the issues that are contributing to forest loss and forest degradation, but importantly to propose local solutions to these issues. Utilising forest cover imagery, participants were able to relate to the areas of forest and forest loss through agriculture and settlement across the forest and surrounding areas. This was used to focus discussion on issues, identifying different zones of use and management, possible strategies and priorities for management as well as agreeing permitted and non-permitted activities within each of the identified zones.

Stakeholders' observations and Concerns

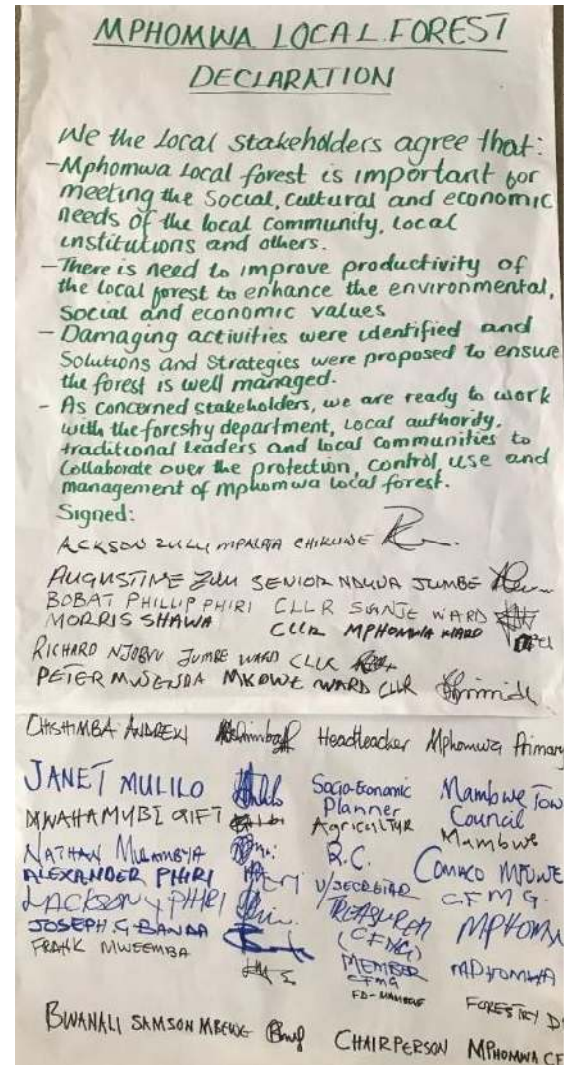
The stakeholders made several observations and raised some concerns notable among them include the following:

- The forest is important to the surrounding communities as well as a habitat for animals. Forest loss threatens everyone and everything that depends on this forest.
- There are serious encroachments in MLF, therefore there is need to protect what is remaining of the forest as well as bring it back to its former glory at the same time find a lasting solution to the illegal settlements.
- Need to change the mindset of the people for them to appreciate the grave consequences of deforestation as well as need to provide sustainable/ alternative livelihoods.
- To resolve the inadequate human resource issue there was need to be re-introduce forest guards to police the MLF and need to stiffen laws.
- Indunas, senior headmen and headmen, are allocating land to people coming from outside, in this regard consideration should be to ensure no further encroachments and means to restore the forest found.
- The community forestry model should be promoted as it also promotes local ownership of the resources and therefore incentive to protect.

Making a commitment to work together for change

As a statement of concern, but interest to work together with the Forestry Department, the Local Authority, Traditional leaders, and stakeholders agreed that there was need to collaborate over the protection, sustainable use and management of the protected forest area and a declaration of intent was signed pledging to collaborate in the sustainable management of Mpomwa Local Forest.

The declaration confirmed that Mpomwa Local Forest is of importance for meeting the local social, cultural and economic needs of the surrounding communities as well as of environmental importance, primarily through securing local water resources. The stakeholders requested to work in partnership with the Forestry Department and others to safeguard the forest.



Objectives and management actions

Based on the policy and legal framework and the consultation process conducted, the General Objectives for the management of Mpomwa Local Forest are:

- (a) To secure forest resources of local and national importance
- (b) To protect and restore ecosystems, particularly the protection of land and water supplies of local and strategic importance;
- (c) To ensure the sustainable utilisation of forest resources and other natural resources within the protected area;
- (d) To ensure full participation of all stakeholders at all levels of society for sustainable forest resource and ecosystem management through appropriate incentives and benefit sharing mechanisms
- (e) To meet the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community and wider society involved in management of the Forest in a gender equitable manner.

These in the case of Mpomwa Local Forest are urgent and if not actioned immediately may result in the loss of the forest and the functions it was reserved to protect. This process has already been initiated through promotion of community forestry in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Community Forest Management) Regulations, 2018.

Proposed management actions

The following management actions which are proposed for Mpomwa Local Forest reflect the statutory purpose of the Local Forest as set out in section 19 of the Forests Act of 2015. The actions are intended to address and reverse the degrading factors threatening the current existence of the Local Forest.

1 Forest Protection, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Biodiversity

Mpomwa Local Forest is an important forest ecosystem containing different plant species and fauna. The forest is surrounded by an increasing population which is highly dependent on it for subsistence and increasingly economic needs including collection of mushroom, wild fruits, caterpillars, honey, firewood and poles. The level of unsustainable use is anticipated to intensify with increasing human populations resulting in higher levels of resource exploitation and degradation. Protection of this forest habitat is therefore essential to ensure the continued ecosystem services and local livelihood needs.

Without considering the needs of local communities, gaining their support, and working with them, rather than against them, forest protection and management goals and objectives will not be reached. Consequently, the strategy will be to work together with communities to develop joint protection systems in return for agreed levels of utilization within the capacity of the forest to meet subsistence needs whilst safeguarding the environmental aspects including conservation of biodiversity.

2 Forest Conservation through Community Participation and Livelihood Development

Community empowerment is central to participatory forest management for the effective coordination and sustainable management of forest resources. This Plan recognizes that communities surrounding Mpomwa Local Forest are key stakeholders in the conservation of this forest as well as beneficiaries from its sustainable management. A balance of meeting the social, cultural and economic needs of the communities around Mpomwa Local Forest with forest conservation is needed. This will be achieved through promotion of community forestry and strengthening the existing community forest management group to partner over the management of Zones 1 and 2 of the Local Forest, as well as a development zone (3) in the immediate surrounding area to promote greenhouse gas emission reduction interventions.

Safeguards & other crosscutting issues

In implementing the above management actions, cross cutting issues as well as other environmental and social safeguards processes will be mainstreamed in all aspects of forest management. Specific activities as well as the annual workplan and operational plans should include a process of social and environmental screening. These should be reviewed and updated in accordance with the type of activity being planned and general screening reviewed annually. A Grievance Redress Mechanism will be operational at the District and Provincial level to allow a mechanism for grievances to be raised, documented and addressed. Documentation and tracking is core to this issue. Women shall be integrated into all aspects of management of Mpomwa Local Forest and empowered through equal participation in decision making, governance and benefit sharing.

Contribution to Emissions Reduction in Eastern Province

Improved management of Mpomwa Local Forest through the proposed interventions will directly address the need for emissions reductions through promotion of Sustainable Forest Management. This centres around expansion of community forestry and strengthening collaboration in the management of this and other protected forest areas in the Province. Carbon sequestration will also be achieved through plantation forestry and locked in timber products.

Delivering sustained results

The expected outcomes of participatory management through local stakeholder involvement in the management of this and other protected forest areas will be to reduce emissions in the Eastern Province. Strengthening sustainable land and forest management practices, creating increased incomes and resilience of local communities, conforming to national strategies will reduce the effects of climate change. Implementing the proposed management actions should result in improved local livelihoods and local economic development, improved availability of major forest products whilst sustaining the key ecological functions of the Local Forest and its surrounding area.

Definition of Terms

Above ground Biomass- refers to *vegetation above the soil, including stem, stumps, branches, bark, and foliage*

Basal Area- is the measure of cross-sectional areas of a tree trunk at breast height, typically measured in square meters per hectare

Below ground Biomass This is one of the carbon pools including biomass of the roots and organic matter

Biomass- refers to the total mass of living organisms in a particular ecosystem or biological community

Bole height - The distance from the base of a tree to the base of the living branch that part of the tree crown

Bole volume- refer to the amount of wood contained in the trunk or stem of the tree, typically from the ground level up to a point where the trunk reached a certain diameter or height. It is used in forestry inventory

Community Forest - refers to forest management that has ecological sustainability and local community benefit as central goal

Fauna- refers to the animals in particular region or ecosystem it includes all animal species that inhabit a given area from tiny insects to and microorganisms to large mammal and birds

Flora- refers to the plants, trees, flowers and other living organisms that are classified as part of the plant kingdom

Regeneration- refers to the process of renewing a forest or woodland to replace those that have been harvested or lost due to natural causes

Topography- refer to the physical features of a particular area of land, including its elevation, shape and relief

ACRONYMS

CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviews
CCAs	Community conservation areas
CFMG	Community Forest Management Groups
COMACO	Community Markets for Conservation
CSA	Climate smart agriculture
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
EA	Enumeration Area
EP-JSLP	Eastern province Jurisdiction Sustainable Landscape Programme
FD	Forestry Department
FMA	Forest Management Area
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GHG	Green house gases
HFO	Honorary Forest Officers
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN)
MLFMP	Mpomwa Local Forest Management Plan
MGEE	Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
MOE	Ministry of Energy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SFM	Sustainable forest management
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZAMSTATS	Zambia Statistics Agency
ZIFLP	Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

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MPOMWA LOCAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

1 INTRODUCTION

The Mpomwa Local Forest Management Plan (MLFMP) is prepared in response to the National Forestry Policy of 2014 which has set forth clear guidelines to: “ensure adequate protection and sustainable utilization of forests, by promoting the development and use of forest and non-forest products by involving all interested key stakeholders particularly local communities around the forest reserve in the management of the forests and non-forest products in line with provisions of the Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015. The Management Plan relates to the Mpomwa Local Forest which falls within Mambwe, Kasenengwa and Chipangali Districts of Eastern Province.

1.1 Purpose of the forest management plan

The purpose of the forest management plan is to guide the management of the forest resources of Mpomwa Local Forest in a sustainable manner whilst involving rural communities, traditional and local leadership, as well as other key stakeholders in collaboration with the Forestry Department.

This Forest Management Plan aims to contribute towards the Goal of the National Strategy for REDD which is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation for sustainable natural resource management, improvement of livelihoods and achievement of a green economy.

1.2 Duration of forest management plan

The duration of the FMP is ten (10) years from the date that the plan is approved and registered in the Government Gazette. However, implementation of the Plan will be monitored periodically and evaluated at year 5 and may be adjusted accordingly as lessons are learned.

1.3 Policy Objectives

The Objectives for this Forest Management Plan are aligned with the objectives of the National Forestry Policy, 2014, which include:

Objective 1: To manage the country’s forest resources in order to maximize productivity and the development potential of the forest resources:

Objective 2: To empower local communities and traditional leaders in order to ensure adequate protection and management of forests:

Objective 3: To improve the role of forests in addressing climate change in order to contribute to reducing its impact through mitigation and adaptation measures:

1.4 General Management Objectives

The General Objectives for the management for the Forest Reserve are aligned with the purpose of a Local Forest as defined in the Forests Act, 2015, and include:

- (a) To secure forest resources of local and national importance
- (b) To protect and restore ecosystems, particularly the protection of land and water supplies of local and strategic importance;
- (c) To ensure the sustainable utilisation of forest resources and other natural resources within the protected area;
- (d) To ensure full participation of all stakeholders at all levels of society for sustainable forest resource and ecosystem management through appropriate incentives and benefit sharing mechanisms
- (e) To meet the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community and wider society involved in management of the Forest in a gender equitable manner.

2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location Details

Mpomwa Local Forest (Reserve No. P. 89) forms part of the forest estates in Eastern Province. The Local Forest falls within the Districts of Mambwe, Kasenengwa, and Chipangali, covers a land area of approximately 6,698 hectares in extent and is situated approximately 45km north west of the Provincial Administrative centre of Chipata.

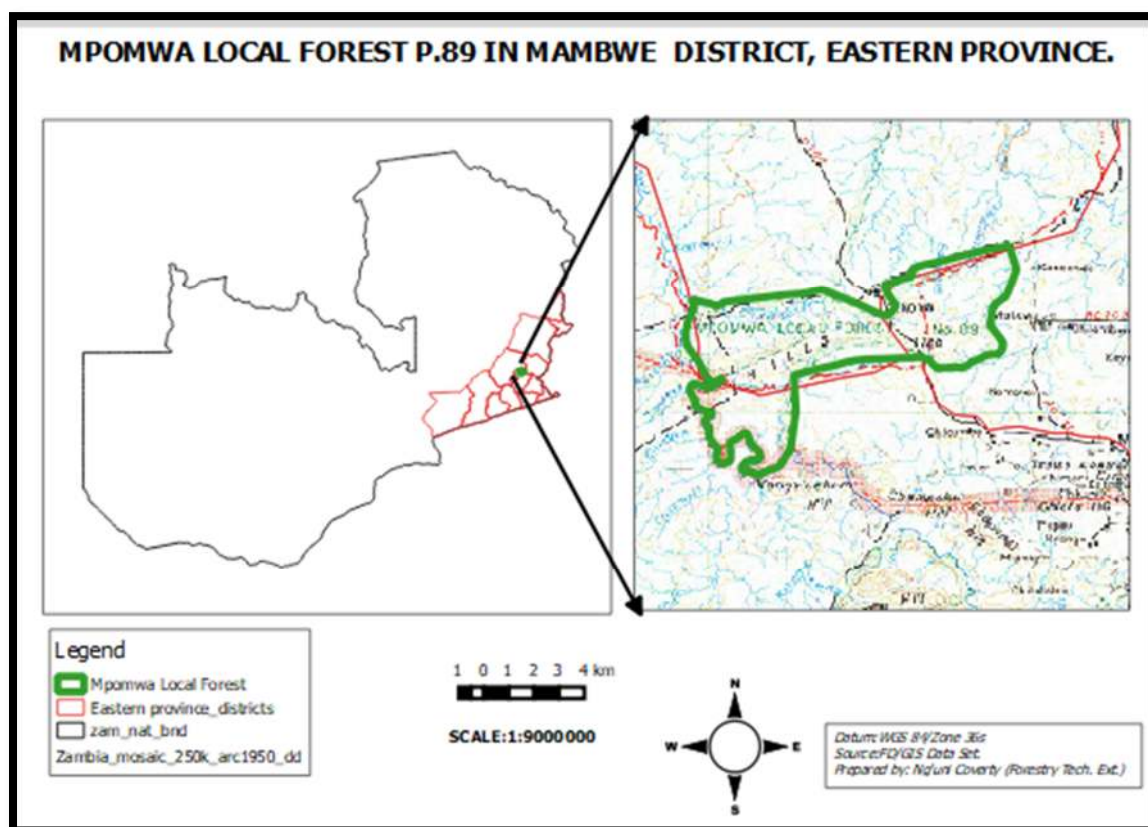


Figure 1 Location Map of Mpomwa Local Forest

A detailed description of the gazetted forest boundary is provided in Annex 1.

2.2 Ownership and control

Mpomwa Local Forest No. P 89, was originally declared a forest reserve and gazetted under Statutory Instrument No. 370 of 1958 and deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General on Plan No. PFA 137. It is a protected forest area with the designation of “Local Forest” covered by section 19 of the Forests Act, 2015. The Forestry Department, according to the Forests Act No. 4 of 2015, is responsible for its protection and management.

2.3 Reasons for reservation

The proposal for reservation of the area was first raised in 1950 and boundaries were agreed with the representatives of the Chewa and Kunda Tribes with the respective Native Authorities approving in December 1951 and May 1956. The Mpomwa Local Forest was gazetted as a protected forest area under notice No.370 of 1958 and subsequently under Statutory Instrument No. 66 of 1975. The reservation aimed at establishing a protection forest, protecting steeper slopes as a stream catchment area for the numerous streams arising in the range of hills. In addition, there was potential for supplying poles for local demand as well as sawn timber to be worked on a selection system based on minimum girth at breast height.

2.4 Physical and Biophysical Environment

Topography, Geology & Soils

The Forest lies on a range of hills at an altitude of about 1210m above sea level. Geologically the area is located on Precambrian metamorphic rocks characterized by gneiss with igneous intrusion of syenite. The exploratory soil map of Zambia compile by the soil survey section research branch of the Ministry of Agriculture 1971 classified the area covering Mpomwa Local Forest well drained, moderately deep, red to strong brown, friable, gravelly, moderately weathered fine loamy to clayey soils (chromi-haplic ALISOLS, partly skeletal phase).

Rainfall & Temperature

The rainfall usually lasts for 5 to 6 months starting from November to March and the peak months are December and February. The rainfall amount ranges from 900 to 1,000mm.

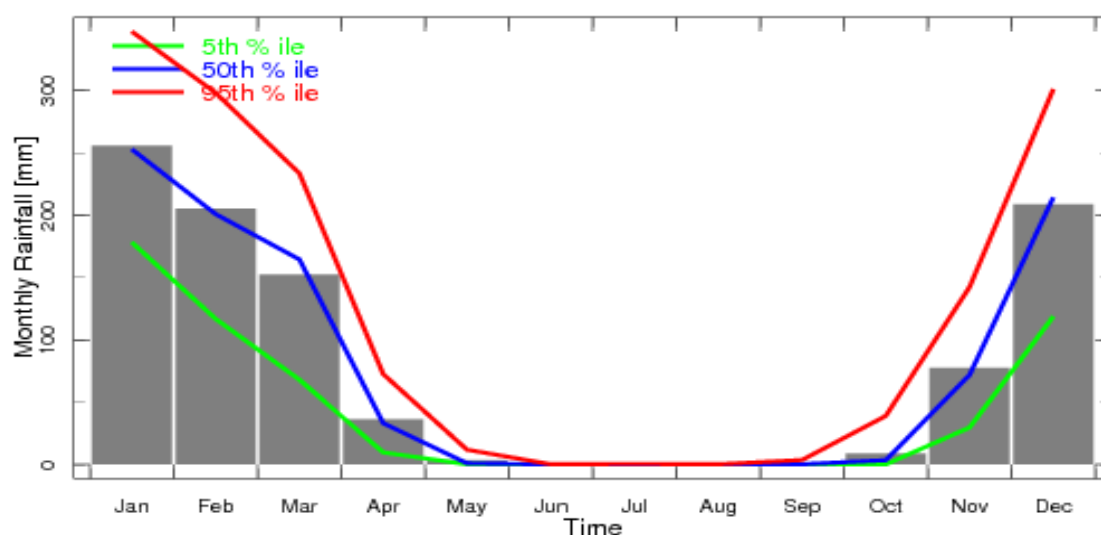


Figure 2 Monthly rainfall, Eastern Province

Source: The Zambia Meteorological Department

Normally, temperatures are very high, especially during the dry months which occurs between August and December. The maximum average monthly temperature is between 27°C and 34°C. The highest maximum temperature occurs in October.

The lowest average temperature is between 21°C and 23°C during the cool dry season occurring especially between May and June.

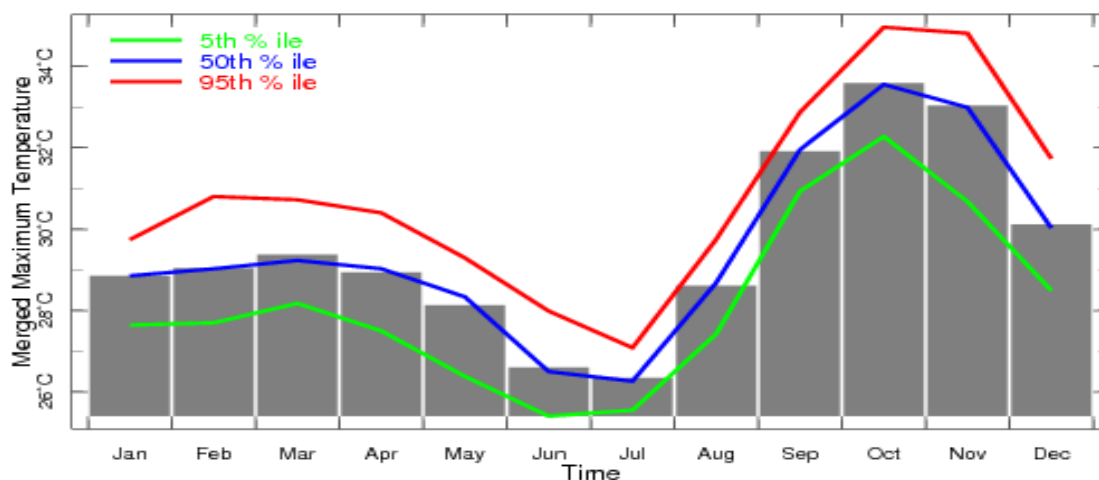


Figure 3 Monthly temperature, Eastern Province Source: The Zambia Meteorological Department

Vegetation Type

Mpomwa Local Forest is a homogeneous forest. The vegetation type is miombo woodland with a diverse tree flora including *Julbernardia paniculata*, *Isoberlinia angolensis*, *Brachystegia boehmii*, *Brachystegia floribunda*, *Parinari curatellifolia* and many other species with *Brachystegia speciformis* being the dominant species.

A total of 61 different tree species of dbh 5cm and above were recorded in the forest reserve during this assessment. The timber species recorded were *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Brachystegia bussei*, *Albizia antunesiana*, *Brachystegia floribunda*, *Brachystegia manga*, *Brachystegia spiciformis* and *Pterocarpus chrysotrix*.

Fauna

Although the portion of the forest within Mambwe District falls within Lupande Game Management Area, during both the reconnaissance survey and the forest inventory, there was no physical observation of major wildlife. However, an indication of their presence was recorded through observations such as foot prints and droppings. Animals such as Vervet Monkeys were present. Smaller animal species such as squirrels, birds, snakes and lizards were encountered during the surveys.

3 PAST MANAGEMENT

The management of the reserve has been guided by the objectives of reservation proposal as stated at the time the forest was gazetted as a protected forest area.

A programme of clearing vegetation for tsetse fly control along the Kamwanjilu stream took place in 1959.

First reports of illegal encroachment were recorded in 1960 and dealt with through fines and judgement from Chief Jumbe's Court.

The Public Service Reform Programme (PSRP) in 1997 and economic downturn, had an adverse impact on the management of the Local Forest. This combined with an increase in population, high poverty levels resulted in increase pressure on the forest compounded by a Department of reduced manpower. With the result, Mpomwa Local Forest has over the years been heavily encroached by influx of migrants from surrounding areas and Chiefdoms. Agriculture, timber logging and informal land allocation for settlement are the major challenges facing the Local Forest for some time. The encroachment includes significant areas of smallholder farms. Various initiatives have taken place to address including meetings with Chiefs, stakeholder meetings and a programme of issuing notices to those illegally settled within the Reserve. In addition, a number of settlements with associated infrastructure including schools are located with the gazetted forest area.

Different forms of joint forest management were first discussed in 2001 under an American funded CLUSA-NRM project with Mpomwa one of the pilot sites. The initiative promoted sustainable forest management, preparation of management plans and forming a multi-village local management committee. The initiative also aimed to address the issue of illegal settlement and cultivation in the reserve and eviction notices were served by the Forestry Department. To assist the identification of the reserve, the boundary beacons were renewed and painted in 2002.

A further initiative to establish joint forest management took place in 2005 with identification of forest user groups and steps to form a village resource management committee in 3 zones.

A communication mast for MTN was established in the reserve and an agreement signed in 2008. Also in 2008, an initiative to establish a community enterprise based on sustainable production of charcoal was initiated by the Forestry Department. Demarcation of a 5 hectare coupe was conducted with the Chiwelelepo Charcoal User Group, covering *Brachystegia*, *Julbernadia paniculate* and *Julbernadia globiflora*. It is believed that the enterprise did not continue and one coupe is now farmed as a field.

Further operations to tackle encroachment in the reserve took place in 2013 and again in 2015 as permanent structures were reported and documented in the file. Further reports of illegal cutting of Mukula and production of charcoal. Contributions were made from local organisations to conduct law enforcement

operations and charcoal sweeps in the area. Further community engagements were made in 2016 between district authorities, traditional leaders and community groups to address the situation. A map of the situation was produced.

A fresh approach to promote community forestry was initiated by the Forestry Department with support from the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project in 2020 with a process of stakeholder engagements conducted.

Local Vision

Through the meeting of local representatives on 07 May 2021, 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.

Issues affecting Mpomwa and Stakeholder Solutions

LOCAL ISSUE	LOCAL SOLUTION
Agriculture activities and poor agricultural practices and low productivity	Practice conservation farming, plant agroforestry trees, cultivate through ripping than complete ploughing, and restrict farm/ field extension.
Timber / tree cutting/ production of Charcoal for income generation	Beekeeping, livestock, fish farming, chicken rearing and gardening
Licenses being issued for tree cutting by FD	Local community to follow all the community forestry steps and enter into Agreement with the Director of Forestry and the FD will not issues permits for tree cutting in the Local Forest.
Boundary conflicts	Coordination between the local leaders and the chiefs
Land allocation within the Local Forest	Local leaders will ensure there is no further land allocation with the Local Forest
Population	Family planning guided by Ministry of Health
Poor communication among stakeholders	Establish a committee represented by all Chiefdoms to mitigate these issues,

Table 1 Issues affecting Mpomwa and Stakeholder Solutions

During the multi-stakeholder meeting on 20th May 2021, the forest was zoned into; forest with continuous tree cover and forest without continuous tree cover. In these zones it was discussed that there are activities that can be permitted and activities that should not be permitted according to the broad classification (forest cover status) of area.



Figure 4 Participatory mapping exercise with local leaders

Maintenance works

In 2018, Mpomwa Local Forest boundary beacons were verified and new maps produced under the Forest Reserve Support Project funded by US Forest Service.

In 2021 ZIFLP supported the district officers to conduct boundary clearing and checking boundary beacons. Boundary beacons were renewed where required. See Annex 1 for details and map. In 2022, 3 signboards were erected to indicate the Local Forest and restrictions therein. Sporadic prescribed burning has been implemented, most recently in 2021, 2022 and 2025 in collaboration with the community.

4 GROWING STOCK

Assessing the growing stock of the forest is important in terms of ensuring Sustainable Forest Management. In basic terms, assessment is needed to ensure that the removal of trees and forest products does not exceed the rate of replacement in terms of growth and abundance. This is the basic principle of sustainable forestry otherwise the forest will be depleted and degraded.

A forest inventory was conducted by the Forestry Department in 2021 with financial support from the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project. The following section provides the results and analysis from the data collected. The location of sample plots is provided in Annex 1. Measurement of trees and soils followed the Department's Guidelines and the software *forestcalc* (version 6.4.1) used to process the data to provide the summary information contained in this chapter. The information collected allows assessment of the condition of the forest, the value of the forest both economic as well as biodiversity value in terms of species diversity and abundance. Past management, exploitation as well as current management and pressures on the forest can be seen in the species abundance and size distribution in the areas assessed. These as well as the current Policies and development priorities can guide the short, medium- and long-term management of Mpomwa Local Forest.

The following table presents the summary information from the forest inventory:

Stratum total by all species

Diameter Class	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40+	Total
Vol (m3)/ha	0.00	2.16	6.14	9.61	27.36	19.69	7.40	72.37
Bole Vol (m3)/ha	0.00	1.01	3.00	4.61	13.10	9.23	3.59	34.53
Density/SPH	0.39	118.99	101.93	64.41	79.20	27.66	5.69	398.29
Basal area (m2)/ha	0.00	0.53	1.19	1.50	3.61	2.44	0.96	10.24
Biomass, (Tons)/ha	0.00	3.26	9.36	14.57	40.26	29.16	11.03	107.61
Carbon, (Tons)/ha	0.00	1.63	4.67	7.29	20.13	14.57	5.51	53.81
Vol (m3)/ha Sawlog	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.37	7.71	7.27	4.56	20.03
Vol (m3)/ha Poles	0.00	0.24	1.29	2.06	1.90	0.23	0.00	5.73
Vol (m3)/ha Fruits	0.00	0.13	0.26	0.30	0.49	0.54	0.00	1.71
Vol (m3)/ha Medicinal	0.00	0.77	2.09	2.34	3.99	1.90	0.50	11.59
Vol (m3)/ha Firewood	0.00	0.43	1.34	3.49	10.11	7.21	2.36	24.94
Vol (m3)/ha Others	0.00	0.59	1.03	1.06	3.07	1.91	0.00	7.64
Seedlings								1,045

Table 2 Stratum total for all species

4.1 Tree species abundance

The inventory data indicates that there are over 61 different types tree species that were recorded in the forest. However, the ten most frequent species are shown below:

Species	Local Name (Nyanja)	Species Code
Brachystegia floribunda	Musompa	84
Diplorhynchus condylocarpon	Mwenge	55
Bauhinia petersiana	Mupondo	28
Combretum molle	Kalama	28
Brachystegia spiciformis	Mputu	24
Dalbergiella nyasae	Lupweshya	16
Combretum zeyheri	Mulama	14
Pterocarpus rotundifolius	Mukambo	11
Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia	Musangati	9
Brachystegia boehmii	Musamba	9

Table 3 Top Ten Abundant Species in the Forest Reserve

4.2 Tree and Sampling Distribution by Size Classes

Size Class Distribution is a way to describe the structure of a forest by categorizing the tree population by size of the tree through measurement of each tree, its diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) in centimetres and allocating each measured tree into a size range as means to assess the tree population. Trees below 5cm are counted, not measured. The actual distribution of measured trees into various classes is then compared to a suggested "ideal" benchmark as an indicator of forest health and sustainability. The presence or absence of trees in various size classes informs the manager of past management, current stocking and the future growth potential of the forest.



Figure 5 Size class distribution graphic

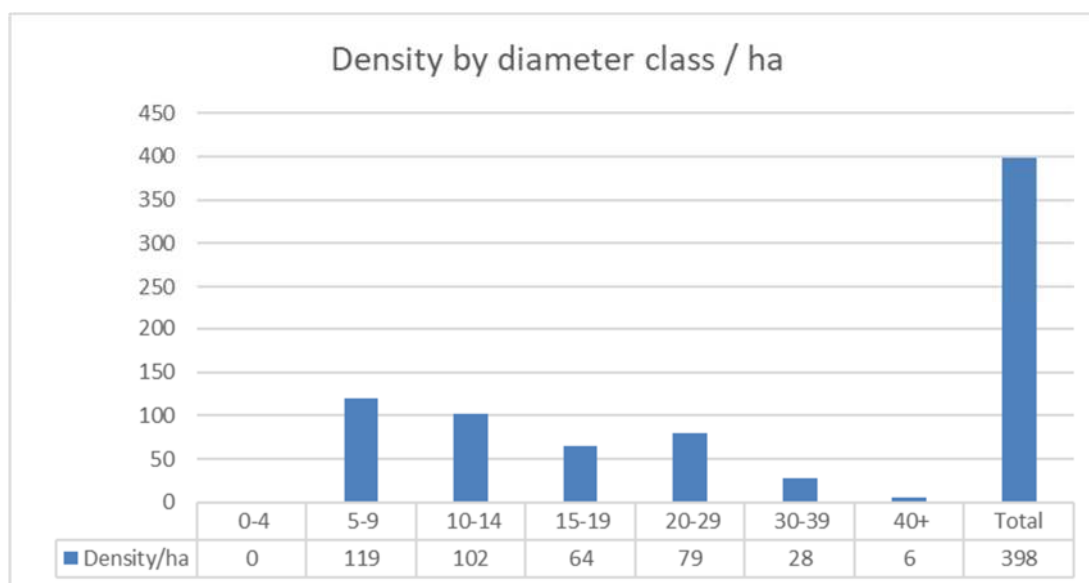


Figure 6 Density by diameter class/ha for all species

In Mpomwa Local Forest, a stocking density for trees ≥ 5 cm DBH was estimated as 398 stems per hectare. The stocking by diameter class basal area per hectare is more in 5–9 cm class. The data indicates that there has been much tree harvesting resulting in high coppicing and regeneration. This indicates that the forest in terms of growth potential is in a relatively healthy condition allowing succession from one size class to the next higher one. The data also indicates this is a secondary forest. The species with the high density is *Brachystegia floribunda* with 84 stems per hectares, this is followed by *Diplorhynchus condylocarpon* and *Bauhinia petersiana*.

Forest condition is further assessed by the amount of area occupied by the stems of trees, termed basal area. This is measured by determining the cross-sectional area of a tree at breast height (1.3m), summing all the measurements and expressing this as a figure of square metres, either in their size class categories or as a total per hectare.

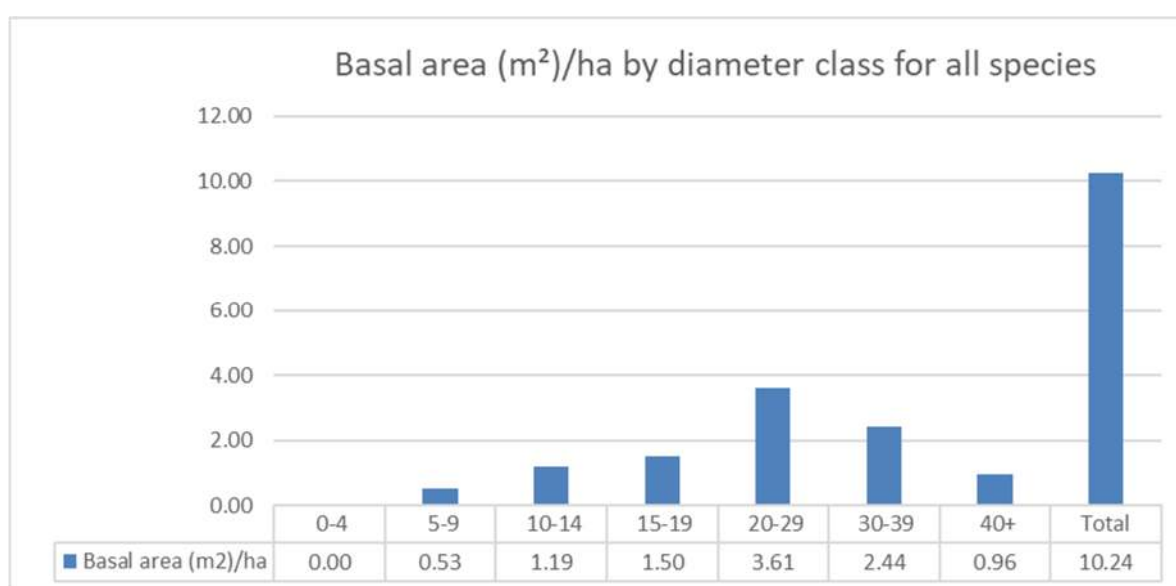


Figure 7 Basal area (m²) by diameter class/ha for all species

A figure of 10.24 m² per hectare is an average figure for basal area in a similar type of forest type. Whilst average, the reduction in forest area to the overall reserved area confirms the status of Mpomwa Local Forest as a forest of concern.

4.3 Total Volume, Biomass and Carbon estimate of all Species

Calculating volume of the standing trees of DBH > 5cm is a further measure of the condition of the forest, site quality and previous management and exploitation. Tree volume to different heights is measured and calculated by individual trees and summed to give a total volume estimate per hectare. An estimate of the volume in a stand or plot is important for forests quantification and management decision making. The amount of merchantable wood in cubic metres (m³) in a tree, as well as across the forest, was estimated while the trees are still standing using the methods of forest mensuration. Tree bole volume is based on the timber height relating to the parts of the tree that could be cut and sawn. Stand volume based on tree height is important for providing an estimate of total wood biomass resource. An assessment of carbon stocks was then estimated using the methodological framework developed by the IPCC.

The total standing volume per hectare for all species in Mpomwa Local Forest is estimated at 72.37m³/Ha., with a total bole volume estimated at 34.93m³/Ha. Total Biomass for trees ≥5cm DBH is estimated at 107.61 tonnes/ha and it has carbon estimated at 53.81 tonnes/ha.

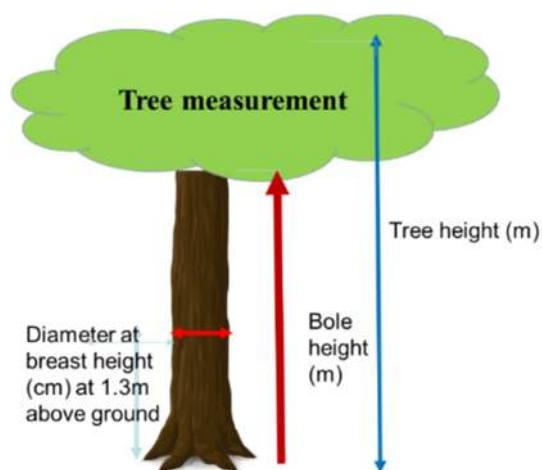


Figure 8 Tree measurement graphic

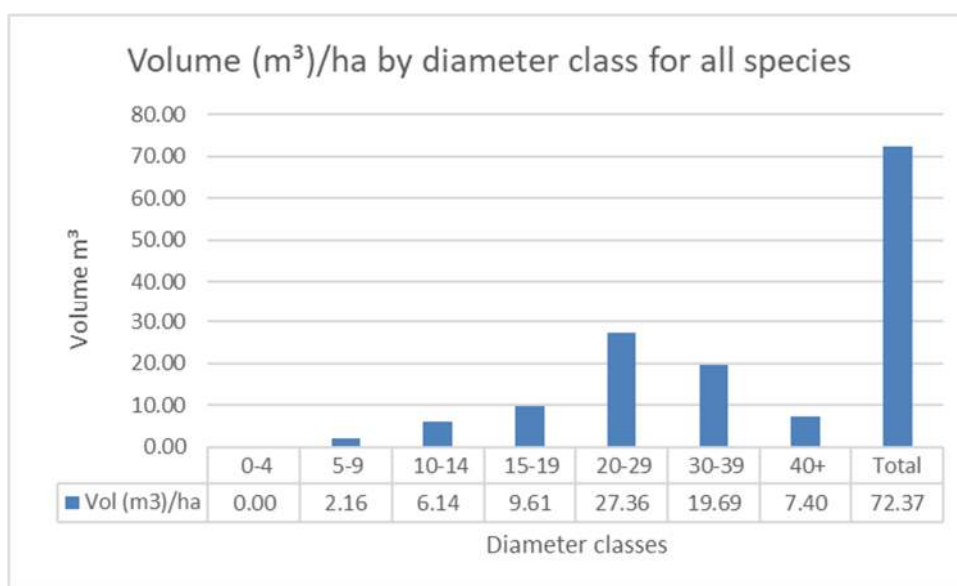


Figure 9 Volume (m³) by diameter class/ha for all species by use

Bole volume total by diameter class/ha for all species

The total bole volume by diameter class per hectare is 34.53 cubic meters with higher in diameter class 20 – 29 and less from 40cm and above. The results indicate that there has been much tree harvesting resulting in high coppicing and regeneration due to human interventions.

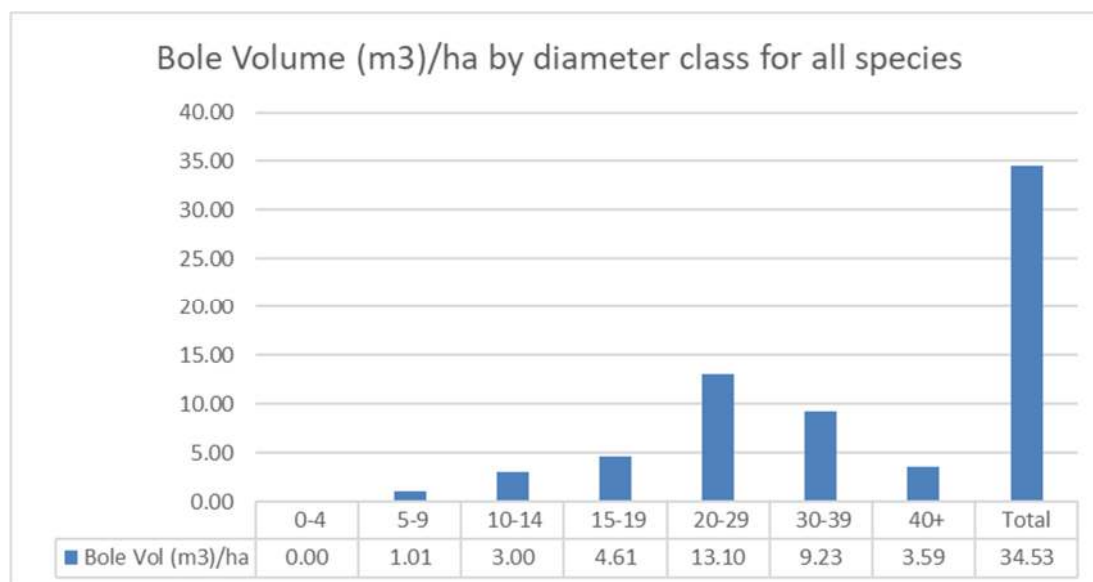


Figure 10 Bole volume (m³) by quality diameter class for all species

4.4 Presence of Commercial Tree Species

The volume of other technical characteristics or use are computed per hectare of forest as follows: Saw-log 20.03m³, Pole 5.73m³, Firewood/charcoal 24.94m³, Fruit trees 1.71m³ and others 7.64m³. Sawlog volume is good at 20.03 cubic meters per hectare for diameter classes 30cm and above. Further, the presence of future timber volumes in the size class below indicates potential for limited sustainable timber harvesting.

Technical characteristics - Volume of all species by use

No	Description	Volume(m³/ ha)	Explanation
1	Sawlogs	20.03	These are merchantable trees with the average diameter of 40cm dbh and above
2	Poles	5.73	These are tree species with relative straight bole length with the average diameter at breast height of 5cm to 29cm
3	Fruits	1.71	The fruit bearing tree species (edible or not edible)
4	Medicinal	11.59	All medicinal plants
5	Firewood	24.94	Include all dead trees which can be used for firewood
6	Others	7.64	These include all tree species which are not classified in any of the above categories

Table 4 Trees in Mpomwa Local Forest in terms of forest product categories.

Based on the inventory data, species utilised for high valued sawlogs are not abundant across the forest. While the harvestable volume is average, it is considered that Mpomwa Local Forest in its current condition cannot sustain large scale logging operations or be considered for a timber concession because it is highly encroached and degraded in many areas and those areas with larger diameter trees are found on the slopes where soil and water protection is a priority.

Biomass and Carbon total (tonnes) by diameter class/ha for all species

The total biomass and carbon stocks per hectare respectively of 107.61 and 53.81 estimates is based on the methodological framework developed by the IPCC documented in the 2006 guidelines for national greenhouse inventories volume 4, chapter 2 and 4. The correlation of total biomass and carbon both above and underground is in the figure above is within the IPCC requirement of half of biomass constitute carbon stock. Note, this figure is standing carbon and not the amount of carbon that may be traded under carbon trading schemes which are based on measured reduction of emissions over time.

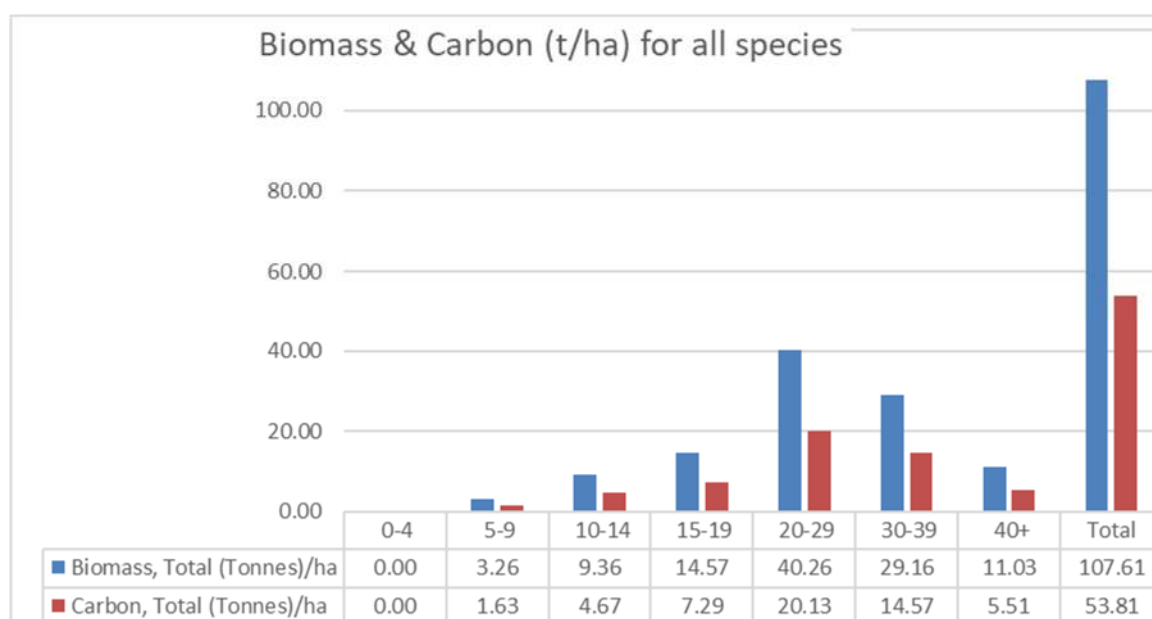


Figure 11 Biomass and Carbon above ground by diameter class/ha for all species

4.5 Forest condition and restoration assessment

In order to restore the ecological functions of the forest as well as the socio economic needs of the local community, the ZIFLP supported the Forestry Department to conduct forest restoration analysis with imagery and limited ground truthing in late 2023. This indicated that approximately around half of the forest was remaining, with one third in severe degradation and around one fifth under informal settlement and cropping.

Land cover category	Estimated area	Percentage
Forest	3,574.36	53.4
Cropland	982.49	14.7
Settlement with cropland	562.31	8.4
Water course	81.11	1.2
Degraded forest (open)	202.24	3.0
Degraded (scrub)	1,295.49	19.3
Total	6,698	100

Figure 12 Forest condition analysis 2023 by land cover

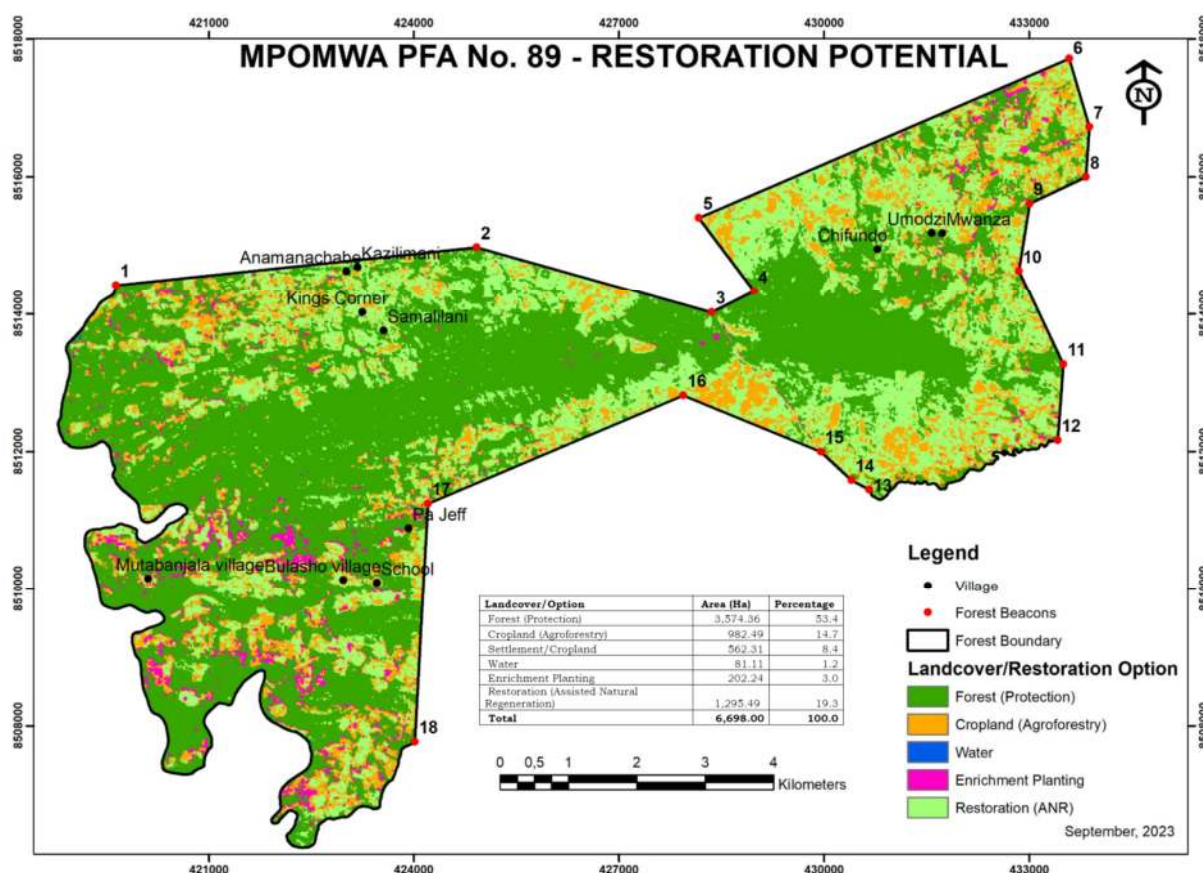


Figure 13 Forest restoration mapping and analysis

The pressure on the forest is high and risk of further loss and degradation severe. 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. The landcover analysis allows for identification of restoration strategies. These are outlined in the chapter on proposed management options.

Landcover/Option	Area (Ha)	Percentage
Forest (Protection)	3,574.36	53.4
Cropland (Agroforestry)	982.49	14.7
Settlement/Cropland	562.31	8.4
Water	81.11	1.2
Enrichment Planting	202.24	3.0
Restoration (Assisted Natural Regeneration)	1,295.49	19.3
Total	6,698.00	100.0

Table 5 Restoration landcover and option analysis.

5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

5.1 Household and Population dynamics

A Forest livelihood survey was conducted by the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZAMSTATS) Eastern Regional office, between October and December 2021. The main objective of the Livelihood Survey is to measure the well-being of the communities dependent on Mpomwa Local Forest and to measure the utilisation and management of trees resources. Also, to determine the benefits the surrounding communities derive from forest reserve. The demographic characteristics of any area are important in understanding the living conditions of the people through the impact they have on the prevailing situations. Furthermore, data on the demographic characteristics provide background information and the necessary framework for the understanding of other aspects of the population, including economic activities, poverty and food security. Considering the household population distribution of Mpomwa Local Forest can be translated as having an average size of household membership of about 5 per household.

Methodology

The systematic sampling method was used to select households from each Enumeration Area (EA). The method assumes that households are arranged in a straight line and the following relationship applies.

Let $K = N/n$

Where:

N = total number of households assigned sampling serial numbers

n = total desired sample size to be drawn from an EA

K = Sampling interval in each EA calculated as $K = N/n$

Equation 1 Sampling enumeration areas

Livelihood Data analysis

The 2021 forest livelihood survey was collected using Computer Assisted Personal interview (CAPI), using Tablets android Ver9. The CAPI system allows quality check of the data at the server (HQ) as it is collected. It also minimizes data entry errors after data collection, the data were subjected to extensive checks on their validity and consistency as it was synched to the server. Analysis was done using statistical package SPSS version 24, which was done by Mully Phiri.

Mpomwa Local Forest as at 2021 livelihood survey was surrounded by approximately 158 villages and farming blocks as indicated in Annex: III with a total population of 2,846. The main ethnic groups in the area are the Kunda's and Chewa's. The forest adjacent population are mostly small-scale farmers who utilize the forest for some of their livelihood requirements. The main crops grown are Maize, Sunflower, Soya beans and groundnuts. The land tenure of the population surrounding the Local Forest is mostly under customary land tenure system. Those households within have no formal title deeds or letters of allotment.

Level of Education

Education is one of the fundamental factors that enhance the well-being and quality of life for persons and for entire society. Education, therefore, has profound effect on the population's welfare in terms of health, employment earnings, poverty levels and nutrition.

Education levels of the head of households in the Villages/Localities surrounding the Mpomwa Local Forest was found to be mainly primary level that contributed 60.8 percent, while tertiary contributed about 2.1 percent. The rest being no formal education and secondary education indicating 11.2 percent and 25.9 percent respectively. As shown in the table below:

Education Level	Percent
No Education	11.2
Primary	60.8
Secondary	25.9
Tertiary	2.1
Total	100.0

Table 6 Education levels attained.

However, it should be noted the presence of primary schools within the gazetted area of the Local Forest.

Economic activity

Mpomwa reserve population depends on farming as their main occupation. The results showed that 89.2 percent of the household population surrounding Mpomwa Local Forest had farming as their main occupation, while the rest of economic activities contributed 7 percent those in paid employment and 3.5 percent in small businesses. The survey indicates that the majority depend of farming as main source of income.

Main Economic activity	Percent
Business	3.5
Employment	7.0
Farming	89.5
Total	100.0

Table 7 Percentage distribution of main economic activity

Types of energy used for cooking

Almost all households in the localities surrounding Mpomwa Local Forest use firewood as their energy for cooking. The livelihood survey revealed a percentage of about 96.3 percent using firewood as energy for cooking while 3.7 percent use charcoal as energy for cooking. It shows how threatened the forest is as every household depends on the forest for cooking energy.

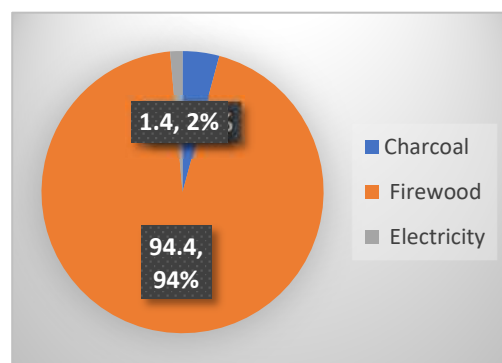


Figure 14 Types of energy used for cooking

Non wood Forest products

The main Non wood forest products used by households surrounding the Mpomwa Local Forest are as shown in the table below.

Non wood Forest products
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mushroom• Caterpillars• Fruit

Table 8 Non Wood forest Products used by households

Willingness of community to participate in management of the forest reserve

The livelihood survey revealed that 81 percent of all the households interviewed were willing if called upon to voluntarily support management of the forest reserve with the Forest Department and other stake holders in the community. This is a lower percentage than found around other Forest Reserves in the Province.

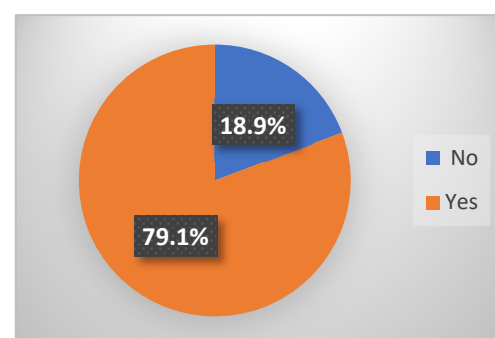


Figure 15 Distribution of willingness to participate when called upon to support forest management

Land Occupation and Use

The livelihood survey for the communities surrounding the Mpomwa Local Forest revealed that most of the settled land is by households who expressed traditional occupation (83 percent) with the balance (17 percent) through informal renting. All land occupied by households is mainly used for agriculture purpose.

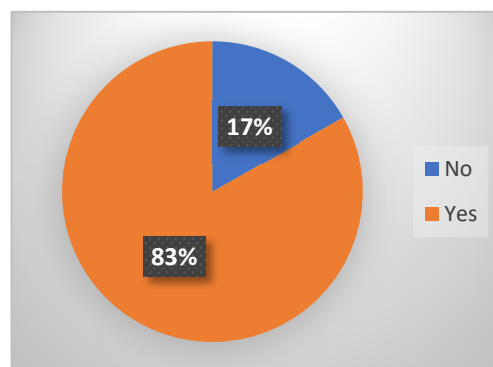


Figure 16 Land Occupation and Use

Willingness to plant trees on land occupied

The survey revealed the willingness to planting trees by the households on the land they occupy. Those willing to plant trees on this land represented 78 percent, while those not willing to plant trees had 22 percent contribution as shown in the figure below.

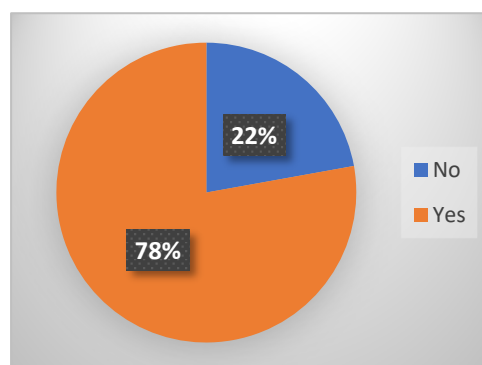


Figure 17 Willingness to plant trees on land occupied by households.

5.2 Utilization, issues and solutions proposed by stakeholders

The consultative meeting held on 21st December 2023, the stake holders identified the uses and users of the forest reserve. These included:

The Uses of the forest:

- Firewood
- Charcoal
- Fruits, Mushroom, Caterpillars
- Medicine
- Timber production.

The Users of the forest:

- The community surrounding Mpomwa LF
- Households occupying land in the reserve
- Persons living outside the forest but cropping within
- Non-local resident exploiters
- Wild and domestic animals

Solutions identified by stakeholder

Issues

- Deforestation
- Late burning
- Illegal settlement
- Loss of forest land to agriculture
- Illegal allocation of land by some traditional leaders

Solutions

- Reforestation
- Early burning/fire break
- Eviction
- No expansion of farmland
- Sensitization management among the leaders/coordination

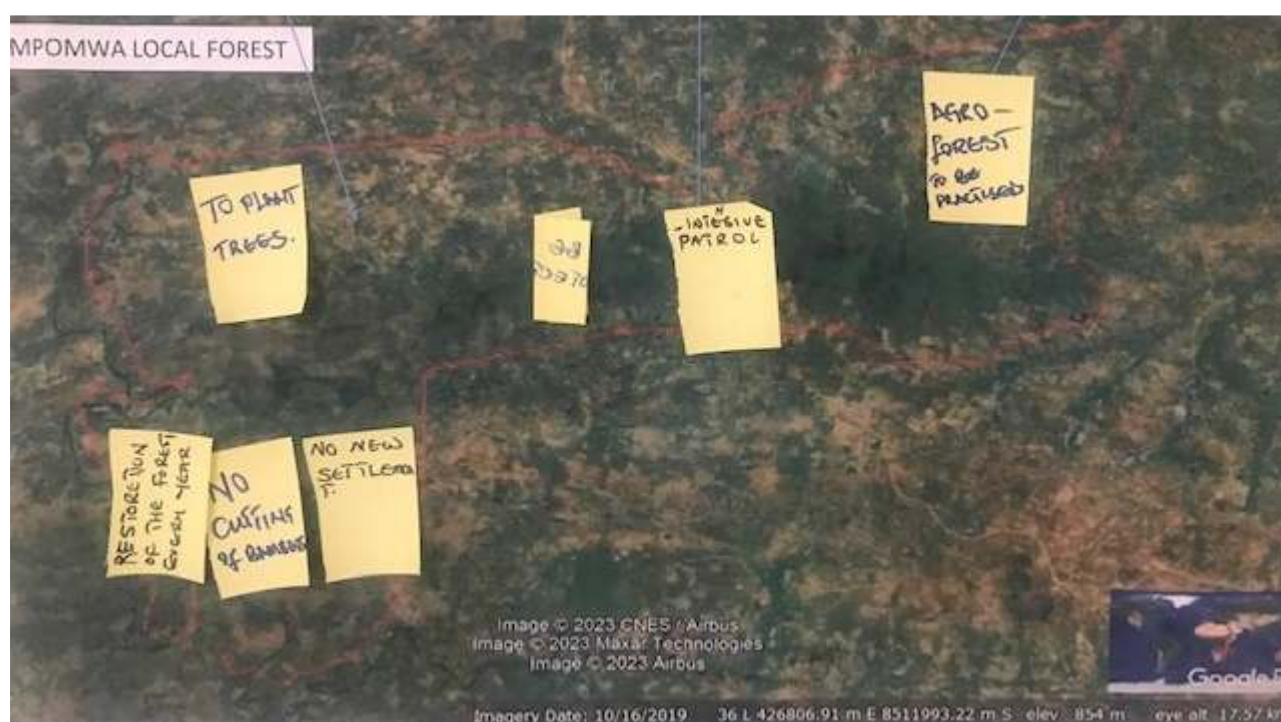


Figure 18 Zoning the forest by local stakeholders, 2024

The zones where identified for the following:

Zone 1.

- Degraded areas including cropping and settlements

Zone 2.

- Mushroom harvesting
- Fruits
- Beekeeping
- Fishing

5.3 Enterprise opportunities

A healthy forest ecosystem provides a strong foundation for income generation through forest products by maintaining biodiversity, soil fertility, and water resources essential for their sustainable production. When forests are in good ecological condition, they support the growth of high-value timber and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) which local communities and others can harvest and commercialize in a regulated manner. A well-managed forest ensures a continuous supply of these resources without depleting them, allowing for long-term economic benefits.

Mpomwa Local Forest provides a number of income generation/enterprise opportunities based on the current forest condition, the interests of local communities and other stakeholders, but particularly based on the commitment to sustainable forest management through agreed institutional arrangements already described. The foundations for community based forest enterprises can be built on the elements of forest resource condition and associated forest product availability, access to markets, an identified enterprise group and importantly, overall governance arrangements to regulate access, use and protection of the forest.

Through the resource assessment and mapping exercise, combined with the socio-economic survey, stakeholder consultation as well as the community forestry management planning process, the following enterprise opportunities have been identified:

Potential Forest product enterprises

- Beekeeping
- Wood biomass energy production
- Wild fruit and mushroom harvesting
- Plantation establishment

The development of the above identified opportunities would be subject to conduct of specific forest product value chain analysis and enterprise development assessment to ensure a viable and financially feasible forest based enterprise could be promoted in line with the Forestry Department Forestry Enterprise Strategy for 2025-2030. This strategy seeks to promote sustainable forest management while enhancing value addition in forestry value chains through empowering local communities.

5.4 Encroachment – illegal settlement and cropping

Mpomwa Local Forest has over the years been heavily encroached by influx of migrants from surrounding areas and Chiefdoms. Agriculture, timber logging and informal land allocation for settlement are the major challenges facing the Local Forest for some time. The encroachment includes significant areas of smallholder farms as evidenced by the forest restoration and land use mapping prepared in 2023. Over the years, various initiatives have taken place to address including

meetings with Chiefs, stakeholder meetings and a programme of issuing notices to those illegally settled within the Reserve. In addition, a number of settlements with associated infrastructure including schools are located within the gazetted forest area. In 2018 a programme of issuing notices to those illegally settled within the Reserve was conducted following a nationwide instruction from the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources.

In 2021, as described earlier, a process of promoting community forestry was initiated in the reserve with the CFMG being recognized by the Director of Forestry on 14 July 2022 and provided management authority through entering into a CFM Agreement on 9th March 2023. The CFMG developed local rules and issued a notice to households located within the reserve to restrict certain activities including the extension of fields. This is being enforced through sensitization of community members and through patrols by Honorary Forest Officers nominated by the community and appointed by the Minister in the Government Gazette.

A series of operations to ensure boundary beacons are in place have been conducted with a recent programme of replacing and painting beacons by the CFMG in 2023. The beacon coordinates are provided in Annex 1.

Initiatives to address and reverse the situation with a view to restore more of the ecological function of the Local Forest as well as meeting the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community are set out in the following chapter.

6 PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In view of the current condition and rate of deforestation and forest degradation being experienced across this Local Forest, the overall objective is to secure the ecological functions of the forest through engaging local stakeholders and surrounding communities and agree new strategies for management and restoration of the Local Forest. This includes applying the community forestry process which supports community control, use and management of forest areas in partnership with the Forestry Department. This process was already initiated in 2021 with the formation and recognition of a community forest management group by the Director of Forestry. A community forest management plan was facilitated by local officers of the Department with the involvement of the local authority and a Community Forest Management Agreement was entered into with the Department on 9th March 2023, following consent by the respective Chiefs. This approach and other associated interventions conform to the stated purpose of a Local Forest as described in section 19 of the Forests Act, 2015, and follow the requirements of the Forest (Community Forest Management) Regulations, Statutory Instrument no 11 of 2018:

19. Subject to the other provisions of this Act and any other written law, all land comprised in a Local Forest shall be used for the conservation and development of forests for— (a) the security of forest resources; (b) the protection of ecosystems, particularly the protection of land and water supplies of local strategic importance; (c) the utilisation of forest resources at the local level; and (d) meeting the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community.	Purpose of Local Forest
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Figure 19 Purpose of a Local Forest Section 19, the Forests Act, 2015

This approach is considered critical to the sustainable management of the Local Forest. Legal transfer of rights, but importantly obligations to control access and use through the application of local rules and sanctions with the oversight of the traditional leaders is considered the last opportunity to safeguard the forest as previous attempts at working with the surrounding communities have not achieved their intended purposes. The emphasis will be 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 landscape of MLF. The approach will be 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 achieve these impacts, the main management strategies identified focus on steps to protect, restore and replant, as follows:

- **Protect** - areas where the forest is intact with local stakeholder involvement;
- **Restore** - the forest where it is degraded by promoting regeneration encouraging regrowth of local species or reforestation with people's participation.
- **Replant** - increase forest cover through planting tree species in fields where cropping is taking place. This aims to increase tree cover, soil fertility, provide fodder and small biomass for energy needs. Further, reforestation through planting of indigenous or exotic species in abandoned fields in a plantation environment where practical.

Opportunities for collaboration with partners and seeking investment and sustainable financing through climate change mitigation / emissions reduction trading will be explored to provide the investment, incentive and reward for sustainable land management in the forest. Sharing benefits from the anticipated Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Programme will be core to the process of incentivising and rewarding good practices in mitigating the effects of climate change and providing the mechanism for monetary benefits to accrue to local communities and other service providers from carbon trading by Government.

6.1 Zoning the forest for effective management

This management plan recognizes the 2 major zones identified during the stakeholder consultation of May 2022, which identified use of the forest, the main users of the forest, issues affecting Mpomwa Local Forest, local solutions and permitted activities. These 2 major zones covered the areas with forest and those without forest cover. These were further sub-divided into the various fragments of forests and non forest. A further major zone (3) covers the immediate area surrounding the Local Forest to act as a buffer which will be the focus of development as well as emissions reductions related activities.



Figure 20 Zoning of Mpomwa Local Forest based on community consultation

Major Zone 1: Forest Protection, Management and Conservation of Biodiversity

Mpomwa Local Forest is an important forest ecosystem containing different plant species and fauna. The Local Forest also falls partly within the Lower Lupande Game Management Area. As a catchment forest, MLF provides an important function to safeguard down stream communities through rainwater interception and release. However, the level of unsustainable use is anticipated to intensify with increasing human populations resulting in higher levels of resource exploitation and degradation. Protection of this forest habitat is therefore essential to ensure the continued ecosystem services and local livelihood needs.

Without considering the needs of local stakeholders and communities, gaining their support, and working with them, rather than against them, forest protection and management goals and objectives will not be reached. Consequently, the strategy will be to work together with communities to develop joint protection systems in return for agreed levels of utilization within the capacity of the forest to meet subsistence needs whilst safeguarding the environmental aspects including conservation of biodiversity in this protection zone.

Major Zone 2: Forest restoration zone

This covers the areas already impacted by human activity including seasonal and permanent farming including settlement. The main focus within this zone is to re-establish tree cover and therefore conform with the purpose of the Local Forest. This will involve promoting forest restoration approaches, agroforestry and tackling the core issue of encroachment through a variety of initiatives. Continuation of environmentally harmful crops such as cotton and tobacco growing within the Local Forest should be reviewed.

Major Zone 3: Development buffer area:

This is the area immediately surrounding the reserved forest area where farming and settlements are located. These will be the focus for forest extension activities, creation of community and household woodlots, use of energy efficient stoves, promotion of agroforestry and other climate smart agricultural activities. Much of this area is already covered by community conservation areas (CCAs) supported by COMACO.

Zones 1 & 2: These zones will be managed in partnership with the local community following the community forestry approach as set out in the Forests (Community Forest Management) Regulations, 2018, and the National Guidelines for Community Forestry, 2018. This is already covered by a Community Forest Management Agreement, a community management plan and local resource use rules which set out both rights and obligations for control, protection and management of the identified forest area. Annual workplans will be developed by the community with technical guidance from the Forestry Department to ensure the sustainable management of these zones.

6.2 Forest landscape restoration guiding principles

Successful forest landscape restoration (FLR) integrates a number of guiding principles, including:

- *Focus on the entire landscape.* Consideration and restoration across the entire landscape of MLF as opposed to individual sites. This entails balancing a mosaic of land uses across the gazetted forest, such as securing intact forested areas, regenerating degraded forests, promoting agroforestry systems, climate smart agriculture, well-managed plantations where appropriate, as well as identifying ecological corridors and riparian strips to protect watercourses and waterways.
- *Restoring ecological functions.* Restore the ecological functionality of the landscape, such as its richness as a habitat, its ability to contain erosion and floods, and its resilience to climate change and various disturbances. This can be done in many ways, one of which is to restore the landscape “back” to the “original” vegetation, but other strategies may also be used, ranging from natural regeneration to tree planting.
- *Allowing for multiple benefits.* Increasing tree cover across the landscape including existing cleared farmed areas, without necessarily forming a forest canopy, in order to enhance food production, reduce erosion, provide shade, and produce firewood. In other places, trees may be added to create a closed canopy forest capable of sequestering large amounts of carbon, protecting downstream water supplies, and providing rich wildlife habitat.
- *Promoting stakeholders involvement.* Actively engaging local stakeholders in decisions regarding restoration goals, implementation methods, and trade-offs for sustainable land management practices which provides incentives and performance benefits.
- *Adaptively managing* the restoration strategy over time as environmental, social and economic conditions evolve supported through continuous monitoring and learning through the restoration process.

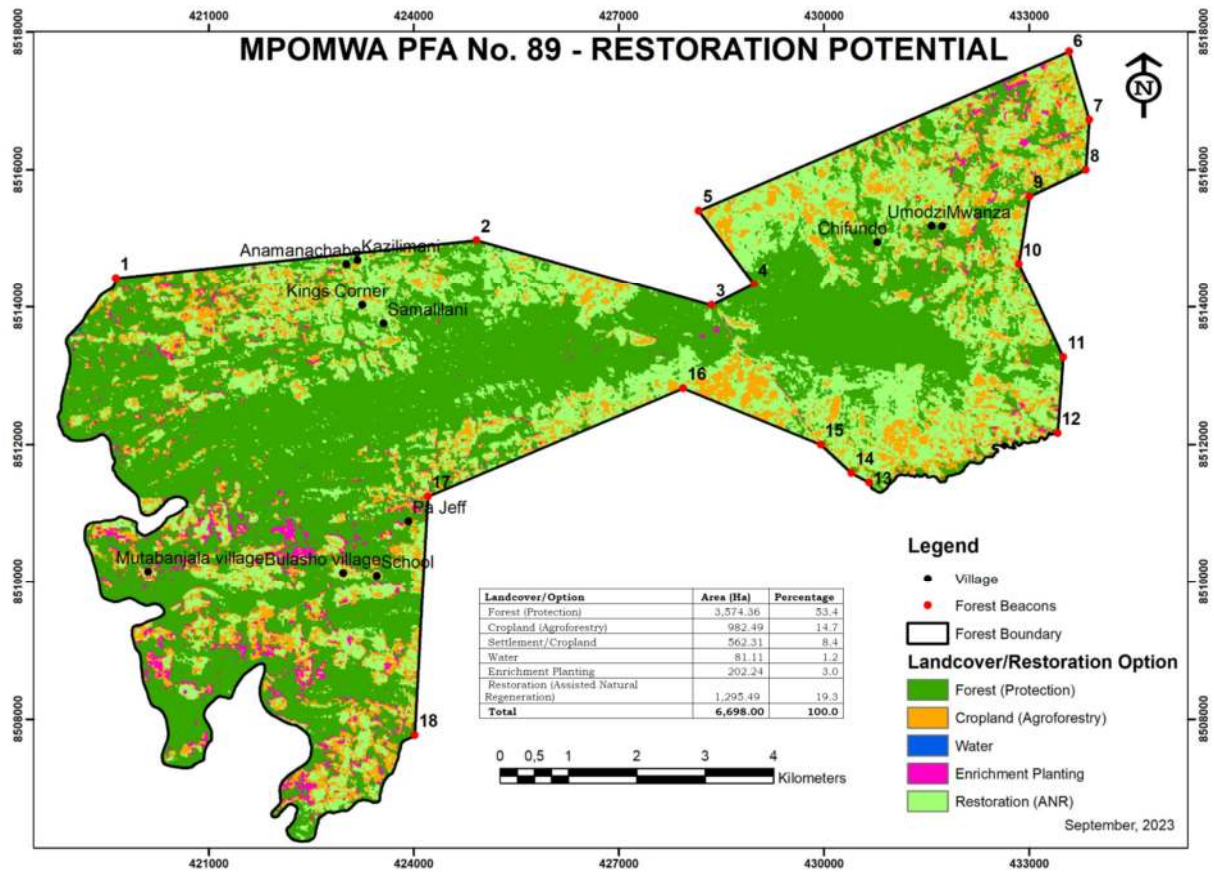


Figure 21 Forest restoration plan, 2023

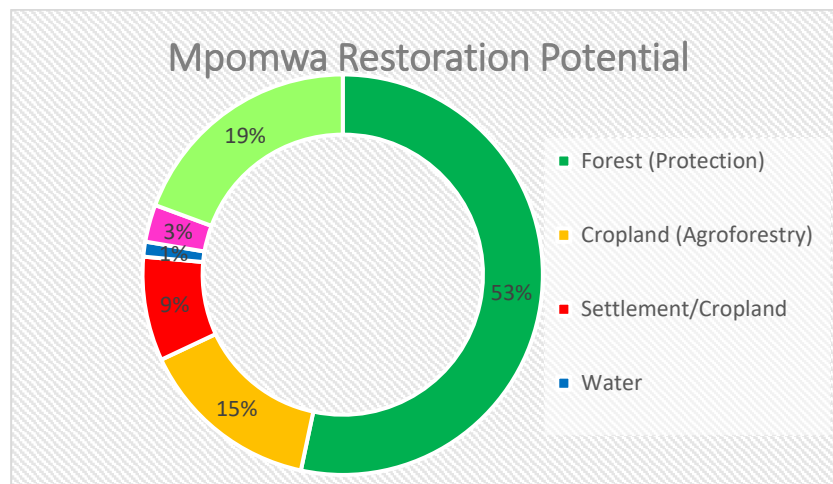


Figure 22 Forest restoration potential graphic

6.3 Core forest management actions

The identified management actions are described as follows:

Action 1: Forest Protection, Management & Conservation of Biodiversity

Mpomwa Local Forest is an important forest ecosystem containing a number of different plant species and fauna. The forest is surrounded by an increasing population which is highly dependent on it for subsistence and increasingly economic needs like collection of mushroom, wild fruits, caterpillars, honey, firewood and poles. The level of unsustainable use is anticipated to intensify with increasing human populations resulting in higher levels of resource exploitation and degradation. Protection of this forest habitat is therefore essential to ensure the continued ecosystem services and local livelihood needs. However, the awareness of the importance of ecosystem services, conservation of biodiversity and climate change mitigation services of Mpomwa Local Forest is low among the adjacent communities.

Forest protection is therefore key in the sustainable management of forest resources. Traditionally, patrolling has been relied upon as the main protection activity but, despite these efforts and in view of the staffing levels, it has not been possible to control the level of unregulated use. Experience has shown that adequate levels of forest protection cannot be achieved through confrontation and conflict between the managers and forest-adjacent communities. In practice, both local people and the government have a mutual interest in conserving the forest and utilizing forest products in a sustainable way. Without considering the needs of local communities, gaining their support, and working with them, rather than against them, forest protection and management goals and objectives will not be reached. Consequently, the strategy is to work together with communities to develop joint protection systems in return for agreed levels of utilization within the capacity of the forest to meet subsistence needs whilst safeguarding the environmental aspects including conservation of biodiversity.

The following are the 7 steps that the stakeholder communities have been taken through in order to develop a full partnership for shared management:

1. Stakeholder engagement, community awareness raising and mobilisation;
2. Stakeholder mapping including forest use, users and geographic interest.
3. Forming community level institutions to coordinate, manage and control local resource use in partnership with the Forestry Department.
4. Developing forest product and issues based operational management plans for areas of interest.
5. Agreeing roles, rights, responsibilities and obligations for shared management.
6. Implementing practical forest protection and management interventions that bring value and other environmental and social benefits.

7. Conducting joint monitoring and evaluation of management and benefit sharing measures to ensure a sustainable partnership.

These 7 steps to establishing shared management responsibilities and benefit sharing are in accordance with the 7 steps of the National Guidelines for Community Forestry in Zambia. Therefore tangible steps have been taken to incentivise and reward local stakeholder communities in the protection and management of Mpomwa Local Forest through following the community forestry development steps and processes. In order to achieve this the following activities will be undertaken;

No	Specific Objectives	Strategy	Actions	Responsible	Indicators
1	Sustain a shared management approach to forest protection, management and utilisation.	1. Stakeholder engagement, community awareness raising and mobilisation;	Conduct regular awareness meetings with traditional leadership & communities	FD	Meetings conducted
		2 Strengthening community level institutions to coordinate, manage and control local resource use in partnership with the Forestry Department.	Through participatory processes, form local committee responsible to coordinate and assist management of the MLF	Community groups & FD	
		3. Developing forest product and issues based operational management plans for areas of interest.	For each Zone and area of shared management, development management plans and resource use rules		Annual work plan reports
		4. Conducting joint monitoring and evaluation of management and benefit sharing measures to ensure a sustainable partnership.	See monitoring section of MLFMP		
2	To protect the Forest from late fires	Practice early burning within and outside the forest by involving local communities.	-Conduct prescribed and early burning. -Training the local communities on fire management techniques -Sensitizing the local community on the importance of early burning.	FD/ Adjacent communities	Area in hectares of controlled burning

No	Specific Objectives	Strategy	Actions	Responsible	Indicators
3	To secure the boundary and define the extent of the boundary and prevent possible encroachment	Involve forest adjacent communities in Forest protection and management.	-Carry out annual Boundary maintenance. -Beacon maintenance - Erection of sign post on roads entering the Forest	FD/ Community	Distance in km of forest perimeter cleared
4	To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the forest reserve through environmental awareness and education.	Enhance understanding of the forest ecosystem and its function and benefits to community groups and schools.	-Awareness on biodiversity with regard to indigenous knowledge. -Promote local participation and ownership through meetings.	FD/NGOs	
5	To ensure protection against pests and human damage	Frequent monitoring of forest resources	Inspections for diseases and pests and detection of possible illegalities.	FD/ Community	Hectarage of forest protected from pests and human damage
6	To significantly reduce levels of illegal forest product harvesting.	Involve the local communities in the management of forest resources in order to create a sense of ownership. Engage honorary forest Officers/guards	-Conduct sensitization meetings. -Conduct forest patrols with HFOs.	FD/ community and other security wings	Number of illegal harvesters/ activities reduced

Table 9 Management Action 1 Activities

Action 2: Forest Restoration through Community Participation & Livelihood Development

Community empowerment is central to participatory forest management for the effective coordination and sustainable management of forest resources. This Plan recognizes that communities surrounding and within Mpomwa Local Forest are key stakeholders in the conservation of this forest as well as beneficiaries from its sustainable management. This action aims to meeting the social, cultural and economic needs and thereby improving the livelihoods of the communities around and within Mpomwa Local Forest. Within this management action, the following interventions will be undertaken in Zone 2 of the Local Forest as well as extension services and activities in Zone 3, the areas surrounding Mpomwa Local Forest;

- Promotion of community forestry and the strengthening of the community forest management group;
- Promote interventions with community groups to protect, restore and replant, as follows:
 - **Protect** - areas where the forest is intact with local stakeholder involvement;
 - **Restore** - the forest where it is degraded by promoting regeneration encouraging regrowth of local species or reforestation with people's participation.
 - **Replant** - increase forest cover through planting tree species in fields where cropping is taking place. This aims to increase tree cover, soil fertility, provide fodder and small biomass for energy needs. Further, reforestation through planting of indigenous or exotic species in abandoned fields in a plantation environment where practical.

This management action will be operationalized and results measured as follows:

Specific Objectives	Strategy	Actions	Responsible	Indicator
1. Sustain the partnership with clear roles and responsibilities with surrounding communities	Promote community forestry approach	Conduct CFM Steps 7 – Joint monitoring, evaluation and lesson learning	FD & CFMG	Annual work plan reports from the CFMG
2. To protect, restore and replant forest cover in the fragmented forest areas of the Local Forest	To Provide Forest extension services.	Training the communities in assisted natural regeneration Promotion of agroforestry and Woodlot establishment for communities surrounding the forest.	FD	Hectarage of forest in the fringe areas increased year on year.

Specific Objectives	Strategy	Actions	Responsible	Indicator
3. To reduce carbon emissions from agric soils and dependency on inorganic fertilizer	Promote CSA through Agroforestry	Partnership with MoA and others in training communities in CSA and agroforestry.	FD/ Agric/ CSO's/ community	Tonnage of GHG emissions in the forest reserve reduced by 15% by mid year review.
4. To significantly reduce levels of tree cutting for wood energy.	Promotion of energy efficient Cook stoves and Alternative energy sources.	Training community members in construction of Permanent energy cook stoves. Provide incentives to people using the improved cook stoves.	FD/ DoE/ community	Volume of wood cut for energy reduced by 30% by mid term review
5 Reduce forest dependency by local communities.	Promoting diversification of activities, particularly on-farm activities such as agroforestry and establishment of wood-lots, to create alternative Sources for forest products.	Involve local communities in woodlot establishment.	FD/ Adjacent communities	Number of people dependent on the forests reserve reduced by half at mid term review
6. To contribute towards meeting social, cultural and economic needs and improving the livelihoods of forest-adjacent communities.	Forest resource condition is improved through management actions emphasizing the use of best practices.	Training forest-adjacent communities in sustainable forest enterprises, such as beekeeping, and other non- wood forest enterprises	FD/ NGOs	Forest enterprise activities developed and producing income.
7. To reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by ensuring community benefit from carbon credits.	Establish an incentive benefit sharing mechanism through the carbon trading scheme to be established by Government in Eastern province	Stake holder participatory awareness meetings (Traditional leaders, Government, NGOs and the community)	FD/NGOs	Tonnage of GHG sequestered increased thereby income shared to community is improved year on year.

Table 10 Management Action 2 Activities

6.4 Promoting Forest Based Enterprises

Based on the condition of the forest including plant species as well as information gathered during the socio economic assessment and stakeholder consultation meetings, a number of enterprise opportunities were identified and described earlier. Therefore through the proposed management actions where appropriate in the relevant zones, forest based enterprises will be promoted within the context of the purpose of a Local Forests as described in the Forests Act, 2015. These relate to utilisation of forest resources at local level in order to meet the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community whilst ensuring the protection of ecosystems, particularly the protection of land and water supplies of local strategic importance. These reflect the importance of the principles of sustainable forest management. Therefore the following enterprise initiatives are highlighted for promotion through local stakeholder involvement:

Forest product/enterprise	Beekeeping	Wood biomass energy production	Wild fruit harvesting	Plantation establishment
Market/demand	High, local & urban (Chipata)	Medium local, potential supply Chipata & tobacco farmers	To be determined beyond local area	Local poles & timber for construction
Product supply	Patches of flowering trees with suitable pollen fodder, water restricted to certain areas	Through agroforestry & forest restoration activities	See forest inventory species list	Not currently available due to lack of established plantations
Potential entrepreneurs	CFMG plus individual beekeepers	CFMG plus individual households	Individual households	CFMG or individuals
Opportunities	Honey bulking centre and water reticulation system investment already provided through ZIFLP grant	Planned forest restoration works including agroforestry in cropped areas, potential bamboo sites, Tobacco growers in Kasenengwa. Trading opportunity on Mambwe - Chipata road	Existing livelihood activity conducted by women. Trading opportunity on Mambwe - Chipata road	Creation of plantation crops in abandoned fields (where regeneration is not feasible). Practice taungya system in cropped areas. (example available in Masupe Local Forest)
Challenges	Investment in sufficient hives, technical & business skills training	Seedlings, marketing	Drying, processing and packaging facilities	Seedling availability, long term nature to revenue generation
Source of investment finance	Development projects & partners, CDF	Development projects & partners, CDF	Development projects & partners, CDF	Development projects & partners, CDF

Table 11 Promoting potential forest based enterprises

In the case of Mpomwa Local Forest, the enterprise development process will form part of the community engagement and strengthening of community forestry practice and partnership in the reserve. This provides for monitoring and mentoring, development and review of annual workplans and periodic review of CF Management plans. These include a forest product importance, use and management matrix and forest enterprise development activities. Once there is consensus on developing an enterprise concept, an assessment of market and value chain issues will be formed into a bankable business opportunity. Importantly the support to business development and investment will primarily focus on four key areas of strengthening capacity for viable community based forest enterprises:

- Enhancing technical skills in production, harvesting, processing;
- Building business capacity, including business planning, marketing, financial management, reinvestment and profit sharing;
- Strengthening governance arrangements and membership, conflict resolution mechanisms;
- Improving forest protection, management and monitoring arrangements upon which the business depends on.

Based on the above, formulation of detailed bankable business and investment plans can be developed and supported through financing opportunities from development projects, private sector partners and through Community Development Funding through the local authority.

6.5 Fire management strategy

Fire has a critical impact on the forest environment, the condition of the forest and the services that it provides. While fire is frequently naturally occurring in the dryland forests of Eastern Province, it has been used as a management tool technically by foresters as well as by communities for different socio-economic and cultural needs. However, fire that occurs late in the year when the forest is dry causes the greatest harm to the health of the forest as well as the succession process influencing the future productivity, abundance of forest products and therefore its economic contribution locally and nationally. Further, forest fire is a key source of emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Eastern Province, that affects weather patterns, locally, regionally and globally. Therefore if managed correctly as a management tool, prescribed fire can reduce these emissions and impacts, safeguarding the forest resources, biodiversity while providing enhanced opportunities for local economic development.

Therefore a **fire management strategy and plan** is essential for the proper management of the forest incorporating elements of fire protection and fire suppression. Recognising the important role the forest plays in support to

surrounding communities, the fire management strategy for the Local Forest will be developed through stakeholder consultation and implementation participation with clear roles and responsibilities. The **fire protection strategy** should indicate: priority areas for protection – valuable and fire sensitive species, newly planted areas, enrichment planting, areas of fire sensitive natural regeneration, as well as high risk areas based on access, use and past frequency of fires. Based on the participatory assessment, protection measures such as: firebreaks – both internal and boundary should be planned, areas for prescribed (early) burning identified as appropriate. An action/ activity plan with roles, responsibilities and timings should be discussed and agreed with stakeholders.

The **Fire suppression strategy** details the response should a wild-fire start which threatens the forest area. This will detail the pre-planned procedures along with roles and responsibilities. It will include the following:

- **A fire detection system:** The process and procedures to report the incidence of fire to promote prompt reaction and therefore protection.
- **Procedures in response to a fire alert:** How to alert stakeholders and local community members to assist with fire suppression including the availability and location of equipment to fight the fire.
- **Fire fighting strategy:** This will include details of various approaches to tackling fires using the materials and equipment that are available locally.
- **Methods to fight fires:** This will cover different fire suppression methods depending on the nature of the fire (Frontal attack, Flank attack, Indirect attack – back burning). These will have been explained and key personnel trained in each of the approaches. This will also include risk assessment methods and requirements for personal protective equipment.

A **Fire Education Strategy** will be developed at the start of the implementation of the FMP: This aims to raise awareness of the community on the impact of fire and the need to protect the forest from fire. Groups which represent a higher risk should be targeted for education, eg, honey collectors, charcoal burners, mice collectors, schoolchildren etc.

6.6 Law enforcement Strategy

The Forestry Department has the responsibility to control, manage, conserve and administer Local Forests, including enforcement provisions of the Forests Act, 2015 and other regulations. This Law Enforcement Strategy aims to protect and sustainably manage Mpomwa Local Forest through effective enforcement of legal provisions, regulations, and community participation. Ensuring compliance is

essential to prevent illegal activities such as illegal logging, poaching, and forest encroachment. The objectives are:

- To prevent illegal exploitation of forest resources.
- To promote community participation in enforcement.
- To ensure timely and fair response to violations.

Key Enforcement Strategies

1. Regulation of Forest Activities

- Designating legal zones for access, logging, and charcoal production under an approved management plan.
- Issuing permits and licenses for activities like harvesting, collection, and tourism by the designated authority.
- Enforcing restrictions on cutting, hunting, or collecting forest products outside authorized zones.

2. Monitoring and Surveillance

- Regular patrols by forest rangers and other authorised officers.
- Using technology such as drones, and GPS tracking.
- Engaging Honorary Forest Officers in control and reporting of illegal activities.

3. Community Involvement in Law Enforcement

- Strengthening community forest groups' role in patrols and reporting.
- Providing incentives for communities that actively participate in enforcement.
- Publicizing penalties to serve as deterrents.

4. Collaboration with Stakeholders

- Coordinating with police, community groups, NGOs, traditional leaders as well as Wildlife Officers where the forest is located in Game Management Areas.
- Promoting joint patrols and awareness campaigns.

6.7 Environmental and social safeguards and other crosscutting issues

The Forestry Department shall ensure that the management of Mpomwa Local Forest is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) in relation to national policies as well as international standards and agreements, both multilateral and bilateral as appropriate. Existing requirements are set out in the National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation, 2016 as well as new requirements that may come into force through the Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscapes Programme. In implementing the

indicated management actions, these safeguards and other cross cutting issues will be mainstreamed in all aspects of forest management. In view of the participatory approaches applied in the development of the FMP and follow-up actions to promote community forestry it is expected that this FMP will have a positive impact upon local livelihoods and to provide support for the development of more sustainable or alternative livelihoods, where needed.

In brief, safeguards will ensure:

- Gender equity and empowerment including addressing issues of genderbased violence. Women shall be integrated into all aspects of management of Mpomwa Local Forest and empowered through equal participation in decision making, governance and benefit sharing. Gender equity shall be pursued to ensure that both men and women have the full range of opportunities and benefits arising from the management of Mpomwa Local Forest. This aspect should be in line with the National Gender Policy and Climate Change Gender Action Plan. Further safeguards in relation to emissions reductions benefit sharing plan for Eastern Province should be adhered to.
- Environmental and social screening processes. Specific activities as well as the annual workplan and operational plans should include a process of social and environmental screening. These should be reviewed and updated in accordance with the type of activity being planned and general screening reviewed annually.
- A Grievance redress mechanism will be operational at the District and Provincial level to allow a mechanism for grievances to be raised, documented and addressed. Documentation and tracking is core to this issue.

Specific Objectives	Strategy	Activity	Responsible	Indicator
To ensure cross cutting issues are mainstreamed in all aspects of forest management for social equity wellbeing and empowerment through sustainable development	Ensure that all environmental and social impacts, risks and liabilities are identified and mitigated. Identify training needs. Promote ownership and access to forest products and services.	Awareness raising Short courses Exchange visits Refresher courses	FD/NGOs	All crosscutting issues mainstreamed in all forest management aspects. Zero grievances raised. Grievances addressed and closed within 3 months

Table 12 Safeguards Activities

6.8 Sources of revenue

Climate change emissions reduction trading

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has identified climate financing as a potential source of revenue to support climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to safeguard the natural environment and importantly the ecosystem services that society as a whole and specifically rural communities depend on for their livelihoods and well being. In the Eastern Province, the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment is implementing the Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Programme (EP-JSLP). The Programme Development Objective (PDO) is “to promote greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction or removals in the Eastern Province, while simultaneously improving rural livelihoods including forest and wildlife conservation and management. These emissions reductions are being measured, verified, traded and revenue distributed according to an agreed Benefit Sharing Plan. An estimate has been made of the potential revenue that might be generated through the GRZ emissions reduction trading under the JSLP benefit sharing mechanism. The GHG baseline inventory indicated that the major emissions in the Province are coming from forest land through degradation from forest fires. Implementing improved forest management, conducting fire management and protecting the integrity of the forest areas including from forest loss, degradation and encroachment can be measured and monetised.

In the case of Mpomwa Local Forest and based on the intact forest area of 50% may generate emissions reduction of 3,349 tonnes of carbon equivalent which may be monetised to generate around \$10,047 or ZMW 251,175 annually. This may increase as prescriptions of forest restoration may result in increased carbon sequestration that can be measured and monetised.

6.9 Summary Budget of Forest Management Plan Implementation

Based on the proposed management actions described above, a budget has been developed covering the period of the plan. The summary table is provided below with the detailed cost breakdown in the Annex VII.

Forestry Programme	Cost in ZMW for 10 years
1 Forest Conservation through Community Participation and Livelihood Development	1,784,802
2 Forest Protection, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Biodiversity	1,787,254
3 Support to Enterprise Development	668,748
Grand Total (ZMW)	4,240,804
Potential revenue generation (10 years)	3,078,844
Funding gap ZMW	1,161,960

Table 13 Summary Budget of the Mpomwa Forest Management Plan Implementation

7 STAKEHOLDERS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Forestry Department (FD) have a key role to play in promoting sustainable forest management and shall inform all relevant government departments on the management plan and raise awareness on the programmes and activities. The Department shall facilitate the implementation of the FMP at District and local level with oversight from Provincial level.

However, effective implementation of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) requires active participation and collaboration among all key stakeholders. Each stakeholder has specific roles and responsibilities to promote sustainable forest management, conservation, and community development.

a) District Forest Office (DFO)

The District Forest Office plays a pivotal role in on-the-ground forest management, enforcement, and community engagement. Its specific responsibilities include:

- **Conduct Regular Patrols:** Carrying out routine patrols within the Local Forest to prevent illegal activities such as unauthorized logging, poaching, and encroachment.
- **Maintain Boundaries and Beacons:** Ensuring all forest boundaries and beacons are clearly marked, visible, and maintained to prevent boundary disputes and illegal incursions.
- **Monitor Forest Recovery and Growth:** Tracking Forest regeneration, health, and overall ecological status to inform management decisions and detect signs of degradation.
- **Develop and Implement Forest Fire Management Plans:** Establishing proactive fire prevention, detection, and suppression strategies, including community-based fire management initiatives.
- **Conduct Environmental Education (EE) Campaigns:** Raising awareness among local communities and stakeholders about sustainable forest use, conservation practices, and the importance of forest resources.
- **Train Communities in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):** Providing capacity-building programs, workshops, and technical assistance to community members and forest management groups.
- **Report and Document Activities:** Preparing and submitting comprehensive reports on forest conditions, patrol outcomes, enforcement actions, and community engagement efforts to relevant authorities for oversight and planning.

b) Provincial Forest Office (PFO)

The Provincial Forest Office provides strategic oversight, governance, and support to ensure effective implementation of the Forest Management Plan. Its primary responsibilities include:

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regularly assessing the implementation of the FMP at district and community levels using predefined performance indicators to measure progress and identify gaps.
- **Disbursement of Funds:** Managing financial resources allocated for forest management activities, community support programs, capacity-building, and infrastructure development.
- **Facilitation of Audits:** Overseeing and supporting the auditing process of District Forest Offices and community initiatives to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper use of resources.
- **Coordination and Support:** Offering technical guidance, resources, and capacity-building support to District Forest Offices, community groups, and other stakeholders involved in forest management.
- **Policy and legal framework:** Ensuring that the FMP aligns with national forestry policies and legal frameworks, particularly the Forests Act, 2015.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitating communication and collaboration among government agencies, communities, NGOs, private sector partners, and other relevant entities.

c) Role of the Local Authorities

Local authorities are vital for integrating sustainable forest management into broader development initiatives at the district and community levels. Their responsibilities include:

- Incorporating the FMP into local development plans, ensuring that forest management considerations are mainstreamed into land use, infrastructure, and ecosystem planning.
- Facilitating alignment between forest management activities and other sectors such as agriculture, water, and health.
- Supporting the enforcement of forest laws and regulations within their jurisdictions.
- Promoting rural development projects that leverage forest resources to enhance community livelihoods and economic resilience.

d) Role of Traditional Authorities

Traditional leaders play an influential role based on customary authority, community trust, and cultural management systems. Their roles encompass:

- Providing mentorship and guidance to community members on sustainable resource use.
- Helping resolve conflicts related to forest access, use, and rights according to customary laws.
- Providing formal consent for community-based forest management processes, including recognition and signing of community forest management agreements with the Director of Forestry.

- Supervising the community forest management groups, ensuring their activities conform to customary norms and legal provisions.
- Overseeing access control, management of natural resources, and the conduct of community elections for forest management committees.
- Ensuring that enforcement of rules and resolutions reflects community values and customary laws.

e) Role of Communities and the Community Forest Management Group

Communities are the primary custodians of the forest and hold the rights to sustainably manage and benefit from forest resources. Their responsibilities include:

- Controlling access to forest resources to prevent illegal activities and overexploitation.
- Actively participating in decision-making processes related to forest management.
- Implementing community-based sustainable forest practices as outlined in the management plan.
- Protecting the forest from illegal activities such as logging, poaching, and encroachment.
- Ensuring equitable sharing of benefits derived from forest resources, including income, employment, and social services.
- Reporting violations and participating in community-led enforcement efforts.
- Maintaining the community forest management groups and ensuring transparency and accountability in their operations.

f) Role of Honorary Forest Officers (HFOs)

Honorary Forest Officers are community members appointed based on peer nominations and official approval by the Minister. Their roles include:

- Facilitating community compliance with forest laws, bylaws, and resolutions.
- Supporting enforcement of sustainable harvesting and access regulations.
- Acting as mediators in conflict resolution within the community regarding forest use.
- Reporting infractions and assisting in investigations related to illegal activities.
- Collaborating with District Forest Officials to ensure harmonized enforcement efforts.

g) Role of Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Private sector entities and civil society organizations are crucial for fostering economic development and social empowerment through forests. Their roles include:

- Providing technical and financial services to support community enterprises, such as training, capacity building, and infrastructure development.
- Developing market linkages for forest-based products, ensuring fair trade and sustainable value chains.

- Promoting innovative approaches and investments that enhance forest conservation while generating income.
- Supporting additional services such as environmental education, capacity building, and advocacy for policy reforms.
- Facilitating the development of non-timber forest products (NTFP) enterprises, eco-tourism, and other sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Monitoring social and environmental impacts of forest-based activities to ensure compliance with sustainability standards.

8 MONITORING AND EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the management plan is essential since it provides a basis for observation, adjustment and improvement of the targeted activities and assessment of the achievements. The Forest Management Plan will be implemented by Forestry Department by involving local communities around the forest reserve. The Department will provide a forum for dialogue, consensus building, priority setting and balancing of the various interests involved. Monitoring and evaluation of this management plan will also be based on annual work plans that will be prepared for Mpomwa Local Forest which will operationalise the management actions described in Chapter 6.

8.1 Monitoring

To ensure that implementation of the management plan is on course, FD will facilitate monitoring of activities and programmes in coordination with partners, stakeholders and community representatives of the Local Forest including the impact of the FMP on the well being of the communities on the forest fringes. Implementation of the FMP will be monitored through a number of identifiable indicators as described in the management actions in Chapter 6. These will be subject to regular review during the plan period. Continuous monitoring during the implementation period will be maintained through preparation and submission of monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports.

8.2 Evaluation

The MLF implementation and impact will be evaluated at two points. Mid-term (5years) and at end of term (10 years). Evaluation will involve analysis of both activities and impact generated to sustainable management of the forest and the fringe communities as this will generate evidence to inform the development, focus and implementation of future management plans. Evaluation carried out will assess progress in the implementation of planned activities and achievement of objectives. The evaluation report will also provide essential information to revise the management plan.

8.3 Monitoring Responsibilities

The Provincial Forestry Office will undertake monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the plan. The District Forestry Office will be responsible for submitting annual plans of operations, as well as monthly, quarterly, and annual progress reports to the Provincial Forestry Office.

8.4 Strategic monitoring indicators

strategic monitoring indicators provide a measure of assessing whether set targets are progressively being achieved as described in the management actions Chapter. The lead implementing agencies represented by the Forestry Department will undertake monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the plan.

Programme	Indicator of Success	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Forest Protection	Reduced incidences of forest crimes Reported. Performance of the local communities and honorary forest officers.	Records and reports.	The Plan is successfully completed and implemented with Cooperation from community Members
Biodiversity Conservation	Increase in species biodiversity.	Surveys on biodiversity, records, photographs and reports.	The Plan is successfully implemented Good working relationship between stakeholders Availability of resources
Community Conservation and Livelihood development	-Number of people - trained and practicing sustainable forest enterprises. -No. of woodlots established -Number and types of IGAs. -Crop and livestock yields.	Records, reports and photographs. -Community Visits.	The Plan is successfully implemented Availability of funds
Environmental Education	Number of school conservation clubs formed. No. of awareness meetings and attendance. -No of trainings held/exposure visits	Records, monitoring & Evaluation reports and photographs.	The plan is successfully implemented with funds made available.
Infrastructure Development	Number and type of infrastructure Developed/ maintained	Records Monitoring and evaluation reports	The Plan is successfully implemented Availability of funds
Human Resource Development	Number of people employed Number of people trained. Number of community members involved in forest activities	records Monitoring and evaluation report	The Plan is successfully implemented Availability of funds

Table 14 Strategic monitoring indicators

9 ANNEXES

Annex 1: Declaration Order, Topo Map & Inventory Map:

MPOMWA LOCAL FOREST NO. P89 (DECLARATION) ORDER

Order by the Minister

1. This Order may be cited as the Forest No. P89: Mpomwa Local Forest (Declaration) Order. Notice 370 of 1958, Statutory Instruments: **66 of 1975**

Starting at a forest beacon on the right bank of the Lutembwe River approximately 234.7 metres upstream from the junction of the Chilengonde Stream with the Lutembwe river, the boundary runs in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 091 degrees for a distance of approximately 5,382.77 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 112 degrees for a distance of approximately 3,566.16 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 067 degrees for a distance of approximately 701.04 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 333 degrees for a distance of approximately 1,341.12 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 079 degrees for a distance of approximately 5,870.45 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 175 degrees for a distance of approximately 1,024.13 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 203 degrees for a distance of approximately 731.52 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of 247 degrees for a distance of approximately 899.16 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 187 degrees for a distance of approximately 993.65 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 157 degrees for a distance of approximately 15,057.71 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 205 degrees for a distance of approximately 993.65 metres to a forest beacon on the left bank of the Kafukusi Stream; thence up the Kafukusi Stream for a distance of approximately 3,395.47 metres to the forest beacon on the left bank within approximately 521.21 metres of its source (taking the northerly tributary); thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 322 degrees for a distance of approximately 438.91 metres to a forest beacon near the eastern side of the Chipata-Jumbe

Road; thence along the Chipata-Jumbe Road, which follows a magnetic bearing of approximately 324 degrees for a distance of approximately 6,400.08 metres to a forest beacon near the western side of the road; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 298 degrees for a distance of approximately 2,005.6 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 261 degrees for a distance of approximately 2,057.4 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately 247 degrees for a distance of approximately 2,151.89 metres to a forest beacon; thence in a straight line on a magnetic bearing of approximately

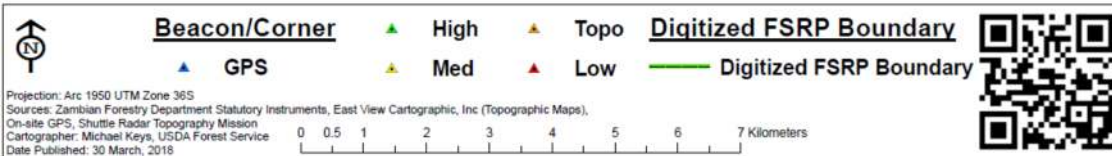
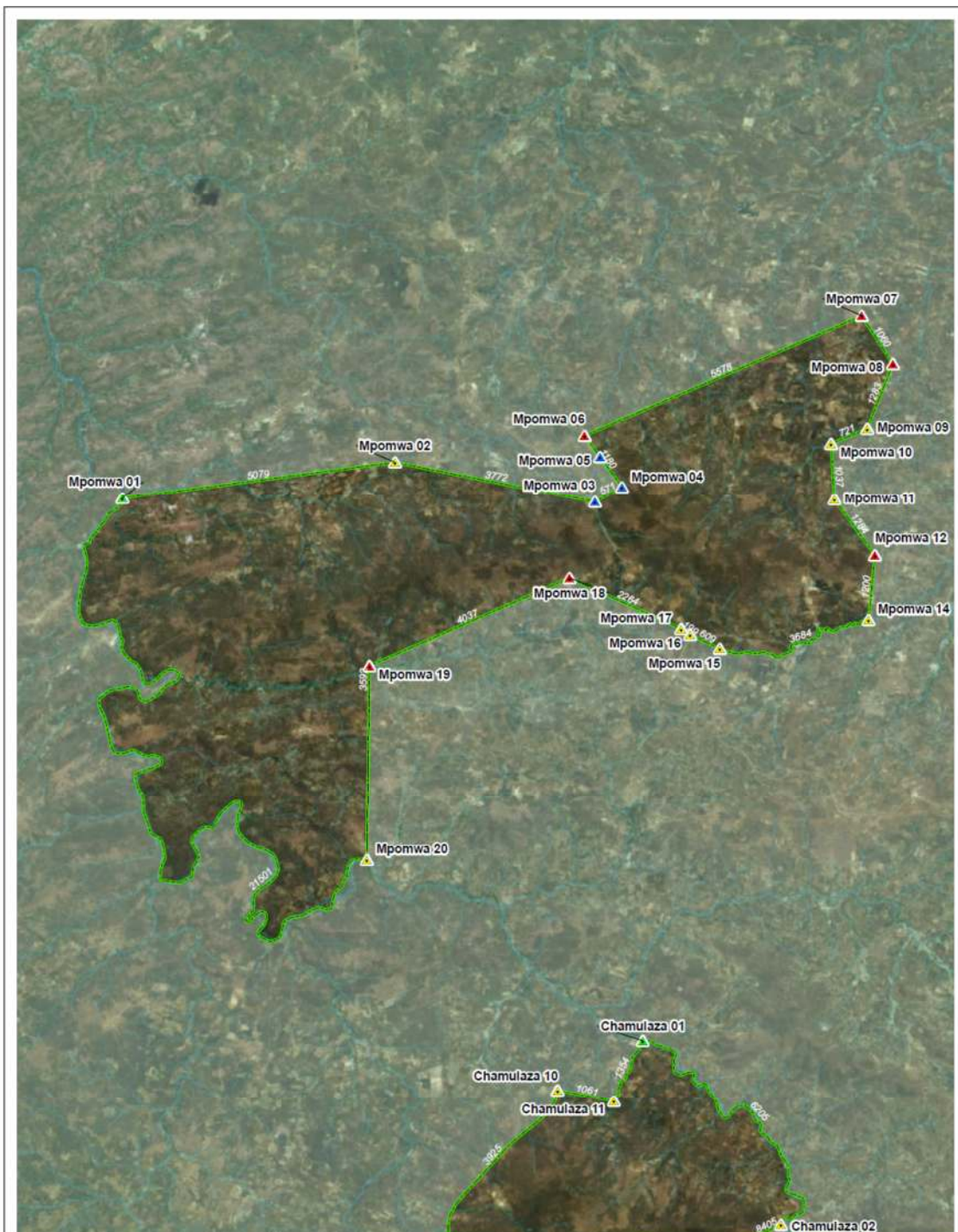
189 degrees for a distance of approximately 3,511.3 metres to a forest beacon on the right bank of the Lutembwe River; thence down the Lutembwe River for a distance of approximately 20,299.68 metres to a forest beacon on the right bank, the point of starting. The above described area, in extent 6,697.785 hectares approximately, is shown bordered green on Plan No. PFA137 deposited in the office of the Surveyor-General, signed by him and dated 30th May, 1958.

1. Map of Mpomwa Local Forest in relation to Chiefdom boundaries (1958 map)



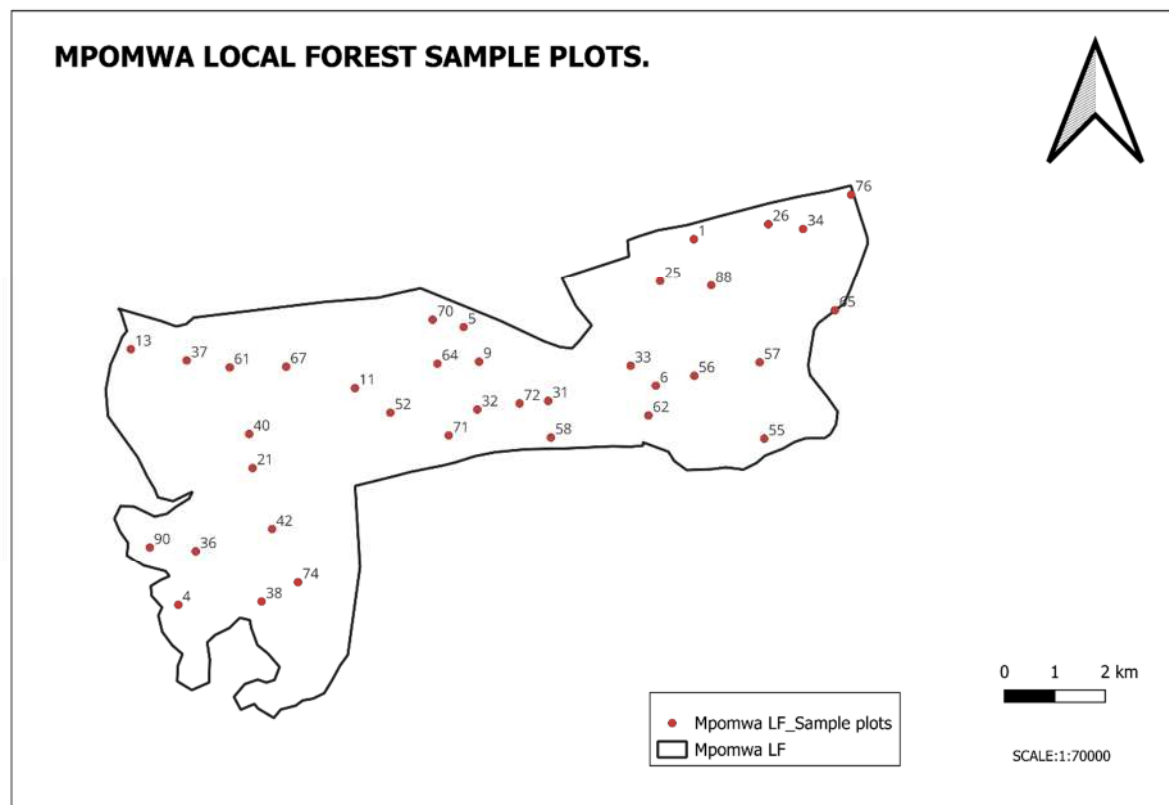
2 FRSP Survey Map March 2018

Mpomwa Local Forest 6736 Ha.

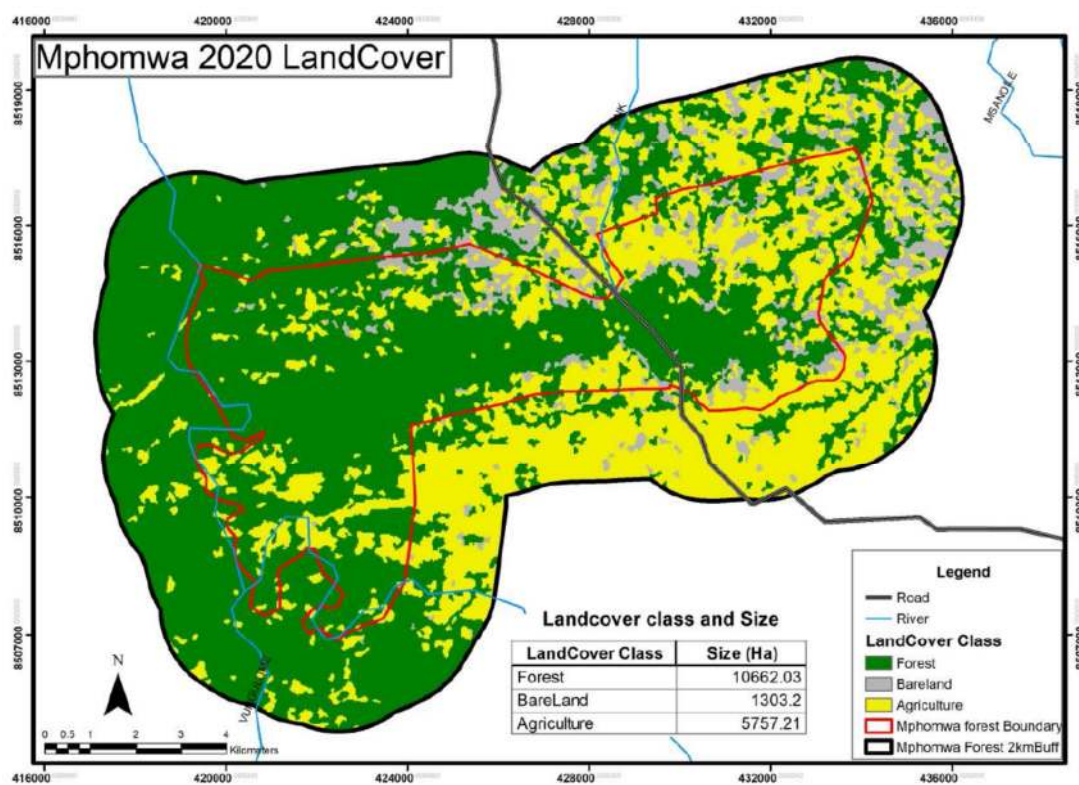
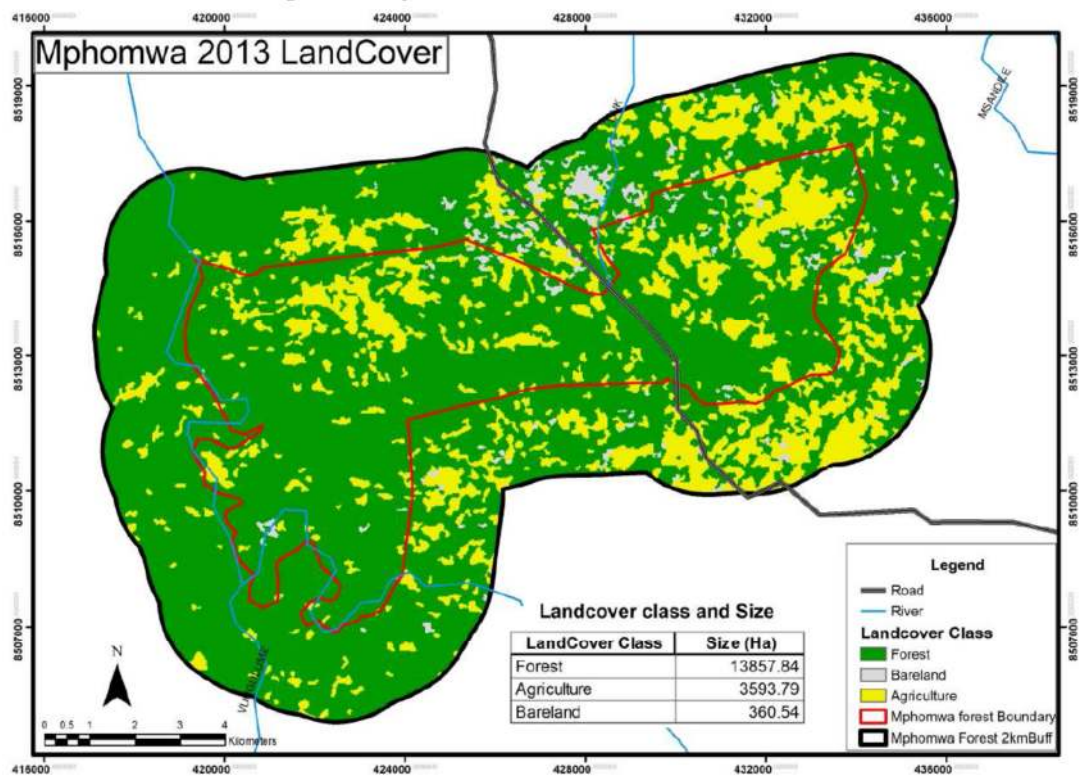


CONFIDENCE	BEACON/POINT NAME	LATITUDE DD	LONGITUDE DD	UTM EASTING	UTM NORTHING
GPS	Mpomwa 03	-13.43783	32.33821	8514482	428360
GPS	Mpomwa 04	-13.43531	32.34283	8514762	428859
GPS	Mpomwa 05	-13.43022	32.33910	8515324	428454
High	Mpomwa 01	-13.43696	32.25755	8514553	419628
Med	Mpomwa 02	-13.43102	32.30407	8515225	424662
Low	Mpomwa 07	-13.40681	32.38382	8517925	433288
Low	Mpomwa 06	-13.42668	32.33646	8515714	428167
Med	Mpomwa 15	-13.46243	32.35946	8511767	430667
Med	Mpomwa 14	-13.45771	32.38485	8512296	433414
Low	Mpomwa 18	-13.45057	32.33383	8513072	427889
Med	Mpomwa 20	-13.49763	32.29910	8507858	424144
Med	Mpomwa 09	-13.42563	32.38469	8515844	433388
Med	Mpomwa 10	-13.42813	32.37854	8515566	432723
Med	Mpomwa 11	-13.43750	32.37906	8514530	432781
Low	Mpomwa 12	-13.44692	32.38599	8513490	433534
Low	Mpomwa 19	-13.46515	32.29964	8511449	424193
Low	Mpomwa 08	-13.41487	32.38912	8517035	433864
Med	Mpomwa 16	-13.46008	32.35437	8512026	430116
Med	Mpomwa 17	-13.45909	32.35284	8512135	429950

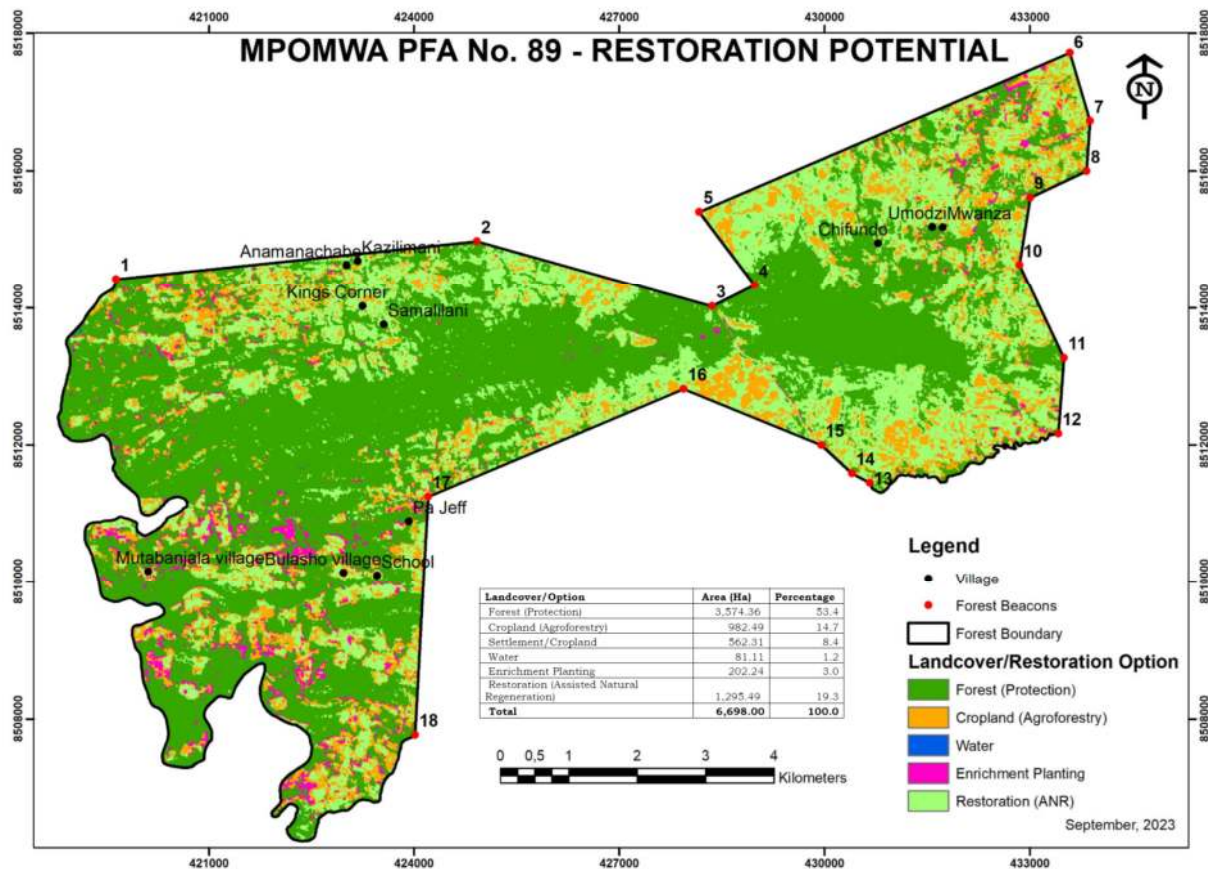
Coordinates of boundary beacons (March 2018)



2 Forest cover change analysis 2013 to 2022



3 Map of forest zones relating to forest restoration potential

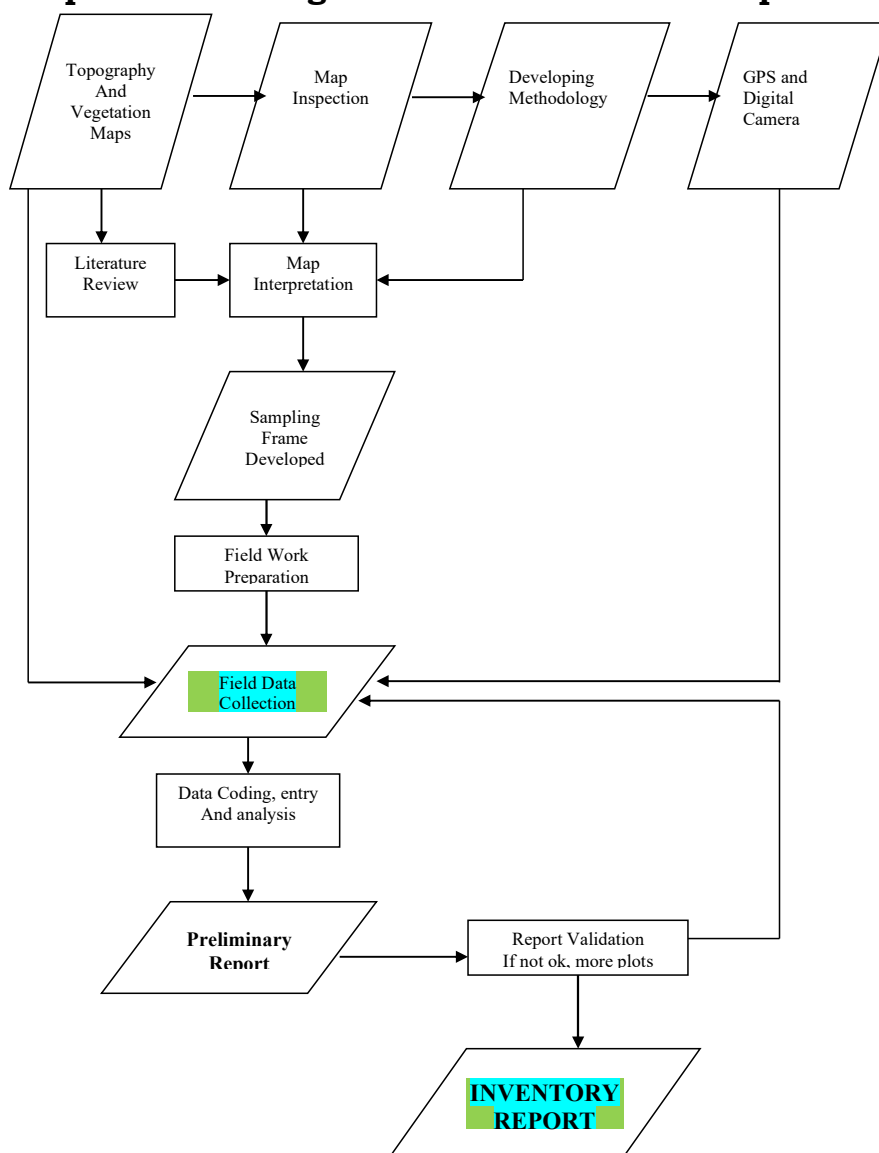


Annex II: Inventory Data Collection and Assessment

Objective

The main objective of conducting forest inventory was to generate and provide information that will enhance the understanding of the current situation in the area with regards to availability of tree and related forest products. The information generated will form the basis of formulating Forest Management Plan for Mpomwa Local Forest.

Steps taken during the resource assessment process



Sampling design

Systematic sampling with sample plots and transect line placed at an equal distance of 300m apart was applied. A total of 90 sample plots were established in

Mpomwa Local Forest and each team assessed 30 sample plots in the forest reserve.

The sampling intensity was calculated based on forest reserve area of 6,698 hectares distributed evenly across the forest reserve. The sampling intensity as a percentage of the forest reserve approximately is 0.5%.

The number of sample plots was estimated using the following formular $N = (T * S) / E^2$

Where

N= Number of sample plots

T =Student probability level/Risk value

S= Variance

E= Allowable error

4.3 Plot Configuration

Concentric circles 0.07 hectares for the main plot with a radius of 15m were established to collect forest tree data with diameters 5cm and above. Sub plots of 0.01 hectares with radius of 5m were established to estimate the regeneration potential in the forest reserve.

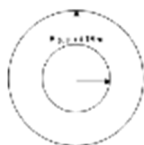


Figure 3: Sample plot configuration Plot layout, circular

The following parameters were measured.

- Diameter at breast height
- Tree heights
- Bole height
- Technical characteristics
- Bole characteristics
- Health characteristics
- Seedling count
- Observation of land use activities

4.5 Sampling Intensity

The sampling intensity is calculated based on the forest area estimated approximately 6,698 hectares the extent of Mpomwa local forest:

Table 2. Sampling Intensity

Forest Reserve	Area (ha)	Sampled area (ha)	Sampling intensity (%)
Mpomwa LF	6,698	6.3	0.5

2.1 Inventory Team Composition

The inventory exercise was executed by three teams (3) of technical officers supported by community members, two camp helpers and two drivers.

SN	Name	Institution/Village	District/Station
1	Lottie Katebe	Forestry	Provincial Office Chipata
2	Yobe Nyirenda	Forestry	Lusaka
3	Charles Mchotsa	Forestry	Vubwi
4	Emma Sakala	Forestry	Chipata
5	Rudo Muleya	Forestry	Chadiza
6	Jones Kanonkela	Forestry	Katete
7	Konda Mtolobondo	Forestry	Sinda
8	Martha Nakazwe	ZARI	Msekera/Chipata
9	Angela Mbaao	ZARI	Msekera/Chipata
10	Boniface Hamalambo	Forestry	Petauke
11	Yamu Zulu	Forestry	Petauke
12	Chigunde Phiri	Forestry	Sinda
13	Mario Kanga	ZARI	Msekera/Chipata
14	Patrick Theo	ZARI	Msekera/Chipata
15	Samuel Simate	ZIFLP	Chipata
16	Makono Banda	Provincial Administration	Chipata

Table 9: Field team composition

Species Abundance Per hectare - Mpomwa

Species	Species Code	Total
Species abundance / ha		398
Brachystegia floribunda	48	84
Diplorhynchus condylocarpon	114	55
Bauhinia petersiana	34	28
Combretum molle	86	28
Brachystegia spiciformis	52	24
Dalbergiella nyasae	103	16
Combretum zeyheri	89	14
Pterocarpus rotundifolius	265	11
Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia	258	9
Brachystegia boehmii	46	9
Brachystegia longifolia	49	8
Dalbergia nitidula	102	8
Markhamia obtusifolia	211	8
Lannea discolor	194	7

<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>	262	7
<i>Lonchocarpus capassa</i>	200	6
<i>Diospyros kirkii</i>	111	5
<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>	112	5
<i>Albizia antunesiana</i>	17	5
<i>Acacia polyacantha</i>	6	4
<i>Brachystegia manga</i>	50	4
<i>Terminalia sericea</i>	304	4
<i>Piliostigma thonningii</i>	244	3
<i>Acacia sieberiana</i>	7	3
<i>Ximenia americana</i>	328	3
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	108	2
<i>Strychnos cocculoides</i>	288	2
<i>Terminalia stenostachya</i>	305	2
<i>Albizia amara</i>	16	2
<i>Annona senegalensis</i>	25	2
<i>Pericopsis angolensis</i>	239	2
<i>Pterocarpus chrysothrix</i>	264	2
<i>Terminalia mollis</i>	303	2
Unknown	999	2
<i>Vangueriopsis lanciflora</i>	316	2
<i>Zanha africana</i>	336	2
<i>Albizia versicolor</i>	20	2
<i>Cassia abbreviata</i>	68	2
<i>Cussonia arborea</i>	98	2
<i>Kirkia acuminata</i>	192	2
<i>Acacia nigrescens</i>	4	1
<i>Hexalobus monopetalus</i>	178	1
<i>Lannea stuhlmannii</i>	199	1
<i>Sterculia africana</i>	284	1
<i>Brachystegia bussei</i>	47	1
<i>Bridelia duvigneaudi</i>	58	1
<i>Erythrina abyssinica</i>	125	1
<i>Rothmannia engleriana</i>	272	1
<i>Securidaca longipedunculata</i>	280	1
<i>Strychnos spinosa</i>	293	1

Annex III: Demographics of major forest communities

locality/village	Male	Female	Total
Abram	3	1	4
Abwinosobe	8	4	12
Allan kasaro	4	6	10
Anamacabe farm	8	7	15
Andrew Zulu	5	5	10
Bulaya	51	51	102
Chanzuzika farm	5	4	9
Chibanyemba	17	13	30
Chibisa	11	16	27
Chibowa	7	8	15
Chifundo	28	39	67
Chikunto farm	4	4	8
Chiloba farm	6	3	9
Chimbanyemba	4	4	8
Chinyantha	42	42	84
Chipendo farm	3	8	11
Chipuzela farm	5	2	7
Chisengu	1	3	4
Chisengu clinic	1	2	3
Chisengu school	18	20	38
Chisengu trading	7	8	15
Chisomo two	12	12	24
Chitambo	2	2	4
Chiyambicibvuta	2	2	4
Chiyembekezo	7	7	14
Choipa chisata mwine	3	6	9
Choipa farm	10	4	14
Dabwiso farm	3	7	10
Damiano Banda	1	3	4
Dobolekani	13	9	22
Enasakondwela	4	7	11
Esaya	5	4	9
Funsani	29	30	59
Gibson	3	7	10
Gizmon Phiri	4	2	6
Hillside farm	10	5	15
Israel farm	6	6	12
Jailos village	40	33	73
Jere	4	6	10
Jesus farm	9	12	21
Jojo	3	2	5
Julius farm	4	5	9
Jumbe farm	19	18	37
Kachusi	2	3	5

Kaduka farm	2	4	6
Kalandu farm	7	2	9
Kalikiliki farm	1	3	4
Kalwani	10	10	20
Kamanya	15	22	37
Kambazako	10	3	13
Kamwanjili farm	15	20	35
Kanaisi	3	2	5
Kankhomba farm	12	13	25
Kantemwa farm	7	10	17
Kanyanyamphila	4	4	8
Kanyebele	2	1	3
Kaphatikiza	35	57	92
Kapiseni farm	4	1	5
Kazilimani	2	7	9
Kenani farm	5	4	9
Kingscorner	5	5	10
Kosaweka farm	4	2	6
Kuda farm	14	19	33
Kulemelankudya	14	9	23
Lembani	5	3	8
Lewis	4	2	6
Lindiwe farm	1	1	2
Lufeyo	46	28	74
Luwanika	6	7	13
Madalitso	11	14	25
Magiez Agro	5	3	8
Malanga farm	18	28	46
Malemia	9	9	18
Manyoni farm	2	5	7
Matela farm	8	10	18
Mateo	25	25	50
Mazemba farm	5	12	17
Mbao farm	4	6	10
Mbewe farm	3	2	5
Mchenjekwete farm	11	11	22
Mileka farm	6	7	13
Miti farm	3	2	5
Msadabwe farm	6	6	12
Msaiwale	19	23	42
Msanja	48	49	97
Msupazi farm	2	3	5
Mtusha	32	28	60
Mubangwe farm	11	11	22
Mukoma nimau farm	8	8	16
Musaiwale	7	5	12
Mutimaleka farm	4	4	8

Muzembeni farm	7	12	19	
Mwabene farm	6	4	10	
Mwachibe farm	10	6	16	
Mwaisupezeka farm	12	10	22	
Mwakanika	9	8	17	
Mwakomesha	2	1	3	
Mwanda	27	25	52	
Nabvutika farm	9	7	16	
Naipalelo farm	2	4	6	
Nangantani	4	2	6	
Ngulube farm	2	0	2	
Nilipo farm	6	3	9	
Njalamnjila	7	1	8	
Nthala farm	1	0	1	
Nzelu niweka farm	2	4	6	
Okoma atani farm	4	10	14	
Pabwinosobe farm	3	2	5	
Pakalikanko	10	10	20	
Rockview farm	4	4	8	
Sable compound	7	2	9	
Sabunu	22	22	44	
Saini Mbewe farm	23	27	50	
Samalani farm	27	19	46	
Sambo farm	6	3	9	
Sampa	49	38	87	
School	3	5	8	
Sogolo lang'a farm	4	2	6	
Stima	36	22	58	
Stopi	22	21	43	
Tambwe Farm	5	5	10	
Tayaya pela	2	2	4	
Tikondane farm	13	10	23	
Tisatani farm	4	6	10	
Tiyeseke farm	6	7	13	
Vida farm	7	11	18	
Yamikani farm	3	5	8	
Yohave	16	18	34	
Yokoniya	92	99	191	
Zamkamwa	9	7	16	
Zasintha farm	3	4	7	
Zibazako farm	5	5	10	
Zinthuninthawi	6	3	9	
Zulu works	2	3	5	
Totals	138	1,442	1,439	2,881

Population Distribution of major forest fringe localities of the Reserve by sex

Annex IV: Stakeholder consultations

The Forestry Department in Eastern Province initiated a process to prepare forest management plans for 12 forest reserves with support from Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP). In accordance with section 41 of the Forests Act, 2015, a process of engagement with traditional leaders was conducted in order to gain support from the Chiefs in the preparation of the Forest Management plans before the proposed data collection activities in 2021 and again for the local validation meetings. In August 2023, their Royal Highnesses were consulted to have an input in these Forest Management Plans to give consent to their Indunas and other to participate in the stakeholder consultation meetings.

Visitations: Meeting Chief Jumbe and Chief Chanje

The Royal Highnesses Chief Jumbe and Chief Chanje (caretaker Chief for Chikowe Chieftdom) were briefed about the upcoming validation meeting for consultations on FMPs which included Mpomwa Local Forest and solicited for their input in the FMP.

During the courtesy call the team gave the background of forest inventories conducted in Mpomwa Local Forest and the interventions that ZIFLP is helping, the importance of the Luangwa landscape and the areas of interventions including climate smart agriculture, support to Forestry Department to continue protecting existing forest estates, support to nurseries, assisted natural regeneration and also support to establishment and management of community forests. The specifics of the visit were also made clear as to have an input from the Royal Highnesses in the development of the forest management plans.

The HRH's made their position very clear on Mpomwa and they had already consented to practice community forest management (CFM) in this forest reserve.

Annex V: Stakeholder validation meeting

REPORT FOR THE MANAGEMENT PLAN STAKEHOLDERS' VALIDATION MEETING HELD AT MAMBWE DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1.0 Introduction:

The Forestry Department in 2021 undertook a forest inventory exercise to take stock of the forest resources of Mpomwa Local Forest (MLF) among others with the view of collecting data to inform the preparation of Forest Management Plans (FMPs). The FMPs are prepared to guide the community-government partnership in the management of protected forest areas (FPAs) in the Eastern Province. Following the forest inventory exercise, draft FMPs were prepared for all the FPAs in Eastern Province. The Stakeholders Validation Meeting for Mpomwa Local Forest was organized to validate the FMP for the MLF which was developed by the Forestry Department.

The meeting brought together 30 participants: (4 females and 26 males) drawn from government departments, civic leaders, CSOs, private sector, community groups and traditional leaders.

2.0 Official Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr Levy Matongo, District Education Boards Secretary, Mambwe District standing in for the District Commissioner. The official speech was read, however, he also indicated he had just returned from an official meeting in Malawi and was shocked by the lack of forest cover in that country and that it should be a wake up call to the people of Zambia, that their forest resources were at risk and the consequences were grave.. He stated that the importance of the meeting could not be over emphasized.

4.0 Meeting Objectives

As the meeting objectives were highlighted as:

- To raise awareness on the policy and legal framework relating to protected forest areas such as Local and National Forests and the need for the preparation of a management plan for Mpomwa Local Forest;
- To further consult the local authority, the local community, their Chiefs as well as other stakeholders including those with rights, title or interest in the forest area;
- To share the findings from the forest resource and social assessments and discuss the issues affecting the specific forest area with the aim to determine local solutions and opportunities for collaboration over the protection, sustainable use and management of the protected forest area.

5.0 Structure of Meeting

The meeting had three main components, presentations, group work and plenary discussions

5.1 Presentations

Three main context setting presentations were made by the workshop facilitators:

- i) Policy and legal context;
- ii) Natural Resources profiles; and
- iii) Socio-economic profile

5.1.1 Policy and Legal Context

The presentation on Policy and legal context was presented by the Community Forestry Technical Adviser, ZIFLP. This included the original reasons for reservation of the forest area, a brief overview of the community forestry processes completed thus far, and the pilot forest restoration planning currently underway.

Situation:

The forest is surrounded by an increasing population

The level of unsustainable use is anticipated to intensify resulting in higher levels of resource exploitation and degradation.

Protection of this forest habitat is therefore essential to ensure the continued ecosystem services and local livelihood needs.

1 Forest Protection, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Biodiversity

Strategy will be to work together with communities to develop joint protection systems in return for agreed levels of utilization within the capacity of the forest to meet local needs.

2 Forest Restoration through Community Participation and Livelihood Development

Community empowerment is central to sustainable management of forest resources. This will be achieved through promotion of community forestry through the recognised community forest management group to partner over the management of the forest

The Plan proposes interventions with community groups to protect, restore and replant, as part of the restoration planning for Mpomwa Local Forest.

4.2 Group Work

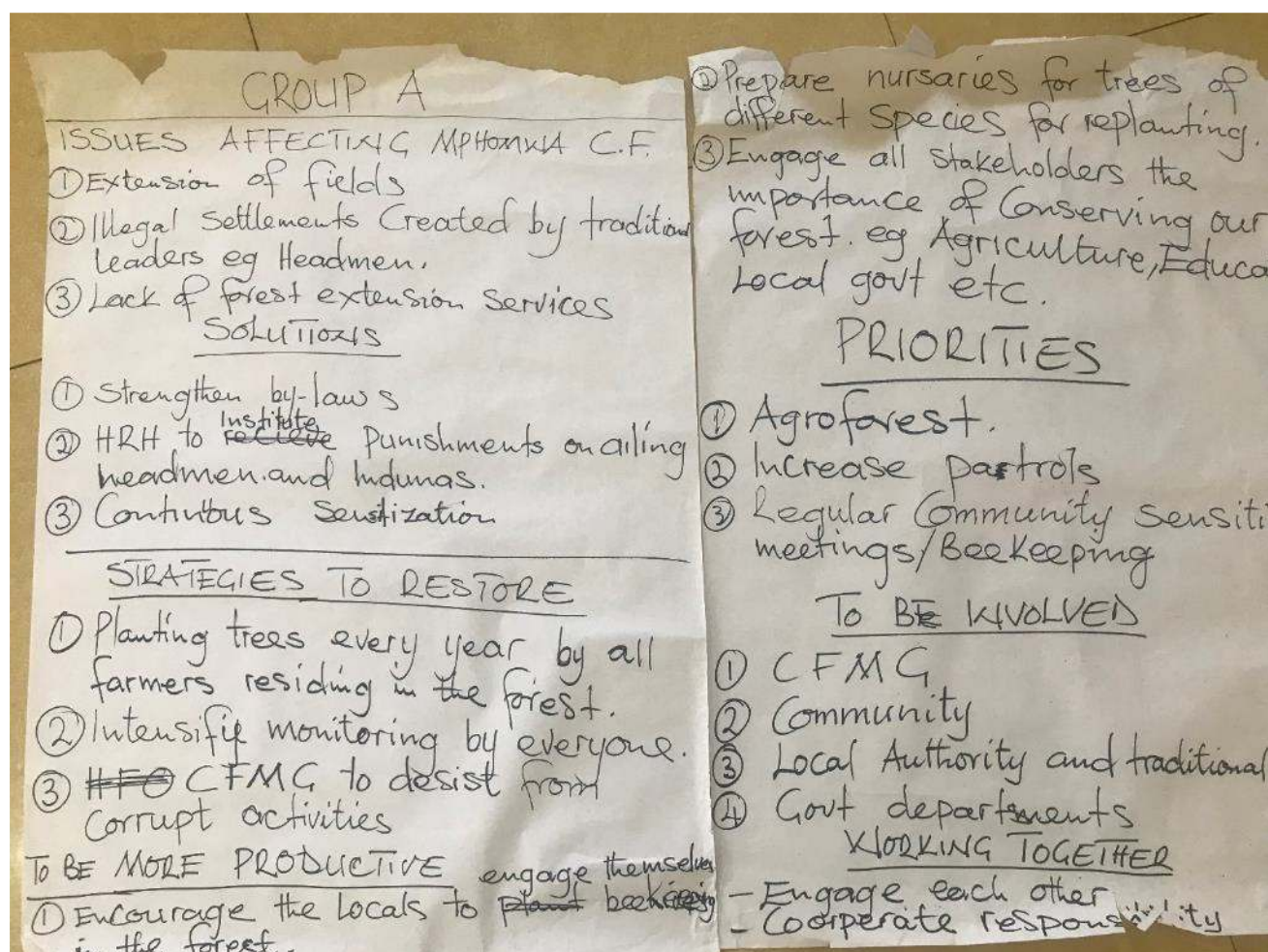
Group work on issues and threats affecting the Protected Forest Area (PFA) and identification of hot spots of concern was facilitated by Mr. Phiri. Two groups were formed to discuss the following questions: -

- What are the issues threatening the forest and your solutions to the threats?
- What are your strategies to support the restoration of Mpomwa Local Forest?
- Which are your priorities?
- Who should be involved?
- How do we work together?



4.2.1 Group Presentations

The Groups made presentations to facilitate agreement of the strategies and partnership for management.



5.0 Collaboration Declaration Pledge

The stakeholders signed a joint declaration pledging to collaborate in the sustainable management of MLF. Below are the contents of the Declaration Pledge:

"We the interested stakeholders of MLF agree the need to increase the productivity of the MLF to enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

Damaging activities were identified, and solutions and strategies put forward to ensure the forest is well managed and protected. Permitted practices were identified as well as those which should be controlled.

As concerned stakeholders we are ready to work in partnership with the Forestry Department, Local Authority, traditional leaders to collaborate over the protection, control, use and management of MLF".

6.0 Next steps

The team facilitated the session on next steps. Below were the agreed next steps/way forward

- Forestry Department team to capture discussions, issues, strategies and recommendations from the meeting and report the opportunities to the Provincial Forestry Office and the Forestry Department Headquarters
- The chiefs' representative should report Their Royal Highnesses the proceedings of the meeting
- Forestry Department Team to:
 - Support follow up activities
 - Develop proposal to secure funding for development of MLF with stakeholders' involvement
 - Subject to Project extension, check for opportunities for supporting enterprise development

7.0 Vote of thanks, Closing Remark and Prayer

A representative of the stakeholders thanked government for convening that important meeting but appealed to government to implement the recommendations.

Mr Phiri thanked everyone for attending the meeting and contributing through their inputs in perfecting the FMP. He implored the stakeholders to report back to their superiors and/or their communities. The closing prayer was done by one of the stakeholders.

The following is a synopsis of the group work and write up from flipcharts and other materials:

GROUP DISCUSSION POINTS

GROUP WORK – 1

- **WHAT ARE THE ISSUES AFFECTING MPOMWA LF AND WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO THESE ISSUES?**

ISSUES	Solutions/opportunities
Illegal settlement	-we need team work
Issuing of licenses by forest officers	-no issuing of licenses by forest officers to the local forest
Charcoal burners /timber	-illegal settlements to be removed
Extensions of fields	-no extension of fields
Lucky of sanitizations (traditional leadership)	-no more new settlements in local forest
Lucky of coordination or team work among stakeholders	-massive sensitization on their fields

-WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO RESTORE AND MAKE MPOMWA LF MORE PRODUCTIVE

- Planting of trees (strategies) community
- Transport and Equipment

-WHICH ARE YOUR PRIOTITIES

- We need team work among stakeholders
- Massive sensitization to the community
- No issuing of licenses by forest officers
- Planting of trees (strategies)community
- No issuing of licenses by forest officers
- Planting of trees (strategies) community
- Luck of transport and equipment

-WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED ?

-community to be involved in if to be restored stakeholders eg..tradition leaders
COMACO,
Forestry Department.
Councilors and the church

-HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

-Through coordination among all stakeholders

GROUP 2

-WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO RESTORE AND MAKE MPOMWA LF MORE PRODUCTIVE

- Planting of trees (strategies) community
- Transport and Equipment

-WHICH ARE YOUR PRIORITIES

- We need team work among stakeholders
- Massive sensitization to the community
- No issuing of licenses by forest officers
- Planting of trees (strategies)community
- No issuing of licenses by forest officers
- Planting of trees (strategies) community
- Luck of transport and equipment

-WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED ?

-community to be involved in lf to be restored stakeholders eg..tradition leaders
COMACO,
Forestry department.
Councillors and the church

-HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

-Through coordination among all stakeholders

- GROUP TWO OF MPOMWA

- WHAT ARE ISSUES AFFECTING MPOMWA LF AND WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS TO THESE ISSUES?

ISSUES

Extension of fields

Illegal settlement created by traditional leaders eg headman

Lack of forest extension services

Solutions/opportunities

-strengthen by-laws

-HR to institute punishments on ailing headmen and indunas

-continuous sensitization

-WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO RESTORE AND MAKE MPOMWA LF MORE PRODUCTIVE.

- Afforestation
- Forest patrols
- CFMG to desist from corrupt activities

-WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO RESTORE AND MAKE MPOMWA LF MORE PRODUCTIVE

- -Agroforestry
- -Increase patrols
- Regular community sensitization meeting /beekeeping
- To be more productive
- -Encourage the locals to engage themselves
- -Encourage the local forest
- -Prepare nurseries for trees of different species for replanting
- -Engage all stakeholders the importance of conserving our forest ,rg agriculture education local government etc

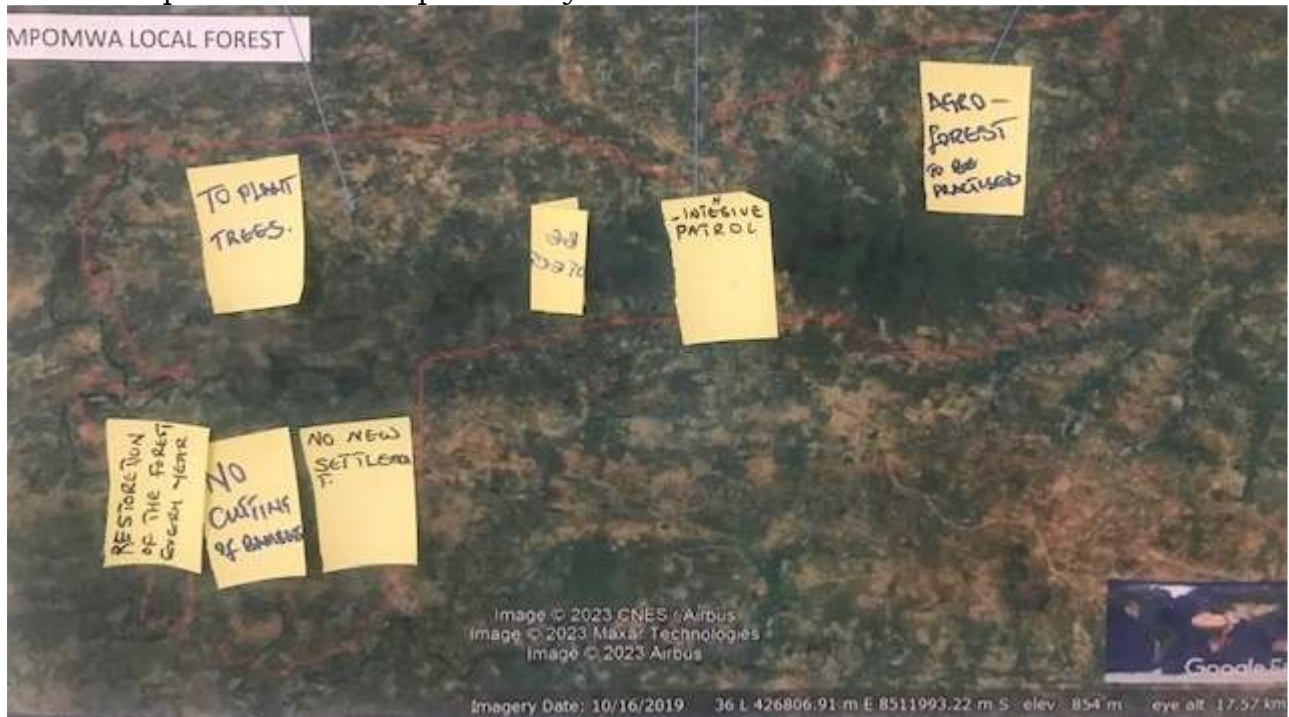
-WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED ?

- CFMG
- Community
- Local authority and traditional leaders
- Government departments



-HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER?

- Encourage each other
- Cooperate social responsibility



Zoning of the forest by interventions

Declaration

At the stakeholder meeting for Mpomwa Local Forest held on 21ST December 2023, at Mambwe Council Chambers, in Mambwe District, the stakeholders signed a joint declaration pledging to collaborate in the sustainable management of Mpomwa Local Forest.


MPHOMWA LOCAL FOREST


DECLARATION


- We the Local stakeholders agree that:
- Mphomwa Local forest is important for meeting the social, cultural and economic needs of the local community, local institutions and others.
 - There is need to improve productivity of the local forest to enhance the environmental, social and economic values
 - Damaging activities were identified and solutions and strategies were proposed to ensure the forest is well managed.
 - As concerned stakeholders, we are ready to work with the forestry department, local authority, traditional leaders and local communities to collaborate over the protection, control use and management of mphomwa local forest.


Signed:

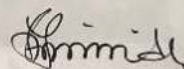
ACKSON ZULU MPALATA CHIKWE 

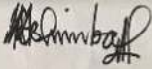
AUGUSTINE ZUM SENIOR NDVUA JUMBE 


BOBAT PHILLIP PHIRI CLLR SANGE WARD 

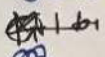
MORRIS SHAWA CLLR MPHOMWA WARD 

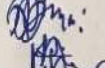
RICHARD NJOBV JUMBE WARD CLLR 


PETER MWEENDA MKOWE WARD CLLR 


CHRISTIMBA ANDREX  Headteacher Mphomwa Primary

JANET MULILO  Socio-Economic Planner Mambwe Town Council

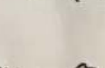
MWAHAMUYBI GIFT  Agricultur R.C. Mambwe


NATHAN MUMBYA  U/SECRETARY COMACO MPUMWE

ALEXANDER PHIRI  TREASURER CFMG

LACKSON PHIRI  MEMBER MPHOMWA

JOSEPH G. BANAA  MEMBER CFMG

FRANK MWEEMBA  FD-MAMBWE FORESTRY D.

BWANALI SAMSON MBEWE  CHAIRPERSON MPHOMWA CF

Annex VI: References

References that were used in the collection of information for this Forest Management Plan included the following:

- Fanshawe D.B (1971), The Vegetation of Zambia, Forest Research Bulletin No. 7 Ministry of Rural Development, Republic of Zambia, Government Printer, Lusaka, Zambia
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- ILUA II (2016) Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II- Report for Zambia.
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- ILUA II (2016) Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II- Technical Report for Eastern Province.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Ministry of Green Economy & Environment

The Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) is a Government initiative which provides support to rural communities in the Eastern Province 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.

Simultaneously the project is creating the enabling environment for emission reduction purchases to be done through the subsequent phase - the Zambia Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Programme (EP-JSLP).

The ZIFLP and EP-JSLP are a cooperation between the Government of Zambia, the World Bank & partners.



Forestry Department

Supported by:



Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project

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