

Conference Proceedings of the
3rd National Conference on

***THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA'S
FORESTS***

***Sustainable Forest Management as
Key to Unlock its Potential***



'Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Kavango-Zambezi-Region in Namibia'



EUROPEAN UNION



**Hanns
Seidel
Foundation**



Enhancing decision making for
sustainable development

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Preface

On September 20th, an impactful project end conference titled "The Future of Namibia's Forests – Sustainable Forest Management as Key to Unlock its Potential" took place at Mercure Hotel in Windhoek. The conference was officially endorsed by the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and the Namibian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). The conference provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions and presentations by expert speakers, shedding light on various aspects related to Namibia's forests. Implemented by the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Namibia in collaboration with the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) and funded by the European Union, the conference constituted the project end activity of the 'Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Kavango-Zambezi-Region in Namibia' (NSFM) project.

The conference was graced by the presence of the Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Namibia, Ms Gosia Lachut, who provided the welcoming remarks. She welcomed all participants in her capacity and thanked the government representatives and all stakeholders for joining hands together in attempting to address issues of national concern such as sustainable use and management of Namibia's natural resources. She further noted and gave her appreciation to the NSFM project for its successfully implemented activities and for addressing uncontrolled deforestation in the affected regions. The keynote speech thereafter was given by Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT), who highlighted key factors on promoting sustainability in the Namibian forests. He also wished success for the conference and that the lessons shared would enable Namibia to promote a vibrant, sustainable, and socially conscious forestry sector. The opening session concluded with a presentation by Dr Lara Beer, Project Manager of the NSFM project. She highlighted the remarkable achievements and reflections on the project's accomplishments over the past three years.

The events' programme was divided into five content-related sessions which included various presentations on different insightful topics. Throughout the day, the audience had the privilege of engaging with insightful presenters who covered a wide range of informative topics. These presentations delved into the current state of Namibia's forests, the sustainable utilization of forest resources in communal areas, and forest education, among other significant subjects.

Session I focused on the introduction to forestry in Namibia. Ms Albertina Fillipus presented on the status quo of forestry in Namibia, followed by an enlightening presentation of sustainable unitization of forest resources in communal areas in Namibia by Ms Kamuhelo Lisao from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. After the initial session, a dynamic question and answer segment ensued, with enthusiastic participants actively contributing and expressing their appreciation for the achievements of the NSFM project over the past three years. Concerns were raised regarding the sustainability of community forest management once the project concludes, leading to a suggestion for project extension to secure funding from potential donors.

In addition to the in-person presenters, the conference was honoured to host virtual presentations that offered valuable insights into the trade performance of the timber sector in the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region which was presented by Dr Julius Chupezi from the African Development Bank. Mr Leroy Diocotlhe from Miombo Forestry Products presented during the second session on forestry education, who emphasized on skills and knowledge that needs to be developed to the local people in order to add value to Namibian products to target international timber markets.

Furthermore, Mr Steven Germishuizen from Sustainable African Forest Assurance Scheme (SAFAS) gave an insightful presentation on providing locally relevant internationally recognized forest certification for southern Africa. Session II concluded with the question-and-answer session and was followed by a lunch break where participants had opportunities to network.

The afternoon of the event was dominated by session III which focused on forest inventory. Ms Miya Kabajani, a forestry consultant, informed on forest inventory as a forest management tool and Dr Andreas Nicodemus, a forester at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, presented about national forest inventory from Government perspective.

Session IV focused on innovations in forestry. Dr Inge Jonckheere from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) virtually presented from Rome and shared about the role of earth observation and artificial intelligence in forest monitoring as a way forward for climate mitigation and adaptation. She emphasised that achieving ambitious climate goals relies on international cooperation and transnational partnerships to play a growing role as technology, knowledge and to share experience. Ms Sophia Trautmann from the working group German Forest Owners Association presented a case study from Germany. She talked about an early-detection-system for forests - a software called 'Wald-Wiki' – which is a tool to provide information about the forest condition, exchange experiences amongst forest owners and to optimise communication and coordinates across cooperation and the public.

A pivotal moment during the conference was the panel discussion of session V, which centred on the critical imperative to develop active forest management practices in Namibia. The panel featured representatives from the government, private sector, and the local community, fostering a well-rounded and comprehensive dialogue on this crucial subject. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr Clemens von Doderer. Presenters on the panel discussion were Mr Johnson Ndokosho, Directorate of Forestry, Mr Michael //Otaub, Directorate of Forestry, Mr Hans-Christian Mahnke, a consultant, Dr Juliane Zeidler, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Mr Thomas Muronga, Kapinga Kamwale Community Forest. The panellists delivered insightful presentations, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities in developing effective forest management plans in Namibia.

The conference was a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of all involved, and it provided a platform for sharing knowledge and ideas to shape the future of Namibia's forests. The NSFM project extend its gratitude to all participants and looks forward to continued progress in sustainable forest management. The conference was closed by Dr Martin Schneider, Director the DRFN, who gave a vote of thanks and the closing remarks.

Windhoek, November 2023

The organisers of the Project end conference on the future of Namibia's forests on 20 September 2023: The NSFM-Project team of HSF and DRFN.

Keynote Speech: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism towards Sustainable Forest Management

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta¹

¹ Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Republic of Namibia

Good morning, Ladies, and Gentlemen. Please observe all formalities.

Let me firstly use this occasion to express my gratitude to the European Union for funding this project for the past three years. I also want to express my thanks to the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) for inviting me to present at the project end conference today on "The Future of Namibia's Forests - Sustainable Forest Management as Key to Unlock Its Potential". I am privileged to speak at this significant occasion because we will discuss how sustainable forest management is essential to maximizing its potential.

The Constitution of Namibia is one of the world's most progressive constitutions when it comes to protecting the environment. I'll take a quotation from Article 95:

"The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies that are aimed at the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future".

This Article 95 directs the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism in its duty to support biodiversity conservation in the Namibian environment via the responsible use of natural resources and the growth of the tourist industry for the maximum social and economic benefit of its residents.

Since it protects the forest legacy for years to come, sustainable forestry is among the most responsible and careful practices in forest farming. In addition to providing a home for rare species and a means of subsistence for people, forests are a priceless resource.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17 global objectives were adopted in 2015 by world leaders. Even though we have achieved progress over the past eight years, there is still work to be done, and the Goals remain more crucial than ever: Climate change; preventing hunger; violating human rights; and extreme poverty. Although issues of this magnitude might be intimidating, the SDGs offer a way to address them.

SDG 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS is one that I would want to place a specific emphasis on. The underpinning of human existence on our planet is a thriving terrestrial biosphere. We have all

contributed to the destruction of the planet's ecology via deforestation, the destruction of natural ecosystems, and land degradation. It is not a cause to encourage the sustainable use of our ecosystems and the preservation of biodiversity. It is essential to our ability to live.

The advantages of sustainable forestry are numerous and include economic, social, and environmental issues. Sustainable forestry methods are vital because they help safeguard forests from conversion to agricultural, urban, and industrial use.

Dear colleagues,

The event of today is bringing together the following actions for the future of our woods. Namibia, however, is still dedicated to reversing the alarming trend of lowering rates of deforestation, and this is done through the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism.

Is it possible to attain sustainable forestry?

Indeed, we can achieve this through practices like preservation, rehabilitation, and reforestation. Additionally, the preservation of forests is bolstered by a combination of factors, including government regulations and incentives, non-governmental initiatives, heightened environmental awareness, and corporate social responsibility.

Ecologically sustainable forestry plays a crucial role in addressing environmental issues stemming from deforestation. Specifically, environmentally responsible forest management yields the following benefits:

- Enhances air quality by generating oxygen and capturing air pollutants through tree growth.
- Reduces biodiversity loss by supporting diverse plant and animal life within forests.
- Mitigates climate change by storing carbon in forest soil and trees (as roughly 50% of dry tree mass is carbon).
- Prevents soil erosion by stabilising the soil with the forest floor and robust tree root systems.
- Mitigates flooding by serving as a natural barrier to water flow and slowing down streams.

Within this context, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism, through the Directorate of Forestry, is actively researching methods for propagating native tree species. The aim is to provide tree seedlings to community members for planting. Furthermore, the Ministry has implemented the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Programme for forest management, resulting in the establishment of 43 community forests across Namibia.

Actions centered around forests can significantly advance Namibia in various ways:

- Well-managed forests offer environmentally friendly solutions to global challenges such as climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity loss, in addition to enhancing adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Protected forests play a vital role in alleviating poverty, supporting agriculture, ensuring energy security, and maintaining essential watersheds.
- Valued forests contribute to the livelihoods of vulnerable segments of society.

- Healthy forests act as a natural buffer against the spread of diseases, including zoonoses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, forests supplied essential health products such as masks, cleaning supplies, and ethanol for sanitisers.

Promoting sustainable forest management in Namibia is therefore of utmost importance. A valuable lesson learned worldwide is that sustainable forest management thrives when local communities actively participate and experience tangible benefits. I encourage the sharing of these lessons today.

In conclusion, I'd like to quote Dr. QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General, who emphasised the 'Four Betters' that depend on our forests and agroforests: Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, and Better Life for all. I wish you every success for today, and I hope that this project end conference will become part of an ongoing 'learning through sharing process,' enabling Namibia to foster a vibrant, sustainable, and socially conscious forestry sector.

Thank you.

Towards Sustainable Utilisation of Forest Products in Communal Areas in Namibia – A Review

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ABSTRACT: Forests play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity, regulating climate, and providing essential ecosystem services, including the provisioning of various forest products. In communal areas of Namibia, forests and forest products are of great significance, serving as a vital source of livelihood for many local communities. However, the sustainable management of these resources has become an urgent concern due to increasing demands, population growth, and changing climatic conditions. The current article explores the current state of forest product utilization in Namibia's communal areas and presents a framework for achieving sustainable utilisation while considering ecological, economic, and socio-cultural factors.

1 Introduction

Forests, acknowledged as vital components of terrestrial ecosystems, have historically assumed a pivotal role in sustaining both local and global human communities. These ecosystems yield a rich array of products and services, effectively underpinning human well-being. Within the communal regions of Namibia, the interrelationship between forests and local societies is profoundly woven into the socio-economic fabric, providing a spectrum of sustenance that includes food, medicine, construction materials, and income.

The forests inhabiting Namibia's communal areas serve a purpose far beyond their mere existence as timber sources; they serve as the lifeblood of the communities residing in their proximity. They constitute the primary source of construction materials for dwellings, fuelwood for heating and cooking, and a vast reservoir of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). These NTFPs, consisting of fruits, medicinal plants, and other botanical resources, constitute a crucial source of sustenance and medicine. Consequently, these forests act as the core sustenance providers for numerous households, forming the bedrock of communal life.

Nonetheless, an emerging and compelling concern looms on the horizon, demanding immediate attention. The invaluable resources furnished by these forests are confronted by a convergence of challenges that portend a perilous future. The communal forests in Namibia are now at a crossroads, besieged by a constellation of factors. The burgeoning population exerts an escalating demand for forest-derived resources, intensifying the reliance on these ecosystems. In tandem, unsustainable harvesting practices menace the rapid depletion of these resources. Climate change, signified by shifting precipitation patterns and elevated temperatures, adds a layer of uncertainty to the prospects of these forests, imperilling their growth and distribution.

As these challenges compound, the urgency of embracing sustainable forest management emerges as an incontrovertible imperative. Sustainable forest management embodies a holistic paradigm that seeks to ensure the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of forests are safeguarded, fostering the well-being of current and future generations. In response to this imperative, this scholarly exposition seeks to elucidate the present state of forest product utilisation within the communal regions of Namibia. It aspires to chart a course forward by furnishing recommendations and insights to realise sustainable utilisation.

This article delves into the intricate realm of forest products, elucidating their diversity and their profound impact on the well-being of communal communities in Namibia. It scrutinizes the impediments that obstruct the realisation of sustainable forest utilisation, proposing a comprehensive framework that underscores the significance of community engagement, biodiversity preservation, capacity enhancement, and the anchorage of sound policies. Ultimately, this article envisions a future in which Namibia's communal forests endure and flourish, offering sustenance, habitation, and prosperity to the communities they have sustained across generations. Through a cohesive effort uniting communities, governmental institutions, and non-governmental organisations, the pursuit of sustainable forest management becomes a tangible reality in Namibia's communal regions.

2 Forest Products in Namibia

The standing forest assets had an estimated capital value of N\$19 billion (US\$304 million) comparable with the values for fish, minerals, and wildlife (Barnes, 2010). Namibia's communal areas are home to a rich diversity of forest products that have been utilized for generations. Though overlooked, forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, water purification, and habitat for wildlife. Timber from indigenous tree species as well as non-timber forest products significantly contribute to local livelihoods. Vrabcová (2019) found that non-timber forest products in Uukolonkadhi Community Forest have the potential to generate monetary income, but fluctuations in income due to erratic climatic conditions pose challenges. In Namibia, forests are the primary source of energy for cooking and heating in many communal households. Seely (2011) discusses the increased demand for wood products in central-northern Namibia, leading to deforestation and desertification. Tree planting projects and conservation initiatives are being implemented to address these issues. Firewood is the most used forest resource by communal areas.

3 Regulation of Forest Utilisation in Namibia

The regulation of forest utilization in Namibia represents a crucial component of the country's sustainable resource management framework. Guided by the Forest Act of 2001 and the Environmental Management Act of 2007, the regulatory structure emphasizes the preservation of forest ecosystems while enabling responsible utilization. Regulatory authorities such as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism, along with the Directorate of Forestry, play pivotal roles in implementing and enforcing these regulations. Community engagement is a cornerstone of these regulatory efforts, as evidenced by Community Forest Management Agreements that empower local communities to actively participate in sustainable forest management and benefit-sharing.

The system is designed to oversee and control the utilisation of forest resources while maintaining ecological balance. Under the Forest Act of 2001, a comprehensive legal framework governs the issuance of permits for various activities, including timber harvesting, non-timber forest product collection, and land-use change within forested areas. The permit system is implemented by the

Directorate of Forestry, a governmental body responsible for forest management. Permits are typically issued with specific terms and conditions to ensure compliance with sustainable practices. This system not only serves as a mechanism for resource conservation but also promotes community involvement by requiring consultation and cooperation with local communities and other stakeholders, contributing to the sustainable management of

Namibia's forest permit system also constitutes a fundamental component of the regulatory framework for sustainable forest management. The system is designed to oversee and control the utilization of forest resources while maintaining ecological balance. Under the Forest Act of 2001, a comprehensive legal framework governs the issuance of permits for various activities, including timber harvesting, non-timber forest product collection, and land-use change within forested areas. The permit system is implemented by the Directorate of Forestry, a governmental body responsible for forest management. Permits are typically issued with specific terms and conditions to ensure compliance with sustainable practices. This system not only serves as a mechanism for resource conservation but also promotes community involvement by requiring consultation and cooperation with local communities and other stakeholders, contributing to the sustainable management of Namibia's forests. In community forest areas, the community forest management bodies are responding for issuance of permits guided by respective constitutions. In commonage areas on the other hand, the Traditional Authority is responsible for issuing a written permission which the Directorate of Forestry uses the basis to issue permits.

4 Challenges to Sustainable Utilisation

Despite the importance of forest products, several challenges threaten their sustainability. Unsustainable harvesting practices have led to declining forest resources, threatening the long-term availability of these products. Particular concern is the harvesting of fresh mopane for firewood in the North-east part of the country. While subsistence use of resources is not a concern in the savannah ecosystem, trade of this species may pose a potential land degradation risk. The forest products trade at the local markets is gradually expanding but the resources are declining, this conforms to Elsiddig (2003) for a study conducted for the sub-Saharan African region.

Conflicting land uses, such as agriculture, encroach on forested areas, leading to deforestation. Land which is allocated for conservation such as community forests and conservancies is often overridden by other developmental projects as well as illegal settlements.

Nikodemus (2015) recognises the absence of full governmental involvement in the management of community forests resources as the main challenges community forestry is facing. While Watts (2003) argues that communal ownership and management of natural resources in the northern and north-eastern Namibia as a major underlying constraint on natural resource conservation because the communal system lacks mechanisms for regulating access, there is a wide network of gazetted Community conservation areas that plays a significant role in conservation of forest resources. As the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa, coupled with climate effects such as erratic rainfall patterns and increased temperatures affect the growth and distribution of forest resources.

As is the case with other communities in developing countries the majority of the rural population rely on forest resources for their livelihoods. Therefore, restrictive regulations without considering the socio-economic well-being of these communities can lead to conflict and non-compliance. Macgregor (2007) focuses on the utilization of forest resources at the household level and emphasizes the need for policies that maximise poverty alleviation and conservation benefits. Challenges with forest laws

and policies in Namibia are multifaceted and reflect the complexities of balancing environmental conservation with socio-economic development. A fundamental issue lies in the enforcement and effectiveness of existing legal frameworks. The Forest Act of 2001, which, despite its progressive nature, faces constraints in terms of inadequate resources and capacity within regulatory bodies.

5 Achieving Sustainable Utilisation

Challenges such as overharvesting and land use conflicts persist, the promotion of selective harvesting practices and value addition to forest products underscores Namibia's commitment to striking a balance between economic development and the conservation of its vital forest resources. Innovative approaches need to be developed to assist rural communities in managing their forest resources in a sustainable manner (Mauambeta, 2000). To ensure the sustainable utilisation of forest products in communal areas of Namibia, a multifaceted approach is needed:

Involving local communities in decision-making and benefit-sharing can promote sustainable utilization. Strengthening community conservation is key to achieving this. Protecting key species and habitats within communal forests is crucial to maintaining ecological balance. Education and training programs can enhance local knowledge and skills in sustainable forest management.

Clear policies and regulations, along with their effective enforcement, are essential for sustainable forest management. Nikodemus (2015) highlights the importance of balancing conservation and socio-economic development in Namibia's national forest policy to combat deforestation and rural poverty.

6 Conclusion

The sustainable utilization of forest products in communal areas of Namibia is imperative for the well-being of local communities and the preservation of essential ecosystem services. This research article underscores the challenges and opportunities associated with forest product utilisation and offers a framework for achieving sustainability. Collaborative efforts from communities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations are essential to realizing the vision of sustainable forest management in Namibia's communal areas.

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Trade Performance of the Timber Sector in the SADC: Focus on Namibia

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ABSTRACT: Most of the timber value chains in SADC member countries including Namibia are short and unindustrialised. The region suffers from a staggering total of US\$1.2 billion trade deficit annually for all wood product categories. At the country level and for all wood product categories, Namibia suffers from a total of US\$ 87.7 million trade deficit annually. These colossal figures suggest the need for Namibia and other countries within the SADC to add value to their primary timber products as part of their efforts on local content strategies to achieve inclusive green growth, jobs creation and increase in foreign exchange earnings. This is important because most of the policies, initiatives, and interventions on forestry development in the SADC are geared towards forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change, omitting the attention needed for further processing of primary wood products to secondary and tertiary wood products. This should be considered seriously.

1 Introduction

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC)¹, Comoros and Lesotho are classified as countries where forests are in crisis while Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa are countries with low forest cover. Madagascar has modest forest cover while Botswana, Malawi and Eswatini have adequate forest cover. The high forest cover countries are Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe while those with very high forest cover are Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Seychelles (Traore and Tieguhong, 2018). Although Namibia has low forest cover, the country has a deforestation rate of 1.01% between 2010 and 2020 (FAO, 2020) and the contribution of the forestry sector to GDP of less than 1% (ANRC, 2022). This contribution to the GDP of Namibia can be increased considering that forest products/services are vehicles of industrialization through forward and backward linkages, capital accumulation, green growth and employment creation as raw timber is processed into value-added products such as doors, windows, furniture & joinery. For instance, it is stated that it is possible to have the potential value added of US\$ 44-271/m³ of sawn wood if processed to furniture, generating 4-12 times more jobs within the country (Hierold, 2010). However, most wood products in the Southern Africa Committee (SADC), which includes Namibia are exported in raw or semi-raw forms while imports are finished products (ANRC, 2022). To booster region's share of exports of finished wood products requires evidence-based information from robust data analyses and synthesis for policy and strategic interventions at national and regional levels. Previous studies by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO, 2010) dwelled on how to promote intra-African trade in wood and wood products using limited data from 2003-2007, and the Tapani et al. (2016) study used trade data from 2008-2014. The African Natural Resources and Investment Centre of the

¹ 16 SADC member countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, DR Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

African Development Bank produced a more recent report study on national trade balances for various wood and wood products in the SADC (ANRC, 2021), which is summarized for this article to guide policy makers in making more informed actions and strategies geared at promoting the timber industry at national and regional levels.

2 Methodology

This article covers the analyses of wood and wood products trade data of SADC member countries from 2010 to 2019 in terms of trade balances in four primary (logs, sawn wood, veneers and plywood), three secondary (wooden furniture, builder wood, and cane/bamboo products) and six tertiary wood products (carton board, case materials, household & sanitary papers, newsprint, printing & writing papers, wrapping papers). The trade data were collated from forest products databases of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) (FAOSTAT, 2021; ITTO, 2021). Data were analysed with standard methods to establish the magnitudes of trade and trade balances of the selected wood products in the 16 member countries of the SADC with extended analyses conducted for Namibia.

3 Main Findings

The performance of SADC member countries with respect to trade in forest products is positive for primary products but highly negative for secondary and tertiary forest products.

3.1 Primary Processed Wood Products

Overall, SADC member countries remain net exporters of primary wood products worth about \$3.44 billion over the reporting period (2010 - 2019). However, the regional total fails to show the variation among products. For instance, the region remains a net importer of plywood and veneers totalling \$819.4 million and \$116 million, respectively. Positive trade balances are registered for industrial round wood and sawn wood worth \$3.8 billion and \$611 million respectively (Figure 1).

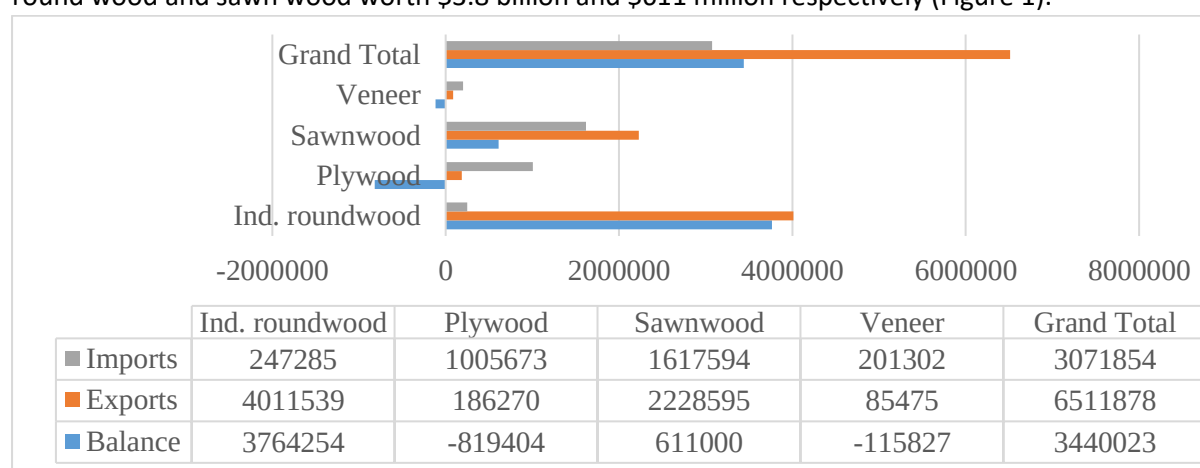


Figure 1: SADC Timber Trade balances: Primary wood products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

3.2 Secondary Wood Processed Wood Products

The SADC region suffers from enormous negative trade balances for secondary wood products, totalling over \$9.07 billion over the reporting period distributed as follows: wooden furniture (\$6.9 billion), Builder wood (\$1.15 billion), and cane and bamboo (\$104 million) (Figure 2).

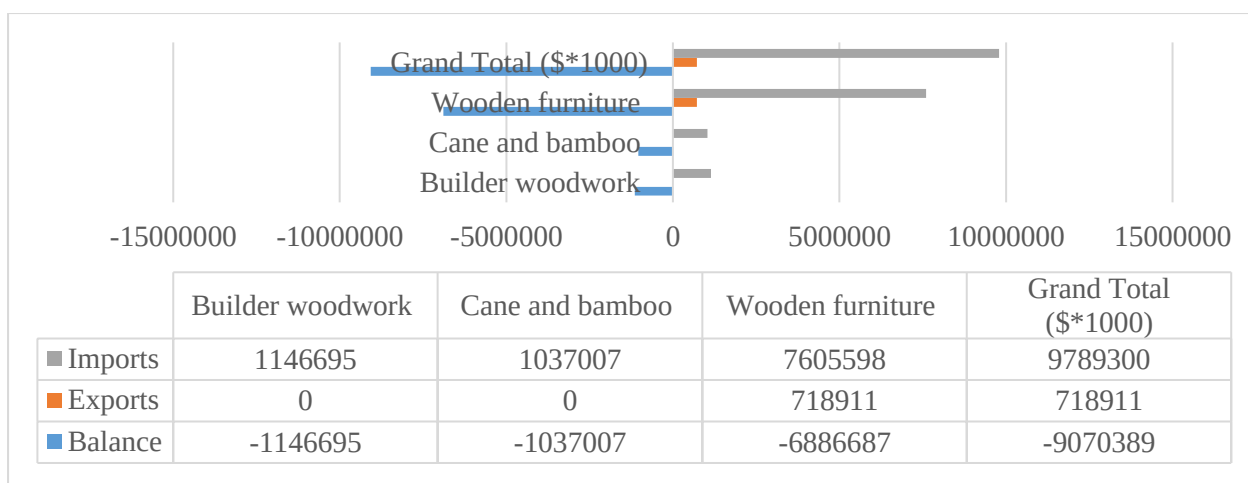


Figure 2: SADC Timber Trade balances: Secondary Wood Products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

3.3 Tertiary Processed Wood Products

Apart from case materials, the SADC region suffers from negative trade balances associated tertiary wood products totalling \$6.5 billion or an annual average of \$650 million during this period. In terms of wood products, printing and writing papers registered the highest share of the deficit at \$3.63 billion followed by carton boards at \$2.29 billion, wrapping papers at \$999 million, household/sanitary papers at \$424 million and newsprints at \$377 million (Figure 3).

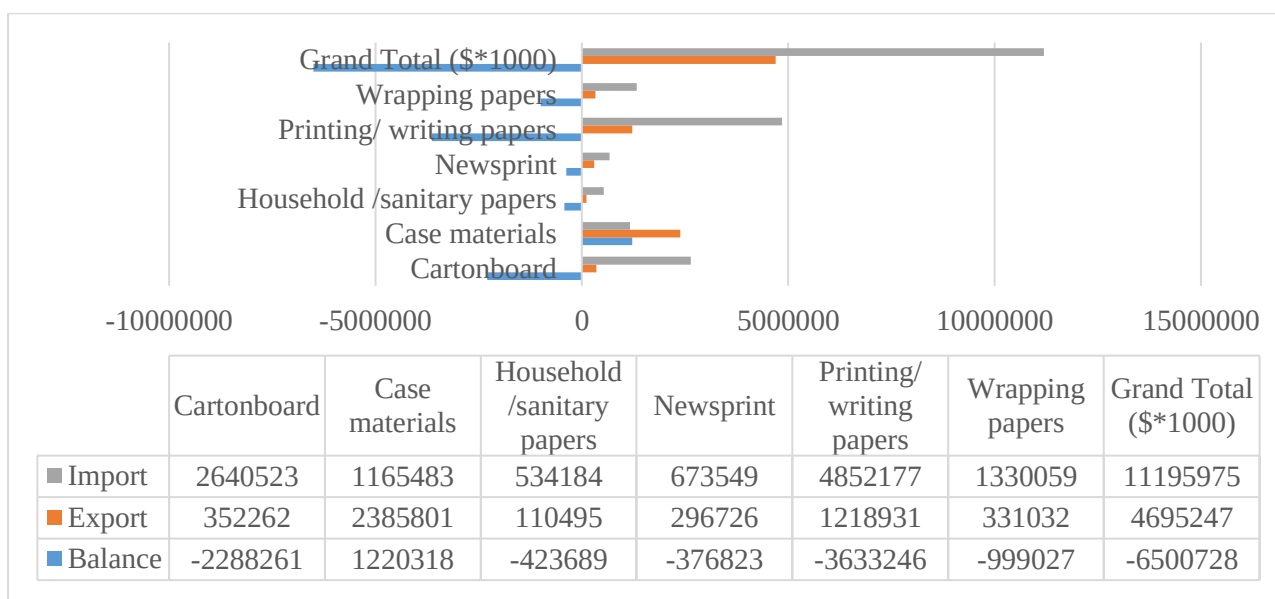


Figure 3: SADC Timber Trade balances: Tertiary wood products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

3.4 Summary of Regional Trade Balances

For all wood product categories, SADC suffered from a total negative trade balance of US\$ 12.13 billion within a decade averaging US\$ 1.21 billion per annum (Figure 4). This constitute an enormous amount of wealth that can be generated in the region through proper investments to boost value addition to primary wood products to achieve secondary and tertiary wood products. In the process, several million green jobs will be created in the region.

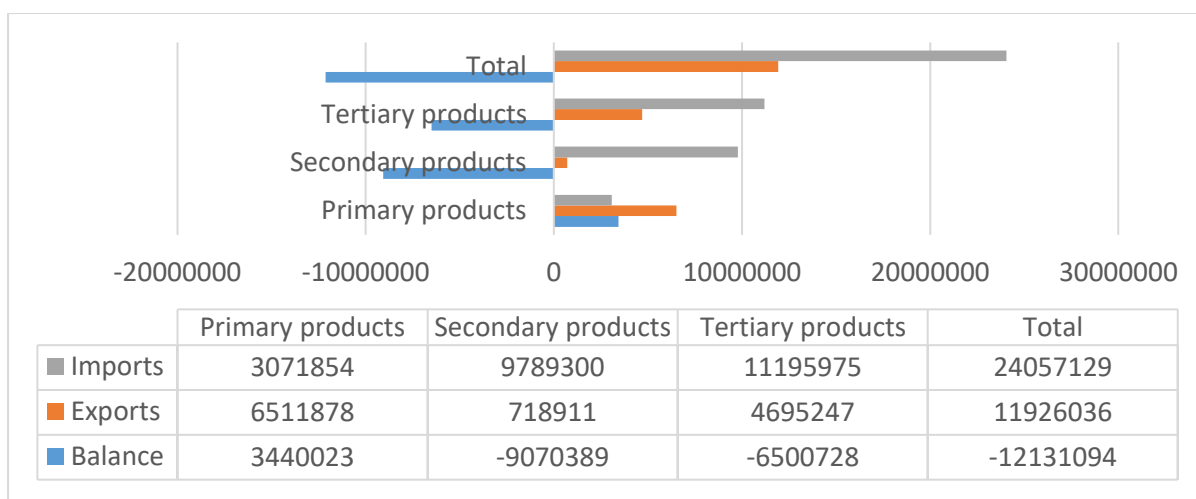


Figure 4: Summary of SADC timber trade balances by product categories (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

3.5 Namibia's Timber Trade Performance

Regional performance of the timber trade does not give a clear picture of how individual countries are performing. Taking the case of Namibia, the country suffers from negative trade balances for all wood products categories totalling US\$199.04 million, US\$390.80 million and US\$287.63 million for primary, secondary and tertiary wood products respectively (Figure 5, 6, 7). These figures add up to US\$877.47 million within a decade or US\$ 87.7 million per annum (Figure 8).

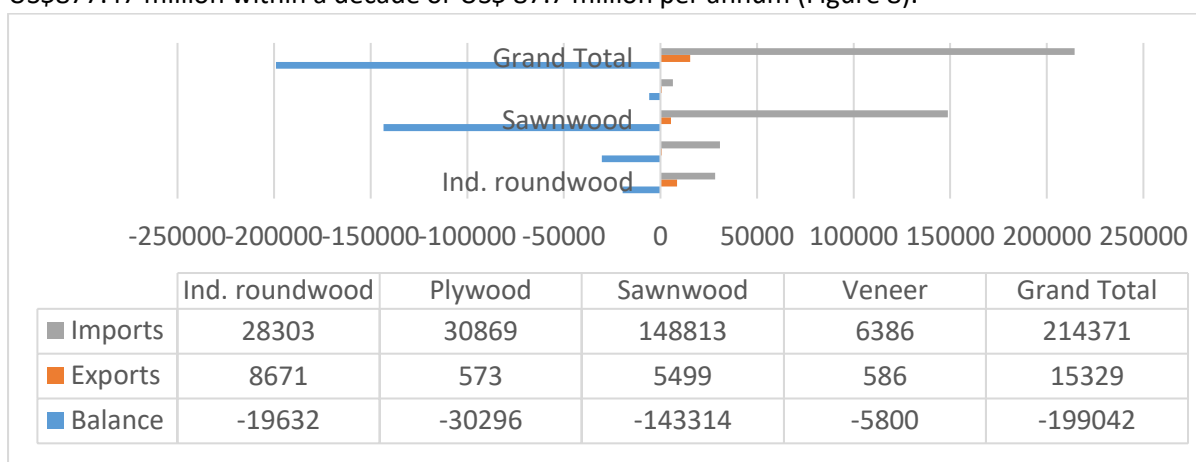


Figure 5: Namibia's Timber Trade balances: Primary wood products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

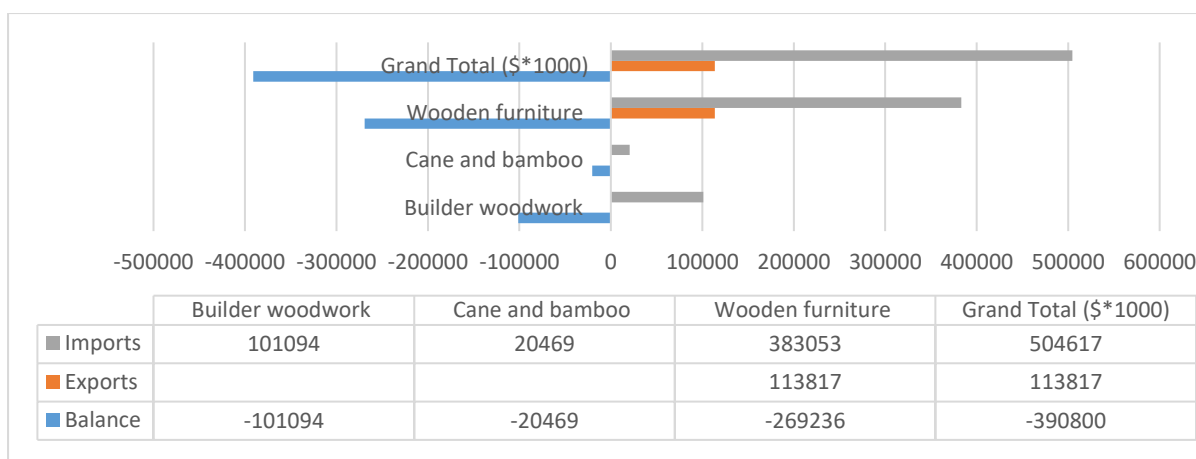


Figure 6: Namibia's Timber Trade balances: Secondary Wood Products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

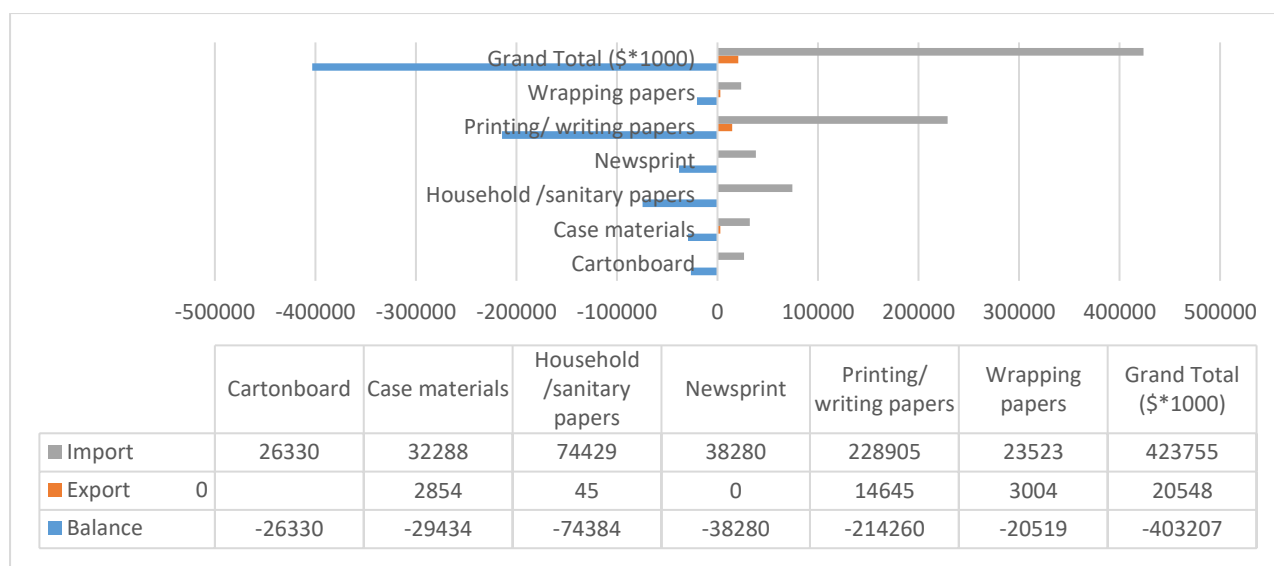


Figure 7: Namibia's Timber Trade balances: Tertiary wood products (*US\$1000) – 2010-2019

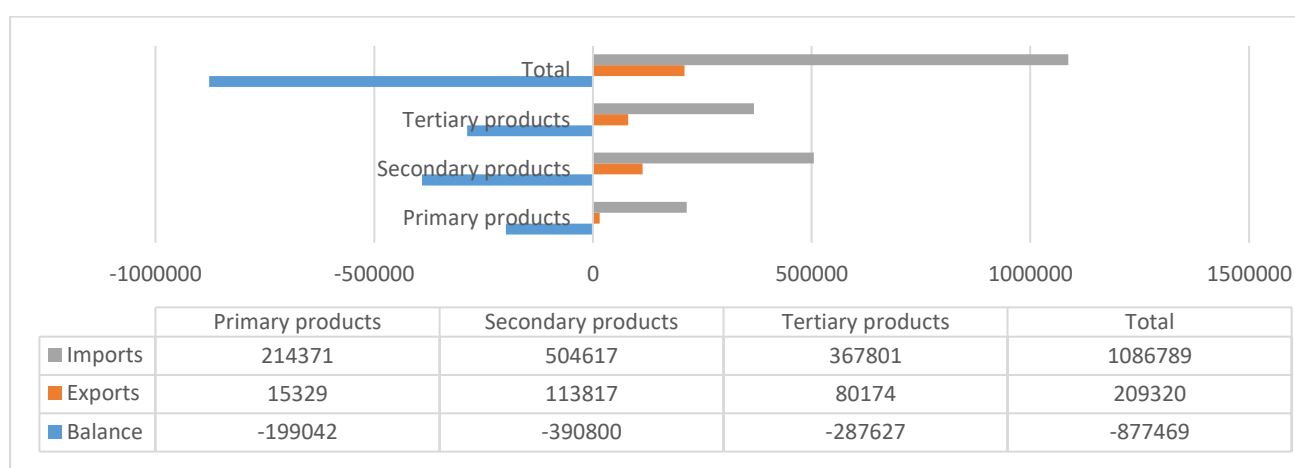


Figure 8: Summary of Namibia's timber trade balances by product categories (*US\$1000) – 2010-2020

4 Challenges and Opportunities

Lack of national strategies on secondary and tertiary wood processing leads to low levels of value addition and negative trade balances for consumable wood products. The poor inter-connectedness of most of Africa including in the SADC could constitute a stumbling block for trade in wood products between the most-endowed and the less-endowed forestry countries. The African Continental Free Trade Area of the African Union Commission (Fact-AUC) could play a pivotal role in facilitating intra-African trade for the creation of employment and fostering inclusive green timber value chains in the region and beyond. Moreover, increasingly, attention is being geared at looking at forests from a development lens in Africa, whereby sustainable forest industrial development is seen as part of sustainable forest management. Tight to this is the need to promote good forest governance by regional instruments such as the SADC protocol on forestry that provides a broad and comprehensive policy framework to manage forests across the region as well as facilitating trade and conservation.

5 Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Forestry is intricately connected by a great number of forward/backward linkages to many other industrial branches with connections between forestry and indicators of economic development: capital, foreign exchange, industrialization and employment. The figures provided in this article suggest poor industrial performance in the secondary and tertiary wood processing sectors in the SADC including in Namibia and that economic gains from the export of primary products are diminished by importing finished products.

The absence of local added value has major economic consequences for the region in terms of the loss of jobs and worth creation opportunities that are currently being displaced beyond the continent. To reverse this will require the promotion of entrepreneurship in the forestry sector in order to increase its contribution to inclusive prosperity and greener economies at country and regional levels. This is possible with especially with the right policies and interventions that target the continent's young and dynamic entrepreneurs to help scale up businesses, create jobs and enhance revenues (Fad, 2022). Thus, the benefits of value addition to forest products in within countries will include green jobs creation, revenue generation, increased foreign exchange earnings, and improved livelihoods. To achieve this will require the reduction of focus from the export of primary wood products to a rapid increase in the export of secondary and tertiary wood products that will result in significant positive impacts on trade balances.

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The Status Quo of Namibia's Forests

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Namibia

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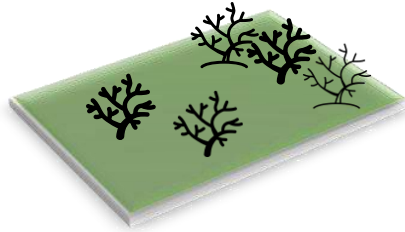
What is a forest?

- A biological community dominated by trees and other woody vegetation.
- Tree density determined by climate, topography, geology and anthropogenic activities.
- Savannahs, open canopy woodlands and dense forests

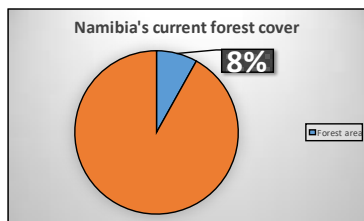


What is a forest?

Land covering more than **0.5ha** with trees higher than **5m** and a canopy of more than **10%** (FAO, 2020).

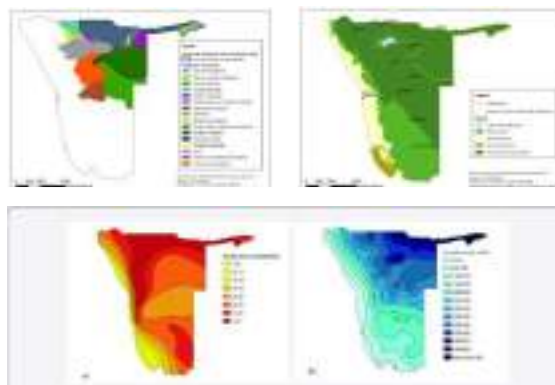


Facts and figures about our forests?



- Covers 8.1 % in 2020,
- Decreased gradually from 9.7% in 2001,
- Reduced by 20% since the independence (FAO, 2020).
- Rural communities' livelihoods (>70% of Namibian depend on NRs)
- Illegal harvesting of wood (plant poaching)

What do we know about our forests?



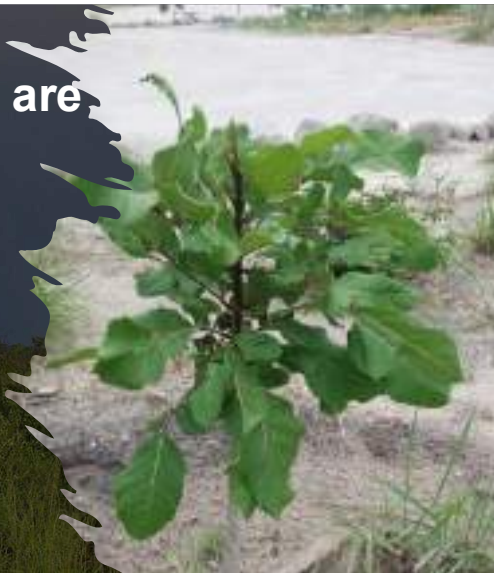
What do we need to know about our forests?

- Namibia is an Arid to Semi-arid country
- Drivers of forest cover change (unsustainable practices)
- Effects of climate change (adaptation and resilience)
- Management of our forestry resources (capacity building and empowerment)
- Forestry's tourism and economic potential (livelihoods diversification)



The future generations are begging us to:

- Practice sustainability
- Plant more trees



THANK YOU



DO NOT FORGET
TO PLANT A
TREE ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

Providing Locally Relevant Internationally Recognised Forest Certification for Southern Africa

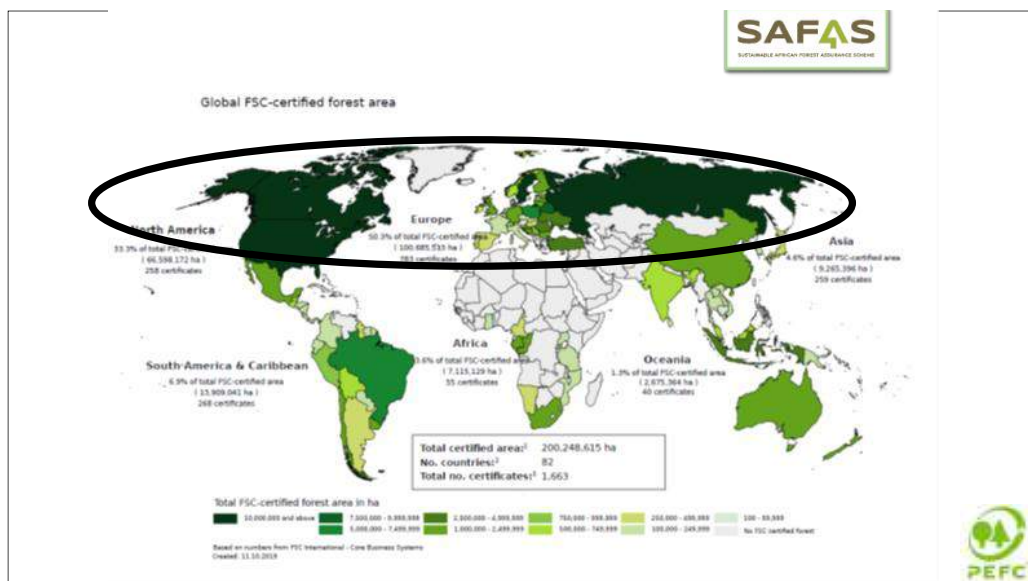
Steven Germishuizen¹

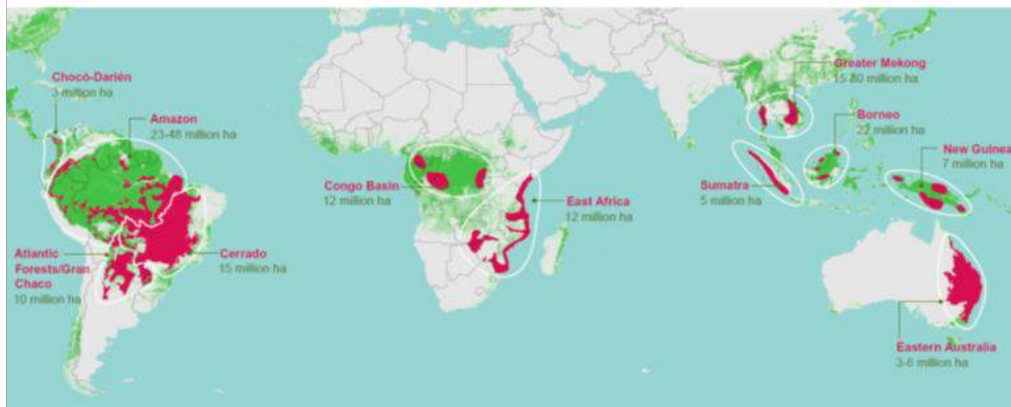
¹ Sustainable African Forest Assurance Scheme (SAFAS)

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PROVIDING
LOCALLY RELEVANT
INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNISED FOREST
CERTIFICATION FOR
SOUTHERN AFRICA





The 11 deforestation fronts, with projected losses, 2010-2030 [WWF Living Forests Report 2015]

FOREST AREAS CERTIFIED BY REGION

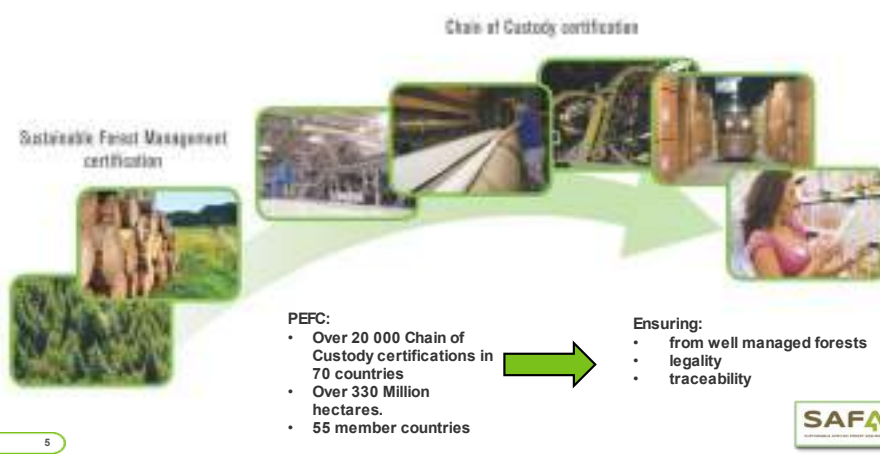
REGION	CERTIFIED AREA (PEFC AND FSC)* (millions ha)	% of global certified area	Total Forest Area** (millions ha)	% of total forest area certified *
North America	235.6	45.4	679.0	34.7
Europe incl. Russia	215.7	41.5	1005.0	21.5
Latin America and Caribbean	20.7	4.0	890.4	2.3
Asia	25	4.8	592.0	4.2
Oceania	14.6	2.8	191.0	7.6
Africa	7.7	1.5	674.0	1.1
TOTAL	511.6			
Dual	86			
TOTAL	425.6		4031.4	10.6

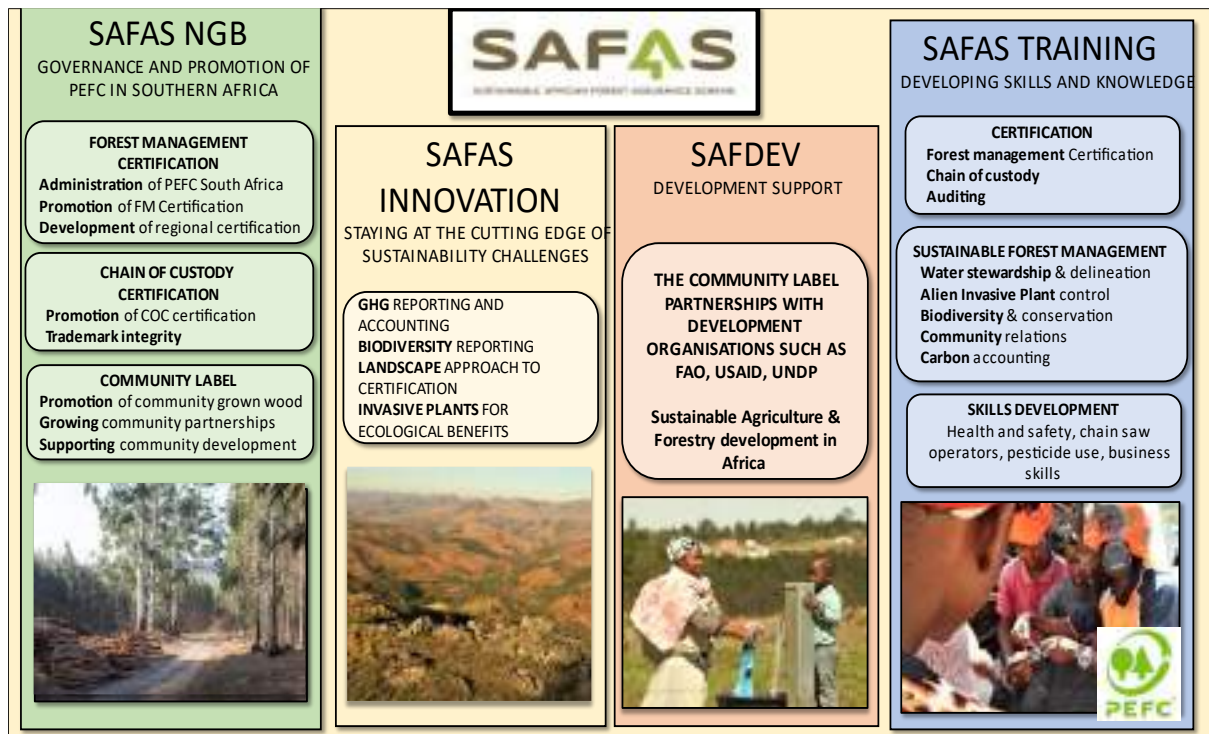
* PEFC and FSC websites 2019 data

** FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010



What is certification?
From forest management to end user





SAFAS – Forest management support

SAFAS supports responsible wood production and sustainable land use in Africa by staying at the cutting edge of sustainability challenges and providing solutions:

Providing PEFC certification that is effective and affordable to all growers.

- ✓ **Effective** in being a powerful incentive for sustainable forest management
- ✓ **Effective** in providing access to markets
- ✓ **Affordable** to timber growers of all scales



Providing tools and information to timber growers to meet sustainability challenges

- ✓ A simple cost effective system for **carbon reporting** and accounting.
- ✓ Providing powerful and effective tools to **reporting on biodiversity**
- ✓ Providing systems for **small-scale timber growers to access markets**
- ✓ Providing **training** on certification and key sustainability challenges



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONTEXT

Factors driving certification

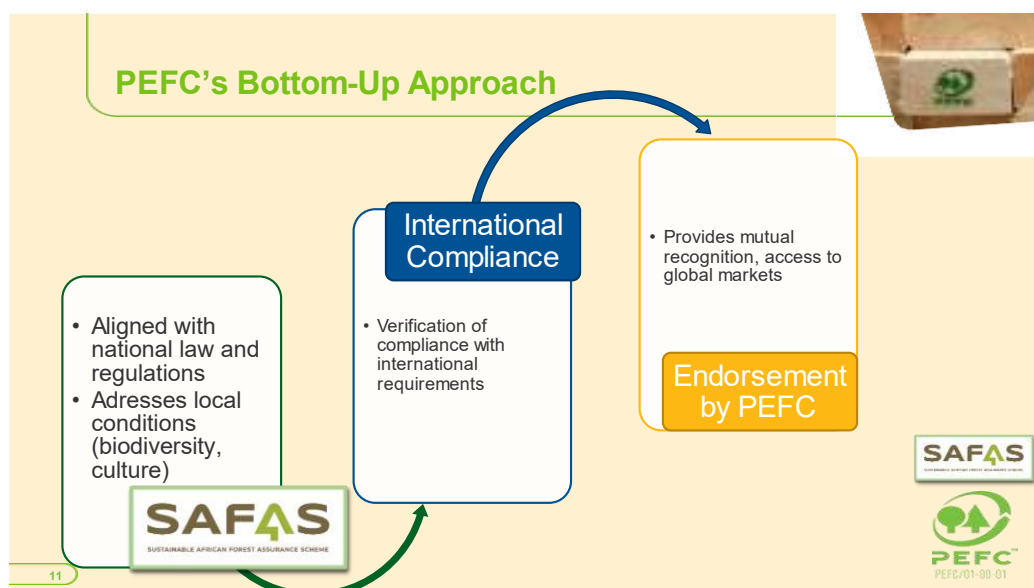


1. For exporters there is an increasing demand by the global market for certification and **BEYOND**.
2. For local markets in inter -Africa trade there is an increasing drive to demonstrate sustainability.
3. Smaller operations in the **developing world** continue to struggle with certification.
4. Economic pressures and accelerating technology is spawning new markets.
5. These new markets are mostly open for any globally recognised certification system (for example China, India to ask for PEFC or FSC)
6. PEFC is now in firmly in South Africa with Sappi, Mondi, NCT, TWK and others certified. (60% of the industry)
7. Eswatini committed to PEFC by 2024.
8. Increasing production costs places pressure for certification to deliver more in terms of SFM.
9. Dual certification (FSC and PEFC) is the new approach.

SAFAS MISSION: TO MAKE FOREST CERTIFICATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL SCALES OF FORESTRY AND MORE EFFECTIVE AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



PEFC's Bottom-Up Approach



What makes SAFAS - PEFC different?

- SAFAS aims to ensure that certification requirements reflect real **sustainability at site level**.
- This is achieved through a site -level risk assessment approach as performed by the Value Based Platform.
- PEFC is open to this approach because it is locally developed
- SAFAS has the policies necessary to accommodate this approach.
- SAFAS will train CBs and forest managers.
- SAFAS has a focus on socio-economic development



Regional Certification Scheme for SADC countries

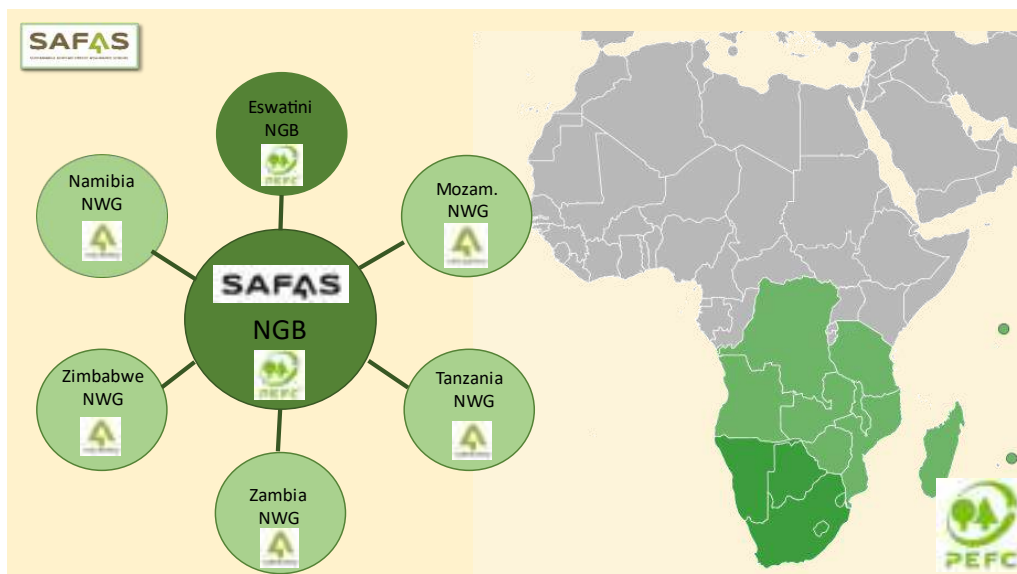
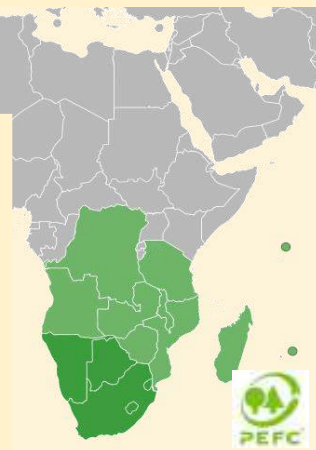
Global Certification systems must be playing a **foundational role** in developing countries.

SAFAS will develop a Regional standard that can include participating countries. The base policies will be the same and the specific details of different forest types can be added on.

SAFAS to establish a **network of SADC countries** linked by the goal of improving sustainable forest management.

SAFAS as a central point to disseminate information to support sustainable forest management practice.

The countries will be at different stages of certification readiness and have **differing needs**.



Forest Certification in Namibia– Take Stock

- ✓ There are 6 FM/COC certificates in Namibia and a total of about **1.6 million hectares certified**.
- ✓ All focussed on the **Charcoal/Firewood sector**
- ✓ **Global demand for bioenergy is skyrocketing. All exports must be certified**
- ✓ **Huge potential area available for charcoal/fire wood production.**
- ✓ Interest in PEFC has been shown from some **furniture exporters.**

SAFAS



Aspects to explore

- ✓ What are the sustainability issues facing charcoal production in Namibia?
- ✓ What are issues facing certification of Savanna in Namibia?
- ✓ What are the sustainability issues facing hardwood production?
- ✓ What are issues facing certification of woodlands and forest in the north and north-west?
- ✓ What is the potential for certification to assist with the protection of the forests in Namibia?
- ✓ How would the SAFAS approach with PEFC deal with these issues?



- ✓ A simple cost effective carbon accounting and reporting tool
- ✓ Applicable at all scales of forestry
- ✓ Adaptable to all forest types





SAFAS is establishing *The Landscape Certification Programme* that will be available to all timber growers at cost.

- ✓ SAFAS has the mission to ensure that all timber growers in Southern Africa have **fair access to certification**.
- ✓ The goal is for **small-scale timber growers** and those communal land to have free certification.
- ✓ The LCP uses the fact that **site and socio-economic factors** define, to a large extent, the risks and opportunities that forestry operations face.
- ✓ **The Value Based Platform** is a web-based platform for integrating data from a range of sources. This helps forest managers to **identify and prioritise the key risks**.
- ✓ The LCP used the Value Based Platform to provide all the documentation, supporting information.



The goal of the community label is to incentivise forestry organisations to become more involved in helping to address the key economic risk factors in South Africa, hereby helping to make rural communities flourish.

- ✓ An estimated 25,000 timber growers living in Tribal Authorities make a **substantial contribution South Africa's timber industry**.
- ✓ **Rural poverty in South Africa** is extreme and exceptional amongst middle income countries.
- ✓ Currently many **forestry organisations are committed** to providing markets and extension support to communities.
- ✓ At SAFAS we believe the key to growing and deepening this involvement lies in **community partnerships** with forestry organisations.
- ✓ SAFAS promotes the concept of the forestry organisation being **part of the greater community**.

About the 'Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Kavango-Zambezi-Region in Namibia' Project

Project Background

Namibia is endowed with an abundance of natural resources. The north and north-eastern regions of the country contain large plains of, inter alia, hardwood forests. Over the past decade, Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced a significantly increasing demand for timber, especially from Asian countries. However, the profits accumulated from Namibia's yearly timber harvest have been limited due to the undervaluing of domestic wood prices compared to international price trends. Moreover, Namibia does not possess the infrastructure needed to organise a value chain to correct this pricing discrepancy and retain the overall value of its hardwood. Instead, the wood is mostly exported as a raw material, limiting the revenue that can be raised from Namibia's timber resources.

In recent years, a growing number of media reports and related public discussions have sought to address how Namibia's hardwood resources are being harvested, in many instances, unsustainably. To assist in the resolution of this concerning trend, the HSF and the DRFN have joined forces to support the Namibian government in its efforts to safeguard against the environmental and economic threats posed by unsustainable timber usage and uncontrolled deforestation. The contribution of the project is to support an active, multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management (SFM) to improve its implementation in the affected regions.

The Project Aims to

- Expand public understanding of the concept and benefits of SFM, particularly amongst core target groups including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), political and traditional decision-makers, Community Forest members, and youth representatives, the latter who may serve as multipliers.
- Strengthen knowledge, skills, and capacities to implement SFM amongst target groups.
- Improve sensitivity to and appreciation of diverging views and perspectives on SFM between target groups.

Key strategies to achieve these goals include an information campaign and publications, conferences, educational programming, study trips, and public dialogue events.

TH!NK Namibia Sustainable Forest Management Information Campaign



The project further aims to harness its public information campaigns to create supportive platforms for all interested individuals to share their research findings, achievements and knowledge projects related to SFM in Namibia.



The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a German non-profit organisation currently implementing roughly 100 projects in 70 countries worldwide.

The HSF Namibia office was established in 1978. In collaboration with its local project partners, HSF

Namibia is committed to the promotion of democracy and good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption, sustainable development, and environmental sustainability as well as climate change mitigation and adaption. Through each of its respective projects, the organisation seeks to facilitate information-sharing and active civic engagement in all facets of society



The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) is a Namibian NGO which has served both communities and government in the building of capacities for sustainable development since Independence. DRFN projects are implemented across several key thematic areas including energy,

land and water for which a combination of institutional knowledge, field research and experience as well as local and national relationships are utilised. The DRFN also provides support to multiple stakeholders ranging from government, traditional decision-makers, community members, local authorities, and private sector actors in the development, planning and implementation of policies to support Namibia's sustainable development.



The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.