

The role of forests in sustainable development



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

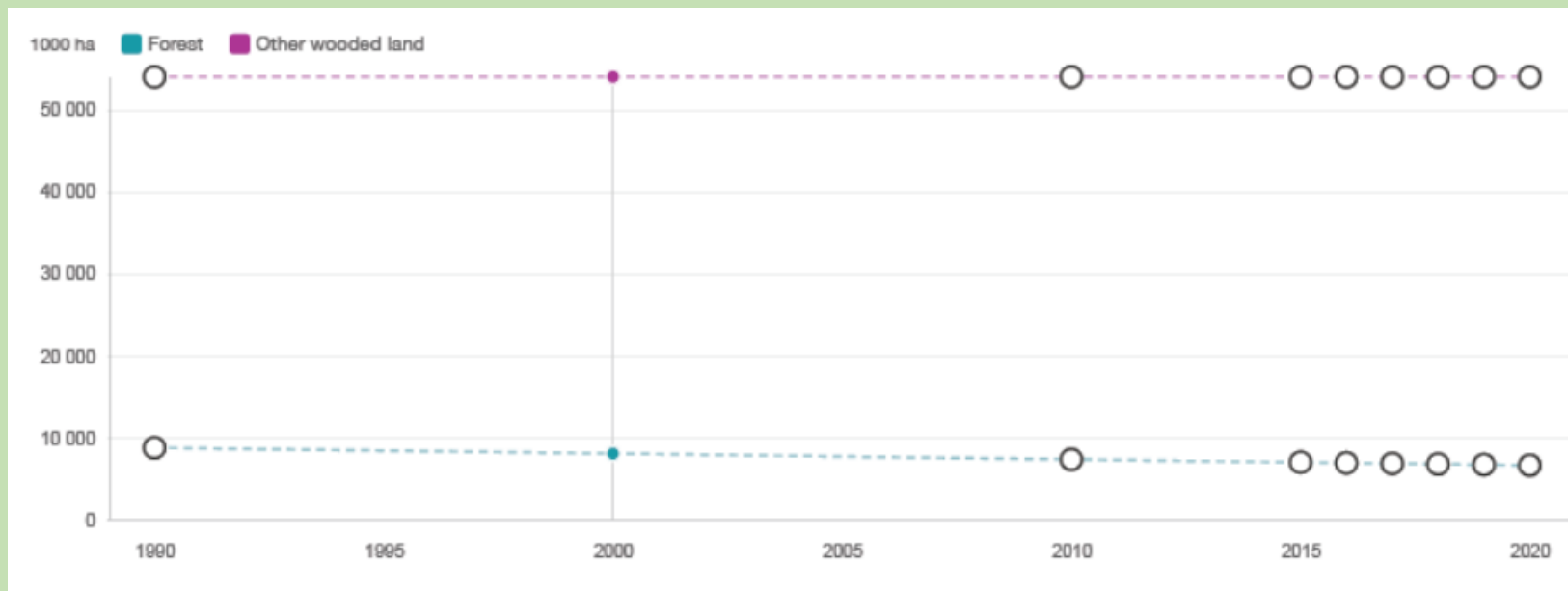
J. M. Kamwi, PhD

16.05.2023

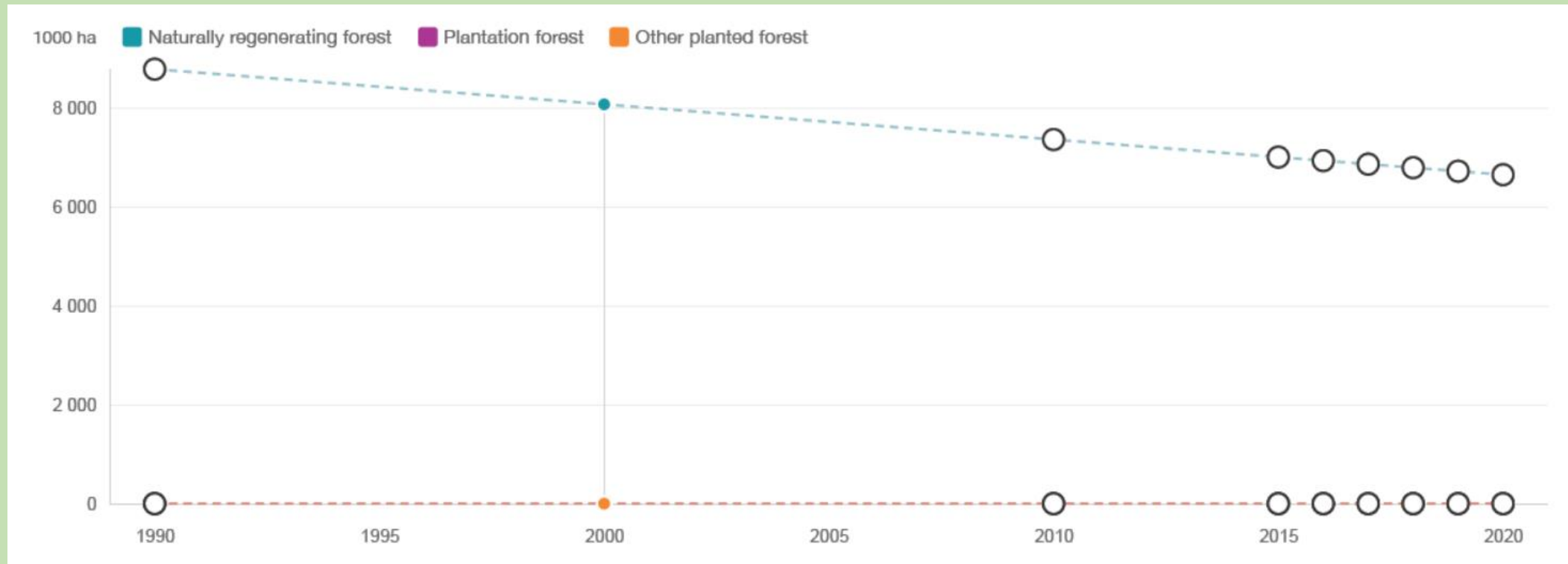
Department of Natural Resource Sciences
Namibia University of Science and Technology

Extent of forest and other wooded land in Namibia

FRA categories	Area (1000 ha)									
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Forest (a)	8 769.17	8 059.08	7 348.99	6 993.95	6 922.94	6 851.93	6 780.92	6 709.91	6 638.90	
Other wooded land (a)	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	54 080.98	
Other land (c-a-b)	19 478.85	20 188.94	20 899.03	21 254.07	21 325.08	21 396.09	21 467.10	21 538.11	21 609.12	
Total land area (c)	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	82 329.00	



Extent of naturally regenerating, plantation and other planted forests in Namibia



Forest can provide

- Subsistence goods
- Cash income
- Indirect social and environmental benefits

Sustainable Forest Management

Definition: Managing forests to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Local communities: critical partners in forest sustainability

- Local communities can be the most careful or the most careless stewards of forests.
- Poverty or the promise of short-term gains may motivate local people to overuse their forests.
- At the same time, local communities have a direct reliance on the forest and often a knowledge of the ***ecosystem*** that has evolved through time and close interaction with the forest.

Areas for action for People-centered approach to SFM

- Strengthening rights, capabilities and governance:
 - Reducing vulnerability
 - Capture emerging opportunities
 - Working in partnership

Here comes the concept of Sustainable development

- “Development that **meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future** generations to meet their own needs”, *1987 Bruntland Commission Report, United Nations*.
- Sustainable development **aims to attain a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the environment.**

Sustainable development

Bringing together multiple, interdependent dimensions



Linkages between Forests and SDGs

- SDGs with **direct environmental focus**
 - Land and biodiversity (SDG 15),
 - Food, hunger and agriculture (SDG 2),
 - Climate (SDG 13).
- Other goals are **indirectly related** to the physical environment
 - Water (SDG 6),
 - Natural disasters (SDGs 1 and 11),
 - Clean energy (SDG 7),
 - Oceans (SDG 14),
 - Human health (SDG 3),
 - Economic growth and employment (SDG 8),
 - Industry (SDG 9) and
 - Cities (SDG 11).

Impact opportunities for the forest sector to maximize its contribution to the SDGs

- Implement and promote sustainable forest management practices and expand community forests;
- Using forest **certification standards that are based on third-party verification**, independent accreditation, and transparent stakeholder engagement;
- Engaging with the finance sector to **develop new financial mechanisms** to accelerate investment into sustainable forest management;
- Supporting the development and implementation of **new tools and approaches to measure, value and manage biodiversity and ecosystem services** impacts and dependencies.

Impact opportunities for the forest sector to maximize its contribution to the SDGs...

- Counter the **forces that drive deforestation and forest degradation** by demonstrating and promoting successful models for sustainable forest management and wood procurement.
- Promote and engage in **context-based landscape management approaches, including around forest fire prevention** with the aim to enhance ecosystem services, improve resilience and help sustain forest production systems at local, regional and national levels.

Impact opportunities for the forest sector to maximize its contribution to the SDGs...

- Accelerate **research and science to better understand the dynamics of forests** to build a clear, consistent and science-based narrative to inform decisions.
- Support and **invest in reforestation, afforestation, wider land restoration and conservation efforts**, especially of unique forest values, in order to advance carbon dioxide removals to meet global climate goals and to enhance resilience to a changing climate.

The emerging picture

- Almost 30 years investment without significant gains on combating deforestation and forest degradation partly due to policy failures or contradictions of relevant policies in both forestry and related sectors.
- Biggest driving force is direct forest conversion to permanent agriculture and illegal logging (>70% of recent forest cover change).
- Deforestation and forest degradation is not happening uniformly within regions.
(Develop location specific plans?)

The emerging picture...

Namibian forests and trees support key sectors of the economy, viz. energy, crop and livestock agriculture, wildlife and tourism, water, employment and incomes for livelihood support to many.

❖ Therefore, deforestation and forest degradation are linked to overall national socio-economic development. *(Need for holistic approach to planning CC?- presently taking one sector at a time in CC debates?)*

Challenges and pressures of the forestry sector

Despite their great economic value, forests are the most mismanaged resources

- Poor forest governance: illegality, enforcement
- Population pressure: conversion into agric. land
- Dependence on biomass energy
- Weak monitoring systems
- Inadequate resource mobilization
- Illicit international timber trade

In addition, forest provide global public goods with external benefits

Challenges and pressures of the forestry sector



Conclusion

- It's an expedition
- Let's move forward together
- Sustainable and resilient livelihoods
- Resilient forest landscapes

Thank you very much for your attention