



PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT

FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH



FARM AFRICA

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FARM AFRICA'S VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS RURAL AFRICA

Investing in smallholder farming is key to combating poverty in rural Africa. Prosperity depends on making agriculture work better, using natural resources well, creating strong markets for what farmers produce and facilitating access to finance to grow agri-businesses.

Almost half the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority work in agriculture in rural areas. But agricultural yields and profits are a fraction of their potential.

The region is full of opportunities for growth, including much fertile land and water, and millions of smallholder farmers who are eager for change.

Farm Africa works with smallholders to develop practical solutions that work locally and can be replicated elsewhere. Our approach papers set out what we aim to deliver, and how, in support of our vision of a prosperous rural Africa.



PREFACE

Farm Africa's approach papers set out what we aim to deliver, and how, in relation to:

Agriculture



- technology
- climate-smart agriculture
- land, water and environment

Environment



- forests
- rangelands
- landscapes

Business



- business development
- trade
- finance



PREFACE

Participatory forest management (PFM) is a form of forest management that relies on formalised agreements between local communities and government. These agreements set out management responsibilities and arrangements for all people making a living from the forest, and ensure that its benefits are shared equally. This form of community-based natural resource management is increasingly common across the developing world.

Farm Africa's approach to PFM is **based on 20 years of practice and learning in the field.** It includes the guidelines developed by Farm Africa in 2007 and the Government of Ethiopia's harmonised PFM guidelines, which Farm Africa played a leading role in preparing. It also incorporates some recent lessons about the economic sustainability of the approach.

The hallmark of our PFM approach is the emphasis on the **simultaneous promotion of resource management and enterprise development.** Only by giving local people an economic incentive to sustainably manage and protect forests, can we ensure their long-term sustainability.

The approach applies specifically to state-owned forests where management is failing to prevent open access. The approach does not apply to privately owned forests or forest resources that are accessed under some form of forest-use license or 'concession'.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Many households in rural Africa derive a large share of their **food and income** from forests
- Past and current 'command and control' **forest management policies** applied across eastern Africa have discouraged the sustained use of forests by local communities, and encouraged conversions into farmland
- The forests these smallholders depend on are under serious threat from, often illegal and **unsustainable**, logging and fuelwood collection, conversion into farmland and pastures, fire, mining and oil exploration
- Underlying drivers of forest destruction include: population growth, weak institutional and legal frameworks, poverty, conflicts/war and poorly defined forest property rights



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- When deforestation occurs, **income opportunities** for local communities are lost, biodiversity, carbon stocks and other ecosystem services degrade, and the resilience of the entire socio-ecological system is compromised.
- There is growing evidence, including from Farm Africa's work, that **collaborative government-community systems of forest governance**, such as PFM, are much more likely to result in a positive forest management outcome and improved forest-based livelihoods for local forest-dependent communities.



THEORY OF CHANGE

MISSION

To ensure the management of forests is both environmentally sustainable and financially sustainable for smallholder farmers

GOALS



Forest conservation

Development of income generation activities



STAKEHOLDERS

Government

Forest-dependent communities

Private sector partners

OUTCOMES

Forest management agreements



Forest-based business development

OUTPUTS

Forest management plan

Forest management agreement

Forest products and services

Improved forest management capacity

Improved forest enterprise capacity

FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH

Our approach is based on the parallel development of both the **business** and **forest management** frameworks that underpin PFM.



FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH

We establish government-community partnerships and develop forest management agreements

We build local community organisation and business capacity

We build government capacity and inform policy and regulatory frameworks through evidence of impacts

We cultivate viable forest-based enterprises and/or payment for ecosystem services (PES), including with the engagement of the private sector

METHODOLOGY

Phase 1. Mobilisation	A. Getting started: Identify and mobilise stakeholders, including: local communities, private sector and relevant local government agencies
	B. Familiarisation: I. Clarify the rationale and socio-economic and ecological aims of PFM II. Discuss principles of forest management, including key steps and sustainability issues
	C. Organisation: Agree enterprise structure and form community organisation and/or cooperative, as required



METHODOLOGY

Phase 2. Planning	A. Forest management planning: Conduct a participatory forest resource assessment and create a forest management plan
	B. Value chain analysis: Assess forest products and ecosystem service potential, identify markets and constraints to market engagement
	C. Business development planning: Develop the forest enterprise business plan, then set up and legalise the forest enterprise
	D. Formalisation: Sign the forest management agreement



METHODOLOGY

Phase 3. Implementation	A. Forest management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Assess forest management capacity gaps and agree capacity building programme for local communities and relevant government agenciesII. Implement and monitor forest management capacity programme B. Business development: <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Assess capacity gaps in production, business management, trade and finance and agree business development planII. Implement and monitor agreed business development plan, including improvements in production, aggregation, marketing, access to finance and business capacity



HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPERS



What the approach papers are for:

- Provide clarity to the communities we work with and those who support us about what we do, and how
- Build coherence across our operations
- Ensure each project is based on our experiences, lessons learnt and consolidated knowledge

HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPERS

A typical natural resource management project



How to use the approach papers in project design:

- The structure of our approach does not mirror the organisation of our individual interventions. The latter are constructed by combining elements from the approach papers – as illustrated in the diagram to the left.
- While the approach papers give detailed guidance about how to do things, this will not always be followed to the letter in all projects. Local context and needs will continue to guide Farm Africa's project design and implementation.

We continuously learn and adjust our approach. The approach papers are regularly updated to reflect the dynamic nature of our experience.