

Towards Sustainable Forest Management of Natural Forests and Woodlands in Swaziland

Developing Biodiversity Assessment Techniques for use in FC

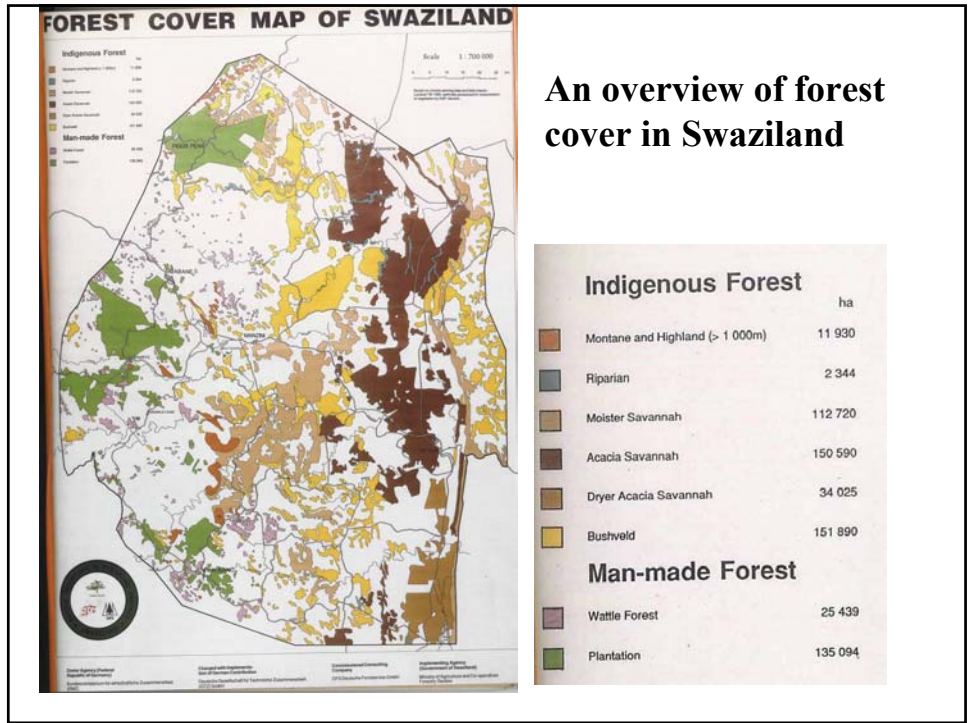


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Pilot Project Proposal - International Forest Certification
Training Programme, Garpenberg, Sweden, 27 May 2004

Objectives of the Pilot Project

- To develop a scientific method that may be used to objectively assess the biodiversity potential of natural forests and woodlands.
- To test the method by comparing the biodiversity value of various forest types in Swaziland.



An overview of forest cover in Swaziland



Some Milestones in Forest Management in Swaziland

- Forest Policy and Legislation (1998 -2002)
- National Level Criteria and Indicators for SFM developed from Montreal process and SADC initiatives for dryzone forests.
- National Standard for certification (2001)
I.e. C&I applicable at FMU level.
- Mondi and Shiselweni Forestry Company are FSC certified.
- SAPPI Usuthu is ISO 14000 certified.

Justification of Project

- Exploitation of timber and NTFP from NFW is informal and illegal.
- Consumption is local and tourism oriented but external markets for valuable wood exist.
- Full productivity potential of NFW is not being reached.
- Government and other stakeholders realise the urgent need to set up regulatory mechanisms.
- Future certification of NFW is a possibility.
- Thus, methodologies to aid various aspects of certification of NFW are relevant!

Approach / Methodology

- Literature review.
- Development of the tool for assessment of biodiversity potential for NFW.
- Discussion with key biodiv. specialists in Swaziland and RSA.
- Field work to test the tool.
- Further discussions with specialists to improve the tool.

Approach / Methodology

- Application of the method in multiple number of sites to allow comparison of biodiversity index of different sites.
- Give the scoring sheet to two independent scientists to score the biodiversity potential of some sites, and compare their results to mine.
- Compile a report and get ready for Tanzania.
- Present the report in Part II of the course.

Benefits of the Pilot Project

- Contribute to the development of FC for NFW.
- A user-friendly method that can be used with minimum qualifications in biodiversity assessment.
- Improve the method of assessing NFW currently in use.
- Useful as a training tool for people who want to be involved in FC of NFW in the future.



Thank
You
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