

# FOREST INFORMATION SYSTEM AND FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS  
FOR ESWATINI

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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Eswatini is a small land locked country in Southern Africa.
- ▶ Bordered by South Africa Mozambique.



# INTRODUCTION (Cont.)

The national forest inventory of 1999 at Eswatini indicated a 45% coverage of forests and woodlands:

- ❑ Natural forests 2.2%,
- ❑ Natural Woodlands 22.0%,
- ❑ Natural Bushlands 13.4%,
- ❑ Wattle forests 1.4%
- ❑ Plantation forests 6.4%.
- ▶ *A new national forest inventory is overdue.*

# OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To acquire a reliable data to form the basis for the long term guide for decision making, planning and monitoring of forest resources and activities.
- ▶ To Minimize the destructive Impact of uncontrolled fires on lives, property, resources and environment.
- ▶ To enable appropriate management and use of fire to enhance land use and promote sustainable livelihoods.
- ▶ To maintain and enhance ecosystem function and sustainability through appropriate fire regimes.

# PRESENT STATUS

- ▶ The country does not have an updated data on forest inventory.
- ▶ Lack of financial resources to undertake forest inventory
- ▶ The country experiences a widespread of forest fires countrywide.
- ▶ The local communities lack the knowledge and skills to fight the Fires.
- ▶ The fire fighting task has not been fully decentralized to rural communities.

# FUTURE PLANS

- ▶ To involve stakeholders in collecting forestry resources data and information annually.
- ▶ To conduct forestry resources assessment in the whole country.
- ▶ Continuous monitoring of the forest resources with the assistance of JAXA.
- ▶ Harmonize Institutional Fire Management Framework.
- ▶ Increase stakeholder awareness and participation of public and private institutions on Fire Management Issues.
- ▶ *By reducing wildfires in the country could improve the economy since Forestry, Agriculture and Pasture are greatly affected whereas they are the main drivers of the Economy.*

# STRATEGIES

- ▶ Forestry Department will collaborate with Forest Industry Companies in data collection for both natural forests and plantations.
- ▶ Conduct stakeholder workshops on data collection, processing, compilation and information dissemination.

# STRATEGIES (Cont.)

- ▶ Select focal areas in communities including those next to Forest Plantations and Cattle Fattening Ranches and urban areas.
- ▶ Mobilize traditional leaders to organize community meetings and trainings for selected volunteer fire brigades from each community.
- ▶ Encourage communities to have their own Firebreaks.
- ▶ Have fire management programmes for each community as they have their own unique land uses.
- ▶ Have Fire Brigades leading fire management programmes in their area.
- ▶ Finalize the MoU between Eswatini and South Africa that is aimed at dealing with trans boundary fire issues.



Thank you  
Siyabonga  
ke a leboga  
Asante sana