

Case 25: Z I M B A B W E

Sangoravakuru

Reported by Tafadzwa F. Chiparange

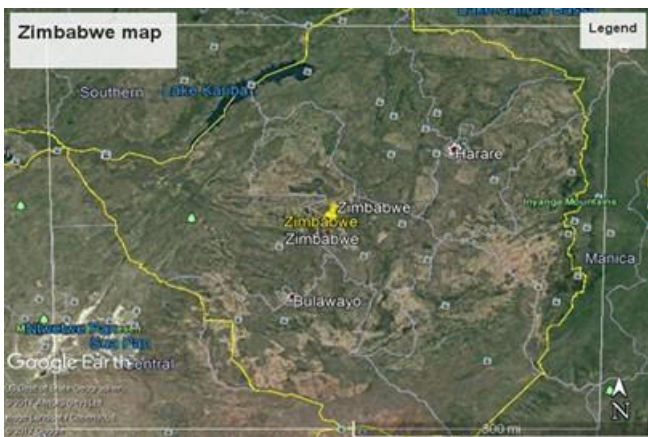
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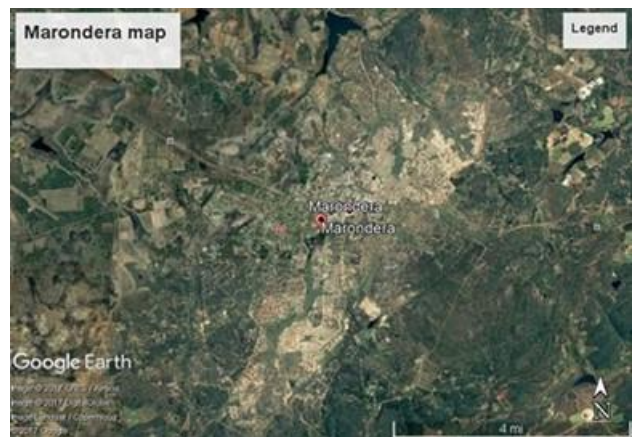
The Sangoravakuru is a 30 hectare indigenous forest that was set aside to protect the remaining portion of the Miombo woodland that used to exist in the communal area of Mahusekwa. The project involves the protection of indigenous trees by the use of traditional rules, norms and taboos. It has incorporated tree planting, pole treatment, livestock grazing and beekeeping components. The community under Chief Nenguwo also benefits from controlled collection of both timber and non-timber forest products from the forest as part of forest management. 128 households are involved in the management of the woodland. 60 representatives of the project members have been trained in seedling production, tree planting, orchard establishment, beekeeping and pole treatment.

Implementing Organization	Forestry Commission Add : C/O P. O. Box 748, Marondera, Zimbabwe Email: fcmasheast@gmail.com
Funding Source	Community initiative
Implementing Period	1992 – to date
Project site	Makahamadze, Marondera, Mashonaland East province, Zimbabwe

Key Words: Sustainable forest management, wetland protection, livelihoods support, beekeeping, Indigenous Knowledge Systems.



Zimbabwe map



Marondera map

Background of the Project

The forest is a remnant of the once dense indigenous Miombo forest that used to exist in the area. The remaining portion of the forest survived due to traditional knowledge systems that were introduced by local Nenguwo. The project was subsequently supported by with technical training by extension staff (Forestry Commission, Agricultural Extension Services, and Environmental Management Agency). The project was designed to protect the natural indigenous woodland with the aim of sustainably supplying forest products such as firewood, poles, back fibre, wild fruits, mushrooms, edible caterpillars, as well as protecting the wetland in the woodland.

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

- ✓ To promote active management of the existing indigenous woodland for the provision of forest and water resources to the local community of Chief Nenguwo's area through the application of provisions of the Communal Land Forest Produce Act (Cap19:04) and the Traditional Leaders Act (Cap 29:17).
- ✓ To capacitate both communities and key stakeholders in the adaptive collaborative forest management process through relevant technical training to meet the needs of local communities.

Major Activities

- ✓ Maintaining wetland site fence to keep out livestock;
- ✓ Planting of suitable tree species to increase forest cover for soil and water conservation;
- ✓ Management of beekeeping projects, as well as marketing of the honey;
- ✓ Pole treatment and marketing of poles;
- ✓ Training of community members on forest and water conservation;
- ✓ Introduction of wood energy saving technologies;
- ✓ Capacity building of local communities in forest good governance.

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ 30 hectares of indigenous forest conserved;
- ✓ Natural water sponge protected and water available throughout the year;
- ✓ 12 x 1-hectare exotic plantations established;
- ✓ Open tank pole treatment plant established and operational;
- ✓ 60 members of the woodland management project trained in various forest and water conservation programs.

Indirect Impact of the Project

- ✓ Forest cover and soil conservation improved;
- ✓ Local community livelihoods improved;
- ✓ Perennial water supply realised;
- ✓ Communities still respect IKS in conserving their forests;
- ✓ Improved pastures for livestock.

Challenges of the Project

The main challenges to sustainable forest management through the use of indigenous knowledge systems include:

- ✓ Land pressure in view of the growing population against a fixed land resource;
- ✓ Possible invasion of the local management system by those from outside the project area;

- ✓ Rural-urban emigration of project members, resulting in information gaps on the implementation of project activities.

Intervention of Central/Local Government and other stakeholders

- ✓ Forestry Commission provides training on forestry matters (seedling production, tree planting, pole treatment, woodland management and beekeeping);
- ✓ AGRITEX provides training on soil and water conservation;
- ✓ Environmental Management Agency (EMA) enforces environmental legislation;
- ✓ Traditional leaders (Village Heads and Chiefs) mobilise people to participate in all forest management activities;
- ✓ They (traditional leaders) ensure that the community adheres to traditional norms and taboos obtaining in the area.

Way Forward

- ✓ Intensify conservation awareness raising on forest resources
- ✓ Craft local level by-laws with deterrent penalties for transgressing of forestry-related offences;
- ✓ Provide incentives to surrounding villages for good forest practices.

Reference Documents/Materials

- ✓ Forestry Commission Annual Reports (1990 -2016);
- ✓ Living with trees: Policies for Forestry Management in Zimbabwe (1993) by: N. Bradley and K McNamara;
- ✓ Strategies for woodland management in Zimbabwe (1994) by Siphon Moyo

Resource Persons

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