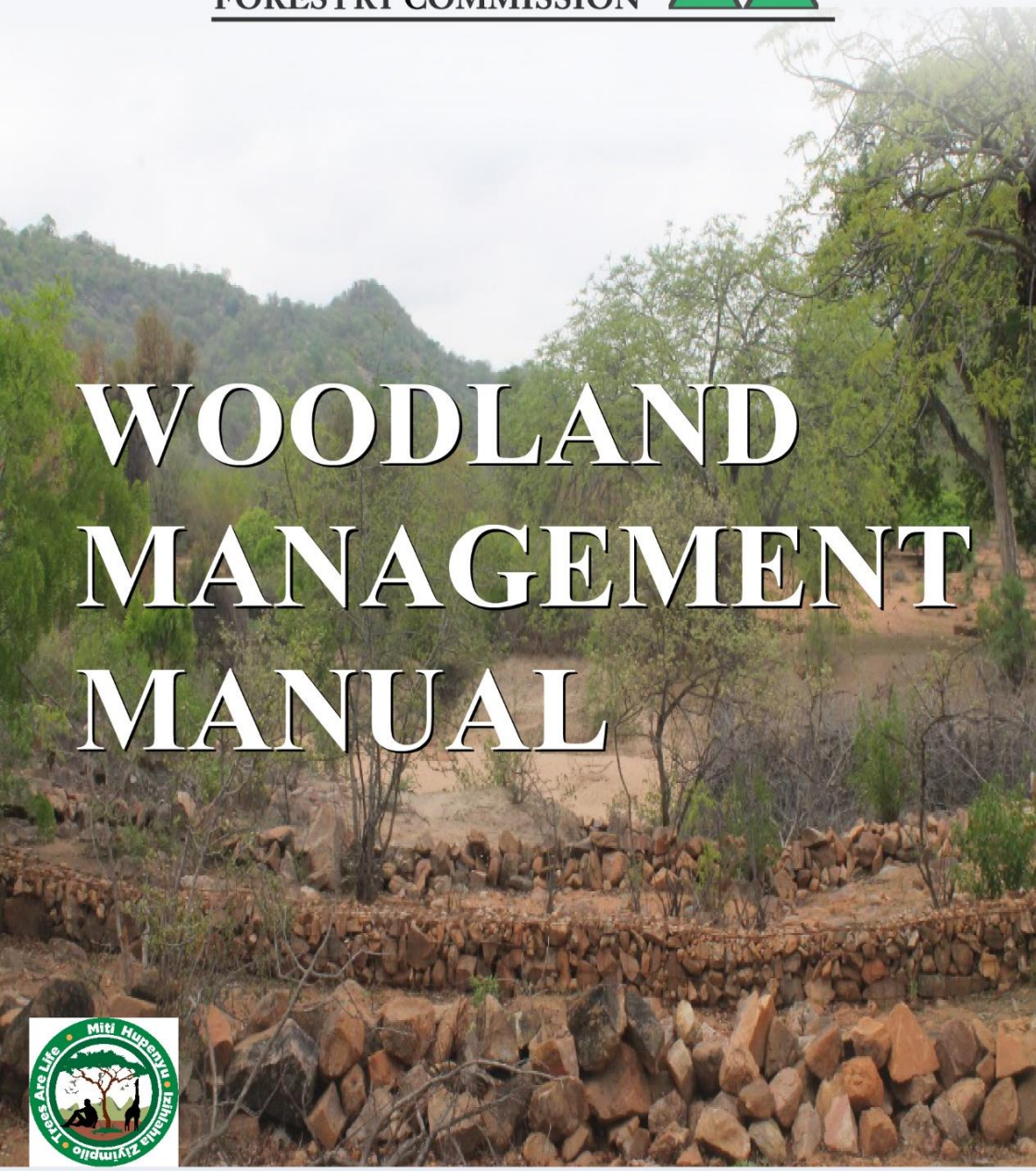
FORESTRY COMMISSION



WOODLAND MANAGEMENT MANUAL

What is a **Woodland**?

It is a tree-covered area which arose naturally and then put under some form of management by the local community or other institution.

Why Woodland management?

Primarily woodland management seeks ensure that trees and forests continue to be present in the environment while providing social, economic and ecosystem protection services and products for posterity. Woodland management is intended to address deforestation and forest degradation.

Deforestation – this is the removal of a forest or stand of trees where the land is thereafter converted to a non-forest use.

Forest degradation – means any negative changes in a forest that damage its productivity.

Woodland management objectives

The management of local woodlands should be based on a combination of:

1. the local community's social, environmental, economic and ecological needs; and
2. the National objectives of sustainable forest management, whose guidelines are provided by Government through the Forestry Commission.

The more commonly encountered woodland management objectives for local woodlands include, but certainly not limited to:

- General improvement in woodland condition. This may include the control of invasive alien plant species such as *Lantana camara* or *Opuntia aurantiaca*
- Eco-tourism promotion
- Woodland regeneration for socio-ecological and environmental services
- Biodiversity conservation
- Protection of archaeological or cultural features
- Integration of woodland and farm management – sometimes referred to as Agroforestry
- Enhancement or maintenance of recreational features, e.g. footpaths.
- Timber and firewood production
- Production of non-timber forest products, such as mushrooms, humus manure, bark fibre, fruits, medicines, bushmeat, wildland vegetables and forage for honey bees, among others.

Beekeeping is value-adding to woodland management

A Miombo woodland in Makoni district

What is woodland management

It is the management of Woodlands that have passed the establishment stage, including all measures designed to improve the quality and quantity of woodland growing stock and to maintain litter and herbaceous ground cover for soil, water, and other resource conservation. Some of these measures are enrichment planting, improvement cutting (e.g. pollarding), thinning, pruning, slash disposal, and protection from fire and unregulated browsing. These measures are intended to enhance the productivity and utility of woodlands in the provision of products and environmental/ecological services.

Woodland management benefits

Enhanced bee forage for honey production

- Fodder for livestock
- Edible fruits, insects wildland vegetables and mushrooms for food and nutrition security
- Water shade management
- Conservation and protection of the environment, including enhancement of soil stabilization
- Medicinal benefits from various species within woodlands
- Fuel wood for various activities which require heat energy
- Conservation of wildlife for ecotourism
- Clean air and water purification
- Carbon storage
- Outdoor recreation
- Availability of timber and non-timber forest products (including humus manure)

Mushroom growing on anthill

Various fruits from woodlands

Thatch-grass

Steps in Woodland management planning

Stage	Explanatory notes
Idea generation	The idea to introduce woodland management programmes can be initiated by the Forest officer, the community or land owner.
Consultative meeting	The Forest officer and the community or land owner explore the management objective(s) of the woodland to guide subsequent planning processes
Resource mapping & inventory	The Forest officer and the community or land owner go through a process of systematically identifying the forest resources in the woodland; their quality, quantity(ies) and distribution to guide management strategies
Formulation of management plan	This is the document that guides management and use of the woodland resources. It also lays down the structure of the management system, schedule of management activities, impact monitoring and conflict management mechanisms, among other things.
Formulation of management structure(s)	This is the process of putting in place the Resource Management Committee (in the case of community projects), as well as the regulations or constitution guiding resource management and benefit distribution. Traditional leaders play a critical role in the control of forest resource harvesting and utilization (governance issues). This could be guided by a written set of local level by-laws (a constitution) or undocumented traditional norms and values.
Implementation	Performing planned activities
Monitoring & evaluation	Checking progress against plan

Activities for woodland management

- Pruning to improve tree form and fruit productivity
- Thinning out to improve under-growth and as a way of controlled/selective harvesting
- Enrichment planting to increase tree population, plant diversity and bee forage
- Tree planting to reinforce contours
- Coppice management
- Fire management to protect woodland from fire destruction
- Pollarding as a sustainable harvesting wood harvesting method
- Bee keeping
- Scouting for diseases and pests
- Selective harvesting

1. Coppicing stump

2. Pollarded tree stem

3.Woodland showing

The activities of pruning, thinning, coppice reduction, pollarding and selective harvesting, would in most cases yield products such as poles, wood for carving and firewood which the land owner can utilize as benefit from the woodland management project.

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