

Brief on Methodological Approach

National Forestry Resources Monitoring and Assessment (NAFORMA)

Forest and Beekeeping Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
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Background

The demand for forest related information in Tanzania as well as in other developing countries is continuously expanding especially due to the increasing attention to the climate change mitigation and adaptation. The National Forestry Resources Monitoring and Assessment (NAFORMA) project in Tanzania has been formulated to provide forest resource related information for national policy and strategy processes and forestry planning in Tanzania. The project will be implemented by the Forest and Beekeeping Division (FBD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

This project will develop sound baseline information on the forest and tree resources and related socio-economic data and will assist the FBD to establish a long-term monitoring system of the forestry ecosystems. NAFORMA will address prioritized domestic information needs as well as the international reporting requirements, thereby be able to provide necessary data and information to users (both local and international) on timely and regular basis. The project will also take into consideration the emerging need to improve readiness for REDD monitoring and GHG reporting (IPCC guidance).

Objectives - Inception Phase :

- Establish a broad consensus at the national level on the approach to NAFORMA in Tanzania.
- Strengthen capability of FBD to collect, analyse and update the needed information on forests and trees for planning and sustainable management of the forestry resources.
- Prepare a national map based on harmonised classification of forest and land uses and related definitions.
- Undertake a national forestry resource assessment and develop national database.
- Design specific and management oriented inventory in priority areas and formulate projects.

During the inception phase of the NAFORMA, special emphasis will be put on mapping and analyzing the information needs in cooperation with stakeholders, which will be basis for the detailed inventory design. The expanded information needs will have impact on costs and approach of the NAFORMA and therefore careful assessment of information needs with agreed prioritizing with the key stakeholders is essential for meeting all the necessary information needs nationally and internationally. Secondly, the data needs assessment and improved inventory design will help in implementing NAFORMA efficiently and it will improve overall effectiveness of the utilization of the results.

Issues to be studied

1. Information needs and definition of variables for the inventory

- Reviewing and analysing relevant existing forest resource information: bio-physical and forest related socio-economic data, from the point of view of defining NAFORMA information needs.
- Identifying potential stakeholders and cooperation partners (forestry, other government sectors, private sector, NGOs etc.) for NAFORMA and drafting their roles related to the project.
- Mapping of different stakeholders' information needs on forest resources and related socio-economic, livelihood, biodiversity etc.
- Assessing existing land cover and land-use mapping activities and projects, and their potential inputs and cooperation with NAFORMA remote sensing activities.
- Mapping of other potential information sources in order to avoid overlapping and utilization of that data in NAFORMA.
- Reviewing REDD monitoring and GHG reporting data needs.
- Mapping of data needs for international reporting and processes.
- Proposing a prioritized and structured approach for NAFORMA data needs.
- Introducing a prioritized list of bio-physical and socio-economic indicators and variables for NAFORMA.

2. Methodological issues

- Studying the existing methodologies and forest inventory information in Tanzania which may benefit NAFORMA and vice versa.
- Reviewing the FAO model approach to NFMA and the sampling design, identifying strengths and weaknesses in consideration of the information needs and requirements.
- Proposing improvements to FAO proposed sampling design to meet national information needs or if need be introducing alternative approaches and designs for meeting various information needs.
- Presenting costs, applicability and timeline implications for the alternative information needs, approaches, scalability(national – sub-national) and design.
- Preparing a proposal on classification and definitions on land-use and forests.
- Proposing an approach for integrating remote sensing with field data collection.
- Preparing a proposal on integration of data needs for REDD monitoring and GHG reporting to NAFORMA.
- Introducing a sampling design and layout for NAFORMA including bio-physical and socio-economic data.
- Preparing recommendations for effective stakeholder participation to the NAFORMA process.