



THINK NAMIBIA
Sustainable Forest
Management

FACT SHEET ON:

Different Roles of Forestry Stakeholders in Namibia

This fact sheet provides information on important stakeholders in Namibian forests.

INTRODUCTION

Stakeholders are defined as people with an interest or concern in something, in this case, people with an interest in forests and forestry related activities. Stakeholders work together to ensure that the goals of Sustainable Forest Management are achieved.

It is important to ensure that all stakeholders with a role to play in the sector fulfil their various responsibilities. Adequate stakeholder engagement helps to promote informed decision-making and development.

The different stakeholders have their own approaches, varying in methods, intensity, and frequency of engagement. This diversity can be embraced to promote the objectives of efficient and effective forest management.

THE MAIN ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Stakeholders are important for Sustainable Forest Management as they:

- Are the users of the wood and other forest resources, thereby controlling the forest product market through supply and demand.
- Are part of the development or gazetting of Community Forests and other forest protection areas.
- Form part of management through the development of management plans in Community Forests.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation of forest health and management, analyse threats and opportunities.
- Are responsible for decision-making in improving forest management.
- Assist with raising funds for Sustainable Forest Management.
- Are responsible for drafting and implementing policies and regulations.

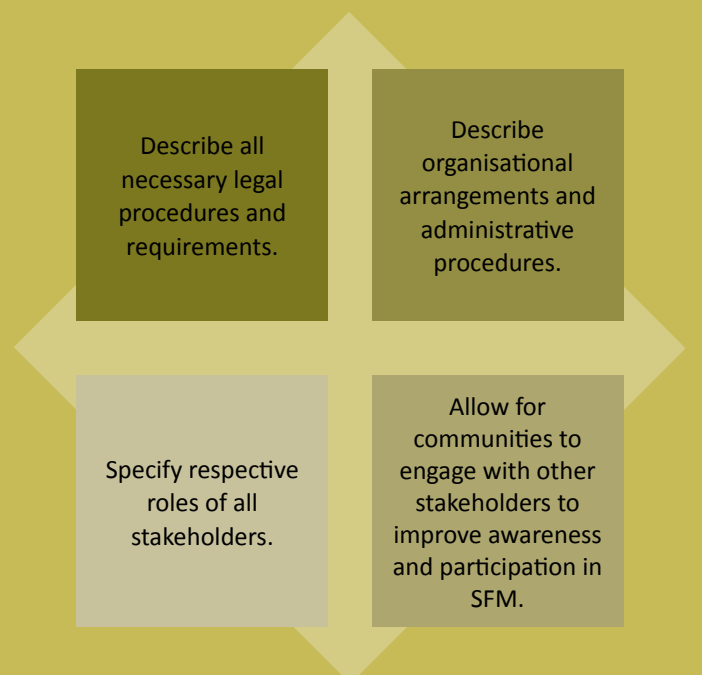
IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

When making initial stakeholder engagements, it is necessary to identify and consult all relevant stakeholders.



Figure 1: Different levels of stakeholder

Following identification, it is important to create an understanding of what the various roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders are from the outset.



SFM=Sustainable Forest Management

Figure 2: Requirements for initial stakeholder engagements

KEY FORESTRY STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Following the identification of stakeholders, it is critical that appropriate responsibilities be identified for all. Forest management is a collaborative effort among various stakeholders who each have a different role to play in achieving the objectives of forestry management.

Table 1: The responsibilities of key stakeholders in Community Forest management (Directorate of Forestry, 2005)

	Institution	Responsibilities
Key stakeholders	Traditional Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership and consent to allow the gazetting of Community Forests. • Approve the boundaries of Community Forests. • Lead conflict resolution within the community.
	Forest Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as signatories of the Community Forest formation agreement with the minister. • Responsible for the day-to-day management, planning, and control of Community Forest operations.
	Directorate of Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide extension services to the Community Forests. • Enforce the relevant forestry legislation.

Apart from the key stakeholders in community forestry, there are other important forestry stakeholders with various roles to play.

Table 2: Important stakeholders in forestry management

Institution	Responsibilities
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	Provide policy guidance for community conservation and forestry.
Ministry of Lands	Ensure that the declaration of Community Forests is in line with the land reform legislation.
Ministry of Agriculture and Water	Provide support for non-forest land use projects and regulate the trade in products from such projects.
Ministry of Justice	Review the legislation affecting the registration of Community Forests, and affecting other protected forest areas.
Regional government	Provide support for Community Forests and ensure they are in line with regional development.
Conservation organisations (such as IRDNC, NNF)	Support communities in their management and planning efforts.
Universities and research organisations	Provide research support and training in forest management for foresters and other key staff members.

IRDNC = Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation;
NNF = Namibia Nature Foundation

Governing authority for forestry stakeholders

The Directorate of Forestry of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is responsible for protecting the country's forest resources and the rights of people to use and benefit from them. They do this by developing control measures to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources.

The Directorate of Forestry ensures this by doing the following:

- Enforcing regulations that uphold the implementation of the Forest Act.
- Offering extension services to communities.
- Carrying out national programmes on forest conservation, including research, education, and training.
- Carrying out day-to-day operations in line with forest management.
- Setting fair prices for forest products and permits.
- Ensuring property rights for the beneficiaries of forest resources.

Challenges to stakeholder participation in Sustainable Forest Management

Challenges include:

- Disputes among different stakeholders.
- Language barriers, especially in working with rural communities.
- Communities' acceptance of new concepts with which they are unfamiliar.
- Poor or limited understanding of legal documents.
- Unrealistic expectations among stakeholders before discussions are held.
- Different cultural or educational backgrounds of stakeholders.

Best practices for stakeholder participation

In order to ensure effective outcomes of stakeholder engagement it is important to ensure:

- Strong baseline consultations, to allow for all relevant stakeholders to be identified and made part of the process.
- Regular communication among stakeholders to keep everyone informed about the happenings relating to Sustainable Forest Management.
- Collaborative training whenever possible to ensure that all stakeholders are equipped with the necessary skills for Sustainable Forest Management.
- Co-financing: Stakeholders should explore opportunities for co-financing, which would make the financing of Sustainable Forest Management projects easier through the pooling together of several funds.

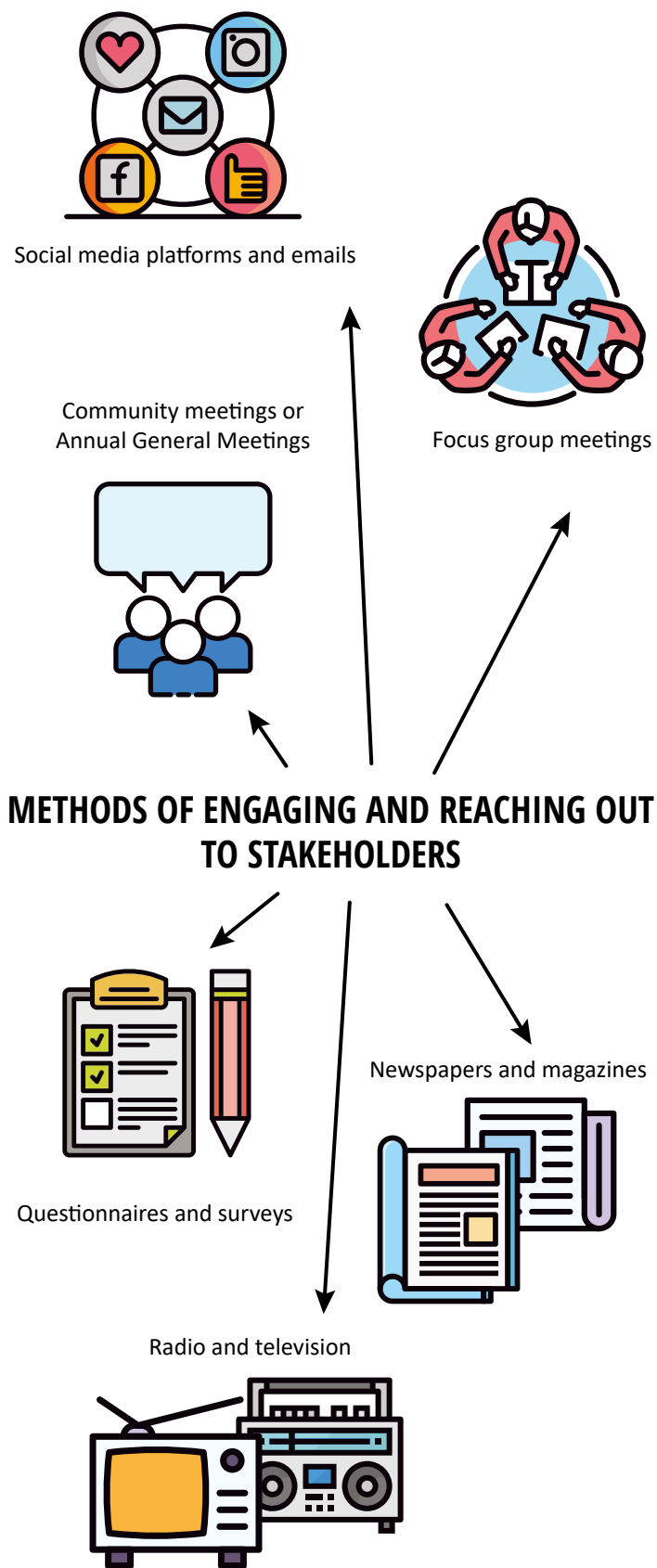


Figure 3: Common ways of engaging or reaching out to different stakeholders

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

Partnerships or collaboration is important among forestry stakeholders, as they help create a pool of skills, financial resources, and shared opportunities.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN BE BENEFICIAL IN FOREST MANAGEMENT



Figure 4: Strategic partnerships to assist in forest management

CONCLUSION

For a country like Namibia, whose Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programme is world renowned, it is of utmost importance to have multi-stakeholder participation in the development of forest management programmes, to ensure that these fit in with the existing CBNRM programmes. Multi-stakeholder engagement with regular communication is therefore a critical aspect in Sustainable Forest Management.

GLOSSARY

Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programme:

An approach that allows local communities to be directly involved in the conservation and management of natural resources to support development, poverty eradication, and income generation.

Stakeholder:

An individual or institution with an interest in a business or project. They either affect or are affected by the activities of the project, in this case of forestry related activities.

Sustainable Forest Management:

The management of forests in a way that balances the social, ecological, and economic aspects of benefits derived from forests.

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