



# INCREASE IN FSC FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED AREA IN NAMIBIA



AUTHOR

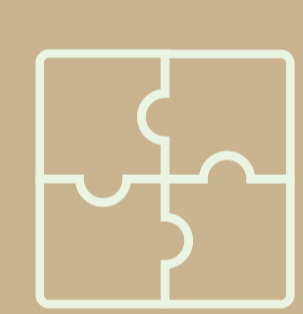
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Namibia is a country located in the south western part of Africa and has a population of approximately 2.6 million people. Bush encroachment is a serious land degradation phenomenon affecting up to 45 million hectares of namibian land. It has severe negative consequences on key ecosystem services, threatening biodiversity, water resources and the livelihoods of communities and farmers who depend on the land.



## Scope and main objectives

- The main objective was to support the growth of FSC certification via the development of a locally relevant forest stewardship standard for Namibia.
- Contributing to the above, was the need of a platform for stakeholder engagement, raising awareness of the value of the FSC Brand, increasing relevance for smallholder certification and increasing the focus of forest restoration in Namibia.



## Conclusions

- Cross sector investment and commitment by international and local partners has created a model for economically viable restoration of degraded forests in Namibia.
- Retail partners create demand for responsible products, shifting the move towards responsible forest management.
- Independent studies on responsible procurement in key markets assists consumer understanding of the need of eco labels and the impact of their purchases.
- Investment in human resources by FSC is required to support technical areas in implementation of FSC standards.



## Results



- Forest certification and responsible forest management grew from approximately 300,000 hectares to 1.6 million hectares over a 2 year period. FSC facilitated a chamber balanced standard development group of 6 local experts in the development of a National Forest Stewardship Standard for Namibia.
- Stakeholder engagement in the development of the Standard covered 120 days and included local experts, NGOs and regional stakeholders.
- This FSC Standard focussed on the restoration of degraded forests, effective after-care and improved working conditions for labour.
- Best available information – guidelines, scientific reports and expert engagement along with the results of monitoring and evaluation is utilised in adaptive management on FSC certified farms.
- User friendly technology was developed and implemented over a 2 year period to assist farmers with the acquisition of knowledge of responsible forest management practices and provide for monitoring and evaluation of key metrics.
- Capacity development via on-site training on the FSC Standard for farm managers and practical training on best practices for field workers was carried out.

