Foreword

Prior to independence, without the existence of formal management and lacking ownership over resources, communities undertook few coordinated natural resources management activities. This resulted in fragmentation, neglect and conceivably over-exploitation of natural resources.

One of the many tasks that the Namibian Government faced in the early 1990s was to evolve a structure for the management of natural resources, both wildlife and forestry in communal areas previously deprived from accessing such resources.

Today, community forest management bodies monitor, manage resource use and also provide legitimate structures that enable communities to engage in equitable opportunities with woody and non-woody enterprises, government and non-governmental organisations.

All this noble empowerment processes are as a result of legislative reforms that the Namibian government has undertaken, namely through the Nature Conservation Amendment Act, No 5 of 1996 and the Forest Act No 12 of 2001. The Forest Act of 2001, as amended by the Forestry Amendment Act no 13 of 2005 outlines how forest resources may be used and the responsibilities of the users. Through its Directorate of Forestry (DoF), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) is responsible for the protection of Namibia’s forests and ensuring the people’s right to the use of forest resources. This has been done and continues to be done through the policies developed to control practices that have negative effects on the forests, without depriving people of their right to use forest resources and safeguarding biodiversity.

In collaboration with development partners, the Namibian government continues to be the pioneer in sustainable management of its natural resources. One of such efforts is the Sustainable Management of Namibia’s Forested Lands (NAFOLA) project. NAFOLA is a five-year project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the MAWF. The overall objectives of the project are to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape (community forests) and to contribute to the improvement of rural livelihoods.

Since its inception in April 2015, NAFOLA has rolled out activities in 13 identified Community Forests (CF), commonly known as hotspots, with focus on legalizing these to ensure sound management systems.

At the same time, NAFOLA continues to investigate mechanisms to integrate forest management with other land-based activities such as agriculture and wildlife management.

MAWF sees NAFOLA as a project that will complement government effort of enhancing ownership, create equitable opportunities and sustainable management of natural forest resources by communities.

Mr. Abraham Nehemia  
Acting Permanent Secretary:  
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
## ABBREVIATIONS

| CA  | Conservation Agriculture                      |
| CF  | Community Forest                              |
| DAPEES | Directorate of Agriculture Production Engineering and Extension Services |
| DoF | Directorate of Forestry                       |
| FMC | Forest Management Committee                   |
| FMP | Forest Management Plan                        |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility                   |
| GPS | Global Positioning System                     |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH |
| IFMP | Integrated Forest Management Plan             |
| MAWF | Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry |
| NAFOLA | Sustainable Management of Namibia’s Forested Lands |
| PRA | Participatory Rural Appraisal                  |
| PLO | Project Liaison Officer                       |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management                 |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme          |

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Namibia is a dry country, with a mean precipitation of 250mm per year. These climatic conditions are worsened by human activities which present serious challenges in terms of desertification, land degradation and drought. Due to the climatic differences within the country, Namibia has a broad variety of plant species from desert and semi-desert vegetation to evergreen subtropical plants.

About 70% of Namibia is savannah, predominately Thornbush in central Namibia. Towards the North-East, where there is higher rainfall, the Thornbush savannah slowly turns into Miombo savannah with a greater tree density. In the relatively humid Zambezi, the dominant vegetation form is the woodland savannah, interspersed with single baobabs, wild figs and Makalani palms.

Forests are a vital natural resource in Namibia as they reduce soil erosion and conserve water, maintain biodiversity, and provide many products such as wood and food to communities. Without forests, large areas in Namibia would become degraded, and the communities in those areas would suffer in various ways. Forests are important because they:

- form the source of livelihood for different human settlements, from woody and non-woody products, e.g. droppers, poles, firewood, basket salos, food and medicine;
- are complex ecosystems, with a variety of animals and plants species contained in them;
- offer watershed protection;
- prevent soil erosion, help maintain the water cycle, and serve as carbon sinks.

Types of Forests in Namibia

Classified forests in Namibia are grouped into State Forest Reserves, Regional Forest Reserves, Community Forests and Forest Management Areas.

**Community Forests**

They are declared on communal land, with the agreement of the Chief or Traditional Authority. A body representing the people who traditionally use the community forest is appointed as the forest management authority.

**State Forest Reserves**

They are normally declared on state land that is not communal. However, on reasonable grounds, for effective management, any communal land can be declared as a state forest for the purposes of managing forest resources of national importance or to preserve the ecosystems and other components of biological diversity.

**Regional Forest Reserves**

They are similar to state forest reserves, but they are created at the request of the Regional Council, which negotiates with the Chief or Traditional Authority and others whose rights are affected.

**Forest Management Areas**

They are created by agreement between the Minister and the owners or legal occupiers of land and are not part of classified forests.

Despite the government and community member’s efforts to sustainably manage community forests, the forests continue to be under threats such as:

- Over harvesting of forest resources
- Uncontrolled forest fires
- Uncontrolled clearing of land for crop cultivation and other uses
- Poor livestock grazing practices
- Bush encroachment
According to the provisions of the Forest Act No. 12 of 2001, a CF is an area in the communal lands of Namibia for which local communities have obtained the rights to manage forests, woodlands and other types of natural vegetation. A CF is managed and guided by the sustainable principles, ensuring that the forest resources are not depleted but are sustainably utilized. This also involves the equitable sharing of benefits among all local residents within the community.

What does NAFOLA Aim to Achieve?

NAFOLA is a five year Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded project implemented by the MAWF. The overall objective is to reduce pressure on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. This is done by facilitating the formalisation of 9 CFs, enhance community ownership and local capacity in the management of CF resources. Furthermore, NAFOLA aims to increase the uptake of improved agriculture, livestock and forestry management practises to reduce pressure on forest resources. This will increase the productivity of the dry lands ecosystem while reducing deforestation and secure the environmental benefits of forest resources in Namibia. The land use practises in communal lands comprise of a large portion of subsistence crop and livestock farming.
Currently NAFOLA is operating in 7 regions covering 13 CFs. This includes areas that are declared as communal conservancies as well as already gazetted CFs.

Where does NAFOLA Work?

**Main roads**

Main towns

NAFOLA Hotspots

- African Wild Dog
- Ehirinspuka
- Erouko
- Ongana
- Oshiku-Shulikinde
- Oijhuru
- Oiju West
- Oshaampula
- Okongo
- Onumbeanglo
- Ojimbando
- Onkumbula

The 13 CF Hot-spots in Namibia.

**Gazetting is the formal registration and official declaration of a CF, this involves an application process and consensus on collaboration with the community. Once a CF is gazetted, it receives distinct rights over the management and sustainable use of its forest resources.**

**The management committees of CFs become legal structures and acquire mandates to, for example, enter into contracts with third parties and retain income from these agreements. Gazetting CFs means that communities take ownership and management of forest related resources.**
### NAFOLA HOTSPOT

**African Wild Dog Community Forest**

**Emerging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>5,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>473,224.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Otjozondjupa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical features</td>
<td>Mostly, thornveld savanna in sandy rocky area with 350-400mm annual rainfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land uses</td>
<td>Livestock farming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Main forest resources  | • *Acacia melilfera* (omusaona, black thorn) - Wood for firewood, poles and droppers used for fencing, poots put in omaere
| and their use           | • *Terminalia sericea* (omuseyasetu also known as silver leaf) - Poles and droppers used as fencing materials
|                        | • *Acacia erioloba* (omumbonde also known as camel thorn) - Pods used as livestock feed |
| 2015 Achievements      | Milestones |
|                        | • Institutional cooperation and relevant stakeholders identified
|                        | • Awareness raising for communities underken
|                        | • Drafting of the Constitution and by-laws finalised
|                        | • Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) completed
|                        | • Celebrated Arbor day
|                        | • Assessment of auction kraals site for livestock offtake
|                        | • Baseline assessment on rangeland management and livestock husbandry was undertaken
|                        | • Participated in the Okondjatu Expo and Talent Show |

### EHIROVIPUKA

**Community Forest**

**Emerging**

| Approximate population | 1,612 |
| Area (hectares)        | 198,406.10 |
| Region                 | Kunene and Omusati |
| Geographical features  | Predominantly covered in Acacia Tree-and-Shrub Savannahs (mainly Mopane, to Acacia trees-and-shrubs in the South - West with Western Kalahari and partial Karstveld biome in the north and east respectively). Annual rainfall is 250-300mm on average |
| Land uses              | Predominantly livestock (small & large stock) farming, wildlife conservation and small scale crop farming |
| Main forest resources  | • *Colophospermum mopane* (Mopane, Omusati)
| and their use           | • *Terminalia pruinioides* (Purple-pod Terminalia, Omuhama)
|                        | • *Combretum imberbe* (Lead-wood, Omumborombonga)
|                        | (All whose trunks, branches are used for poles and droppers. Leaves and seeds used for perfume and firewood) |
| 2015 Achievements      | Milestones |
|                        | • Provided information and awareness
|                        | • Conducted PRA (socio-economic data & resource-use preference data collection)
|                        | • Conducted CF Inventory (forest resource assessment)
|                        | • Compiled community forest boundary clarification
|                        | • Undertook rangeland assessment |
### Epukiro Community Forest

**Emerging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>6,106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>1,092,680.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Geographical features**

- A large part of the area is dominated by sandy soils of the Kalahari desert. Equally there are valleys (Omuramba) running in between sand dunes of the Kalahari desert with a small portion of the land covered in mountains. Annual rainfall is 250mm-450mm

**Land uses**

- Main land use is Livestock and small stock farming, and small-scale crop farming

**Main forest resources and their use**

- **Devils claw** (Ojihangatene) – tuber used for medicinal purposes
- **Terminalia sericea** (Omusiasetu) - droppers and poles for construction of kraal and camp fencing, leaves used for fodder
- **Acacia mellifera** (Omusana) - deadwood used for firewood; roots used for fermenting sour milk
- **Philenoptera nelsi** (Omupanda) - leaves are used for fermenting sour milk
- **Grevia flava** (Omuvapu) - stalk used to make walking sticks(Onguinja)
- **Acacia erioloba** (Ombumonde) - pods used for fodder
- **Diospyros lyciodes** (Omukohatjinjo) - roots used as toothpaste

### Okongo Community Forest

**Gazetted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>1,250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>77,890.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Ohangwena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Geographical features**

- This area has a predominantly woodland vegetation type. The soil ranges from sandy loam to loamy clay with deep Kalahari Sand. The annual rainfall is 450mm-600mm

**Land uses**

- Crops fields (pearl millet, sorghum, beans) and grazing areas for livestock and wildlife

**Main forest resources and their use**

- **Pterocarpus angolensis** (Kiaat) (Omuuva) - Timber for furniture making, traditional dye
- **Baikiaea plurijug** (Rhodensia Teak) (Omuupa) - Timber, poles and firewood
- **Barkea Africana** (Wild Syringe), **Terminalia Sericea** (Silver Terminalia) (Omoolo), **Combretum Collinum** (Bush willow) (Omupupuncture) - Poles, firewood, fencing and construction materials
- **Schinziophyton rautanenii** (mangetti) (Omunghete), **Strychnos cocculoides** (Monkey orange) (Omauni), Grewia sp. (Eeshe) - Fruits used for consumption (dry fruit, oil and gin making)
- Grass - fodder for livestock and used as thatch roof for homesteads

**2015 Achievements**

**Milestones**:

- Training of Directorate of Forestry (DoF), community members and NAFOLA staff on Global Positioning System (GPS) and forest inventories (assessments)
- Forest inventory completed
- New Forest Management Committee (FMC) elected and the new bank account signatory established
- Training of FMCs on their role and responsibilities, permits and financial management completed
- Building plan for the construction of carpentry storage facility and workshop completed.
- Two farmers selected for Conservation Agriculture in collaboration with Directorate of Agriculture Production, Engineering and Extension Services (DAPEES)
### Omundaungilo Community Forest

**Approximate population**: 5,590  
**Area (hectares)**: 22,210.59  
**Region**: Ohangwena  
**Geographical features**: Most of the forest area has deep Kalahari Sand with soil ranging from sandy loam to loamy clay. The annual rainfall ranges between 450 mm-600 mm  
**Land uses**:  
- Crops fields (pearl millet, sorghum and beans)
- Grazing areas for livestock and wildlife  
**Main forest resources and their use**:  
- *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Kiaat*, (Omuuva) - Poles, firewood used for construction of homestead, fencing and building kraals  
- *Schinzophyton rautanenii*, *Mangetti*, (Omanghete), *Strychnos Cocculoides*, *Monkey orange*, (Omauni) and *Grewia sp*. *Rasin tree*, (Eeshe) - Indigenous fruits are consumed as food, dry gin and oil production  
- *Baikiaea plurijug*, *Rhodesia teak*, (Omupapa) - Timber used for making furniture  
- *Terminalia sericea*, *Silver terminalia* (Omugolo) - Poles, firewood, ropes used for fencing and construction materials  
- Grass, shrubs and tree leaves for grazing and browsing by livestock, thatch grass and used as roof for construction

**2015 Achievements**  
- FMC elected  
- FMC and headmen held a meeting for consultation of draft constitution  
- PRA was conducted at Omundaungilo CF in 5 centers  
- PRA report was drafted  
- FMCs trained on their role and responsibilities, permits and financial training  
- Two farmers selected for Conservation Agriculture (CA) practice  
- One hectare ripped/ploughed for each farmer

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### Ongandjera Community Forest

**Approximate population**: 19,802  
**Area (hectares)**: 507,373.26  
**Region**: Omusati  
**Geographical features**: Flat landscape dominated by mopane scrubland with areas of grassland, salt pan, Kalahari woodland and mosaic sands. Average annual rainfall of 350-400 mm  
**Land uses**:  
- Crop production mainly pearl millet and sorghum production for household consumption and surplus sold  
- Livestock farming mostly cattle and small stock  
**Main forest resources and their use**:  
- *Colophospermum Mopane*, *Mopane* (Omusati) - used for poles, firewood and medicinal purposes  
- *Terminalia prunioides*, *Purpe* – pod of *Terminalia spp* (Omuhama) - used for poles and leaves are used for tea  
- *Harpagophytum*, *Devils Claws* (Omakakata) – used for medicinal purposes

**2015 Achievements**  
- All documents have been submitted for gazettement purposes
### ONKUMBULA Community Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>11,550</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>56,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Oshikoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical features</td>
<td>Mostly a woodland forested area which is normally plain, dominated by woody species that have high timber potential. There is sandy soil and sandy loamy with an average rainfall of 250-450 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land uses</td>
<td>Crop production and livestock production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main forest resources and their use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Terminalia sericea (Silver terminalia, Omoolo) - poles, droppers, firewood, used for construction of homesteads and fences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Firewood used for cooking and braaing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pterocarpus angolensis (Kiaat, Omuvu) - Timber, poles, firewood, medicinal purposes, furniture and bulding materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Barkea plurijuga (Rhodesia teak, Omupapa) - Timber, poles, droppers used for furniture making, wood carving, construction of homesteads and fences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 Achievement Milestones

- CF boundaries demarcated and agreed upon
- CF map created and agreed upon
- FMC elected and approved
- Condition of use or by-laws drafted and adopted
- Constitution and benefit distribution plan drafted and adopted
- PRA conducted
- Office site identified and demarcated

### OSHAAMPULA Community Forest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate population</th>
<th>1,136</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area (hectares)</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Oshikoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographical features</td>
<td>Slightly elevated terraces with scattered clay pans and ponds, dominated by poor nutrient deep sandy soils. The vegetation type is woodland with an average rainfall of 400mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land uses</td>
<td>Livestock, crop farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main forest resources and their use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Combretum collinum (Bushwillow) - Poles for houses and fence construction; firewood for cooking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Terminalia sericea (Silver terminalia) - Poles for houses and fence construction, firewood for cooking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dichrostachys cinerea (Sickle bush) - Poles for houses, fencing and firewood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Burkea africana (Red syringa) - Poles for houses and fencing as well as selling and mortars for pounding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ximenia americana (Blue sour plum) - Fruits for essential oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 Achievements

- Forest Inventory was conducted
- Potential income generating opportunities identified
- Rangeland and livestock assessments conducted
- Office site identified and design completed
OSHIKUSHIITHILONDE

Community Forest

Emerging

Approximate population
5,000

Area (hectares)
86,977.86

Region
Oshana and Omusati

Geographical features
Mainly flat landscape with salt pans with sandy to loamy soils. The vegetation is mostly Mopane shrubland and an annual rainfall of 300–500 mm

Land uses
• Subsistence crop farming
• Livestock and small stock farming
• Grazing

Main forest resources and their use
• *Terminalia sericea* - Poles and droppers, used for firewood
• *Commiphora spp* - Traditional carvings (cups, knife handles, traditional plates)
• *Colophospermum mopane* (Mopane tree) - Poles, droppers used in construction of homesteads, roots, leaves used for medicinal purposes and mopane worms for consumption
• *Harpagophytum* (Devils claw) - Tubers used for medicinal purposes

2015 Achievements
Milestones
• Income generation consultation was undertaken
• Integrated Forest Management Plan (IFMP) was finalised
• Validation meeting with Traditional Authority
• Gazetting documents were finalised and submitted for further processing

NAFOLA is further supporting:
• Bee-keeping project
• Guinea Fowls farming (domestication)
• CF Office construction

OTJITUOO

Community Forest

Emerging

Approximate population
9,000

Area (hectares)
613,278

Region
Otjozondjupa

Geographical features
The area is a flat thorn veld savannah with Omuramba and pans, dominated by *Terminalia sericea* and *Acacia* species. Part of the area is sandy soil and part is stoney. Annual rainfall is 350mm – 400mm

Land uses
• Grazing (cattle, goats and sheep)
• Small Scale Mining (building stones)

Main forest resources and their use
• *Acacia erioba* (Camel thorn) - Poles and droppers for fencing and building
• *Acacia mellifera* (Black thorn) - firewood and charcoal
• *Genus Terminalis* (Silver tree) - Poles and droppers for fencing fodder for livestock
• *Grewia* species, *Strychnos spinosa* - Wild fruits

2015 Achievements
Milestones
• Agreement to integrate CF and Conservancy in place
• Stakeholder analysis completed
• Boundary verification completed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OTJIU WEST</strong> Community Forest</th>
<th><strong>OTJOMBINDE</strong> Community Forest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gazetted</strong></td>
<td><strong>Emerging</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate population</strong></td>
<td><strong>Approximate population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>6,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area (hectares)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Area (hectares)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110,442.59</td>
<td>591,001.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunene</td>
<td>Omaheke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Geographic features</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation is sparse shrub land and woodland with both the ‘Khumib and Otjipepe rivers occurring there</td>
<td>Shrub-land mainly dominated by Acacia thorn bushes. The soil type is sandy with most of the forest areas having deep Kalahari sand. The landscape is mainly flat with occasional valleys (omurambas). The average rainfall is 250mm-450mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land uses</strong></td>
<td><strong>Land uses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Livestock farming (large and small stock)</td>
<td>Livestock farming, small stock farming and small scale crop farming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Small scale gardening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main forest resources and their use</strong></td>
<td><strong>Main forest resources and their uses</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • *Aloe littoralis*, *Colophospermum mopane* (Omutati), *Salvadora persica*, *Combretum imberbe* (Omumborombonga) - Sap, bark and leaves used for medicinal purposes | • *Terminalia sericea* (Omusiasetu) - Poles and droppers for fencing, and kraal construction, leaves used as fodder  
• *Acacia erioloba* (Omumbonde) - Pods for fodder  
• *Acacia mellifera* (Omusaoa) - Firewood  
• *Philenoptera nelsii* (Omupanda) - Leaves for fodder and used to ferment milk  
• *Harpagophytum* (Devils claw) - Tubers for medicinal purposes |
| • *Salvadora persica and Ziziphus mucronata* - Roots used for medicinal | |
| • *Commiphora waldii* (Omumbiri) - Tree gum can be consumed | |
| **2015 Achievements**           | **Achievements for 2015**       |
| **Milestones**                  | **Milestones**                  |
| • Comprehensive assessment of marketable forest and non-forest tradeable products and other income generating options (resource assessment) completed | • Application for CF support  
• Facilitated institutional cooperation  
• Feasibility assessment for the construction of auction kraals in Tallismanus  
• Assessment on rangeland conditions and animal husbandry completed |
| • CF office was designed         |                                  |
**UUKOLONKADHI Community Forest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Gazetted</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| **Approximate population** | 12,000 |
| **Area (hectares)** | 84,924.67 |
| **Region** | Omusati |
| **Geographical features** | The soils are mainly sandy with scattered clay patches. The vegetation is mixed savannah which is sparsely distributed, with few shrubs and grassy understory, topography includes mainly plain areas. Annual rainfall is approximately 250-550 mm |
| **Land uses** | • Grazing  
• Crop farming  
• Small scale mining (soil and rock) |
| **Main forest resources and their use** | • *Terminalia sericea* (Omoolo) and *Colophopemum mopane* (Omusati) - Droppers and poles used for firewood and construction of homesteads and fences  
• *Commiphora angolensis* (Onkanga) - Wood crafts (traditional cups and plates) used for household and commercial purposes  
• *Adasonia digitata* (Omukwa) - Fruits, used for oil, food and livestock feed  
• *Gonimbrasia belina* (Omagungu) - Worms used for food and selling for income generation |
| **2015 Achievements** | Milestones  
• Identification of income generation activities done  
• Marula assessment was done  
• Forest patrol completed  
• Forest inventory completed |
Since its inception, the project has focused on fast tracking the implementation of key activities and putting structures in place for operational purposes in order to ensure that two key components are implemented.

Component 1: Knowledge based land use planning and policy change hasten gazetting of CFs and mainstreaming of forest resources in productive policies

Output 1.1: Gazetting of 9 CFs

NAFOLA Project is working towards submission of legal documents for gazetting of two CFs (out of nine) by end of 2015. At the same time, the project initiated gazetting process for the other six emerging CF (hotspots). The gazetting process is guided by the CF manual, which consists of ten milestones.

Output 1.2: Integrated Land Use Planning

NAFOLA is working towards strengthening the FMPs by integrating other land uses. IFMPs are informed by socio-economic and natural resource assessments. Socio-economic information is gathered through PRA methods. Forest inventories, complemented by information from the PRA are used to inform the management plans, which in the past have focused on establishing regulations on forest resources use. NAFOLA will expand the resource assessments to include other essential non-timber forest resources such as grass and shrubs as well as to look at land uses in the wider landscape.

A starting point for the project was to improve the National Forest Inventory System. Consequently, a national workshop was held to review the current inventory system and to provide guidance on improvements. The inventory data base is being updated. In order to fast track data entry, a two day training session on the National Forest Inventory database was undertaken. Officials from NAFOLA and DoF were trained on how to enter data into the database and generate reports thereof. These reports will inform the Integrated Forest Management Plans through a scientific report known as the Forest Inventory Report. Data collection for inventories were undertaken in Oshaampula, Okongo, Ehirovipuka and Uukolonkadhi CFs.

PRA exercises were undertaken namely in Omundaungilo, Ehirovipuka, Onkumbula and African Wild Dog CFs.

Output 1.3: Strengthening Organisational Capacity for Effective Community Forest Management

NAFOLA aims to improve the operational capacity for the 13 FMCs through the implementation of a capacity development program, based on a capacity needs assessment.

These committees will in turn develop short-term and long-term management and revenue generation plans as well as develop and strengthen constitutions, bylaw and establishing operational structures for implementation. All 13 Project Liaison Officers (PLOs) have been trained on the CF Programme.

Targeted trainings on the milestones were provided to project staff and community members (comprehensive inventory trainings in Ehirovipuka CF, PRA for Epukiro, African Wild Dog and Otjombinde CF). A total of 37 community members were involved in this process.
Output 1.4: Harmonising Policy and Supporting Local Governance

Even though the project did not prioritise activities on policy harmonisation in 2015, it was observed that integration of forestry activities with wildlife management and planned land reform activities in some of the hotspots is inevitable. Consequently, NAFOLA initiated consultation meetings with key ministries and other stakeholders working on wildlife management and land reform process.

Component 2: Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Technologies in selected hotspots

Component two is about implementation of sustainable forest and land management practices, including conservation agriculture, improved rangeland management practices, enhancement of livestock off-take, fire management, improving marketing of forest and non-forest products. Priorities for 2015 were to establish baselines and define activities to be supported by the project. The project conducted the following activities:

- Commissioned consultancy to develop strategies to improve rangeland conditions and livestock off-take in degraded rangelands of Omaheke, Oshikoto, Kunene and Otjozondjupa hotspots.
- The project continues to liaise with DAPEES on CA. NAFOLA participated in the first national consultative workshop on CA. The project is supporting establishment of Omaheke Regional Forum on CA. It also conducted Regional level consultation on CA in Ohangwena region, to determine entry points.
- Commissioned a study to explore the feasibility of the income generating options that were identified by communities during project formulation. The income generating activities are aimed to promote inclusive value-chains, as well as opportunities for establishment of small enterprises based on woody and non-woody products in CF areas.
- NAFOLA also liaises with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) De-bushing Project on related activities. The De-bushing project commissioned a national baseline assessment on bush encroachment. The assessment when complemented, will establish baselines serving as parameters/benchmarks. Additionally, NAFOLA project staff participated in the “Process Reengineering” organised by the De-bushing project, aimed at strengthening the capacity of DoF to execute its functions.