

Targeting livelihoods evidence

Tool

Purpose:

This tool draws on experience in Uganda to present ideas on how evidence of the role of forestry in improving people's livelihoods can be collected and communicated effectively. The methods and tactics described are useful for helping to establish forestry in national poverty reduction strategies.

Activities:

- 1 **Carry out a survey of pro-poor forestry initiatives.** Use a learning cycle approach to get accurate information on current forestry projects and trends, building in "voices from the field".
- 2 **Establish linkages between forestry, forests and poverty.** Analyse more precisely the role of forest goods and services in rural and urban livelihoods, using a checklist of questions. Challenge received wisdom.
- 3 **Define data collection requirements, methodologies and institutional responsibilities for poverty monitoring.** Work out what information is needed to monitor inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts, which data collection techniques are most practicable and who should do what.
- 4 **Develop forestry indicators through a participatory process.** Good indicators are powerful tools for communication as well as monitoring (see example in graph overleaf). Invite data users and collectors to work out a mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Keep in Mind

Two principles to guide this process:

- ★ Forestry is not about trees, it is only about trees insofar as trees serve the needs of people
- ★ Policy is a tangle of decisions and non-decisions – you can't be everywhere, so target your energy, time and evidence with care

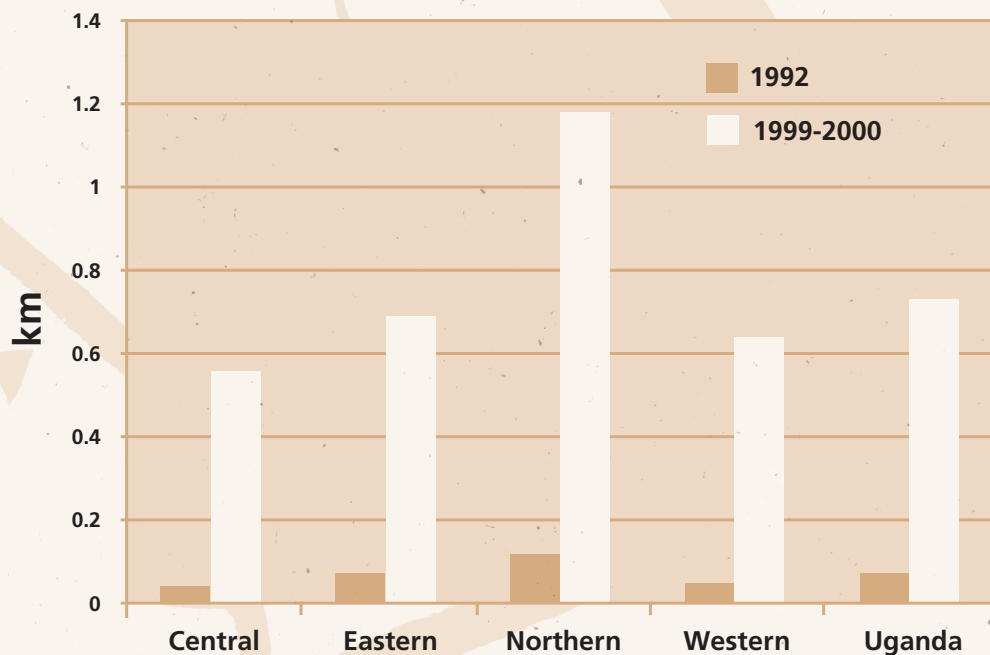


5 Harmonise forestry monitoring with poverty reduction strategies.

Coordinate forestry monitoring with poverty reduction processes by identifying synergies and opportunities for installing forestry expertise in cross-sectoral debates.

6 Proactively sell forestry in key policy and decision-making forums.

Identify entry-points to macro-policy: such as high level committees and sectoral working groups, and use these to argue the forestry case backed up by the evidence from forestry and poverty monitoring.



A resonant indicator: average distance travelled by households in Uganda to collect firewood (Source: data from UBOS, 2001)

Further information

Find full tool and other related tools and resources at:
www.policy-powertools.org

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