



INTRODUCTION TO PFM



The Chief Directorate Forestry within the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has undergone a re-orientation and transformation process in line with the current South African democratic principles, policies and evolving international trends.



Within this context the Chief Directorate is now considering local people's forestry based needs, their role in forest management and is empowering them through sharing decision-making over forest resource utilisation.

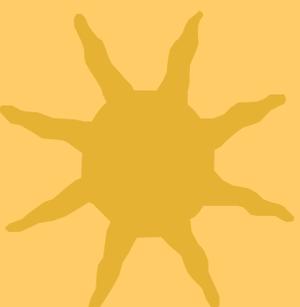


Prior to 1994 the management of indigenous forests in South Africa had a narrow scientific focus and there was little concern for the social development potential for forests and forestry.

Consequently the majority of people, especially the poor rural communities, were deprived of access to forest resources and the benefits derived from them.



PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT (PFM)



- ⑩ As a first measure in addressing the newly adopted departmental approach of PFM, workshops were held throughout the region to introduce the local communities to this aspect of service delivery.
- ⑩ Contributing to the success of the workshops was the involvement of the South Cape Business Centre, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) specialising in empowerment of previously disadvantaged communities.
- ⑩ The local communities expressed interest in getting involved in the management of forests in their localities and like to derive any possible benefits from such management.
- ⑩ As a means to promote more community participation in indigenous forest management, PFM Forums, comprising the local communities and DWAF staff were set up on all three forest estates.



PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT (PFM)



- ★ Training to local communities, through PFM Forums, on basic forest management and business enterprise formation and management skills took place
- ★ Development of a PFM Constitution for the region.
There was general consensus across Forums that their status is advisory only, their role being limited to making recommendations
- ★ Members began to table potential projects and to approve or reject such proposals.



DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES



- ★ Procedures for approval of PFM projects.
- ★ Criteria for project selection/approval
- ★ Formulation of standard project proposals/business plans.
- ★ Development of a register for PFM projects





PFM PROJECTS

- ★ Nursery project – Khoisan Village
- ★ Woodturning project – Khoisan Village
- ★ Joint venture in conjunction with Stormsriver Adventures (Tree top canopy tours; Woodcutters journey; Blackwater tubing; Gorge Challenge)
- ★ Harvesting of Seven Weeks fern





SUCSESSES



-
- ★ Established forums on all three Estate (Farleigh; Diepwalle; Tsitsikamma)
 - ★ Communities deriving tangible benefits in the form of:
 - Skills development
 - Training in business skills
 - Temporal and permanent employment in the tourism Industry



CHALLENGES

- ★ Realisation of more PFM projects to ensure tangible benefits to the communities.
- ★ Ownership of PFM projects
- ★ There is a lack of continuity in membership on PFM Forums.
- ★ DWAF to play a more pro-active role in identifying and initiating forest based enterprises

