



The role of Charcoal in Africa: social and economic aspects

FOR

28th European Biomass conference and exhibition

By

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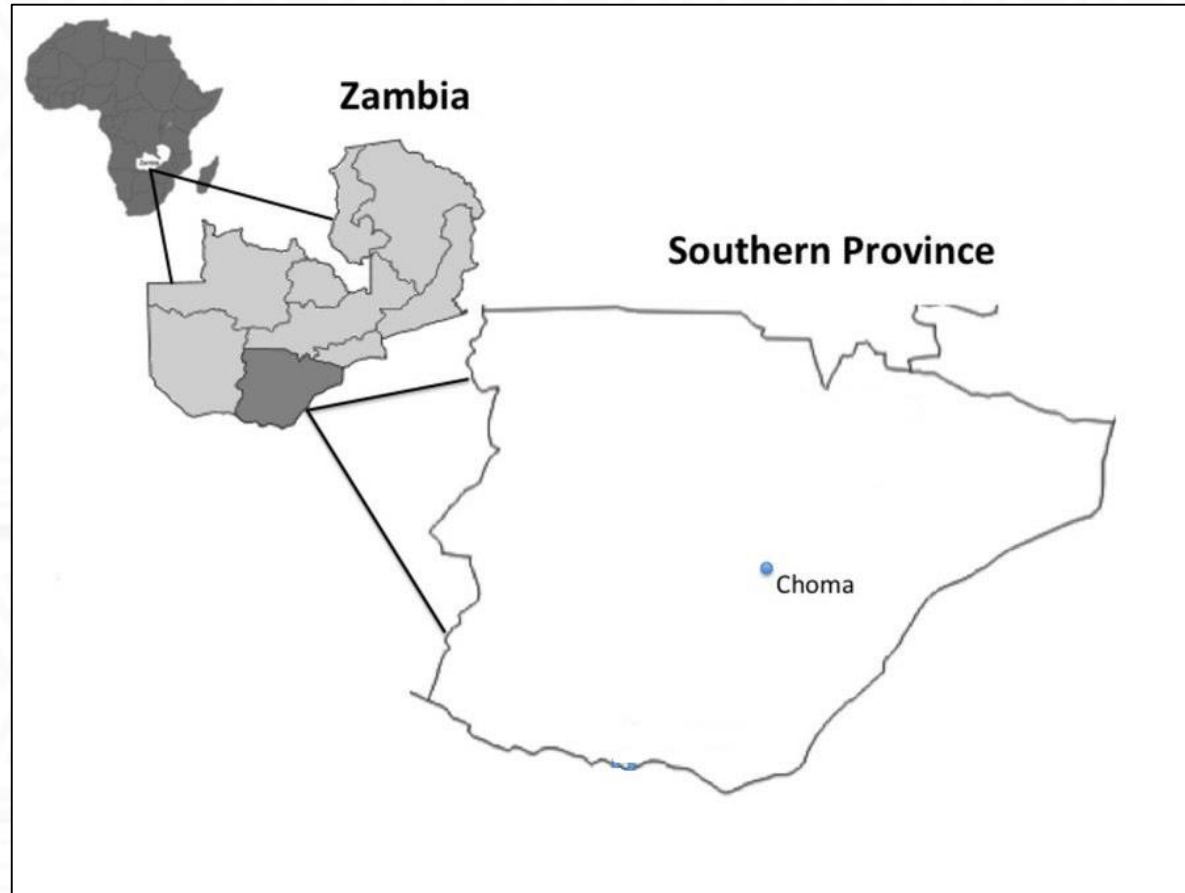
Forest and Farm Facility programme National Facilitator for Zambia

9th July 2020

Introduction

- Zambia has been experiencing climate-related risks which include drought, floods and extreme temperatures. Droughts in the 2018 - 2019 farming season left 2.3 million people in need of emergency food assistance. In forestry, the country has one of the highest rates of deforestation and degradation in the world, estimated at 250,000-300,000 hectares of forest loss per annum (Mulenga, 2015). The ultimate drivers of forest cover loss in Zambia are mainly unsustainable charcoal production and agriculture expansion.
- Above 70% of the Zambia population and similar to most Africa countries depend on wood fuel for energy needs. Among one of the most popular wood fuel is Charcoal.
- Most charcoal in Zambia like in most Africa countries is done illegally and unsustainable. However, if well done charcoal can contribute significantly to income generation and improved livelihoods of the rural forest dependent communities.
- The Forest and Farm Facility programme in collaboration with the Forestry Department in Choma district of Zambia is piloting sustainable charcoal production.

Pilot site location of Choma



Pilot practices of sustainable charcoal production

- Mobilising illegal charcoal producers to form groups recognised by government 40 groups of 600 producers of which 43% are women.
- Improve governance of the groups and linkage's with government policy platforms
- Demonstration of improved technologies in charcoal production with a high efficiency of production.
- Developed participatory guarantee system (PGS) guidelines for Improved traceability of suitably produced charcoal to attract a premium price on the market



Community training in sustainable production methods



Monitoring activity

- The monitoring exercise was conducted by the District Forestry Office and the Chairperson of the Choma Charcoal Association.
- Representatives from ten (10) groups (a total of 101 producers) were met for discussion.
- Site visits were also made to 5 areas where the producers had started practicing the sustainable forest management guidelines.



Observations

- 3 months after training 50% of the groups had started following the PGS guidelines.
- 30% started practicing some sustainable forest management guidelines specifically regenerating woodland, fire protection, sustainable harvesting, establishing tree nurseries and planning tree on their farms.
- There is a lot of support from the Chiefs as seen by presence and motivating presentations by the Chiefs' representatives during the monitoring meetings.

Thank you

FFF wishes to acknowledge the support from our resource partners



Government of the Netherlands



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