

# Managing the miombo woodlands of Southern Africa

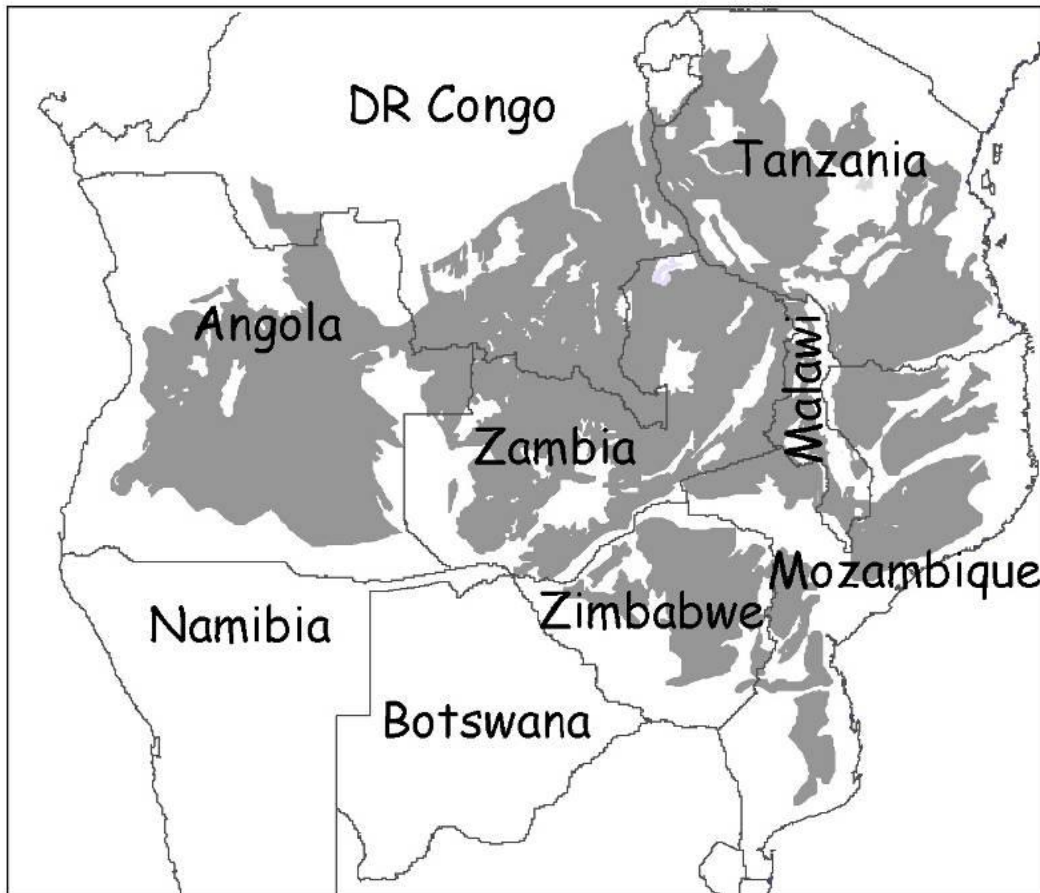


**Policies, incentives  
and options for the  
rural poor**





# Miombo – a significant resource



- ❖ 2.7 million km<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ around 80 million rural dwellers
- ❖ ~ 20 million urban dwellers

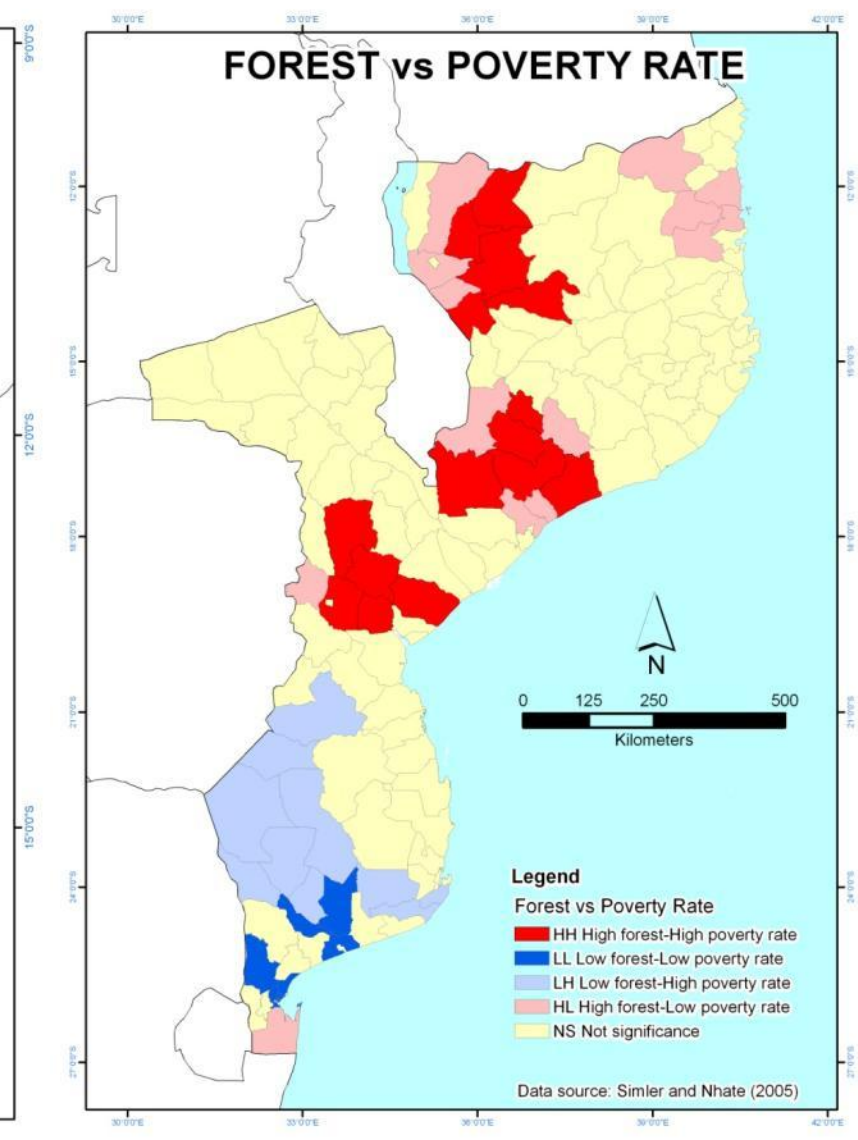
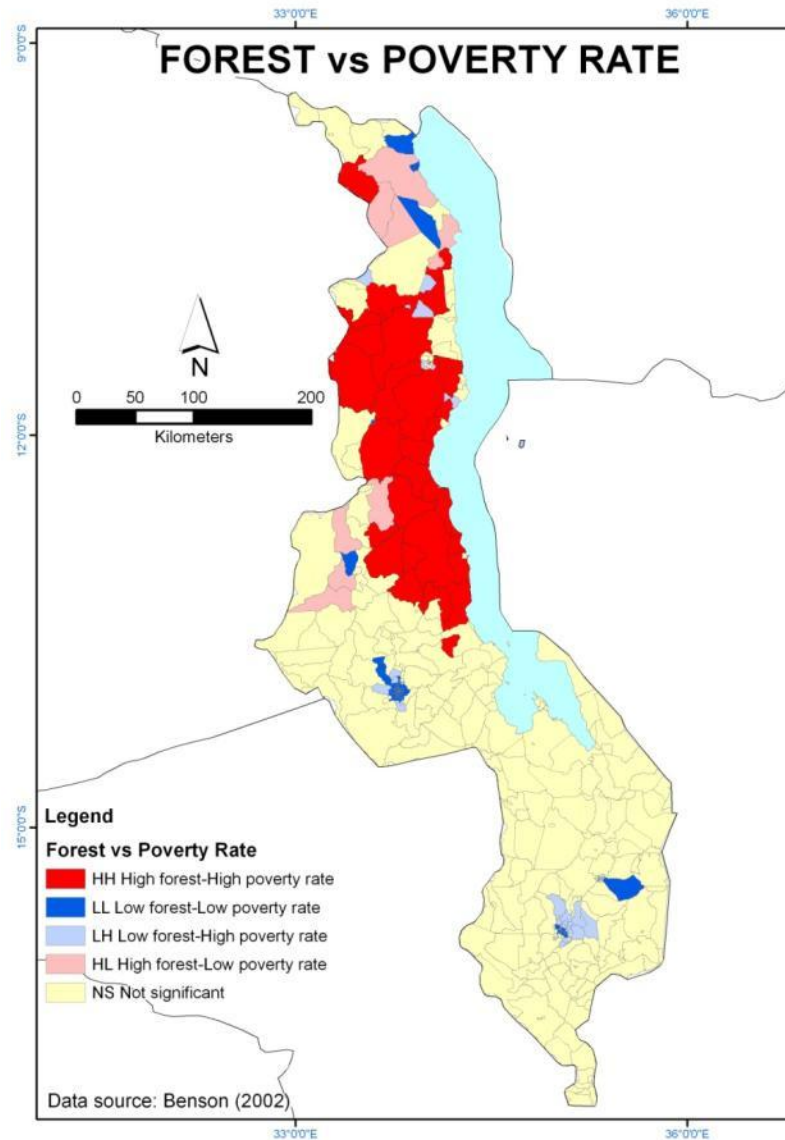


# Poverty ~ Miombo relationships

Statistical correlations between areas with high forest cover and high poverty rates

What will trends in deforestation mean for rural people who depend on miombo woodlands as a safety net?

# Poverty ~ Miombo relationships





# CIFOR/Bank field studies

- ❖ Household analysis (Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe)
- ❖ Review of the state of knowledge about managing miombo
- ❖ Country studies: Zambia (macro picture of forestry in the economy); Mozambique (context for CBNRM)
- ❖ Constraints, opportunities, and policies paper



# Some findings

## Income shocks and illness in rural Mozambique

Woodlands as safety nets: sickness and damage to household assets from fire (land clearance, hunting, etc.) increased the tendency of households to depend on woodlands for income and consumption goods



# Some findings

- ❖ Household studies confirmed enormous importance of dry woodlands to household livelihoods
- ❖ Technical review of silviculture highlighted the big gap between management for timber production and management for rural needs



# Challenge of managing for timber

- ❖ Limited supplies of commercially viable species
- ❖ Silviculture for production is known, but difficult
- ❖ Low economic returns



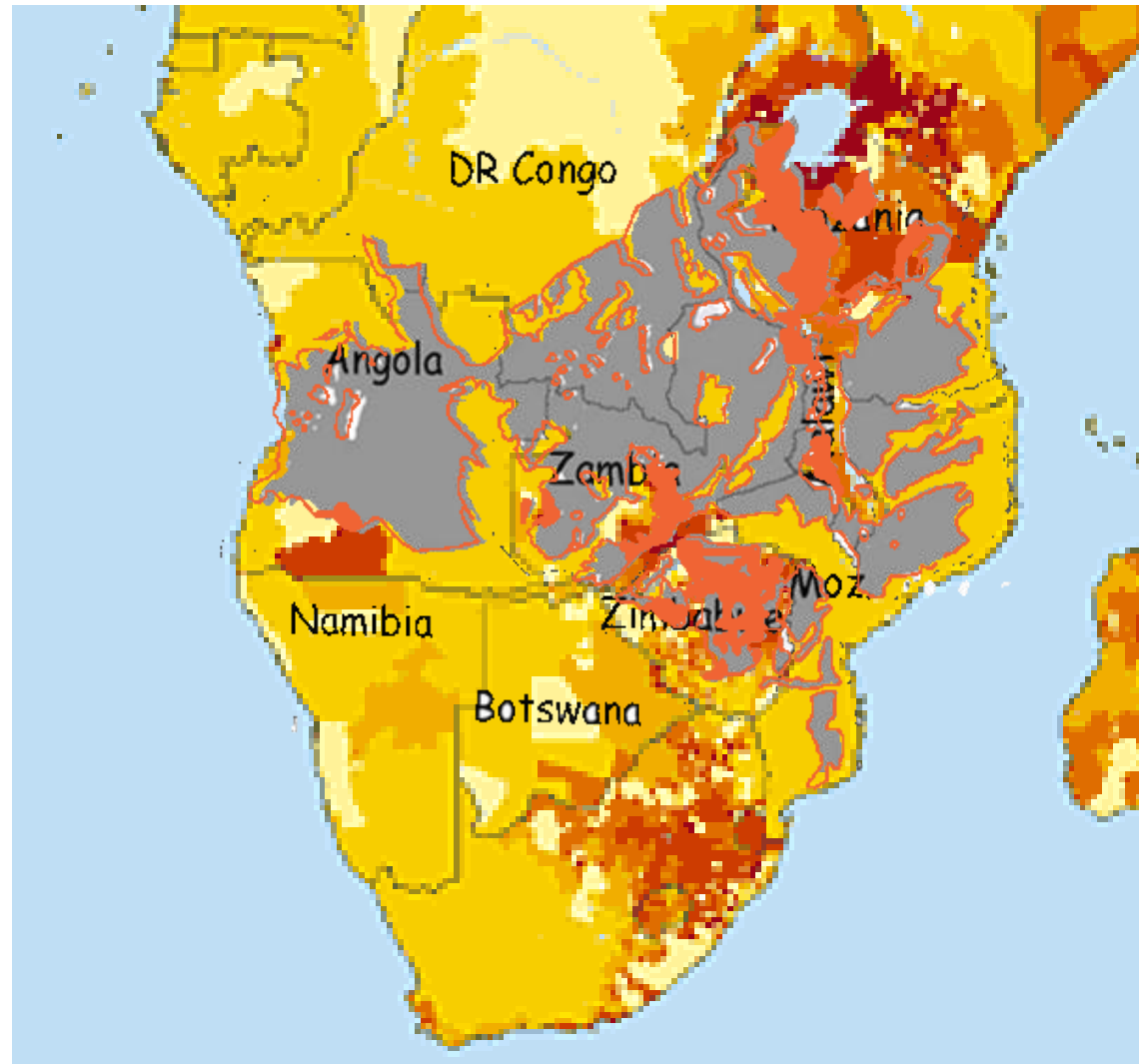


# Challenges of managing for rural needs

- ❖ managing woodlands for multiple products
- ❖ competing interests mean different types of management (extractive vs. non-extractive)
- ❖ oversupply and domestication
- ❖ markets, markets, markets....



# Woodland-livestock-farming linkages







# Some findings

- ❖ Household studies confirmed enormous importance of dry woodlands to household livelihoods
- ❖ Technical review of silviculture highlighted the big gap between management for timber production and management for rural needs
- ❖ Value of woodland products is not trivial for national economic development





# Zambia

- ❖ Officially, forestry accounts for 5.2 percent of GDP (agriculture is 6.5 percent and mining is 8.6 percent)
- ❖ GDP estimates, by definition, exclude the hidden economy (i.e. the informal sector and illegal activities), so most forestry activities are ‘under the radar’ as a result
- ❖ So what’s in the hidden economy ....



...around 10 million tons of woodfuel





... 3 million tons of building timber,

and huge amounts of other material for rural construction, such as thatch



...around 1000 metric tons of honey



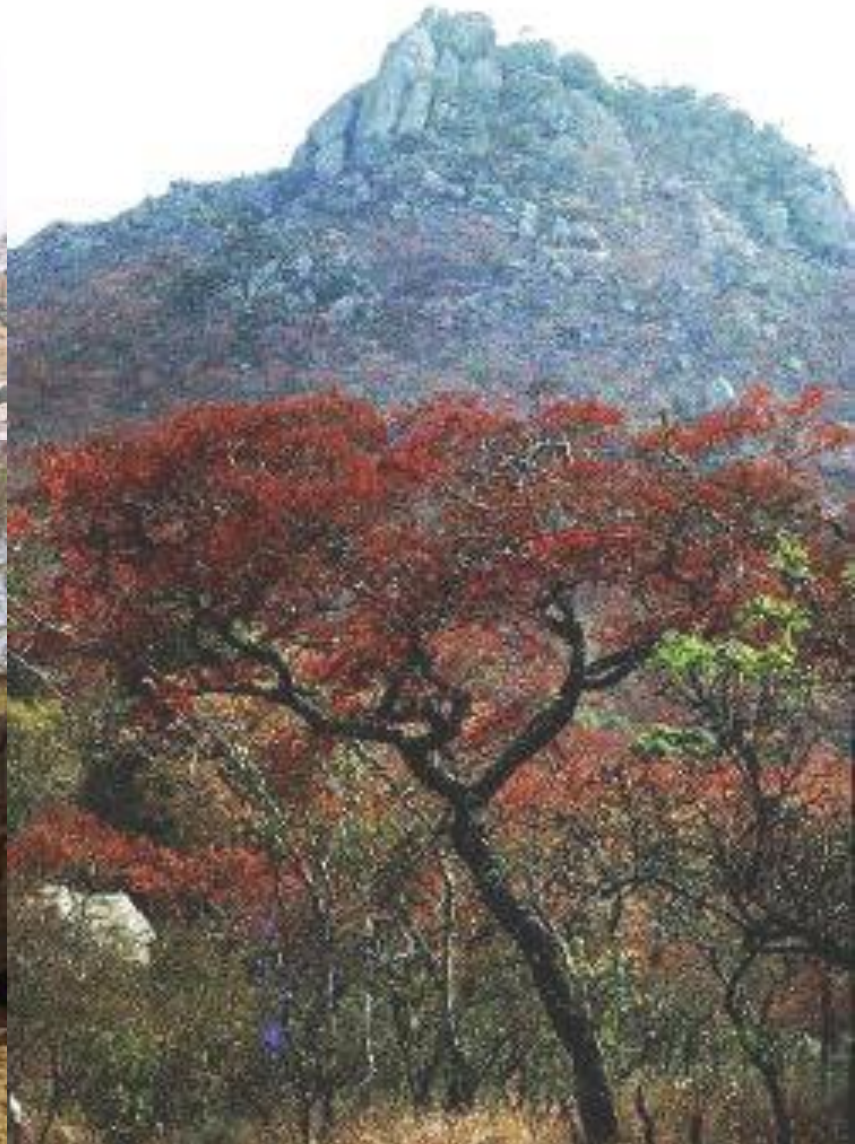


# ... wild foods and medicinals





# ... dry season browse







# So what's the problem with miombo?

- ❖ Productivity is low (but not inherent constraint)
- ❖ Miombo is most valuable when managed for multiple products. Silviculture for doing this is difficult.
- ❖ Forest policies are disenabling (overregulated and undermanaged)
- ❖ Low margins and high management costs
- ❖ Shallow markets and challenges of domestication
- ❖ Weak local institutions
- ❖ Weak national institutions



# Where do we go from here?

- ❖ Woodlands are still enormously valuable
- ❖ Resource rights are shifting to local people
- ❖ Old markets are expanding; new markets are developing
- ❖ Conservation and development opportunities are being more closely integrated







# Four Considerations for Policy

1. Devolving rights and responsibilities (but not as a panacea)
  - Policy and legal framework
  - Strong implementation measures
2. Developing payments for environmental services



# Four Considerations for Policy

3. Enhancing markets for forest products
  - Enhancing forest –based markets by removing restrictive legislation; regulatory simplification
  - Strengthening local producers and forest enterprises; increasing formality
  - Support sustainable production systems for future markets
4. Revitalizing forest institutions and focusing on different institutions

# Some references

❖ [www.profor.info](http://www.profor.info)

❖ <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/miombo/>