

South Africa's Perspective

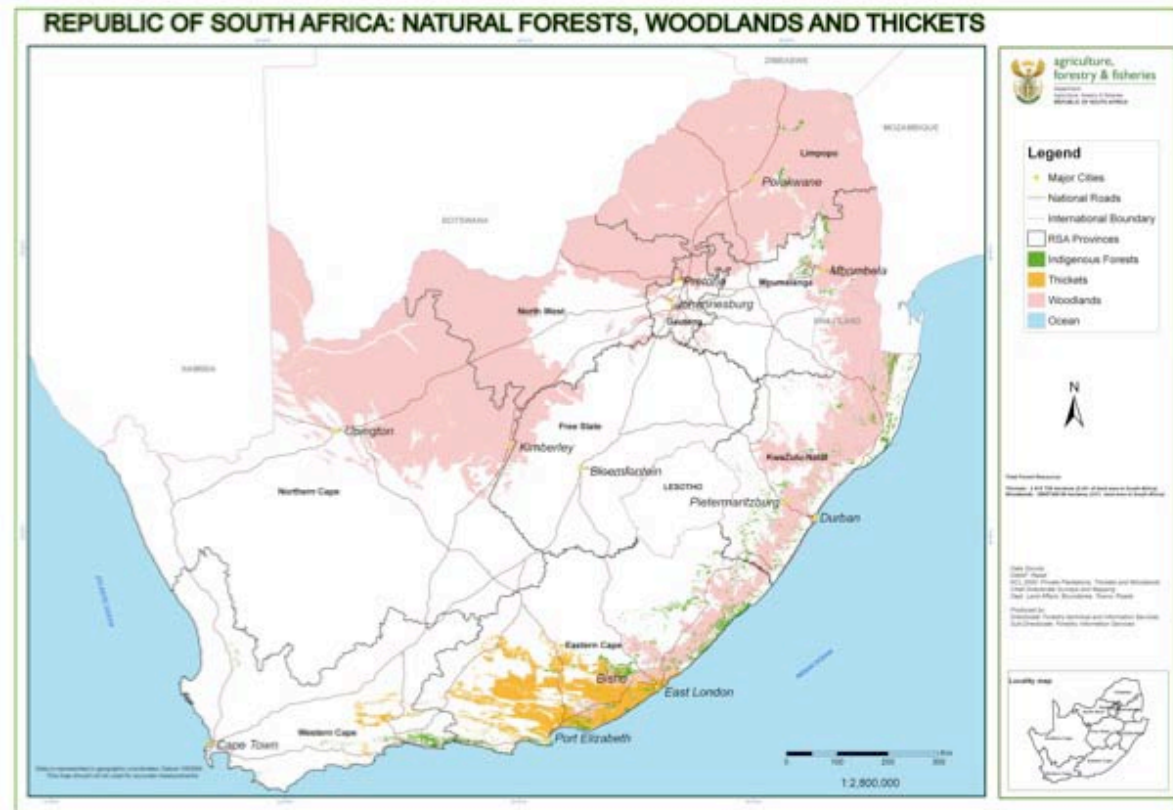
*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity building workshop on
REDD-plus,
Cape Town, South Africa
20-23 September 2011*

[Itchell Guiney - DAFF]

Overview of SA Forests

Estimated Forest Cover

- Natural Forests: $\pm 0.4\%$
- Thickets: $\pm 2.4\%$
- Woodlands: $\pm 33\%$





Overview of SA Forests

Types

- Savanna woodlands
 - 6 Bioregions, divided into 87 veg types
- Natural forests
 - 7 groups, 26 types
 - Sub-types still need to be classified
- Thickets
 - 14 veg types



National experience with REDD-plus

- No formal national policy/strategy on REDD+
- Structure is evolving but is however pending REDD+ outcome
- Furthermore a number of initiatives leading up and to aid in the development process (setting the scene)



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



National experience with REDD-plus

- National policies are in place to address the role of communities
- These include CBNRM, PFM and sustainable livelihood programmes for:
 - biodiversity,
 - sustainable land management and
 - sustainable forest management
- There is growing recognition that these relationships could be enhanced



National experience with biodiversity safeguards

- Growing recognition of the concept of biodiversity safeguards
- Still at an early stage in the discussions
- Policies will be guided by NEMA, NEMBA, NFA, NVFFA & other national policies
- Review of NBSAP will take these issues into account



National experience with biodiversity safeguards

A number of challenges/obstacles for developing and applying biodiversity safeguards have been noted, namely:

- National capacity,
- Land use changes
- Human pressure on forest resources and natural ecosystems,
- Public awareness of the importance of biodiversity for all our well-being,
- The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources across all sectors of the national economy.



National experience with biodiversity safeguards

- Capacity building requirements are on all levels:
- Government:
 - Resource economics
 - Biodiversity planners
- Civil Society:
 - Public awareness
 - Resource use
- Community level
 - Practical implementation

National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

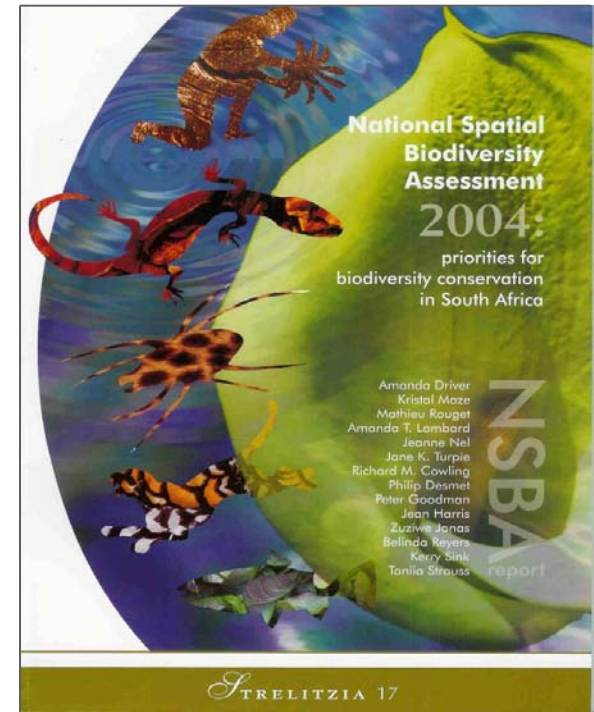
A number of national monitoring programmes could be utilized:

- South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA)
- South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
- National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA)
- Forest Growth Plot Research Project (23 years)
 - data on growth, ingrowth and mortality of trees and stands and general forest stand dynamics (forest change over time)
 - Carbon stocks



National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

- First national assessment across **terrestrial, river, estuarine and marine** environments 2004
- Introduced two new **headline indicators**:
 - Ecosystem threat status
 - Ecosystem protection levels



Currently busy with NBA 2011

1. Change to ...

National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA),

- incorporating NSBA but adding some non-spatial elements (e.g. invasives)
- to enable single summary report on state of biodiversity

2. Much greater emphasis on aquatic environments (freshwater, estuarine and marine)

3. **Inclusion of climate change component**

4. Coastal summary

- integrates coastal elements of all components



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

Are the national gap analyses considered in REDD planning?

Not as yet.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

Are you applying or developing multiple benefit tools at national level, e.g. mapping of biodiversity and carbon overlays (such as www.carbon-biodiversity.net/OtherScales)?

Yes, but at an early stage.



Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

Key questions:

What is the level of regional collaboration on REDD-plus e.g. through regional organizations such as COMIFAC or SADC?

SADC REDD+ has been adopted by SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources Management on 26 May 2011.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

- SADC is amongst the first regional organisations in Africa to agree to support Member States. The 4 year programme is, amongst other things, aimed at achieving the following:
 - Strengthening capacities in the Member States to design REDD+ policies and programmes while at the same time providing framework for cooperation.

Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

- SADC is amongst the first regional organisations in Africa to agree to support Member States. The 4 year programme is, amongst other things, aimed at achieving the following (cont.):
 - Support REDD+ preparations and to promote cooperation on shared ecosystems.
 - To address regional issues arising from implementation of REDD+.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

Key questions:

What regional and international support (in addition to support provided by UN-REDD/FCPF/ITTO, etc.) would be useful?

This requires analysis.



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



Conclusion

- South Africa currently does not have a REDD+ Policy/Strat.
- Currently in the process of developing REDD+ Policy in response to regional (SADC) and international (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNFF, etc) commitments.
- The REDD+ strategy will, amongst other things, provide an enabling framework for the implementation of REDD+.
- DAFF is also engaged in the process of undertaking a National Forest Resources Assessment

