



Manual bush harvesting with axes and mechanised processing into wood chips, Otjozondjupa Region Namibia (Cheetah Conservation Fund)

## Bush Thinning and Biomass Processing by Manual or Mechanised Means (ນາມິເບຍ)

### Bush Thinning

#### ຄຳອະທິບາຍ

In Namibia, excess bush is harvested to reduce competition with other plants, especially grasses. Bush can be thinned manually (e.g. with axes), semi-mechanised (e.g. chainsaws) or fully mechanised (e.g. customised equipment). After cutting, the bush is left to dry and then processed into chips or other products.

Bush thinning is carried out in Namibia to restore degraded rangeland by stimulating the re-growth of grasses – which are suppressed by excess bush. About 30-45 million hectares are affected by bush encroachment, and this affects biodiversity, groundwater recharge and the carrying capacity of rangeland. There are many causes of bush encroachment, including overgrazing and reduced frequency of wildfires. Most bush encroachment involves indigenous, rather than invasive, species.

While natural transitions in the ecosystems may lead to reductions in bush encroachment, active rehabilitation measures are required for the short-term improvements. This is an absolute necessity for many farmers, who experience severe economic difficulties due to the reduced productivity of their rangeland.

Bush control comprises responsive measures (bush thinning), follow-up measures (aftercare) as well as preventative measures (good rangeland management). Since vast areas of Namibian rangeland are heavily encroached by bush, the focus is currently on bush thinning. This entails selective harvesting of bush. To determine the density of bush remaining after thinning, a formula based on tree equivalent (TE) and average annual rainfall is used. One TE is defined as a woody tree or bush of 1.5 metres in height.

As rule of thumb for attaining optimal bush density, about 30-35% of encroacher biomass should be removed. This is based on research carried out mainly in South Africa, measuring and comparing the re-growth after bush removal. Where too much bush was removed, this often resulted in even heavier encroachment.

Bush thinning follows strict environmental guidelines set by the Directorate of Forestry (DoF) through the Forestry Act and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) through the Environmental Management Act. This governs the equipment used (to avoid soil disturbance) and the amount of bushes harvested (to achieve a healthy number of the desired bush species). The amount of bushes to be harvested is determined by an expert and depends on various factors.

While there is a lack of precise knowledge on the long-term effect of bush thinning, there is no doubt that control has an overall positive effect on the savannah ecosystem in Namibia. The need is widely recognised among land owners and acknowledged on the national political agenda.

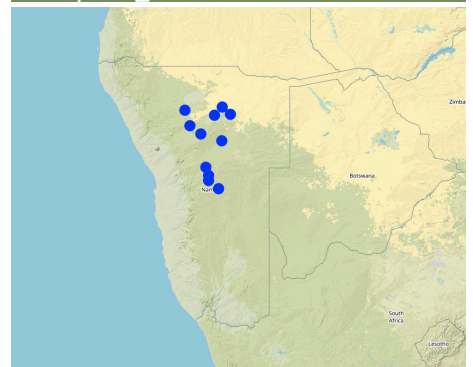
To render bush thinning economically feasible, value chains have been developed. Through processing and utilisation of the woody biomass, income can be generated. Processed bush biomass can, for example in the form of chips, can be used for thermal and electrical energy applications (e.g. local biomass power plants or biomass boilers for industry). Currently two such energy installations exist in Namibia, one at a local brewery and one at a local cement factory. In addition, the national power utility NamPower currently considers the construction of a 20-40 MW biomass power plant.

Other existing value chains include the production of charcoal, firewood, poles, as well as bush-based animal feed. Further value chains under consideration include composite materials, such as wood-plastic, as well as biochar.

Scientific observations have shown, that bush thinning requires regular follow-up. These measures ("aftercare") include the prevention of coppicing and re-growth. This can be achieved by applying aboricides selectively to the cut stems, stem fires or the introduction of browsers (e.g. goats). Research on the effectiveness and possible side effects of each of these methods is limited.

A major challenge is the limited suitability of available machines. The process leads to high wear and tear on the equipment (both harvesting and processing technology, (like chippers and pelletisers), often rendering operations unprofitable. Research into, and development of,

#### ສະຖານທີ່



**ສະຖານທີ່:** Bush control is applied across Namibia on many privately owned farms. Activities are most concentrated in the regions Khomas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto., ນາມິເບຍ

**ຈຳນວນ ພື້ນທີ່ ທີ່ໃຊ້ ເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ ທີ່ໄດ້ວິເຄາະ:**  
100-1000 ພື້ນທີ່

**ການຄັດເລືອກພື້ນທີ່ ທີ່ອີງໃສ່ຂໍ້ມູນທາງພູມິສາດ**

- 16.15492, -20.10128
- 18.09998, -19.59084
- 17.71545, -19.25411
- 15.91322, -19.39298
- 17.33093, -19.63741
- 17.05078, -22.55315
- 17.52319, -22.91792
- 17.04529, -22.345
- 16.67725, -20.46819
- 17.677, -20.79207
- 16.90796, -21.97871

**ການແຜ່ກະຈາຍຂອງເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ:** ຕະຫຼາຍປາຍ  
100-1000 ພື້ນທີ່ (1200.0 km<sup>2</sup>)

**ຢູ່ໃນເຂດປ່າສະຫງວນທີ່ບໍ່:**

**ວັນທີຂອງການປະຕິບັດ:** 2015

**ປະເພດຂອງການນຳສະເໜີ**

- ☐ ດ້ານການຄຸ້ມຄອງພືດຕົ້ນຂອງພູມິສາດ ສິດທິ
- ☐ ເປັນສັດຕູກັບພືດຕົ້ນຂອງລະບົບພືດຕົ້ນ (>50 ປີ)
- ☐ ນັດ ລະບົບການຄຸ້ມຄອງ / ການຄຸ້ມຄອງ
- ☐ ດ້ານການ ຄຸ້ມຄອງ ການຂາດຜ່ອນການຄຸ້ມຄອງ

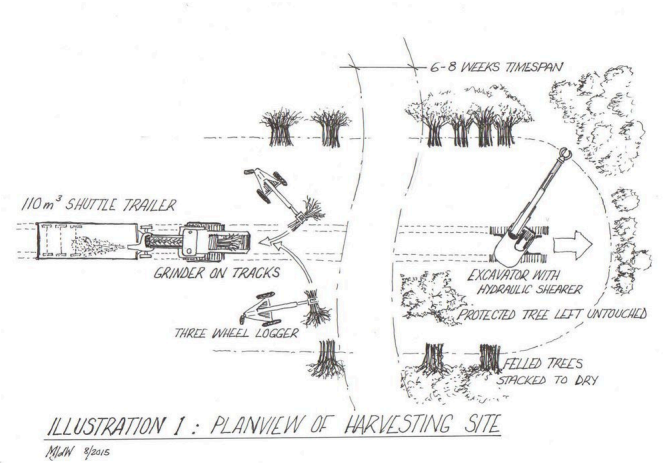


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Drawing of a bush harvesting site layout. The drawing depicts fully mechanised bush harvesting and immediate processing into wood chips. This set-up is most suitable for large-scale bush thinning, e.g. for the purpose of supplying biomass in larger quantities. Such off-take includes the potential export of bush in processed form (pellets) or energetic utilisation (e.g. local biomass power plants or biomass boilers in the industry). Currently two such energy solutions exist in Namibia, one at a local brewery and one at a local cement factory.

Note that a range of bush harvesting methods exist, ranging from fully mechanised (as depicted) to manual bush harvesting (e.g. with axes). The site layout and principles are the same in all scenarios, but harvesting speed and costs differ.

The bush harvesting process:  
Bushes are harvested selectively with an excavator, to which a hydraulic shear cutter is attached. The biomass is stacked in rows and left for drying some six to eight weeks (depending on weather conditions). The biomass is then further processed with a chipper and collected with a trailer for further transport off the farm (e.g. to a biomass power plant or industrial off-taker). As a rule of thumb, one third of the standing biomass is removed, leaving two thirds standing. Harvesting starts with smaller plants and then moves to larger ones, cutting only plants with 15 centimetres of diameter or less (as per Namibian forestry regulations).



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ການຈັດຕັ້ງ ແລະ ລາຄາການຈັດຕັ້ງ: ກິດຈະກຳ, ວັດຖຸດິບ ແລະ ຂີ້ຈ່າຍ

<b>ການຄຳນວນ ປັດໃຈການຜະລິດ ແລະ ຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍ</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ຄິດ ຄຸນ ຄຸນ: ຕັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ເຕັກ ນ ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຫົວ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ hectare)</li><li>ສະກຸນເງິນທີ່ ສູງລັບການຄິດ ຄຸນ ຄຸນ: Namibia Dollar (NAD)</li><li>ອັດຕາ ລາຄາ (ເປັນເງິນ ດລາ 1 USD = 0.078 Namibia Dollar (NAD)</li><li>ຄຸນ ຮຽງສະເໝີ ຂອງການຈັດຕັ້ງ ຮຽງສະເໝີ Namibia Dollar (NAD) 110</li></ul>	<b>ປັດໃຈທີ່ສຳຄັນສຸດທີ່ສົ່ງຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍ</b> (1) Investment in machinery (if not applied manually). (2) Maintenance of machinery (high wear and tear due to hardness of wood and high mineral content). (3) Remoteness of farms/land from buyers/markets.
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ກິດຈະກຳການສ້າງຕັ້ງ

- Bush harvesting/felling ( ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ Year around)
- Stacking (and drying) ( ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ Year around)
- Feeding the chipping operation ( ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ Year around)
- Transport ( ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ Year around)

ປັດໃຈນຳເຂົ້າໃນການຈັດຕັ້ງ ແລະ ຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍ (per 1 hectare)

ລະບຸ ປັດໃຈ ນຳເຂົ້າ ໃນການຜະລິດ	ຫົວໜ່ວຍ	ປະລິມານ	ຕົ້ນທຶນ ຕໍ່ ຫົວໜ່ວຍ (Namibia Dollar (NAD))	ຕົ້ນທຶນທັງໝົດ ຂອງປັດໃຈ ນຳເຂົ້າ ໃນການ ຜະລິດ (Namibia Dollar (NAD))	% ຂອງຕົ້ນທຶນ ທັງໝົດ ທີ່ຜ່ານ ໃຊ້ໃນການ ຈັດຕັ້ງ
<b>ແຮງງານ</b>					
1 x Mechanic	person days	0.2	2000.0	400.0	
4 x Operators	person days	0.8	300.0	240.0	
1 x Operation manager chipping	person days	0.2	1000.0	200.0	
1 x Chipping operator	person days	2.0	150.0	300.0	
<b>ອຸປະກອນ</b>					
1 x 12t Excavator	pieces	1.0	120.0	120.0	
2 x Hydraulic grab and shearing attachments	pieces	2.0	60.0	120.0	
2 x Three wheel loggers	pieces	2.0	180.0	360.0	
1 x Chipper	pieces	1.0	840.0	840.0	
<b>ອື່ນໆ</b>					
Management and administration overhead	lump sum	1.0	200.0	200.0	
					12.0
<b>ຕົ້ນທຶນທັງໝົດ ໃນການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ</b>				<b>2'780.0</b>	
<b>ຄຸນ ສູງລັບການສູງຕັ້ງເຕັກ ນ ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ ດລາ</b>				<b>35'641.03</b>	

ກິດຈະກຳບຳລຸງຮັກສາ

- Aftercare ( ລະ ບາດ ລະ ຂອງພື້ນທີ່ Annually)

ຕົ້ນທຶນທັງໝົດ ໃນການບຳລຸງຮັກສາ (ໂດຍການປະມານ)

500.0

ສະພາບ ວັດຖຸດິບທີ່ມີຊາດ

ສະເລ່ຍປະລິມານນ້ຳຝົນປະຈຳປີ ເຂດກະສິກຳ-ສະພາບອາກາດ ຂໍ້ມູນຈຳເພາະກ່ຽວກັບສະພາບອາກາດ





ການຈັດການ (ຕົວຢ່າງ, ການເຮັດກິດຈະກຳ  
ອື່ນ ທີ່ບໍ່ມີ ມາດຕະການສັງເກດ)  
ຕະຫຼາດ  
ພະລັງງານ  
ຖະໜົນຫຼັກ ລະບົບຂົນສົ່ງ  
ການຕີມູນຄ່າ ລະບົບຂົນສົ່ງ  
ການບໍລິການ ທາງດ້ານການເງິນ



### ຜົນກະທົບ

#### ຜົນກະທົບທາງສັງຄົມ ແລະ ເສດຖະກິດ

ການຜະລິດອາຫານສັດ



Bush-based animal feed production has been successfully trialed and is implemented by various farmers across Namibia.

ຜົນຜະລິດຂອງສັດ



Carrying capacity of bush controlled land increases if regular aftercare is implemented.

ການຜະລິດພະລັງງານ (ເຊັ່ນ: ນຳໄຟ, ຊີວະ  
ພາບ)



Bush-to-electricity value chain under development. Several industrial off-takers use woody biomass for boilers (heat), the national power utility currently develops a first biomass power plant.

ມີນ້ຳ ☐ ສູ້ດລຽງ



Studies show a direct positive correlation between the extent of bush control and the availability of groundwater.

ລາຍຮັບ ຈາກການຜະລິດ



Bush based value addition, e.g. charcoal production, leads to additional income for land owners and farm workers.

ຄວາມຫຼາກຫຼາຍ ຂອງ ☐ ຫຼຸດລາຍຮັບ



Bush based value addition, e.g. charcoal production, leads to additional income for land owners and farm workers.

#### ຜົນກະທົບທາງສັງຄົມ ວັດທະນະທຳ

##### ຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ລະບົບນິເວດ

ມວນຊີວະພາບ / ຢູ່ເທິງຊັ້ນດິນ C

ຄວາມຫຼາກຫຼາຍຂອງຊີວິດ

ສາຍພັນຕ່າງໆ



Alien species are completely removed where possible (e.g. Prosopis).

##### ຜົນກະທົບນອກສະຖານທີ່

### ການວິເຄາະເຕັກນິກ ☐ ລະບົບປະຕິບັດ ຫາຍດ

#### ຜົນປະໂຫຍດເມື່ອທຽບກັບຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍໃນການສ້າງຕັ້ງ

ຜົນຕອບ ☐ ຫຼາຍ ☐ ລະບົບ

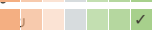
ຜົນຕອບ ☐ ຫຼາຍ ☐ ລະບົບຍາວ

ຜົນກະທົບທາງລົບ



ຜົນກະທົບທາງບວກ

ຜົນກະທົບທາງລົບ



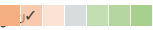
ຜົນກະທົບທາງບວກ

#### ຜົນປະໂຫຍດເມື່ອທຽບກັບຄ່າໃຊ້ຈ່າຍບໍາລຸງຮັກສາ

ຜົນຕອບ ☐ ຫຼາຍ ☐ ລະບົບ

ຜົນຕອບ ☐ ຫຼາຍ ☐ ລະບົບຍາວ

ຜົນກະທົບທາງລົບ



ຜົນກະທົບທາງບວກ

ຜົນກະທົບທາງລົບ



ຜົນກະທົບທາງບວກ

Bush thinned land takes 3-5 years to fully recover its productive grass layer, thus direct economic benefits are only experienced with a delay.

### ການປຸງປຸງ ປຸງສະພາບຜົນປະໂຫຍດ

#### ການປ່ຽນແປງດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ເທື່ອລະກ້າວ

ປະລິມານນ້ຳຝົນປະຈຳປີ ຫຼຸດລົງ



#### ອາກາດ ທີ່ກ່ຽວພັນກັບຄວາມຮຸນແຮງ (ໄພພິບັດທາງທຳມະຊາດ)

☐ ຫຼຸດ ☐



### ການຍອມຮັບ ☐ ລະບົບປັບຕົວ

#### ອັດຕາສ່ວນຂອງຜູ້ຊົມໃຊ້ທີ່ດິນໃນເຂດພື້ນທີ່ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຮອງເອົາ ເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ

☐ ກຳລັງມີດຽວ / ການທົດລອງ

☐ 1-10%

☐ 11-50%

☐ > 50%

#### ທັງໝົດນັ້ນ ມີໃຜແຕ່ທີ່ສາມາດປັບຕົວຕໍ່ເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ, ມີຈັກຄົນທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບ ການກະຕຸກຊຸກຍູ້ ແລະ ອຸປະກອນ?

☐ 0-10%

☐ 11-50%

☐ 51-90%

☐ 91-100%

## ຈຳນວນຄົວເຮືອນ ແລະ / ຫຼືບໍລິເວນກວມເອົາ

120'000 hectares are bush thinned per year in Namibia; figures on the increase

### ໄດ້ມີການຕັດແປງເຕັກໂນໂລຢີ ເພື່ອປັບໃຫ້ເຂົ້າກັບເງື່ອນໄຂການ ປ່ຽນແປງບໍ່?

■ ມີ  
■ ບໍ່ມີ

### ໄດ້ປ່ຽນແປງເງື່ອນໄຂຫຍັງແດ່?

■ ການປ່ຽນໂປຼແກຼມການຄຸ້ມຄອງ / ຮຽນຮູ້  
■ ຕະຫຼາດມີການປ່ຽນໂປຼແກຼມ  
■ ມີ ຮຽນຮູ້ເພີ່ມເຕີມ, ເມື່ອຈາກການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍ ຮຽນຮູ້

Increasingly bush harvesting is carried out with mechanised means, aiming at large scale production for large biomass off-takers, both in the country and internationally.

## ບົດສະຫຼຸບ ■ ລະຫັດຮຽນທີ ■ ສູ້ບ

### ຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງ: ທັດສະນະມຸມມອງ ຂອງຜູ້ນຳໃຊ້ທີ່ດິນ

- Effective measure against bush encroachment
- Costs can be balanced with additional income through the sale of the biomass/biomass based products

### ຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງ: ທັດສະນະມຸມມອງ ຂອງຜູ້ປ່ອນຂ້າງເອງ

- Apart from the main purpose of rehabilitating rangeland, bush control has various side benefits, such as employment creation and industrialisation.
- Bush control and biomass utilisation can contribute to energy security in the country.
- The available range of technologies (from manual to fully mechanised) allows to develop viable concept for all types of land/land ownership scenarios.

### ຈຸດອ່ອນ / ຂໍ້ເສຍ / ຄວາມສັງງ: ທັດສະນະມຸມມອງ ຂອງຜູ້ນຳໃຊ້ທີ່ດິນ ວິທີການແກ້ໄຂແນວໃດ

- High initial costs involved. Development of dedicated financial products.
- Possible negative consequences, such as more aggressive re-growth of species. Increased knowledge dissemination, skills development and mentorship programmes.

### ຈຸດອ່ອນ / ຂໍ້ເສຍ / ຄວາມສັງງ: ທັດສະນະມຸມມອງ ຂອງຜູ້ປ່ອນຂ້າງເອງ ວິທີການແກ້ໄຂແນວໃດ

- Necessity of cross-sector collaboration, e.g. agriculture, forestry, environment, industry, energy and resulting complexity. Introduction of effective steering body on national level.
- Challenges to sustain operations in communal areas/on land that is not owned by individuals. Development of concepts for community based projects and cooperation with relevant regional authorities and decision making bodies (e.g. Regional Councils, Conservancies).

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ປັບປຸງລ່າສຸດ: Nov. 2, 2021

#### ບຸກຄົນທີ່ສ້າງ

Johannes Laufs - ຜູ້ຊີ້ນຳ ດຸນການຄຸ້ມຄອງ ທີ່ຕີນ ບໍ່ມີຍິງ  
Frank Gschwender - ຜູ້ຊີ້ນຳ ດຸນການຄຸ້ມຄອງ ທີ່ຕີນ ບໍ່ມີຍິງ

#### ການບັນຍາຍລາຍລະອຽດ ໃນຖານຂໍ້ມູນ ຂອງ WOCAT

[https://qcat.wocat.net/lo/wocat/technologies/view/technologies\\_2203/](https://qcat.wocat.net/lo/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_2203/)

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n.a.

#### ເອກະສານ ແມ່ນໄດ້ອໍານວຍຄວາມສະດວກໂດຍ

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- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

##### ໜ້າ

- Book project: Guidelines to Rangeland Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (Rangeland Management)
- GIZ Support to De-bushing Project

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- Namibia Biomass Industry Group (N-BIG): [www.n-big.org](http://www.n-big.org)
- Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwCICcfwf0SdVBqg2ZcAcKA>
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