



De-bushing Advisory Service

De-bushing Advisory Service (DAS)

The De-bushing Advisory Service (DAS) is a national information platform and focal point for questions relating to bush encroachment, bush thinning and value addition to bush biomass. We offer support to emerging, communal and commercial farmers and to businesses engaged in bush control and biomass utilisation.

Our work is closely linked to existing agricultural, forestry and environmental advisory and extension services, both public and private, leveraging synergies where applicable.

We

- provide information on bush encroachment, control methods and biomass utilisation
- serve as a knowledge and contact broker
- foster access to financial and technical support

Contact

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De-bushing Advisory Service Namibia



DAS Namibia

Visit our website and find out more about our services. Our resource section offers information on bush control methods, value addition and more.

Turning bush encroachment into an opportunity!



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Bush encroachment in Namibia

Namibia is affected by bush encroachment on a massive scale. The phenomenon affects an estimated 26 to 30 million hectares of farmland in 9 of the country's 14 regions. That amounts to roughly 30 per cent of Namibia's land area. Recent studies estimate an increase in bush encroachment up to 45 million hectares.

Bush encroachment has lowered the productivity of land and its grazing capacity by more than two-thirds and impacts negatively on groundwater recharge, biodiversity and other ecosystem services. At the same time, encroacher bush can deliver valuable biomass resource. Thus, bush control offers the potential to increase agricultural productivity, economic growth, employment and energy supply.

Harvesting

Encroacher bush harvesting can be conducted in a sustainable manner in Namibia. It can be profitable, especially at commercial scale. There are several practical methods for harvesting encroacher bush, namely:

- Mechanical
- Manual or semi mechanised
- Biological control
- Controlled bush fires

Although a mechanised biomass harvesting industry is in its early stage in Namibia, good progress has been made over the recent years. Today, appropriate technology is available to convert bush into sellable wood chips. When executed correctly, environmental friendly harvesting is possible.

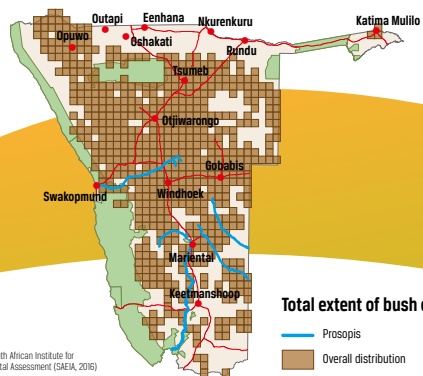
Visit our website to read more on the most appropriate and best practice technologies for harvesting encroacher bush.

Value Addition

The current economic utilisation of encroacher bush in Namibia focuses mainly on firewood for local communities, charcoal for export, and small production of compressed firewood. However, numerous end-use opportunities can be identified. Some require large quantities of resources, others much smaller quantities but may still lead to considerable value addition as well as to the creation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and employment.

There is extensive, diverse demand for biomass on both domestic and international markets, with interest shown by, among others:

- the energy sector, whose especially large demand is sufficient to trigger large-scale bush thinning projects
- the agricultural sector, which can use biomass as feed for cattle or game, or as fertiliser for crop production
- the construction industry, where biomass can be used to produce building materials, such as chipboards or wood panels



Source: South African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA, 2016)