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AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Dakar, Senegal, 19 - 23 June 2018

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON FAO RESPONSES TO THE REQUESTS FROM THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1. The Twentieth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, convened in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2016 made several recommendations to FAO. This note presents a brief account of actions taken on these recommendations. The Commission may wish to review the progress made so far and develop further recommendations to FAO.

The Commission:

Requested FAO to continue to collaborate with the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and other regional processes on forests and to make links with international processes.

2. In West Africa, The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) received support in the implementation of the Convergence Plan for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems. Twelve National Forest Investment Plans were developed and validated in ECOWAS member countries.

3. A Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy is being developed with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for Eastern Africa (IGAD region).

4. A Forestry programme in Central Africa is implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC).

5. FAO is supporting the African Union in developing a regional sustainable forest management programme framework in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Forest Forum. The document is currently being finalized.

Requested FAO to assist countries to actively integrate forests into their national climate change strategies and their plans for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6. In November 2017, FAO became a Green Climate Fund (GCF) grant-implementing entity for medium-sized projects (USD 50-250 million) with a medium level of environmental and social risk. Following this, FAO stands ready to support member countries to develop and implement country-led projects in FAO areas of expertise. In 2017, 16 African countries¹ were supported technically and financially by FAO to prepare their GCF concept notes, project proposals and readiness proposals. At the time of writing this paper, out of the readiness proposals already submitted to GCF, four were approved, benefiting Burkina Faso, Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

7. FAO, under its African Solidarity Trust Fund, is implementing a project on Adoption of efficient and climate-smart agricultural practices in African Small Island Developing States (Cabo Verde, Guine-Bissau, Seychelles, Sao Tomé e Principe, Mauritius, Comoros).

8. In 2017, FAO published its first detailed regional analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Eastern Africa. As a follow-up, FAO will support the Eastern African countries in developing NDC implementation strategies in 2018, including through proposals development under the GCF as mentioned in 6 above.

9. Through the implementation of its Economics and Policy Innovations (EPIC) for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programme, FAO has trained extension workers in a number of countries. EPIC is working on a project to strengthen the capacities of countries including Malawi and Zambia to address the constraints to adopting CSA and to promote CSA practices. The project strengthens also the capacities of Ministries of Agriculture to engage in UNFCCC negotiations. Four countries in Eastern Africa (Djibouti, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Rwanda) were supported to develop their CSA country profile and national CSA programmes.

10. In 2017, FAO published an analytical report on forests and climate change in Eastern Africa².

Requested FAO to support countries' actions in implementing the Paris agreement in a coordinated manner, including adequate involvement of key national stakeholders

11. A key element of the Paris Agreement, the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), requires countries to provide national inventory reports of their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and information on the progress made in implementing their nationally determined contributions. Developing countries are also required to set up monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities for the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and undertake voluntary MRV of their activities related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

12. Ethiopia has been supported to develop its capacity on MRV for REDD+ through support from FAO and the World Bank.

13. FAO continues to support countries in meeting these reporting requirements through the REDD+ and the National Forest Monitoring teams and programmes such as the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) and the UN-REDD programme. In this regard, FAO is supporting a total of 22 African countries on national forest monitoring and REDD+, among which 12 benefiting from individual projects and 13 countries from a regional programme focusing on West Africa sub-region.

¹ Countries supported so far are: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7757e.pdf>

14. In 2018, FAO launched a global project, under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to support developing countries in complying with the EFT requirements in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors.

15. FAO is also supporting African countries to implement the Paris Agreement through the SIDS project in the context of the African solidarity (Please refer to paragraph 7).

16. FAO is providing technical and strategic support to the implementation of the Mozambique Forest Investment Project (MOzFIP) financed by the World Bank.

17. In Niger, in collaboration with the German Government, FAO is developing a project entitled the “Paris Agreement in Action”.

18. In Congo, FAO supports the development of a GCF full proposal to support the implementation of their NDCs in the forest and land use sector.

Encouraged FAO to facilitate and promote the sharing of best practices on the choice and use of appropriate species and genetic material, including local seeds.

19. FAO recently completed a GEF project on developing trans-frontier conservation area linking Forest Reserves and Protected Areas in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The project, supported by GEF put a large emphasis on enrichment planting and degraded land rehabilitation using appropriate tree species as well as adopting sustainable land management (SLM) and good agricultural practices (GAP) for improving soil fertility and agroforestry.

Requested FAO to provide the necessary support to enhance country capacities in the implementation of REDD+ activities.

20. FAO REDD+ team is supporting 21 countries in Africa to achieve their “REDD+ readiness” requirements, including the development of national REDD+ strategies or action plans, the design of National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) for MRV, the elaboration of Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRL), and the development of safeguards information systems (SIS).

21. FAO continues to support the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, Tunisia, Zambia, and West Africa sub-region (13 countries) in their National Forest Monitoring and MRV systems.

22. FAO supported Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia in submitting Forest Reference Emission Levels to the UNFCCC.

23. FAO supports the preparation of REDD+ investment and actions plans in Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Zambia.

24. In DRC FAO supported the preparation of project proposals under the Central Africa Forestry Initiative (CAFI) for the implementation of an integrated programme and on agriculture policy for REDD+.

25. FAO is strengthening member countries’ capacity in conducting and coordinating National Forest Monitoring, (NFM), data-sharing and in designing harmonized forest carbon inventories in ECOWAS member countries and in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Requested FAO to support countries in scaling up their investments in the NWFP sector.

26. A sub-regional conference on NWFP sector economic issues was organized, as part of the 16th Meeting of partners of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBPF).

27. FAO is leading the forests for food security component of the Central Africa Forestry Convergence plan. With the financing of AfDB, FAO supported the promotion of NWFP's increased contribution to food security in Central Africa, namely in Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe and Chad.

28. In Central African sub-region, in Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo a trust fund project was implemented in support to sustainable management of wildlife and bush meat value chain.

29. FAO supported apiculture development in community forests through a technical cooperation project (TCP) in Gabon to help local communities diversify their income sources and increase forestry contribution to the national efforts of poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, a TCP on Enhancing national capacity for the sustainable production of honey and other hive products was implemented in Lesotho. TCP on capacity development of small and medium forest enterprises is currently being implemented in Zambia.

30. FAO provided support to the Regional Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa and its members. This support has led to the development and validation of a Framework of Priorities 2017-2030. Women producer association from Senegal, Mali and Sudan have received hands-on training on sustainable harvesting and marketing of gum Arabic. See document (FO:AFWC/2018/11).

Requested FAO (and regional economical commissions, RECs) to facilitate the integration of transboundary and land tenure issues into land use policies.

31. FAO supported the establishment of a viable sustainable trans-frontier conservation area (TFCA), linking forest reserves and protected areas in and around Bia in Ghana and Diambarakro in Côte d'Ivoire within the FAO-GEF transboundary project as mentioned in paragraph 15.

32. Under the recently approved EU-ACP funded project on "Sustainable Wildlife Programme" covers some conservation frontiers such as Zambia-Zimbabwe (KAZA area).

Requested FAO to enhance support to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)

33. FAO is supporting the dissemination of the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests" (VGGT) through Technical Cooperation projects. Awareness raising and training on VGGT uses and application were conducted in a number of countries including Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Kenya.

Requested FAO to support countries to improve the quality and availability of data related to woodfuel production and consumption in the countries.

34. FAO launched a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is providing support to the Community-based Miombo forest management in South East Katanga.

35. FAO is implementing a Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods project in Somalia.

36. A participatory capacity assessment on wood fuel supply and demand characterization in Eastern Africa is being conducted. This report will characterize countries' opportunities and challenges on capacity and programmes development for sustainable wood fuel production and consumption in Eastern Africa.

37. Technical cooperation projects on assessment of fuel supply-demand dynamics of woody biomass (e.g. use of *Prosopis*) to address fuelwood needs and livelihoods in refugees and host communities were implemented in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda.

38. A technical cooperation project on food security, nutrition and wood energy in Miombo woodlands was conducted, and published a report in March 2018, “Sustainable management of Miombo woodlands - Food security, nutrition and wood energy”³.

Requested FAO to support countries in reviewing national and regional programmes, policies and regulations related to wood energy and to integrate it into development policy at national level.

39. Please refer to paragraph 28 above.

Requested FAO to support member countries to implement the SDGs, in particular those relevant to forestry and land-use sectors and enhance synergies in the implementation of the proposed Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) goals under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

40. A sub regional monitoring process of forest-related SDGs was launched by COMIFAC member countries with FAO support. A tool for periodically assessing the progress made by member countries towards the achievement of forest-related SDGs will be set up in 2018 in order to improve the implementation of the SDGs.

41. FAO is developing a scoping report on agriculture-related land use changes and degradation in Eastern Africa. It will be available by end of 2018. The scoping report will be key when engaging with partners on LDN in the region, by availing information on potential focus areas for the agriculture sector’s contribution to the LDN.

Requested FAO to support members in the efforts to create awareness on illegal transboundary trade and in so doing engage the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and other relevant institutions.

42. FAO provided support to African countries (Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe) through its Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme” focusing on wildlife management for sustainable supply of wild meat to local communities, and promoting actions against illegal trade.

43. FAO published in 2017 a brief outlook on forestry, wildlife and protected areas in Eastern Africa. The publication is available on <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7686e.pdf>, and was made available to countries in the sub-region.

44. In Botswana, FAO made interventions to Improve the Food Security of Communities in Wildlife Dominated Landscapes.

45. FAO published a number of articles and materials to promote the role of forests, natural resources and pastoralism through its Nature and Faune magazine in 2017. FAO also published a publication in 2017 on raising awareness of its programme on natural resource management, which include forest, wildlife, land and water, available on the following link: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7702e.pdf>

Requested FAO to support, in an inclusive manner, the coordination of efforts to implement “2050 Vision” at regional and international levels, with particular attention to the engagement of all concerned stakeholders.

³ The publication is available on: <http://www.fao.org/3/I8852EN/i8852en.pdf>

Requested FAO to provide the technical support needed by countries to create an enabling environment for sustainable small scale forest and wildlife enterprises (SSFWE) development.

46. FAO is involved in several initiatives aimed at developing SSFWE in the region:

- technical support through a TCP in Botswana to identify the drivers and impacts of and possible solutions to address illegal bushmeat hunting in the Okavango delta;
- technical support provided to Zambia to identify the drivers, impact and possible solutions regarding illegal bushmeat hunting in Greater Kafue;
- the development of project on sustainable management of wildlife resources in West and Northern Africa;
- implementation of the FOREST FORCES (Forests Sustainably Managed for Communities, Environment and Shocks Resilience) project in Zimbabwe;
- development of agroforestry systems, market analysis and marketing and sale of agroforestry products in Seychelles.

Requested FAO to share available information on watershed management.

47. FAO is promoting the Integrated natural resources management in the Fouta Djallon Highlands. In collaboration with the GEF and UNEP, FAO has initiated the establishment of partnership with existing river basin organizations in 2017.

48. In 2017, FAO released a publication on integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into the watershed management approach in Eastern Africa' available on: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7489e.pdf>. This publication was initiated to identify, analyse and document existing watershed management practices in the subregion that contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and to ultimately serve as a guide and advocacy tool for a focus on systematically integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into watershed management, for environmental as well as social and economic benefits.

Requested FAO to support members in the efforts to strengthening their capacities and providing technical support for gender and youth mainstreaming in forest and wildlife policies and their implementation

49. FAO is active in an array of initiatives aiming at enhancing the roles of stakeholders in SFM, including work on mainstreaming gender in forestry, and a wide range of national projects with components related to stakeholder engagement, including:

- in Cameroon through the project on Sustainable forest management implemented with The authority of Cameroon councils;
- in Democratic Republic of Congo through the Community-based Miombo forest management in South East Katanga.

Requested FAO to support countries in planning and implementing activities related to the restoration of forests and other degraded lands, in particular through activities of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism.

50. FAO is engaged in the forest and landscape restoration initiatives and is implementing several projects:

- In the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, FAO in collaboration with the GEF is assisting countries to develop and implement their forest landscape restoration programmes;

- With the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), FAO developed a project to restore forests and landscapes and sustainable land management (SLM) in the Sahel benefiting Burkina Faso and Niger.
- FAO has also developed initial concept notes to support the formulation of global and regional programmes with particular focus on “Landscape Restoration” under GEF-7.

51. FAO through its Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) has supported three countries in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda) to develop their forest landscape restoration initiatives.

52. A regional conference on financing for restoration was organized in Kigali, Rwanda in 2017 to bring stakeholders and resource partners together to discuss and showcase business opportunities and promote investment in forest and landscapes.

Proposed FAO to consider the following agenda items for inclusion in the 23rd session of Committee on Forestry (COFO): i) contribution of forest sector to achieving the SDGs; ii) role of FAO/COFO in developing indicators to monitor progress in achieving SDGs and other goals, iii) capacity strengthening for cross-sectoral collaboration to address poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security, climate change.

53. All suggested topics were included in the COFO agenda and were discussed during the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Proposed FAO to transmit to African Regional Conference a report on forest and wildlife issues of importance to the region

54. The African Regional Conference in its 30th Session in 2016 considered: “Mainstreaming of biodiversity across agriculture, forestry and fisheries” as a priority and a topic in its main agenda.

Proposed FAO to transmit the AFWC recommendations to the ARC, COFO and FAO’s programme of work to the other Regional Forestry Commissions and to COFO.

55. Results and priorities of the AFWC were presented to the countries during the 29th and the 30th Sessions of the African Regional Conference (ARC) and the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Recommended FAO to initiate the revision of its Strategy for Forests and Forestry

56. FAO developed a document for consideration by all Regional Forestry Commissions on the subject. This issue will be addressed at COFO within the context of the discussion on FAO’s programme of work in Forestry..

Suggested FAO to identify opportunities to use AFWC as a body for coordination of regional action and dialogue for International Arrangements on Forests in consultation with the United Nations Forum on Forests.

57. Based on the RFC recommendations COFO invited UNFF to “consider the potential offered by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for enhancing regional/sub-regional involvement, including through using the Commissions for regional dialogues related to the UNFF...”⁴. At its 13th

⁴ COFO/2016/REP paragraph 53. b)

session in May 2017 the Forum considered this invitation and invited FAO to “provide the Forum at its 14th session an update of the consideration by the 24th session of the Committee on Forestry of the potential offered by the Regional Forestry Commissions, as appropriate, for enhancing regional/subregional involvement.”⁵

⁵ UNFF13 omnibus Resolution, paragraph 22. bis of the advance unedited version