

REPORT

Brazzaville,
Republic of Congo,
22-26 February
2010

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Seventeenth Session



**Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 st Session	Ibadan, Nigeria	31 October-7 November 1960
2 nd Session	Lomé, Togo	20-25 January 1969
3 rd Session	Nairobi, Kenya	7-12 February 1972
4 th Session	Bangui, Central African Rep.	22-27 March 1976
5 th Session	Accra, Ghana	24-28 April 1978
6 th Session	Arusha, Tanzania	12-16 September 1983
7 th Session	Bamako, Mali	20-24 January 1986
8 th Session	Blantyre, Malawi	1-3 May 1989
9 th Session	Kigali, Rwanda	10-14 August 1992
10 th Session	Sanbonani, South Africa	27 November-1 December 1995
11 th Session	Dakar, Senegal	14-17 April 1998
12 th Session	Lusaka, Zambia	27-30 March 2000
13 th Session	Libreville, Gabon	25-29 March 2002
14 th Session	Accra, Ghana	18-21 February 2004
15 th Session	Maputo, Mozambique	29 March-1 April 2006
16 th Session	Khartoum, Sudan	18-21 February 2008

REPORT

of the

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
22-26 February 2010**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ATTENTION
OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

- i. The Commission noted the need for knowledge exchange, capacity building, transparent and equitable sharing of benefits and the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas.
- ii. With regard to ecotourism, the Commission encouraged governments to reinvest ecotourism revenues for the benefit of local communities in order to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable natural resources management and to share experiences for the development of successful ecotourism activities.
- iii. With respect to non-wood forest products (NWFPs), the Commission recommended that: (i) the domestication and selection of the most valuable NWFPs be done in a participatory manner and based on the needs of local populations and market conditions; and (ii) technical and entrepreneurial capacities of small- and medium-sized enterprises involved in the NWFP value chains be strengthened and their experiences shared.
- iv. Concerning bioenergy, the Commission recommended that AFWC member countries support the development and use of alternative sources of energy.
- v. On the issue of the integrated management of forests and wildlife, the Commission noted that: (i) participatory development of policies and strategies on human and wildlife conflicts (HWC) and their effective implementation needs to be undertaken at the national level; and (ii) recommended that member countries share their experiences of HWC management.
- vi. The Commission encouraged: (i) member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective control of invasive species; and (ii) individuals and institutions to join the Forest Invasive Species Network (FISNA) in order to contribute to and benefit from the exchange of experiences on the issue.
- vii. Concerning the issue of wildlife and forestry legislation, the Commission recommended that countries take into consideration the principles of wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of drafting of legislation and the updating of current legal frameworks.

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE: REFLECTIONS ON THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND BENEFITS (SPECIAL AFWW DAY ISSUES)

- viii. The Commission recommended that forestry authorities liaise with agriculture sector institutions and political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management.
- ix. On institutional issues regarding the sustainable management of wildlife and forests in Africa, the Commission recommended that: (i) institutional change should be country driven; (ii) a mechanism should be established to promote cross-sectoral coordination of wildlife and forest management; (iii) capacities should be strengthened in order to respond to new and emerging challenges; (iv) key stakeholders should be involved during the design of institutional reforms and a clear role and functions-sharing mechanism established; and (v) transparent and clear

equitable-sharing mechanisms be established to ensure that benefits reach local communities in order that they can improve their livelihoods.

x. With regard to increased funding for sustainable forest management (SFM), the Commission indicated that it was also incumbent on the countries to identify internal resources, which were often available.

xi. The Commission recognized that national forest programmes (nfps) constitute an important instrument for achieving SFM. It urged its member countries to develop their nfps into effective platforms for coordination of national and international initiatives related to forests, thus allowing nfps to play their principal role of integrating the interests, needs and initiatives of other sectors in order to better serve society as a whole.

xii. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the pre-session workshop on climate change and African forests and wildlife. It acknowledged the recommendations made by the workshop.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

The Commission requested FAO to:

xiii. continue to facilitate capacity building and information exchange in protected areas management;

xiv. disseminate widely the methodology on inventories of non-wood forest products to enable its adoption by African countries;

xv. facilitate technology transfer in wood-based energies and foster the dissemination of bioenergy technologies;

xvi. assist countries in awareness raising and capacity building in the areas of human-wildlife conflict mitigation (HWC) and to provide, upon request, relevant technical advice for the participatory development of policies and strategies on HWC and their effective implementation. It further invited FAO to facilitate experience sharing between member countries; and

xvii. compile, promote and disseminate good practices in invasive species management.

FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION

The Commission:

xviii. requested FAO to place greater emphasis on the issues of agro-forestry technology approaches and application;

xix. endorsed the changes made to the functions of the Commission, as contained in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, to include 'wildlife';

xx. requested FAO to increase its support to members to develop their capacities in research and education through the strengthening of forestry training institutions;

xxi. requested FAO to undertake: (i) a regional analysis of all Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) variables to present a complete assessment of the forest situation; (ii) develop a global methodology for the evaluation of trees outside forests, forest degradation and afforestation; and (iii) to continue its support to countries to conduct national forest monitoring and assessments (NFMAs) to improve forest resources information and analysis and in the development of NFMA project proposals

xxii. The Commission noted the utility of the ‘Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Dry Lands of sub-Saharan Africa’ and requested that, once translated, FAO should disseminate it amongst members for their use.

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 20th SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO)**

xxiii. The Commission requested FAO to continue to facilitate capacity building and information exchange exercises especially to:

- widely disseminate the methodology on inventories of non-wood forest products to enable its adoption by African countries;
- continue to assist countries in the areas of human-wildlife conflict mitigation and equitable benefits sharing; and
- promote proven agro-forestry approaches and technologies.

xxiv. The Commission requested FAO to undertake:

- a regional analysis of all Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) variables to present a complete assessment of the forest situation; and
- develop a global methodology for the evaluation of trees outside forests, forest degradation and afforestation.

xxv. The Commission requested FAO to:

- continue its support to countries to conduct National Forest Monitoring and Assessments (NFMAs) to improve forest resources information and analysis;
- support countries in the development of NFMA project proposals.
- continue to support countries in the implementation of reducing emissions for deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in all its forms and, in so doing, to assist them to incorporate all types of land uses, including agriculture, agro-forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) and to draw lessons from the evolution of the Clean Development Mechanism.
- compile, promote and disseminate good practices in Invasive Species (IS) management.

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF
THE 26th REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA (ARC)**

The Commission:

- encouraged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas and to promote the equitable sharing of revenues generated in a transparent way, including investment in improved communal infrastructures. It further encouraged them to extend the coverage of protected areas if appropriate.

-
- recommended that countries exchange information and learn from each other in the development of successful ecotourism activities.
 - encouraged governments to reinvest revenues from ecotourism in the respective local communities affected to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable management.
 - encouraged member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective management of transboundary forest, wildlife and water resources, and the control of invasive species.
 - recommended that countries take into consideration the principles of wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of drafting of legislation and the updating of current legal frameworks.
 - recommended that forestry authorities liaise with the agriculture sector institutions and the political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management.
 - The Commission called upon member countries to encourage inter-sectoral participation during the planning phase of National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA).

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Seventeenth Session in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 22 to 26 February 2010, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Congo. The session was attended by 138 representatives from 31 member countries and one observer country. There were also 5 representatives from 5 United Nations Agencies, 31 representatives from 24 Intergovernmental and International non-governmental organizations as well as representatives from FAO Offices and projects. His Excellency Serapio B. Rukundo, Minister of State for Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities of Uganda, and His Honourable Diosdado Sergio Osa Mongomo, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Forests of Equatorial Guinea also attended the sessions. *Appendix B* provides a full list of participants

2. The 17th Session of the Commission was held together with the first African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) under the common theme of “*African Forests and Wildlife: Response to the Challenges of Sustainable Livelihood Systems*” The rationale behind the AFWC and the AFWW theme was to contextualize the important contribution of forests and wildlife in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition in Africa and to re-emphasize to policy makers the significance of forests and wildlife in national economies and their potential as viable sectors for the improvement of the livelihood of their populations.

3. Mr. Michael Martin, Director, Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, represented the Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr. Foday Bojang, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, Ghana, served as Secretary of the Commission.

4. Mr. Dieudonne Koguiyagda, FAO Representative in Brazzaville, made a brief statement to welcome the participants to Brazzaville and thanked the Government of Congo for its hospitality and the organization of the session.

5. Mr. Martin delivered the FAO Statement on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf. He expressed FAO’s profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Congo and outlined the importance of African forests and wildlife and their contribution to poverty reduction, food security and climate change. He reiterated the compelling need for African foresters to participate in the international negotiations on climate change.

6. His Excellency, Henri Djombo, Minister for Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment of the Republic of Congo, officially opened the 17th Session of the Commission and expressed his government’s pleasure at hosting the meeting. He welcomed the delegates and thanked the FAO Secretariat for its assistance. He briefly outlined the progress made by African countries towards sustainable forest management in the context of climate change. He invited the delegates to reflect on actions to be taken in order to address the main challenges for the future. He concluded by wishing the session every success.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2)

7. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted as set out in document FO:AFWC/2010/Rev.1. The documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 3)

8. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur. The composition of the Bureau is as follows:

Chairperson	Mr. Donatien N'Zala, (Republic of Congo)
1 st Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Joseph S. Hailwa (Namibia)
2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Sadoune Chaïb (Algeria)
3 rd Vice-Chairperson	Mr. Charles Musyoki Mutua (Kenya)
Rapporteur	Mr. El-Hadj Issa Azizou (Benin)

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICA (Item 4)**(i) Protected areas and the livelihoods of local communities**

9. Forests and wildlife in rural areas are crucial for community livelihoods. Regulations denying the access and use of protected areas to local people create conflicts and increase illegal practices. Major opportunities for the future are seen in payments for ecosystem services, the responsible involvement of the private sector and in combining indigenous knowledge with modern scientific data. The Commission was informed of the need to foster strong and coherent policy and institutional frameworks to promote fair and transparent participatory processes and to enhance collaboration and partnerships, including with the private sector.

10. The Commission noted the need for knowledge exchange, capacity building and the equitable sharing of benefits.

11. The Commission encouraged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas and to promote the equitable sharing of revenues generated in a transparent way, including investment in improved communal infrastructures. It further encouraged them to consider the means of financing protected areas in a sustainable manner, and their effective management, and to extend their coverage, if appropriate. The potential for the effective provision by the private sector of services associated with protected areas sector was noted

12. The Commission noted the need for policy coherence across the spectrum of national legislation impacting, directly and indirectly, on protected areas.

13. The Commission requested FAO to continue to facilitate capacity building and information exchange exercises on protected areas and their management.

(ii) Ecotourism and its potential for conserving forests and wildlife and alleviating poverty

14. Ecotourism can be distinguished from nature tourism by its emphasis on conservation, education, traveller responsibility and community participation. In particular wildlife watching tourism has grown enormously over recent decades. Ecotourism can contribute to conservation and livelihoods and provide revenues for protected areas. Without adequate management, however, unregulated tourism can threaten the integrity of ecosystems and local cultures. Heavy dependence on tourism can also be risky because of fluctuations in visitor numbers. The Commission was informed that ecotourism combined with the diversification of economic activities could reduce forest and biodiversity degradation when based on the full participation of and benefits sharing with local communities.

15. The Commission encouraged governments to reinvest revenues from ecotourism in the respective local communities in order to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable management. It noted that civil conflicts undermine ecotourism and that political stability is a prerequisite for its development. It recommended that countries exchange information and learn from each other in the development of successful ecotourism activities.

(iii) The role of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) in food security and poverty reduction in Africa

16. The Commission acknowledged the rich and diverse NWFP resource base available in Africa as well as the traditional knowledge for its use. NWFPs provide safety nets for rural populations during the lean season or in times of crop failure. For this reason they are complementary to other economic sectors. The importance of NWFPs to food security and poverty reduction is significant but several factors are impeding development of the sector. Among those identified were: inadequate legal frameworks; insufficient institutional support and capacity building; and the lack of technological innovation and non inclusion of NWFPs in poverty reduction and food security programmes.

17. The Commission requested that FAO disseminate widely the methodology on inventories of NWFPs to enable its adoption by African countries.

18. The Commission recommended that:

- the domestication and selection of the most valuable NWFPs be undertaken in a participatory manner and based on the needs of local populations and market conditions;
- the countries of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) adopt the sub-regional guidelines produced by FAO and partners to improve their national legal frameworks; and
- technical and entrepreneurial capacities of small- and medium-sized enterprises involved in the NWFP value chains be strengthened and their experiences shared.

(iv) Bioenergy and forests in Africa

19. Reliable access to sources of energy remains a significant challenge in Africa. Bioenergy continues to be an important part of the continent's energy profile and may offer new opportunities for the future. The Commission noted that:

- woodfuel is a major source of energy in Africa and its production and consumption have major impacts on deforestation and climate change;
- the need to develop new wood energy production services is urgent;
- Africa has a significant potential for the production and supply of bioenergy;
- increased bioenergy production will require appropriate planning to avoid conflicts, competition for land use and food insecurity; and
- countries need to encourage the sustainable production of wood fuel.

20. The Commission recommended that:

- AFWC member countries work within their governments to support the development and use of alternative sources of energy such as solar energy, waste conversion and other energy production technologies; and
- FAO facilitate technology transfer in wood-based energies and foster the dissemination of bioenergy technologies such as improved wood stoves and more efficient charcoal-making technologies as well as promote the full use of tree residues after logging and processing.

(v) **Sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife-related activities in Africa**

a) **Integrated management of forests and wildlife for conflict prevention and maximization of benefits**

21. The Commission was informed of the potential of forests and wildlife to generate revenues that can substantially contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Africa. Examples of eco-tourism, hunting, non wood forest products and bushmeat were cited as sources of benefits provided. Also noted was the high risk for conflicts over forest and wildlife resources' use and conservation, particularly human-wildlife conflicts (HWC), and the fact that this was an increasing problem in rural Africa.

22. The Commission acknowledged that in order to reduce conflicts there was a need for integrated management which would allow communities to benefit from forests and wildlife. In order to achieve this there was a recognized need for clear policies to engage public and government interest in the integrated and sustainable management of forests, wildlife and protected areas. There was also a need for capacity building and awareness raising to enhance stakeholder participation in policy formulation and implementation. Exchange of experiences, better communication and multilateral collaboration at the local, national, regional and global levels were prerequisites for identifying the best options for the integrated management of natural resources.

23. The Commission confirmed the importance and the complexity of these issues in Africa as well as the interest of countries to work further on methods and mechanisms for conflict prevention and the maximization and equitable sharing of benefits.

24. The Commission: (i) requested FAO to assist countries in awareness raising and capacity building in the areas of human-wildlife conflict mitigation (HWC) and equitable benefits sharing; (ii) noted that participatory development of policies and strategies on HWC and their effective implementation needs to be undertaken at the national level, however FAO could provide, upon request, relevant technical assistance; and (iii) recommended that member countries share their experiences of HWC management among themselves and invited FAO, together with relevant partners, to facilitate these exchanges.

b) **Invasive species and their economic relevance for and impact on forests and wildlife in Africa**

25. The representative of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA), Mr. Paul Bosu, informed the Commission that forest invasive species (IS) are gaining ground throughout Africa, are of serious environmental and economic concern and that their management poses significant challenges. The Network is an important African institution that seeks to enable collaboration among scientists and policy makers in the management of forest invasive species in the continent.

26. The Commission:

- recognized FISNA as an efficient forum for sharing knowledge and experience among the members, and encouraged individuals and institutions to join the Network in order to contribute to and benefit from experience exchange;
- requested FAO to compile, promote and disseminate good practices in IS management. It noted that some IS could be controlled through their intensive utilization in a way that would benefit local communities; and
- encouraged member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective control of invasive species.

c) Wildlife legislation and the legal empowerment of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa

27. The Commission was informed of recent legal studies on wildlife legislation in Africa including the key findings and recommendations for coherence between wildlife legislation in Africa. It was pointed out that good legislative practices in the region that would lead to the empowerment of the poor should (i) ensure the representation of all sectors of society on wildlife advisory or decision making bodies (ii) facilitate access to justice by any concerned persons (iii) securely grant management rights, (iv) require wildlife management planning (v) envisage public participation in the adoption of plans, creation and management of protected areas, setting of conservation measures (vi) provide a basis for community-based or private wildlife management while addressing environmental concerns and (vii) address gender issues (providing equal access to opportunities) and food security. The Commission noted the importance of achieving coherence, common principles and guidelines, permitting diversification in the scope and content of legislation in each country, as appropriate.

28. The Commission recommended that countries take into consideration the principles of wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of drafting of legislation and the updating of current legal frameworks.

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE: REFLECTIONS ON THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND BENEFITS (*Special AFWW day issues*) (Item 5)

(i) Keynote statements from international and regional body representatives

Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)

29. Mr. Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary, indicated that a majority of the states of Central Africa with equatorial and tropical forests cover are members of COMIFAC. COMIFAC is mandated to provide political and technical support for the sustainable management of these forests. Despite current low rates of deforestation, these forests require proper management. The Commission was informed that COMIFAC welcomes continued collaboration with FAO on policy, forest management and project development matters. COMIFAC also invited non members of the Congo Basin to join the Commission in order to add their contribution to the common effort for the sustainable management of the second largest tropical forest area in the world

International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO)

30. Ms. Ntsame Okwo, representing the Director-General of ITTO, informed the Commission that the Organization, based in Yokohama, Japan, had negotiated, in 2006, an accord on timber trade and sustainable management of forests. However, the required number of ratifications for its entry into force had not yet been reached. The ITTO appealed to African member countries to ratify the Accord.

31. ITTO assists many of its member countries in strengthening their capacities to increase forest productivity, improve value-added processing and to increase trade in wood products and their derivatives.

32. Together with FAO, ITTO is jointly engaged in sustainable forest management in tropical countries and has produced guidelines and criteria and indicators as well as many other reference documents to improve the management of forests, their proper exploitation and the efficient processing of products.

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat

33. Mr. Alhassan Nantogmah Attah, representing the Director, indicated that the UNFF, created in 2000, has 192 member countries. In 2007 it adopted a Non Legally Binding Instrument on all

Types of Forests that was endorsed by the UN General Assembly. In 2011 UNFF9 will deliberate on forests for people's livelihoods and poverty eradication. It will also be the platform for the launch of the International Year of Forestry in 2011. This will raise the profile of forests within higher agenda such as the forthcoming political summits foreseen for follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals and Rio+20.

34. The UNFF Secretariat called upon the Commission to contribute to global processes in forestry such as the UNFF.

Agriculture and Forestry

35. Mr. Mafa Chipeta, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, underscored the need to boost agricultural productivity in Africa, as a vital step towards protecting forest resources and their contributions to local livelihoods.

LUSAKA Agreement

36. Mr. Bonaventure Ebayi, Director of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, informed the Commission that the Agreement was mandated to address the illegal trade in Africa of natural resources with biological diversity value, particularly plants and animals. It seeks to assist African countries in minimizing the loss of biodiversity through cooperation among states and regional and global responses as well as through the mobilization of resources with other partners such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and INTERPOL, the international police organization.

African Forest Forum (AFF)

37. Dr. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary, informed the Commission that the AFF is an association of individuals with an interest in the sustainable management and use of African forest and tree resources, with the aim of improving the livelihoods of the people of Africa and the environments they live in. Its activities are in the areas of networking, advocacy, policy analysis and advice, as well as development and implementation of specific projects. The Forum pays particular attention to promoting sustainable forest management (SFM) in the continent. Closely related to this are the national forest programmes (nfps) that provide a platform for rallying stakeholders and resources around the issues and their solution. NFP platforms could be used to include actors in water and energy sectors to determine how joint management of forests that supply these products could be undertaken effectively.

38. The forestry and wildlife sectors are affected by illegal activities. Development and strengthening of professional societies and associations that promote professionalism and ethics could be one way forward on this.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

39. Mr Kai-Uwe Wollscheid, Director General, informed the Commission that the CIC is an intergovernmental institution active in 84 countries and consisting of government members, research and academic institutions as well as associations. Its mandate is wildlife and hunting policy and law development and improvement as well as applied science and culture. It works in partnership with FAO on: scientific matters; sustainable use of wildlife; creating enabling environments; best practices and capacity building. It has also produced manuals related to best practices, principles of wildlife management and publications on sustainable hunting tourism in Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus. He invited the Commission to apply the "Principles for Developing Sustainable Wildlife Management Laws" in national processes and to inform FAO and CIC about the experiences drawn.

(ii) Forestry and wildlife policies in Africa: presentations by African regional economic communities

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

40. Mr. Honoré Tabuna spoke about the roles and functions of ECCAS in natural resource management. He presented the sub-regional policy on natural resource management approved in 2007 and emphasized that the implementation of this policy requires adequate institutional arrangements and programme development. In this context COMIFAC became a specialized institution of ECCAS in 2007 and that the PACEBCo (*Programme d'Appui à la Conservation des Ecosystèmes du Bassin du Congo*) had in the meantime been formulated and funded by the African Development Bank.

Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS)

41. Mr. Moussa Leko (ECOWAS Commission) briefly presented ECOWAS and its recent transformation into a Commission. He also described the vision and main thrusts of the ECOWAS Forest Policy validated in 2005. He highlighted the working priorities for 2010 which include the Forest Dialogue for West Africa (ministerial endorsement and formulation start-up of the Convergence Plan for the management of forest and wildlife resources in West Africa), the formulation of a sustainable management strategy for the district and community forests in West Africa, and the formulation of a strategy for the promotion of intra-West African trade of wood and derived products.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

42. Mr. Harsen Nyambe Nyambe, the representative of SADC, highlighted that SADC integration efforts are now focused on empowering the poor, promoting sustainable development and on deepening integration among countries. He pointed out the existence of SADC protocols on forestry and wildlife conservation; strategies on forestry, biodiversity, wildlife and elephant management; and programmes on cross-border fire management. He indicated that SADC is faced with: insufficiently harmonized policies; limited resources for programme implementation; insufficient data to inform policy; and competing priorities. SADC appealed for FAO support for the implementation of its strategies and priorities.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP)

43. Mr. Ian Redmond, GRASP Chief Consultant, drew the attention of participants to the importance of wildlife as an indicator of the health and vitality of any forest ecosystem. He focused his presentation on the importance of great apes in 21 African countries and on how their existence has been under threat in most of those countries. He highlighted the importance of the International Year of Biodiversity being celebrated in 2010, as well as the Gorilla Agreement that was signed two years ago by most of the African states whose ecosystems include gorillas. He urged the Commission to include the 'gardeners of the forest' (primates, elephants, etc.) in its deliberations.

(iii) Heads of Forestry Dialogue - African forestry institutions: capacity development to meet the challenges of a changing world

44. Five countries were invited to share their experiences on institutional changes: Congo, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia, The main conclusions were:

- institutional changes were conducted in response to the following key challenges: decentralization, participatory management, sustainable forest management, carbon markets, including reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD);.

- institutional reforms were carried out with donor support and, in some cases, the donors took a leading role;
- the process of institutional reform is often influenced by the private sector and non-governmental organizations;
- in some cases, institutional changes are not sufficiently integrated into broader policy frameworks;
- the absence of cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration with other sectors;
- new financial mechanisms are essential for successful institutional changes; and
- multi-stakeholder participation and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms are pre-requisites for any attempts to make institutional changes more successful and people oriented.

45. The following recommendations were made:

- institutional change should be a country-driven process, with government authorities taking the lead, and take into consideration forest policy frameworks and strategy reforms;
- a mechanism should be established to promote cross-sectoral coordination of wildlife and forest management;
- capacities should be strengthened in order to respond to new and emerging challenges;
- the involvement of key stakeholders during the design of institutional reforms should be ensured and a clear role and functions-sharing mechanism established; and
- transparent and clear equitable-sharing mechanisms should be established to ensure that benefits reach the respective local communities in order that they can improve their livelihoods.

FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION (Item 6)

(i) AFWC secretariat report on actions taken on the requests and recommendations of the 16th Session of the Commission

46. The Secretariat presented the actions taken by FAO in response to the requests and recommendations of the 16th Session of the Commission. It also specifically requested the Commission to approve the amendment made to the functions of the AFWC in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, in accordance with the request of its 16th Session. The Commission acknowledged the activities that FAO had undertaken to address the various recommendations and requests and expressed its appreciation for the efforts made. Furthermore, it:

- endorsed the changes made to the functions of the Commission, as contained in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, to include ‘wildlife’;
- requested FAO to increase its support to members to develop their capacities in research and education through strengthening of forestry training institutions; and
- lamented the lack of sub-regional reports, from the Bureau of AFWC 16, on activities undertaken at country level to respond to the recommendations of the 16th Session and requested that, in future, such reports should be made available to the Commission at each of its sessions.

47. The Commission recommended that forestry authorities liaise with the agriculture sector institutions and political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management. It further recommended that the AFWC Bureau, with the assistance of FAO, ensure that the interface between forestry and agriculture be addressed at future sessions of the Commission.

48. With regard to increased funding for SFM, the Commission indicated that it was also incumbent on the countries to identify internal resources, which were often available.

49. The Commission requested FAO to place greater emphasis on the issues of agroforestry technology approaches and application and their extension and to assist countries in adapting technologies to add value to their forest resources and thus the livelihoods of forest dependent populations.

50. The Commission also invited COMIFAC to share its experience with other African regions in order to improve the management of their forests and woodlands especially in the dryland areas.

(ii) Forest resources assessment and monitoring

(a) Global Forest Resources Assessments

51. FAO carries out Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) at 5 to 10 year intervals. The last assessment was developed in 2005 and focused on six thematic elements for sustainable forest management: extent of forest; biological diversity; forest health and vitality; productive and protective functions of forests; and socio-economic functions. FRA 2010 included institutional and legal frameworks. The FRA process and preliminary key findings were presented highlighting the importance of the participation of the National Correspondents throughout the process, and the 17 country tables included in the country reports. The regional distribution of countries for the analysis of data was shown. The presentation focused on key findings for the Africa region for the variables on: forest area and change, ownership, forest characteristics, forest designation, policy, legislation and institutions.

52. The Commission requested FAO to:

- undertake a regional analysis of all FRA variables to present a complete assessment of the forest situation; and
- develop a global methodology for the evaluation of trees outside forests, forest degradation and afforestation.

(b) National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA)

53. In 2003 COFO requested FAO to assist countries in strengthening their capacities for conducting National Forest Monitoring and Assessment and building forest information systems.

54. NFMA responds to national needs for better information on forests and their utilization. It is designed to strengthen countries' capacities to collect and analyze information, monitor long-term trends, improve management systems, and support dialogue, strategy development, national forestry programmes, international reporting processes, and monitoring towards sustainable management of forest resources.

55. The Commission requested FAO:

- to continue its support to countries to conduct NFMA to improve forest resources information and analysis; and
- support countries in the development of NFMA project proposals.

56. The Commission called upon member countries to encourage inter-sectoral participation during the planning phase of NFMA.

(c) State of Forest Genetic Resources in Africa: capacity development for procuring high-quality and accurate data on forest genetic resources

57. The Commission noted the outline that was endorsed for the first *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* report (SOW-FGR) and the process agreed for its preparation. It supported the broad scope and approach in undertaking preparation of the report to enable documentation of country and regional specificities and the diversity of needs of user groups. Recognizing that the preparation of country reports can serve as a strategic tool for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources, the Commission stressed the importance of the participatory approach promoted by FAO to ensure the effective involvement of all stakeholders. It emphasized the need to adopt a regional approach to define needs and priorities for action.

(iii) National forestry policies, programmes and participatory processes

58. The Commission endorsed sustainable forest management as the basis for the forest sector's ability to make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It further recognized that national forest programmes (nfps) constitute an important instrument for achieving SFM and thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change. The Commission therefore urged its member countries to develop their nfps into effective platforms for coordination of national and international initiatives related to forests, thus allowing nfps to play their principal role of integrating the interests, needs and initiatives of other sectors in order to better serve society as a whole.

iv. Regional and country projects

(a) The forestry-water nexus in Africa: Fouta Djallon and other key water resources contributing to forestry livelihood support on the continent

59. The Commission was informed of the origin and development of the recently initiated *Fouta Djallon* Highlands – Integrated Natural Resources Management Project (FDH – INRMP). It is a US\$ 44 million project, involving eight countries: Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone – and comprising four different components that include a review of the legal and institutional frameworks, development and testing of land-management models in 29 different pilot sites in five countries, training in natural resource management, and information dissemination. Its implementation requires a complex institutional and financing arrangement that calls for collaboration among the beneficiary countries and numerous other organizations, including FAO, the African Union, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), and a series of local partners.

60. The Commission acknowledged that, despite its complexity, the approach used in the FDH – INRMP for the management of shared and transboundary water basins had the potential to be replicated in other parts of Africa.

(b) Arid zone forestry in the context of biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and livelihood and food security needs in sub-Saharan Africa: outcome of Dakar Workshop

61. The Commission noted that forests in arid zones are an important but undervalued resource. Key issues and challenges include: demographic increase and growing needs for resources; encroachment of agricultural frontiers into forest lands; inadequate technical knowledge and capacity; and climate change.

62. The Commission acknowledged that the priorities of forestry in drylands are: addressing climate change adaptation and contributing to mitigation; ensuring an integrated approach for forestry beyond forest boundaries; improving and adapting the technical capacity of practitioners; developing sustainable markets for sub-Saharan forest products, especially NWFPs, for the benefit of local people.

63. As requested by past sessions of the Commission, FAO has prepared with members and partners Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management Practices in drylands of sub-Saharan Africa, to provide those countries with a tool to guide forest management practices. A revised and validated draft English version was made available for advance information. The Commission noted the utility of the Guidelines and requested that, once translated, they be disseminated to its members for their use.

CLIMATE CHANGE, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN AFRICA: SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRE-SESSION WORKSHOP AND FUTURE ACTIONS FOR THE COMMISSION (Item 7)

64. The Summary outcome of the pre-session workshop is appended as *Annex I*

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE 17th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 26th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA (ARC) AND OF THE 20th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 8)

(a) Issues for the attention of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)

65. The Commission requested FAO to continue to facilitate capacity building and information exchange especially to:

- widely disseminate the methodology on inventories of non-wood forest products to enable its adoption by African countries;
- continue to assist countries in the areas of human-wildlife conflict mitigation and equitable benefits sharing; and
- promote proven agro-forestry approaches and technologies.

66. The Commission requested FAO to undertake:

- a regional analysis of all Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) variables to present a complete assessment of the forest situation; and
- develop a global methodology for the evaluation of trees outside forests, forest degradation and afforestation.

67. The Commission requested FAO:

- to continue its support to countries to conduct National Forest Monitoring and Assessments (NFMAs) to improve forest resources information and analysis; and
- support countries in the development of NFMA project proposals.
- to continue to support countries in the implementation of REDD in all its forms and, in so doing, to assist them to incorporate all types of land uses, including agriculture, agro-forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) and to draw lessons from the evolution of the Clean Development Mechanism.

68. The Commission requested FAO to compile, promote and disseminate good practices in Invasive Species (IS) management.

(b) Issues for the attention of the 26th Africa Regional Conference (ARC)

69. The Commission:

- encouraged governments to involve local communities in the management of protected areas and to promote the equitable sharing of revenues generated in a transparent way, including investment in improved communal infrastructure. It further encouraged them to extend the coverage, if appropriate;
- recommended that countries exchange information and learn from each other in the development of successful ecotourism activities;
- encouraged governments to reinvest revenues from ecotourism in the respective local communities to demonstrate the utility and relevance of sustainable management;
- encouraged member countries to consider cross-border cooperation for the effective management of transboundary forest, wildlife and water resources, and the control of invasive species;
- recommended that countries take into consideration the principles of wildlife law developed by FAO in national processes of drafting of legislation and the updating of current legal frameworks;
- recommended that forestry authorities liaise with the agriculture sector institutions and political leaders to improve the cohesion of land use in a manner to sustain forests and their management; and
- The Commission called upon member countries to encourage inter-sectoral participation during the planning phase of National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 9)

70. The Commission noted the Republic of South Africa's offer to host the XIV World Forestry Congress in 2015. It encouraged members to bring the issue to the attention of their respective Governments. Countries wishing to host the next Congress would shortly be invited by the FAO Director-General to put their offers in writing.

71. The UNFF representative informed the Commission about the preparations for the International Year of Forests in 2011, which would be launched at UNFF 9 in January 2011.

72. The Commission underlined the importance of community-based forestry. It expressed views and shared experiences on how to introduce and render it operational at national level.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 10)

73. The Republic of Benin indicated its interest in hosting the next session of the Commission. It was noted that the formalities would be concluded in due time. The Commission agreed to hold its 18th Session in the early part of 2012.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 17th SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (Item 11)

74. The Commission adopted the report of its 17th Session.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION AND OF THE FIRST AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK (Item 12)

75. In his closing remarks, Mr. Lambert Imbalo, the Director of Cabinet, on behalf of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and the Environment, Republic of Congo, underscored the important contributions of forests and wildlife to economic development in Africa and therefore the significance of the deliberations and conclusions of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. He stressed the need for more sub-regional and regional meetings to exchange information and share experiences. He also called for more cooperation with the United Nations organizations and agencies and with developed countries and their governments to strengthen the forestry and wildlife sectors in Africa. Mr. Imbalo stressed the need for strong environmental services in Africa. He thanked FAO for its support to the Commission and the participants and all the support personnel for a successful meeting.

76. Mr. Imbalo, in his capacity as Chairperson, then declared the 17th Session closed.

*Appendix A***AGENDA**

1. Opening of the 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and of the first African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW)
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Election of officers
4. Forestry and wildlife in support of sustainable livelihood systems in Africa:
 - (i) protected areas and the livelihoods of local communities
 - (ii) ecotourism and its potential for conserving forests and wildlife and alleviating poverty
 - (iii) the role of non-wood forest products in food security and poverty reduction in Africa
 - (iv) bioenergy and forests in Africa
 - (v) sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife-related activities in Africa:
 - a. integrated management of forests and wildlife for conflict prevention and maximization of benefits
 - b. invasive species and their economic relevance for and impact on forests and wildlife in Africa
 - c. wildlife legislation and the legal empowerment of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa
5. African forestry and wildlife: reflections on their sustainable management and benefits: (*Special AFWW day issues*)
 - (i) keynote statements from international and regional body representatives
 - (ii) forestry and wildlife policies in Africa: presentations by African regional economic communities
 - (iii) Heads of Forestry Dialogue - *African forestry institutions: capacity development to meet the challenges of a changing world*
6. FAO activities in the Africa Region:
 - (i) AFWC secretariat report on actions taken on the requests and recommendations of the 16th Session of the Commission
 - (ii) forest resources assessment and monitoring
 - a. Global Forest Resources Assessments
 - b. National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA)
 - c. State of Forest Genetic Resources in Africa: capacity development for procuring high-quality and accurate data on forest genetic resources
 - (iii) national forestry policies, programmes and participatory processes
 - (iv) regional and country projects
 - a. The forestry-water nexus in Africa: Fouta Djallon and other key water resources contributing to forestry livelihood support on the continent
 - b. Arid zone forestry in the context of biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and livelihood and food security needs in sub-Saharan Africa: outcome of Dakar Workshop

7. Climate change, forests and wildlife in Africa: summary and recommendations of the pre-session workshop and future actions for the Commission
8. Regional issues identified by the 17th Session of the AFWC for the attention of the 26th Regional Conference for Africa and of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry
 - a. Issues for the attention of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
 - b. Issues for the attention of the 26th Africa Regional Conference (ARC)
9. Any other business
10. Date and place of next session
11. Adoption of the report of the 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
12. Closure of the session and of the African Forestry and Wildlife Week

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*Appendix C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

FO:AFWC/2010/1	Provisional Agenda
FO:AFWC/2010/4	Forestry and wildlife in support of sustainable livelihood systems in Africa <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Protected Areas and the livelihoods of local communities (2) Ecotourism and its potential for conserving forests and wildlife and alleviating poverty (3) The role of non-wood forest products in food security and poverty reduction in Africa (4) Bioenergy and forests in Africa
	Sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife-related activities in Africa <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Integrated management of forests and wildlife for conflict prevention and maximization of benefits (6) Invasive species and their economic relevance for and impact on forests and wildlife in Africa (7) Wildlife legislation and the legal empowerment of the poor in sub-Saharan Africa
FO:AFWC/2010/5	African Forestry and Wildlife Week: African forestry and wildlife: reflections on their sustainable management and benefits Heads of Forestry Dialogue – African forestry institutions: capacity development to meet the challenges of a changing world
FO:AFWC/2010/6.1	FAO activities in the Africa Region AFWC secretariat report on actions taken on the requests and recommendations of the 16 th Session of the Commission
FO:AFWC/2010/6.2	Forest resources assessment and monitoring National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA): capacity development for collecting and reporting timely and reliable data on forest resources, forest and land-use change, forest uses and users to improve national policy and planning needs and country reporting to UN conventions and international processes.
FO:AFWC/2010/6.3	State of forest genetic resources in Africa: capacity development for procuring high-quality and accurate data forest genetics, including for the first State of World Forest Genetic Resources report
FO:AFWC/2010/6.4	National forest programmes: a platform for forestry development in Africa

FO:AFWC/2010/6.5	Regional and country projects
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Arid zone forestry in the context of biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and livelihood and food security needs in Sub-Saharan Africaii. The forestry-water nexus in Africa: <i>Fouta Djallon</i> and other key water resources contributing to forestry livelihood support on the continentiii. Joint programme on strengthening cultural and creative industries and inclusive policies in Mozambique: One UN approach
FO:AFWC/2010/Inf.1	Information Note for Participants
FO:AFWC/2010/Inf.2	Provisional Timetable
FO:AFWC/2010/Inf.3	List of Documents
FO:AFWC/2010/Inf.4	List of Participants
FO:AFWC/2010/Inf.5	Summary outcome of the regional technical and validation workshop on “Guidelines on Practices for Sustainable Forest Management in Drylands of sub-Saharan Africa” Dakar, Senegal, 20-22 January 2010

**SUMMARY REPORT ON PRE-SESSION WORKSHOP ON
“Climate change and African forests and wildlife: lessons and way forward”
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo,
February 20 to 21 2010**

On the occasion of the 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), the African Forest Forum (AFF) in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Africa (FAO, RAF) and with additional funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), organized a pre-session workshop on “Climate change and African forests and wildlife: lessons and way forward”.

The workshop was attended by 89 participants from Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia. There were participants from regional and sub-regional institutions, including the African Union Commission (AUC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), FAO and Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE).

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. share lessons and experiences on how climate change features and manifests itself in African forest and wildlife areas;
- ii. develop a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to climate change in the African forestry and wildlife sectors; and
- iii. identify key issues and lessons of relevance to the forestry and wildlife sectors in Africa and the way forward with them.

A total of 12 technical papers were presented under four themes. In the technical presentations and discussions, internationally accepted definitions of key terms were emphasized. For example forests as defined by the FAO and sustainable forest management as defined by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

The presentations and the plenary discussions informed that climate change is a real social, economic and environmental threat for Africa. Various studies in parts of Africa have confirmed a significant rise in temperature and increased frequency of extreme events such as droughts and floods that affect food, water, health, as well as the security of many people. Climate change also affects forests through changes in temperature, precipitation, and CO² concentration that could result in tree mortality, shift or shrinkage of ecological ranges, phenology and species composition, reduced productivity and growth, as well as exposure to increased risks of fire, insect, diseases and moisture stress. Forests also influence climate change.

The main highlights emanating from the workshop were as follows:

Climate change in a broader context

1. A better understanding of the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and the promotion of policies and approaches that promote sustainable forest management (SFM) are central to any climate change initiative in the forest sector.

2. At the national level, the national forest programmes (nfps) provide a good basis for developing new governance arrangements. As such, within the context of nfps, countries can set targets to reduce deforestation and degradation with an aim to achieving minimal forest loss and carbon emissions.

3. Much of forest loss is as a result of loss to agriculture. There is therefore a need for the development and implementation of a strategy to reduce competition for land, improve productivity of crop and livestock systems, as well as to exploit synergies and tradeoffs through agro-forestry and similar technologies.

4. Many sub-Saharan African countries have weak public sector forestry and wildlife institutions that are limited not only in terms of budget and staff but also suffer from a low political profile. There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of these institutions, including enabling them to put large areas of forest and wildlife under sustainable management.

5. There is insufficient, reliable and consistently generated information by national forest and wildlife service institutions to support decision making and management of these resources. African countries will need assistance to build their capacity to assess forest and wildlife resources, both for their ability to maintain or increase human resilience to climate change, and to also assess resources that are specifically vulnerable to climate change.

6. There are many unknowns in adaptation to climate change that require urgent attention in both the forest and wildlife sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to improve research and extension programmes. To that end, regional networks and forums need to be supported as they play a key role.

Climate change and forest resources

7. Because of the diversity of forest types and conditions, deforestation profile, as well as capacities of individual countries on the continent, there is a need for context-specific policy and action for climate change with a focus on creating new value-added for pro-poor investment. There is also value in domesticating international instruments, agreements, and laws by mainstreaming them into national planning agenda and development, taking local realities into account.

8. Forests should not only be viewed as carbon sinks, but also as important contributors to the socio-economic lives of the African people, as well as providers of ecosystems services. Markets need to be developed particularly for water supply, carbon, and biodiversity products based on secure property rights and more equitable benefits-sharing.

9. Any strategy to address climate change in Africa must also enhance the livelihoods of people who depend on forests and the rights of indigenous people, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, through clarifying tree and land tenure and rights, and responsibilities.

10. Local communities and individuals and other actors should support existing policies, incentive plans and activities in the public and private sectors, that increase the supply of forest and tree products and services which target deforestation, degradation, reforestation and afforestation; which are key to containing adverse climate change impacts.

11. Policies and approaches that improve energy efficiency are critical due to the overwhelming dependence on forests for energy. Demand side interventions should focus on increasing the efficiency and sustainability of harvesting, processing, as well as consumption of forest products for various purposes, notably for energy, food, feed and fibre.

12. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) restriction to afforestation and reforestation as defined under the Kyoto protocol does not suit many African forestry conditions. This is in addition to

complex CDM modalities and procedures, among other constraints that hinder development of qualified CDM projects.

13. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), in its various forms, must not be seen as a sector specific issue but must be integrated into overall national development planning while remaining consistent with overall global mitigation strategy. The scope of REDD is limited and needs to be expanded to cover all types of land uses, including agriculture, agroforestry and other land uses (AFOLU). To improve on REDD initiatives it is necessary to learn from the failings of CDM.

Climate change and wildlife resources

14. Climate change is negatively affecting wildlife and increasing human-wildlife conflict. A strategy of halting habitat loss and to contain 'over-harvesting' is urgently needed.

15. Responses to minimize the impacts of climate change on wildlife should include expansion of protected areas, where possible, and limiting commercial hunting of some species as well as enhanced transboundary cooperation and enforcement of international agreements.

16. Establishing seasonal feeding areas and improving connectivity of habitats to facilitate dispersal to appropriate habitats may need to be considered in climate change adaptation strategies for wildlife.

17. The involvement of local people in planning and implementation of interventions in wildlife management and use is critical to securing local level benefits and limiting human wildlife conflict.

Annex II

**SUMMARY REPORT OF LUNCHTIME SIDE EVENT ON
“Enhancing the contribution of non-wood forest products (NWFPs)
in poverty reduction and improved livelihoods
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
13.00-14.30, 22 February 2010**

The side event sought to:

- (i) raise awareness about key opportunities and challenges in the sector of government-led or coordinated national-level programmes to develop NWFPs’ national potential, particularly in reviewing the governing legal framework, identifying enabling conditions to support enterprise development ; and in improving networking among stakeholders;
- (ii) share relevant practical experiences from private sector projects in Central Africa; and to create opportunities for greater link-up with the private sector.

The following presentations were made.

- (i) FAO non wood forest products: poverty reduction and food security in Central Africa.
- (ii) FAO Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa-(NGARA)- NEFOLA: poverty reduction and food security through improving and developing production, processing, quality control and trade in NWFPs.
- (iii) Private sector perspective on elements for successful product and commercial development and the NWFP sector in the Republic of Congo and a strategy for the better involvement of the private sector.
- (iv) The importance of bush meat as a source of protein in poor communities in Central Africa; its important role in employment for both men and women and the consideration of sustainability for targeted species as well as the risk of including wildlife in NWFPs.

Conclusions

Information sharing on the potential of NWFPs and on how member countries can enhance the contribution of the sector to the livelihoods of local communities should be encouraged, as should the further development of NWFPs in general at national level.

Issues of concern highlighted by participants included:

- (i) how to overcome limitations on the commercialization of NWFPs using technology primary and secondary processing;
- (ii) the lack of investment in good technology and low levels of partnerships with the private sector; and
- (iii) the lack of information on negotiating the rules and regulations for accessing major markets and recognizing this aspect as an important tool in improving the position of NWFPs.

*Annex III***SUMMARY REPORT OF LUNCHTIME EVENT ON****“Conservation, management and development of forest genetic resources for poverty reduction, livelihood improvement and adaptation to changes”****Brazzaville, Republic of Congo,
13.00-14.30, 23 February 2010**

The side event was organised to prepare consideration of AFWC Agenda item 6, FAO Activities in the Africa region, including the preparation of the first report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW-FGR).

The side event sought to:

- (i) Inform and raise awareness of the important role and contribution of forest genetic resources in livelihood improvement and adaptation to changes;
- (ii) Share experience in conservation and management of forest genetic resources;
- (iii) Inform on the SOW-FGR and its preparation process.

The following presentations were made:

- (i) Forest genetic resources: invisible keys to future livelihoods and sustainable ecosystems by J. Loo (Bioversity International)
- (ii) Conservation and development of forest genetic resources in Congo by A. Saya (Centre de Recherche sur la Durabilité des Plantations Industrielles, CRDPI, Congo)
- (iii) Preparation of a first report on the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* by O. Souvannavong (FAO)

Discussion and Conclusions:

The development of forest genetic resources produced important benefits for livelihoods and the forestry sector in African countries. The very successful programme in development of high yielding clonal plantations of inter-specific Eucalyptus hybrids in the Congo is an example of such achievements. It also illustrated the breadth and persistence that are needed for such a programme to succeed.

There is however still a need to raise the awareness of the importance of conservation and management of forest genetic resources as part of sustainable forest management. Research and development work have mainly concentrated on exotic species used in planted forests, such as eucalypts, pines and teak. Knowledge necessary to conservation and sustainable use of native species managed in naturally regenerated forests and important for improving livelihoods is lacking.

The preparation of the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* should provide the opportunity to improve the information on the status, identify gaps, needs and priorities for action in the future also at the national and regional level.

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