



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Forests and Wildlife: Africa's diversity for shared prosperity and security

Skukuza - Mpumalanga, South Africa, 9-13 March 2020

**REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TO
IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 21ST SESSION OF
THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

I. Background

1. At its 21st Session, the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) noted the low number of country reports submitted, called on countries to submit their reports for the next session of the Commission and requested FAO's guidance in establishing a mechanism to help countries in the reporting process on AFWC Sessions' recommendations.
2. To guide the development of a suitable reporting mechanism and respond to the above recommendation, the AFWC Executive Committee during its 2nd meeting in Accra, Ghana in February 2019, prepared with the Secretariat's support and validated a reporting template in the form of a survey questionnaire. The survey combined both qualitative and quantitative questions and was made available in English and French on a web-based administration platform (Survey Monkey) and on a word document format from September to December 2019.
3. This document is a compilation of the member countries' responses to the survey, received by the Secretariat on the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 21st Session of the AFWC, held in Dakar, Senegal in June 2018.

II. Measures taken by member countries to implement the recommendations of the 21st session of the AFWC

The Commission :

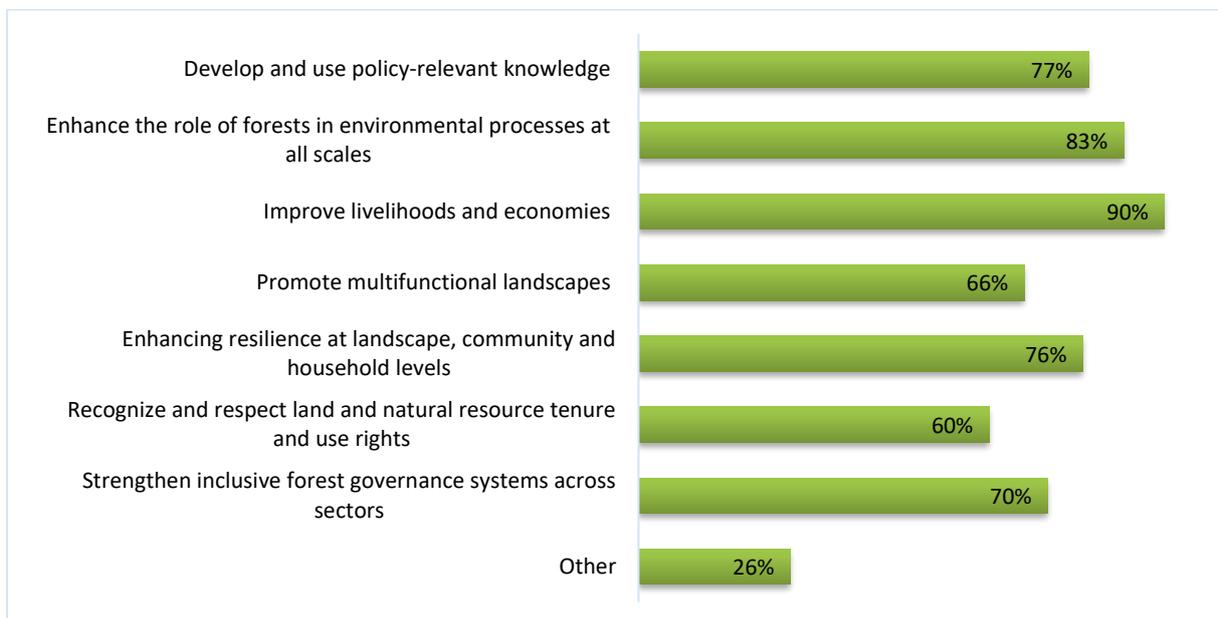
Noted the low number of country reports (4) submitted, and called on countries to submit their reports for the next session of the Commission.

4. In total, 35 respondents from a total number of 20 member countries across the five African subregions completed the survey: 35 percent respondents were from West Africa, 25 percent from Southern Africa, 20 percent from Eastern Africa, 15 percent from North Africa and 5 percent from Central Africa. Countries that have submitted responses to the questionnaire are Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Mauritius, Morocco, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

5. Other countries are encouraged to take the opportunity to briefly report on their actions during the 22nd Session of the Commission.

Invited Members to implement the recommendations of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)¹, including improving the contribution of forests and wildlife to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

6. More than 80 percent of respondents reported that food security and nutrition are considered as integral components of their forestry and wildlife strategies, plans and policies. The figure below shows the recommendations of the HLPE and CFS that were implemented at the national level.



7. The respondents ranked the following as the main methods and approaches used in implementing these recommendations : i) Organization of training / awareness raising targeting decision-makers, technicians and communities (68 percent); ii) Creation or availability of incentive mechanisms to enhance benefits for private and public benefits (47%) ; iii) Adoption of inter-

¹ Summary and recommendations are extracted from the High level Panel for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Report on Sustainable forestry for Food Security and Nutrition and are available at <http://www.fao.org/3/I9611EN/i9611en.pdf>

ministerial coordination instruments and specific action plans (42 percent); and iv) Establishment of information, monitoring and evaluation system (26 percent).

8. Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) play an important role and contribute to food security, wealth creation and employment for people and the countries' economy. Successful stories on the use of NWFPs were shared. These include : Livelihoods' improvement through sustainable community Hunting Zones (Central African Republic); Establishment of economic user groups, setting-up of NWFPs processing units (Senegal); Creation of food for work by using 10 percent of NWFPs of export taxation revenue (Sierra Leone); Avocado plantations and non-wood forest products and wild fruits (Tanzania); and Exports of shea, néré, honey, cashew nuts and *Detarium* products (Togo).

9. Communities and user groups continue to benefit from NWFPs' development and recognize that forest conservation contributes to increased income, crop production and food security. To fully scale up the contribution of forests and trees to food security and nutrition in Africa, respondents identified the following priority areas in need of strengthening : i) coordination mechanisms, ii) organizational frameworks and iii) stakeholders capacities development across the NWFPs value chains (in particular packaging, processing and marketing).

Encouraged countries to participate actively in the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 reporting process and to collaborate with FAO and partner institutions to achieve synergies in data collection, analysis and management and to reduce reporting burden.

10. Benin, Eritrea, Eswatini, Senegal, Tunisia and Togo reported that they have submitted their country FRA reports. South Sudan and Sierra Leone informed that they are yet to submit the report.

11. Only 39 percent of respondents (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Eswatini, Guinea, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia) informed on existing collaboration with partners' institutions at local and country levels, while preparing and submitting their FRA reports.

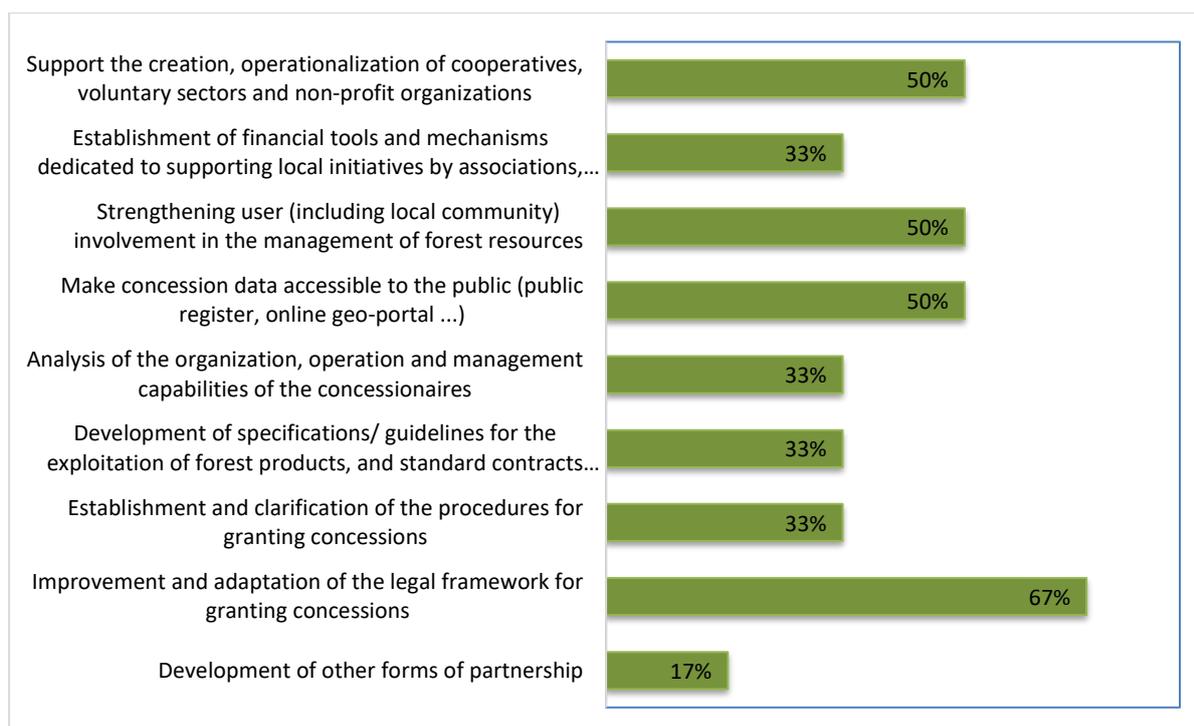
12. The existing FRA online reporting platform has been considered useful by member countries. Nevertheless, access to forest related data (including in-country data), forest ownership system, and forestry education at national level appeared to be limited. Lack of harmonization of tools and methods, outdated forest inventories, inadequate access to remote sensing equipment/internet service for data collection, inadequate capacity of the forestry sector in conducting forest resource assessments, limited access to data from other organizations and lack of cooperation and coordination among stakeholders are hampering member countries' efforts in the FRA 2020 reporting process.

13. Respondents requested FAO to continue to provide technical and financial support to member countries through training and enhancing facilities to support data collection, verification and harmonization of national reporting.

Requested countries to:

- **implement the “Voluntary Guidelines for forest concessions in the tropics” and to ensure that the costs related to their implementation are kept affordable by forest concessionaires.**
- **to consider the use of other existing forms of partnerships in Africa, in addition to concessions, to boost sustainable forest management and generation of economic, social and environmental benefits.**

14. While the Voluntary Guidelines for forest concession in the tropics hereafter referred to as the "Forest concession guidelines " were presented during the 21st session of AFWC, most countries seem to be unaware of the document and 28 percent of the respondents are currently implementing it. Major areas of use of the guidelines by respondents are summarized in the figure below :



15. Countries could further benefit from the Guidelines by establishing financial tools and mechanisms dedicated to supporting local initiatives by associations, cooperatives and forest users' groups; and analyzing the organization, operation and management capabilities of current concessionaires.

Encouraged Members to take part in the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

16. Eleven (11) member countries (Benin, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Guinea, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda) have signed up to AFR100. Through written comments, respondents from other countries (Eritrea, Sierra Leone and South Sudan) expressed their interest in joining the AFR100 Initiative.

17. Central African Republic, Guinea, Tanzania and Togo appeared to have put in place a coordination mechanism/platform to boost AFR100 implementation. Respondents from Guinea and Togo mentioned that they are involved in AFR100 related projects including "Strengthening and monitoring of forest landscape restoration in support of AFR100" implemented with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); "Support to forest and farm producers' organizations in creating climate-resilient landscapes and improving livelihoods" with support from FAO and partners under the Forest and Farm Facility Programme; Development of forest landscape restoration actions with the support of The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH or GIZ (Togo), and the Forest landscape restoration project for adaptation to climate change with support of FAO (Guinea).

18. Senegal reported delays in the implementation of the process, while Central African Republic, Benin, Togo, Guinea and Uganda are currently formulating projects for the implementation of AFR100.

The Commission acknowledged efforts made by Member States in sustainable wildlife management (SWM) and:

- **recommended that wildlife be fully integrated into national forest-related policies and strategies, for a better conservation and sustainable management of the resources.**
- **requested Members to ensure that SWM national strategies and plans, and implementation thereof are aligned with the relevant African and global programmes, strategies, frameworks and initiatives.**

19. Wildlife management is fully integrated into the national forest-related policies and strategies. 90 percent of the respondents confirmed that forestry and wildlife sectors are working in synergy in the country. In Benin, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Togo and Tunisia, forestry and wildlife sectors fall within the same department. In Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia respondents informed that the two sectors implement jointly activities related to tree planting campaigns, anti-poaching patrols, formulation of the national REDD+ strategy, protected area assessments, forest landscape conservation project proposal, formulation of policies and legislation, etc.

20. More than 89 percent of respondents reiterated that they have wildlife legislation and action plans, statutory instruments, management plans, workplans and guidelines for wildlife management are implemented, some being updated (Eswatini) and enforced by several directives, including traditional law through national government funding, and in close collaboration with several partners (donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector and communities).

21. It has been noted that wildlife laws' implementation are challenged by instability and insecurity; lack of trained and skilled personnel and facilities, lack of compensation schemes for communities, human-wildlife conflicts, inadequate stakeholder collaboration and weak synergies among sectors.

22. More than 84 percent of respondents (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Guinea, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia) stated their policies' alignment with the "African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora" by :

- Improving governance and regional and inter-regional cooperation (74 percent)
- Strengthening collaboration with wildlife consumer states (60 percent)
- Promoting participatory approaches for local community economic development (60 percent)
- Capacity development, information, advocacy and awareness (54 percent)
- Reducing the impact of illegal exploitation and illegal trade of wildlife on the national economy (74 percent)

23. Countries are engaged in several subregional and/or cross-border project(s) on wildlife management, including the following:

- Horn of Africa Wildlife Law Enforcement mechanism (HAWEN), a sharing information mechanism on wildlife violation across member states of the Intergovernmental Authority of Development (IGAD);
- Kenya- Tanzania Security platforms, Masai Mara rhino monitoring - Tsavo Mkomazi - Masai concurrent patrols;
- Mount Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme and Greater Virunga Collaboration Treaty (Uganda);
- Transfrontier Conservation Areas (Zambia) and the Lubombo Conservancy (Mozambique and South Africa, Zambia);
- Cross-border management (Niger and Benin);

- The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, an initiative of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, funded by the European Union and supported by a consortium of four partners: FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) that targets 13 countries among which 11 are in Africa², with the aim of halting the unsustainable hunting of wildlife for food, and thus secure the wellbeing of poor rural indigenous peoples and poor rural communities that are dependent on wildlife for food, income and cultural identity;
- The Mono Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Nigeria, Benin and Togo);
- Conservation of Barbary sheep and Cuvier's gazelle in North Africa (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia).

The Commission :

- **Recommended Member countries to expand the implementation of the Action Against Desertification project and promote the Great Green Wall (GGW) concept and related large-scale restoration efforts in all dryland countries including in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.**
- **Urged members to look for opportunities to scale up GGW-related initiatives and to make use of available options for resources and funding.**
- **Recommended countries and SADC to develop further the Miombo programme as part of the GGW with FAO and partners for GEF-7 financing.**

24. This recommendation has been implemented by member countries and more information on country involvement including collaboration with FAO is reported in document FO:AFWC/2020/5.

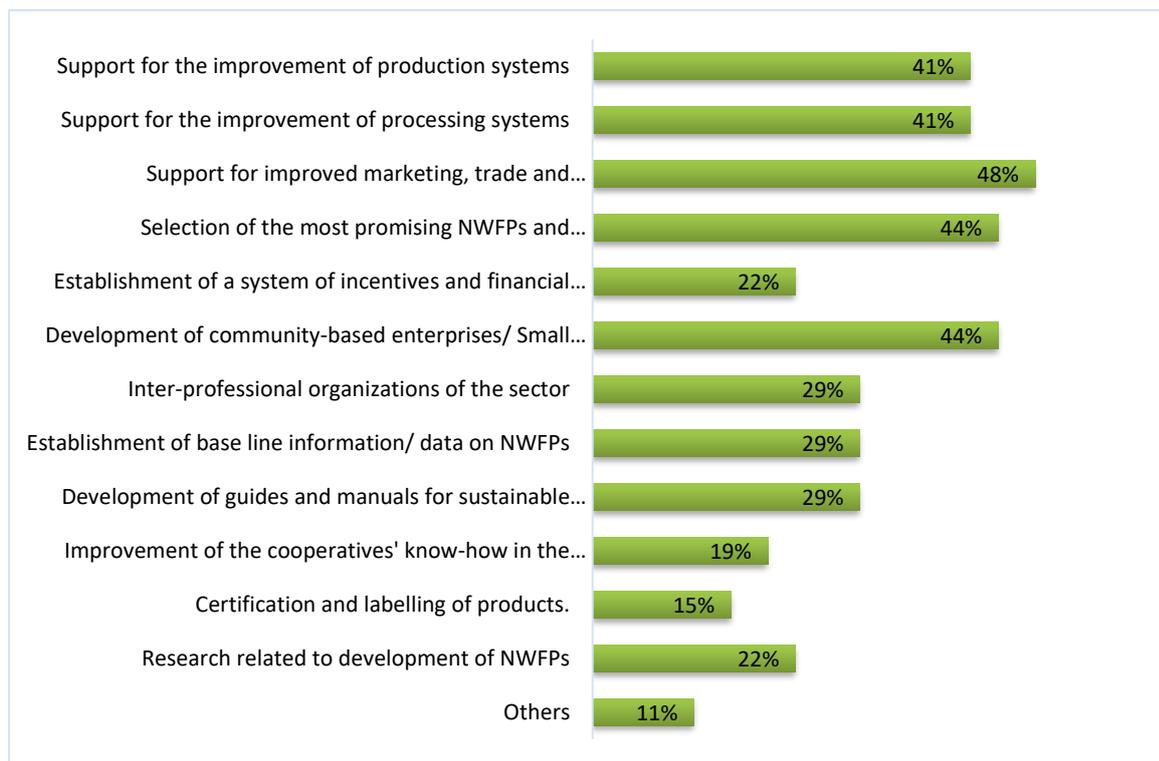
Encouraged countries to further develop non-wood forest products value chains in order to enhance rural economies.

25. This recommendation is closely linked to the recommendation on food security and nutrition. More than 60 percent of respondents stated that their countries have put in place policies and regulations for sustainable management and value chain development of NWFPs.

26. According to 75 percent of respondents, the full potential of these promising products are yet to be assessed in their countries in order to fully achieve value chain development of NWFPs. A great wealth of information was shared by the respondents in relation to the most promising NWFPs in their countries, including gums and resins, honey, medicinal plants, edible mushrooms, wild fruits/seeds, palms trees and other Doum palm products, bark and rattan, other products from species such as *Adansonia digitata* (baobab), *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Borassus sp.* *Boswellia papyrifera*, *Commiphora sp.*, *Hypheana sp.*, *Vitellaria paradoxa* (Shea tree), and *Prunus africana*, etc.

² The SWM Programme is implemented in Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

27. The below figures indicate the set of activities that were carried out in the countries :



III. Forestry and wildlife policies, priorities and challenges

A. Priorities

28. All respondents informed about the existing forestry and wildlife policies and strategies. Priorities indicated by the Heads of forestry and wildlife can be grouped into five main clusters:

- 1) **Conserving and increasing forest, rangelands and tree cover** through, for example, afforestation, reforestation, conservation of existing natural forests/rangelands, restoration of forests and landscapes, conservation of biological diversity and development of wildlife resources and protected areas (Burkina Faso, Benin, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Eswatini, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Tunisia), and mobilization of resources for sustainable forest financing (Benin and Central African Republic).
- 2) **Improving good governance of forest, pastoral and wildlife resources and strengthening law enforcement** (Benin, Central African Republic and Tunisia,) by building capacity of forest and wildlife officers, including through training of public forestry and wildlife staff, forest extension & research (Central African Republic, Guinea, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia), supporting assessment and monitoring of forest, woodlands and wildlife resources (Central African Republic, Eritrea, Guinea, Mauritius, South Sudan) and ecological monitoring and protection of forests and wildlife against illicit and illegal activities, bush and forest fires and encroachment, diseases and parasites (Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, South Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda).
- 3) **Enhancing the role of the sector in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change** by maintaining the productivity of plant and wildlife resources and the conservation of biodiversity, forest and pastoral genetic resources (Tunisia and Togo); combating land degradation

and protecting specific ecosystems including watersheds and soil and water conservation (Benin, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Mauritius, Togo and Tunisia).

4) **Valorizing wood and non-wood forest products, fodder and rangeland products across the value chain:** development of activities related to forests and rangelands, including industry, natural tourism, ecotourism and domestic energy by involving the most vulnerable social groups including women and youth (Benin, Cabo Verde, Eritrea, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda).

5) **Enhancing communication, information, education, cooperation and partnerships:** Through education programmes and development of collaboration and partnerships with communities, youth & women and private sectors to support co-management and sustainable use of resources (Central African Republic, Eritrea, Guinea, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia).

29. In addition, it is worth noting that the heads of wildlife put strong emphasis on the urgent need for conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources as well as biodiversity conservation through: (i) Establishment/ enhancement/ of management and protection of existing protected area networks (Benin, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda); (ii) Consolidation of biodiversity conservation in the management of protected areas and improvement of their management effectiveness (Tunisia); (iii) Management of Human-wildlife conflicts (Uganda) and; iv) Wildlife restocking (Zambia).

B. Implementation mechanisms

30. All priorities are implemented and coordinated directly by the Forest and Wildlife administration in charge of national forest policies, regulations, strategies and implementation of existing projects and programmes, and international conventions. Forest and wildlife resources management is implemented through collaboration of different stakeholders including local communities, indigenous people and academia along the forest and wildlife product value chains, in close collaboration with technical and financial partners.

31. Some countries have established various operational financing mechanisms for their forest and wildlife priorities through their National Forest Development Fund in support of resource mobilization and reporting at national and international levels.

C. Gaps and challenges in the forestry and wildlife sectors

Respondents recognized the following gaps and challenges as the limiting factors to the sustainable forest management at national level :

- Poor forest governance both at local and national levels and challenges in ensuring forest sustainable management;
- Unrecognized value of forest and wildlife sectors leading to a weakened forestry administration and difficulty in mobilizing resources (financial and technical);
- Limited investment on technology, and forestry operations resulting in continuous deforestation and forest degradation, forest fires, charcoal and fuel wood production aggravated by the huge supply-demand gap for wood, shortage of alternative energy sources;
- Lack of intersectoral collaboration and coordination and increased competition between sectors (forestry and fisheries, land and water) and stakeholders aggravated by insecurity and political instability, conflicting policies and competing land tenure system.

32. Representatives of the wildlife sector emphasized the following as issues that need attention as they hamper sustainable wildlife management at country level:

- Lack of maintenance of ecological processes and habitats, biodiversity and genetic pool to ensure sustainable wildlife use;
- Wildlife poaching and illegal wildlife trade, illegal livestock grazing in the protected areas, and boundary conflicts;
- Lack of strategies to address Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC): Monitoring of HWC incidences, and analysis of data for adaptive management; unsecured wildlife corridors due to lack of resources to implement regulations in place and lack of Digital HWC Database System;
- Limited involvement of local communities in wildlife conservation;
- Unpredictable economy business climate for tourist hunting.