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DEVELOP AN IGAD REGIONAL FORESTRY POLICY AND STRATEGY

May 2020

SDGs:



Countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda

Project Codes: TCP/SFE/3605

FAO Contribution: USD 283 000

Duration: 27 September 2017 – 31 December 2019

Contact Info: FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
FAO-SFE@fao.org

Implementing Partners

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Beneficiaries

Participating national governments and other stakeholders at the country level, including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector, as well as populations that depend on forestry for their livelihoods.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Subregional Priority Intervention Area 1 (Natural resources and environment management) and Subregional Priority Intervention Area 6 (Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Peace Building).

Ethiopia CPF Priority Area 3 (Sustainable natural resource management).

Kenya CPF Priority Area 4 (Improving natural resources governance).

Uganda CPF Outcome 2 (Environment for equitable access by men, women and youth and utilization of agricultural knowledge and information for decision-making enhanced).

Djibouti CPF Priority Area 3 (Sustainable and responsible management of productive natural resources).

South Sudan (Increase resilience of livelihoods and against crisis).

Somalia (Institutional capacity development).



BACKGROUND

The IGAD is a regional body that coordinates development efforts across its Member States, which include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The IGAD area covers an estimated 230 million people and is characterized by high rates of population growth and poverty, with a substantial proportion of people living below the poverty line (USD 1 per day).

In IGAD Member States, agriculture is crucial to food security and nutrition, economic growth and social stability. More specifically, for over 80 percent of the population, agricultural production and animal husbandry are important sources of food and livelihood opportunities. Overall, they account for between 25 and 30 percent of national economies within the IGAD area.

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities are particularly at risk from the effects of recurring droughts in the region. During periods of drought, livestock are highly susceptible to water shortages and pasture scarcity. This can lead to the suffering and death not only of livestock but also of people whose livelihoods depend on them. Further complicating matters, markets often collapse as a result of the sell-off of weaker and thinner animals. In addition, drought affects the seasonal migration patterns of herds, which are required to search for adequate water resources and pastures for grazing. The increased competition for limited natural resources remains a point of conflict both between communities and across borders.

The effective management of natural resources therefore requires international cooperation through adequate policies and strategies. While efforts have been made to address concerns regarding the management of some natural resources, policies are not harmonized across the IGAD area and there is often disagreement about the best management approaches to adopt. Additionally, many challenges are faced in the implementation of these policies, including the lack of adequate funding and/or political impetus.

In the IGAD region, the natural resources sector faces numerous challenges, including:

- landscape degradation, the fragmentation of forest resources, increasing rates of deforestation and biodiversity loss;
- constraints in meeting the increasing demand for ecosystem services;
- limited involvement of local communities and stakeholders in conservation and sustainability efforts;
- population growth and the increasing demand for natural resources combined with the degradation of arable land through intensive cultivation;
- increasing climatic variability and the limited resilience of existing systems, as well as their effects on water availability and vegetation change for livestock;
- migration and its effects on the use of land, water, forest and range resources;
- the overstocking of livestock leading to the erosion of pastures and a shortage of grazing areas;
- the adoption of seasonal cropping practices by livestock-based communities with limited relevant knowledge and management skills;
- weak policy support for best practices in natural resources and forestry management;
- limited awareness and adoption of improved technologies;
- unsustainable farming practices, particularly in areas at risk of erosion and reduced soil fertility;
- the encroachment of agriculture onto marginal land; and
- the growing demand for fuel wood, charcoal and timber.

Given this broad range of concerns, the IGAD requested FAO assistance in the development of a regional forestry policy, as well as a comprehensive strategy for its implementation. The project therefore sought to develop the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy, which takes into account the economic, social and institutional situation across the IGAD region. In addition, the policy and strategy were expected to promote the role of forests in protecting the environment and assist IGAD Member States in meeting their international obligations related to environmental sustainability. Finally, the documents to be produced and endorsed under the project were also expected to guide the inclusive development of the forestry sector in IGAD member states.

IMPACT

The project aimed to reduce poverty, promote environmental sustainability and support the development of IGAD Member States by improving the contribution of forest resources to national economies.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

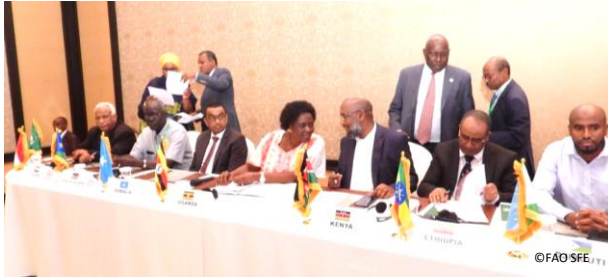
Output 1: Information collected and analysed at national level on forestry policy issues

National consultants carried out an assessment of the existing forestry policies and strategies in each participating IGAD Member State through a combination of desk studies and stakeholder consultations. This allowed for the identification of priority areas and emerging issues. Based on the assessments, national consultants prepared review reports, which were then discussed and validated by Government officials, experts, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations at national validation workshops. A regional synthesis report that consolidated the findings of national reports was prepared by the Regional Consultant.

Output 2: IGAD forestry strategy formulated, validated and incorporated into national/regional investment plans

Information related to the regional forestry situation was compiled and evaluated through regional stakeholder consultations, the stocktaking of available information, and an expert review and evaluation. All seven IGAD Member States participated in the formulation of the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy document, which was drafted based on both the regional synthesis report and the regional stakeholder consultation report. Three technical meetings (August 2019, November 2019 and March 2020) were held to review and validate the draft document. Finally, a ministerial meeting attended by delegates from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda was held in March 2020 to endorse the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.





IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

The project was carried out within the originally envisioned budget, with a no-cost extension and work plan revision approved to account for some minor delays. Although the project was approved in September 2017, the National Project Coordinator was only appointed by the IGAD in January 2018. The primary project consultant was also identified and recruited in January 2018. This resulted in the project inception meeting being held in March 2018, along with the launch of activities. In addition, national-level consultations and the collection of baseline information took longer than anticipated. While these efforts were expected to be completed within a period of two months, their implementation lasted four to five months. This delay was largely attributable to mobilization processes and their varying requirements in different countries. Ultimately, this delayed the processes involved in compiling and synthesizing information for the regional report. Hence, the three-month project extension allowed for the continuation of project activities. Potential risks were effectively managed throughout project implementation, while none of the identified risks affected the pursuit of project goals.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The goals of the project were achieved through the successful implementation of the planned activities, with participating IGAD Member States having endorsed the IGAD Regional Policy and Strategy. No specific follow-up actions were identified; however, future efforts should be directed towards the implementation of the policy and strategy developed under the project.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

A number of multilateral, international and regional agreements had been signed by IGAD Member States regarding the management of forest resources and the environment prior to the project. Despite these agreements, a holistic approach encompassing a universal policy and strategy was lacking. The IGAD Regional Policy and Strategy document developed under the project addresses this gap, supporting the harmonization and coordination of efforts by Member States and strengthening their capacity to manage both national and transboundary issues.

The project outcomes are firmly embedded in organizational structures, including the IGAD Secretariat and relevant ministries in participating countries. The strengthened partnerships between the IGAD Secretariat and Member States, as well as those between governmental departments, will support the sustainability of project results and, ultimately, the implementation of the IGAD Regional Policy and Strategy. In addition, the high degree of responsibility given to the IGAD Secretariat and national forestry departments in the implementation of project activities supported their ownership of the efforts undertaken, placing them in a stronger position to carry out additional work beyond the project.

2. Gender equality

The roles of men and women were clearly defined under the project. Equal opportunities were given to male and female participants at the consultative workshops and project activities were designed to meet the needs of both men and women. Overall, the level of participation in project activities by women was encouraging.

3. Environmental sustainability

Although the project did not directly address environmental sustainability, the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was designed to support the sustainable utilization of natural resources in the development of national economies.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

Although the project did not directly address concerns related to human rights, the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was formulated to reduce poverty in participating countries through the advancement of national economies. This will ultimately support access to gainful employment and adequate food.

5. Technological sustainability

New technologies and methodologies were not introduced under the project.

6. Economic sustainability

Beyond the project, additional resources will be required to support the implementation of the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. The mobilization of additional financial resources was not covered under the project.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ Proceedings of the Regional Inception Workshop for TCP/SFE/3605 – Development of IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy. E Kilawe. Nairobi. April 2018. 19 pp.
- ❑ National Forestry Situation Analysis Reports from the seven IGAD Member States.
 - ✓ Djibouti (L.K. Abdi)
 - ✓ Ethiopia (M.G. Yimer)
 - ✓ Kenya (D. Ogweno)
 - ✓ Somalia (A.M. Hassan)
 - ✓ South Sudan (R.G. Bilala)
 - ✓ Sudan (T.D.A. Osman)
 - ✓ Uganda (N. Turyahabwe)
- ❑ End of Consultancy Report. G Ongile. September 2018.
- ❑ Review of the IGAD Forestry Situation/Regional Synthesis Report. G Ongile, P Omanga, I Otieno and E Kilawe. 2019. 79 pp.
- ❑ Proceedings of the Small Expert Group Regional Consultative Workshop on Development of IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy. E Kilawe. Nairobi. August 2019. 3 pp.
- ❑ Proceedings of the Technical Regional Stakeholders Consultative Workshop on Development of IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. E Kilawe. Nairobi. November 2019. 10 pp.
- ❑ End of Consultancy Report. G Ongile. November 2019.
- ❑ Technical Expert Meeting for IGAD Forestry Focal Points and IGAD Country Focal Points to Validate IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. IGAD Secretariat. Djibouti. March 2020. 3 pp.
- ❑ Ministerial *communiqué*/declaration and endorsement meeting report of the IGAD Regional Forestry Regional Policy and Strategy. IGAD Secretariat. March 2020.
- ❑ Regional Summary Analysis of Laws and Regulations of the Forestry Sector in IGAD Region. P Bigombe. 67 pp.
- ❑ Final IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. 2020. 55 pp (English version) and 68 pp (French version).
- ❑ Press releases during the project inception phase:
 - ✓ <http://tiny.cc/csqdoz>
 - ✓ <http://tiny.cc/xvqdoz>
- ❑ FAO article on the endorsement of the IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy: <http://tiny.cc/o0qdoz>
- ❑ Folders, notebooks and pens for meetings/workshops.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved contributions of forests resources to national economies for poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development of the IGAD member states		
Outcome	IGAD regional forestry policy and strategy developed and implemented		
	Indicator	Regional forestry policy and strategy documents finalized and available.	
	Baseline	0	
	End Target	1	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	By the end of the project, IGAD Member States had endorsed the policy and strategy document.	
Output 1.1	Information collected and analysed at national level on forestry policy issues		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of studies conducted.	1	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	An assessment was conducted on existing forest policies and strategies in each IGAD member state, which included the identification of main priorities and emerging issues. In each country, a national validation workshop was organized and attended by Government officials, experts, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. Based on national reports, the Regional Synthesis Report was prepared and made available.		
Activity 1.1.1	Assessment of existing forest policies and strategies		
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.1.2	Comments	National consultants conducted desk studies and stakeholder consultations. Review reports were prepared by national consultants and shared at review/validation workshops.	
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.1.3	Comments	Through the desk studies and stakeholder consultations carried out by national consultants, the existing information was collected. This information was included in the review reports prepared by national consultants.	
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.1.4	Comments	One workshop was held for each country at the national level to discuss and validate the national reports.	
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.1.4	Comments	Prepare a synthesis report	
	Achieved	Yes	
Activity 1.1.4	Comments	A regional consultant prepared the Regional Synthesis Report – this document consolidated all the national reports.	
	Achieved	Yes	

Output 1.2	IGAD forestry strategy formulated, validated and incorporated into national/regional investment plans		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of IGAD countries that participated.	7	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	All seven IGAD Member States targeted under the project participated fully in the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy formulation process. Through their IGAD country focal points, each country identified a consultant to work alongside their respective forestry departments in order to prepare a national forestry status report. These reports were synthesized, providing inputs for the preparation of the draft IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy document.		
Activity 1.2.1	Compile and evaluate regionwide forestry situation		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A regional stakeholder consultation was undertaken, stocktaking of existing regional information (related to forestry) was carried out, and an expert review and evaluation of the existing forestry information (both at national and regional levels) were performed.	
Activity 1.2.2	Draft Regional Forestry Policy/Strategy		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was drafted based on the key information collected (i.e. the synthesis report and the regional stakeholders' consultation report).	
Activity 1.2.3	Technical validation of draft forestry Policy/Strategy and Action Plan		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Three technical meetings were organized to review and validate the draft IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy document in August 2019, November 2019 and March 2020, respectively.	
Activity 1.2.4	Ministerial-level meeting		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A ministerial meeting was organized in March 2020 to discuss and endorse the IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy. The meeting was attended by six Ministers, one each from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.	

Outreach, Marketing and Reporting Unit (PSRR)
Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division (PSR)

For more information please contact: Reporting@fao.org