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REPORT

Blantyre, Malawi, 1-3 May 1989

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission Eighth Session



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First Session Ibadan, Nigeria 31 October - 7 November 1960 Second Session Lomé, Togo 20-25 January 1969 Third Session Nairobi, Kenya 7-12 February 1972

Fourth Session Bangui, Central African Republic 22-27 March 1976
Fifth Session Accra, Ghana 24-28 April 1978
Sixth Session Arusha, Tanzania 12-16 September 1983
Seventh Session Bamako, Mali 20-24 January 1986

REPORT

of the

EIGHTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

held in Blantyre, Malawi

1-3 May 1989



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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Addressed to Member Governments

The Commission recommended that Member Governments:

- recognize the profession of forestry research personnel, in order to attract and keep a sufficient cadre of researchers and to establish training quotas for research staff (para.31);
- allocate sufficient funds for sustained forestry research and that FAO assist in the search for external financing (para.32);
- accord greater priority to wildlife utilization and to its integration with rural development and treat wildlife and its habitat together in developing related programmes (para.37);
- 4. integrate awareness raising and extension in people's participation programmes (para.38);
- 5. develop mechanisms to ensure that a fair share of monetary benefits accrue to local people (para.39);
- 6. give greater emphasis to wildlife in forest management systems (para.41).

B. Addressed to FAO

The Commission recommended that FAO:

- assist in the search for external financing of forestry research (para.32);
- assist in strengthening international cooperation in forestry research within the Region through dissemination of results, creation of networks and the organization of visits of research staff to other countries (para.34);
- establish a data bank by species which should include information on pests and diseases and corresponding prevention and control measures (para.35);
- resume publication of UNASYLVA and CERES as soon as conditions permit (para.48);
- 5. produce an English version of the bulletin "Nature et Faune" (para.55).

C. Addressed to Member Governments, FAO and donors

The Commission further recommended that :

support be given to intercountry cooperation and information exchange programmes in the field of desertification control (para.15);

- 2. a regional assessment of forestry resources be undertaken on the lines of the work carried out in 1978-80 (para.16);
- 3. projects be identified, formulated and implemented to assist forestry authorities to pursue measures contained in the new legislations and to benefit rural communities (para.17);
- 4. donors support the establishment of regional cooperation networks, aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and also, at a later stage, of experts and research results (para.20);
- 5. a flexible approach be adopted in the formulation and implementation of national TFAPs, in order to take account of the specific conditions and circumstances of each case (para.25);
- 6. initiatives be taken to promote trade in forest products among African countries (para.28).

I INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Eighth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was held in Blantyre, Malawi, from 1 to 3 May 1989, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Malawi.
- 2. The Session was attended by delegates from the following member countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe; by representatives of the World Food Programme and the European Economic Community as well as observers from the African Timber Organization, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, the International Foundation for Conservation of Game, the Canadian International Development Agency, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- 3. The Director-General of FAO was represented by Mr C.H. Murray, Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department. Mr J.D. Keita, Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, was the Secretary. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.
- 4. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr N.N.Sanogho (Mali), Chairman of the Commission. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Malawi for hosting the meeting and welcomed participants. He recalled that since the last meeting the Commission had been renamed "African Forestry and Wildlife Commission" and briefly reviewed the main items of the draft agenda for the session.
- 5. Mr C.H. Murray welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Malawi for hosting the meeting.
- 6. He informed the Commission that an FAO study had concluded that, since 1960, the population of Africa had been growing three times' faster than food production and that in many parts of the continent human and animal populations had already surpassed the carrying capacity of the land. He went on to mention the fuelwood crisis which already affects about 55 million Africans and could affect 500 million people by the year 2000. To reverse this trend, 25 million hectares of new forest plantations would be needed by the year 2020.
- 7. Mr Murray stressed the actual and potential direct contribution of forestry to food security, through edible plants and wildlife. Bush meat accounted for as much as 70% of the meat consumed in some areas. There was also an indirect contribution through forest-based income generating activities. He recalled that these factors were particularly important for poor people and that women often played a key role in their realisation. Furthermore, forest-based industries provided employment, thereby reducing migration to urban areas. He stressed the importance of trees and forests for agriculture and emphasized that tree growing on farmland can be a profitable enterprise, while agro-forestry can control erosion effectively.
- 8. He emphasized the need to reorient forest policies and strategies to enhance the contribution of forestry to the socio-economic development of member countries and referred to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan as an important vehicle for this purpose. However, this reorientation would

require the utmost in determined efforts and commitment on the part of all concerned, from the highest policy-makers to the rural dwellers.

- 9. In opening the Session, the Minister for Health, the Honourable E.C.I. Bwanali, M.P., welcomed the participants to Malawi. He recalled that the meeting had been preceded by the Ninth Session of the Commission's Working Party on Wildlife Management and National Parks and that many delegates to the Working Party were also attending the Commission's Session. This was very appropriate, as the interaction between forestry and wildlife specialists must be seen as necessary to the integrated management of Africa's natural resources. He therefore welcomed the change of the Commission's name to the "African Forestry and Wildlife Commission".
- Noting that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan was to be one of the main focuses of the Commission, the Minister stressed the need for all countries of the Region to intensify and coordinate their efforts to pursue This was essential to reducing the Plan's five priority objectives. environmental damage and the attendant human suffering, caused by declining There was a need for regional cooperation to develop forest resources. institutional frameworks to integrate forestry, research, training and planning with other areas of development.
- He then declared the Session open. 11.
- 11 ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 1)
- The Provisional Agenda as set out in document FO:AFC/89/1 was adopted (Appendix A). The list of documents presented to the Session is given in Appendix C.
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2) III
- In accordance with the provisions of Rule II-1 and Rule II-5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

- W.M. NDOVI (Malawi) Chairman

- O. M'HIRIT (Morocco) Vice-Chairmen H. SHAREW (Ethiopia)

M. ELLA-EFOULOU (Gabon)

The Commission elected two Rapporteurs: Mr O. NADJOMBE (Togo) and Mr C. NYAGA (Kenya).

- STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION (Item 3) W
- The Commission reviewed the state of forestry in the Region on the basis of Secretariat Document FO:AFC/89/2 and the statements of delegates, which gave additional information on current forest development activities in the Region.
- The Commission recognized that desertification remained the single most serious threat to the African environment. It noted with satisfaction the successful implementation in some countries of farm forestry, fuelwood production, sand dune fixation activities, and land and water conservation measures. It recommended that donor countries and organizations support inter-country cooperation and information exchange programmes in these fields.

- 16. The Commission observed that some confusion persisted in relation to the concepts and definitions of forest formations, which were used in the assessment of forest resources. It reiterated the need for reliable data on these resources in order to plan better their use and management. It recommended that a regional assessment of forestry resources be undertaken on the lines of the work carried out in 1978-80.
- 17. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in general, new forest policies and accompanying legislation emphasized the integration of forestry development into overall rural development, the support of forestry to agriculture, and the participation of rural populations in forestry activities. The Commission therefore recommended that projects be identified, formulated and implemented to assist forestry authorities to pursue measures contained in the new legislations and to benefit rural communities.
- 18. With regard to forestry development institutions, the Commission recognized that their main function was to prepare the communities to assume responsibility for the management of their natural resources. It therefore recommended that donor countries and agencies assist in organizing, training, equipping and supporting grassroots organizations, such as cooperatives, private trade associations, etc.
- 19. The Commission duly noted fair progress in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan which should foster a revival of investment in forestry development activities.
- 20. Because of the importance of exchanges of experiences, the Commission recommended that donors support the establishment of regional cooperation networks, aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and also, at a later stage, of experts and research results.

V TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN (Item 4)

- 21. Secretariat Note FO:AFC/89/3 was introduced by the Secretariat.
- 22. The Commission welcomed the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) as a very useful and timely framework for forestry sector planning at national as well as sub-regional levels and for the strengthening and harmonization of related donor support. It endorsed the basic principles, main strategies and priority programmes of the Plan and their adaptation to the conditions and constraints prevailing in the Region, as described in the Secretariat note.
- 23. The Commission was informed by several delegates and the Secretariat of the progress so far achieved in the implementation of the Plan, in the 19 countries of the Region which had adopted it and were at various stages of formulation and implementation of their national forestry action plans. Other delegates mentioned that their countries had carried out forestry planning exercises whose general approach and procedure were similar to those of TFAP.
- 24. The Commission stressed the need for the formulation and implementation of the TFAP at national level to be consistent with, and complementary to, other existing plans, such as national anti-desertification action plans.

- 25. The Commission recommended that concerned countries, the donor community and FAO adopt a flexible approach in the formulation and implementation of national TFAPs, in order to take account of the specific conditions and circumstances of each case.
- 26. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat of the FAO mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Plan, in the various countries, through its TFAP Unit. It called for a better coordination of World Bank forestry missions with those carried out within the framework of TFAP and for more speedy action in the formulation and presentation of national TFAPs.
- 27. The Commission stressed the role of specific activities in TFAP implementation, such as the early undertaking of forest inventories, revision of forest laws and regulations, multidisciplinary training, farm forestry and wildlife and protected area management.
- 28. The Commission urged FAO to use its influence against the adoption by consumer countries of a boycott of tropical forest products. It recommended that initiatives be taken to promote trade in forest products among African countries.
- VI FORESTRY RESEARCH IN AFRICA (Item 5)
- 29. Secretariat Note FO:AFC/89/4 was introduced by the Secretariat.
- 30. The Commission took note of the status of forestry research in the Region as a whole and in several African countries in particular. This was generally characterized by the inadequacy of institutional structures, the lack of trained personnel and of insufficient, regular funding.
- 31. The Commission recommended that governments recognize the profession of forestry research personnel, in order to attract and keep a sufficient cadre of researchers and to establish training quotas for research staff.
- 32. The Commission recommended that governments allocate sufficient funds for sustained forestry research and that FAO assist in the search for external financing. It agreed that TFAP at national and sub-regional/regional levels was a vehicle which could generate support to forestry research. Other means included the levying of a tax on the sale of forest products, as was done in one country of the Region.
- 33. The Commission <u>agreed</u> on the priorities for forestry research, as outlined in the Secretariat Note, according to the main TFAP areas. It stressed the need for increased efforts in wildlife management research, given the important contribution of this sector to rural economies.
- 34. The Commission agreed on the need to strengthen international cooperation in forestry research within the Region, through dissemination of results, creation of networks and organization of visits of research staff to other countries. It recommended that FAO assist in these activities.
- 35. The Commission noted with concern forest damage by diseases and pests in some countries of the Region. It recommended that a data bank by species be established, which should include information on pests and diseases and corresponding prevention and control measures.

VII WILDLIFE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (Item 6)

- 36. Secretariat Note FO:AFC/89/5 was introduced by the Secretariat.
- 37. The Commission noted that wildlife and protected area management can provide both direct and indirect benefits to rural communities. There was, however, a necessity to develop appropriate legislative and institutional bases, if these benefits were to be realised. It concluded that the recognition and regulation of subsistence hunting should be an important element in developing practical approaches to people's participation in wildlife management. The Commission recommended that member countries accord greater priority to wildlife utilization and to its integration with rural development. It further recommended that wildlife and its habitat be treated together in developing related programmes.
- 38. The Commission emphasized that the involvement of local people in wildlife and protected area management required a measured approach and should be treated on a case by case basis, to take account of the various factors affecting individual situations. It therefore recommended that awareness raising and extension should form an integral part of people's participation programmes. However, the Commission pointed out that this condition should not be the only selection criterion for submission of wildlife management projects to donors for funding.
- 39. Several delegations pointed to the contribution that wildlife and national park based tourism could make to rural development and stressed the need to ensure that local communities benefited from such activities. The Commission recognized that returns from such tourism could provide incentives for conservation and recommended that member countries develop mechanisms to ensure that a fair share of monetary benefits accrue to local people.
- 40. The Commission emphasized that cooperation between member countries was necessary if the full returns that could be derived from wildlife were to be realized. In this connection, it noted, in particular, the need for regional coordination in marketing of wildlife-based tourism products.
- 41. Several delegations drew attention to the role of wildlife conservation and protected areas in genetic resource conservation. Others stressed the need to integrate wildlife utilization into forest management. The Commission, therefore, recommended that member countries give greater emphasis to wildlife in forest management systems.

VIII FAO FORESTRY ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Item 7)

- 42. The Secretariat documents FO:AFC/89/6, FO:AFC/89/7 and FO:AFC/89/7 Supplement, were presented against the background of the financial situation prevailing in the Organization during 1987 and 1988, which led to the regular programme budget of those years being reduced by US\$ 25 million and 20 million respectively.
- 43. The Commission noted the modest increase of extra-budgetary resources available for forestry activities in the Region and requested the allocation of a greater share of resources, given the priority accorded to forestry under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.
- 44. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the indication given by the Secretariat that forestry programmes were slated for allocation of a

- slightly higher budget in the Programme of Work and Budget being prepared for the 1990-1991 biennium.
- 45. The development in 1987 of the special action programme entitled "Forests Trees and People" was noted, as was the decision to change the structure of the 1988-89 Programme of Work and Budget by incorporating the hitherto separate 2.3.4. programme, Forestry for Rural Development, created in 1980, into all other programmes.
- 46. The Commission welcomed FAO's continued efforts to recruit experts who were not only professionally qualified but who above all had an understanding of the aspirations and priorities of the recipient countries.
- 47. The Commission called upon member countries and FAO to ensure that training activities in projects be directed not only to traditional fellowships and study tours, but also to refresher courses for in-service officials who need to update their knowledge of forestry and related fields.
- 48. The Commission noted with regret the suspension of the publication of UNASYLVA and CERES and recommended that publication be resumed as soon as conditions permit.
- 49. The Commission appreciated the attention being accorded to the promotion of the new dimensions philosophy, through the recruitment of nationals to participate in project implementation.
- 50. The Commission reaffirmed the need to pay particular attention to non-wood forest products in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91.

IX REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE AFWC WORKING PARTY ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL PARKS (Item 8)

- 51. The Chairman of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and National Parks, Mr. Henri Nsanjama (Malawi), introduced the report of the Ninth Session of the Working Party held in Blantyre, Malawi, 26 to 28 April 1989, to the Commission. He informed the meeting that the Session had been conducted in a free and cordial manner and that the Seminar on Wildlife Habitat had been a particular success. He then presented the recommendations of the Working Party and concluded by expressing the hope that the importance of wildlife would be brought to the attention of the major funding organizations.
- 52. In endorsing the report, the Commission felt there was a need to elaborate the concept of "producer" in the context of paragraph 38. To this end, it recognized that elephant populations in some southern African countries, in particular, were increasing and required active management and that related culling and cropping operations by governments led to the production of legal ivory.
- 53. It further recognized that other sources of legally produced ivory included: ivory originating from the killing of elephant for crop protection; ivory confiscated from poachers and illegal traders and ivory from elephants which die naturally.
- 54. The Commission concluded that any African country that commercialised such legally acquired ivory would be considered a producer country.

K. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 9)

55. The Secretariat introduced document FO:AFC/89/8 summarizing activities undertaken by FAO in follow-up to the recommendations addressed to FAO by the Seventh Session of the Commission. The Commission was satisfied with the activities undertaken and recommended that an English version of the bulletin "Nature et Faune" be produced.

XI MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 10)

- 56. The Commission proposed that the following matters be referred to the Committee on Forestry.
- 57. Although great effort had been made to allocate more budgetary resources to forestry under the regular programme budget, the Commission still felt that there was room for further improvement, given the fact that forest conservation and environmental matters had become high priorities for mankind.
- 58. To counter the disinformation campaign in European countries concerning the responsibilities of developing countries in destroying tropical forests, by allowing the importation of tropical timber, the Commission requested FAO to assist African timber producing countries in organising an information campaign on efforts African countries were making to manage their resources soundly. This information campaign should appeal to developed countries to help African countries in their forest management activities.

XII OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

59. The Commission sought information on the dates and venue for the next World Forestry Congress. In reply, the Assistant Director-General informed the Commission that at the last Session of the FAO Council France and Tanzania had expressed the desire to host the Congress. The Director-General of FAO was in touch with the governments of the two countries and at the next session of the Council, in June 1989, a final decision would be taken.

KIII DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 12)

60. The Commission noted with gratitude the offers made by the delegations of the following countries to host the Ninth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission: Rwanda and Morocco. The Commission also endorsed the Secretariat proposal that the next Session be held at a date to be worked out later in agreement with the host country. It requested FAO to pursue arrangements for the next Session in accordance with established rules and procedures.

XIV ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

61. The draft report of the Session was examined and adopted by the Commission with some modifications which have been incorporated in the present document.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda
- 2. Election of Officers
- 3. The state of forestry in the Region: national progress reports
- 4. Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP): implementation in Africa
- 5. Forestry research in Africa
- 6. Contribution of wildlife to rural development in Africa
- 7. FAO forestry activities of interest to the Region
 - a) Review of past activities and Programme of Work and Budget
 - b) Forestry field operations in the Region
- 8. Report of the Ninth Session of the AFWC Working Party on Wildlife Management and National Parks
- 9. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the African Forestry Commission
- 10. Matters to be referred to the attention of the Committee on Forestry
- 11. Other business
- 12. Date and place of next session
- 13. Adoption of the Report

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Document no.	Title
1	FO:AFC/89/1	Provisional agenda
3	fo:AfC/89/2	The state of forestry in the Region
4	FO:AFC/89/3	Tropical Forestry Action Plan: implementation in Africa
5	FO:AFC/89/4	Forestry research in Africa
6	FO:AFC/89/5	Wildlife and rural development in Africa
7(a)	FO:AFC/89/6	FAO forestry activities: review of past activities and Programme of Work and Budget
7(b)	FO:AFC/89/7	Forestry field operations in the Region
9	FO:AFC/89/8	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Commission

Information documents

FO:AFC/89/Inf.1	Information note
FO:AFC/89/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:AFC/89/Inf.3	List of documents

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