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<b>AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION</b>
<b>EIGHTEENTH SESSION</b>
<b>SECOND AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK</b>
<b>Cotonou, Republic of Benin, 16 to 20 January 2012</b>
<b>THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE AND BENEFIT SHARING IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AFRICA'S FORESTS, TREES AND WILDLIFE</b>
<b><i>Report on Measures taken by Members to Implement the Recommendations of the 17th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission</i></b>

## INTRODUCTION

1. This report is an abridged version of summary of the actions undertaken by the members of the Commission to implement the recommendations of the 17th Session of the Commission held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in February 2010. The Secretariat received reports from Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe on actions undertaken to implement the various recommendations. It should be noted that not all the reporting countries have implemented all the recommendations.

***Recommendation 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.***

2. Zimbabwe undertook capacity development activities including community institutional strengthening and establishment of resource management committees. Burundi has elaborated legislation for participatory forest management and benefits sharing, while Mauritania intensified the implementation of decentralization and participatory forest management and benefit sharing policy. Malawi, Benin, Madagascar, Togo, Congo and Guinea implemented activities in knowledge exchange,

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capacity building, transparent and equitable sharing of benefits and the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas (PAs). In Botswana, provisions have been made for community consultations with park neighbours called Local Advisory Committees (LACOMS) and community use zones (CUZ) within protected areas. LACOMS are advisory fora for park management and CUZ are select places in protected areas where neighbouring communities can undertake projects. Niger continued to implement a 1998 law that requires 50% of the revenue from the exploitation of wildlife and ecotourism be paid to the local communities. In September 2010, Niger signed an agreement with some local communities for the co-management of certain natural reserves in order to promote good governance in their management. Through a decree of May 2011, Benin introduced a ruling on modalities for sustainable management and development of wildlife and their habitat and on a mechanism of revenue sharing, as well as on the creation of rural markets for wood products under the management of the local populations.

***Recommendation ii. : 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.***

3. Burundi has started to implement a transboundary natural forest management project on the Burundi-Rwanda border, in which the population will be involved in the management and sharing of benefits from wood sales and ecotourism. In Mauritius, non wood forest products are mostly exploited from the forest as part of recreational activities. Botswana has been promoting community participation in ecotourism partnership ventures through community Trusts. An Environmental Fund has been established where part of the revenue generated through the ecotourism ventures is deposited, to be re-invested into environmental conservation projects for the benefit of the communities. Botswana is also in the process of developing ecotourism guidelines with the intent of opening up the forest reserves for ecotourism ventures. In Malawi, revenue collected through ecotourism concession agreements forms part of the benefits that are shared with local communities. Some of the funds are ploughed back to fund PA activities. Ecotourism is being developed in Tunisia where local populations, organized in development groups, will potentially benefit from concessions to be implemented. In Guinea, a structure has been put in place to allow communities living near protected areas to benefit from ecotourism development through their involvement in the management of the protected areas. Congo has developed laws and regulations for the development of ecotourism while investing revenue to the sector to the benefit of local communities.

4. Though rather under developed, ecotourism in Mauritania nonetheless contributes to local development through the investment of revenues in social and infrastructure projects. Botswana has been implementing the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programme since 1989 even though the respective Policy was approved in 2007. CBNRM empowers local communities to benefit from the sustainable utilization of natural resources. Botswana's community-based natural resource management is founded on principles of valuing the resources, devolving management decision to local communities and collective proprietorship. Participatory approaches are advocated during the development of natural resource management tools in Madagascar, while Egypt implemented activities to rehabilitate and improve some selected forest reserves to promote ecotourism. Mozambique continued to promote and develop ecotourism while encouraging communities to invest 20% of their tax revenue in income generating activities.

***Recommendation iii.: 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.***

5. Communities in Zimbabwe have domesticated the farming of the Mopane Worm (*Imbrasia belina*). They have been organized into marketing groups and have been selling their produce in the southern African region and in Europe. The Government and NGOs continued to enhance the technical and entrepreneurial capacity of local communities through training in beekeeping, honey processing and marketing. With the support of COMIFAC, Burundi has undertaken a preliminary inventory of important non-wood forest products (NWFPs). Efforts continued in Mauritania to protect and restore the gum Arabic, which is the sole NWFP that the country exports (about 2,000 tonnes per year). In the Republic of Guinea, many NGOs and associations are engaged in the management of NWFPs. In addition, women's associations were supported to extract shea butter (*karate*). The National Directorate of Forests and Water has created a Division to address the issues related to NWFPs. Congo undertook a participative selection and domestication of NWFPs species. Furthermore, it strengthened the technical capacities of small and medium enterprises involved in the NWFP-sector. Egypt started a project on silk production in cooperation with the Government of China. It plans to implement silk production in many forests in the country. Niger on the other hand is in the process of preparing a National Agro-forestry Strategy. Niger has also implemented training for farmers on restoration and enrichment planting with tree species that have the potential to produce non-wood forest products. Other activities included knowledge exchange on good practices on the production, exploitation and value addition of NWFPs. There are plans to invest 12 billion Franc CFA in the sector from now till 2015.

6. Benin secured a project from FAO for the promotion and value addition of NWFPs. The Central African Republic (CAR) undertook participative domestication of *Gnetum africanum*. Beneficiaries were trained in domestication techniques. CAR undertook a feasibility study on the NWFPs market in the country and proposed legislation on NWFPs. In Mozambique, actions undertaken included: (a) capacity development of local people for domestication of the most valuable NWFPs; and (b) introduction of market analysis and development (MAD) approach to promote small and medium-sized enterprises at community level aiming to promote the use of NWFPs. The domestication and selection of the most valuable NWFPs in Botswana was undertaken in a participatory manner through community Trusts. Currently in the Kgalagadi and Gantsi District, the Government, in collaboration with Community Trusts, is undertaking research to domesticate *Hoodia*. In Tunisia many NWFPs have been initiated by the Government and NGOs. Madagascar has established a data base on development and marketing of NWFPs and promoted wildlife management

***Recommendation iv.: The Commission recommended that AFWC member countries support the development and use of alternative sources of energy.***

7. Burundi continued to encourage the use of solar energy and to popularize the use of improved stoves for charcoal production. With the support of GIZ, Zimbabwe developed wood saving stoves for use by communities, while the Forestry Commission trained communities to accept and use these new technologies. Furthermore, the Forestry Commission facilitated the use of solar energy as an alternative source. In other parts of the country the Forestry Commission enabled communities to produce bio-gas from cow dung for household lighting and cooking. Mauritius has started diversification of its energy production under its Maurice Ile Durable concept e.g. use of bagasse,

wind energy and solar. Benin adopted a strategy to subsidize butane gas for the households in the cities in order to reduce dependence on wood fuel.

8. The development and use of butane gas and solar systems for urban and peri-urban energy production continued to be supported in Mauritania, but the bioenergy sector remained underdeveloped in the country in the absence of good knowledge of it. Malawi is implementing a full programme of bioenergy. Farmers and local communities grow trees (e.g. moringa) that are used for production of bio-fuels. The Jatropha project is planned to spread over most of desert backyards of the southern governorates in the coming decade. Botswana is encouraging communities to establish woodlots for the provision of fuelwood. Currently, the total area of community woodlots is 122 ha. Botswana also has a project on bio-fuel which is aimed at providing an alternative energy source. The project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Guinea has initiated a programme to subsidize butane gas for use in urban areas.

9. Egypt is implementing an international pilot project with JICA on the extraction of bio-fuel from Jatropha seeds oil.

***Recommendation v.: 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***

10. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and the Communal Area Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) developed policies and strategies on human and wildlife conflicts. In Guinea a consultation platform has been put in place to address issues related to managing elephants. Human-wildlife conflict is not well known in Mauritania where problems are addressed through the national plan of action for the integrated and participative management of humid zones. Malawi's Forestry Department and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife decided together to translocate the Phirilongwe elephants to Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2009. Presently the two departments are discussing with other stakeholders ways to deal with problem elephants of Thuma and Dedza Forest Reserves.

11. Mozambique approved a new Strategy for Management of Human and Wildlife Conflicts, which states the need of involvement of all stakeholders in dealing with the issue, including local people, local authorities and the private sector. Exchange of experiences has been started with Angola and Zimbabwe, through the use of FAO Tool-Kit in conflict mitigation between Human and wildlife.

12. Botswana is implementing a monetary compensation scheme for damages to property caused by dangerous wildlife (nine wildlife species). In addition, communities in Botswana are trained in problem animal techniques to enhance their capacity for self-reliance in preventing damages by wildlife.

***Recommendation 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.***

13. Botswana is currently collaborating with South Africa and Namibia in the management of invasive species, and in particular the *Prosopis* species. There is also information exchange and sharing of experiences through field visits. Some members of the community Trust went on a field visit to South Africa. Consultation frameworks exist in Central Africa to address the issue of invasive species at national and transboundary levels, the latter involving Cameroon, Congo and CAR. Amongst the activities that Guinea is undertaking at national level to implement the stewardship programme (which includes Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) is the management of invasive species. Mauritania is making economic use of invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora*.

***Recommendation vii.: 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.***

14. Burundi plans to revise its forestry code in which the issue of wildlife will be included. Mauritius is also reviewing the Forests and Reserves Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Act and is currently working on a Biodiversity Act. Principles of wildlife law developed by FAO will be taken in consideration during the review and elaboration of these acts. Guinea has initiated measures to draft a new legislation on forest and wildlife with FAO assistance. Through various decrees, Tunisia, in 2010, expanded its network of protected areas to 17 and national parks to 27.

15. With the assistance of FAO, Togo has elaborated some legislation on forestry and also on the management and protection of wildlife, the capture, keeping and movement of wildlife and trade in wildlife products.

***Recommendation 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.***

16. The government of Zimbabwe tasked the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management to coordinate collaboration of all stakeholders in the Environment Sector over the control of wild fires, deforestation and land degradation in the country. Key stakeholders identified include the agriculture sector, local governments (including traditional leaders) political leaders and the judiciary. Collaboration with the agriculture sector is being implemented through joint programs such as "Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program" (CAADP). In addition, collaboration among stakeholders is being implemented through environmental expositions. Workshops have also been conducted to inform law makers on environmental issues including forestry. The Forestry Commission is working with the Tobacco Industry Marketing Board, Tobacco Research Board, and Tobacco Growers Associations to explore alternative sources of energy for tobacco curing. In its National Investment Programme for Agriculture and Food Security, Togo has provided for implementation of ecological programmes such as the integrated management of land and disasters.

17. All rural development sectors in Mauritania are required to undertake an environmental impact assessment in all their development works in order to preserve the equilibrium and integrity of the ecosystems. By law no utilization of forests or forest lands is permitted in Mauritania without the permission of the Forestry Authorities. In Botswana, the Department of Forestry and Range Resources through the Agricultural Resources Board, liaises with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Lands and Housing in the management of land to promote sustainable forest management. Political leaders are also being taken on board through the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Climate Change. The Forestry Service and National Parks and Conservation Service of Malawi are already under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro Industries and Food Security. There is already ample communication between the agriculture sector and forest sector for adequate land management.

***Recommendation ix.: 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.***

18. With the assistance of the FAO and through a participative approach Togo elaborated a national forest policy to address land conflicts and the decentralization of the forestry sector, amongst others. With regard to increased funding for sustainable forest management (SFM), the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique allocated financial resources to the forest sector under PEDSA (Sectorial Programme for Agrarian Development). Other sources identified to support the forest sector includes Finland Forest Support Programme and APRONAF project. Mauritania has in place a trans-sectoral coordination mechanism at all regional levels. This mechanism however requires reinforcement to ensure its operability and efficacy. The forest code and the tools for its application are based on participatory approaches and the decentralization of the management of forests and forest lands. The new forest regulation of Mauritania guarantees for local communities that 95% of the revenue accruing from forests is transferred to them.

19. Institutional changes regarding sustainable management of wildlife and forests is already being catered by the Mauritanian Government. The cross-sectoral coordination of forest and wildlife management is already being implemented through existing committees and boards.

***Recommendation x.: For sustainable forests management (SFM), the Commission indicated that it was also incumbent on the countries to identify internal resources, which were often available.”***

20. Despite limited inflows into government coffers, the Government of Zimbabwe continues to increase funding for sustainable forest management through the Forestry Commission. The forestry authority is empowered to retain any revenues it generates e.g. through ecotourism activities. These funds are then utilized in sustainable forest management. Lately the business community has also joined to add more resources into forest management and tree planting to augment the government efforts. Malawi continued to use Government funds, either through the capital budget or the specialized funds for conservation to finance its forest sector. In 2011 the Government of Niger allocated about 356 million Franc CFA (about \$782,000) to the production and marketing of gum Arabic and plans to allocate 2.7 billion Franc CFA to the programme in 2012.

***Recommendation 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.***

21. Zimbabwe is in the process of developing its National Forest Program with funding from FAO. The participatory process is in its third year. Completion is expected within the next 12 months. Malawi is drafting its National Forest Programme to effectively put into practice the forest policy. With FAO support, Togo elaborated its National Forest Programme through a participative approach. Similarly, Mauritania is in the process of elaborating a national forestry programme. In 2011, with the support of the National Forestry Programme Facility, Niger launched a participatory process for the elaboration of its National Forest Programme. Niger is also taking active part in the process of elaboration of the Convergence Plan for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems in West Africa.

### **Actions Planned for the Future.**

22. In general, actions planned to be undertaken in the near future by the various countries include:

- Popularizing and expanding ecotourism activities and sites;
- Strengthening the non-wood forest products sector;
- Developing legal frameworks to promote good governance in forest management;
- Strengthening of experience sharing on human-wildlife conflict prevention and management;
- Domestication of some important NWFPs species. Inventory of invasive species;
- Forest inventory;
- Creation of marine and wetland protected areas;
- Creation of national agency for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel;
- Elaboration of national forest programmes;
- Enhancing capacities of the local communities so that they participate confidently in resource management and benefit sharing.

### **Challenges**

23. In implementing the recommendations countries faced many problems and challenges including:

- Difficulties in demonstrating the importance of forestry to sustainable development of the countries;
- Insufficient financial and human resources to implement the recommendations;
- Inadequate institutional capacities;

- Unclear laws and regulations especially regarding the role of local authorities in forest management;
- Insufficient or lack of expertise for the development and value addition of NWFPs;
- Insufficient and or effective coordination between intuitions and organizations concerned;
- Insufficient or lack of expertise and financial resources to adequately address the problem of invasive species;
- Inadequate involvement of the population in the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources;
- Ecosystem conservation and creation and management of protected areas;
- Development and certification of forest concessions;
- Control of illegal exploitation of forests and wildlife;
- Combating the high rate and extent of deforestation and degradation of wildlife habitats;
- Addressing the climate change phenomenon.