

REPORT

Cotonou,
Republic of Benin,
16-20 January
2012

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Eighteenth Session

(and the Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week)



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
17 th Session	Brazzaville, Congo	22-26 February 2010

REPORT

of the

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Cotonou, Republic of Benin
16-20 January 2012**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Accra, 2012**

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

The Commission:

- Encouraged governments to establish a permanent process of data collection in forestry and wildlife and to involve research organizations.
- Recommended that members raise awareness and exchange lessons learned to build national capacities that promote and up-scale good practices in fire management.
- Recommended that member countries continue sharing experiences on human and wildlife conflicts (HWC) prevention and mitigation; and collaborate with FAO in: (i) improving the HWC toolkit; (ii) developing local, national and sub-regional strategies for HWC prevention and mitigation, and (iii) developing reporting and monitoring systems.
- Urged members to continue to cooperate by sharing experiences and lessons learned in forest governance.
- Recommended that member countries take advantage of the ongoing initiatives and experiences to broaden and diversify the economic base of their forest sectors.
- Requested members to promote synergies between REDD+ and other initiatives, such as national forest programmes and forest law enforcement and governance.
- Recommended that member countries continue to make their reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of AFWC 17 available to the Secretariat.

Regional Conference for Africa

The Commission

- Recommended that the issue of HWC prevention and mitigation be brought to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, taking into account the importance of this cross-sectoral issue affecting rural livelihoods, food security, health and natural resources conservation.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ATTENTION OF COFO/FAO

The Commission:

- Requested FAO to assist member countries in developing common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation.
- Requested FAO to assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment.
- Supported the establishment of a Multi Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management.

- Requested FAO to assist members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans for fire management, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach.
- Requested FAO to assist member countries in enhancing institutional capacities and promoting knowledge sharing on payment for forest ecosystem services at the national and subregional levels.
- Requested FAO to develop a platform in the region for South-South cooperation and exchange of information on best approaches, methodologies and practices on payment for forest ecosystem services.
- Requested FAO to facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels.
- Requested FAO to assist countries in identifying actions of high REDD potentials, and support the development and implementation of programmes and projects in this regard.
- Requested FAO to continue assisting member countries in HWC prevention and mitigation, and mobilize additional resources to support growing demand for technical assistance.
- Requested FAO to support members in their efforts to design, introduce and implement community-based forest and wildlife management programmes.
- Requested FAO to provide technical support to members to build capacity and deepen the understanding of community-based forest and wildlife management and also to establish capacity building programmes for local communities.
- Requested FAO to undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation among them.
- Requested FAO to support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- Recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research.
- Requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest communication both at national and regional levels.
- Requested the secretariat to translate these recommendations into the new template and make them available to other regional forestry commissions.
- Supported Nigeria's candidature as Chairperson of COFO 21 in September 2012.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Eighteenth Session in Cotonou, Benin, from 16 to 20 January 2012, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Benin. The session was attended by 219 representatives from 19 member countries, and 3 representatives of the United Nations system. Observers from 7 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations also attended. H.E. Blaise O. Ahanhanzo-Glele, Minister of Environment, Housing and Town Planning of the Republic of Benin and The Honourable Francis Dunstan Chenayimoyo Nhema, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Management of the Republic of Zimbabwe, attended the sessions. (*Annex C* provides a full list of participants).
2. Three side events were held. A summary report and recommendations of these are also given in Annexes D to F.
3. The Eighteenth Session of the Commission was held together with the Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) under the common theme “The importance of governance and benefit sharing in the sustainable management of Africa’s forests, trees and wildlife”. The theme sought to emphasize the need for good governance in the management and utilization of Africa’s forest, trees and wildlife resources in a way that would ensure the sustained involvement of stakeholders in the protection and development of these resources.
4. Mr Théophile Kakpo, Director-General of Forestry and Natural Resources, Benin, welcomed participants by highlighting major events in 2012 including the Rio+20 Summit, where forests and wildlife should be well represented. He noted the role of regional cooperation and coordination in developing joint positions for the sector and argued that AFWC, including through its current session, could provide remarkable contributions to this end.
5. Mr Donatien Nzala, outgoing Chairperson of the Seventeenth Session, thanked the host country for organizing the meeting as well as FAO and other multilateral partners for the continued support to AFWC. He commended the selection of the main theme of the session and noted that the work of the Commission should contribute to implement the outcome of the Summit of the Three Tropical Forest Basins, held last year in Brazzaville.
6. Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recalled the intricate linkages between development, deforestation and desertification and noted the role of sustainable forest and land management, in particular in Africa. He emphasized that a green economy is impossible without sustainable land management and expressed the UNCCD Secretariat’s readiness to support countries’ efforts in this regard.
7. Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General for Forestry, expressed, on behalf of the FAO Director-General, FAO’s gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Benin. He paid tribute to the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai and participants observed a minute of silence in her memory. In continuing, he underscored that communities must be involved and must share the benefits equitably to achieve sustainable forest and wildlife management. He stressed the importance of forestry education and noted the role of communication and outreach in keeping forest issues in the forefront of the international and national agendas.
8. H.E. Blaise Ahanhanzo-Glele opened the Eighteenth Session of the Commission and expressed his Government’s pleasure to host the session. He recalled that numerous populations depend, to various degrees, on forests for their livelihoods and stressed that Africa has a unique opportunity to promote its forest and wildlife sectors at the regional level. As a continent particularly vulnerable to climate change, Africa should actively contribute to the international discourse about adaptation. The Minister expressed his hope that the Rio+20 Summit will provide ample opportunities for progress towards sustainable development.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 2)

9. The agenda was adopted as set out in document FO:AFWC/2012/1.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 3)

10. 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 as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr Théophile Kakpo, Benin
1 st Vice-Chairperson	Mr Philip Tabi Tako-Eta, Cameroon
2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Mr Ephraim Muchiri Mwai, Kenya
3 rd Vice-Chairperson:	Ms Aisha Elfaki Mohamed, Sudan
Rapporteur:	Mr Joseph Hailwa, Namibia

Mr Foday Bojang, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, served as Secretary of the Commission.

11. Mr Rojas congratulated the new Bureau and noted that the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) provides the African region the opportunity to nominate the next chairperson for COFO.

FRA 2010: REVIEW OF THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR FRA IN AFRICA (Item 4)

12. The Commission was informed of the key findings of FRA 2010 for the region and main challenges of the reporting process. The Commission noted with appreciation the draft long-term strategy for the FRA programme that was presented in response to the request by the Twentieth session of COFO.

13. It was pointed out that some African countries faced serious difficulties in reporting, because of time constraints, lack of financial resources and inadequate or lack of data for certain variables. Through the implementation of the FRA long-term strategy, the future global forest resource assessment and reporting system should be improved.

14. The Commission took note of the problems encountered by member countries in reporting and noted the need to build capacity and improve reporting on topics such as trees outside forests, agroforestry, urban and peri-urban forestry, valuation of ecosystem services, contribution of forests to poverty alleviation and rural development, as well as gender issues.

15. The Commission:

- encouraged governments to establish a permanent process of data collection in forestry and wildlife and to involve research organizations.
- requested FAO to assist member countries to develop common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation.
- requested FAO to assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment.

RESPONDING TO INCREASING DEMANDS IN FIRE MANAGEMENT (Item 5)

16. Members shared information on good practices involving communities in fire management. It was stressed that emphasis should be placed on pro-active approaches rather than repressive methods. Actions to prevent and fight vegetation fires should include traditional simple methods and income generation activities based on farming and landscape management (e.g. beekeeping and fruit tree plantations). Countries expressed the need to exchange information on good practices at national, regional and international level.

17. The Commission:

- supported the establishment of a Multi Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management.
- recommended that members raise awareness of and exchange lessons learned to build national capacities that promote and upscale good practices.
- requested FAO to assist Members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach.

PAYMENT FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (Item 6)

18. The growing importance of payments for forest-based ecosystem services (PES) and the potential for developing these mechanisms to increase financial resources for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in Africa was presented. The Commission was also informed about the latest developments and potential opportunities that could be further explored and pursued by countries, including those related to Carbon.

19. Noting the limited experience of Africa in this area, the Commission identified several obstacles to successfully harness these mechanisms, including lack of adequate information and capacity deficiencies. The Commission also underscored the insufficiency of resources and limited opportunities for exchanging information on successful cases within and across countries.

20. Emphasizing the need for Africa to aim at a stronger participation in future PES mechanisms, including REDD+, the Commission encouraged countries to take full advantage of them by proactively engaging in relevant fora and capacity building efforts.

21. To progress further in this regard, the Commission requested FAO to:

- assist member countries in enhancing institutional capacities and promoting knowledge sharing at the national and subregional levels; and
- help develop a platform in the region for South-South cooperation and exchange of information on best approaches, methodologies and practices.

REDD EXPERIENCES IN AFRICA AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON REDD ISSUES (Item 7)

22. The Commission was informed of the on-going REDD+ initiatives in Africa, the main challenges and lessons learned, as well as FAO's role to support countries to develop their programmes. The Commission noted the difficulties experienced by some countries in getting information and guidance on accessing benefits from REDD+ mechanisms.

23. The Commission also recognized the need for broadening the scope of REDD+ so as to better include the dry zones of Africa where forests represent an essential resource for the livelihoods of people.

24. The Commission stressed the need for good coordination among different national actors participating in REDD+ activities to facilitate access to the benefits of the mechanism; and the importance for forestry to take the lead in national REDD+ frameworks and proactively engage with other sectors. The Commission noted the need to quick-start REDD+ actions and the potentials state forests may represent in this regard. The importance of the involvement of local communities in the planning and implementations of REDD+ activities was also recognized.

25. The Commission requested:

- FAO to facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels;
- members to promote synergies between REDD+ and other initiatives, such as national forest programmes and forest law enforcement and governance;
- FAO to assist countries to identify actions of high REDD+ potentials, and support the development and implementation of programmes and projects in this regard.

EXPERIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN AND WILDLIFE CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION (Item 8)

26. Based on the experiences and challenges in the implementation of human and wildlife conflict (HWC) prevention and mitigation, member countries stressed the need for collaboration to further field-test methods under local conditions; and for the development and implementation of national policies and strategies for HWC management, supported by reporting, monitoring and early warning systems. The Commission also stressed the importance of addressing the “causes” of conflicts, such as land use changes; forest degradation; wildlife populations growing beyond carrying capacities; unclear responsibilities of government and communities; and lack of equitable sharing of benefits. The Commission also expressed concerns regarding possible transmission of diseases from wildlife to livestock and humans.

27. The Commission recommended that:

- FAO continue assisting member countries in HWC prevention and mitigation, and mobilize additional resources to support growing demand for technical assistance;
- the issue of HWC prevention and mitigation be brought to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa taking into account the importance of this cross-sectoral issue affecting rural livelihoods, food security, health and natural resources conservation;
- member countries continue sharing experiences on HWC prevention and mitigation; and collaborate with FAO in: (i) improving the HWC toolkit; (ii) developing local, national and sub-regional strategies for HWC prevention and mitigation, and (iii) developing reporting and monitoring systems.

SECRETARIAT REPORTS ON FAO AND MEMBER ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF AFWC 17 (Item 9)

28. The Secretariat presented a summary report on the actions taken by FAO and members in response to the requests and recommendations of the 17th Session of AFWC. In addition, the report also indicated other FAO activities in the region. Sixteen member countries submitted reports to the Secretariat. The reports revealed good progress in several areas, however, none of the reporting countries could implement all the recommendations. The reports also provided useful information on

challenges and obstacles to the implementation of these recommendations. The Commission welcomed the compilation and recommended that countries continue to make their reports available to the Secretariat.

REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS (Item 10)

29. The Commission held a special session as part of the 2nd African Forest Week (AFWW) to address agenda item 10.

30. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales highlighted the Organization's main contributions to celebrating the International Year of Forests and acknowledged the important work done in the African region. He emphasized the importance of intense and continued communication of forest issues. He noted that the AFWW has a strong focus on governance and recognized the good progress made in Africa towards community-based forest and wildlife management.

31. Mr Tamás Marghescu, Director-General, CIC introduced the concept of a "Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife" and invited African countries to support the proposal at the forthcoming Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He further recalled the broad support from the side event for the establishment of a Trust Fund "FAO-WILD" (see Annex E).

32. Ms Jan L. McAlpine, Director, UNFF Secretariat, in her video address, underscored the importance of forests and wildlife as sources of livelihoods in Africa. She commended African countries for their commitment to implement policies that promote sustainable forest and wildlife management. She noted with appreciation that in 2011, two of the three Future Policy Awards were given to African countries, namely Rwanda and Gambia, for their enabling forest policies.

33. Prof. Brice Sinsin, Rector of the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, made a keynote speech explaining the concept and key components of good governance and the importance of governance and benefit sharing in sustainable management of forests, trees and wildlife in Africa. He argued that various forms of governance could be successful as long as they are transparent, inclusive and provide benefits for all, illustrating particular challenges, achievements and failures with examples from some African countries. He concluded that while good governance is key to sustainable resource management, generating adequate benefits for stakeholders remains a challenge.

34. The Honourable Francis Dunstan Chenaimoyo Nhema argued that now was the time for Africa to develop a common view on goals and objectives and take these to global conferences. In this spirit, he suggested strong regional coordination in preparing for Rio+20 and other major events, and invited FAO to support this endeavour. He further invited FAO to continue to support countries' efforts to access existing resources for the sustainable development of their forest sectors; and to take a proactive approach for strengthening cooperation among the Rio Conventions and FAO on biodiversity, climate change and desertification as they relate to forests.

35. Mr Boubacar Cisse, Head, UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit for Africa, recalled the linkages between forests and desertification and envisaged strengthened cooperation between UNCCD and FAO. He further noted that UNCCD was committed to support African countries in developing and implementing policies and strategies to combat land degradation and desertification control.

Feature 1: Heads of Forestry and Wildlife Dialogue on Forest Governance and Benefit Sharing

36. The discussion item on forest governance was introduced by Mr Peter Gondo, Director, Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE). His presentation focused on governance structures for community-based forest management (CBFM). He indicated the basic principles of governance which include legitimacy, fairness, transparency, and participation, among others. Mr Gondo also defined some key elements that are necessary for a successful institutionalization and implementation of CBFM, such as an enabling policy environment, enabling legal and tenure systems, collective decision making, market access and equitable cost and benefit sharing. He emphasized that

for communities to be sustainably involved in CBFM, the perceived shared benefits must be beyond subsistence and should also be more than the shared cost. He gave examples of different types of benefit sharing methods.

37. Mr Hugues Akpona, Head of Planning, Monitoring and Statistics, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources of Benin, presented the Benin experience in the area of community forest and wildlife management. He indicated that the implementation of the community programmes was made possible by various legislations that were enacted at different times, permitting communities to be involved and to equitably benefit from the management of natural resources.

38. In the dialogue that ensued the presentations, heads of forestry and wildlife recognized the need for good governance in the forest and wildlife sectors, and noted that, among others, this requires empowering communities to be owners and managers. They acknowledged, however, the social and legislative obstacles to the empowerment paradigm. Heads of forestry and wildlife also recognized the need for raising awareness at multiple levels, including policy makers and local communities. They further stressed the importance of capacity building, especially for local communities.

39. Looking at the broader landscape of forest governance, the dialogue acknowledged the need for and positive role of certification for forests managed by states. Experiences were shared on various methods of benefit sharing including benefits from plantations established by governments.

40. The Commission:

- Requested FAO to support Members in their efforts to design, introduce and implement community-based forest and wildlife management programmes.
- Urged members to continue to cooperate by sharing experiences and lessons learned in forest governance.
- Requested FAO to provide technical support to Members to build capacity and deepen the understanding of community-based forest and wildlife management and also to help establishing the capacity building programmes for local communities.

Feature 2: Heads of Forestry and Wildlife Dialogue on Forest Financing

41. In his keynote introduction, Professor Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum (AFF), enumerated major sources of financing and highlighted some of the emerging opportunities to augmenting resources for sustainable forest management. He noted the continuing challenges of low budgets and limited capacities of several member countries to achieve many of the goals and objectives set out in their national policies and plans. The ongoing FAO support to countries to promote forest finance was also highlighted.

42. During the plenary discussion, the heads of forestry and wildlife elaborated some of the points and also brought to light some of the strategies being pursued by their countries to address challenges. These include, for example, developing national forest financing strategies, mainstreaming sustainable forest and wildlife management in national development plans, and establishing and effectively managing financial mechanisms, such as national forest development funds.

43. Several delegates reiterated the challenges and stressed the importance of adequate, reliable, and readily accessible finance for member countries to pursue the task of sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources in Africa.

44. The Commission recommended that countries take advantage of the ongoing initiatives and experiences to broaden and diversify the economic base of their forest sectors. It also requested FAO to support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing.

Informal discussion on forestry education

45. The Commission was informed on the actions taken by FAO in response to COFO's recommendation on forestry education, including steps towards its re-establishment as an element of the FAO Forestry work programme, and the creation of an informal advisory mechanism to support it.
46. The Commission welcomed the measures taken and recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research and stressed the importance of a solid knowledge base for sustainable forest management.
47. The Commission suggested that future forestry education should pay particular attention to the technician level in order to fill an existing gap, and be accessible for all stakeholder groups. The Commission further suggested that education programmes be responsive to emerging challenges such as climate change.
48. The Commission highlighted the importance for FAO to also collaborate with ongoing country and regional initiatives and foster synergies. The Commission encouraged FAO to highlight to decision takers and donors the importance of including training and educational components in forestry projects and allocating adequate resources for such activities.
49. The Commission requested FAO to undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation among them.

Informal discussion on forest communication

50. The session considered options for continuing active forest communication after the International Year of Forests (IYF). In taking stock of the experiences of the Year, the session highlighted various activities undertaken by FAO to support the celebration of the IYF. FAO's support to national actions was noted with appreciation.
51. The Commission recognized the role of communication in raising the profile of the forest sector. It also emphasized the need for the region to look to the challenges and available options for capacity development in area of forest communication. FAO presented a proposal for conducting two training workshops in this regard, subject to availability of funding.
52. The Commission suggested that FAO continue its efforts to better publicise and disseminate the rich material produced by the Organization.
53. The Commission was informed about the activities of the FAO/UNECE Forest Communicators Network and the recent decision of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission to establish a Working Group for forest communication.
54. The Commission requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest communication both at national and regional levels.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE 18TH SESSION OF THE AFWC FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 27TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA AND THE 21ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 11)

55. Mr. Peter Csoka of FAO briefed the Commission on progress in the preparation of the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of COFO for the period 2012-2015.

56. He presented, on behalf of Mr Anders Lonnblad, chairperson of COFO, the COFO Steering Committee's initiative to provide a coordinated framework and template for regional forestry commissions in order to set the agenda of the Committee.

57. The Commission noted with satisfaction the increasing synergies among regional and global technical committees and the tools for increasing efficiency. The Commission considered the issues presented in the draft recommendations for the attention of member countries, the Regional Conference for Africa, COFO and FAO. Guidance was given to the secretariat to further refine these recommendations and include them in the final report of the session, as given below and in Annex A.

58. The Chairperson reminded the Commission about Africa's Chairpersonship of COFO 21 and Nigeria's candidature. No objections were raised concerning the latter.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ARC, COFO/FAO

Members

59. The Commission:

- Encouraged governments to establish a permanent process of data collection in forestry and wildlife and to involve research organizations.
- Recommended that members raise awareness and exchange lessons learned to build national capacities that promote and up-scale good practices in fire management.
- Recommended that member countries continue sharing experiences on HWC prevention and mitigation; and collaborate with FAO in: (i) improving the HWC toolkit; (ii) developing local, national and sub-regional strategies for HWC prevention and mitigation, and (iii) developing reporting and monitoring systems.
- Urged members to continue to cooperate by sharing experiences and lessons learned in forest governance.
- Recommended that member countries take advantage of the ongoing initiatives and experiences to broaden and diversify the economic base of their forest sectors.
- Requested members to promote synergies between REDD+ and other initiatives, such as national forest programmes and forest law enforcement and governance.
- Recommended that member countries continue to make their reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of AFWC 17 available to the Secretariat.

Regional Conference for Africa

60. The Commission

- Recommended that the issue of HWC prevention and mitigation be brought to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, taking into account the importance of this cross-sectoral issue affecting rural livelihoods, food security, health and natural resources conservation.

FAO/COFO61. The Commission:

- Requested FAO to assist member countries in developing common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation.
- Requested FAO to assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment.
- Supported the establishment of a Multi Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management.
- Requested FAO to assist members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans for fire management, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach.
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- Requested FAO to facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels.
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- Requested FAO to undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation among them.
- Requested FAO to support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- Recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research.
- Requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest communication both at national and regional levels.
- Requested the secretariat to translate these recommendations into the new template and make them available to other regional forestry commissions.
- Supported Nigeria's candidature as Chairperson of COFO 21 in September 2012.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 12)

62. There was no other business presented to the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 13)

63. The Commission accepted Namibia's offer to host the 19th Session. The Commission agreed to establish a date for the session on the basis of the decision on the next session of the Regional Conference for Africa.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (Item 15)

64. The report of the 18th Session was adopted as amended here.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION AND OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK (Item 16)

65. In her remarks, the FAO Representative in Benin, Ms Elizabeth Balepa, thanked the Government of the Republic of Benin for the extent of support it accorded to the AFWC and indicated that FAO would do everything, within the limits of its resources, to implement the recommendations made during the session.

66. Mr Joseph Léon Samba of the Republic of Congo, expressed the gratitude of the participants to the Government of the Republic of Benin and to FAO for having supported the organization and convening of the Session.

67. In his closing statement on behalf of the Minister and the Government of the Republic of Benin, Mr Gaéthan Agbangla, Technical Adviser to the Minister of Environment, Housing and Town Planning, thanked FAO for its support to Benin and to AFWC. He underscored the need for member states, FAO and other development partners to implement the recommendations of the meeting. He expressed the Government's readiness to collaborate with members to enforce the recommendations.

Annex A

AFWC recommendations for the attention of COFO

Priority issues for COFO to consider	Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision)	Possible follow-up activities for COFO and FAO
How to better share experiences and develop capacities in • forest governance; • equitable sharing of benefits to guarantee continued stakeholder involvement; • Agro-forestry and urban forestry	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress
How to take advantage of ongoing initiatives and experiences, including those related to climate change, biodiversity, desertification and PES schemes, to broaden and diversify the economic base of the forest sector	Advice for Members and FAO	Periodic review of progress

Annex B**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the 18th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and of Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week.
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Election of officers
4. FRA 2010: Review of the African Perspective and capacity development needs for FRA in Africa
5. Responding to increasing demands in Fire Management
6. Payment for forest ecosystem services
7. REDD Experiences in Africa and capacity development on REDD issues
8. Experiences in the implementation of human and wildlife conflict prevention and mitigation
9. Reports on FAO and member actions in response to recommendations of AFWC 17
10. Reflections on the International Year of Forests
Feature 1: - Heads of forestry dialogue on Forest Governance and Benefit Sharing
(the creation of the right environment for the institutionalization and implementation of community-based forest and wildlife management)

Feature 2: Heads of Forestry Dialogue on Forest Financing
(alternative resource mobilization)
11. Regional issues identified by the 18th Session of the AFWC for the attention of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa and the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry
12. Any other Business
13. Date and place of next session
14. Field Visit
15. Adoption of the report of the 18th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
16. Closure of the Session and of African Forestry and Wildlife Week

Annex C

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Annex D

Side Event

**Small scale elephant cropping and wild game meat production in Zimbabwe:
A learning process from the pilot initiative of Save Valley Conservancy to supply local
communities with a legal source of meat**

A side event organized in collaboration with the French Agricultural Centre for International Development (CIRAD) on the first day of the AFWC, presented the results of a pilot project on small scale elephant cropping in South-East Lowveld in Zimbabwe. The elephant status in Zimbabwe and the background on the pilot area was presented to the participants, as well as the rationale for the intervention, the results, the statistics on meat and by-products production, the main challenges and the lessons learnt. The side event was well attended and participants showed interest in the theme, unfortunately the limited time for the side event did not allow for in-depth discussion and formulation of recommendations. However, CIRAD and FAO are preparing a technical paper with much more detailed information on the elephant cropping in Zimbabwe, to be published in 2012.

Annex E**Side Event****Wildlife for Improvement of Livelihoods and Development Trust Fund (FAO-WILD)**

On 17 January, during the lunch break, a side event took place to inform about the proposed multi-donor trust fund in support of the FAO wildlife and protected area management programme. In his introductory remarks, Mr Tamás Marghescu, Director-General of the CIC, stressed the importance of such an additional financing instrument in support of wildlife conservation and management. Mr Edgar Kaeslin, FAO Forestry Officer in charge of the wildlife and protected areas programme, gave more detailed explanations on the need for such a trust fund (FAO-WILD) and on means to organize and establish it.

Participants were reminded that already in the mid-1960s, the Ad-hoc working party on wildlife management of the African Forestry Commission concluded that a co-ordinated interdisciplinary approach to wildlife conservation and management among the major stakeholders involved was essential and that apart from bilateral organizations, those most obviously concerned were IUCN, UNESCO, and FAO (African Forestry Commission, Ad-hoc working party on wildlife management. 21-25 September 1965, Kampala). Wildlife is an important renewable natural resource, which has economical, ecological and social values. If well managed, it can contribute to poverty alleviation and to safeguarding human and environmental health. But wildlife use is controversial and stakeholder numbers in wildlife management and conservation have significantly increased over the past 50 years. Despite the growing needs and expectations of FAO member countries for technical assistance, FAO's regular programme funds declined substantially over this time period. In this context, a multi-donor trust fund (FAO-WILD), hosted by FAO, is proposed as the solution. This is a multi-institutional funding mechanism designed to receive contributions from more than one donor which are held in trust by an appointed administrative agent (hosted by FAO). In this way, donor resources are pooled to fund programmes or projects implemented by participating agencies and organizations for the achievement of jointly determined priorities and objectives. Building on FAO competencies, nine priority areas of work have been suggested. The presentation concluded with a tentative schedule on how to establish FAO-WILD.

The following discussion revealed that participants were unanimously supporting the establishment of FAO-WILD, although it was suggested to keep it at a manageable size and to avoid conflicts with major players in the conservation arena.

Annex F**Side Event****“A green agenda for healthy cities. Improving livelihood and environment for all”*****Objectives***

A first objective of the side event was to share knowledge on urban and periurban forestry (UPF) and, more specifically, to inform member countries on: the context of urban forestry development in the world and African region; FAO “Food and the Cities” multidisciplinary initiative activities on urban issues and the Forestry Department programme on UPF, and; experiences and good practices developed by African countries. A second objective was to present the development process of the International UPF Guidelines for Policy and Decision Making and invite countries to participate in the process. The third objective was to get guidance on how FAO can assist member countries in promoting UPF. The presenters were Michelle Gauthier (FAO), Michel Makpenon (Municipality of Cotonou – Metropolis member), Melkior Ogouwolé Kouchade (Benin), and Joseph Léon Samba (Congo);

Some questions raised for discussion were:

1. What are the needs, challenges and opportunities for UPF in Africa?
2. How African countries and cities can participate in the development process of the Guidelines, adapt and implement them?
3. How FAO can support African member countries to build multi-sectoral and multi-institutional dialogue related to urbanization and optimization of trees and forests for cities?
4. What are the financing mechanisms that can support member countries to optimize UPF for cities in the framework of climate change challenges and food security?
5. How countries can build a vision, a strategy and action plan for Healthy Green City for All?

Participation to side event

Forty-two participants from 9 member countries (Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Sudan and Zimbabwe), FAO (Headquarters, West Africa, and Central Africa) and members of COFO Bureau attended the side-event.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Benin and Cameroon expressed their need to develop specific projects for their countries and discussed the ways and means to do it with FAO.

The member countries:

- (i) recommended AFWC to request FAO to support member countries to develop good practices in urban and periurban forestry for policy and decision makers in a multi-sectoral and multi-institutional framework.
- (ii) invited member countries of the African region to actively participate in the development of International Guidelines on Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry and support their implementation in the African region and countries.
- (iii) request AFWC to request COFO Bureau to put an item on urban and periurban forestry on the agenda of the next COFO (September 2012).

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