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والزراعة  
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联合国  
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Organización  
de las  
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para la  
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## AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### SIXTEENTH SESSION

**KHARTOUM, REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN**

**18-21 February 2008**

**FAO FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMME IN AFRICA**

## INTRODUCTION

1. In the last two years FAO's forestry and wildlife work in Africa has focused on the four issues identified by the previous session of the Commission:

- Enhance the role of forests and wildlife in food security and in the mitigation of poverty impacts;
- promote effective policies and strategies to decrease deforestation and support sound rehabilitation programmes;
- support decentralization and devolution processes, promote multi-stakeholders partnerships, improve awareness and knowledge and capitalize on traditional knowledge; and
- enhance capacities of sub-regional and regional organizations, networks and initiatives.

2. The driving force was to enhance the contribution of forests and wildlife management to the sustainable development of African countries, and specifically to the achievement of countries' targets to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Millennium Development Goal 1).

## MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (AFWC)

### Activities of the Executive Committee

3. The Executive Committee (bureau) held two inter-sessional meetings (Accra, Ghana, November 2006 and Rabat, Morocco, July 2007), to guide the follow-up to and to preparations for

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the Commission sessions. The latter was jointly organized with the Task Force (bureau) of the Near East Forestry Commission. The Chair of the Commission participated actively in the Steering Committee of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and presented the AFWC outcomes and activities at COFO 18, 2007, bringing African forestry issues to global attention.

4. Participation of African representatives in major international meetings, such as COFO and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), was enhanced through AFWC and its Executive Committee sessions, and also through consultations organized by regional organizations such as the African Academy of Sciences, and the African Forest Forum (AFF).

5. The Executive Committee also guided an assessment of the AFWC Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas.

### **Forest policy development**

6. The National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility ([www.nfp-facility.org](http://www.nfp-facility.org)) increased its support in Africa by commencing operation with six new partner countries in 2007, bringing the current total of 26 partner countries in the region. The Facility provides small grants and information to promote the engagement of stakeholder organizations in the implementation of forest policy initiatives under the NFPs. The capacity building and information dissemination efforts have provided building blocks for a better future for the forestry sector in many countries.

7. A workshop on forest policy information – the NFP Update – was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in April 2007 for anglophone African countries and in November 2007 in Rabat, Morocco, for francophone African countries. It raised awareness of the NFP process and increased networking on forest policy development and implementation.

8. A number of countries and processes in the region have strengthened their forest policy and legal frameworks, and improved stakeholder participation in policy-making. FAO has supported such processes in Angola, the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC, [www.comifac.org](http://www.comifac.org)), Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia ([www.fao.org/forestry/lfi](http://www.fao.org/forestry/lfi)), Mauritius and Uganda.

9. FAO led a study in 10 member countries<sup>1</sup>, in collaboration with the NFP Facility, to examine the linkages between national forest programmes and poverty reduction strategies. The study concluded that decision-makers continue to underestimate the importance of forestry in social and economic development because the sector fails to quantify its contributions in this regard. It also showed that, for the most part, forestry officials are not in the loop of national efforts to reduce poverty any more than central agencies are aware of the importance of forestry to achieving this goal. Countries involved in the study are now reviewing outcomes to identify priorities for follow-up action.

10. The contribution of forests and wildlife to food security and nutrition and their integration in the national strategy for poverty alleviation have been part of a specific project in Mozambique.

### **Strengthening funding support to forestry**

11. In 2007, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) expanded the number of agencies that can prepare and implement GEF projects to include, amongst others, FAO. In addition, a multi-focal area programme to support sustainable forest management (SFM) was launched and FAO, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was given the lead to develop this further. National forestry agencies may request GEF funding for projects through FAO or other GEF Agencies, where those projects will produce global environmental benefits in terms of enhanced biodiversity conservation, reduced carbon emissions or reduced land

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<sup>1</sup> Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia

degradation. GEF is a co-financing mechanism, so countries must also contribute their own resources to the project (or find contributions from other sources), although these contributions can include in-kind resources. In addition, all proposals must be endorsed by the national GEF Operational Focal Point (who is often located in the Ministry of Environment), so it is essential that they are consulted at an early stage of project preparation. Further information about these new opportunities is available at the GEF website ([www.gefweb.org](http://www.gefweb.org)) and FAO Forestry Officers are ready to assist countries with preparing GEF forestry projects as required. So far, the GEF Council has approved one SFM project from the African region, namely "Tanzania: Extending the Coastal Forest Protected Area Subsystem (UNDP) (GEF Grant: USD 3.55 m)".

12. UNFF is expected to consider "a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests" at its next session in April 2009. FAO and a few other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) will be supporting the preparation of the session, including an Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting on this topic, scheduled for late 2008. ([www.un.org/esa/forests](http://www.un.org/esa/forests)).

13. A training workshop on innovative financing strategies and mechanisms for sustainable forestry development was organized in Walvis Bay, Namibia, in October 2007. The workshop tested a methodology developed by FAO to promote financing strategies for implementation of national forest programmes.

#### **Forests and climate change**

14. At the FAO-led session on climate change and forests that was organized during the regional forum of COMIFAC in 2006, participants addressed the expected impacts and vulnerabilities of the Central African forest sector, reporting on obligations under UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol and bottlenecks and opportunities offered by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). A month later, FAO joined the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)-led International Workshop on CDM, where participants explored investment opportunities in natural forest ecosystems and renewable energy in Sub-Saharan tropical Africa.

15. FAO Forestry seeks to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by advocating and strengthening sustainable forest management. More activities are being planned to strengthen the country capacity for monitoring and assessment of forest carbon. FAO, together with partners, will also work to strengthen country capacity for forest-related negotiations under UNFCCC and the follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol, specifically to help countries to reap the benefits stemming from CDM, the emerging voluntary carbon markets, and any new potential instrument related to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. See also the secretariat note on Forests and Climate Change (FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM1).

#### **Wildlife and protected areas**

16. On human-wildlife conflicts (HWC), four specific studies have been undertaken in the region, focusing on human conflict with elephants, baboons, lions and crocodiles. An FAO paper on HWC, which will be presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> AFWC session, will provide information about main causes and implications of HWC and options for HWC management that could contribute to increasing food security of rural populations affected by the problem, as well as promoting more effective conservation of wildlife. In addition to these studies *Nature & Faune* magazine has been revived and is currently published twice a year. See more information on the secretariat note on the Role of wildlife and protected areas and the sustainable development of Africa (FO:AFWC/2008/3).

#### **Fire management**

17. Support to fire management and control include capacity-building projects in Botswana, Cape Verde and Zimbabwe and revitalization of the Regional Fire Management Network (AFRINET). See more information on FAO activities in the Secretariat Note on Forests and Wildfires (FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 3).

### **Gender in forestry**

18. Gender imbalances and responsibilities in the use and conservation of forest resources have been explored in 10 African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The results of the project were debated in a regional workshop on “Mainstreaming Gender in Forestry in Africa” (Accra, Ghana, November 2007). It encouraged the creation of “women in forestry” networks and asked FAO to support the generation of lessons learned on participatory forest management and gender mainstreaming.

### **Forest resources assessments in Africa**

19. At the moment, only a few countries of the continent are able to undertake far-reaching forest and forest resources inventories. As a consequence, national records and statistics on available forest resources are incomplete. Countries also face difficulties in providing complete and accurate reports to some of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) tables and to comply with reporting requirements under international conventions. Support is being gradually provided (for example in Zambia and Angola) to promote National Forest Assessments using a simplified and more cost-effective methodology for countrywide forest surveys.

### **Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and small-scale forest based industries**

20. Building on the project ‘Enhancing food security through sustainable use of non-wood forest products in Central Africa’, the project’s activities in the Congo Basin have recently been broadened to a new three-year project entitled “Strengthening capacities of small and medium enterprises in the NWFP sector in Central Africa”. The new project aims at developing market chains of NWFPs, some of which are traded in large volumes across borders.

### **Partner support**

21. A number of the above described activities would not have been possible without additional financial support from a number of Governments, including Germany, Netherlands and Norway. Many studies, workshops and other projects were carried out together with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the National Forest Programme Facility, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Winrock International, that provided notable technical or financial support, among many other partners.

## **ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION**

22. To enhance sustainable forest management in Africa through AFWC and the FAO forestry and wildlife programme in Africa, the Commission members are invited to discuss the following items:

- guidance to the AFWC Executive Committee and FAO for the preparation of a comprehensive and effective programme to assist member countries in their efforts to implement sustainable forest management; guidance would be specifically welcomed on the following topics:
  - a critical analysis of the achievements and areas for improving action on the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources, including their relation to food security and nutrition;
  - innovative mechanisms to guarantee long-term financial support to forestry and wildlife initiatives in Africa;
  - development and implementation of policies related to good governance in forestry and wildlife management, including innovative approaches for inter-regional and south-south cooperation;

- strengthening of collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information related to forests, including carbon assessment;
- ways to further strengthen the Executive Committee of the Commission, including its essential role in guiding the Commission activities and facilitating the integration of regional priorities and concerns within the global forest dialogues;
- role of FAO in supporting the above activities and in facilitating cooperation amongst African forests and wildlife-related initiatives at the national, subregional and regional levels.