

REPORT

Khartoum,
Sudan,
18-21 February
2008

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Sixteenth Session



**Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations**

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

REPORT

of the

SIXTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Khartoum, Sudan
18-21 February 2008**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	i-iii
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION.....	1-6
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	7
ELECTION OF OFFICERS.....	8
THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA	
3.1 Report of the 17th Session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas	9
3.2 Strategies and approaches to address human-wildlife conflict.	10
3.3 Wildlife resources, food security and poverty alleviation	11
3.4 Multilateral environmental agreements related to wildlife and protected areas in Africa	12
3.5 Partnerships to promote sustainable wildlife and protected areas management in Africa	13
3.6 Improving communication and information exchange (<i>Nature & Faune</i>)	14-15
SHARING LESSONS FROM FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE-RELATED INITIATIVES IN AFRICA.....	
4.1 Sub-regional initiatives of Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa	16
4.2 Regional initiatives	17
FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN AFRICA	
AFWC and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 15th Session of the Commission	18-19
REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE 16TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY	20-23
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	24-26
DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION	27
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION	28

JOINT MEETING OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AND THE 18TH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION

	Paragraphs
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE	29-40
FORESTS AND ENERGY.....	41-45
FORESTS AND WILDFIRES.....	46-50
FORESTS AND WATER RESOURCES.....	51-53
SHAPING AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR FAO IN THE AFRICA AND NEAR EAST REGIONS	54-59

- FAO strategy for forestry
- Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010)
- Other information items

CLOSURE OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AND THE 18TH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION.....	60-62
--	-------

Appendices:

	<i>Page</i>
A: Agenda	9
B: List of Participants	11
C: List of Documents	25
D: Report of the FAO Seminar on Forests and Climate Change.....	26
E: Conclusions and Recommendations of the 17 th Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas	28
F: Minutes of Side Events	29

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA

- i. The Commission noted the outcome of the 17th Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas and the recommendations emanating from it addressed to FAO and to member countries. It endorsed the full list of recommendations as appended to this report as *Appendix D*
- ii. The Commission encouraged countries to submit appropriate proposals in order to access funds targetted at effective protected areas management. It called for an integrated approach to wildlife and protected area management through programmes under conventions and with international organisations.
- iii. In view of the need to decentralize decision-making on resources management to the local level, countries were advised to review their policy and legislation to allow for local enlightenment and empowerment.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- iv. The Commissions urged member countries to:
 - share and exchange experiences from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and voluntary market forestry projects, in particular ways in which difficulties had been overcome;
 - promote the development of forest carbon projects through training, extension and policy and financial measures; and
 - seek to fully engage the private sector in climate change mitigation projects in forestry.
- v. The Commissions strongly recommended that countries address adaptation and mitigation opportunities in their forestry sectors in a holistic way in order to capture synergies, incorporate them into national forest programmes (nfps), and link them with human development needs.

FORESTS AND ENERGY

- vi. The Commissions urged member countries to evaluate with care the costs and benefits of investing in bioenergy, as such investments may compete with food production and increase deforestation.

FORESTS AND WILDFIRES

- vii. The Commissions recommended that (i) local communities be trained and engaged in fire management; (ii) regional cooperation be promoted, including the development of transboundary strategies; and (iii) intersectoral approaches be adopted for integrated fire management at local and national levels.

FORESTS AND WATER RESOURCES

viii. The Commission noted the importance of relevant initiatives such as the Green Wall of the Sahara and the *Fouta Djallon* Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management of the great "water tower" of West Africa. Recognizing the important linkages between forests and water resources, it urged countries to use these to address successfully many of the problems in both the forestry and water sectors.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA

ix. The Commission noted the outcome of the 17th Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas and the recommendations emanating from it addressed to FAO and to member countries. It endorsed the full list of recommendations as appended to this report as *Appendix D*.

x. The Commission requested FAO and partners to assist countries in their efforts to document the value which wildlife brings to local, national and regional economies.

xi. FAO was invited to form partnerships with environmental organisations in order to apply its knowledge in agriculture, forestry, wildlife and fisheries at the local level.

xii. The Commission requested FAO to enhance its support to countries in wildlife management and to strengthen the FAO programme on wildlife and protected areas management.

FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN AFRICA

xiii. The Commission welcomed FAO's decentralization process and stressed that there was a continued need for capacity building, education and training in the forestry and wildlife sectors.

xiv. The Commission requested FAO to amend the AFWC Statutes and Rules of Procedures, to include in the first sentence of paragraph one, the words "*and wildlife*". The amended text would read as follows: "The function of the AFWC shall be to advise on forestry *and wildlife* policy...".

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

xv. The Commissions requested FAO to provide assistance to member countries in their efforts to mainstream climate change within their nfps.

FORESTS AND ENERGY

xvi. The Commissions recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to enhance national and regional capacities for the development, implementation and monitoring of wood energy systems, including the establishment of information systems.

FORESTS AND WILDFIRES

xvii. The Commissions recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to implement the voluntary guidelines and to develop national and regional fire management plans.

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (FRA) 2010

xviii. The Commission requested FAO to increase its efforts to strengthen the capacity of national correspondents and provide them with the necessary support for procuring accurate data of high quality on all types of forests and other land uses.

**REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY**

xix. The Commission requested FAO to enhance its support to countries in wildlife management and strengthen the FAO programme on wildlife and protected areas management. It further recommended that the terms of reference and mandate of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas (WPWMPA) be revised in order to increase its relevance for the Commission.

xx. The Commission requested FAO and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to continue and increase their collaboration and cooperation in their forest and climate change programmes. It called upon FAO to organize regional workshops on forests and climate change to share information on recent developments; exchange experiences; facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation; and, while recognizing variability among them, to develop unified approaches and positions.

xxi. The Commissions recommended that (i) linkages between forests and water resources be studied further; (ii) integrated management of water and trees be encouraged, including incorporating forestry in watershed management plans; and (iii) innovative mechanisms, including payments for environmental services, be put in place to ensure efficient and sustainable water, trees and forests management.

xxii. The Commission took note of the inclusive consultation process launched by FAO for the participatory review of its strategy for forestry, and concurred with the procedure and time schedule presented. It requested FAO to circulate the draft strategy in mid-2008 and to present the new strategy to the 19th Session of COFO in March 2009 for its consideration.

xxiii. To further integrate forestry and wildlife activities in the work of the Commission, it requested FAO to amend the AFWC Statutes and Rules of Procedures, to include in the first sentence of paragraph one, the words “ *and wildlife*”. The amended text would read as follows: “The function of the AFWC shall be to advise on forestry *and wildlife* policy... “.

INTRODUCTION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and the Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) held their Sixteenth and Eighteenth Sessions respectively in Khartoum, Sudan, from 18 to 21 February 2008, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan. The AFWC Session was attended by 59 representatives from 28 member countries and observer countries, and two representatives of the United Nations system. Observers from 10 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations also attended. *Appendix B* provides a full list of participants.

2. Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, represented the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, and Mr. Pape Djiby Koné, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, served as Secretaries of respectively the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission.

3. The outgoing Chair of the AFWC's 15th Session, Mr. Mandrate Nakala Oreste, Mozambique, and of the NEFC's 17th Session, Mr. Alexandros Christodoulou, Cyprus, participated in the opening ceremony, which was held under the patronage of H.E Omer Hassan Ahmad El Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan. Mr. Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim, General Manager of the Forests National Corporation, welcomed the participants and invited Professor Olavi Luukkanen, as guest of honour of the host country, to address the meeting. Professor Luukkanen highlighted the potential of dry land forests in the conservation of endangered biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods and in the mitigation of the impacts of climate change in the Africa and Near East regions.

4. The floor was then passed to Mr. Jan Heino, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr. Heino stressed the uniqueness of this first-ever joint meeting of the African and Near East Forestry Commissions, and the opportunity the Commissions provide to promote dialogue and create synergies among countries that have issues in common in the sustainable use and conservation of their natural resources.

5. In his opening address, His Excellency Elzubier Bashir Taha, Minister for Agriculture and Forests of the Republic of the Sudan, expressed his government's pleasure at hosting for the third time a session of the Near East Forestry Commission and for the first time a joint meeting of the Commission with the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. He also expressed the commitment of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to support the forestry and wildlife sectors, highlighting the social, economic and environmental relevance of Sudan's natural resources.

6. Doctor Mustafa Osman Ismail, in his capacity as Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Sudan, delivered a statement on behalf of H.E. the President, to conclude the opening ceremony, in which he invited participants to apply their experience and commitment in favour of better management of natural resources in the African and Near East regions. The Special Advisor to the President and the Minister also used this occasion to award three distinguished Sudanese foresters with medals of honour, after which the 16th AFWC Session and the 18th NEFC Session were declared officially open.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

7. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

8. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur. The composition of the Bureau is as follows:

Chairman:	Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim (Sudan)
1 st Vice-Chairperson	Félix Dakouo (Mali)
2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Darlington Duwa (Zimbabwe)
3 rd Vice-Chairperson:	Abdelkrim Zaidi (Morocco)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Antoinette Nkabi, (Congo)

THE ROLE OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA (Item 3)

3.1 Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas

9. The Commission noted the outcome of the 17th Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas and the recommendations emanating from it addressed to FAO and to member countries. It endorsed the full list of recommendations as appended to this report as *Appendix D*.

3.2 Strategies and Approaches to Address Human-Wildlife Conflicts

10. The Commission was informed of different strategies and approaches for the management of human-wildlife conflicts (HWCs) and took note of FAO's work in providing information to member countries. It discussed the severity of HWCs and their impact on food security, and acknowledged the relevance of support from FAO.

3.3 Wildlife Resources, Food Security and Poverty Alleviation

11. The Commission acknowledged that wildlife was not adequately addressed in poverty reduction strategies and that the economic value of the sector was not well documented, nor was the information reaching the appropriate decision-makers. It requested FAO and partners to assist countries in their efforts to document the value which wildlife brings to local, national and regional economies.

3.4 Multilateral Environmental Agreements Related to Wildlife and Protected Areas in Africa

12. The Commission was informed of various multilateral environmental agreements and programmes for funding activities aimed at effective protected areas management. It encouraged countries to submit appropriate proposals in order to access these funds. It further called for an integrated approach to wildlife and protected area management through programmes under conventions and with international organisations.

3.5 Partnerships to Promote Sustainable Wildlife and Protected Areas Management in Africa

13. The Commission discussed partnerships at the regional, national and local levels and recommended that the needs of different collaborators be acknowledged and balanced. FAO was invited to form partnerships with environmental organisations in order to apply its knowledge in agriculture, forestry, wildlife and fisheries at the local level. It agreed on the need to decentralize decision-making on resources management to the local level, in order to gain the interest of and support from local communities as well as to ensure that derived benefits were shared equitably. Countries were advised to review their policies and legislation to allow for local enlightenment and empowerment.

3.6 Improving Communication and Information Exchange (*Nature & Faune*)

14. The Commission noted FAO's work in information dissemination on wildlife and protected area management in Africa, particularly through the regional magazine *Nature & Faune*.

15. In view of the role of wildlife and protected areas in the sustainable development of Africa and given the substantial contribution of sustainable wildlife use and conservation to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa, the Commission agreed to the inclusion of wildlife in its mandate. It further recommended that the terms of reference and mandate of the Working Party be revised in order to increase its relevance for the Commission. It requested FAO to enhance its support to countries in wildlife management and to strengthen the FAO programme on wildlife and protected areas management.

SHARING LESSONS FROM FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE-RELATED INITIATIVES IN AFRICA (Item 4)

4.1 Sub-regional Initiatives of Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa

16. The Commission was informed of sub-regional initiatives being undertaken by the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Great Green Wall of Sahara project, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and in East Africa. The Commission noted the different programmes and partnerships in the sub-regions and acknowledged FAO's continued involvement in these initiatives. It supported the Great Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, which aimed at halting the advancement of desertification in the Saharan/Sahelian part of Africa.

4.2 Regional initiatives

17. The Commission was informed of the establishment in late 2007 of the African Forest Forum, its membership, purpose, goals and objectives. It discussed the relevance of the Forum and the obligations of its members.

FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN AFRICA (Item 5)

AFWC and other FAO-supported Activities and Initiatives, including Follow-up to the Requests and Recommendations of the 15th Session of the Commission

18. The Commission was informed of the FAO forestry programme and noted several examples of activities to support member countries in forestry and wildlife sector development and of the achievements since the last Commission meeting. It was provided with an update on the FAO decentralization process in Africa, the newly established sub-regional FAO offices and their location and staffing. The NFP Facility and its facilitators located in Africa were introduced to the Commission.

19. The Commission discussed the support extended by FAO and its relevance. It appreciated the assistance provided by FAO to the national decentralization and policy harmonization processes. It stressed that there was a continued need for capacity building, education and training in the forestry and wildlife sectors. The Commission welcomed FAO's decentralization process.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE 16th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 19th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 6)

20. The Commission requested FAO to enhance its support to countries in wildlife management and to strengthen the FAO programme on wildlife and protected areas management. It further recommended

that the terms of reference and mandate of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas (WPWMPA) be revised in order to increase its relevance for the Commission.

21. The Commissions requested FAO and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to continue and increase their collaboration and cooperation in their forest and climate change programmes. It called upon FAO to organize regional workshops on forests and climate change to share information on recent developments; exchange experiences; facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation; and, while recognizing variability among them, to develop unified approaches and positions.

22. The Commissions recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to implement the voluntary guidelines and to develop national and regional fire management plans.

23. The Commissions recommended that (i) linkages between forests and water resources be studied further; (ii) integrated management of water and trees be encouraged, including incorporating forestry in the watershed management plans; and (iii) innovative mechanisms, including payments for environmental services, be put in place to ensure efficient and sustainable water, trees and forests management.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Item 7)

24. To further integrate forestry and wildlife activities in the work of the Commission, the delegation of Mozambique proposed an amendment to the AFWC Statutes and Rules of Procedures, to include in the first sentence of paragraph one, the words “ and wildlife”. The amended text would read as follows: “The function of the AFWC shall be to advise on forestry *and wildlife* policy... “. Supported by the delegations of Cameroon, Ghana and Burkina Faso, the Commission adopted the proposal by acclamation.

25. The delegation of South Africa informed the Commission that its Government was organizing an inter-sessional meeting on decentralization and forest policy to be held in April 2008 in Durban.

26. The Commissions appreciated the visit to the Sunut forests, which were being managed within an integrated urbanization programme for New Khartoum. The Commissions commended the efforts made to harmonize social and environmental concerns with the overall economic approach of the project. The visit concluded with a tree-planting ceremony, which allowed delegates to make a symbolic contribution to enhancing the greening of the area.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 8)

27. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation of the Republic of Congo to host the 17th Session of the Commission in 2010. The delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe offered its country as an eventual alternative venue.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 16th SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (Item 9)

28. The report of the 16th Session of the Commission was adopted by acclamation.

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
16TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
AND THE
18TH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION**

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Joint Meeting Item 1)

29. The Commissions noted that climate change brought new challenges and opportunities to the forest sector, and that experience with sustainable forest management represented a sound foundation for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the sector.

30. The Commissions noted that several African and some Near East countries had high but unrealized potential to benefit financially from climate change mitigation activities. They highlighted that it had been difficult for countries to access Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) markets for afforestation/ reforestation projects. The Commissions further noted that the voluntary carbon market was quite favourable to forestry projects, but some constraints had to be overcome in order for countries to participate more actively.

31. The Commissions therefore urged member countries to:

- a. share and exchange experiences from CDM and voluntary market forestry projects, in particular ways in which difficulties had been overcome;
- b. promote the development of forest carbon projects through training, extension and policy and financial measures; and
- c. seek to fully engage the private sector in climate change mitigation projects in forestry.

32. The Commissions recognized that forestry cuts across both mitigation and adaptation, and that synergies between them can be created to bring benefits to the Near East and African regions. It was further recognized that mainstreaming local community needs within mitigation initiatives in the Near East and African countries could provide win-win solutions.

33. The Commissions requested FAO and other relevant organizations to pursue and increase their support to African and Near East countries in forests and climate change, including technical assistance and capacity strengthening in areas such as forest inventories, monitoring carbon stocks, development of forest carbon projects, and accessing carbon markets.

34. African countries were considered to be potentially well positioned to benefit from a future international instrument on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. However, many countries were not equipped to access potential benefits over the short-term. The Commission therefore requested FAO to help strengthen member countries' capacities and make the necessary preparations, including through developing national strategies and a reference scenario and in forest monitoring and assessment.

35. The Commissions strongly recommended that African and Near East countries address adaptation and mitigation opportunities in their forestry sectors in a holistic way in order to capture synergies, incorporate them in national forest programmes (nfps), and link them with human development needs. The Commissions requested FAO to provide assistance to member countries in their efforts to mainstream climate change within their nfps.

36. The potential for dryland forests in adaptation and mitigation deserved higher attention at the international level. The Commissions therefore urged their member countries to highlight this potential in the international climate change dialogue and to include these forests in their climate change programmes.

37. Recognizing that it was essential that forestry institutions be prepared and fully engaged in national and international actions regarding forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Commissions called upon FAO to organize regional workshops on forests and climate change to share information on recent developments; exchange experiences; facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation; and, while recognizing variability among them, to develop unified approaches and positions.

38. The Commissions stressed the need for member countries to seek to identify and capitalize on social and environmental co-benefits (livelihood support and ecosystem services) when developing mitigation and adaptation strategies in forestry.

39. The Commissions therefore recommended that collaboration and information exchange on forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation be strengthened and that, while recognizing the variability among countries, unified responses to international initiatives be developed.

40. The Commissions urged countries to work to harmonize their efforts in climate change with their commitments under other forest-related international conventions and agreements. They also requested that FAO and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) continue and increase their collaboration and cooperation in their forest and climate change programmes.

FORESTS AND ENERGY (Joint Meeting Item 2)

41. The Commissions noted the importance of wood energy in the African and Near East countries. They also noted the close link between woodfuel production, deforestation and climate change, and the competition between food, fibre and fuel production for land.

42. The Commissions noted the urgent need for new energy services in the regions as well as new and alternative technologies for (i) energy production; (ii) reliable and readily available data and information on wood energy; and (iii) equipping national forestry agencies to deal with the issues.

43. The Commissions therefore recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to enhance national and regional capacities for the development, implementation and monitoring of wood energy systems, including the establishment of information systems.

44. The Commissions further urged member countries to evaluate with care the costs and benefits of investing in bioenergy, as such investments may compete with food production and increase deforestation.

45. FAO informed the Commissions of the forthcoming High-Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy to be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 3-5 June 2008.

FORESTS AND WILDFIRES (Joint Meeting Item 3)

46. The Commissions recognized that Africa and the Near East were fire-prone regions, and that the causes of fire were of human origin amplified by climatic conditions. It was further recognized that many countries in the regions lacked adequate capacity and policy measures to manage fire effectively, including monitoring, early warning, preparedness, prevention, and restoration.

47. The Commissions therefore recommended that (i) local communities be trained and engaged in fire management; (ii) regional cooperation be promoted, including the development of transboundary strategies; and (iii) intersectoral approaches be adopted for integrated fire management at local and national levels.

48. The Commissions were informed of FAO publications on wildfire, including “Global Assessment 2006”, “Review of International Cooperation 2006”, “Voluntary Guidelines: principles and strategic actions; and Implementation: Fire Management Actions Alliance”.

49. The Commissions recommended that FAO assist member countries in their efforts to implement the voluntary guidelines and to develop national and regional fire management plans.

50. The Commissions further urged member countries to consider their participation in the Forest Fire Alliance.

FORESTS AND WATER RESOURCES (Joint Meeting Item 4)

51. The Commissions discussed this item with great interest, recognizing the important linkages between forests and water resources and the urgent need to use these to address successfully many of the problems in both the forestry and water sectors.

52. Experiences from the regions were shared. The Commissions noted the importance of relevant initiatives such as the Green Wall of the Sahara and the *Fouta Djallon* Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management of the great "water tower" of West Africa.

53. The Commissions recommended that (i) linkages between forests and water resources be studied further; (ii) integrated management of water and trees be encouraged, including incorporating forestry in watershed management plans; and (iii) innovative mechanisms, including payments for environmental services, be put in place to ensure efficient and sustainable water, trees and forests management.

SHAPING AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR FAO IN THE AFRICA AND NEAR EAST REGIONS (Joint Meeting Item 5)

FAO Strategy for Forestry

54. The Commissions concurred with the process and time schedule presented. They noted the inclusive consultation process launched by FAO and that a few member countries had already sent their contributions prior to the session. Countries which not had yet done so were encouraged to provide the FAO Secretariat with feedback at the strategy website: www.fao.org/forestry/strategy or by email to: FO-strategy@fao.org as soon as possible after the sessions.

55. The Commissions requested FAO to circulate the draft strategy in mid-2008, including by means of an official communication to the national heads of forestry and by being posted on the FAO forestry and forestry strategy websites. They agreed to engage actively in the process, and requested that FAO present the new strategy to the 19th Session of COFO in March 2009 for its consideration. Members further expressed a number of views and highlighted priorities areas on sustainable forest management, updating the capacity of countries and on the importance of emphasizing wildlife in FAO's future work in forestry.

Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010)

56. The Commissions agreed to provide their national correspondents to FRA 2010 and their teams with the support needed to prepare the country reports and to participate in the remote sensing survey and any special studies that may cover their countries.

57. While they appreciated the planned regional and sub-regional training workshops from April to December 2008, the Commissions stressed the importance of the review and validation of the country reports by their national correspondents, and requested that FAO increase its efforts to strengthen the

capacity of national correspondents and provide them with the necessary support for procuring accurate data of high quality on all types of forests and other land uses.

Other Information Items

58. The Commissions noted the information items, including the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2009 and the XIII World Forestry Congress to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2009. To raise awareness of forestry, members agreed to link their national activities to the forthcoming international years, including the International Year of Natural Fibres (2009), the International Year of Biodiversity (2010) and, in particular, the International Year of Forests (2011). The Commissions noted finally that the success of the awareness-raising campaigns would depend on the availability of resources.

59. The Commissions were informed by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) approved by UNFF7 and the forthcoming sessions and themes to be addressed by UNFF. The Commissions were further informed of the forthcoming international congress of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to take place in Barcelona, Spain, in October 2008.

CLOSURE OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AND THE 18TH SESSION OF THE NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION (Joint Meeting Item 6)

60. The Chairperson of the 16th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, Mr. Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim commenced the closing ceremony by expressing his thanks to the 16th African Forestry and Wildlife Commission for electing him as its Chair, and to all delegates and observers of the two Commissions for having come to Sudan.

61. Mr Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO, stressed again the uniqueness of the joint AFWC and NEFC session which, in his opinion, would serve as a good example to replicate. Mr. Heino further reiterated FAO's and his own thanks for the generous hospitality, warm welcome and excellent facilities and support received from the government, the Forests National Corporation and the national staff involved. He congratulated both Commissions on their successful sessions.

62. In closing the sessions, H.E. Elzubier Bashir Taha, Minister for Agriculture and Forests of the Republic of the Sudan, also congratulated the two Commissions for their excellent work. He read out a message to the Commissions from H.E. Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, which further expressed the wish for the African and Near East experts to work together to find appropriate responses to the many challenges facing forestry and environmental degradation in the two regions. H.E. the Minister for Agriculture and Forests then declared the two sessions closed.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Election of officers
3. The role of wildlife and protected areas in the sustainable development of Africa
 - 3.1 Report of the 17th Session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas
 - 3.2 Strategies and approaches to address human-wildlife conflicts
 - 3.3 Wildlife resources, food security and poverty alleviation
 - 3.4 Multilateral environmental agreements related to wildlife and protected areas in Africa
 - 3.5 Partnerships to promote sustainable wildlife and protected areas management in Africa
 - 3.6 Improving communication and information exchange (*Nature & Faune*)
4. Sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife-related initiatives in Africa
 - 4.1 Sub-regional initiatives of Central, Eastern, Western and Southern Africa
 - 4.2 Regional initiatives
5. FAO forestry programme in Africa

AFWC and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 15th Session of the Commission
6. Regional issues identified by the 16th Session of the Commission for the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry
7. Any other business
8. Date and place of next session
9. Adoption of the report of the 16th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Joint meeting with the 18th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

- JM1 Forests and climate change
- JM2 Forests and energy
- JM3 Forests and wildfires
- JM4 Forests and water resources
- JM5 Shaping an action programme for FAO in the Africa and Near East Regions
- FAO strategy for forestry
 - Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010)
 - State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2009
 - XIII World Forestry Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2009
 - International Year of Forests 2011

JM6 Closure of the 16th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the 18th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission

AFWC-NEFC Special Event – Thursday, 21 February 2008

- Tree planting
- Study tour

APPENDIX B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANGOLA

Manuel ENOCK
Deputy Director General,
Forestry Development Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
CX. Postal no 74, Minader IDF
Luanda
Tel: +244 923 975565
Fax: +244 222 323449
Email: manuelenock@yahoo.com.br
manuelenock@hotmail.com

Afonso DALA
Chefe de Brigada IDF
Forestry Development Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
CX. Postal no 74, Minader IDF
Luanda
Tel: +244 923 404160
Email: idf@netangola.com
afonso-dala@hotmail.com

Ms. Maria Helena A. LOA
Technician Protected Areas
Ministry of Urbanism and Environment,
National Direction of Natural Resources
Avenida 4 De Fevereiro,
Edificio Atlantico No. 30.
P.O. Box 83 Luanda
Tel: +244 (222) 310 003 / 924 350 431
Fax: +244 (222) 338 919
Email: marialoa2004@yahoo.com.br

BENIN

Célestin COVI
Directeur des Politiques du suivi et du contrôle
de l'exploitation forestière
Ministère de l'environnement et de la protection
forestière de la nature
BP 1701 Porto Novo
Privé:
Tél : +229 20 212 223 /90 932 334
Fax : +229 21 33 21 92
Email: celcovi@yahoo.fr
Service:
Tel: +229 21 330 662
Fax: +229 21 330 421
Email: foret@intnet.bj

BURKINA FASO

Joachim OUEDRAOGO
Directeur général de la conservation de la nature
Ministère de l'environnement et du cadre de vie
03 BP 7044, Ouagadougou 03
Tel: +226 503 57879
Fax: +226 503 8243
Email: ouederjoachim@yahoo.fr

Urbain BELEMSOBGO
Directeur de la faune et des chasses
Ministère de l'environnement et du cadre de vie
03 BP 7044 Ouagadougou 03
Tel: +226 50 35 6923
Fax: +226 50 35 8243
Email: ubelemsobgo@yahoo.fr

BURUNDI

Astère BARARWANDIKA
Directeur du département des forêts
Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire
de l'environnement et des travaux publics
BP 631, Bujumbura
Tel: +257 22 22 5012
Fax: +257 22 22 8902
Email: bararwandika@yahoo.fr

Ms. Marie Assumpta KANYANGE
Inspectrice régionale des forêts
Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire,
de l'environnement et des travaux publics
Department des forêts
BP 631, Bujumbura
Tel: +257 22 246783
Email: mariassumpta2007@yahoo.fr

CAMEROUN

Gervais BANGOUÏ BATADJOMO
Parlementaire
Assemblée nationale du Cameroun
P.O. Box 140, Yokadoua
Tel: +99 54 9056 /74492444
Email: bangoui05@yahoo.fr

Philip TABI TAKO-ETA
 Directeur de la faune sauvage et des aires
 protégées
 Ministère des forêts et de la faune sauvage
 Yaoundé
 Tel: +237 77 605008
 Fax: +237 22 239228
 Email: tabitakoetap@gmail.com

CONGO

Ms. Antoinette NKABI
 Conseiller à la faune et aux aires protégées
 Ministère de l'économie forestière
 BP 98 Brazzaville
 Tel : +242 666 80 24
 Email : antoinettenkabi@yahoo.fr

Georges Claver BOUNDZANGA
 Assistant du directeur du CNIAF
 Ministère de l'économie forestière
 BP 14379, Brazzaville
 Tel: +242 666 7321
 Email: bouzege@yahoo.fr or
cabc_george@yahoo.fr

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Sébastien MALELE MBALA
 Directeur du service permanent d'inventaire
 et d'aménagement forestiers (SPIAF)
 Ministère de l'environnement
 35, Avenue Pumbu
 BP 1461 KIN 1 / Gombe
 Kinshasa, Gombe
 Tel: +243 81 50807 20
 Email: semalele@yahoo.fr

Pascal NGOY-TAKI
 Directeur de la faune et de la chasse
 Ministère de l'environnement
 4^{ème} Niveau, Building Forescom
 Kinshasa, Gombe
 Tel: +243 998244045/ 81811105
 Email: ngoy_pascal@yahoo.fr

EGYPT

Mrs. Hoda Salah El-Din RASHED
 Director General for Afforestation Department
 Under-Secretariat for Afforestation
 and Environment
 Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
 Nadi El-Seid St., Soil Improvement Building
 7th Floor, Dokki, Cairo
 Tel: +202 3337 3709 / 37609323
 Fax: +202 33354983
 Mobile: +2012 276 7085
 E-mail: affor_18@yahoo.com

GABON

Adrien NOUNGOU
 Directeur de la faune et de la chasse
 Ministère de l'économie forestière, des eaux et de
 la pêche
 Direction de la faune et de la chasse
 BP 1128, Libreville
 Tel: +241 76 14 44
 Email: noel_ekom@yahoo.fr

Noël EKOME MENGUE NGOUA
 Conseiller technique,
 Ministère économie forestière
 Direction générale des eaux et forêts (DGEF)
 BP 9587 Libreville
 Tel: +241 07 156 243
 Email : noel_ekom@yahoo.fr

GHANA

Andrews ADJEI YEBOAH
 Deputy Minister for Lands, Forestry and Mines
 P.O. Box M 212, Accra
 Tel: +233 21 672 337
 Fax : +233 21 672 337 / 666 801
 Email: adjeiyeboah2002@yahoo.com

Nana Kofi ADU-NSIAH
 Executive Director
 Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission,
 P.O. Box MB 239, Accra
 Tel: +233 20 812 120 / 244 107 143
 Email: adunsiah@yahoo.com

Alexander B. ASARE
Manager, Collaborative Forest Management
Resource Management Support Centre
Forestry Commission
P.O. Box 1457, Kumasi
Tel: +233 51 22376 / 20 8149194
Fax: +233 51 28495
Email: abasare99@yahoo.com
abasare@rmsc.fcghana.com

KENYA

Emilo N. MUGO
Kenya Forest Service
Tel: +254 0733 823 873
Email: ccf@wananchi.com
enmugo@forestry.go.ke

LIBERIA

John WOODS
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority of Liberia
P.O. Box 3010, 1000 Monrovia 10
Tel: +231 656 4070
Email: john.woods@fda.gov.lr

Peter LOWE
World Bank
Mamba Point, Monrovia
Tel: +231 6 937144
Email: plowe@worldbank.org

LESOTHO

Elias SEKALELI
Forestry Director
P. O. Box 774, Maseru 100
Tel: +266 58884338 / 22322754
Email: foresstrydepartment@leo.co.ls

MALAWI

Tommy MHANGO
Senior Parks and Wildlife Officer
Parks and Wildlife
Nyika National Park,
P.Bag 6, Rumphi, Lilongwe
Tel.: +265 1 312014
Email: nyika@malawi.net

MALI

Félix DAKOUO
Directeur national de la conservation de la nature
Ministère de l'environnement et de
l'assainissement
BP 275 Bamako
Tel: +223 223 36 95 / 223 233 36 97
Fax: +223 233 36 96
Email: dakouof@yahoo.fr
conervationnature@detatech.net.ml

MAURITANIA

Ethman OULD BOUBACAR
Chef du Service de la conservation et de la
protection des pâturages
Direction de la protection de la nature
Ministère chargé de l'environnement
BP 170, Nouakchott
Tel : +222 65433 83/2064745
Email : ouldboubacar@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO

Abdelkrim ZAIDI
Chef du service de la coopération
Haut Commissariat aux eaux et forêts et à la
lutte contre la désertification
Rabat
Tel: +212 (0) 37 76 31 66
Fax: +212 (0) 37 66 09 84
E-mail: zaidiabdeldkrim@yahoo.fr
zaidi@eauxetforets.gov.ma

MOZAMBIQUE

Ceu Nora Narciso de MATOS
National Director,
National Directorate of Land and Forests
Ave. Josina Machel, 537
CP. 288, Maputo
Tel: +258 21302555/6/9
Fax: +258 21321804
Email: ceumatos2006@yahoo.com

Arlito CUCO
 Forest Economist/Consultant
 B. Coop. RUAG-111
 Maputo
 Tel: +258 823 014 820
 Email: acuco@tvcabo.co.mz

Marcelino C. S. FOLOMA
 Head of Wildlife Department
 Wildlife Department
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Maputo
 Tel: +258 21 302555/6/9
 Fax: +258 21321804
 Email: mfoloma@yahoo.co.uk

Nakala Mandrate ORESTE
 Head of Planning Department
 Directorate of Land and Forests
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Ave. Josina Machel, 537
 CP. 288, Maputo
 Tel: +258 212 1312 207/ 21804207
 Fax: +258 21 321 804
 Email: mnakala@map.gov.mz
Mnakala@tdm.co.mz

Ms. Alima ISSUFO
 Head of Forestry Department,
 Directorate of Lands and Forests
 Ministry of Agriculture
 P.O. Box 228, Maputo
 Tel: +258 21302555
 Fax: +258 21321804
 Email: aissufo@yahoo.com

Bartolomeu SOTO
 National Director for Conservation Areas and
 Coordinator for Transfrontier
 Conservation Areas and
 Tourism Development Project
 Ministry of Tourism
 Avenida 25 de Setembro, Maputo
 Tel: +258 21 302362
 Fax: +258 21 312373
 Email: bsoto@tvcabo.co.mz

SENEGAL

Amsatou NIANG
 Point Focal du Mécanisme pour les programmes
 forestiers nationaux au Sénégal
 Direction des eaux, forêts, chasse et de la
 conservation des sols
 BP 1831, Hann, Dakar
 Tel: +221 77 634 6830
 Fax: +221 33 832 0426
 Email: niang_amsatou@yahoo.fr

SOUTH AFRICA

Pumeza Nwabisa TUNZI
 Deputy Director
 Forestry Policy and Strategy
 Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
 P.Bag X 93, Pretoria 0001
 Tel: +27 12 336 8054
 Fax: +27 86 66 22944
 Email: tunzip@dwaf.gov.za

Takalani Erican MURULANA
 Chief Directorate, International Relations
 Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
 P.Bag X 313, Pretoria, 0001
 Tel: +27 12 336 7019
 Fax: +27 86 607 5070
 Email: murulanat@dwaf.gov.za

SUDAN

Abdelazim Mirghani IBRAHIM
 General Manager
 Forests National Corporation
 P.O Box 658, Khartoum
 Tel: +249 183 471575
 Fax: +249 183 471575
 E-mail: abdeazim.fnc@hotmail.com

Salwa Mansour ABDEL HAMEED
 Director
 Wildlife Research Centre
 Ministry of Science and Technology
 P.O. Box 16 Elmourao, Omdurman
 Tel: +249 912973159
 Fax: +249 8314798
 Email: salwa39@hotmail.com

Mohamed Alsirag FADLALLA
Deputy Director for Technical Affairs
Wildlife Conservation, General Administration
P.O. Box 336
Tel: +249 183 281172
Fax: +249 183 261139
Email: wildlife_sudan@yahoo.com

Abdelbagi Abdalla AL MAKKI
Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs
Wildlife Conservation, General Administration,
P.O. Box 336
Tel: +249 183 281172
Fax: +249 183 26139
Email: abdelbagi@yahoo.com

B. Khamis Adieng DING
Wildlife Officer
Wildlife Conservation, General Administration
Khartoum
Tel: +249 183 281172
Fax: +249 183 26139
E-mail: Khamis_ding@yahoo.com

Abdelhamid Adam HAMID
Chief, Investment Sector
Forests National Corporation
P.O. Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 183467455
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: abduhamied@hotmail.com

Salah Yousif MOHAMED
Director, Technical Division Kordofan Sector
Forests National Corporation, Elobied
Tel: +249 611826071 +249 913677627
Fax: +249 611823275
E-mail: salahyousifnc@yahoo.com

Timothy Thwol ONAK YOR
Director of Forestry
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Government of Southern Sudan
Tel: +249 0477103357/+256 477103357
Email: ministry-maf@yahoo.com

Esmat Hassan ABDELALLH
Head, General Administration
for Forest Products
Forests National Corporation
P. O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 912362967

Fax: +249 183472659
Email: esha.1957@yahoo.com
George, Lumori WANI SORO
Wildlife Manager
Wildlife Conservation and Tourism
General Administration, Southern Sudan, Juba
Tel: +249 012967871 / 0122363943
Email: lolumori@yahoo.co.uk

SWAZILAND

Solomon Thandiqinio GAMEDZE
Senior Forestry Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
P.O. Box 162, Mbabane
Tel: +268 40 42 731 /9
Fax: +268 4041733
Email: gamedzeso@gov.sz

TANZANIA

Ms. Miriam ZACHARIA
Assistant Director of Wildlife
P.O. Box 1994
Dar-Es-Salam
Tel: +255 222 866 418
Fax: +255 222 865 836
Email: miriamzacharia@yahoo.co.uk
diretor@wildlife.go.tz.uk

Ms. Monica Andrea KAGYA
Assistant Director Research,
Training and Statistics
Forestry and Beekeeping Division
Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
P.O. Box 426, Dar Es-Salaam
Tel: +255 0754 263 464
Fax: +255 222 1231
Email : monicakagya@hotmail.com

TOGO

Boundjouw SAMA
Directeur des eaux et forêts
Ministère de l'environnement et des
ressources forestières
BP 355, Lomé
Tel: +228 221 4604/ 902 6808
Email: raymsama@yahoo.fr
Forests2006@yahoo.fr

TUNISIA

Saïd HELAL
Head of Socio-economic Department for the
Development of Forest Population
General Directorate of Forests
Ministry of Agriculture and Water Affairs
30, rue Alain Savary, 1001, Tunis
Tel: +216 71 283 727 / 98 318 236
Fax: +216 71 283 727

UGANDA

Andrua J. HUDSON
Director, Natural Forests
National Forestry Authority
P.O. Box 70863, Kampala
Tel: +256 0772 451 354
Fax: +256 0414 230 360
Email: HUDSONA@nfa-org.ug

ZAMBIA

Ms. Anna Chileshe MASINJA
Director
Ministry of Tourism, Environment
and Natural Resources
Forestry Department
P.O. Box 50042, Lusaka
Tel: +260 211 226131 / 234375
Fax: +260 211 226131
Email: ANNAMASINJA@YAHOO.COM

ZIMBABWE

Darlington DUWA
General Manager
Forestry Commission
P.O. Box HG 139 Highlands
N0 I Orange Grove Drive
Harare
Tel: +263 449762
Fax: +263 4497066
Email: forestgm@mwcb.co.zw

Odreck SIBANDA
Deputy General Manager
Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe
P.O. Box HG 139 Highlands
N0 I Orange Grove Drive Highlands
Harare
Tel: +263 4 498436-9
Email: OASIBANDA@FORESTRY.CO.ZW

Lloyd MUBAIWA
Chief Executive, Producers Federation
Zimbabwe Timber Plantation Industry
TPF, 4th Floor, Fidelity Life Centre
H/ Chitepo St
P. O. Box 1736, Mutare
Tel /Fax: + 263 20 60959
Email: LMUBAIWA@MWEB.CO.ZW

Morris MTSAMBIWA
Director-General
Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife
Management Authority
P.O. Box CY.140 Causeway, Harare
Tel: +263 4 705344
Fax: + 263 4 790567
Email: mzmtsambiwa@zimparcs.co.zw

REPRESENTATIVES FROM NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION**UNITED STATES**

Michael CHAVEAS
Africa Program Coordinator
US Forest Service, International Programs
1099 14th St In, Suite 5500w
Washington DC, 20005
Tel: +202 273 4 795
Fax: +202 273 4 750
Email: mchaveas@fs.fed.us

REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF)**

Afsa KEMITALE
Forest Affairs Officer
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat (DESA)
One UN Plaza, Room DCI-1250
New York, NY. 10017
Tel: +1 917367 5492
Fax: + 1 917367 3186
Email: kemitale@un.org

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (UNECA)

Charles AKOL
Environmental Affairs Officer
UN Economic Commission for Africa
P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Tel: +251 115443349
Fax: +251 115514416
Email: cakol@uneca.org

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**CENTRAL AFRICAN FORESTS COMMISSION (COMIFAC)**

Roger Martin FOTEU KAMENI
Coordinateur Régional
Project d'Appui FAO à la COMIFAC
BP 20218, Yaoundé, Cameroun
Tel: + 237 2213511/12
Email: roger_foteu@yahoo.fr / Comifac2005@yahoo.fr

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

Samuel Oladele MEDU
Consultant, Environment and Water Resources
101, Yakubu Gowon Crescent
Asokro District
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +234 8035 994 996
Email: delemedu@yahoo.com

OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)**

Godwin KOWERO
Executive Secretary
c/o World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF),
P.O. Box 30677-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +25420 722 4000
Fax: +254 20722 4001
Email: g.kowero@cgiar.org

Macarthy A. OYEBO
Chairman, Governing Council
No.3 Daniel Arap Moi Close
Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: + 234 803 7874805 / 805 964 9951 / 804 211 8023
Email: maoyebo@yahoo.co.uk

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH (CIFOR)

Johnson Nkem NDI
Project Manager – TROFCCA Project
P.O. Box 0113 BOCBD
Bogor 16000, Indonesia
Email : j.nkem@cgiar.org

FONDATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DE LA FAUNE (IGF)

François LAMARQUE
Doctor veterinary medicine
15 rue de Téhéan, 75008 Paris, France
Tel : +33 1 56597755
Fax : +33 1 45633294
Email : francois.lamarque@fondation-igf.fr

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL – AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE (FSC AFRICA)

Damel Teketay FANTA
Regional Director
Forest Stewardship Council - Africa Regional Office
4 Asoyi Road, UPO LPMB 11, Legon
Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 21 520104 / 24-3176039
Fax: +233 21 520104
Email: d.teketay@fsc.org / dteketay@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (CIC)

Kai-Uwe WOLLSCHIED
Director General,
CIC Administrative Office – H-2092 BUDAKESZI
P. O. Box 82, Hungary
Tel: +36 23 453 830
Fax: +36 23 453 832
Email: k.wollscheid@cic-wildlife.org

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

Ms. Sarah WALKER
Program Associate
Winrock International
1621 N. Kent St. Suite 1200
Arlington V A 22209, USA
Tel: +1 703 525 9430
Fax: +1 703 525 1744
Email: swalker@winrock.org

WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)

Edmund BARROW
Africa Regional Coordinator, Livelihoods and Landscapes
Forest Conservation Programmes
P. O. Box 68200, Nairobi 00200, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 890605 12
Fax: +254 20 890615
Email: Edmund.Barrow@iucn.org

Julian FENNESSY
Programme Officer,
IUCN-SSC African Elephant Specialist Group
P.O. Box 68200, Nairobi 00200, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 890 605 12
Fax: +254 20 890 615
Email: julian.fennessy@iunc.org

Ali A. KAKA
Regional Vice-Chair Eastern Africa
World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
IUCN, WCPA (Representing Convention on Biological Diversity)
P.O. Box 20110, Nairobi-00200, Kenya
Email: director@eawildlife.org

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

Mustapha Kaluwe SEIDU
Assistant Forest Programme Officer,
WWF-West Africa Regional Programme Office (WARPO)
Zoology Department, University of Ghana
PMB L45, Legon, Accra
Tel: +233 21 518 710
Fax: +233 21 518 709
Email: Mustapha.seidu@hotmail.com

Léonard USONGO
WWF – Central Africa Regional Programme Office (CARPO)
BP 6776, Yaoundé
Tel: +237 77500035
Fax: +237 222 17085
Email: Lusongo@wwfcarpo.org

SPECIAL GUESTS

Olavi LUUKKANEN
Professor
Vikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI)
University of Helsinki
P.O. Box 27, FIN-00014,
Vikki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 19158643
Fax: +358 9 19158646
Email: olavi-luukkanen@helsinki.fi

Isilda NHANTUMBO
Consultant on Natural Resources Management and Policy Analysis
Brookeside Heights, A3
P.O. Box 30677-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 736 286 798
Email: isynthantumbo@yahoo.com.br

HOST COUNTRY SECRETARIAT

Mamoum Gasim MUSA
Coordinator
Sahel Forests Training Centre
Forests National Corporation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Email: mamoun_gasim@yahoo.com

Abdelhamid Adam HAMID
Chief, Investment Sector
Forests National Corporation
P. O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 183467455
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: abduhamied@hotmail.com

Faiza Sidig Mohamed AHMED
Forester, Head of Sahel Centre
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 918052352
Fax: +249 183 471575

Hanna HAMADANALLA
Forester, Researcher in High Council of
Environmental & Natural Resources
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: + 249 0114844876
Fax: +249 183 471575

Nagla Mahgoub HAMADIEN
Forester
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 9 12953400
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: nagla_fnc@yahoo.com

Sarra Mohamed ELMUBARK
Forester
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 129470238
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: safg4@yahoo.com

Lugman Mohamedein MOHAMED
Forester
Forests National Corporation
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 912821901
Fax: ++249 183 471575
E-mail: Lugman.fnc@gmail.com

Mutasim Mohamed SAEED
Forester
Forests National Corporation
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 912986007 - 0122138831
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: Mutasim771@hotmail.com

Afaf Hassan KHIDIR
Forests National Corporation
P. O Box 658, Khartoum
Telephone: +249 122340858
Fax: +249 183 471575

Tarig Eltaieb MOHAMED
Forests National Corporation
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 122398389
Fax: +249 183 471575

Yassin Ibrahim AHMED
Forests National Corporation
P O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 122202355
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: yassin_raya@hotmail.com

Fadlalla M.EGUEIL
Forests National Corporation
P. O Box 658, Khartoum
Tel: +249 122340475
Fax: +249 183 471575
E-mail: fadl_7@yahoo.co.uk

FAO SECRETARIAT

Jan HEINO
Assistant Director-General
Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06570 55879
Fax: +39 06 570 52151
Email: jan.heino@fao.org

Eduardo MANSUR
Senior Forestry Officer
FAO Regional Office for Africa
P.O. Box 1628 Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 21 675000 Ext. 3202
Fax : +233 21 668427
Email: eduardo.mansur@fao.org

Ms. Susan BRAATZ
Senior Forestry Officer
Forest Conservation Service
Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel : +39 06570 54318
Fax : +39 06 570 55514
Email: susan.braatz@fao.org

Rene CZUDEK
Forestry Office, Wildlife
and Protected Area Management
Forest Conservation Service
Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06570 52938
Email: Rene.Czudek@fao.org

Ms Lonneke BAKKER
Consultant
Forest Conservation Service
Forestry Department
FAO Rome
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06570 56939
Email: lonneke.bakker@fao.org

Dominique REEB
Senior Forestry Officer
Sub-regional Office for Central Asia
Ivedik Cad. No.55
06170 Yenimahalle
Ankara, Turkey
Tel: +90 312 3079518
Fax: +90 312 3271705
Cell Phone: +90 533 3280610
Email: Dominique.Reeb@fao.org

Fernando SALINAS
Forestry Officer, SFW
FAO Sub-regional Office for West Africa
P.O. Box 1628, Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 21 675000 Ext. 3199
Fax : +233 21 668427
Email: fernando.salinas@fao.org

Jean-Claude NGUINGUIRI
Forestry Officer, SFC
FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Africa
P.O. Box 2643, Libreville, Gabon
Tel: +241 06 685120
Fax: +241 06 74 0035
Email: jeanclaude.nguinguiri@fao.org

Michel LAVERDIERE
Forestry Officer, SFE
FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa
P.O. Box 5536, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: + 011 551 3093
Email: michel.laverdiere@fao.org

Edward KILAWWE
Forestry Officer, SFS
FAO Sub-regional Office
for Southern Africa
P.O. Box 3730, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 4 791407
Fax: +263 4 700724
Email: eduard.kilaweSFS@fao.org

Atse YAPI
National Forest Programme Facility Officer
FAO Regional Officer for Africa
P.O. Box 1628, Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 21 675000 Ext. 3195
Fax: +233 21 668427
Email: atse.yapi@fao.org

Fred KAFEERO
National Forest Programme Facility Coach
FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa
P. O. Box 4938, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 772 495038
Fax: +256 414 510547
Email: fred.kafeero@fao.org

Michael CHIHAMBAKWE
National Forest Programme Facilitator
FAO Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa
P. O. Box 13782, Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 354 8529
Fax: +27 12 354 8531
Email: Michael.chihambakwe@fao.org

Ms. Francisca PENUKU
Secretary/Programme Clerk
FAO Sub-regional Office for West Africa
P.O. Box 1628 Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233 21 675000 Ext. 3198
Fax: +233 21 668427
Email: francisca.penuku@fao.org

Ms. Patricia TENDI
Meetings Officer
Forest Communication Service
Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06570 54628
Fax: +39 06 570 55514
Email: patricia.tendi@fao.org

APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

FO:AFWC/2008/1	Provisional agenda
FO:AFWC/2008/3	The role of wildlife and protected areas in the sustainable development of Africa
FO:AFWC/2008/4	Sharing lessons from forestry and wildlife initiatives in Africa
FO:AFWC/2008/5	FAO forestry and wildlife programme in Africa

**AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
AND NEAR EAST FORESTRY COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING**

FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 1	Forests and climate change
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 2	Forests and energy regional perspectives: opportunities and challenges for forests and forestry
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 3	Forests and wildfires
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 4	Forests and water resources
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM 5	Shaping an action programme for FAO in Africa and the Near East regions
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM Inf.1	Information note for participants
FO:AFWC/NEFC/2008/JM Inf.2	Provisional timetable and list of documents

*APPENDIX D***SUMMARY REPORT ON PRE-SESSION SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE****Joint Session
African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and Near East Forestry Commission****Khartoum, Sudan, 17 February 2008**

A Special Session on Forests and Climate Change took place on the eve of the opening of the 16th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission as recognition of the current importance of the topic and of its interest to both African and Near East countries.

The session was chaired by Dr. Balgis Osman-Elasha, Senior Researcher, Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Sudan, and was animated by a set of panellists who presented the topics listed below:

- (i) “Carbon market opportunities for the forestry sector of African countries” by Ms. Sarah Walker, Winrock International;
- (ii) “The experience of Senegal in forests and climate change related projects” by Mr. Amsatou Niang, Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, Senegal;
- (iii) “Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries UNFCCC decisions and methodological and policy issues” by Ms. Susan Braatz, FAO Forestry Department, Rome;
- (iv) “Tropical forests and climate change adaptation: experience of TrofCCA in West Africa” by Mr. Johnson Nkem, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); and
- (v) “Mozambique Millennium Development Goals adaptation project”, by Mr. Eduardo Mansur, FAO Regional Office for Africa.

The five presentations provided a good overview of the most current developments in the area of climate change in its relationship with forestry and the opportunities that can be explored through the existing and prospective tools and instruments.

A quite lively debate followed with several interventions from the floor, seeking clarifications from the presenters, offering comments and presenting various illustrative in-country examples, namely from: Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Mali, Benin, Tunisia, Gabon, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Senegal.

Mr. Jan Heino, ADG FAO Forestry Department took the opportunity to highlight how much FAO attaches importance to this very topical theme and alluded to the attention to be given to carbon monitoring under the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010), which was under preparation, and to the High-Level Conference on Climate Change, Food Security and Bioenergy scheduled to take place in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008.

The main conclusions and recommendations emanating from the seminar were as follows:

Conclusions:

1. Africa’s forest sector has high potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. However, to date, countries have not benefited much from mitigation projects. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) market for afforestation/reforestation has been slow to materialize and difficult to access. The voluntary carbon market is quite favourable to forestry projects, but some constraints must be overcome for African countries to participate more actively.

2. African countries would potentially be well positioned to benefit from an international instrument to provide financial incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. However, there is concern that, due to the tough requirements on accessing these incentives, many African countries will not be able to access those benefits over the short term.
3. Mainstreaming local community needs into mitigation initiatives could provide win-win solutions.
4. Africa is particularly vulnerable to impacts of climate change due to the high dependence of its people on land resources and low resilience to change.

Recommendations:

1. African countries should share and learn from experiences gained from CDM and voluntary market forestry projects to overcome some of the current difficulties. They could also implement various policy and fiscal measures to make the conditions more favourable for these projects.
2. Countries should take advantage of existing political opportunities to look at adaptation and mitigation opportunities in the forestry sector in a holistic way, linking these with human development needs and capturing opportunities for synergies between them.
3. The international community should seek opportunities to make conditions more favourable for the development of forest carbon projects and access to markets.
4. In developing mitigation and adaptation activities in forestry, countries should identify and capitalize on co-benefits.
5. FAO was asked to organize regional workshops to share information and exchange experiences on forests and climate change, facilitate regional and sub-regional cooperation and, while recognizing variability among programmes, to develop unified approaches and positions.

*APPENDIX E***Recommendations of the
17th Session of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas***Recommendations to member countries*

- Organize inter-ministerial consultations to discuss policies, legislation and strategies to address human-wildlife conflict (HWC), with a special focus on land use planning, and for the management of HWC.
- Conduct local, national or regional workshops with all appropriate stakeholders to raise awareness of HWC management techniques, policies and strategies, including for example the implementation of community-based problem animal control.
- Examine, study and discuss, through appropriate national fora, the potential for the sustainable use of wildlife resources and the identification of necessary policy, legislation, strategies and actions to allow for nature tourism, sustainable tourism hunting, wildlife rearing and the sustainable use of bushmeat.
- Propose a new structure and mandate of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas (WPWMPA) for adoption at the next session of the Commission, including specific Terms of Reference of the bureau; and propose to the AFWC that its Mandate and Statutes be revised to include wildlife issues.

Recommendations addressed to FAO

- Provide support to the efforts of countries to manage HWC through facilitation of networking between stakeholders for information sharing, guidance on best practices, provision of technical guidelines for the development of national policies and implementation of field activities.
- Support countries' initiatives for sustainable wildlife management (through nature tourism, tourism hunting, wildlife rearing, trade of wildlife and bushmeat) in order to attain food security and poverty alleviation.
- Recognize wildlife as an integral component of forest biodiversity which has ecological, socio-economic, cultural, scientific importance and which therefore needs to be appropriately addressed in FAO forestry fora and publications and by providing technical assistance to countries through field projects, policy support and other activities.
- Propose a new structure and mandate of the Working Party on Wildlife Management and Protected Areas (WPWMPA) for adoption at the next session of the Commission, including specific Terms of Reference of the bureau; and propose to the AFWC that its Mandate and Statutes be revised to include wildlife issues.
- Reinforce the wildlife programme for Africa by increasing resources, both human and financial, for example by establishing a position of wildlife officer in the Regional Office.

APPENDIX F

**Minutes of the Side Events held during the
16th African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)
Khartoum, Sudan, 18, 19 and 20 February 2008**

During the 16th Session of the AFWC three side events were organized by FAO and its partners, on the following themes:

- 1) **Community of Practice on Forests and Climate Change in Africa**, organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – West Africa Regional Programme Office (WARPO) and FAO on 18 February from 18.00 to 19.30 hours
- 2) **National Forest Programmes and the NFP Facility Partnerships in Africa**, organized by FAO and the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility on 19 February from 18.00 to 19.30 hours
- 3) **Post-War Forest Sector Development in Liberia**, organized by FAO and the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia on 20 February from 18.00 to 19.30 hours

Community of Practice on Forests and Climate Change in Africa

The establishment of a Community of Practice on Forests and Climate Change (CoP-FCC) in the African continent was debated in a side event organized by WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF)-West African Regional Programme Office (WARPO) and FAO. The event was well attended by over 40 participants (list available upon request).

Mr. Mustapha Seidu, WWF-WARPO representative at the Session, introduced the topic and the task before the participants. He stated that the issue of forests and climate change was an essential topic for discussion by both forestry professionals and people involved with climate change in general. It is a complex issue that needs the attention of “all and sundry”, especially so in the African continent since it is probably the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and holds less capacity to adapt to the changing climate. As a result, WWF-WARPO is proposing the voluntary engagement in a Community of Practice on Forests and Climate Change in Africa, which needs the endorsement and suggestions of the participants.

Mr. Arlito Cuco, WWF-WARPO consultant, presented the full proposal on the idea of establishing a Community of Practice on forests and climate change in the light of the debate held during the pre-session seminar on forests and climate change on the 17th February and the AFWC debates in the afternoon of the 18th February 2008. He reminded participants of the numerous concepts and challenges in forests and climate change including CDM, voluntary market, REDD, UNFCCC COP 13 Decision, and Post-Kyoto Protocol. He also made known to participants the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CoP-FCC. Since most participants were not familiar with the term “Community of Practice”, Mr. Arlito Cuco explained in details the term stating that it is “a group of people who share a passion for something that they know how to do, and who interact on a regular basis to learn how to do it better and share with those who need to apply this knowledge.” What was proposed for African experts is the development of an approach to deal with the reality and emerging issues on FCC.

The participant from UN Economic Commission for Africa praised the idea of a community of practice on forests and climate change in Africa and stated that it was timely. His concerns were however, on who would be the facilitator and how would the community be financed, and what were the modalities for selection of members? To these queries, the representative of WWF-WARPO responded by saying that WWF-WARPO is ready to play the role of facilitator unless there were objections. Membership was open to all since participation at the initial stages would be based on self-financing.

A host of other participants in the side event praised the idea and the timely formation of the community of practice on forests and climate change. They also gave important comments and suggestions that are worthy of consideration:

1. there is a need to prioritize the Terms of Reference of the Community of Practice on Forests and Climate Change; and
2. strong partnership must be formed with other organizations taking initiatives on climate change and related activities; and
3. there is a need to form core members that will be instrumental for taking decisions on the way forward with respect to the CoP-FCC in Africa.

Mr. Arlito Cuco thanked participants for taking part in the side event and for making meaningful contributions to the establishment of a community of practice on forests and climate change in Africa.

**National Forest Programmes (nfps) and the
National Forestry Programme Facility (NFP) in Africa**

The side event was chaired by Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, and animated by the following panellists: Messrs. Michael Chihambakwe, Fred Kafeero and Atse Yapi, NFP Facilitators for Southern Africa, East Africa and West Africa respectively, Messrs. Alex Asare, NFP Focal Point for Ghana, and Amsatou Niang, NFP Focal Point for Senegal.

The first presentation by Mr. Chihambakwe briefly described the Facility's mission, strategy and governance, followed by details on its two main pillars - country support and information services – and on its grant allocation process.

With regard to country support to the 26 Facility partner countries, the ongoing work in the four different African sub-regions was addressed by Mr. Kafeero for East and Southern and Mr. Yapi for West and Central. Information was provided on each country partnership, including its timing, the number of Letters of Agreement signed so far and the amount of funds committed.

The two presentations ended with a brief description of the main types of activities implemented and the associated outputs, outcomes and challenges.

The presentation on the Facility's work in Ghana highlighted the establishment of a National Forest Forum and of regional forest fora as its main achievements, complemented by increased awareness of activities and the evaluation of lessons towards the sustainability of future fora. These achievements had allowed, for the first time in Ghana, broad stakeholder involvement in policy dialogue, thus strengthening its legitimacy. It was made clear that in addressing sensitive areas FAO/NFP Facility can play an invaluable and impartial role.

The presentation on the partnership with Senegal emphasized the main results achieved so far. The first set included eleven regional forestry action plans and the updating of the national forestry action plan (PAFS), the preparation of an environmental strategy for the National Programme for Food Security and a number of studies on forestry fiscal issues in Senegal. A second set of results covered a number of studies related to natural resource management, ranging from increasing awareness among local politicians, managers, members of local non-governmental organizations and CBOs, development of a good-practices manual, studies on different NWFP sub-sectors and how to increase their value, diffusion of the legal framework and related instruments. The assessment made so far drew attention to the effective support for better dissemination of forestry-related information and a smoother dialogue between the Forestry Directorate and civil society, while highlighting some difficulties linked to the functioning of the National Steering Committee, the cumbersome nature of some of the Facility procedures, and Focal Point overload.

Twelve countries and organizations participated in the subsequent discussion: Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Mali, Benin, Sudan, Tanzania, Gabon, COMIFAC, UNECA and the African Forestry Forum.

Some of the interventions focused more on the key points of their respective partnerships, while others emphasized the drawing of lessons based on the work developed so far. The main points debated can be summarized as follows:

Main outcomes:

- enhanced transparency, professionalism and improved stakeholder participation in nfp implementation were key results of the Facility partnership in Africa;
- smoother relationships government-civil society;
- forestry policy and legal bottlenecks properly prioritized and jointly addressed by stakeholders; and
- recognition of increased networking, awareness-raising and information dissemination.

Main challenges:

- high expectations which were not compatible with the catalytic nature of the Facility;
- perceived lengthy process for approving Letters of Agreement (LoAs), despite the Facility's recent streamlining; high overhead costs attached to the preparation and approval of LoAs of relatively small amounts; and
- slow response from some national institutions;

The meeting adjourned with the overall conclusion that the Facility's support to nfps in Africa was effective and important, and that more events and opportunities such as the present AFWC side event should be explored, in order to facilitate exchange of experience between partners.

Post-War Forestry Sector Development in Liberia

Mr. John T. Woods, Managing Director, Forestry Development Authority of Liberia, updated the meeting on the status of the post-conflict forest sector reform in Liberia. Just two years after the end of civil unrest in Liberia, the country had made impressive progress in the reform of its forest sector.

Liberia is one of the most densely-forested countries within the forest belt of West Africa and its forest resources are economically, socially and ecologically important to the country and the livelihood of its people. The country has one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world with 590 bird species; 125 mammal species; 74 reptile and amphibian species; 1000 insects species; 2000 flowering plants (59 of which are endemic to Liberia); 240 timber species of which about 60 species have been exploited and exported.

Regrettably, the civil war put a stop to all forest-related activity. In 2003, when it emerged that forest resources were fuelling the war, the United Nations Security Council issued sanctions on the export of Liberia's forest products. For sanctions to be lifted, the following conditions were supposed to be met:

- comprehensive forest concessions review;
- control of forest areas;
- reform of forest-related institutions;
- development of sustainable forest management policy, strategy and programmes; and
- restoration of forest governance, the rule of law and democratization.

Only two years after the end of the war, Liberia's forest sector had been reformed to a large degree and progress in the sector was conducive to the lifting ahead of time of the embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

The Reformed Forest Policy

Forest policy reform in Liberia is premised on the following three pillars: commercial forestry; conservation forestry; and community forestry. Commercial forestry is the most powerful driving force of the Liberian forest sector. The goal of the Forest Development Authority (FDA) throughout the reform process is to maximize economic benefits through sustainable management, conserve biodiversity, and empower communities to ensure equitable benefit-sharing and democratization of the sector. Critical areas to be reformed in order to achieve this goal include technical and administrative procedures regarding commercial forestry, conservation forestry, and community forestry.

Essential elements for the reform of the forest sector include:

- the legal framework;
- regulations;
- community rights and access;
- forest management strategies; and
- environmental and restoration laws.

Other important elements are:

- public participation;
- forest land-use planning;
- allocation of contracts;
- pre-felling requirements;
- benefit-sharing;

- forest charges, penalties; and
- rights of private land-owners.

Mr. Woods concluded that all was in place for the smooth and efficient operation of the forest sector. However, in the discussions that followed his presentation, participants advised proceeding with care and caution in order to avoid falling into traps, as had been the experience of many other African countries which had preceded Liberia on the forest sector reform trail.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Vertical line 1

Vertical line 2

Vertical line 3

Vertical line 4

Vertical line 5