

REPORT

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Thirteenth Session



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the
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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

REPORT

of the

THIRTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Libreville, Gabon

25-29 March 2002

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

PERSPECTIVES OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN THE REGION: NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS (Item 3)

1. Delegates considered that the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation were basically related to poverty, lack of access to modern technology, and the debt that impedes efficient allocation of resources, and recommended that FAO forestry programmes in the region address poverty alleviation as a priority (para. 9).
2. Forests have always contributed directly and indirectly to food security and the well-being of rural populations. Often, indirect contributions of forests to food security have not been accounted for, hence, the Commission recommended that FAO and governments address more explicitly forest and food security issues in their national programmes and develop methods for assessing and reporting the contributions of forests to food security (para. 10).
3. The Commission concluded that training and education were crucial for the enhancement of capacities to achieve sustainable forestry development in the region. Therefore, the Commission recommended that FAO assist academic institutions in the region in revising their curricula and adapting their programmes to emerging needs in the region, including decentralization and participatory processes, management of forest resources for multiple uses and cross-sectoral planning (para. 11).

REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 4)

4. The Commission recommended that countries fully tap the limited resources available, especially under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). It reiterated the need to streamline the process of TCP proposal development in order to fully use the opportunities available, especially country-led initiatives in critical areas (para. 14).

FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (Item 6)

5. The Commission recommended that FAO provide assistance to countries in order to strengthen their capacities to update national inventories through technical workshops, to harmonise their approaches and to share understanding on forest terminology and methods of resources assessment (para. 21).

NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME FACILITY (Item 7)

6. Secretariat Note FO:AFWC/2002/6 on the National Forest Programme Facility was introduced. Delegates commended FAO for the Facility initiative, and highlighted the need for more to information about the facility and funding opportunities as well as requirements for country involvement. The Commission recommended that FAO should assist the countries of the region to better understand the procedures and provide information on access the Facility (para. 22).
7. The Commission expressed concern about the number of national planning and strategic frameworks which never reach the implementation stage, and recommended that FAO and cooperation partners put appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure effective implementation and coordination of these frameworks (para. 24).

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (Item 8)

8. The Commission noted the progress of the preparation of the regional overview report and the sub-regional reports, and decided to defer a decision on the follow up to the FOSA process until the end of the in-session seminar (para. 26).

THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (FOSA): MAJOR OUTCOME AND STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION (Item 9)

9. The Commission appreciated the quality of the reports, which were found to be very comprehensive and informative. It recommended that FAO finalize the regional and sub-regional reports taking note of: (a) the comments made during the in-session seminar; and (b) written submissions from member countries which were not able to attend the Session (para. 30)

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICA (Item 10)

10. Delegates stressed the need to work with their relevant subregional organizations and with FAO to overcome the inadequacies. In this context, delegates recommended that FAO assist countries to become effective participants in United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) by making all pertinent information available to countries, including providing synthesis of the numerous IPF/IFF proposals for action (para. 33).
11. While delegates recognized the challenges in terms of time and funding, of fuller participation in the international forestry debate, they also highlighted the opportunities for the region to play a proper role in shaping the global agenda in order to reflect African priorities and realities. The Commission further expressed concern about the number of UNFF meetings. In order for African countries facing economic and staff problems to be able to effectively participate in the international debate on forests, the Commission recommended that these meetings be organized in reasonable time-frame, and that they take into consideration the forestry agenda in the Region (para. 34).

KEY ISSUES EMERGING FROM SIDE MEETINGS (Item 13)

Side Meeting 1 (a): Sustainable Forest Management and Reduced Impact Logging

12. Many countries, and some international organizations, indicated an urgent need for enhanced training and knowledge sharing in the principles and application of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Whilst FAO's current role was well appreciated, it was recommended that activities in this field should be expanded (para. 45).

Side Meeting 1 (b): Reduced Impact Logging in the Africa Region

13. Statements to the Commission were made by delegates from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Technical Tropical Timber Association (ITTTA) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) concerning the mandate and role of their organizations. The Commission commended their activities in developing forest management in Africa, and recommended to identify mechanisms for further collaboration between them and FAO in this regard. A common theme, which was strongly emphasised, is the need for knowledge and skills transfer in order to successfully implement sustainable forest management (para. 49).

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 14)

14. The Commission felt that some of its key recommendations should be brought to the attention of the next session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), in March 2003. These were:

- With regard to the issue on deforestation and forest degradation, the Commission recommended that the FAO forestry programmes in the region prioritize food security and poverty alleviation as key factors.
- It was generally felt that forestry training was fundamental, and the Commission recommended that FAO assist countries and academic institutions to revise their curricula in order to better adapt to the forestry needs of the forestry sector.
- With regard to the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa, the Commission called on COFO to recommend that FAO put in place an appropriate mechanism to ensure full and efficient participation of regional and sub-regional Organizations in the implementation of FOSA.
- The regional participation and collaboration in the UNFF activities were considered of major interest to the Commission. Particularly, it was recommended that FAO assist countries to become effective participants in UNFF by making all pertinent information available to countries, including providing synthesis of the numerous IPF/IFF proposals for action (para. 53).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 16)

15. The Commission was informed that Mozambique, although not participating in the 13th session, sent an official offer to the FAO Regional Office for the Near East to host the next session. The Commission also recognized the offer of the Delegation of Morocco to host the 14th session, given that North Africa is the only member sub-region which never hosted a session of the Commission. The Commission recommended that these offers should be further relayed to FAO through official channels for final decision.

INTRODUCTION

1. The 13th session of the FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission was held in Libreville, Gabon, at the kind invitation of the Government of Gabon. The session was attended by 107 participants, including 96 representatives from 16 member countries and observer countries, and two UN agencies. Observers from 14 international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A full list of participants is given in *Annex B*.
2. FAO was represented by Dr. M. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. Mr. Pape Djiby Koné, Senior Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, served as Secretary.
3. Dr. El-Lakany addressed the opening session on behalf of Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In his opening address, Dr. El-Lakany thanked the Government of Gabon for kindly hosting the session. He highlighted the importance of the forest sector in Gabon, FAO's strong interest in the development of forestry in the region, and the relevant forestry issues for the region, including sustainable forest management and effective wildlife management; information on natural resources and geographic information systems; integration between forests and agriculture policies; and, the role of forests in the stabilization of the environment and multiple use of forests and tree resources. Further, he emphasized linkages between forests, food security and poverty alleviation, and their incorporation into the programme of work of the FAO Forestry Department for the next biennium.
4. H.E. Antoine de Padou Mboumbou Miyakou, Vice-Prime Minister/*Ministre de la Ville*, welcomed participants on behalf of H.E. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon. In his inaugural address, H.E. Mboumbou Miyakou, reiterated the commitment of Gabon to the UNCED conventions. He referred to the objectives of the Forestry Policy of his country and the adoption of a new Forestry Code. Further, he highlighted the lack of sustainable financial mechanisms for forestry as well as a process for transfer of technology. H.E. Pierre Claver Maganga Moussavou, Minister of State/Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, and H.E. Emile Doumba, Minister of Forestry Economy, Water, and Fisheries, in charge of the Environment and the Protection of Nature, also attended the session.
5. On behalf of the outgoing Bureau, and of the First Vice-Chairman, Mr. Augustin Medi who was not attending, Mr Yves Yalibanda (Central African Republic) conveyed apologies from Mrs Anna Chileshe, Chairperson of the 12th session, who could not attend the 13th session. Mr Yalibanda further thanked the Government of Gabon for kindly hosting the 13th session, and the FAO Regional Office for Africa for having facilitated inter-sessional activities. Finally, Mr Yalibanda invited the Commission to observe a minute of silence in memory of its members who recently passed away: Dr Kankolongo Mujika of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Dr Ngatse Obala of the Republic of Congo, Secretary-General of the African Timber Organization.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

6. The Provisional Agenda, as set out in document FO: AFWC/2002/1 (*Annex A*) was adopted. The list of documents presented to the session is given in *Annex C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

7. 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. Following is the composition of the Bureau:

Chairman:	Mr. Pierre Nyar-Ollame (Gabon)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ms. Antonieta Mendes (Cape Verde) Mr. David Mbugua (Kenya) Mr. Ahmed Cassimi (Morocco)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Linda Mossop (South Africa)

PERSPECTIVES OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN THE REGION: NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS (Item 3)

8. The Commission considered agenda item 3 on the basis of Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/2, and the presentation of country reports and statements of observer organizations. National progress reports were presented by Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The African Development Bank (ADB), the African Timber Organization (ATO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the West African Monetary Union (WAMO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) made statements on their respective programmes and activities in the Region. These reports highlighted the diversity of activities and emerging issues among the different eco-geographic regions of Africa and emphasized the significant contribution of the forestry sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) in most countries. However, investments from domestic sources remained very weak, with the exception of Eastern and Southern Africa, where the private sector was strongly involved in industrial plantations. Substantial efforts were undertaken throughout the region to develop and revise forestry policies and legislation, but weak institutions often did not allow for their effective implementation.
9. Delegates considered that the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation were basically related to poverty, lack of access to modern technology, and the debt that impedes efficient allocation of resources, and recommended that FAO forestry programmes in the region address poverty alleviation as a priority.
10. Forests have always contributed directly and indirectly to food security and the well-being of rural populations. Often, indirect contributions of forests to food security have not been accounted for, hence, the Commission recommended that FAO and governments address more explicitly forest and food security issues in their national programmes and develop methods for assessing and reporting the contributions of forests to food security.
11. The Commission concluded that training and education were crucial for the enhancement of capacities to achieve sustainable forestry development in the region. Therefore, the Commission recommended that FAO assist academic institutions in the region in revising their curricula and adapting their programmes to emerging needs in the region, including decentralization and participatory processes, management of forest resources for multiple uses and cross-sectoral planning.

REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 4)

12. The Commission noted the implementation of FAO's regular and field programme activities based on Secretariat note FO: AFWC/2002/3. In particular, it took note of the efforts made to implement a wide range of activities addressing the needs of the countries, notwithstanding the decline in the field programme component. Development of the field programme was facilitated by the catalytic support provided by the EC-funded regional projects as well as some of the TCP projects.

Initiatives in this regard included efforts to support sustainable forest management (SFM), assessment of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation stands, developing country profiles on non-wood forest products, etc. The Forestry Research Network in Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) was established to enhance networking among forestry research organizations. Other important FAO initiatives included: support for participatory forestry, the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA), and the initiative to strengthen fiscal policy.

13. The Commission noted the shifts in the nature of financial support for forestry and the increasing emphasis on cross-disciplinary issues. In particular, it took note of the 2004 – 2009 FAO Medium term priorities, which specifically focused on (a) forests, food security and poverty alleviation, (b) forests and water, (c) forests and climate change, (d) forest governance, and (e) forest information. This development reflects the changes in priorities at the national and global levels, and the overall concern to address poverty and environmental degradation.
14. The Commission recommended that countries fully tap the limited resources available, especially under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). It reiterated the need to streamline the process of TCP proposal development in order to fully use the opportunities available, especially country-led initiatives in critical areas.

REPORT OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS (Libreville 20-22 March 2002) (Item 5)

15. The Commission discussed Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/4 reporting on the 14th session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas, held on 20-22 March in Libreville. The Working Party had made several recommendations to FAO to be endorsed by the Commission before presentation to COFO for consideration.
16. The Commission recognized the quality of the work of the Working Party and acknowledged that the Working Party had adopted the following concepts: (a) the protected areas as part of forest systems and not as separate entities; (b) wildlife management had to be linked with other socio-economic objectives such as food security; (c) ideas and concepts were evolving rapidly and therefore education and training were essential; and (d) the need to consider bushmeat as a crucial resource rather than a product, so that its economic and social values were fully reflected in national development plans.
17. The Commission emphasized that only countries themselves can maintain the dynamism of the Working Party by proposing inter-sessional activities and ideas to the Secretariat.
18. The Commission therefore, supported the recommendations to FAO as formulated by the Working Party and their consideration by COFO in 2003.

FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (Item 6)

19. The Commission considered Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/5 on the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2000). The document stressed the interactive nature of the FRA process, in which countries were fully involved, and explained the dual approach to forest resource assessment, relying on both country data and remote sensing. One aspect of particular note was the significant discrepancy between these two methodologies in forest areas and deforestation estimates, which highlighted the need for improving country-level information in collaboration with the FRA programme. The Commission was informed about the process of developing FRA, in particular, the forthcoming Expert Consultation in Finland (Kotka 4). Delegates requested FAO to share the outcome with all countries.

20. Some members noted that the FRA definitions of forest and woodland tended to exclude woody vegetation in the low forest cover areas of the Sahel but that, nevertheless, these formations were of vital importance to the countries concerned.
21. The Commission recommended that FAO provide assistance to countries in order to strengthen their capacities to update national inventories through technical workshops, to harmonise their approaches and to share understanding on forest terminology and methods of resources assessment.

NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME FACILITY (Item 7)

22. Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/6 on the National Forest Programme Facility was introduced. Delegates commended FAO for the Facility initiative, and highlighted the need for more information about the facility and funding opportunities as well as requirements for country involvement. The Commission recommended that FAO should assist the countries of the region to better understand the procedures and provide information on access to the Facility.
23. The weak involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in national forest programme processes in Africa was discussed, and the need was stressed for each country to engage its relevant NGOs as stakeholders to fully participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national forest programmes.
24. The Commission expressed concern about the number of national planning and strategic frameworks which never reach the implementation stage, and recommended that FAO and cooperation partners put appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure effective implementation and coordination of these frameworks.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (Item 8)

25. The Secretariat presented the progress on the implementation of the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA) as described in the Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/7. It provided an overview of the collaborative approach adopted and the series of consultations held at the sub-regional and regional levels to provide a coherent and comprehensive view of the developments in the forestry sector in Africa. The Commission particularly noted the effort made by FAO to make the process highly participatory and to ensure that the product is owned by the African countries.
26. The Commission noted the progress of the preparation of the regional overview report and the sub-regional reports, and decided to defer a decision on the follow up to the FOSA process until the end of the in-session seminar.

THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (FOSA): MAJOR OUTCOME AND STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION (Item 9)

27. The Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/8 was presented in the in-session seminar, during which the drafts of the regional and sub-regional reports were also presented. These provided a good overview of the current situation prevailing at the regional and sub-regional levels. The reports elaborated on the main driving forces, the possible scenarios, their implications on key aspects of forestry and wildlife and the priorities and strategies for enhancing the contribution of forestry to sustainable development. Specifically, the reports took note of the opportunities emerging in the context of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and indicated the nature of interventions required for forestry to contribute significantly to the objectives of poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

28. The Commission discussed at length the contents of the FOSA reports. During the discussion the members highlighted aspects that needed to be given added attention in the reports. Specifically, these included: (a) mechanisms for enhancing funding for sustainable forest management; (b) cultural dimensions of forests and their implications on future use of forests; (c) the need for strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation and collaboration, especially as regards improving human resources; (d) the potential for intra-African trade of forest products, particularly in view of the enormous demand from some of the sub-regions; (e) potentials for eco-tourism; and (f) processing of non-wood forest products. It was noted that the reports needed to emphasize some of the recent positive developments in African forestry and provide an indication of the opportunities for moving into a positive scenario.
29. The Commission also took note of the follow-up to the FOSA process, especially as to how regional and sub-regional organizations could become involved in ensuring effective assimilation of the FOSA findings into forestry sector development.
30. The Commission appreciated the quality of the reports, which were found to be very comprehensive and informative. It recommended that FAO finalize the regional and sub-regional reports taking note of: (a) the comments made during the in-session seminar; and (b) written submissions from member countries which were not able to attend the Session.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICA (Item 10)

31. The Commission considered this item on the basis of Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2002/9 on the Regional Implementation of proposals emanating from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). The note outlined the history of the various international initiatives on forestry since UNCED in 1992, and introduced delegates to the role of the recently formed United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The presentation highlighted the need for African countries to enlist their relevant regional and subregional organizations, as well as the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, to enhance their involvement in international fora and processes.
32. Country delegates and observer organizations informed the Commission of their recent experiences in participating in UNFF-2 (New York, March 2002). It was recognized that Africa had demonstrated its political will to support the UNFF process, but was handicapped by a lack of prior preparation of common African positions and by a weak participation in terms of numbers and appropriateness of delegation members.
33. Delegates stressed the need to work with their relevant subregional organizations and with FAO to overcome the inadequacies. In this context, delegates recommended that FAO assist countries to become effective participants in UNFF by making all pertinent information available to countries, including providing synthesis of the numerous IPF/IFF proposals for action.
34. While delegates recognized the challenges in terms of time and funding, of fuller participation in the international forestry debate, they also highlighted the opportunities for the region to play a proper role in shaping the global agenda in order to reflect African priorities and realities. The Commission further expressed concern about the number of UNFF meetings. In order for African countries facing economic and staff problems to be able to effectively participate in the international debate on forests, the Commission recommended that these meetings be organized in reasonable time-frame, and that they take into consideration the forestry agenda in the Region.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE XII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, CANADA, 2003

(Item 11)

35. Secretariat note FO: AFWC/2002/10 was presented as information on the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003. The Commission took note that the first announcement and call for papers would be issued shortly, and that participation would be open to the entire forestry community and other interested groups. Delegates were urged to be prepared to contribute papers under the different topical areas of the Congress, in order to share their knowledge and experience with the forestry world.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS, 2002 (Item 12)

36. The item on the International Year of Mountains (IYM) was introduced based on Secretariat note FO: AFWC/2002/11. Whereas the note focused mainly on the coordination and mobilisation of country involvement in the IYM, the presentation highlighted the importance of mountains in Africa's topography, livelihood, and as major sources of fresh water, home of important biological diversity, and habitats for many of its peoples. With increasing land use pressure, it was noted that mountain degradation was becoming a growing threat to livelihoods of mountain dwellers and to downstream lowlanders as well. This was revealed not only as a national problem, but also as a trans-border issue between countries.
37. Many delegates indicated the interest of their respective countries to be involved in observing the International Year of Mountains. The importance of mountain ecosystems was emphasized, in particular by delegates from North and Central Africa, who expressed concern about threats to mountain ecosystems - including illegal logging, armed conflict, and other negative factors.
38. It was unanimously admitted that even lowland countries, mostly in West Africa, were benefiting from mountains through water supplies, and were potentially threatened by mountain degradation.
39. Delegates were urged to prepare short country profiles on the role of mountains in their respective context to support their participation in the IYM.

KEY ISSUES EMERGING FROM SIDE MEETINGS (Item 13)

40. The Commission was informed that the two side meetings had been proposed by the Executive Committee of the 12th session, in order to identify key forestry issues of great concern to Africa, on which countries and individual experts of the region should work together during the inter-sectional period. On the other hand, it was found necessary to take stock of activities in selected fields which are being carried out in the Region, and build partnerships in order to optimise their impact and enhance regional collaboration.

Side Meeting 1 (a): Sustainable Forest Management and Reduced Impact Logging

41. During the introduction to this side meeting, which was chaired by IUCN, it was stressed that FAO had collaborated with many partners in forest management initiatives in West and Central Africa. Two presentations were made, highlighting both the need for sustainable logging practices to take place within the context of formal forest management processes.
42. The Commission was informed about a survey by FAO on the status and trends in forest management in Africa, and also on a practical initiative in Central Africa on Sustainable Forest Management. The survey, made within the framework of FAO's Forest Resources Assessment 2000, revealed that, while most African countries (46) were demonstrating political will by participating in one or more eco-regional processes to develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the area of African forests reported to be under

formal management plans was relatively small compared to other regions, although it is felt that this is due partly to under-reporting. Furthermore, an almost insignificant area, less than 0.1%, of African forests has been reported as certified, and most of these were located in Southern Africa.

43. The Commission was also informed about a recent initiative on the conservation and sustainable management of tropical moist forest ecosystems in Central Africa launched under the FAO/Netherlands Partnership Programme and implemented in close collaboration with member countries, ATO, ITTO, IUCN, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Inter-African Forest Industry Association (IFIA) and the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS). This initiative aims at providing support to field level implementation of the concept of sustainable forest management in Central Africa.
44. The Commission welcomed FAO's call for more nominations of forests as case studies in Central Africa, and was informed of the proposed workshop on this subject planned for May 2002.
45. Many countries, and some international organizations, indicated an urgent need for enhanced training and knowledge sharing in the principles and application of SFM. Whilst FAO's current role was well appreciated, it was recommended that activities in this field should be expanded.

Side Meeting 1 (b): Reduced Impact Logging in the Africa Region

46. The second presentation focussed on initiatives to set standards for environmentally sound log harvesting practices (Reduced Impact Logging) and provide training and capacity for their introduction in the Region, with special focus on Central and West African Countries.
47. The Commission was informed that FAO is implementing these activities under a component of a project in support of sustainable forest management in African ACP countries, which is being supported by the European Commission under the FAO-EC Partnership Programme. Under the project, a Regional Code of Forest Harvesting Practices for high tropical forests in Africa is being prepared, which will be supported by four case study countries (Central African Republic, Gabon, Ghana and Republic of Congo). The Commission was advised that the Regional Code should serve as a platform on which member countries might develop and improve their own National Codes.
48. The presentation stimulated several interventions from members of the Commission. Assurance was given that the development of the forest harvesting code had been a participative process, involving many stakeholders including the private sector and its representative organizations. Furthermore, it was confirmed that the code is not legally binding, but comprises a set of agreed guidelines on the minimum requirements and the state-of-the-art of environmentally sound forest harvesting.
49. Statements to the Commission were made by delegates from ITTO, ITTTA and IUCN concerning the mandate and role of their organizations. The Commission commended their activities in developing forest management in Africa, and recommended to identify mechanisms for further collaboration between them and FAO in this regard. A common theme, which was strongly emphasized, is the need for knowledge and skills transfer in order to successfully implement sustainable forest management.

Side Meeting 2: Wood Energy and Forest Conservation

50. This side meeting, chaired by the UN-ECA, discussed activities concerning wood energy under the EC-FAO Programme on Sustainable Forest Management in African ACP countries. The thrust of the current work is the enhancement of information systems on wood, and the promotion and planning of sustainable, efficient and cost-effective modern energy systems.

51. A total of 23 countries, as well as several partner agencies, have been actively involved in the process. Among the key initiatives that were undertaken, the two regional workshops on “Wood Energy Information in Africa” for Anglophone countries (Nairobi, October 2000) and for Francophone countries (Lomé, June 2001), were highlighted. The main initiatives planned for 2002 were presented including, amongst others, the options for the establishment and maintenance of an African Forest Energy Network (AFEN).
52. During the discussions that ensued the presentation, a number of interesting observations and suggestions were made, of which the most relevant were:
- The need to make full use of the potential offered by the Clean Development Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - A call for countries to allocate a higher profile to the policies on wood energy and reinforce collaboration on the sectoral coordination on energy matters;
 - Particular attention should be given to the use of charcoal, and its implications for deforestation, through improved carbonisation technologies;
 - The need to improve the quality of the results of the supply/demand surveys on wood energy, particularly on the supply side;
 - The continuation and strengthening of training, capacity building, research and technology transfer activities in the wood energy area.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 14)

53. The Commission felt that some of its key recommendations should be brought to the attention of the next session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), in March 2003. These were:
- With regard to the issue on deforestation and forest degradation, the Commission recommended that the FAO forestry programmes in the region prioritize food security and poverty alleviation as key factors.
 - It was generally felt that forestry training was fundamental, and the Commission recommended that FAO assist countries and academic institutions to revise their curricula in order to better adapt to the forestry needs of the forestry sector.
 - With regard to the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa, the Commission called on COFO to recommend that FAO put in place an appropriate mechanism to ensure full and efficient participation of regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of FOSA.
 - The regional participation and collaboration in the UNFF activities were considered of major interest to the Commission. Particularly, it was recommended that FAO assist countries to become effective participants in UNFF by making all pertinent information available to countries, including providing synthesis of the numerous IPF/IFF proposals for action.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 15)

54. No other business was suggested for discussion by the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 16)

55. The 14th session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, and the 15th session of its Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas, would take place in March 2004. The Commission was informed that Mozambique, though not participating in the 13th

session, sent an official offer to the FAO Regional Office for the Near East to host the next session. The Commission also recognized the offer of the Delegation of Morocco to host the 14th session, given that North Africa is the only member sub-region that never hosted a session of the Commission. The Commission recommended that these offers should be further relayed to FAO through official channels for final decision.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 17)

56. The Commission reviewed the draft report of the session and unanimously adopted it after suggesting a few amendments.

*ANNEX A***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Perspectives of forestry and wildlife in the region: national progress reports
4. Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 12th session of the Commission
5. Report of the 14th session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas (Libreville, 20-22 March 2002)
6. Forest Resources Assessment
7. National Forest Programme Facility
8. In-session seminar: Progress of Implementation of the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa
9. The Forestry Outlook Study For Africa: Major Outcome and Strategy for Implementation
10. Regional Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action: Challenges and Opportunities for Africa.
11. Arrangements for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003
12. International Year of Mountains, 2002
13. Key issues emerging from side meetings
14. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry
15. Other business
16. Date and place of next session
17. Adoption of the report

ANNEX B

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*ANNEX C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:AFWC/2002/1	Provisional Agenda
3	FO:AFWC/2002/2	Perspectives on forestry and wildlife in the region: national progress reports
4	FO:AFWC/2002/3	Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 12 th session of the Commission
5	FO:AFWC/2002/4	Report of the 14 th session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas (Libreville, 20-22 March 2002)
6	FO:AFWC/2002/5	Summary Findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000
7	FO:AFWC/2002/6	National Forest Programme Facility
8	FO:AFWC/2002/7	In-session seminar: Progress of Implementation of the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA)
9	FO:AFWC/2002/8	The Forestry Outlook Study for Africa: Major Outcome and Strategy for Implementation
10	FO:AFWC/2002/9	Regional Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action: Challenges and Opportunities for Africa
11	FO:AFWC/2002/10	Arrangements for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003 (for information)
12	FO:AFWC/2002/11	International Year of Mountains, 2002 (for information)

Information Documents

FO:AFWC/2002/Inf. 1	Information Note
FO:AFWC/2002/Inf. 2	Provisional Timetable
FO:AFWC/2002/Inf. 3	List of Documents

*ANNEX D***LIST OF NATIONAL REPORTS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION**

Benin
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Gabon
Guinea
Kenya
Mali
Morocco
Niger
Senegal
South Africa
Uganda

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Algeria	Liberia
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Burundi	Mauritius
Cameroon	Morocco
Cape Verde	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Nambia
Chad	Niger
Congo, Republic of	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Senegal
Ethiopia	Sierra Leone
France	South Africa
Gabon	Sudan
Gambia	Swaziland
Ghana	Togo
Guinea	Tunisia
Guinea-Bissau	Uganda
Kenya	United Republic of Tanzania
Lesotho	Zambia
	Zimbabwe