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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

### Sixteenth Regular Session

Rome, 30 January - 3 February 2017

## REPORT OF THE INFORMAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE STATE OF AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

COMMISSION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE

# **Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Africa's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**

## **Meeting Report**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
24 – 26 May 2016

## I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Africa's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 26 May 2016. The meeting was organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), the FAO Regional Office for Africa (FAO RAF) and the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (FAO SFE). The list of participants from countries and regional organizations is given in *Annex IV* to this report.

2. Mr Patrick Kormawa, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa, on behalf of Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He highlighted that the potential of Africa's genetic resources is underutilized and put forward that biodiversity in Africa is still poorly understood. Moreover, he underlined that basic natural resources such as soil, water and genetic resources are eroded as a result of climate change. He also drew attention to the fact that biodiversity for food and agriculture is not fully appreciated by leaders in Africa, and there is a need for knowledge creation and awareness raising.

3. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of the Commission, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation to this regional consultation. She highlighted the importance of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture process and encouraged countries to submit their Country Report.

4. Mr. Amadou Allahoury, FAO Representative in Ethiopia, welcomed participants to Ethiopia and highlighted the importance of biodiversity in Ethiopia and referred to the International Day for Biological Diversity Mainstreaming that took place on the 22 May. He underlined that Ethiopia is part of two biodiversity hotspots of global significance and emphasised the need to maintain and sustainably use biodiversity for food and agriculture in the region.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

5. The Secretariat of the Commission presented the context for the regional consultation, and noted that in adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work, the Commission had agreed, at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, to the preparation of the *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*<sup>1</sup> (SoW BFA), and, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, had requested FAO to prepare the SoW BFA for consideration at its Sixteenth Regular Session, following a process agreed upon by the Commission. The Secretariat also noted that the Commission had stressed that the process for preparing the SoW BFA should be based on information from Country Reports and should also draw on thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including centres of excellence from developing countries.<sup>2</sup> The Secretariat further noted that following a request from the Commission at its last session in January 2015,<sup>3</sup> a series of informal regional consultations for the SoW BFA were being held in 2016, the objective being to share knowledge and information on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture and to discuss needs and priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the respective regions.

6. Participants agreed to divide their work into three main sessions, addressing the four main areas of management identified in the *Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports for The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*<sup>4</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

<sup>3</sup> CGRA/15/Report, paragraph 13.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/guidelines/en/>

- i. Assessment and monitoring (Chapters 1 and 2)
- ii. Sustainable use and conservation (Chapters 3 and 4)
- iii. Policies, institutions and capacity/Regional and international cooperation (Chapter 5)

7. The agenda of the meeting is contained in *Annex I* to this report.

8. At the beginning of each of the three sessions, the Secretariat presented the main findings relevant to the respective area of management from a preliminary analysis of Country Reports submitted before 16 May 2016. Participants then split into working groups and identified regional needs, priorities and possible actions for each main area. The working groups reported their results back to the plenary for discussion. On day 3, a consolidated list of needs, priorities and possible actions was reviewed in plenary and finalized, as given in *Annex II* to this report.

### **III. STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE REGION'S COUNTRY REPORTS FOR THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

9. The Commission Secretariat presented an overview of the status of preparation of the SoW BFA. It also introduced the draft *Synthesis of the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture in Africa* (draft regional report), which provides an analysis of the Country Reports<sup>5</sup>, the draft Country Reports<sup>6</sup> and the brief reports<sup>7</sup> received by the Secretariat before 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The draft regional report had been circulated prior to the meeting to all participants.

10. The Commission Secretariat confirmed that Country Reports completed, endorsed by governments and submitted to the Commission Secretariat by 15 July 2016 would be reflected in the draft revised regional report, as well as in the draft SoW BFA. Whereas the draft SoW BFA would be presented to the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session, the finalized regional report would be published together with the final SoW BFA. Prior to its publication, the revised regional report would be submitted to the National Focal Points, for their comments and inputs.

### **IV. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

11. The Commission Secretariat introduced the relevant chapters of the draft regional synthesis report, highlighting the key findings from the preliminary analysis of reports so far received from countries. In the first session, addressing monitoring and assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the region, topics presented included definitions and examples of associated biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the relation between them; the status of submission of Country Reports in the region; reporting constraints, production systems reported; examples of associated biodiversity and wild food species and their status and trends; examples of national information systems; and needs and priorities for monitoring and assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture reported by countries.

12. In the second session, highlights from the draft regional synthesis report on the topics of sustainable use, conservation, access and exchange for biodiversity for food and agriculture were presented. Topics included practices promoting the maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and examples in the region; examples where biodiversity for food and agriculture is used to cope with climate change, invasive alien species and natural or human made disasters; the importance of traditional knowledge in different countries on biodiversity for food and agriculture and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation projects. Finally, reference was made to the access, benefit sharing and exchange

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<sup>5</sup> Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Kenya, Zambia

<sup>6</sup> Mauritius, Sierra Leone

<sup>7</sup> Burundi, Gabon, Guinea, Senegal, Tanzania

of biodiversity for food and agriculture, mostly referring to the Nagoya Protocol. The presentation concluded on needs and priorities reported by countries.

13. During the third session, participants considered the key findings of the draft regional report with regard to policies, institutions, capacity and regional and international cooperation, on the basis of examples of national policies addressing the sustainable use and conservation of associated biodiversity and wild food species. Different strengths and weaknesses were highlighted with regard to invasive alien species policies. The presentation concluded on the needs and priorities for the fields of policies, institutions, capacity building and regional and international cooperation.

14. Following these introductions, participants highlighted the difficulties in coordinating and collaborating with representatives from different ministries in their countries in order to gather information for the report on *the State of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. In some cases, it was reported that ministries were not always ready to share data available. A number of participants reflected on the idea of establishing an organization within the country that would be responsible to coordinate efforts on biodiversity for food and agriculture. All participants from countries considered that support from a regional organization such as the African Union could help countries establish such an organization.

15. Other topics discussed included that in several countries, information collected for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reporting and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process was used in the preparation of Country Reports, although the information usually does not refer explicitly to food and agriculture. Participants stressed the need to mobilize financial support for the collection of data on biodiversity for food and agriculture. They also expressed that technical support was a very important aspect of the Country Report preparation, and wished to benefit from further capacity building activities.

16. Participants highlighted the importance of undertaking research and establishing curricula and training programs on biodiversity for food and agriculture and the need to develop skills in the field of biodiversity conservation. Moreover, participants stressed the need to collect information on traditional knowledge of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Participants discussed the specificities of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Nagoya Protocol.

## **V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

17. In their closing remarks, participants considered that the meeting clarified concepts and was of great support for the preparation of Country Reports. Some countries announced that their reports will be updated based on knowledge and information gained during the consultation, and that their NBSAPs would be reviewed to incorporate aspects of biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture.

18. Mr Cheikh Alassane Fall, Focal Point of Senegal, read out a Declaration from Focal Points at the regional consultation in which they a) invite the African Union to include in its strategy a special chapter on biodiversity for food and agriculture, associated biodiversity and ecosystem services derived from agricultural, forest and pastoral systems, and b) request FAO to technically support the African Union and its member countries in the development and implementation of their strategy on biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Declaration is contained in *Annex III*.

19. In her closing remarks, Ms Irene Hoffmann thanked participants for the fruitful discussions and valuable contributions. She expressed her gratitude to FAO RAF and FAO SFE for their assistance in the organization of the meeting. She encouraged participants to submit their Country Report by 15 July 2016 and highlighted that the information submitted by National Focal Points should be officially endorsed by national authorities to be included in the draft global Report to be presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission in January 2017. Finally, she recognized that an important network of

National Focal Points for the process of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture report has been created and the capacity in this field is being built and will continue to grow. She encouraged participants to take part of important coming events on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors. She also expressed gratitude to the government of Germany, who made these regional consultations possible thanks to a generous donation.

20. Mr Foday Bojang, on behalf of Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, referred to the FAO Strategic Framework and encouraged participants to ensure that their national ministries are informed of what their FAO country offices offer and to ensure that biodiversity for food and agriculture is included in their Country Programming Framework. This way FAO could help support related project through Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) or Technical Cooperation Programme Facility project (TCPF).

## ANNEX I

### INFORMAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION *THE STATE OF AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

#### TENTATIVE AGENDA

Time	Title	
DAY 1		
9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 11:00	Opening address	Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa, FAO Regional Office
	Opening address	Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	Tour de Table and group photo	
	Status of preparation of <i>The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Commission Secretariat
	Presentation of the programme and objectives of the consultation	Commission Secretariat
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Assessment and monitoring	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 17:00	Priorities for action – reporting to plenary and discussion	
Reception		
DAY 2		
9:30 – 10:30	Sustainable use and conservation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:30	Priorities for action – reporting to plenary and discussion	
Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Policies, institutions and capacity Regional and international cooperation	



Time	Title	
	<b>Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports</b> – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
	<b>Identifying needs and priorities</b> – working groups	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	<b>Policies, institutions and capacity Regional and international cooperation</b>	
	<b>Identifying needs and priorities</b> – working groups	
	<b>Priorities for action</b> – reporting to plenary and discussion	
<b>DAY 3</b>		
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Review and finalize regional recommendations for priorities for action</b>	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:30	<b>Review and finalize regional recommendations for priorities for action</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Final discussions</b>	
	<b>Evaluation of the Workshop</b>	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Commission Secretariat

## ANNEX II

**Table 1. Needs, priorities and possible actions for the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Africa (Addis Abeba, 24–26 May 2016)**

Main area	Priorities needs	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
1. Availability and access to information and knowledge	Need to establish an inventory of biodiversity for food and agriculture including associated biodiversity and traditional knowledge	Make an inventory on biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity as well as wild species consumed and ecosystem services  Gather knowledge and endogenous practices on biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity	
	Information and knowledge sharing platform	Share information and reports of countries on biodiversity for food and agriculture so that countries can learn from each other  Share the meeting report with the African Union	
	Research on biodiversity for food including associated biodiversity	Develop plans and research programs on associated biodiversity within universities and research institutes  Institutionalize and empower organizations implied in research on biodiversity for food and agriculture, taking into account communities and traditional knowledge  Develop international cooperation activities for research on associated biodiversity	
2. Capacity development	Capacity building and development of skills	Identify the stakeholders and organizations involved in the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture  Assess the need to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and of organizations involved in the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture  Strengthen the capacity of communities, stakeholders and other organizations in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture  Training on monitoring/evaluation of biodiversity for food and agriculture  Establish and strengthen information and communication systems on biodiversity for food and agriculture  Support to National Focal Points from FAO for the preparation of Country Reports	Important
	Development of assessment and monitoring tools	Develop monitoring and assessment tools for associated biodiversity, avoiding duplication with other assessments	

		<p>Develop assessment tools in a participatory way (e.g. Country Report guidelines) and seek ways to harmonize tools to better reflect Country specificities</p> <p>Establish indicators for monitoring and evaluation ( conservation, preservation, sustainable management and enhancement of biodiversity for food and agriculture) in line with Aichi biodiversity targets and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p>	
	Improved involvement of FAO country offices	Countries should actively engage FAO country offices in order to get assistance	
3. Policy and institutions	Increased awareness of biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Improve awareness of biodiversity for food and agriculture to promote a higher place of biodiversity for food and agriculture on the political agenda</p> <p>Organize workshops and produce policy briefs targeting policy-makers and communities</p> <p>Integrate into school curricula the issues of biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity</p> <p>Raise awareness of consumers on the benefits of biodiversity for food and agriculture and in particular associated biodiversity</p>	
	Coordination at the national level of activities related to biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Improve coordination efforts within institutions dealing with all sectors related to biodiversity for food and agriculture at the national level (e.g.: EBI)</p> <p>Develop guidelines or resolutions to facilitate coordination of activities related to biodiversity for food and agriculture at the national level by relevant regional organizations (e.g. African Union)</p> <p>Raise political actions via the African Union</p> <p>Institutionalize and empower organizations involved in the monitoring and assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Organize workshops to clarify the responsibility and role of each stakeholder involved in the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture at the national level</p>	Very important
4. Financial support	Mobilization of financial resources	<p>Advocacy/lobbying governments, technical and financial partners</p> <p>Search for additional funds (e.g. Taxes, Redd+, Green funds, South-South cooperation)</p> <p>Develop sub-regional projects (e.g. WAAP/PPAAO)</p>	

**Table 2. Needs, priorities and possible actions for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and its access and benefit sharing mechanisms, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Africa (Addis Ababa, 24–26 May 2016)**

Main area	Priority needs	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
1. Technical and scientific capacity	Strengthening technical and scientific capacities in the field of sustainable use, conservation and access and benefit sharing for biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Identify stakeholders in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Develop research tools in the field of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Build human resources capacity at all levels required for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture from communities, research and policy level</p> <p>Develop incentive policies for research in the field of biodiversity especially in certain specialties (e.g. taxonomy, ethnobotany)</p> <p>Strengthen or rehabilitate management and conservation infrastructure for biodiversity for food and agriculture</p>	
2. Development of knowledge and awareness	Enhancing knowledge on associated biodiversity, wild foods and management practices	<p>Undertake studies or other activities related to the development and strengthening of knowledge on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The economic, nutritional, social and cultural value of associated biodiversity</li> <li>- The contribution of wild foods to food security</li> <li>- Sustainable management practices and their impacts on biodiversity for food and agriculture</li> <li>- The valorisation of traditional knowledge</li> <li>- Taxonomy and characterization</li> </ul>	
	Awareness raising and promotion of sustainable use, sustainable management practices and access and benefit sharing	<p>Communicate, share and disseminate the results of different studies undertaken in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Develop policy briefs, workshops, seminars and media releases to improve awareness of conservation issues for policy makers, development agents and producers including farmers</p> <p>Develop policy briefs, workshops, seminars and media releases for access and benefit sharing</p> <p>Seek and promote sustainable consumption behaviors, e.g. promote other sources of energy such as solar to avoid over exploitation of trees</p>	
3. Good practices for the conservation and sustainable use	Development and improvement of practices for the conservation and sustainable use	<p>Promote diverse farming systems (e.g. integrated farming systems, agro-ecology)</p> <p>Reduce land use change</p> <p>Improve harvesting practices from the wild</p>	

		Inventorize and improve harvesting practices of associated biodiversity from the wild, including their possible domestication, as appropriate	
	Integrated approaches to conservation	Complement in situ conservation with ex situ conservation as appropriate	
	Restoration	Identify and implement appropriate technologies and strategies for restoration, including re-introduction and domestication	
4. Policies and cooperation	Strengthening and promoting collaboration and coordination between stakeholders in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Identify the different categories of actors</p> <p>Establish a multi stakeholder coordination mechanism</p> <p>Integrate into national development policies the issues of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Create or strengthen a harmonized legislative and regulatory framework which is adequate for access and benefit sharing arising from the use of biodiversity for food and agriculture (Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA))</p> <p>Build synergies for conservation amongst African countries</p> <p>Develop integrated regional policies for an integrated approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture conservation</p> <p>Harmonize regional frameworks for access and benefit sharing</p>	
5. Financial capacity	Reinforcing the financial capacity in the field of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Establish investment plans for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Establish a funding mechanism ( e.g. national budget, fund raising through projects)</p>	

**Table 3. Possible actions concerning the policies and programs, capacity development, cooperation and institutions relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Africa (Addis Ababa, 24-26 April of 2016)**

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Priority needs</b>	<b>Possible actions</b>	<b>Who</b>
1. Development and/or harmonization of policies	Development of an inventory of national legal acts regulating biodiversity for food and agriculture	Conduct an inventory of existing instruments at the national level including traditional laws	Governments and stakeholders
	Development and strengthening of existing texts	Propose laws and texts adapted to biodiversity for food and agriculture (Elaboration of a national legislation on biodiversity for food and agriculture)  Raise awareness and consciousness on the texts elaborated  Strengthen the capacity of national legal experts in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture management	Governments and stakeholders, international organizations (FAO, CBD)
	Mainstreaming biodiversity for food and agriculture issues in strategy documents related to biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity	Review and upgrade existing strategies on biodiversity (e.g. NBSAP) to include biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity	
	Organize and facilitate advocacy and awareness raising events	Involve relevant stakeholders, cooperate with international bodies (conventions) and conduct workshops, seminars, media activities	Government institutions, regional bodies, international bodies, civil society
2. Programmes	Development of research on biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity	Prepare and implement research programmes on biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity, conduct assessments and undertake research	
	Development and implementation of tools for the monitoring and management of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Put in place GIS programme for the monitoring and management on biodiversity for food and agriculture, including the aspects of collection management of data, and dissemination of information	
3. Institutions	Coordination of institutions at the national level	Establish an enabling policy and legal framework as well as secure human, financial and physical resources	Governments and technical/financial partners
		Build synergies and cooperation between relevant stakeholders  Raise awareness at the community level and encourage participatory management	
4. Capacities	Improvement of infrastructures	Assess capacity needs, mobilize financial resources, develop technical support (including for lab technicians) and procure laboratory equipment (including GIS softwares)	Government, Development partners, Private Sector, Schools and academic institutions,

			Research organizations, Conservation agencies
	Development of a capacity building programme, including for institutions	<p>Assess capacity needs</p> <p>Develop and implement professional capacity building programmes (i.e seminars, workshops, educational, informational and communication programmes) for technical teams and other relevant stakeholders including local communities</p> <p>Mobilize financial resources</p>	Policy makers and technical directorates
	Development of educational programmes on biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Assess capacity needs and develop and implement curriculum programmes on biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Mainstream biodiversity into existing training curriculum at the secondary level and university level</p> <p>Develop long and short term training programmes</p> <p>Mobilize financial resources and develop trainings for educational staff</p>	Government, Development partners, Private Sector, technical/financial partners
	Establishment of a financing mechanism	<p>Develop an investment plan or a project for financing research and development programmes</p> <p>Lobby for financial support from the private sector agencies or other relevant funding partners</p>	
5.Cooperation	Decentralized national, regional and sub regional programmes	Improve networking between different national programs and national, sub regional and regional projects	National stakeholders, regional and international organizations
	Develop a national action plan for biodiversity for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity ( includes all areas)		
	Establishment and fostering of cooperation (national, regional and international)	Share resources, inform and exchange knowledge, develop synergies between relevant stakeholders	Government agencies, Regional bodies, International , Conventions/bodies, Civil Society, Community based organizations
	Establishment of a regional cooperation framework on biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Identify stakeholders/ actors at national and international levels</p> <p>Put in place a governance mechanism for the proposed framework</p> <p>Establish a monitoring programme on the collaboration mechanism with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)</p>	

### ANNEX III: Declaration

**We** the delegates of governments from 19 countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), attending the Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Africa's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, held in Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia, from the 24 to 26 May 2016,

**Recognizing** that a large number of the continent's poor rely directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and their livelihoods are affected first and foremost by the over-utilization and subsequent loss of biodiversity;

**Recognizing** that the vast potentials of Africa's agricultural biodiversity resources remain largely underutilized, with only a very small portion of this biological diversity being used for food, health and welfare by the populations;

**Recognizing** that biodiversity will represent an essential asset for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and for humanity to adapt to climate change and to build resilience to ensure food security under a changing climate;

**Recognizing** the need for proper coordination in actions of technical and financial support, including the alignment of these support programs and activities related to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, among others;

**Recalling** that the 16<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union has passed a decision to include biodiversity among its priorities (Doc. Assembly/AU/15 (XVI) Add.3, 2011) that the AU Agenda 2063, under its Goal 1.7 (Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities) contain a Priority Area on biodiversity, conservation and sustainable natural resource management;

**Invite** the African Union to include in its continental strategy on biodiversity, a special chapter on the biodiversity for food and agriculture, associated biodiversity and ecosystem services derived from agricultural systems, including forestry and pastoral systems;

**Request** the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to technically support the African Union and Member States on issues related to biodiversity for food and agriculture, reflecting its specificity.

Addis Ababa, 26 May 2016



**ANNEX IV**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM COUNTRIES AND REGIONAL**  
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