

REPORT

Maputo,
Mozambique,
29 March – 1 April
2006

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Fifteenth 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

REPORT

of the

FIFTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Maputo, Mozambique
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION

3.1 African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission

1. The Commission noted that transboundary fires are of particular concern to several countries, and urged countries to establish cooperation agreements through appropriate sub-regional organization. (para. 9)

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA: (*Special Session*) (Item 4)

4.1 Accessing funds for sustainable forest management (partner panel)

2. The Commission urged countries to develop successful public-private partnerships and promote an enabling environment for local investment in the sector. (para.20)

4.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Africa: state of forests and wildlife and trends in the region

3. Recognizing the importance of current and reliable information in policy formulation, Commission members to improve, within their means, the quality and timeliness of information on forest condition and use. (para.29)

4.3 Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through regional forestry cooperation: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other regional and sub-regional organizations (*partner panel*)

4. Countries further recommended that coordination within sub-regional organizations of forest policies with economic, environmental and social policies be improved in order to enhance the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and to the fulfilment of relevant commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals. (para. 34)

4.4 Forest Law Compliance

5 Countries to improve domestic forest law enforcement and governance and, to this end, promote international cooperation to support international trade in timber and forest products from legally harvested and sustainably managed forests. The Commission urged countries to strengthen transboundary collaboration in combating illegal forestry activities. (para. 36)

MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS: REPORT OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

6. Noting the role of policies and laws in facilitating crucial aspects of wildlife management, such as the involvement of communities and the private sector, the Commission urged countries to review and, if necessary, revise wildlife management policies and laws. (para. 37)
7. To address the issue of human-wildlife conflict, the Commission underscored the need for integrated and participatory land-use planning. (para. 37)

FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

8. Workshop participants adopted 37 recommendations, addressed to countries, on the following underlined topics: (para 39)
 - i. Generating and making available information on the actual and potential contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation. This includes developing information systems and communication strategies and measurable indicators, and promoting the consideration of all products and services of forests and wildlife in national accounts.
 - ii. Enhancing community participation through policies and mechanisms that secure benefits to local communities.
 - iii. Multiplying successful experiences and promoting alternative income generation for improved livelihoods.
 - iv. Strengthening investment and markets by facilitating access to microcredits, promoting payments for environmental services, encouraging partnerships between communities, governments and the private sector, enhancing policies on trade and investment in forestry and increasing opportunities for adding value to forest and wildlife products.
 - v. Strengthening the dialogue with other sectors by adopting a proactive approach. The recommendation also called for harmonization of forestry and wildlife policies at country level.
 - vi. On policy, institutions and legislation, recommendations focused on promoting stronger linkages between national forest programmes and poverty reduction strategies, creating favourable institutional environments, promoting accountability and requesting regional economic organizations to consider forestry and wildlife.
 - vii. Capacity building was considered to be important at all stakeholder levels and should focus on measures to assess and enhance the actual contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation.

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

3.1 African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission

9. The Commission requested that FAO seek new and additional resources to underpin countries' efforts to reform, modernize and develop their forest institutions. Members emphasized the need for additional support to countries' implementation of their national forest programmes. (para 7)
10. The issue of the impacts of fire on carbon emissions and climate change needs more documented studies. The Conference recommended that FAO and relevant partners should pursue work on this issue in order to improve understanding and knowledge of both civil society and political leaders. (para 8)

11. Delegates commended the establishment of networks and working groups on fire in Sub-Saharan Africa. They urged FAO to strengthen these initiatives and to help countries make optimal use of remote-sensing data for bush fire prevention and control at different levels. (para 8)

12. The Commission recommended that FAO continue working with partners to develop the Fire Management Code and the Global Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management and to bring these to the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) based on national, sub-regional and regional inputs. Members underscored the need for training and support in the implementation of the guidelines and strategy once adopted. The Commission urged FAO and international partners to support capacity building for implementation of the strategy. (para 10)

13. The Commission recommended that FAO continue working with African partner organizations and institutions to elaborate a Planted Forest Code and to bring the code to the attention of COFO based on national, sub-regional and regional inputs. Members underscored the need for training and support in the implementation of the code once adopted. The Commission requested FAO and international partners to support capacity building for implementation of the code. (para 11)

14. The Commission requested FAO to urgently provide assistance with project facilitation under the Clean Development Mechanism, in order to access the emerging carbon market. FAO is further requested to enhance its efforts to raise the profile of and advocate forests in the ongoing negotiations on climate change. The Commission also urged FAO to intensify the flow of knowledge and information on forests and climate change to the forest sector in Africa. (para 15)

3.2 Developments in international forest-related agreements and initiatives

15. The Commission requested that FAO continue to inform major international processes of the potential and limitations of sustainable forest management, and have the key outcomes of the Commission introduced within the global dialogues, as appropriate. In addition the Commission requested that FAO support the efforts of African countries to coordinate their inputs to the development of the proposed non-legally binding instrument within UNFF. (para 18)

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA: (*Special Session*) (Item 4)

4.1 Accessing funds for sustainable forest management (partner panel)

16. The Commission requested that FAO, in collaboration with CPF member organizations, increase the information available on accessing funds for sustainable forest management. (para 19)

4.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Africa: state of forests and wildlife and trends in the region

17. The Commission requested FAO to continue the Global Forest Resource Assessment based upon the thematic elements of sustainable forest management. (para 27)

18. The Commission recommended that FAO link these assessments to the UN Millennium Development Goals and the global objectives on forests adopted through the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). (para 28)

19. The Commission recommended that FAO update the Forest Outlook Study for Africa as a means of reinforcing the connection between relevant information and effective policy development. (para 29)

20. The Commission requested FAO to expand its work on national forest assessments, to simplify data collection and analysis with an improved user-interface, and to seek more funding from international partners to support country capacity development. (para 31)

4.4 Forest Law Compliance

21. The Commission requested FAO to support countries in developing and implementing effective measures to combat illegality in the forest sector, including appropriate policies and legislation as well as capacity development within forestry institutions. The Commission also requested FAO to promote exchange of experiences between countries on current best practices for improving forest law compliance. (para 36)

MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS: REPORT OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

22. The Commission noted the prevalence and severity of human-wildlife conflict in many African countries and recommended that FAO provide information and technical advice to facilitate country efforts to formulate and implement strategies to prevent or mitigate these phenomena and to promote best practices. (para 37)

23. The Commission recognized the relationship between wildlife and poverty alleviation. Noting the substantial benefits that communities can derive from successful and responsible ecotourism development, the Commission recommended that FAO foster an exchange of information among countries on the required policy and legal environment to render ecotourism attractive for private sector investment. (para 37)

24. The Commission requested FAO to promote a people-centred approach in its work with wildlife and conservation organizations and networks. (para 37)

FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP

25. Participants adopted 17 recommendations addressed to the FAO Committee on Forestry that focus on supporting the implementation of the recommendations to countries. (para 39)

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

26. Recognizing the Committee on Forestry's stated desire to see the regional forestry commissions strengthened, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the renewed vitality of the AFWC, as demonstrated by the growing number of inter-sessional activities in the past two years and the record level of broad-based participation at its Fifteenth Session. The Commission considered it particularly noteworthy that these activities were achieved largely as a result of the commitment and contributions of the member countries themselves.

27. The Commission requested that future joint meetings of the regional bureaux held in conjunction with COFO be strengthened in order to provide guidance to address priority global issues on forests.

28. The Commission welcomed FAO's efforts to raise the political profile of forest issues through the Ministerial Meetings on Forests. It also emphasized the essential role of FAO in providing inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other global dialogues, including the development of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and other instruments and mechanisms that enhance sustainable management of forests worldwide.

29. The Commission drew attention to its call for FAO and other Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members to continue supporting member countries in implementing progress towards sustainable forest management through effective national forest programmes, which serve as a basis for coordinating the sector's inputs into achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with an emphasis on the contribution of forests to poverty reduction and food security. The Commission highlighted the important role of the National Forest Programme Facility in supporting member countries in this endeavour.

30. Further, the Commission emphasized the need for strengthening the knowledge base on implementation of sustainable forest management at policy as well as field levels and called for continued support from FAO to member countries in implementing national forest inventories and assessments, covering social, economic, environmental and inter-sectoral dimensions of forestry.

31. Recognizing the increasingly important role of planted forests, the Commission requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Planted Forests Code and recommend appropriate action.

32. Recalling the significant impact of fire on forest ecosystems in Africa, the Commission requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Fire Management Code and the Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Implementing the Fire Management Code, and recommend appropriate action.

33. Cognizant of the global concern over illegal logging and associated illegal trade of forest products, the Commission highlighted its request that FAO work with CPF members to provide technical support to help member countries control illegal logging and associated trade.

INTRODUCTION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Fifteenth Session in Maputo, Mozambique, from 29 March to 1 April 2006, at the kind invitation of the Government of Mozambique. The session was attended by 106 representatives from 40 member countries and observer countries, and 3 representatives of the United Nations system. Observers from 12 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations also attended. *Appendix B* provides a full list of participants.
2. Mr. R. Michael Martin, Director, Forestry Policy and Information Division, represented the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr. Pape Djiby Kone, Senior Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, served as Secretary of the Commission.
3. Mr. Said Helal, Second Vice-Chair of the Commission's 14th Session, opened the session and invited Mr. Antonio Loureiro, representative of the Mayor of Maputo, to say some words to welcome participants to the city. Mr. Martin delivered the FAO Statement. The Chair then invited Madam Graça Machel, as guest of honour, to address the meeting. In an important address to the Commission, Madam Machel called upon African leaders to urgently implement appropriate measures to halt the destruction of forest and wildlife resources. She underscored the obligation of the continent's leadership to ensure that its resources are used for the common benefit of ordinary citizens and not just for the profit of a few.
4. His Excellency Tomás Mandlate, Minister for Agriculture of Mozambique, in officially opening the 15th Session of the Commission, expressed his government's pleasure at hosting the session. He described current initiatives for community-based natural resources management and logging concession management plans. Specifically cited were examples of joint initiatives between government, local communities and the private sector, within a new policy and legal framework aimed at sustainable resource use and the improvement of local livelihoods. He also stressed the potential of non-traditional forest products for sector development and poverty alleviation. He concluded by expressing his full confidence in the ability of the Commission to provide FAO and member countries with the necessary guidance in the sustainable use of natural resources.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

6. 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:	Mr. A. Cuco (Mozambique)
1 st Vice-Chairperson	Mr. A.H.A. Hamid (Sudan)
2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Mr. M. Cissé (Senegal)
3 rd Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. B. Bezou (Republic of Congo)
Rapporteur:	Mr. A. Zaidi (Morocco)

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Item 3)

3.1 African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission

7. The support of FAO and key regional partners to Commission members in their efforts towards sustainable forest management was described. Members expressed appreciation to FAO and other regional institutions for their continuing support. The Commission requested that FAO seek new and additional resources to underpin countries' efforts to reform, modernize and develop their forest institutions. Members emphasized the need for additional support to countries' implementation of their national forest programmes. They underscored the significant role of civil society in promoting and implementing national forest programmes. The Commission urged international partners to continue and to increase funding to the National Forest Programme Facility.

8. The Commission noted the continuing and widespread damage to forests caused by wildfire. It welcomed the attention given to fire by the recent 24th Regional Conference for Africa, Bamako, January 2006, and encouraged the implementation of the recommendations emanating from that forum, namely that:

- FAO, in collaboration with relevant partners, pursue efforts to prepare fire control manuals and provide training and equipment to village-level fire brigades, as is done in some African countries.
- The issue of the impacts of fire on carbon emissions and climate change needs more documented studies. The Conference recommended that FAO and relevant partners should pursue work on this issue in order to improve understanding and knowledge of both civil society and political leaders.
- Delegates commended the establishment of networks and working groups on fire in Sub-Saharan Africa. They urged FAO to strengthen these initiatives and to help countries make optimal use of remote-sensing data for bush fire prevention and control at different levels.

9. The Commission noted that transboundary fires are of particular concern to several countries, and urged countries to establish cooperation agreements through appropriate sub-regional organizations.

10. The Commission recommended that FAO continue working with partners to develop the Fire Management Code and the Global Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Wildland Fire Management and to bring these to the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) based on national, sub-regional and regional inputs. Members underscored the need for training and support in the implementation of the guidelines and strategy once adopted. The Commission urged FAO and international partners to support capacity building for implementation of the strategy.

11. The Commission recognized planted forests as vital sources of industrial wood, bio-energy and non-wood forest products, and their valuable contribution to the generation of incomes and employment, conservation of soils, restoration of degraded landscapes and the provision of carbon sinks. The Commission recommended that FAO continue working with African partner organizations and institutions to elaborate a Planted Forest Code and to bring the code to the attention of COFO based on national, sub-regional and regional inputs. Members underscored the need for training and support in the implementation of the code once adopted. The Commission requested FAO and international partners to support capacity building for implementation of the code.

12. The Commission took note of the potential impacts of climate change on African people and forests and recognized the important roles of Africa's forests in the global carbon cycle. The Commission was informed of the possible importance for Africa of the new issue of compensating developing countries for reduced emissions from deforestation.

13. Currently, the international agreements on climate change address forests and provide funding for efforts to adapt and include them in National Communications through funds under the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. Countries will seek to avail themselves of these funds, and will consider integrating implementation of the Kyoto Protocol into national forest programmes.

14. The Commission took note of the modalities, problems and opportunities for forestry projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

15. The Commission requested FAO to urgently provide assistance with project facilitation under the Clean Development Mechanism, in order to access the emerging carbon market. FAO is further requested to enhance its efforts to raise the profile of and advocate forests in the ongoing negotiations on climate change. The Commission also urged FAO to intensify the flow of knowledge and information on forests and climate change to the forest sector in Africa.

3.2 Developments in international forest-related agreements and initiatives

16. The Commission was informed of the evolution of the international forest dialogue, including its developments under the auspices of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Additionally, the Commission was apprised of the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and FAO's support as a CPF member.

17. Members stressed the importance of a unified African position in the development of a non-legally binding instrument at UNFF 7 and on the need for sub-regional meetings as a preparatory step for developing the African contribution to the international dialogue in a regional meeting. They also proposed sub-regional consultations to provide inputs to the development of the Planted Forests Code.

18. The Commission requested that FAO continue to inform major international processes of the potential and limitations of sustainable forest management, and have the key outcomes of the Commission introduced within the global dialogues, as appropriate. In addition the Commission requested that FAO support the efforts of African countries to coordinate their inputs to the development of the proposed non-legally binding instrument within UNFF. The need for a unified engagement of African delegations in these processes was reiterated and members urged that international partners ensure adequate participation of Africa in these processes, with particular emphasis on sub-regional and regional organizations.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA: (*Special Session*) (Item 4)

4.1 Accessing funds for sustainable forest management (partner panel)

19. The Commission was informed of some of the major programmes supporting forestry development in Africa being funded by international development partners as well as funding opportunities and mechanisms available at multilateral level. The following countries and agencies made a presentation in the panel: Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United States, Netherlands, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (GM), and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Additionally, a number of countries described innovative approaches to financing their forestry practices. The Commission requested that FAO, in collaboration with CPF member organizations, increase the information available on accessing funds for sustainable forest management.

20. The Commission acknowledged that many development partners are moving away from earmarked funds for forestry development and shifting towards budgetary approaches. This change calls for a reprofiling of the forest sector within national priorities, and for the need to strengthen intersectoral relations and mainstream forest issues into the priority planning frameworks, namely Poverty Reduction Strategies. The important role to be played by national forest programmes was highlighted in this context. The Commission urged countries to develop successful public-private partnerships and promote an enabling environment for local investment in the sector.

21. The Commission urged development partners to show greater flexibility in the prevailing criteria for eligibility for international assistance. It also considered donor coordination at the country level as a critical element for success.

4.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Africa: state of forests and wildlife and trends in the region

22. The Commission was informed of progress towards sustainable forest management based on the recently-published Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA 2005) as well as other FAO studies, including the Forest Sector Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA). The report highlighted the high level of political commitment to sustainable forest management in Africa, as evidenced by the personal attention to this issue by a number of Heads of State and Ministers responsible for forests, including the Yaounde process in Central Africa. The report noted that in the past 15 years the majority of African countries have updated their forest laws and policies, and that two-thirds of African countries are implementing national forest programmes.

23. The report also emphasized, however, that progress towards sustainable forest management is slow and uneven. Forest area continues to decline in most countries, and the region as a whole is experiencing a net loss of about 4 million hectares of forest area every year. Africa is also experiencing high losses of forests due to fire.

24. While acknowledging the slow progress towards sustainable forest management, Members felt that their achievements were not adequately recognized. Further, Members emphasized that the driving forces leading to forest degradation were accelerating and called for more international development assistance. Members suggested that a trust fund or broad-based funding mechanism be established to support sustainable forest management.

25. The Commission confirmed the important contribution towards poverty alleviation of informal employment in the forest sector and also advised that, if figures from secondary and tertiary level processing were included, then the total formal employment in the sector may considerably exceed figures given in FRA 2005.

26. Moreover, several countries mentioned their difficulties in promoting sustainable forest management in the many large forest areas which lie outside the jurisdiction of forestry departments, such as in wildlife protected areas and open access land. Particular problems of fires and cross border illegality were reported by members in transboundary areas.

27. The Commission requested FAO to continue the Global Forest Resource Assessment based upon the thematic elements of sustainable forest management. The Commission, however, called for additional national level consultations in the preparation of future forest resource assessments, and stressed the importance of reflecting specific attributes of ecosystems, such as vegetation type, forest use and wildlife populations.

28. The Commission recommended that FAO link these assessments to the UN Millennium Development Goals and the global objectives on forests adopted through the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

29. Recognizing the importance of current and reliable information in policy formulation, Commission members agreed to improve, within their means, the quality and timeliness of information on forest condition and use. The Commission recommended that FAO update the Forest Outlook Study for Africa as a means of reinforcing the connection between relevant information and effective policy development.

30. The Commission welcomed the International Union of Forest Research Organizations' (IUFRO) renewed commitment to forestry research in Africa and the Commission emphasized the importance of education, training and research to sustainable forest management. It also emphasized the need to ensure that research programmes make direct contributions to sustainable forest management and policy-making.

31. Members also noted the need for capacity development on assessment at the national level, particularly with respect to non-wood forest products. The Commission requested FAO to expand its work on national forest assessments, to simplify data collection and analysis with an improved user-interface, and to seek more funding from international partners to support country capacity development.

4.3 Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through regional forestry cooperation: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other regional and sub-regional organizations (*partner panel*)

32. The Commission welcomed presentations made by a panel composed of representatives from the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the Western Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and resource persons from South Africa and FAO.

33. The Commission also acknowledged the increasing commitment from sub-regional organizations and the opportunity offered by regional frameworks such as the NEPAD Environment Initiative and the forestry component of the NEPAD-Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). These were regarded as positive and encouraging moves towards strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation and enhancing the forestry and wildlife contribution in socio-economic development.

34. The Commission further recommended that coordination within sub-regional organizations of forest policies with economic, environmental and social policies be improved in order to enhance the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and to the fulfilment of relevant commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals.

4.4 Forest Law Compliance

35. The Commission was informed of ongoing regional activities related to forest law enforcement. ITTO and FAO presented a joint initiative on best practices for improving law compliance in the forest sector, while COMIFAC reported on progress in the implementation of the Convergence Plan in the area of forest law enforcement and harmonization of policies. A third presentation informed about the status of the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) initiative in Ghana. In addition, Mozambique made a presentation on its efforts to develop and implement a participatory forest law enforcement strategy with support from FAO.

36. The Commission requested FAO to support countries in developing and implementing effective measures to combat illegality in the forest sector, including appropriate policies and legislation as well as capacity development within forestry institutions. The Commission also requested FAO to promote exchange of experiences between countries on current best practices for improving forest law compliance. Countries agreed to improve domestic forest law enforcement and governance and, to

this end, promote international cooperation to support international trade in timber and forest products from legally harvested and sustainably managed forests. The Commission urged countries to strengthen transboundary collaboration in combating illegal forestry activities.

MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS: REPORT OF THE 16TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

37. The Commission took note of the outcome of the 16th Session of the Working Party on forestry, wildlife and protected areas and addressed two categories of recommendations to member countries and the FAO Committee on Forestry.

Recommendations:

Addressed to the member countries of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

- i. Noting the role of policies and laws in facilitating crucial aspects of wildlife management, such as the involvement of communities and the private sector, the Commission urged countries to review and, if necessary, revise wildlife management policies and laws.
- ii. To address the issue of human-wildlife conflict, the Commission underscored the need for integrated and participatory land-use planning.

Addressed to the Committee on Forestry

- iii. The Commission noted the prevalence and severity of human-wildlife conflict in many African countries and recommended that FAO provide information and technical advice to facilitate country efforts to formulate and implement strategies to prevent or mitigate these phenomena and to promote best practices.
- iv. The Commission recognized the relationship between wildlife and poverty alleviation. Noting the substantial benefits that communities can derive from successful and responsible ecotourism development, the Commission recommended that FAO foster an exchange of information among countries on the required policy and legal environment to render ecotourism attractive for private sector investment.
- v. Given the importance of the contribution that wildlife makes to food security and poverty alleviation, the Commission highlighted the need to maintain an agenda that would address wildlife and forestry issues in a balanced manner.
- vi. The Commission requested FAO to promote a people-centred approach in its work with wildlife and conservation organizations and networks.

FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION: REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP (Item 6)

38. The workshop was attended by approximately 100 experts representing 35 countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and sub-regional organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations.

39. Workshop participants made 37 recommendations, addressed to countries, and 17 other recommendations addressed to FAO. These recommendations are included in the proceedings of the workshop appended to the present report. The Commission endorsed these recommendations as part of its recommendations.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 7)

40. Recognizing the Committee on Forestry's stated desire to see the regional forestry commissions strengthened, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the renewed vitality of the AFWC, as demonstrated by the growing number of inter-sessional activities in the past two years and the record level of broad-based participation at its Fifteenth Session. The Commission considered it particularly noteworthy that these activities were achieved largely as a result of the commitment and contributions of the member countries themselves.

41. The Commission requested that future joint meetings of the regional bureaux held in conjunction with COFO be strengthened in order to provide guidance to address priority global issues on forests.

42. The Commission welcomed FAO's efforts to raise the political profile of forest issues through the Ministerial Meetings on Forests. It also emphasized the essential role of FAO in providing inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other global dialogues, including the development of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and other instruments and mechanisms that enhance sustainable management of forests worldwide.

43. The Commission drew attention to its call for FAO and other Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members to continue supporting member countries in implementing progress towards sustainable forest management through effective national forest programmes, which serve as a basis for coordinating the sector's inputs into achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with an emphasis on the contribution of forests to poverty reduction and food security. The Commission highlighted the important role of the National Forest Programme Facility in supporting member countries in this endeavour.

44. Further, the Commission emphasized the need for strengthening the knowledge base on implementation of sustainable forest management at policy as well as field levels and called for continued support from FAO to member countries in implementing national forest inventories and assessments, covering social, economic, environmental and inter-sectoral dimensions of forestry.

45. Recognizing the increasingly important role of planted forests, the Commission requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Planted Forests Code and recommend appropriate action.

46. Recalling the significant impact of fire on forest ecosystems in Africa, the Commission requested COFO to evaluate progress on the development of the Fire Management Code and the Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Implementing the Fire Management Code, and recommend appropriate action.

47. Cognizant of the global concern over illegal logging and associated illegal trade of forest products, the Commission highlighted its request that FAO work with CPF members to provide technical support to help member countries control illegal logging and associated trade.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 8)

48. The Delegates of Malawi, on behalf of participants, conveyed their sincere thanks to the Government of Mozambique and the Ministry of Agriculture for hosting this session and for the excellent arrangements made. They further congratulated FAO for a successful session and expressed their appreciation for all efforts made to ensure the participation of member countries and for the excellent technical papers.

49. The representative of the African Academy of Sciences apologized for his late arrival to the meeting due to visa problems. He further provided information about the African participation in the

6th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and urged member countries and FAO to strengthen the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission as the potential regional mechanism for enhancing Africa's contribution to the international dialogue on forests.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 9)

50. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from Sudan to host the 16th Session of the Commission in March or April 2008. The delegation of Uganda offered its country as an eventual alternative venue.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 10)

51. The report of the 15th Session of the Commission was adopted by acclamation.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Forestry activities of interest to the region
 - 3.1 African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 14th Session of the Commission
 - 3.2 Developments in international forest-related agreements and initiatives
4. Implementation of sustainable forest management in Africa: *Special session*
 - 4.1 Accessing funds for sustainable forest management (*partner panel*)
 - 4.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Africa: state of forests and wildlife and trends in the region
 - 4.3 Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through regional forestry cooperation: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other regional and sub-regional organizations (*partner panel*)
 - 4.4 Forest law compliance
5. Management of wildlife and protected areas: report of the 16th Session of the Working Party
6. Forestry, wildlife and poverty alleviation: report of the workshop
7. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
8. Other business
9. Date and place of next session
10. Adoption of the report

Information sessions and other events

1. Planted forests code
2. Fire in the agriculture-forestry interface
 - report on the outcome of the 24th Regional Conference for Africa
 - activities of regional fire networks
 - voluntary guidelines for wildland fire management
3. Climate change issues
4. Tree-planting ceremony

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*APPENDIX C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda Item	Document Number	Title
1	FO:AFWC/2006/1 Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
3.1	FO:AFWC/2006/3.1	African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and other FAO-supported activities and initiatives, including follow-up to the recommendations of the 14 th Session of the Commission
3.2	FO:AFWC/2006/3.2	Developments in international forest-related agreements and initiatives
4.1	FO:AFWC/2006/4.1	Accessing funds for sustainable forest management
4.2	FO:AFWC/2006/4.2	Progress towards sustainable forest management in Africa (and colour supplement)
4.3	FO:AFWC/2006/4.3	Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals through regional cooperation: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and other regional and sub-regional organizations
4.4	FO:AFWC/2006/4.4	Forest law compliance
10	FO:AFWC/2006/ Draft Rep	Draft report of the 15 th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (in-session distribution)

Information documents

FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.1	Information note on Mozambique
FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.3	List of documents
FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.4.1	Planted forests code
FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.4.2	Fire in the agriculture-forestry interface
FO:AFWC/2006/Inf.5	Forests and climate change in Africa: rising to the challenges

APPENDIX D

**Report of the FAO Workshop on Forestry, Wildlife and Poverty Alleviation
Maputo, Mozambique
27 to 28 March 2006**

1. INTRODUCTION

The regional workshop on Forestry, Wildlife and Poverty Alleviation in Africa was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Mozambique from 27 to 28 March 2006 in Maputo, Mozambique, in conjunction with the 15th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) and the 16th Session of the Working Party on Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas.

Gathering from all sub-regions of Africa and beyond, more than 100 experts participated in the workshop from 35 countries, representatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

The Workshop was chaired by Mr. Bartolomeu Soto, the Chair of the 16th Session of the Working Party on Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas. The working groups were facilitated by Ms. Isilda Nhantumbo from the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Mr. Jean-Claude Nguinguiri from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Mr. Eduardo Mansur and Ms. Eva Muller of FAO acted as note-takers of the workshop. The results of the working group discussions were presented by Mr. Said Helal from Tunisia and Ms. Dorothy Kaggwa from Uganda.

The workshop was organized to increase awareness of the links between forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation, and to identify actions to maximise their contributions to this objective.

An introductory presentation made by IUCN highlighted the challenges and opportunities for forestry and wildlife to contribute to poverty alleviation in Africa. It was followed by three case studies from different countries of the region: Sahel ECO presented their experiences with the promotion of small, community-based forest enterprises in Tominian, Mali; CIFOR discussed the impacts of the commercialization of *Prunus africanus* (African Cherry) on poverty alleviation in Cameroon; and Wilderness Safaris, a private wildlife ecotourism company, presented their experiences with community-based conservation and poverty alleviation in the Southern African Region.

The presentations set the stage for the discussions in two parallel working groups, which addressed the following issues:

- current obstacles to a more effective contribution of forests and wildlife to reducing poverty in Africa;
- policy, legislative and institutional changes required by African countries to enhance the role of forestry and wildlife in poverty alleviation; and
- recommendations to the AFWC on the most important actions needed by countries and FAO to enhance the role of forestry and wildlife in poverty alleviation in Africa.

The recommendations were endorsed by the Fifteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission.

2. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussions revolved around the following clusters of issues identified as being crucial in relation to forestry, wildlife and poverty alleviation:

- information on actual and potential contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation
- community participation
- investment and markets
- dialogue with other sectors
- policy, institutions and legislation
- capacity building

2.1 Issues and constraints

1) Information on actual and potential contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation

- Lack of data on valuation of non-timber forest products and services.
- Inadequate information management to reach policy makers, local communities, private sector and other stakeholders.
- Lack of concrete evidence/data to demonstrate the contribution of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation (employment, rural income, etc) and convince politicians to consider forestry and wildlife.
- Lack of information about the extent of the contribution of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation; good examples exist but there is no systematic collection of data.
- Lack of information on collection and commercialization systems of non-wood forest products (NWFPs).
- Lack of technical information, e.g. about regeneration of medicinal plants.
- Where evaluations of actual and potential contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation are conducted, the information is often not synthesized for politicians and decision-makers.

2) Community Participation

- Inadequate representation of local stakeholders, including communities.
- Insufficient understanding of tangible and non-tangible benefits from forests and wildlife.
- Benefit-sharing issues.
- Lack of consideration of the needs of local communities in forest or national park management.
- Land and forest tenure insecurity; lack of access of local populations to resources.
- Conflict management.
- Capturing indigenous knowledge.

3) Investment and markets

- Prices established by buyers and not by producers.
- Lack of knowledge on value of forest products and services other than timber.
- Lack of knowledge on market opportunities and market chains.
- Lack of value-adding investment (processing, manufacturing).
- Undiscriminating markets and financiers.
- Lack of financing for communities.
- Lack of technologies that are appropriate for African conditions.

4) Dialogue with Other Sectors

- Low visibility of forestry and wildlife sector in poverty alleviation.
- Insufficient links with other sectors that are directly related to poverty alleviation and rural development (health, education, sanitation, water services, etc).
- Lack of holistic, integrated (cross-sectoral) planning at government level.

5) Policy, institutions and legislation

- Policies and legal framework for forestry and wildlife: some require formulation or revision, most require better implementation.
- Bureaucracy and overregulation.
- Centralization impedes adequate contributions of forestry and wildlife to reducing poverty.
- Research results are not communicated to communities and policy makers.
- Lack of political will and political support.
- Lack of harmonized forestry and wildlife policies within and between countries.
- Corruption and non-transparency.
- Misuse of forest and wildlife resources when they are abundant; actions are only taken when resources have become scarce.

6) Capacity building

- Lack of capacity amongst technicians for data collection, analysis and dissemination of information.
- Lack of capacity to address issues not common to foresters, such as valuation of natural resources.
- Lack of capacity of non-forestry related technicians to understand forest issues.
- Lack of capacity at community level to fully engage in co-management initiatives.
- Lack of technical capacity and human resources to expand forest sector to non-timber products and services.

2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Information on actual and potential contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation

Recommendations to countries:

- make policies, regulations and action plans known to people at all levels, including translation into local languages;
- promote the establishment of forest and wildlife information systems that take into account the proper valuation and accounting of forest products and services;
- raise awareness about non-timber forest products and services through media, non-governmental organizations or internal communication strategies;
- sensitize politicians and policy makers about the contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation to raise the profile of forestry and wildlife and enhance the understanding of the benefits they provide to the economy; and
- develop measurable indicators for assessing the contribution of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation.

Recommendations to FAO:

- promote regional dialogue to enhance sharing of information and experiences and harmonization of policies, including for transboundary natural resource management;
- assist countries in the development of criteria and indicators to assess the contributions of forestry and wildlife to poverty alleviation;
- assist countries' field projects to generate data about forest and wildlife products and markets; and
- assist countries in raising the profile of forestry and wildlife by facilitating activities at the sub-regional level and by supporting lobbying for the forest/wildlife sector, e.g. through advertising campaigns.

Community participationRecommendations to countries:

- develop policies and mechanisms which ensure secure benefits of forests and wildlife to local communities;
- provide further support to women engaged in forest and wildlife management for benefit sharing;
- multiply successful experiences that are generating direct benefit to communities;
- use a more formal and business-oriented approach in the engagement of local communities in sustainable forest management;
- promote alternative income generation for better livelihoods;
- assist communities in developing marketable products by capturing indigenous knowledge; and
- adapt forestry and wildlife research to needs of people and especially to the subject of poverty alleviation.

Recommendations to FAO:

- Support dissemination of successful methodologies to promote community participation in forest and wildlife management.

Investment and MarketsRecommendations to countries:

- increase opportunities for adding value and avoiding exportation of raw materials;
- promote payment of environmental services, especially to the communities that generate them;
- explore possibilities for African countries to benefit from carbon trade;
- facilitate the access to (micro) credit and other investment opportunities to improve the quality of forest products and services;
- promote trade within the African region and more south-south cooperation;
- undertake measures to make the informal forestry sector more competitive;
- encourage economic partnerships between communities, private sector and government;
- create benefit sharing arrangements in wildlife tourism between government and communities; and
- remove disincentives in policies and legislation for the private sector to invest in forestry and wildlife.

Recommendations to FAO:

- support technology transfer for value addition and use of best practices; and
- assist countries in exploring emerging opportunities for poverty alleviation, e.g. through payment of environmental services.

Dialogue with other SectorsRecommendations to countries:

- plan rural development in an integrated way, taking into consideration the relationship of forests and wildlife with other sectors (e.g. health, water, education, etc);
- adopt a more intersectoral approach and be proactive in establishing links with other sectors; and
- harmonize forestry and wildlife policies and legislation at country level as these sectors often attached to different ministries.

Recommendations to FAO:

- support intersectoral dialogue at international, regional and sub-regional levels;
- continue to assist regional organizations in forestry and wildlife activities and extend support to other sub-regions; and
- assist countries in reviewing agriculture and food security policies *vis a vis* forests.

Policy, Institutions and LegislationRecommendations to countries:

- create a favourable institutional environment to implement existing policies and strategies;
- promote stronger linkages between national forest programmes and national poverty alleviation strategies;
- promote accountability to increase allocation of funds in the forestry and wildlife sectors;
- ratify and implement agreed upon protocols related to forestry and wildlife at regional and sub-regional levels;
- sub-regional African economic organizations should take up forestry and wildlife issues and harmonize related policies; and
- develop legislation on privatization and decentralization to facilitate the establishment of economic partnerships between communities and private sector.

Recommendations to FAO:

- assist countries in Africa that still do not have an active national forest programme (nfp) involving all stakeholders;
- continue to provide support to wildlife issues;
- support strengthening the position of the forestry and wildlife sectors in African sub-regional organizations; and
- assist countries in the formulation and implementation of their policy and legal frameworks for forestry and wildlife.

Capacity Building

Recommendations to countries:

- prepare and train foresters to assess the multiple contributions of forests and wildlife to society and the environment;
- provide training to policy makers of other sectors to cope with forest and wildlife issues;
- promote greater collaboration amongst African research and education institutions, e.g. on issues related to climate change, appropriate technologies, etc.;
- promote curricula revision for education and training to address the links of forests and wildlife to poverty reduction;
- build capacity of communities in administrative and marketing skills; and
- capitalize on the lessons learned through projects and assume responsibility for follow-up.

Recommendations to FAO:

- support collaboration among African research and education institutions, e.g. on issues related to climate change, appropriate technologies;
- assist countries in capacity building for better valuation of forest products and services; and
- support vocational training and training centres in the region.

General recommendations

- a) The issues identified are not being discussed for the first time, but they have not been sufficiently addressed to date. Based on this conclusion, countries and FAO should monitor the implementation of the agreed recommendations.
- b) Countries and FAO should support civil society organization in their cross-cutting role in addressing the above-mentioned issues of forests, wildlife and poverty alleviation.
- c) Avian flu can have major negative impacts on the livelihoods of African societies, especially the rural poor. FAO and partners should assist African countries to address this urgent issue. Environmental elements of the Avian Flu should be investigated.

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