AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Sustainable management of Africa’s Forests and Wildlife resources: boosting Food Security and Resilience to Climate Change for improved livelihoods

Arusha - United Republic of Tanzania, 30 October - 03 November 2023

Progress on AFWC main thematic areas

Executive Summary
This document summarizes FAO’s activities related to the five African Forestry and Wildlife Commission thematic areas:

- Advocating for, and profiling Africa’s forests and wildlife;
- Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa;
- Climate Change: Restoration for resilience (including AFR100);
- Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa;
- Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession.

Suggested Actions by the Commission

The Commission is invited:

- Provide guidance for positioning FAO to support members in further advancing the recommendations and decisions in the region.
- Continues to support members in implementing the AFWC main programme of and report on progress made at its next Session.

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I. Introduction

1. This paper provides an overview of developments of relevance to the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission thematic priorities, notably:

   a. Advocating for, and profiling Africa's forests and wildlife;
   b. Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa;
   c. Climate Change: Restoration for resilience (including AFR100);
   d. Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa;
   e. Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession.

II. Key developments of relevance to AFWC thematic areas

A. Advocating for, and profiling Africa's forests and wildlife

2. FAO has played a key role, with support of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and partners, in promoting African forests in the agenda of global processes. This resulted in profiling African forests and forestry in different decisions and recommendations. More information on outcomes of these processes are available in the document FO:AFWC/2023/6.1.

3. FAO participated in the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) and the African Climate Week (ACW) co-hosted by African Union and the Government of Kenya to discuss sustainable solutions to global climate challenges under the theme "Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World".

4. FAO participated in the Opening segment of the ministerial session on ACS/ACW and the ACS Ministerial Session on “Investment Opportunities for Food Systems Transformation in Africa”. The session delivered a unified African vision to transform sustainable food systems given the challenges posed by climate change. The presentations and discussions showcased existing initiatives, announced new investments, and promoted strategies for doubling agricultural production and productivity by 2030. Additionally, opportunities for intra-African trade, and harnessing private sector investments to achieve green growth were presented.

5. FAO and partners profiled the forests and wildlife sectors in Africa at various fora, such as:

   a. The United Nations High-level Side event on: “Sustainable Investment, Consumption and Production in the Green and Blue Economies”. Co-led by FAO and UNIDO, the one UN joint programme provided a platform for stakeholder engagement on sustainable agriculture, land and water/ocean use including climate-related social vulnerabilities. The event focused on transition to more sustainable food systems in Africa and addressed various risks that affect sustainability, as well as environmental crime. During the event, the Joint Programme implementation got a boost by attracting Euro 1.5 million which was co-signed during the event.

   b. High level Side-event on “Climate Finance for Adaptation in Agriculture and Food Security in Africa” organized by FAO, The Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. The High-Level event sought to identify crucial interventions in finance, policy, innovation, and knowledge to enhance climate resilience and adaptation in agri-food systems. It articulated the need to support the development of nutrition-sensitive agri-food systems that can help these systems withstand climate challenges while promoting economic growth in the region. The discussions advocated for better and blended finance, private investments, lending options, and risk insurance to bolster climate adaptation initiatives and bring about transformative
improvements in the agri-food systems of the continent. To facilitate this, bold transformative actions are needed to boost investment, support countries in accessing climate finance, and ensure that appropriate financial resources reach small and medium-scale food producers.

c. High level event at the Summit of three basins was organized in Congo Brazzaville in end of October 2023. The event highlighted the importance of tropical forests, mangroves and peatlands, climate change, biodiversity and related finance.

B. Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa

6. An additional funding of EUR 25 million has been successfully sought from the European Union to extend and scale up the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme from August 2023 to August 2026. Work is ongoing to support African countries in mobilizing resources for a funding for a “possible initiative on forest food”. A virtual workshop on “Forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition - Defining priorities for the sustainable use in Africa” is under preparation.

7. Under United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNDER), FAO supported the development of World Restoration Flagships (Great Green Wall and the Small Island Developing States) to enhance visibility and scale up restoration on the ground. In Sao Tome and Principe, the Restoration Initiative (TRI) project funded by the Global Environment Facility is collaborating with the banking sector to enhance capacity and develop a more conducive financial framework for Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR).

8. FAO supported several countries to develop Global Environment Facility (GEF) proposals under GEF7. Several GEF and GCF have even been mobilized/implemented in Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Several projects are under preparation to be supported through GEF-8, in Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia, Mauritius, Zimbabwe.

9. FAO supported ECOWAS countries in mobilizing climate financing. A total amount of USD 228 730 500 is added to the budget mobilized in 2022 including, Bilateral funding from Canada of about USD 25 000 000 for Senegal; USD 43 000 000 for Benin and Cabo Verde; and USD 30 000 000 for Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan; and through Green Climate Fund, about USD 160 730 500 were mobilized for Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Two GCF projects are currently in final stage of approval by GCF targeting Malawi and Kenya.

10. A regional event on “Unlocking finance for smallholder forest and farm producers: Lessons and practices for landscape restoration and sustainable production in Africa” took place in Nairobi from 18 to 20 April 2023. The event was attended by over two-hundred in person participants from several African countries. Resource mobilization efforts were initiated in support of forest-based value chains in Uganda and in support of AFR100.

11. In Mozambique, the project “Payment for Ecosystem Services to Support Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods”, funded by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) was completed in November 2022. The project advanced regulatory reforms aiming at using forest taxes as incentives by communities to implement sustainable forestry practices.

12. More information on Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa are reported under FO:AFWC/2023/2.4.
C. Climate Change: Restoration for resilience

13. Several project/programme related to forest and landscape restoration has been developed and/or implemented, including those facilitated by the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. These includes several project funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund:

i. FAO support several forest and landscape restoration initiatives from countries including the Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa’s Great Green Wall (SURAGGWA), and three other restoration projects in Senegal, Burkina Faso-Mali, and Burkina Faso-Mali-Niger.

ii. Global Environment Facility Least Developed Countries Fund – (GEF LDCF) projects under development in Central African Republic, Lesotho, Zambia and Tanzania using landscape and restoration/community forestry as main approach to enhance resilience of local communities.

iii. FAO is implementing a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Projects in Botswana, Comoros, and Zambia, and main output of these Projects focus on the development of national action plan/strategy for land and forest restoration.

iv. As part of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) programme, French Global Environment Facility Programme (FFEM) programme and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) projects.

v. Develop local FLR strategies / action plans (Provincial Strategy on FLR for South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo).


vii. Continuous support to AFR100 initiative to strengthen monitoring framework for restoration. FAO is currently working with AUDA-NEPAD with financial support from Germany/BMZ to establish “financing mechanism” for AFR100 in Africa.

14. FAO as co-lead of the Taskforce on best practices of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNDER) developed and launched the 10 Principles of Ecosystem Restoration to guide the implementation of the UNDER. At the 10th World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Darwin in September 2023, FAO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Society for Ecological Restoration launched the Standards of Practice to guide ecosystem restoration.


16. Progress report on AFR100, as provided by the AFR100 Secretariat based at the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is available at FO:AFWC/2023/INF.5

D. Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa

17. FAO launch the second implementation phase of the SWM programme (SWM2) from 1 August 2023, including extension to Cameroon as new African site. More information on Sustainable wildlife management in Africa and the Sustainable Wildlife management programme achievements from 2018 to 2023 can be found respectively at FO:AFWC/2023/4 and FO:AFWC/2023/INF.4.
18. The Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and FAO are collaborating on the development of a standardized approach to assess direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, piloted in six countries in Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon. A good understanding of why and where forest disturbances occur is instrumental for the development of targeted policies and actions aiming to reduce the loss of forests in the Congo Basin. There is a dedicated page on FAO/in-action and results were recently published in Land Use Policy.

19. In Congo, FAO is also leading technical support to operationalize the National Measurement, Reporting and Verification System (abbreviated in French as SYNA-MRNV), contributing to the generation of timely, accessible and transparent data, which will be used to monitor REDD+ progress, estimate greenhouse ha emissions and removals specific to the forest and land use sectors.

20. FAO provides strong support linked to REDD+ on sustainable agroforestry practices among local farmers, providing sustainable alternatives to the slash-and-burn agriculture and fuelwood collection.

E. Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession

21. Through the FAO e-learning Academy, FAO published two e-learning course on “Developing Bankable Business Plans for Sustainable Forest-Based Enterprises”, “Bankable business development for FLR” and “Forest Genetic resources for FLR”. In September 2023 a technical webinar was held on these topics with over 1500 registrants, about half of them from Africa.

22. As part of TRI programme, FAO supported the local universities in South Kivu, the Democratic Republic of Congo to organize training programme on FLR and undertook capacity needs assessment and curriculum evaluation of national technical institutions in Central African Republic.

23. As part of the project “Forests for a Sustainable Future: Educating Children” (GCP/INT/349/GER), FAO has developed interactive, hands-on forest-based learning modules to educate children aged nine to twelve in the United Republic of Tanzania about the importance of forests and the need to manage them sustainably. The project was implemented in the United Republic of Tanzania from 2019 to 2023 in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Tanzanian forestry experts and educators. It produced three modules inspired by the "education for sustainable development" (ESD) approach. The modules will be released during a national and Africa regional event planned for the fourth quarter of 2023. To facilitate their adoption in schools, the event will include a training session to introduce selected teachers to the pedagogical approach and methodology.