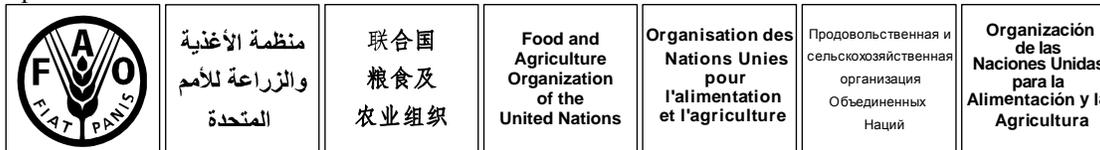


April 2012



FAO Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012

SUMMARY REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO REGIONAL BODIES

I. REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (AFCAS)

The 22nd Session of AFCAS was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30th November to 3rd December 2011. Delegates from AFCAS member countries as well as representatives from national, regional and international institutions participated.

1.1 Goals of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics

- Study the status of food and agricultural statistics in the region;
- Advise Member countries on the development and harmonization of agricultural statistics in the general context of FAO's statistical activities;
- Organize meetings for study groups or other subsidiary bodies made up of national experts to achieve these goals.

1.2 Key Issues Discussed

- Launching of State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010-2011: "Women in agriculture : closing the gender gap for development";
- FAO's Activities in Food and Agricultural Statistics relevant to Africa Region since the last 21st Session of the Commission;
- Conclusions and recommendations of the two technical meetings organized back-to-back with AFCAS;
- Global Strategy for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development : action plan for Africa;
- State of Food and Agricultural Statistics;

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

- Agricultural Census, methods and tools;
- New work on International Classification in FAO;
- New developments in Food Security Statistics;
- Framework and indicators for monitoring climate change and Environment;
- New Developments in statistics concerning agricultural sub-sectors;

1.3 Main Recommendations

- FAO is requested to provide the necessary training allowing for enhanced analysis of available gender--disaggregated data, providing policymakers with the required gender information on the basis of which they can make relevant policy decisions;
- member countries should ensure that gender-relevant indicators are prepared at the start of all development initiatives, indicating data requirements – both quantitative and qualitative – to be satisfied by national data collection exercises.
- conclusions and recommendations of the expert meeting on cost of production and the consultative meeting on CountrySTAT were endorsed.
- FAO is requested to use CountrySTAT for the dissemination of data on country censuses. Countries and other stakeholders should be involved in future work on the development of Cost of Production statistics.
- It should be noted a strain is put on limited country resources to work with different statistical systems.
- the partnership for the Africa Action Plan of the Global Strategy (AAPGS) should be broadened to include more institutions such as ILRI, IFPRI, AFRISTAT and CGIAR so that their work can contribute more directly to the success of the Global Strategy.
- the cost of production and post harvest losses be put as priority in the research topics for Africa.
- on-the-job training be emphasized during the implementation phase of the training component of the AAPGS.
- countries strongly support the effective implementation of AAPGS for improvement of agricultural statistics systems.
- FAO ensure improved data harmonization and exchange between CountrySTAT and FAOSTAT systems.
- member countries develop access policy to foster the utilization of Micro data.
- FAO and UNFPA continue providing technical guidelines and standard questions for linking population and agricultural censuses while organizing a series of training activities in the different regions with the participation of demographers and statisticians.
- countries achieve a systematic reconciliation of data from the agricultural census with the data series of the current statistics.
- FAO document and evaluate all best practices about the new tools (CAPI/GPS, PDA) and prepare guidelines and training materials on the use of these devices.
- member countries utilize survey documentation utilizing standard tools such as IHSN.
- FAO, the AFCAS member countries, and regional organizations work together for the improvement of the coverage of food and agriculture in international classifications and their extension at country level.
- FAO work in close collaboration with countries in the validation process of Supply Utilization Accounts/ Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS), (through CountrySTAT focal points) in order to

- ensure better compatibility of Food Balance Sheets available on the FAO website and those developed by the AFCAS member countries and regional organizations.
- FAO organize capacity building through training workshops on Supply Utilization Accounts/ Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS) in collaboration with CountrySTAT.
 - that FAO initiate work related to environmental statistics and accounting while pursuing the development and implementation of this initiative.
 - member countries give a better profile to environmental statistics in the national statistical systems.
 - further research and clarifications on the methodologies for developing agriculture investment statistics.
 - improved cooperation between FAO and other partner institutions that are conducting studies in agriculture investment statistics.
 - the fisheries and aquaculture sector should continue developing work on statistics and accounting, as it has made important contributions to food security and environment accounting.
 - further collaboration and communication among sub sectors to achieve effective integration.

1.4 Member Countries

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

II. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (CECAF)

2.1 Main issues addressed by the meeting

The twentieth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), was held in Rabat, Morocco, from 16 to 18 March 2012. Delegations from nine members attended the session. Ten partners in the region attended as observers.

The Committee aimed to discuss progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the nineteenth session, main outcomes of the sixth Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC), the CECAF Performance Review Report and report on activities of other projects/programmes and partners in the region. The role of the SSC is to give scientific advice to guide the activities of the different fisheries stakeholders in the respective CECAF member countries to improve food security for the increasing populations.

2.2 Outcomes of the meeting

The Committee deplored the relatively long intersessional period but has appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of recommendations of the nineteenth Session.

The report of the sixth SSC and the corresponding management recommendations for main pelagic and demersal stocks exploited in the region, were presented and adopted.

- Particular concern was expressed with the state of the fisheries stocks which remain overexploited, stressing the need to establish concerted management mechanisms on shared stocks while recognizing the importance of awareness raising efforts making managers and politicians aware of the serious situation for many stocks, particularly demersal stocks in their countries and the recommendations made by CECAF.
- Fisheries research for all the region, improvement of data collection schemes (including biological sampling) and conducting regular national and regional scientific surveys were encouraged to ensure more reliable information for the assessment of stocks and scientific advice.
- It was recommended to prepare a revised format of the working groups summaries and to review publication procedures to shorten the publication period to ensure availability of all working groups reports before the next SSC, to facilitate review and discussions by the SSC on the assessments made.
- The Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) facilitate the sharing and dissemination over the web of status and trends information on resources, fisheries and their management. In this respect, the SSC appreciated the progress that had been made on the validation of Resources and Fisheries Inventories for the CECAF region available in FIRMS through a consultative approach involving national focal points. These inventories will shortly be made available through FIRMS. Approaches and responsibilities for future updates were agreed upon, and the potential role of CECAF in organizing information sharing among institutions of the region was highlighted. The SSC decided to appoint the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee as the FIRMS focal point for the CECAF region.
- The SSC noted with appreciation the different activities undertaken to further implementation of EAF, covering areas such as University training, ecosystem surveys and management planning, while recognizing the important role of the EAF-Nansen project in this regards. The SSC recommended continuation of this work including integrating EAF as part of the curriculum on fisheries at national level.
- The role of surveys to strengthen the knowledge base for EAF was recognized, and in this respect the lack of a comprehensive survey in parts of the sub-region for an quite some time was noted. The need to establish partnerships and co-financing arrangements to support the surveys was reiterated as well the need to plan and analyse the results in a region in a comprehensive manner to ensure standardization of methods and analysis of data in the CECAF area.
- In evaluating options for revision of CECAF statistical divisions as requested by the 19th CECAF session, the SSC recommended not to revise the current divisions, but encouraged the incorporation of more detailed catch location in catch statistics submitted to FAO and that all countries which fished in the CECAF area outside their own national jurisdiction should also specify the EEZ in which their catches occurred besides reporting data by statistical division only.
- The SSC highlighted the importance of continued support to improvement of data collection for small scale fisheries and recommended that FAO Fish Code STF should further its support on improvement of data collection and reporting methods for small scale fisheries and extend its activities the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) area.
- The SSC noted with appreciation the work of the EAF-Nansen and Canary Current projects, and welcomed the news on the extension of the EAF-Nansen, and the upcoming NEPAD FAO Fisheries project (NFFP) due to start the full phase in 2012.

- The following work program was recommended for the coming intersession, pending funding availability: 2011 for Demersal South Working group (already organized); 2012 for Small Pelagic North (May) and Small pelagic South (last quarter of 2011); and 2013 for Demersal North.

The Committee:

- Expressed its appreciation for the work done by the SSC, in particular with regards to the results of the assessments carried out, and highlighted the pertinence of this information to managers and policy makers.
- Recommended to improve data collection and scientific research, to continue and maintain existing data series and ensuring that all data are made available to the Working Groups for the assessments, and to improve linkages between CECAF and other organizations conducting assessments in the region was stressed.
- Reiterated the importance of concerted management for shared stocks, and the need for managers from the different countries concerned to agree on a sharing scheme for these stocks.
- Made suggestions as to how the adoption of the recommendations by managers could be improved through for example ensuring stronger linkages with the sub-regional fisheries bodies and strengthening communication at national level between fisheries research and administration to make sure that the scientific recommendations are taken into consideration.
- Suggested the need to ensure stronger linkages with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to facilitate funding mechanisms.

The main results and conclusions of the CECAF Performance Review exercise was discussed, including 24 recommendations on possible ways to address the problems detected, so that CECAF performance could be enhanced in the future. The Committee:

- Highlighted the pertinence of the technical review, and stressed the importance of CECAF to the countries in the region, especially in a time where information from science is increasingly important, given advances in fisheries in the region and the need to ensure sustainability.
- Recognized the value of the recommendation to expand the Convention Area southward, in order to include the Angolan coast, and considered problematic the possible restriction of the Convention Area to the EEZ of coastal member countries, requiring further analysis and discussion.
- Emphasized that CECAF members should carefully consider the serious issue of lack of participation by CECAF members in the meetings of the Committee and of its SSC, taking into account the importance of the Committee for the fisheries management in the region.
- Warned that a way should be found to bring everybody on-board including distant water states that had not participated in any of the Committee meetings for a long time, encouraging people to attend, starting by coastal states.
- Emphasized the need of a continued support from FAO to the work of CECAF, both technically and financially, agreed that alternatives for having extra budgetary funding secured for the Committee should also be actively pursued, and recommended to members countries to make an effort to secure funding from their national budget to participate in at least some CECAF meetings was recommended.
- Strongly recommended to the Secretariat to hold soon regional meetings for coordination to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the several regional fisheries bodies and projects active in the region, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

- Agreed on the need to update the CECAF statutes, in order to incorporate modern concepts of fisheries management, such as the Ecosystem Approach and the Precautionary approach.
- Recommended to members to improve the provision of data to have more refined biological information on the species caught, since this was considered essential to allow the use of more sophisticated models to assess the state of the exploited stocks.
- Recommended to the Secretariat to prepare an action plan to address the different recommendations of the Performance Review exercise for further review by CECAF members.

Morocco has been elected as Chairman of the Committee. Guinea (Conakry) and Equatorial Guinea were elected respectively first and second vice-presidents. The Republic of Guinea proposed to host the twenty first session of the Committee, the Director general of FAO, in consultation with the host country, will decide about the date.

2.3 Member Countries

Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Congo Democratic Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo as well as Spain, Cuba, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, European Union and the United States of America.

III. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA (CIFAA)

3.1 Main objectives

The 16th Session of CIFAA was held in Maputo, Mozambique, 16-18 November 2010. Action was planned on two issues initiated during the 15th Session: the approval of revised Terms of Reference and Statutes for the Committee as well as expansion of work of the ad hoc Working Group for a Regional Inland Fisheries Strategy. Furthermore, action was anticipated on the termination of the work of the Lake Tanganyika Sub-Committee [this now replaced by the Lake Tanganyika Authority] and the end of the ad hoc Working Group on a “NACA-Like” Aquaculture Network for Africa in favour of a more substantive arrangement with members [i.e., ANAF Partners structure] as recommended by the Working Group and pending the ultimate establishment of the planned ANAF IGO. In addition to these points, three new agenda items were prepared: challenges to improved aquaculture governance, regional concerns involving the production and dissemination of improved aquaculture seed and adaptation strategies for climate change as it relates to inland fisheries and aquaculture.

3.2 Results and Recommendations

- with chronic problems regarding participation, FAO should engage a consultant to review the current situation and, in consultation with an ad hoc Working Group convened during the present Session for this task, prepare a paper for CIFAA 17 on options for the way forward [i.e., “future of CIFAA”].
- more countries should join ANAF and that those ANAF Members continue to support the Group.

- the “TIVO Programme” has highlighted critical concerns and should serve as a regional prototype, a regional framework needing to be elaborated for the multiplication and dissemination of improved aquaculture seed, possibly linking this to the work of ANAF.
- in regard to difficulties facing investors in the aquaculture sub-sector, FAO, in collaboration with ANAF, should conduct a regional review on different funding schemes and conditions; disseminating results to Member countries.
- with growing importance of Environmental Impact Assessments in relation to aquaculture investment, but also with the potential financial burden these may impose on smallholders and options should be examined including more frequent use of strategic impact assessments.
- Underlining the importance of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in pushing aquaculture forward, FAO should assist in capacity building for implementing the Code in the Region.
- Members agreed that a strategy on regional and sub-regional collaboration and cooperation was essential and should be pursued in order to address issues of common interest; FAO continuing to provide assistance, again considering a possible role for ANAF.
- Delegates confirmed that the FAO Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa was a suitable model on which to base a CIFAA Strategy for Inland Fisheries of Africa, whilst inland fisheries should be included in national strategies such as the National Mid Term Program Frameworks and in programmes such as CAADP.
- CIFAA should develop a strategy on climate change which should address short, mid and long term issues. Toward this end an expert consultation was proposed to discuss improved planning and the inclusion of climate change in national strategies. FAO was further requested to conduct an in-depth study on climate change, to identify important fishery and aquaculture resources in relation to the subject, to help raise awareness and to advise Members on measures to adapt to or/and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The ad hoc Working Groups on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Networking met outside the Session. It was agreed that both groups continue their efforts. The ad hoc Working Group on Inland Fisheries would continue their deliberations for preparing and implementing a Strategy for Inland Fisheries of Africa. The “ANAF Group” discussed the consolidation of networking activities in the Region.

3.3 Member Countries

Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

IV. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC), OF A SPECIAL AD HOC MEETING HELD TO CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF A PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

4.1 Objective

The Commission's objective is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the area of the Commission, through an adequate management and development of the fisheries in the region, and to address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the Members of the Commission.

4.2 The Fifth Session

The fifth Session of the SWIOFC was held in Male', Maldives from 13 to 16 March 2011. It was attended by all member countries except France, Somalia and Yemen. The Agulhas-Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) project, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Swedish Board of Fisheries, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), and the World Bank (WB) attended as observers.

The Commission noted the work undertaken since the 4th Session with satisfaction. Members reiterated the high priority of safety at sea and the related issue of piracy. They suggested that the proposed Conference on the contribution of fisheries development and aquaculture to the Millennium Development Goals should be broadened to encourage funding. The Commission considered the report of the Scientific Committee, reviewed the recommendations of the first working group on small pelagic and demersal fishes, and discussed the status of fisheries resources. The Commission decided to formally ask members with depleted resources to present the measures being undertaken to rehabilitate those stocks. It also reflected on the outcomes of COFI and of the Regional Fisheries Bodies Network, considered and suggested modifications to the performance review of the Commission, and proposed that review results be considered in a special sitting of the Commission, to be held back-to-back with the Steering Committee of SWIOFP in 2011. The Commission was informed of a tool under development by the EAF-Nansen project to monitor the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. The Scientific Committee was requested to integrate this tool with its other assessment responsibilities. Following discussion on the paucity of established management plans, the Commission agreed on providing a framework for SWIOFP and EAF-Nansen to provide training in the development of fisheries management plans. A special SWIOFP Steering Committee had been held immediately before the Fifth Session and the members concerned had reviewed the project. The Commission endorsed a coordinative role in a project proposal to be presented to the African Union-led strategic partnership for an investment fund to promote sustainable fisheries in Africa. It also made a statement expressing concern about the threat of piracy to sustainable fisheries management. A programme of work was considered and agreed.

4.3 The Special Meeting

The Special Meeting of the SWIOFC was held in Maputo, Mozambique on the 30 September 2011. It was attended by all member countries except Yemen. The ASCLME project, the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the SWIOFP, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the WB attended as observers.

The meeting considered responses to a questionnaire on SWIOFC's performance. It noted that the scores for the evolving context and challenges were variable. It discussed the low level of response received and recommended that the reviewer make full use of verbal comments received at the Fifth Session of the Commission, Maldives, March 2011. It noted that the scores for the effectiveness of existing arrangements were more consistent and there was concurrence with the observations and summary of the reviewer. There was unanimous support for a significant reinforcement of the SWIOFC and a request for concrete proposals for the strengthening of the Commission to be presented at the Sixth Session in Mauritius, 2012. The Commission also considered a discussion paper prepared for the World Bank on fisheries governance and agreed that it should proceed following further comment by members. It was briefed on the Western Indian Ocean Sustainable Ecosystem Alliance, presented a study on the economic valuation of tuna and was updated on fisheries in Somalia.

4.4 The 5th session of the Scientific Committee

The Fifth Session of the Scientific Committee of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 27 February to 1 March 2012. It was attended by delegates from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania. Representatives of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), EAF-Nansen project, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), the Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Database (WIOFISH) and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) attended as observers.

The Committee reviewed the research activities carried out by its member countries in the intersessional period, and particularly the status of the major fish stocks and fisheries as presented by each member country in its status tables, together with the report of the Fish Stock Assessment Working Group. It reviewed the dynamics of some better-studied fish stocks and fisheries of the region, concluding that several of these stocks had been at very low levels, allowing almost no exploitation, with important social and economic consequences, for several decades now, after a period of excessive exploitation. The SC considered that this demonstrates the importance of adequate and timely science-based fisheries management to maintain the productivity of important fish stocks and fisheries. After an extensive discussion on ways to improve the quality and timeliness of its advice to the Commission, the SC decided to request the FAO Secretariat of the SWIOFC to prepare a proposal for a framework adapting the “Weight-of-Evidence Approach” as used by a number of Australian fisheries management bodies, to the conditions in the SWIOFC region, to be used as a supplement to an adaptation of the existing status tables. This proposal will be reviewed at the next SC meeting, preferably already with a test case by some or all of the members. The SC also reviewed the progress of Members in developing and implementing Fisheries Management Plans including the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) principles, and encouraged all members to continue their efforts on developing these Plans.

The Committee also reviewed the status of implementation of EAF in the region, and requested the Chair and the Secretary to liaise with the EAF-Nansen Coordinator and the Regional Task Group leader to prepare a report on this implementation for the RIO+20 Conference.

4.5 Member Countries

Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Yemen

V. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Eighteenth Session in Cotonou, Benin, from 16 to 20 January 2012. The session was attended by 132 representatives from 19 member countries. Observers and representatives of organizations of the UN system also attended. The Commission discussed five key agenda items as follows:

5.1 FRA 2010: Review of the African Perspective and Capacity Development Needs for Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) in Africa

The Commission was informed of the key findings of FRA 2010 for the region and the draft long-term strategy for the FRA programme, as well as main challenges of the reporting process. The Commission took note of the problems encountered by member countries in reporting and expressed the need to build capacity and improve reporting on relevant topics.

5.3 Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services

The Commission was informed about the growing importance of payments for forest-based ecosystem services and the potential to generate revenue. Noting the limited experience of Africa in this area, the Commission identified several obstacles to successfully harness these mechanisms, including lack of adequate information and capacity.

5.4 REDD (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Experiences in Africa and Capacity Development on REDD Issues

The Commission was informed of the on-going REDD+ initiatives, related challenges and lessons learned in Africa. The Commission noted the difficulties experienced by some countries in getting information and guidance on accessing benefits from REDD+ mechanism. It recognized the need for broadening the scope of REDD so as to include the dry zones of Africa where forests represent an essential resource for the livelihoods of people.

5.5 Experiences in the Implementation of Human and Wildlife Conflict Prevention and Mitigation

Based on the experiences and challenges in the implementation of human and wildlife conflict (HWC) prevention and mitigation, the Commission stressed the need for collaboration to further field-test methods under local conditions and the development and implementation of relevant national policies and strategies. It also called for addressing the “causes” of conflicts, such as land use changes.

5.6 Outcomes of the Eighteenth Session

The 18th Session made several recommendations to its members, FAO, the Committee on Forestry (COFO), and ARC. The principal recommendations to ARC and members were:

- Encouraged governments to establish a permanent process of data collection for FRA and to involve research organizations.
- Recommended that members raise awareness and exchange of lessons learned to build national capacities that promote and up-scale good practices in fire management.
- Recommended that member countries continue sharing experiences on HWC prevention and mitigation; and collaborate with FAO in: (i) improving the HWC toolkit; (ii) developing local, national and sub-regional strategies for HWC prevention and mitigation, and (iii) developing reporting and monitoring systems.
- Urged members to continue to cooperate by sharing experiences and lessons learned in forest governance.
- Requested members to promote synergies between REDD+ and other initiatives, such as national forest programmes and forest law enforcement and governance.
- Recommended that countries continue to make available to the their report on measures taken in order to follow up on recommendations of the seventeenth session of AFWC.

Recommendation to the Regional Conference, The Commission

- Recommended that the issue of HWC prevention and mitigation is brought to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa taking into account the importance of this cross-sectoral issue affecting rural livelihoods, food security, health and natural resources conservation.

Recommendations to the Committee on Forests and to FAO, The Commission:

- Requested FAO to assist member countries in developing common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation.
- Requested FAO to assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment.
- Supported the establishment of a Multi Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management.
- Requested FAO to assist members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans for fire management, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach.
- Requested FAO to assist member countries in enhancing institutional capacities and promoting knowledge sharing on payment for forest ecosystem services at the national and subregional levels.
- Requested FAO to develop a platform in the region for South-South cooperation and exchange of information on best approaches, methodologies and practices on payment for forest ecosystem services.
- Requested FAO to facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels.
- Requested FAO to assist countries in identifying actions of high REDD potentials, and support the development and implementation of programmes and projects in this regard.
- Requested FAO to continue assisting member countries in HWC prevention and mitigation, and mobilize additional resources to support growing demand for technical assistance.
- Requested FAO to support members in their efforts to design, introduce and implement community-based forest and wildlife management programmes.
- Requested FAO to provide technical support to members to build capacity and deepen the understanding of community-based forest and wildlife management and also help build the capacity building programmes for local communities.
- Requested FAO to undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation among them and supporting training at technician and grassroots levels.
- Requested FAO to support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- Recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research
- Requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest communication both on national and regional levels.
- Supported Nigeria's candidature as Chairperson of COFO 21 in September 2012.

5.7 Members of the Commission

Algeria; Angola; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Egypt; Equatorial

Guinea; Ethiopia; France; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Madagascar ; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Sudan; Swaziland; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe.