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AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTIETH SESSION

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REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1. This document is a compilation of the series of reports submitted by nine members of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) on the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 19th Session of the Commission held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 30 September to 4 October 2013.

2. Countries that have submitted reports to the Secretariat are: Burundi, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, and Togo. It must be noted that not all the reporting countries have implemented all recommendations.

The Commission:

encouraged members to adequately capture forestry and wildlife sector's contribution in national accounts.

3. Burundi is in the process of promoting niche tourism aimed to develop conservation efforts through means such ecotourism in protected areas and wildlife spotting in different parks and reserves. Further, Burundi is developing community reforestation programmes as a source of alternative incomes to better stimulate development in forestry and wildlife related sectors.

4. The Central African Republic stated that forestry and wildlife contributes to 7 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, the full extent of non-timber products related to forestry and wildlife statistically are not yet fully accounted for in CAR.

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5. For Ethiopia, gross GDP and contribution of the forestry and wildlife sector are still under review and have yet to be fully accounted for in the national economy. Non-timber and wildlife contribution has yet to be fully considered as well.
6. In the Gambia, despite increasing efforts to record traded forest products at the national level for national accounting, the valuation of ecosystem services has not yet been conducted in the country and thus has resulted in the under-estimation of forestry and wildlife contribution in the national accounts.
7. In the Republic of Guinea, a study on the forest and wildlife sector and its contribution to Guinea's national economy and taxation systems is being finalized with financial support from the African Development Bank.
8. Malawi has yet to fully capture the forest and wildlife sector's contribution in the national accounts.
9. In Namibia, the Forestry and Wildlife Authority continuously shares information with the National Statistics Agency to increase the understanding of the role of forestry and wildlife resources in the national accounts.
10. To a certain degree, South Africa does capture the contribution of the two sectors in the national accounts. Statistics South Africa is currently finalizing a comprehensive forestry survey questionnaire, which will ensure the expansion of the scope of traditional parameters on which data was collected and will be incorporated in national accounts.
11. Togo has drafted a national support program on reforestation with support from FAO. This program addresses several related studies done in Togo, including a key re-evaluation of the contributions of Forestry and Wildlife to the Togolese economy.

The Commission:

requested members to strengthen institutional and human capacity to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forests Monitoring at national local levels.

12. Burundi's government has established a new body, "Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement" (OBPE) that monitors and assures the management and overall sustainable use of the environment. Part of the staff is tasked with data collection with different tools in processing and analyzing datasets from protected areas, as well as the tracking and habituation of chimpanzees.
13. In the Central African Republic, three technicians have been trained in Brazil on satellite-based tracking systems. Further, 2 technicians in GIS have also been trained with 7 additional technicians conducting exchange visits in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the National Plan on Monitoring of Forests (SNSF) has been approved, partly funded, and requiring further building to improve institutional capacity, human, and material resources.
14. Ethiopia's new Forestry and Wildlife Ministry has further consolidated human capacity by incorporating climate change aspects under its administration. The national forests monitoring system is established under the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) unit.
15. The Gambia has recruited and trained (on basic applied forestry) staff at the local level to enhance capacity in the field for implementation and monitoring of forest resource management programmes. However, technical and professional training has proven to be challenging in recent years.

16. In the Republic of Guinea, training of forest rangers to support sustainable forest management and national parks/reserves management has been conducted under UNOPs. 150 rangers have been trained under the project in three sites across Guinea.
17. Malawi is conducting a review of wildlife policy and wildlife legislation. Further, recruitment of rangers, numerous refresher courses in anti-poaching, and training of wildlife officers as prosecutors are underway.
18. For Namibia, a Forest Inventory team has been trained and is in place. Namibia has requested FAO support for the forest inventory project with a re-engineering process carried out to identify weaknesses and strengths. Further, a recent stakeholder conference has been held on Bush Encroachment and Debushing.
19. South Africa, by invitation from FAO, has, in principle, agreed to participate in the FAO-led Global Forest Survey project. Unfortunately, the invitation arrived late, making it impossible for South Africa to prepare in time to participate in the first meeting held in Rome, Italy, during November 2015. However, it is the view of the country that participation in this project will result in benefits for the country.
20. In Togo, to make resource management more operational in aspects of forestry, water, hunting and wildlife, the Office of Development and Exploitation of Forests (ODEF) inspects forestry resource status to ensure its sustainable use. This is done through collaboration with local authorities and NGOs with the number of staff involved in forest resource management increasing by 15%.

The Commission:

invited members to support the XIV World Forestry Congress and encouraged the widest possible attendance and participation from all sectors within the Region.

21. Burundi participated in the Congress and was represented at a high level by the Minister of Environment and the chairman of Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) who were accompanied by project coordinators and experts.
22. The Central Africa Republic, despite limited resources, had two participants supported by FAO to attend. There is a financial requirement in the Central African Republic to improve the facilitation of the private sector and civil society participation in wildlife and forestry management.
23. Three participants from Ethiopia including H.E. the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (EFCC) Ethiopia attended the XIV World Forestry Congress.
24. For the Gambia, FAO has supported the participation of two Gambians (from the public sector) and CBOs; however, only one was able to attend the Congress.
25. The Republic of Guinea was unable to attend the World Forestry Congress due to the Ebola Virus outbreak.
26. Namibia attended the XIV WFC in Durban represented by 13 people from academic institutions, the Ministry responsible for Forest Management and NGO's.
27. For South Africa, efforts were made to publicize and ensure attendance of Member States in the region. As a result, all 15 Southern African Development Committee (SADC) Member States attended the Congress.
28. In Togo, 10 participants attended the XIV World Forestry Congress. This included representatives from the forestry administration, universities and partners from relevant development programmes such as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The Commission

encouraged members to involve local communities in planning and forest management allowing efforts to integrate forests and agricultural practices at landscape level.

29. In Burundi, an implementation framework based on a participatory approach with local communities in protected areas has been established and operating in certain areas. Within the communities, local capacities and income generating activities are developed. With support and partnerships from neighboring communities, the local communities have effectively worked around the designated protected areas.
30. The Central African Republic has a Forestry Code 2008 that recognizes local communities in planning and forestry management. Further, a landscape restoration programme has been developed, highlighting the need for capacity building of stakeholders on the approaches of landscape management.
31. In Ethiopia, Participatory Forest Management (PFM) has been piloted in national forest areas and this involves local communities in forestry management.
32. For the Gambia, community involvement in sustainable forest management has been further strengthened through support from the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) programme, which is currently being piloted in The Gambia. Communities and Forestry Department's field staff have jointly reviewed over 50 management plans of community forests, and 78 community forests totalling over 5,000 ha have been legally handed over to local communities under the community forestry programme for community-based sustainable management.
33. In the Republic of Guinea, decentralization aims to provide local communities with more equal governance and management within their local structures and respective territory. This is a key part of the process to provide a means of more equitable forestry and wildlife resource use for the users.
34. Malawi is working with communities adjacent to Nyika National Park and Nkhotakota and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserves in carbon trading and working with the same communities in conservation agriculture.
35. In Namibia, community based forest management has been strengthened with support from the German Government through a program which looks at all resources including Rangeland. The GEF/UNDP Financial Support received, also takes into account forestry and conservation agriculture.
36. There are various platforms for stakeholders in South Africa to participate in policy formulation, planning and implementation through various committees which have representatives from the government, industry, communities, private individuals, labour and traditional authorities. The main one is the National Forests Advisory Committee and its two permanent Committees, i.e. the Committee on Sustainable Forest Management and the Committee for Forest Access. The Committee's task is to advise the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries and the Department on any matter related to sustainable forest management. The Committee on Sustainable Forest Management (CSFM) is constituted to represent the different parties with an interest in sustainable forest management and advise the council as such whilst the Committee for Forest Access promotes access to forests and education on the sustainable management and use of forests amongst other things. Furthermore, there are various flora at local level to enable interested persons to participate in forestry related decisions and policies. The department from time to time calls a Forestry Indaba as a platform for stakeholders to have a dialogue. Training of basic firefighting and use of relevant equipment to fight fires was provided to members of the communities, this initiative is in line with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) whereby the

government in partnership with the private sector empowers vulnerable communities so that they can be in the fore front when protecting their assets and livelihoods.

37. In Togo, Law Number 2008-009 of 19 June 2008 is related to forest management and puts into focus local management of forestry and wildlife resources by local communities through the setting of regional consultative commissions in prefectures, communes, and villages in charge of forest management decisions.

The Commission:

concurred with the need to reinforce regional cooperation on forestry education and upgrading existing forestry education facilities in the region and also recommended that members take action to put in place necessary incentives to attract well qualified and interested students to the forestry profession.

38. Burundi has incorporated the regional "Licence, Master, Doctorat" (LMD) guidelines in education and training systems and followed the roadmap for the creation of RIFFEAC guidelines (Réseau de Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale de l'Afrique Centrale). Further, Burundi will follow these sub-regional guidelines for the training of Bachelor's and Master's degrees. These trainings have been ongoing since 2005 and are aimed for the mobility of students between the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) regions.

39. Following the RIFFEAC guidelines, three fellows from the Central African Republic, were supported by the regional programme to build capacity related to forestry education. RIFFEAC supported the improvements of the forestry training programmes at the Higher Institute of Rural Development (ISDR) in Mbaiki.

40. Ethiopia has yet to introduce forestry education facilities and incentives.

41. The Gambia has drafted a MoU with the Republic of Kenya, through its Ministry of Environment and Water Affairs, which is on the verge of finalization. It is aimed at capacity building of staff in the Departments of Forestry and Parks and Wildlife Management of The Gambia. Incentives are, however, yet to be provided to attract well-qualified and interested students into the forestry profession.

42. In the Republic of Guinea, the training of youths in forestry management is achieved through institutions of higher education, such as those in Guinea's Faranah and N'zerekore zones. Further, the technical schools of Mamou, Tigies Chors in Senegal, and the Wildlife school of Garoua, Cameroon aims to build forestry management capacity.

43. Malawi is collaborating with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources for possible studies in the protected areas particularly Nyika National Park.

44. In Namibia, forestry training aspects are covered in the ongoing BSc course in Natural Resource Environment at University of Namibia (UNAM). The Government/Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) has increased professional position from 20 to 50 and are now recruiting qualified professional staff.

45. Throughout South Africa, there are a variety of state universities and colleges that offer forestry training from Diploma to PhD level. The Department, in collaboration with the Fort Cox Forestry College, has initiated an annual training program on the National Forests Act Foundation course for its forestry students. This has been running for the second year and will continue for many years to come. Both private and public sector offer bursaries to capable students to ensure that there is a sustained supply of foresters, environmental specialists, technicians and managers of timber processing industries.

46. In Togo, the strengthening of partnerships between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources (MERF) and the National School of Water and Forests of Denderesso (Burkina Faso) is underway through the training of water and forestry supervisors, managers and inspectors. In addition, future employment is assured for new graduates of the National Institute of Agriculture Training (INFA) in the vocation of land and forestry management.

The Commission:

recommended that countries in the region engage actively in the discussions on a forest-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through the Members of the Open Working Group to ensure that the full contributions of forests to sustainable development are fully captured in the SDGs.

47. Burundi is a member of COMIFAC, which includes the working group “Groupe de Travail Biodiversité d’Afrique Centrale” (GTBAC). Burundi is also in line to join the “Réseau des Aires Protégées d’Afrique Centrale” (RAPAC) network. Burundi representation is regular in the sub-working group on non-timber forests products and the sub-working group on the protection of Wild Animals (SGTAPFS).

48. The Central African Republic, a member of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme under UNESCO, is also part of the GTBAC, COMIFAC, which engages in dialogs on artisanal forestry exploitation, non-timber forest products, and community management of wildlife.

49. The Gambia has participated and is part of the West African Forest Convergence Plan process on sustainable forest and wildlife management. The country also took part in the Africa Group Regional preparatory meeting for COP 12 of the UNCCD where issues related to the recently adopted SDGs particularly Goal 15 and target 15.3 were discussed.

50. For Namibia, a GEF/GIZ supported project has been designed in a way that they consider and mainstream the SDG.

51. South Africa has provided its views on the SDGs and has submitted to the Open Working Group via appropriate channels.

52. Togo has put in place a National Working Group for the sustainable management of forests. This group is active for the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and its sustainable use/management, fighting soil degradation desertification and reversing the adverse impacts that may result in biodiversity loss. This group will be integrating the SDGs in relation to forests in future discussions.

The Commission:

recommended that FAO and Members strengthen forestry communication at all levels in the continent to enhance public participation in forest and wildlife management and to increase their profile in the government systems.

53. Burundi’s office for Environmental Protection has a website on which information on forests are published (<http://bi.chm-cbd.net>). This same office is under the Ministry of Water and Environment, Spatial Planning and Urban Programmes for the protection of biodiversity.]

54. The Central African Republic has developed and put in place an effective and efficient strategy against poaching (la stratégie de lutte contre le grand braconnage (LAB)). An emphasis on artisanal usage of forestry resources and its sustainable management efforts are priority issues for the country. The General Director of Forests and Wildlife Department was identified as the point of

contact. Further, the theme “Forests/REDD+, management of wildlife advocacy approach for threatened wildlife, non-timber forest products/fight against poverty” was suggested.

55. In Ethiopia, FAO is a partner with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) and involved in the National Forest Inventory and MRV activities. In addition to this, FAO is actively involved in different events such as the International Forest Day.

56. For the Gambia, Forest Communication Concept and the recently developed communication strategy under the Forest and Farm Facility of FAO are increasing the scope of forest, wildlife and agricultural communication at all levels and therefore increasing their profile in the government set up.

57. The Republic of Guinea is committed to ensuring the improvement of the profile of forestry, sustainable production and exploitation of forests, tackling climate change impacts, protecting flora and fauna, promoting gender equity and equality, improved access to water and sanitation, the use of renewable energy sources, and reducing hunger.

58. Malawi’s Department of Parks and Wildlife has established an Interagency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime which is strengthening law enforcement and visibility of the Wildlife Authority.

59. Namibia has a systematic investigation carried out to strengthen communication between our northern neighbors. Meetings between Zambia, Angola and Namibia are held to share information on illegal Forest and Wildlife operations in order to reduce/eradicate such activities. In collaboration with the wildlife trade-monitoring network (TRAFFIC), the Governments of the three countries worked out a Memorandum of Understanding that guides them to carry out activities that lead to prevention of illegal operations in Forestry and Wildlife Sectors.

60. For South Africa, the Department through its Commercial Forestry Liaison Forum communicates regularly with the sector on forestry issues at a National level. At local level, meetings with the relevant landowners and communities are organized in collaboration with the industry and other government departments.

The Commission:

invited members and observers to send their inputs to the preparations of the XIV World Forestry Congress, specifically to:

61. Draw on the highest priority issues of the Region, propose themes and topics;

62. Identify potential contact points and speakers;

63. Convey information needs about the Congress.

64. For contribution to the XIV WFC, Burundi has made two presentations on the results of shaded coffee in resorted landscapes and the contribution of non-timber forest for climate change resiliency.

65. Ethiopia has three presentations made with the following titles: The present status and progress of Ethiopian Great Wall, Water dialogue: Sustainable Land and Afforestation in Ethiopia, Degraded land and restoration in Ethiopia, and Status of the national forest monitoring system in Ethiopia.

66. The Gambia has taken no actions directly. However the Department of Forestry was invited to serve as panellist at one of the side events to share its experience on community participation in sustainable forest management. Unfortunately the Department could not attend.

67. Guinea was unable to share their contributions to the preparations of the World Forestry Congress as a result of the Ebola Virus outbreak.
68. Namibia has attended the congress with staff attending the Sub-Regionally organized side events at the XIV World Forest Congress.
69. South Africa as the host and co-organizer of the Congress ensured that priority issues are submitted. This was done by the organization of a Forestry Indaba three months prior to the Congress, which captured all the relevant issues for the South African communities. The outcomes of the Indaba were captured and conveyed to the Congress via the Ministerial messages.
70. The Togolese Minister of Environment and Forestry Resources was invited to share during the Congress the vision of the Government's role in forests in the global context of sustainable development. This includes forestry's contributions to, and climate change influences on the implementation of the new development programme after 2015.