

REPORT

Windhoek,
Republic of Namibia,
30 September-4 October
2013

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Nineteenth Session

(and the Third African Forestry and Wildlife Week)



**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
15 th Session	Maputo, Mozambique	29 March-1 April 2006
16 th Session	Khartoum, Sudan	18-21 February 2008
17 th Session	Brazzaville, Congo	22-26 February 2010
18 th Session	Cotonou, Benin	16-20 January 2012

REPORT

OF THE

NINETEENTH SESSION

OF THE

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Windhoek, Republic of Namibia
30 September-4 October 2013

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ATTENTION OF
MEMBERS COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission:

- Encouraged Members to adequately capture forestry and wildlife sector's contribution in national accounts.
- Requested Members to strengthen institutional and human capacity to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forests Monitoring at national and local levels.
- Encouraged Members to involve local communities in planning and forest management, allowing efforts to integrate forests and agricultural practices at landscape level.
- Concurred with the need to reinforce regional cooperation on forestry education and up-grading 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.
- Recommended that countries in the region engage actively in the discussions on a forest-related 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.
- 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.
- Invited Members to support the XIV World Forestry Congress and encouraged the widest possible attendance and participation from all sectors within the Region.
- Invited its members and observers to send their inputs to the preparations of the XIV World Forestry Congress, specifically to:
 - draw on the highest priority issues of the Region, propose themes and topics
 - identify potential contact points and speakers
 - convey information needs about the Congress

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE ATTENTION OF COFO/FAO

The Commission:

- Requested FAO to build on and support on-going initiatives in the region, including country to country knowledge exchange and the sub-regional programme on forests for food security being developed through the auspices of COMIFAC and the recently adopted Forest Convergence Plan for West Africa by the ECOWAS ministerial technical committee in charge of forestry and wildlife.
- Requested that FAO strengthens partnerships with sub-regional economic integration organizations (e.g. SADC, ECOWAS) who could act as a channel in supporting Member countries.

- Encouraged FAO to use all opportunities available to further disseminate the outcomes of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition and create deeper understanding of these issues.
- Requested that FAO support on-going initiatives on forest ecosystem management issues, assist in their studies and share information, available data and results of research.
- Requested FAO to support countries to develop necessary technical and institutional capacities to systematically value the contribution of forests and wildlife resources to national economies and to local livelihoods.
- Requested FAO to enhance efforts to popularize the voluntary guidelines and the guidelines on forest tenure in countries and provide support on implementation of activities aimed at strengthening land and tree tenure issues.
- 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.
- Recommended that FAO should support the development of appropriate tools, methods and mechanisms for improved recognition and valorization of environmental services benefits of forests and wildlife resources for the benefit of forest dependent people and local communities.
- Requested FAO to share more knowledge on the role of forestry in food security and poverty reduction and to increase the visibility of FAO work on reducing rural poverty, especially the vital contribution of forestry in rural development and poverty reduction.
- Requested that FAO, in collaboration with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), support on-going initiatives and assist in studies on this issue as well as share information, available data and results of research and best practices.
- Requested that FAO increase its support for sustainable forest and wildlife management at national levels, control of illegal logging and other illegal practices including cross border trafficking, as well as public-private collaboration that would not allow for any land grabbing activities.
- Requested FAO to:
 - promote a balance between forestry and agriculture, particularly between increasing agricultural production and sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhance forest and land restoration and agroforestry;
 - continue to address the issue of agriculture as main driver of deforestation
- Urged FAO to revise the Forestry Strategy in the light of the evolving new Strategic Framework of the Organization.
- Requested FAO to support the development of a forest-related SDG to ensure continued and strengthened presence of forests in broader development goals.
- Recommended the continuation of the design and development of the SFM toolbox, and the subsequent translation of the approved methodology.

- Requested FAO to establish a mechanism for reviewing contributions from countries, regional and international parties and to firmly manage the quality control processing the further design and development of the tool box. Efforts should also be made to have the sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox accessible and usable by remotely located stakeholders who may not have access to large bandwidth internet connection. Additionally, a module on sustainable wildlife management should be introduced in the toolbox.
- Requested FAO to ensure that the national forest assessment voluntary guidelines support existing guidelines and other protocols for forest monitoring, ensuring they are integrated into forest management principles that looks into food security with emphasis on both Forest and Non Wood Forest Products.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

The Commission:

- Requested the Regional Conference for Africa to work closely with FAO to strengthen partnerships with sub-regional economic integration organizations in Africa and Member Countries, to promote an appropriate balance between forest conservation and expansion of agricultural lands, taking into consideration the vital contribution that forests and wildlife make to food security in the region.
- Requested the Regional Conference for Africa to support FAO to share more knowledge on the role of forestry in rural development, food security and poverty reduction through the promotion of sustainable forest and wildlife management at national levels, control of illegal logging and other illegal practices including cross border trafficking, as well as public-private collaboration that would not allow for any land grabbing activities.
- Requested the Regional Conference for Africa to support FAO's effort to secure a forest-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to ensure continued and strengthened presence of forests in broader development goals.
- Urged regional organizations, initiatives and programmes to provide assistance to the region to allow for wide participation in the 14th World Forestry Congress.
- Recommended that forestry and wildlife issues should be part of the substantive discussion items at the Africa Regional conferences.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Nineteenth Session in Windhoek, Namibia, from 30 September to 4 October 2013, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The Session was attended by 163 representatives from 23 Member countries, and 3 representatives of the United Nations system. Observers from 25 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations also attended. The Honourable John Mutorwa, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Mathieu Babaud Darret, Minister for Water and Forests of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and The Honourable Barbara Serwaa Asamoah, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources of the Republic of Ghana, attended the sessions. (*Annex B* provides a full list of participants).
2. The Nineteenth Session of the Commission was held together with the Third African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) under the common theme "Development of the Forest and Wildlife Sectors for effective contribution to Food Security and a Green Economy in Africa". Through this theme, the 19th AFWC and related activities during the week strived to underscore the often forgotten role that forestry and wildlife play in ensuring food security and enhancing green economy, not only at community levels, but also at national levels in Africa.
3. Six side events were held, as well as a series of sessions of the Third African Forest and Wildlife Week. The list of side events is given in *Annex E* and a Summary report on the AFWW events is provided in *Annex F*.
4. Mr Colga Sikopo, Director of Parks and Wildlife Management, Namibia, welcomed participants and the opportunity for the Commission to discuss the linkages of the forestry and wildlife sectors to tourism and food security, noting also that the entire continent of Africa is benefiting from the forest resources.
5. Mr Babagana Ahmadu, FAO Representative in Namibia thanked the host country Namibia for the organization of the session. He drew attention to the on-going reform process of FAO, including its new cross cutting strategic framework that aims at improving the delivery and impact of FAO's work toward realising the common vision of a world free of hunger and malnutrition. He emphasized the importance of guidance to FAO from its Members through the Regional Conferences and Commissions, such as AFWC.
6. Mr Théophile Kakpo, outgoing Chairperson of the 18th Session thanked the host country for hosting the 19th Session and the meeting of the Bureau of the 18th Session of AFWC, and for guiding the preparations. He also thanked FAO and other multilateral partners for the continued support to AFWC. He appreciated the theme selected for the Session, which can further contribute to FAO's broader objective of food security as well as to the greening of economies in Africa.
7. Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General for Forestry, expressed, on behalf of the Director-General, FAO's gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. He noted that the 2013 FAO Conference had expressed its profound recognition of the inclusive, bottom up and transparent priority setting that the FAO Forestry Department has developed based on the outcomes of the Regional Forestry Commissions. He noted also the crucial role of forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process and outlined many important steps and events planned for 2015, including the XIV World Forestry Congress. He recalled that as part of the celebration of the first International Day of Forests, the Director-General of FAO had launched a call for a "Zero illegal deforestation initiative" related to the "Zero hunger challenge" convoked by the UN Secretary-General. As regards forestry developments in Africa, he noted the increasing impact of South-South cooperation, signs of decrease in deforestation rates, and the crucial role of forests in food and nutrition security, including the role of Africa's wildlife sector in economic development. He, however, also noted the challenges in combating illegal activities, and the importance of more integrated landscape approaches. He referred to FAO's new Strategic Framework that will enable

stronger support to country action and collaboration with regional processes and regional economic organizations. Finally, he invited the Commission to consider an exceptional back-to-back session with the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa in September 2015.

8. Mr Luc Gnacadja, outgoing Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), highlighted the constructive collaboration between UNCCD and FAO and noted that the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11 of UNCCD) completed its work successfully the precedent week in Windhoek. He noted that Africa is the most affected region where forest degradation is concerned, and emphasized the role of sustainable forest and land management to counter deforestation, given that dry forests are particularly vulnerable to climatic shocks. He urged further action to combat land degradation and to strengthen restoration and landscape approaches – and overall, to develop ways to enhance sustainable management of natural resources and to move toward preparedness and risk management.

9. The Honourable John Mutorwa, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia, opened the Nineteenth Session of the Commission and the Third African Forestry and Wildlife Week. He expressed his Government's pleasure to host the session. He emphasized the need to manage forest resources to help and sustain people, particularly with regard to food security. He called for workable and sustainable solutions to improve forest resources, increase productivity and to better manage national parks. He particularly emphasized the role of people in different sub-regions, who depend on forest and wildlife resources, in sustainable management, conservation and utilization of these resources. He called for an end to illegal logging and poaching that in his view have zero benefits but further hamper economic development and productivity. Finally, he emphasised the importance of sharing positive lessons and experiences in order to upscale learning and to develop solutions for the benefit of the entire continent.

10. In his key note statement, Mr John Scanlon, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), emphasized the role of the Convention in conservation, sustainable use and regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora. He shared examples of benefits for local and indigenous peoples, including improved livelihoods and market opportunities at the local level, sustainable harvesting of certain species, and addressing illegal trade – including in bushmeat – through regulation. In concluding, he emphasized the need to continue regulating the use and trade of wildlife and working with local people for the benefit of national economies and national food and nutrition security.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (ITEM 2)

11. The agenda was adopted as set out in document FO:AFWC/2013/1 (see *Annex A*). The documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Annex D*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ITEM 3)

12. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr Joseph Hailwa, (Namibia)
1 st Vice-Chairperson	Mrs Elvire-Joelle Mailly Zouzou (Cote d'Ivoire)
2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Mr Valentine Msusa (Tanzania)
3 rd Vice-Chairperson:	XXX (to be determined - Algeria)
Rapporteur:	Mrs Marie-Louise Abome Bilounga (Gabon)

Mr Foday Bojang, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, served as Secretary of the Commission.

Consideration of Substantive Items and Recommendations

MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND WILDLIFE HABITATS FOR FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA; FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST FOR FOOD SECURITY (ITEM 4)

13. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/2 entitled “Maintaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats for food security in Africa; follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference on Forest for Food Security and Nutrition, and implications for Africa”, which highlighted the key issues discussed in the conference and the main outcomes.

14. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the emphasis FAO is placing on this important issue and requested FAO to build on and support on-going initiatives on sustainable management of forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats in the region, including country to country knowledge exchange and the sub-regional programme on forests for food security, being developed through the auspices of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), as well as the recently adopted Forest Convergence Plan for West Africa by the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) ministerial committee, in charge of forestry and wildlife.

15. The Commission encouraged FAO to use all opportunities available to further disseminate the outcomes of the conference and create deeper understanding of the issues of forestry and food security.

16. The Commission requested the Regional Conference for Africa to work closely with FAO to strengthen partnerships with sub-regional economic integration organizations in Africa and Member Countries, to promote an appropriate balance between forest conservation and expansion of agricultural lands, taking into consideration the vital contribution that forests and wildlife make to food security in the region.

ILLEGAL TRADE AND POACHING OF WILDLIFE PRODUCTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (ITEM 5)

17. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/3 entitled “Illegal trade and poaching of wildlife products: implications for economic development in Africa” which highlighted the issues of poaching and bushmeat trade, their ecological, economic and social impacts, key drivers and possible solutions.

18. The Commission confirmed that the issue of illegal hunting and bushmeat trade is of high relevance and stressed the link between illegal hunting and human-wildlife conflict. A number of countries presented the progress they have made in addressing human-wildlife conflict, highlighting the link between illegal hunting and wildlife habitat reduction due to demographic expansion. The Commission stressed the need to find alternatives to traditional medication from wildlife parts, which is one of the drivers of illegal hunting.

19. The Commission appreciated the work FAO is doing on illegal hunting and bushmeat trade and requested that FAO, in collaboration with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), support on-going initiatives and assist in studies on this issue as well as share information, available data and results of research and best practices.

20. The Commission requested the Regional Conference for Africa to support FAO to share more knowledge on the role of forestry in rural development, food security and poverty reduction through the promotion of sustainable forest and wildlife management at national levels, control of illegal logging and other illegal practices including cross border trafficking, as well as public-private

collaboration that would not allow for any land grabbing activities.

21. Delegates were informed about the International Conference on Poaching to be held in 2014 in Brazzaville.

VALUATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (ITEM 6)

22. The Secretariat presented the document FO:AFWC/2013/4 entitled “Valuation of the contribution of forests and wildlife to economic development in Africa”. The presentation focused on current challenges to appropriately value the contribution of forests and wildlife sectors to economic development and the implications of such challenges for the mobilization of adequate finances for sustainable forest management. It also stressed the need to develop necessary capacities of Member countries on the valuation of ecosystem services and its systematic application in national planning and financial decision making.

23. The Commission reiterated the importance of the subject and recommended that FAO promote forest ecosystem services valuation as a vital policy tool in land use planning, and in integrating it with national accounting frameworks.

24. The Commission recommended that FAO should support the development of appropriate tools, methods and mechanisms for improved recognition and valorisation of environmental services benefits of forests and wildlife resources for the benefit of forest dependent people and local communities.

25. The Commission also requested FAO to support countries to develop necessary technical and institutional capacities to systematically value the contribution of forests and wildlife resources to national economies and to local livelihoods.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY” IN AFRICA (ITEM 7)

26. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/5 entitled “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests”.

27. The Commission recognized that the Voluntary Guidelines are a valuable tool in improving governance of tenure and strengthening land-use planning in African countries.

28. The Commission requested FAO to enhance efforts to popularize the guidelines in countries and provide support to implementation of activities aimed at strengthening land and tree tenure issues.

29. The Commission requested FAO to strengthen partnerships with sub-regional economic integration organizations (e.g. SADC, ECOWAS), who could act as a channel in supporting Member countries.

FAO’S NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (ITEM 8)

30. The Secretariat introduced the new, more integrated and cross-cutting Strategic Framework endorsed by the 38th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2013, which guided the formulation of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

31. The Commission took note of the five new strategic objectives and proposed that the development of action plans include all critical forestry and wildlife issues.
32. The Commission identified areas of cross cutting work where FAO should strengthen the integration and contribution of the Forestry dimension to the goals of food security and poverty reduction. More specifically, the Commission requested FAO to:
- promote a balance between forestry and agriculture, particularly between increasing agricultural production and sustainable management of natural resources;
 - enhance forest and land restoration and agroforestry;
 - continue to address agriculture as a main driver of deforestation, including by enhancing sustainability in livestock management.
33. The Commission requested FAO to share more knowledge on the role of forestry in food security and poverty reduction and to increase the visibility of FAO's work on reducing rural poverty, especially the vital contribution of forestry in rural development and poverty reduction.
34. In further elaborating the action plans for the five strategic objectives, the Commission recommended that FAO increases its support for sustainable forest and wildlife management at national levels, control of illegal logging and other illegal practices including cross border trafficking, as well as public-private collaboration that would not allow for any land grabbing activities.
35. Finally, the Commission urged FAO to revise the forestry strategy in the light of the evolving new Strategic Framework of the Organization.

REPORTS ON FAO AND MEMBER ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 18TH SESSION OF AFWC (ITEM 9)

36. The Secretariat presented documents FO:AFWC/2013/7.1 & 7.2 entitled "Secretariat Report on FAO responses to the requests from the 18th Session of the Commission" and "Report on actions taken by Members to implement the recommendations of the 18th Session of the Commission".

FAO actions

37. The Secretariat reported on the measures taken by FAO to implement all the recommendations of the 18th Session. Members appreciated the efforts and requested FAO to continue to provide support to countries to increase national capacities to implement sustainable forest and wildlife management.
38. The Commission encouraged Members to involve local communities in planning and forest management, allowing efforts to integrate forests and agricultural practices at landscape level.

Member actions

39. The Secretariat presented a synthesis of activities undertaken by Member countries during the period 2012–2013. It reported that only 13 out of the 47 Members provided reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations. Only 3 of the 13 countries implemented all the recommendations. The Secretariat requested Members to continue to submit their report to enable it to compile a more comprehensive report on measures taken by Members to implement the recommendations.

HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE: REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS (ITEM 10)

(i) Increasing the visibility of the forest and wildlife sectors' contribution to food security and economic development in Africa

40. The first dialogue feature of the 19th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission discussed ways African countries could increase visibility of forestry and wildlife sectors' contribution to food security and economic development. Dr. Harrison Kojwang, an independent expert, made an introductory statement focusing on issues that could guarantee visibility of forestry and wildlife as important contributors to national economies. He pointed out that forestry had seen little value addition initiatives, and that the sector's contribution to economic development had been underestimated for many years.

41. The presentation pointed to the need to increase incentives to local manufacturers and to create strong professional fora to engage and advise governments on payment for ecosystem services (PES) for forest and wildlife management.

42. Panellists from Tanzania, Gabon and Guinea Bissau also gave their perspectives on the subject.

43. Among the issues raised by the Commission were the needs to:

- Sensitize communities on the various potentials for value addition of forest products;
- Put emphasis on the valuation of non-wood forest products and its potential contribution to GDP;
- Focus on community based forest management and building partnerships to ensure food security;
- Make the ecological services provided by forests more visible;
- Pursue political commitment to reinvest revenues from forests back into the forest sector.

44. The Commission encouraged Members to adequately capture forestry and wildlife sector's contribution in national accounts.

(ii) Challenges of Forest Education in Africa

45. The Secretariat introduced the Heads of Forestry & Wildlife Dialogue 2 entitled "Challenges of Forest Education in Africa", highlighting the need for a catalytic engagement of FAO in promoting active collaboration and partnership among various forestry education institutions in the region and introducing the activities of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge.

46. In his presentation made on behalf of Professor Temu, Professor Godwin Kowero elaborated on the drivers influencing the decline of support to forestry education. He reiterated the need for strengthening education to build necessary forestry expertise. The Panel members from Lesotho and Benin shared their experiences related to forestry education in their respective countries and emphasized the importance of the subject for promoting professional forestry.

47. The Commission concurred with the need to reinforce regional cooperation on forestry education and up-grading 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.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF AFRICAN FORESTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE (ITEM 11)

(i) State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014

48. The Secretariat presented a brief overview of the two forthcoming major publications of the FAO Forestry Department: the *State of the World's Forests 2014* and the *Forestry Outlook Study for Africa-II* elaborated in the document FO:AFWC/2013/13. The presentation focused on the motivation, the key thematic areas that the publications would cover, and the progress made so far in their development.

49. The Commission appreciated the work of FAO and requested that the Organization continue its efforts to improve the methods and approaches to accurately measure and monitor the socio-economic benefits provided by forests.

(ii) The UN Development Agenda beyond 2015: Sustainable Development Goals

50. The Secretariat introduced the process to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Open Working Group (OWG) that is expected to submit a proposal to the 68th Session of the General Assembly in 2014. The Secretariat also explained that a Forest Issues Brief had been prepared by the Interagency Technical Support Team for Forests coordinated by the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), with inputs from the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other agencies. The Brief presents two options: (i) an SDG specifically on forests; and (ii) an SDG related to natural resources or landscapes.

51. The Commission Members expressed their clear preference for a specific SDG on forests, which would include forest related issues like wildlife, other forest land, trees outside forests and mountains.

52. The Commission recommended that countries in the region engage actively in the discussions on a forest-related 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.

53. Requested the Regional Conference for Africa to support FAO's effort to secure a forest-related SDG to ensure continued and strengthened presence of forests in broader development goals.

54. The Commission strongly recommended a standalone SDG that takes into account the achievements and inadequacies of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and related processes.

55. The Commission requested FAO to support the development of a forest-related SDG to ensure continued and strengthened presence of forests in broader development goals.

56. The Commission requested its Chair to submit the "Recommendation for the Establishment of a Sustainable Development Goal on Forests" to the Open Working Group process on the development of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the G-77 and China; encouraged its Members to convey the Recommendation through their representatives of the Open Working Group; and invited other forestry and related bodies on the African continent and other regions of the world to support the implementation of the Recommendation (full text of the Recommendation is in Annex C).

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (ITEM 12)

(i) Sustainable forest management (SFM) Toolbox

57. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/12 entitled “Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox” to provide the status and the planned next steps of development of a comprehensive technical package of knowledge tools, processes and best practice.

58. The Commission welcomed the initiative of developing the toolbox, particularly commending its innovativeness and value at forest management unit level.

59. The Commission requested FAO to establish a mechanism for reviewing contributions from countries, regional and international parties and to firmly manage the quality control process in the further design and development of the toolbox. Efforts should also be made to have the sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox accessible and usable by remotely located stakeholders who may not have access to large bandwidth internet connection. Additionally, a module on sustainable wildlife management should be introduced in the toolbox.

60. The Commission recommended the continuation of the design and development of the SFM toolbox, and the subsequent translation of the approved methodology.

(ii) Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring

61. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/13 entitled “Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring”.

62. FAO is developing these guidelines in response to growing demand and request from nations to strengthen national forest assessment in order for them to undertake REDD+, biodiversity assessment, forest inventories, valuation of PES, and other SFM initiatives.

63. The Commission thanked FAO for designing and developing the guidelines in order to provide information for the promotion and improvement of sustainable forest management. Members offered their support for the development of these guidelines.

64. The Commission requested FAO to ensure that the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring support existing guidelines and other protocols for forest monitoring, ensuring they are integrated into forest management principles that look into food security with emphasis on both forest and non-wood forest products.

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

(iii) Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape and improving inter-agency coordination

66. The Commission was informed of actions taken by FAO to support efforts made by Member countries and regional organizations towards fire management.

67. The Secretariat reported on FAO fire management activities carried out in Africa and actions taken to meet the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), particularly to strengthen the FAO fire programme through the design of the “Smart Fire Umbrella Programme”.

68. The Commission took note of the funding opportunities for the implementation of this Umbrella Programme, especially in the framework of the new GEF 6 cycle and investments in REDD+.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (ITEM 13)

69. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2013/15 entitled “Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress”. It invited the Commission to suggest themes and topics and to identify relevant networks, institutions and actors that could be important contact points for the organizers, and also identifying keynote speakers.

70. The delegates were informed that the World Forestry Congress will be held for the first time in Africa, in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 11 September 2015. Delegates were reminded of FAO’s traditional role as advisor, providing technical and administrative support for the organization of the Congress.

71. The Commission was informed that the Republic of South Africa had appointed Ms Hester Obisi as the Secretary-General of the Congress. She was introduced to the delegates and congratulated. In addition, FAO had appointed the Associate Secretary-General, Ms Tiina Vahanen. FAO also informed that positions will be opened in the regional offices to support the process.

72. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the preparations, so far, and for the organization of the Congress and committed its full support to these efforts.

73. 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. It urged regional organizations, initiatives and programmes to provide assistance to the region to allow for wide participation.

74. The Commission acknowledged that having the Congress in the continent was an opportunity for Africa to influence the content and outcome of the Congress to reflect key and pertinent issues in Africa and to get excellent African speakers at the Congress.

75. The Commission invited its Members and observers to send their inputs to the preparations of the Congress, specifically to

- draw on the highest priority issues of the Region, propose themes and topics;
- identify potential contact points and speakers;
- convey information needs about the Congress.

The inputs should be sent by Friday, 11 October 2013 to Mr Foday Bojang (Foday.Bojang@fao.org), Ms Tiina Vahanen (Tiina.Vahanen@fao.org) and Ms Hester Obisi (HesterOB@daff.gov.za).

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE 19TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 28TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA AND THE 22ND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (ITEM 14)

(i) Strategic Evaluation of FAO’s role and work in forestry: Management Response

76. The Secretariat introduced the management response, highlighting that the Evaluation confirmed the important global leadership role played by FAO in forestry. In responding to the questions related to decentralization, the Secretariat encouraged Members of the Commission to

bring to the attention of the FAO Regional Conference the need to strengthen the technical capacity in the region.

77. The Commission recommended that FAO strengthen the integration of the Forestry dimension in its cross cutting works in order to achieve better results in Member countries, contributing to all of the three Global Goals of the Organization.

78. The Commission also recommended that FAO assume a more proactive role in the global forestry architecture and continue to facilitate coordinated efforts, whilst using more comprehensively, its comparative advantages in forestry in its collaboration with other organizations dealing with forest issues.

79. The Commission emphasised the need for FAO to continue to strengthen technical capacities in forestry and wildlife in the regional and sub-regional offices.

(ii) **Regional issues identified by the 19th Session of the AFWC**

80. The Secretariat presented the regional issues identified by the 19th Session. The Commission validated its recommendations to members, FAO/COFO and ARC. It however noted that many other recommendations were made for the attention of FAO and its Members at its past sessions and therefore called for more attention to be paid to the implementation of these recommendations as well.

81. The Commission recommended that forestry and wildlife issues should be part of the substantive discussion items at the sessions of the Regional Conference for Africa.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 15)

82. The Republic of Congo informed the meeting that in collaboration with FAO, the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO) and COMIFAC, Congo will host an international forum on the development of the timber sector, in Brazzaville from 21 to 22 October 2013. Congo extended invitations to the Members of the Commission to attend.

83. The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire informed the Commission that due to human and wildlife conflicts being experienced, it will, in December this year or January 2014, be transferring a herd of elephants from the central to the southern part of the country. It called upon Members in a position to do so to provide technical advice or assistance, as appropriate.

84. The Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) informed the Commission about a scholarship scheme, administered by Master Card Foundation, for Africans wishing to pursue a Masters Degree in Forestry in the University of British Columbia and the McGill University in the United States.

85. The Commission was informed that FAO was supporting Members to establish a Forestry Communicators Network in Africa. Such network had been established for English-speaking countries and a workshop was held during the 19th Session for the French-speaking countries with the view to establishing one also for them. The objective was to facilitate exchanges on forestry matters and to help raise the profile of the profession at the continental level.

86. 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.

87. The Chairperson invited Members to propose ways and means of making the AFWC more attractive in order to attract more participants.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (ITEM 16)

88. The Chairperson introduced the agenda item and recalled that according to the rotation adopted by the Commission, Eastern Africa countries have the opportunity now to host the 20th Session of the Commission. He, however, informed that South Africa will be hosting the 14th World Congress in the same year (2015) and it would be an advantage to hold the Commission session back to back with the WFC.

89. After consultations with other Eastern Africa countries present, Tanzania offered to host the 20th Session of the Commission. The Secretariat of AFWC requested Tanzania to send a formal letter to the Director -General of FAO to convey its offer to host the 20th Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (ITEM 17)

90. The report of the 19th Session was adopted as amended.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION AND OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK (ITEM 18)

91. In his closing remarks, Mr Eduardo Mansur, on behalf of the FAO Assistant Director-General for Forestry, thanked the Government of the Republic of Namibia for hosting the 19th Session and for all the support it provided to the preparatory process and during the session. He reiterated FAO's commitment to work with its Members to realize their goals, and that of FAO, in agriculture and natural resources management. He indicated that FAO will submit the recommendations of the meeting to COFO for the latter's consideration.

92. On behalf of the Ministry of Water, Agriculture and Forestry, and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, Mr Joseph Hailwa, Director of Forestry, Namibia, and Chairperson of the 19th Session, thanked FAO for having accepted Namibia's offer to host the 19th Session of AFWC. He further thanked FAO Forestry Department and the Regional Office for Africa for the support they provided to Namibia during the preparations for the meeting. Mr Hailwa expressed Namibia's appreciation of the Chairpersonship conferred upon it and promised that Namibia will do its best to live to expectation. He thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions during the discussions and expressed hope that the recommendations adopted will be implemented at all levels as relevant. With this, he declared the 19th Session closed.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the 19th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Election of officers
4. Maintaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats for food security in Africa
5. Illegal trade and poaching of wildlife products: implications for economic development in Africa
6. Valuation of the contribution of forest and wildlife to economic development in Africa
7. Implementation of the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security” in Africa
8. FAO’s new Strategic Framework
9. Reports on FAO of the UN and member actions in response to recommendations of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission 19
 - FAO Actions
 - Member Actions
10. HoF&W Dialogue - Reflections on the International Day of Forests
 - **Dialogue Feature 1:** - Increasing the visibility of the forest and wildlife sectors’ contribution to food security and economic development in Africa.
 - **Dialogue Feature 2:** Challenges of Forest Education in Africa
11. The socio-economic benefits of African forests now and in the future
 - SOFO 2014
 - The UN development agenda beyond 2015: sustainable development goals
12. Promoting sustainable forest management
 - Sustainable forest management (SFM) Toolbox
 - Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring
 - Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving inter-agency coordination
13. Inputs to the XIV World Forestry Congress
14. Regional issues identified by the 19th Session of the AFWC for the attention of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa and the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry
 - Strategic Evaluation of FAO’s role and work in forestry: Management Response
 - Regional issues identified by the 19th Session
15. Field Trip
Any Other Business
16. Date and place of next session

17. Adoption of the 19th AFWC Report

18. Closure of the 19th Session and 3rd AFWW

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE 19TH SESSION OF AFWC

For the Establishment of a Sustainable Development Goal on Forests

Considering that

- Forests and trees outside forests cover more than 1/3 of the global land surface. Their relevance for environmental sustainability, for human life and for wildlife is crucial and unique, and so is their management;
- Wildlife is integral part of forests;
- The role of forests is recognized in attaining the objectives of other Sustainable Development Goals; however this does not always mean that the forests are sustainably managed;
- Including forests in other Sustainable Development Goals may limit the potential for investment into addressing specific challenges and threats to sustainable management of forest resources;
- Financing only utility aspects of forests is not sufficient for securing sustainable forest management and multiple products and services that forests provide;

Supporting the process led by the United Nations to establish the Sustainable Development Goals as launched in the Rio+20 Conference “The future we want”;

Acknowledging the work done until now by the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group and the issue briefs prepared by the United Nations agencies, including the forest issue brief;

Looking forward to the discussions in the Open Working Group during the week of 3-7 February 2014 in New York on the role of forests in the Sustainable Development Goals and in relation to their sustainable management;

Recognizing the value of the MDG process in galvanizing action to address social, economic and environmental issues through the wise use of forest and tree products and services. However this approach was limited to profiling the contributions these forest and tree resources could make in this regard and did not automatically translate to their sustainable management. Such profiling of contribution of forest and tree resources also features in other global and regional initiatives and in overall national economic development plans, where again it has failed to secure the sustainable management of these resources;

Taking into account the discussions that have started on how to compile the different elements of possible Sustainable Development Goals,

The Commission

1. strongly recommended a standalone forest Sustainable Development Goal that takes into accounts the achievements and inadequacies of the Millennium Development Goals and related processes;
2. requested its Chair to submit this “*Recommendation for the Establishment of a Sustainable Development Goal on Forests*” to the Open Working Group process on the development of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the G-77 and China; encouraged its Members to convey the recommendation through their representatives of the Open Working Group; and invited other forestry and related bodies on the African continent and other regions of the world to support the implementation of the recommendation.

*Annex D***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

FO:AFWC/2013/1	Provisional Agenda
FO:AFWC/2013/2	Maintaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats for food security in Africa; Follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference and implications for Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/3	Illegal trade and poaching of wildlife products: implications for economic development in Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/4	Valuation of the contribution of forest and wildlife to economic development in Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/5	Implementation of the VGGRT in Africa- Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forestry
FO:AFWC/2013/6	The new strategic framework for FAO
FO:AFWC/2013/7.1	Secretariat Report on FAO Responses to the Requests from the Eighteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2013/7.1.1	Survey of Forestry training institutions in Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/7.2	Report on Measures taken by Members to Implement the Recommendations of the 18th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2013/8	The International Day of Forests: a new opportunity for raising awareness
FO:AFWC/2013/9	Challenges of Forest Education in Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/10	State of the World's Forests 2014 and the next Forestry Outlook Study for Africa
FO:AFWC/2013/11	The UN development agenda beyond 2015: sustainable development goals
FO:AFWC/2013/12	Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox
FO:AFWC/2013/13	Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring
FO:AFWC/2013/14	Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving inter-agency coordination
FO:AFWC/2013/15	Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress
FO:AFWC/2013/16	Strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry: Management Response

- FO:AFWC/2013/17 Contribution to FAO governance: input to the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conferences
- FO:AFWC/2013/Inf.1 Information Note
- FO:AFWC/2013/Inf.2 List of Documents

*Annex E***LIST OF SIDE EVENTS**

1. Practical guidelines for improving hunting administration
2. Accelerate comprehensive actions for forest conservation in the Southern Africa
3. Namibia National Wildlife Committee meeting
4. Forests, rangelands, and climate change adaptation in Southern Africa
5. Contribution of wildlife to meeting food and income needs in the SADC region
6. Protected Area Governance

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 3RD AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK EVENTS

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

ECCAS presented its anti poaching strategic action plan. According to Mr Sebastian Luc Kamga Kamdem, scientific adviser to the ECCAS anti poaching Unit, this strategic action plan was designed in 2013 in response to the massacre of elephants by organised transnational gangs. It was developed in participatory and cross-sectoral manner, with the aim of eradicating organised wildlife crime in the sub-region. The strategic action plan was presented by the ECCAS Secretary General at the 68th Session of UN General Assembly, where he made a call to the International community to support its implementation. Member countries stressed the need to mobilize more resources for strong actions against poachers.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

In the framework of the 3rd African Forest and Wildlife Week (AFWW), the Commission was informed on SADC transboundary fire management Programme. Mr Moses Chakanga, Programme Officer, SADC Secretariat, highlighted the main components of the programme and indicated the challenges faced in its implementation. He emphasized the financial constraints faced during the partial implementation conducted with the support of GIZ and JICA. He invited FAO and other organizations to come forward and support SADC Fire Management Programme.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

After a brief description of the 15 member states of ECOWAS sub-region, Mr Samuel MEDU, focused on the current situation of forest and wildlife resources in West Africa and how it contributed to the need of strengthening the intra sub-regional cooperation on forestry matters through the establishment of the Forest Dialogue for West Africa Process. As part of this process, the ministers in charge of forests and wildlife requested in June 2010 the preparation of a Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (FCP).

The stages of the process were described and have now materialized through the adoption of the FCP by the same ministerial committee in Abidjan on 12th September 2013.

The presenter highlighted that the goal of the FCP is to be a federating framework to enable states to undertake actions at national, regional and trans-boundary levels to manage in a concerted manner forest and wildlife resources in the sub-region.

The seven priority areas of the FCP were presented, as well as the key implementation mechanisms that will require both internal and external sources. The accompanying budget is estimated at \$53.8 million USD covering key activities over the next 5 years (2014-2018).

Participants commended West Africa and ECOWAS for this major achievement that follows the steps of a similar exercise performed in Central Africa about ten years ago. An appeal addressed to the engagement of international organizations in the implementation of the FCP was made by the Minister of Water and Forests of Cote d'Ivoire, the country currently chairing ECOWAS

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFFS)

Ms Afsa Kemitale, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) representative, updated the Commission on preparations for the review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and the 11th Session of the UNFF scheduled for 4 – 15 May 2015 in New York. She pointed out that the UNFF, an inter-governmental global policy body responsible for all aspects of sustainable forest management within the United Nations, had made considerable progress since its establishment in 2000 in promoting the forestry agenda, the most important of which was the establishment of the Non Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests (NLBI) in 2007.

Ms Kemitale outlined the intercessional activities to be undertaken before the 11th Session, including the organization of two ad-hoc expert group meetings (AHEGs) on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The first will be held in Nairobi in February 2014. The purpose of these AHEGs is to ensure that UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make informed decisions on its future. She informed that UNFF 11 would consider a range of options and strategies including the establishment of a legally binding instrument on all types of forests and strengthening of the current IAF. It would also consider forest financing options and strategies including the establishment of a voluntary Global Forest Fund. The role of forests in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post 2015 development Agenda would be discussed.

Ms Kemitale informed the Commission that Africa's participation in UNFF sessions had increased considerably in the last few years and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the African Forest Forum (AFF) in organising preparatory meetings for Africa Region and providing technical support during UNFF sessions. She emphasised the importance of Africa's continued engagement in the intercessional process and the 11th Session to ensure that decisions made about the future of the IAF fully reflect Africa's views.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

In his statement on increasing level of elephant poaching in Africa for the illegal ivory trade, Mr Ali KAKA, the IUCN Regional Director for Africa, listed a number of activities and projects IUCN is implementing to combat elephant poaching, highlighting African Elephant Management Plan developed in collaboration with CITES and released in 2010. He also mentioned the international consortium for combating wildlife crime established in collaboration with CITES. He informed the participants that IUCN is organizing, in collaboration with Botswana, a high level elephant summit to be held in Botswana in December 2013.

In the discussions, the need for urgent action was raised by several countries. Zimbabwe reported on recent elephant poaching in Hwange National Park, where poachers used poisonous chemicals which caused a real ecological tragedy. The CIC stressed the need for coordination of activities to ensure better efficiency and avoid duplications.

CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND (CCF)

The Cheetah Conservation Fund presented activities implemented in Namibia for conservation of cheetah and its habitat. Programmes related to Human-wildlife conflict mitigation, research, training and education were presented, as well as programmes for restoration of habitats and management of bush encroachment which represent a challenge in Namibian ecological context.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (CPW)

Mr Jan Heino, Vice Chairperson of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), presented the Partnership and its objectives to the Commission. He noted that “the mission of the CPW is to promote conservation through the sustainable management of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas and to increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members and partners” Mr Heino informed the Commission that the CPW representing 12 member organizations call for all governments and wildlife organizations to join global efforts on stopping poaching and illegal trade of wildlife products. He stressed CPW’s commitment to work with stakeholders in Africa to that end, and its plan to support development of strategies, policies, and management systems that contribute to legal and sustainable hunting.

In a video message to the Commission, Mr Braulio F. de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Chairperson of CPW, informed that CPW was established in March 2013. He paid tribute to Namibia’s championship in biodiversity conservation and indicated that CPW draws its membership from international governmental and non-governmental organizations, secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, and research institutions. He noted that many large animals have gone ecologically extinct and that the work program of the Convention on Biodiversity Conservation (CBD), which the CPW supports, takes into consideration many of the biodiversity challenges the world faces. He further indicated that the CPW will report on its work at the 12th Conference of the Parties of CBD.

Participants expressed interest in working with CPW. They sought and were provided information on modalities of CPW’s partnerships.

*Annex G***MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Algeria	Liberia
Angola	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mali
Burundi	Mauritania
Cameroon	Mauritius
Cape Verde	Morocco
Chad	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Namibia
Congo	Niger
Côte d'Ivoire	Nigeria
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rwanda
Egypt	Senegal
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	South Africa
France	Sudan
Gabon	Swaziland
Gambia	Togo
Ghana	Tunisia
Guinea	Uganda
Guinea-Bissau	United Republic Tanzania
Kenya	Zambia
Lesotho	Zimbabwe