

REPORT

Accra,
Ghana,
18-21 February
2004

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Fourteenth Session



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

REPORT

of the

FOURTEENTH SESSION

of the

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Accra, Ghana
18-21 February 2004**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

PERSPECTIVES OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN THE REGION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (FOSA)

1. The Commission acknowledged the beneficial trend of decentralization, community participation and informal production and trade, and recommended that appropriate policies and actions be taken to revitalize forest administrations so that they can deliver their crucial supervisory and regulatory role (para. 9).
2. The dual role of forests and trees as ecological, social and economic resources was also noted. The meeting therefore recommended that both functions be considered and called upon FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the African Timber Organization (ATO) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), in particular through the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET), to develop methodologies and case studies on assessment and enable valuation of economic and environmental services of forests in the African context (para. 10).
3. Given the weight of the informal sector in the national economies of most African countries, the Commission recommended that Government policies should provide an enabling environment to improve and further integrate it into the economic fabric (para. 11).
4. The Commission welcomed the presence of a number of female African foresters among delegates, as well as the Network of African Women for Sustainable Development (REFFAD). It recommended that FAO and other international organizations assist countries to strengthen the place and role of women in forestry in the region (para. 12).

REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 13TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

5. The Commission recognized the particular importance of forestry and forest resources in Low Forest Cover Countries in Africa, most of which being also low-income and food-deficit countries. It was therefore recommended that governments of LFCCs, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, should strengthen the LFCC Secretariat and the active participation of its member countries (para. 17).
6. The Commission recommended that strategies and resources to raise the quality, relevance and resources of forestry education and research be developed and implemented at national, sub-regional and regional levels (para. 18).

REPORT OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS

7. The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party and in particular the recommendations requesting (para. 21):
 - i. FAO to assist affected countries to develop common strategies and approaches to deal more efficiently with transboundary movements of wildlife;
 - ii. FAO and other relevant institutions to continue support efforts on breeding wild species for food;
 - iii. TCDC on the management of wildlife and protected areas to be encouraged and supported by FAO and other relevant international and bilateral organizations;

- iv. That conflicts between human populations and wild animals be further addressed with assistance by FAO and other partners and that the issue be the subject of the next in-session seminar.
- v. FAO to take appropriate measures for effectively implementing the Commission's long-standing request to establish a Wildlife Officer's post at the Regional Office for Africa.

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL FORESTRY COOPERATION, INCLUDING TRADE OF FOREST PRODUCTS

8. The Commission recommended that intersessional activities on both forestry and wildlife issues be formally planned and held to deliver on recommendations and advance the overall work of the Commission. It further recommended that FAO, through the Commission and other partners, provide more support for the participation and a preparation of articulate positions of African delegations to major forest-related meetings (para. 24).

9. The Commission recommended that regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the economic communities, be sensitized and supported in their efforts to strengthen collaboration among them and with international partners such as FAO in identifying options and products for inter-African exchange (para. 25).

10. The Commission recommended that a further identification of progress (*e. g.* the search of excellence exercise in sustainable forest management), and that monitoring of follow-up and implementation are done on major issues, including *i. a.* on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, certification processes in Africa, and reduced impact logging (para. 26).

11. The Commission recommended that FAO update, expand and share the compendium of organizations that fund forestry development which was prepared for its Tenth session (para. 27).

Information Note on Regional Cooperation on Forests Fire Issues

12. The Commission recommended further dissemination of the outcomes of the International Wildland Fire Summit and urged countries to incorporate them in their forest fire management policies and programmes (para. 28).

13. The Commission recommended that countries, FAO and other partner organizations support the economic valuation of damages of various nature caused by fires through *i. a.* appropriate case studies, and thus help increase awareness of the need and political commitment to combat them (para. 29).

14. The Commission recommended that FAO continue to support cooperation in forest fire and in particular proceed with the completion of its programme and convene a ministerial meeting on forests, including forest fires, in connection with the Seventeenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2005 (para. 30).

Report of the FAO Regional Workshop on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in Africa

15. The workshop recommended that the Commission should provide a forum for strong regional forestry policy dialogue, including preparations for future global meetings; for a common African position at the Fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-5); and for sharing of experiences in implementation (para. 34).

FORESTS AND WATER IN AFRICA, THEIR LINKS WITH FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

16. The Commission stressed the strategic importance of documenting and valuing the environmental and, in particular, water-related services of forests, and recommended that FAO provide information and case studies on the issue (para. 38).

17. The Commission recommended that FAO should provide further documentation on the issue of the role, potential and constraints of plantation forestry, in particular with reference to water resources balance, and that it disseminate related, balanced and well grounded information (para. 39).

18. The Commission, noting the various international, regional and sub-regional initiatives relating to water resources management and the existence of a number of river basin organizations, recommended that countries, FAO and other partners active in the sector should take stock and cooperate with those organizations and duly incorporate their experience and potential contributions (para. 41).

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PLACE OF FORESTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD

19. Participants expressed concern at the low priority initially accorded to forestry in the CAADP and at the apparent disconnect between CAADP and the UNEP-led Environment Initiative and felt that the two entry points must be well articulated. The Commission recommended that FAO should, in concertation with the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP, take steps to harmonize the two initiatives (para. 44).

20. It was therefore recommended that FAO should provide a more disaggregated breakdown, with explanatory notes of the estimated costs of proposed activities and present these on a sub-regional basis in order that sub-regional economic organizations would be able to identify the implications for their members (para. 45).

21. The Commission recommended that FAO ensure that activities on wood energy and on forest research were fully articulated and budgeted (para. 47).

22. The Commission recommended that FAO, and the NEPAD Secretariat, enhance interaction and consultation in the remaining steps to formalise the Forestry Chapter. It further recommended that participants and observers continue seeking opinions on the Chapter and provide feedback to FAO, and ultimately to the NEPAD Secretariat (para. 48).

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

23. The Commission considered that some of the key issues of concern to African forestry should be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry. These were (para. 74):

- The dual role of forests and trees as ecological, social and economic resources was noted. The meeting therefore recommended that both functions be considered and called upon FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the African Timber Organization (ATO) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), in particular through the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET), to develop methodologies and case studies on assessment and valuation of economic and environmental services of forests in the African context.
- The Commission recognized the particular importance of forestry and forest resources in Low Forest Cover Countries in Africa, most of which being also low- income and food-deficit countries. It was therefore recommended that governments of LFCCs, with support from the

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, should strengthen the LFCC Secretariat and active participation of its member countries.

- The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas, and in particular the recommendations requesting:
 - i. FAO to assist affected countries to develop common strategies and approaches to deal more efficiently with transboundary movements of wildlife;
 - ii. FAO and other relevant institutions to continue supporting efforts on breeding wild species for food;
 - iii. TCDC on the management of wildlife and protected areas to be encouraged and supported by FAO and other relevant international and bilateral organizations;
 - iv. FAO to take appropriate measures for effectively implementing the Commission's long-standing request to establish a Wildlife Officer's post at the Regional Office for Africa.
 - v. Conflicts between human populations and wild animals be further addressed with assistance by FAO and other partners and that the issue be the subject of the next in-session seminar.
- The Commission stressed the importance of bilateral, regional and global agreements on forest fires. It recommended that FAO continue to support cooperation in forest fire management and, in particular, proceed with the completion of its programme and to convene a ministerial meeting on forests, including forest fires, in connection with the Seventeenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
- The Commission, noting the various international, regional and sub-regional initiatives relating to water resources management and the existence of a number of river basin organizations, recommended that countries, FAO and other partners active in the sector should take stock and cooperate with those organizations and duly incorporate their experience and potential contributions.
- Participants expressed concern at the low priority initially accorded to forestry in the CAADP and the UNEP-led Environment Initiative. The Commission recommended that FAO should, in concertation with the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP, take steps to harmonize the two initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

1. The fourteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission was held in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 21 February 2004, at the kind invitation of the Government of Ghana. The session was attended by 83 representatives from 29 member countries and observer countries, and four UN agencies. Observers from 22 international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A full list of participants is given in *Annex B*.
2. FAO was represented by Mr. El Hadji Sène, Director, Forest Resources Division, Forestry Department. Mr. Pape Djiby Koné, Senior Regional Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, served as Secretary.
3. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Prof. Daniel Adzei Bekoe, member of the Ghana Council of State, who commenced the ceremony with a strong statement on forestry issues facing Africa and the need for the Commission to help address them. The Honourable I.C. Quaye, Regional Minister for the Greater Accra Region, welcomed participants and thanked FAO and the Commission for choosing Ghana and Accra to host this session. He underlined local efforts to green the metropolitan region and stressed the importance of all tree areas in this endeavour. His welcome remarks were followed by a statement by the Honourable Prof. Dominic K. Fobih, Minister for Lands and Forestry, who highlighted the importance to Ghana of hosting the fourteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. He gave an overview of Ghana's priorities in forestry and stressed the needs for closer cooperation between African countries on forestry issues of common concern.
4. The FAO statement was presented on behalf of the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, by Mr El Hadji Sene. He conveyed FAO's gratitude to the Government of Ghana and the Minister of Lands and Forestry for taking up at a very short notice the invitation to host the Fourteenth session of the Commission and for providing all facilities for its smooth running. He referred to the outcome of the Sixteenth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) which strongly recommended the strengthening of Regional Forestry Commissions and the integration of their deliberations into the work of COFO.
5. His Excellency Alhadji Aliu Mahama, Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana, delivered the opening address. Before declaring the Fourteenth session of the Commission officially open, the Vice-President pointed out the need for broad-based education on the ecological functions of forests and the goods and services they provide. He emphasized that sustainable forest management is a key to providing social and economic support to rural African communities. The Vice-President further expressed concern about the many threats that African forests are currently facing and suggested that sustainable forest management be considered as an integral part of overall national strategies.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

6. The Provisional Agenda, as set out in document FO:AFWC/2004/1 (*Annex A*), was adopted. The list of documents presented to the session is given in *Annex C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

7. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chair, three Vice-Chairs and one Rapporteur. The composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

Chairman:	Mr. A.S.K. Boachie-Dapaah (Ghana)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Fidy José Andriamananoro (Madagascar) Mr. Said Helal (Tunisia) Mr. Madrate Nakala Oreste (Mozambique)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Pierre Gaba-Mano (Central African Republic)

PERSPECTIVES OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN THE REGION: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FORESTRY OUTLOOK STUDY FOR AFRICA (FOSA) (Item 3)

8. In the absence of the usual national reports, due to short notice, the Secretariat note FO:AFWC/2004/2, highlighted the perspectives of forestry and wildlife in Africa based on the outcome of the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA). This study identified major challenges for forestry and wildlife in Africa, especially agriculture expansion and the rising demand for forestry products (firewood, bushmeat, pharmacopea) which, in the absence of sustainable management, inevitably result in further forest and land degradation. The paper recognized the vital contribution of forestry to food security and poverty reduction but warned that commercialization and trade in forest products would, in the absence of sustainable forest management, inevitably lead to further forest depletion and resource-related conflicts. The paper identified opportunities at the national level through decentralization and participatory approaches, and at the regional level through initiatives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), especially the Environment Programme and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). Key sub-regional features identified by FOSA were highlighted to illustrate diversities and specificities. The Commission noted the follow-up to FOSA recommendations by FAO, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through joint missions to sub-regional organizations undertaken or to be undertaken. These joint missions are intended to assist the sub-regional organizations in identifying appropriate programmes for possible donor support.

9. The Commission acknowledged the beneficial trend of decentralization, community participation and informal production and trade, and recommended that appropriate policies and actions be taken to revitalize forest administrations so that they can deliver their crucial supervisory and regulatory role.

10. The dual role of forests and trees as ecological, social and economic resources was also noted. The meeting therefore recommended that both functions be considered and called upon FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the African Timber Organization (ATO) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), in particular through the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET), to develop methodologies and case studies on assessment and enable valuation of economic and environmental services of forests in the African context. This will demonstrate the economic relevance of forestry and strengthen the political priority given to it.

11. Given the weight of the informal sector in the national economies of most African countries, the Commission recommended that Government policies should provide an enabling environment to improve and further integrate it into the economic fabric.

12. The Commission welcomed the presence of a number of female African foresters among delegates, as well as the Network of African Women for Sustainable Development (REFFAD). It recommended that FAO and other international organizations assist countries to strengthen the place and role of women in forestry in the region.

REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 13TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 4)

13. The Secretariat note FO: AFWC/2004/3 highlighted activities carried out by FAO in Africa during the past biennium. Particular emphasis was put on the normative activities pertaining to sustainable forest management practices; forest genetic resources; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM); forests, mountains and water; and forestry research and education.

14. During the same period, FAO's field programme in Africa mainly focused on the elaboration of a regional code of reduced impact logging, integrated watershed management in the Fouta Djallon, the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative, the regional *Acacia* programme in support of food security and poverty alleviation, as well as the mitigation of soil degradation in Sahelian countries.

15. The Secretariat was also pleased to report that all requests and recommendations from the thirteenth session of the Commission have been adequately implemented.

16. In addition to this paper, a short presentation on the background and prospects of the Secretariat of the Teheran Process on Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) was introduced by the Secretary of the Teheran Process.

17. The Commission recognized the particular importance of forestry and forest resources in Low Forest Cover Countries in Africa, most of which being also low-income and food-deficit countries. It was therefore recommended that governments of LFCCs, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, should strengthen the LFCC Secretariat and the active participation of its member countries. The Commission noted the call from the Secretary of the Teheran process that focal points to the Commission also act, where appropriate, as focal points to the LFCC process.

18. The Commission noted the decline in investment in forestry education and research. This had a strong negative impact on the capacity for forest management and its contribution to rural development and poverty reduction. The Commission recommended that strategies and resources to raise the quality, relevance and resources of forestry education and research be developed and implemented at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

REPORT OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PROTECTED AREAS (Item 5)

19. The Secretary of the Working Party presented the results of the Fifteenth session of the AFWC Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas (document FO:AFWC/WL/2004/REP). Twenty-eight delegates from 16 countries and four NGOs participated in the session. Fourteen countries presented oral and/or written reports. Common issues arising from the reports included *i. a.* the weakness in law enforcement; the need for policy, legal and institutional reforms; inadequacy of financial resources to support the management of wildlife and protected areas; potential and opportunities to involve the private sector in the management of wildlife resources and protected areas, thus sharing the burden with the States; cross-boundary wildlife movements and the need to address related problems.

20. The Commission held an in-session seminar relating to systematic decision analysis applied to bushmeat problems. The exercise improved understanding of the issue and generated structured observations and recommendations by the Working Party.

21. The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party and in particular the recommendations requesting:

- i. FAO to assist affected countries to develop common strategies and approaches to deal more efficiently with transboundary movements of wildlife;
- ii. FAO and other relevant institutions to continue supporting efforts on breeding wild species for food;
- iii. TCDC on the management of wildlife and protected areas to be encouraged and supported by FAO and other relevant international and bilateral organizations;
- iv. That conflicts between human populations and wild animals be further addressed with assistance by FAO and other partners and that the issue be the subject of the next in-session seminar;
- v. FAO to take appropriate measures for effectively implementing the Commission's long-standing request to establish a Wildlife Officer's post at the Regional Office for Africa.

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL FORESTRY COOPERATION, INCLUDING TRADE OF FOREST PRODUCTS (Item 6)

22. The Commission discussed Secretariat Note FO:AFWC/2004/4 which introduced the potential and prerequisites for an enhanced regional and sub-regional cooperation in forestry. In discussing the topic, delegates considered the need to enhance intra-regional cooperation on a number of aspects of forestry. They perceived and stressed the potential of a greater role, as yet inadequately tapped, of the regional and sub-regional organizations in advancing the regional forestry agenda. They also considered the role the Commission should play in the future.

23. Delegates expressed the view that, in a number of areas, substantive regional cooperation could be developed, building synergies and minimizing overlapping. The idea of identifying institutions, which are advanced on specific areas, and recognizing them as centres of excellence was discussed and considered worth promoting further.

24. Countries of the region need to better cooperate and come up with common understanding and a common position in forest-related conferences or negotiations. This would call for consultations and preliminary discussions often constrained by the lack of resources to support such a process. The role of the Commission in fostering African participation in and contribution to the international forest processes was highlighted, as well as the need to strengthen the Commission as a unique regional forest policy forum for countries and sub-regional organizations. The Commission recommended that inter-sessional activities on both forestry and wildlife issues be formally planned and held to deliver on recommendations and advance the overall work of the Commission. It further recommended that FAO, through the Commission and other partners, provide more support for the participation and a preparation of articulate positions of African delegations to major forest-related meetings.

25. Intra-regional trade volume in forest products in Africa is limited. The Commission recognized efforts and progress already achieved by some sub-regional organizations. There was, however, a gap between political commitment and concrete action to boost forest products exchange. It recommended that regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the economic communities, be sensitized and supported in their efforts to strengthen collaboration among them and with international partners such as FAO in identifying options and products for inter-African exchange.

26. Participants noted the recurrent discussions on a number of issues giving the impression of little progress, albeit interesting developments. It recommended that a further identification of progress (*e. g.* the search of excellence exercise in sustainable forest management), and that monitoring of follow-up and implementation are done on major issues, including *i. a.* on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, certification processes in Africa, and reduced impact logging.

27. The issue of resources to fund appropriate regional and sub-regional cooperation was discussed and the need to find new original modes of financing stressed. The Commission

recommended that FAO update, expand and share the compendium of organizations that fund forestry development which was prepared for its Tenth session.

Information Note on Regional Cooperation on Forest Fire Issues

28. The Commission welcomed information about activities on forest fires implemented by FAO and other partners (document FO: AFWC/2004/INF.5). It took note of the important recommendations from the Proceedings of the International Wildland Fire Summit, held in Sydney, Australia, in October 2003. It recommended further dissemination of the outcomes of the Summit and urged countries to incorporate them in their forest fire management policies and programmes.

29. Recognizing that forest fires are causing grave ecological, economic and human damage, the Commission encouraged its members to reassess and strengthen commitment to combat forest fires and to develop bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperation to do so. It recognized that approaches to forest fires at national level should be based on the right combination of education and extension to support community-based forest fire management, and appropriate organization and equipment at local and national levels. The Commission recommended that countries, FAO and other partner organizations support the economic valuation of damages of various nature caused by fires through, *i.a.* appropriate case studies, and thus help increase awareness of the need and political commitment to combat them.

30. The Commission stressed the importance of bilateral, regional and global agreements on forest fires. It recommended that FAO continue to support cooperation in forest fire and in particular proceed with the completion of its programme and convene a ministerial meeting on forests, including forest fires, in connection with the Seventeenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2005.

Report of the FAO Regional Workshop on Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action in Africa

31. The Vice-Chairperson of the Workshop presented the report. The workshop was attended by 49 experts representing countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), regional and sub-regional organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations.

32. Workshop participants adopted more than 30 recommendations, primarily addressed to countries, on the following topics:

- i. implementing proposals for action;
- ii. participation of African countries in the international forest dialogue;
- iii. strengthening regional actions;
- iv. trade and sustainable forest management (implementing the proposals);
- v. rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, especially in LFCCs (implementing the proposals).

33. Among the main recommendations was a call to strengthen the sub-regional organizations so that they can better assist countries in the implementation. In some sub-regions, streamlining and harmonization of the many on-going initiatives is needed. Participants also stressed the need for international processes to provide proper means of implementation and to disseminate information on their outcomes. Several recommendations called on FAO, in collaboration with other partners, to continue to support and facilitate country implementation.

34. The workshop recommended that the Commission should provide a forum for strong regional forestry policy dialogue, including preparations for future global meetings; for a common African position at the Fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-5); and for sharing of experiences in implementation.

35. In her remarks, the representative of the UNFF secretariat informed that the Fourth session of UNFF will be held from 3 to 14 May 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland, and invited the Commission to

present its outcome in a specific panel of the session, “the Africa day”. The Commission expressed the wish that a large participation of African countries be facilitated.

36. The Commission endorsed the workshop report (*Annex E*).

FORESTS AND WATER IN AFRICA, THEIR LINKS WITH FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION (Item 7)

37. This item was introduced through document FO:AFWC/2004/5, which stressed the key role of forestry on the sustainable use and management of land resources and, in particular, water resources. Focus was given to the African context in explaining the need to focus on water issues and the role of forests and forested watersheds. Achievements and gaps, as well as emerging issues were underscored.

38. The Secretariat note was very well received and commented upon by the Commission which welcomed the work programme entity on forests and freshwater being initiated by FAO. The Commission stressed the strategic importance of documenting and valuing the environmental and, in particular, water-related services of forests, and recommended that FAO provide information and case studies on the issue. It emphasized the need to demonstrate, enhance and promote synergies and linkages among sectors on issues related to water resources management, in particular with the African Ministerial Conference on Water.

39. The Commission took note of the full potential of trees, single or in plantation, in land resources management. To encourage their appropriate use, it recommended that FAO should provide further documentation on the issue of the role, potential and constraints of plantation forestry, in particular with reference to water resources balance, and that it disseminate related balanced and well grounded information.

40. The Commission stressed the need to strengthen capabilities for adequate completion of watershed management programmes, the importance of training, and the support of appropriate extension programmes. These should be conceived in a truly integrated approach so that activities relating to forests and fresh water are not developed in isolation.

41. The Commission, noting the various international, regional and sub-regional initiatives relating to water resources management and the existence of a number of river basin organizations, recommended that countries, FAO and other partners active in the sector should take stock and cooperate with those organizations and duly incorporate their experience and potential contributions.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PLACE OF FORESTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAD (Item 8)

42. This item was introduced through Secretariat Note FO:AFWC/2004/6; participants were also referred to the draft Forestry Chapter prepared by FAO, at the request of the NEPAD Secretariat, for inclusion in the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which was accompanied by a Summary Note.

43. The presentation described the evolution from the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA) of both NEPAD initiatives concerning forestry – the Environmental Action Plan and the CAADP – and highlighted the priority interventions and indicative annual budget of US\$3.9 billion. The deliberations and recommendations of the two inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau were also reported.

44. Participants expressed concern at the low priority initially accorded to forestry in the CAADP and at the apparent disconnect between CAADP and the UNEP-led Environment Initiative. The Commission recommended that FAO should, in concertation with the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP,

take steps to harmonize the two initiatives. The Commission took note of the information given by Senegal that, in its capacity as Country Coordinator of the NEPAD Environmental Initiative, this country has appointed, through an international bidding process, a Coordinator of the Interim Secretary for this initiative. This Officer will be in charge of coordinating all NEPAD activities on the Environment, in close collaboration with UNEP and other partners.

45. It was not possible to provide the Commission with a view on the budgetary implications of the CAADP because of their aggregated nature. It was therefore recommended that FAO should provide a more disaggregated breakdown with explanatory notes of the estimated costs of proposed activities and present these on a sub-regional basis in order that sub-regional economic organizations would be able to identify the implications for their members.

46. It was further suggested that, for presentation purposes, the forest budget should be allocated directly into the four NEPAD pillars rather than stand alone, and that indications of potential funding sources should differentiate national from donor funds. Some discussion focused on the source and nature of private investment, and the importance of farmers and the informal sector as investors.

47. The Commission recommended that FAO ensure that activities on wood energy and on forest research were fully articulated and budgeted. Attention was drawn to the positive role of informal forest activities, such as production and trade in woodfuel, in contributing to poverty alleviation. Woodfuel substitution by oil or LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) could have perverse effects on households that depend on such activities and should be carefully planned.

48. The Commission noted that there was as yet inadequate consultation in the preparation of the CAADP forestry chapter. The Commission recommended that FAO, and the NEPAD Secretariat, enhance interaction and consultation in the remaining steps to formalise the Forestry Chapter. It further recommended that participants and observers continue seeking opinions on the Chapter and provide feedback to FAO, and ultimately to the NEPAD Secretariat.

Statements by Organizations

49. After discussion of Item 8, the Secretary invited those Organizations present to deliver short statements; these included:

- African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Timber Organization (ATO)
- African Women Network on Sustainable Development (REFFAD)
- Conférence des Ministres en charge des forêts de l'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC)
- European Forestry Commission (EFC)
- Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- International Association of Francophone Foresters (AFFI)
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- Low Forest Cover Countries Secretariat (LFCCs)
- Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC)
- Organization for the Conservation of African Wildlife (OCAW)
- Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

KEY ISSUES EMERGING FROM SIDE AND SATELLITE MEETINGS

50. Four side meetings and two satellite meetings took place during the session. Key issues emerging from these meetings are given below.

Side Meeting 1: Forestry Research and Training in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

51. The side meeting on forestry research and education was facilitated by Prof. August Temu (ICRAF) and Dr Atse Yapi (IUFRO-SPDC and FORNESSA). Due to time constraints, extensive presentations were not possible. Rather, highlights of the main programmes and issues were given, with emphasis on the following discussion points:

- Technical forestry education in Africa is disappearing. As a result, forestry research is affected adversely in terms of lack of a “critical mass” of scientists in the national forestry research institutions taken individually.
- Post graduate education possibilities are too few, coupled with isolation of the training institutions and also with their research counterparts.
- Sub-regional harmonization of research and education programmes, with possible specialization by institutions and also by ecological sub-regions, are worth looking at.
- The impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic needs urgent and serious attention.

52. Lively discussions followed the presentations. They stressed the crucial role of research and education as the instrument by excellence for the production of the needed technologies and scientific information for the achievement of sustainable forest management and thus for sustainable development in the continent.

53. Based on their contributions, major partners such as FAO and IUFRO have been encouraged to continue their valuable support to the strengthening of forestry research capacity building and information development and dissemination, especially that available through electronic media. Finally, the meeting made the following two important recommendations:

- FAO, in collaboration with its major partners such as IUFRO, should continue their valuable support to forest research and networking in Africa.
- Future sessions of the Commission should feature permanently in their agenda forestry research and education issues.

Side Meeting 2: Regional Code of Practice for Reduced Impact Forest Harvesting for Central and West Africa

54. The purpose of this side meeting was to inform participants about the Regional Code of Practice which was launched at the World Forestry Congress in Quebec City, Canada, in September 2003, and receive comments thereon. Copies of the Code were made available in both English and French, and a background note was distributed to facilitate discussion.

55. Participants were informed that the development of the Regional Code had involved consultation with many organizations concerned with forest management and harvesting in tropical moist forests in Africa, as well as extensive studies and reviews. The process included case studies in four countries (Central African Republic, Gabon, Ghana and Congo) as well as a regional workshop held in Gabon in 2003.

56. The Regional Code is viewed as a non-legally binding set of guidelines and benchmarks for improved harvesting, applicable to all countries of Central and West Africa with tropical moist forests. It is intended primarily to serve as a reference for those African countries which are considering the adoption or revision of their own national codes of forest harvesting practice. In practical terms, such

codes are deemed necessary to promote harvesting practices that will improve standards of utilization, reduce environmental impacts, and thereby ensure that forests are sustainably managed.

57. The reaction of participants was positive and constructive. The awareness-raising was welcomed and it was suggested that it be extended to technical schools and research institutions. Research institutions were also called upon to include the impact of logging in their programmes.

58. Doubts were expressed as to whether smaller and/or informal harvesting operators would be interested to incur costs on a voluntary basis by introducing such codes into their operations. Some disappointment was expressed that the Regional Code was only intended to be ethical and advisory rather than judicial. Furthermore, participants were reminded that other sectors (e.g. mining) not covered by the Regional Code impact more adversely than logging on forests.

59. It was noted that the scope of the Regional Code is limited to timber harvesting, even if general principles relevant to all harvesting was covered. Delegates at the meeting deplored the fact that non-timber forest products which are harvested in great volumes, often indiscriminately and with severe impacts on resource availability and sustainability, are not emphasised in the Code. The applicability to woodfuel harvesting and to “forest-poor” countries such as members of the initiative for Low Forest Cover Countries was recognised by participants, and they encouraged the adoption of the Code’s principles in all African countries.

Side Meeting 3: Platform Strategy for FAO Support to Congo Basin Forests

60. The item was introduced by Mr. El Hadji Sène, Director, Forest Resources Division of the FAO Forestry Department. Congo Basin forests are the second largest consecutive forest block of the world. They represent a huge reserve of biological diversity and a considerable economic asset. They are essential to the livelihoods of millions of relatively poor people. They represent great challenges for their management and, in particular, for the conservation of their biological diversity. A number of initiatives have marked the last six years involving national governments in the region but also many partners. The launch of the Conference of the Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), the Yaoundé Summit on Congo Basin forests and the ensuing launch of the *Conférence des Ministres chargés des forêts de l’Afrique centrale* (COMIFAC), as well as the Congo Basin Forests Partnership are among the most prominent of these initiatives.

61. FAO, in a view to providing more efficient and appropriate support to the efforts of interested countries, embarked in a reflection on, and formulation of, a specific strategic platform to steer and strengthen its own contribution to the management, conservation and development of the forests of the Congo Basin. This platform is inspired by FAO’s vision of a Congo Basin where populations live and prosper in peace and where the huge forest block of Central Africa will remain a permanent ecologically balanced and functional natural resource, conserving its full vitality, and serving national economies, societies and communities of the sub-region. It is based on the comparative advantages of the Organization. It will be guided by and should only respond to country requests and needs. The process has identified four strategic orientations including: (i) better management and utilisation techniques; (ii) regional information system on resources; (iii) stronger approaches and actors for resource utilisation; and (iv) institutional support and legal framework.

62. Participants commended FAO for the initiative. This was a welcome response to the needs of nations in the sub-region and corresponded to what countries would expect from FAO. The meeting endorsed the approach and encouraged FAO to continue in cooperation and partnership with other players in the sub-region.

Side Meeting 4: Information and Exchange Session on National Forest Programmes (nfps) in Africa

63. FAO presented the concept, basic principles and operational phases of nfps that include the full range of policies, institutions and resources for national sustainable forest management (SFM). The nfp approach is based on country leadership and partnership among stakeholders. The process is

dynamic and responsive to change. Presently the nfp process has reached the following positive developments: contribution of SFM to national economy and environment recognized; increased relation of nfps to reduction of poverty and food security; and stakeholder participation and domestic resource mobilization. On the downward side, there is still limited capacity to address cross-sectoral issues, and to mobilize more financial resources. There is also a need to improve governance, accountability and transparency and increase political support to the sector.

64. FAO provides various instruments and initiatives to strengthen nfps. Funds and technical support are available through the Technical Cooperation Programme, the Trust Fund Programme and Partnership Instruments.

65. Partnership Instruments. The National Forest Programme Facility aims at supporting SFM through the formulation and implementation of nfps, involving government and legitimate interest groups. It can also support global management initiatives. There are presently in Africa 20 partner countries which have signed Partnership Agreements with the Facility and ten others which are pending approval. Many countries present at the meeting mentioned that they are benefiting from the Facility actually, and that it is of great support to streamline nfp formulation and implementation. FAO also provides an important information platform on nfps. Indeed, one can find Nfp Updates on-line, which provide details of the nfp status in countries. Countries participating to the meeting were invited to provide the most recent information about the Updates.

66. Nfp Digests, also on-line, offer collections of key electronic documents from forestry experts and various organizations on nfps. Issues addressed include forests and poverty, stakeholder participation and forest finance systems. A CD-ROM compendium on nfps is also available. FAO equally prepared a Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management. It contains key information on donor agencies and countries and various forest-related organizations and other funding sources.

67. The principal issue raised by member country delegates during the discussion was that the Facility has been very useful to their countries in the implementation of their nfps and they strongly recommended that this very useful partnership tool be extended to other countries which will be applying for assistance from the Facility.

Satellite Meeting 1: Trade issues facing Africa's forest sector

68. The event was organized by the African Timber Organization (ATO), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Inter-African Forest Industries Association (IFIA). They noted that the perception of importers, especially Europeans, is that harvesting does not respect the ecology of tropical moist forests in Africa. Currently, Europeans consume mostly processed wood while the Asian market is most interested in roundwood. Therefore, African countries need to urgently demonstrate progress in the implementation of their strategies for sustainable forest management, especially timber harvesting, in order to improve their market opportunities abroad. To support country efforts, ATO has developed a new strategy; AfDB provides grants and loans, basing approval of funds on country proposals that demonstrate sustainability in forest management. AfDB is also revising its forest policy and intends to do so in a participatory manner. IFIA helps build private sector partnerships.

69. The main challenges to African wood trade are: creation of enabling environment to attract foreign investments, reduce custom levies to boost intra-regional trade and to facilitate the emergence of a more vibrant private sector in countries; improvement of processing to add value and efficiency; and increasing the use of lesser known species.

70. Participants recommended that FAO bring together representatives of African producer countries, wood processing and harvesting operators and financial institutions to discuss solutions to boost trade in forest products in Africa.

Satellite Meeting 2: Lessons learnt from experiences on sustainable forest management in Africa

71. This satellite meeting reported on the “Lessons learnt on sustainable forest management in Africa”, project undertaken jointly by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Sweden, and FAO. AAS acted through the Secretariat and Board of the Africa Forestry Research Network (AFORNET), Sweden through the Committee on International Forestry of the Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA), and FAO through its Forestry Department. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided funding for the project.

72. The Commission was informed that all studies commissioned under the project aimed at identifying the most urgent issues and concerns to which Africa should give priority in international processes such as UNFF and other environment-related conventions and processes; and at producing the information needed to enhance the participation of Africa in these international forest-related processes.

73. The results of these studies were presented in tabular forms, showing the main issues, associated lessons learnt and key observations from each of these issues. Discussions that followed the presentation stressed the importance of documenting lessons learnt on SFM in Africa. The meeting observed that the results of the initiative are interesting and could potentially make significant contributions to the next UNFF meeting in May 2004 if they were presented in a more systematic way. The meeting therefore recommended that the project team endeavour to present the project results in a more systematic way and submit them to FAO for presentation at the next UNFF.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 9)

74. The Commission considered that some of the key issues of concern to African forestry should be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry. These were:

- The dual role of forests and trees as ecological, social and economic resources was noted. The meeting therefore recommended that both functions be considered and called upon FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the African Timber Organization (ATO) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), in particular through the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET), to develop methodologies and case studies on assessment and valuation of economic and environmental services of forests in the African context.
- The Commission recognized the particular importance of forestry and forest resources in Low Forest Cover Countries in Africa, most of which being also low-income and food-deficit countries. It was therefore recommended that governments of LFCCs, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO, should strengthen the LFCC Secretariat and active participation of its member countries.
- The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas, and in particular the recommendations requesting:
 - i. FAO to assist affected countries to develop common strategies and approaches to deal more efficiently with transboundary movements of wildlife;
 - ii. FAO and other relevant institutions to continue supporting efforts on breeding wild species for food;
 - iii. TCDC on the management of wildlife and protected areas to be encouraged and supported by FAO and other relevant international and bilateral organizations;
 - iv. FAO to take appropriate measures for effectively implementing the Commission’s long-standing request to establish a Wildlife Officer’s post at the Regional Office for Africa.
 - v. Conflicts between human populations and wild animals be further addressed with assistance by FAO and other partners and that the issue be the subject of the next in-session seminar.

- The Commission stressed the importance of bilateral, regional and global agreements on forest fires. It recommended that FAO continue to support cooperation in forest fire management and, in particular, proceed with the completion of its programme and to convene a ministerial meeting on forests, including forest fires, in connection with the Seventeenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
- The Commission, noting the various international, regional and sub-regional initiatives relating to water resources management and the existence of a number of river basin organizations, recommended that countries, FAO and other partners active in the sector should take stock and cooperate with those organizations and duly incorporate their experience and potential contributions.
- Participants expressed concern at the low priority initially accorded to forestry in the CAADP and the UNEP-led Environment Initiative. The Commission recommended that FAO should, in concertation with the NEPAD Secretariat and UNEP, take steps to harmonize the two initiatives.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)

75. The Commission reiterated the recommendation made to FAO and international organizations to strengthen sub-regional organizations and support their better coordination on forestry and wildlife issues.

76. The Commission further underscored the importance of its strengthening as a unique regional forum for concertation, cooperation and coordination of African efforts towards sustainable forestry development. In this regard, large participation in intersessional activities and strong collaboration of sub-regional organizations have been suggested.

77. The Commission was apprised of the start-up of the update of the Forest Resources Assessment 2005. For the exercise, most countries have designated focal points who participated in a training workshop in November 2003 in Rome, Italy. Regional workshops are being organized, including for Africa – one for English-speaking and one for French-speaking countries. The Commission was encouraged to support mainstreaming the exercise, essential to quality data collection and processing, in their departments.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 11)

78. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from Mozambique to host its Fifteenth session in 2006.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 12)

79. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with some corrections and clarifications, which are reflected in this report.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Perspectives of forestry and wildlife in the Region: Highlights from the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA)
4. Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 13th session of the Commission
5. Report of the 15th session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas (Accra, Ghana, 16-18 February 2004)
6. Regional and sub-regional forestry cooperation, including trade of forest products
7. Forests and water in Africa, their links with food security and poverty reduction
8. In-session Seminar: Place of forests in the implementation of NEPAD
9. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forests (COFO)
10. Other business
11. Date and place of next session
12. Adoption of the report

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ANNEX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:AFWC/2004/1	Provisional Agenda
3	FO:AFWC/2004/2	Perspectives of forestry and wildlife in the Region: Highlights from the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA)
4	FO:AFWC/2004/3	Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the requests and recommendations of the 13 th session of the Commission
5	FO:AFWC/WL/2004/REP	Report of the 15 th session of the Working Party on the Management of Wildlife and Protected Areas
6	FO:AFWC/2004/4	Regional and sub-regional forestry cooperation, including trade of forest products
7	FO:AFWC/2004/5	Forests and water in Africa, their links with food security and poverty reduction
8	FO:AFWC/2004/6	Place of forests in the implementation of NEPAD
Information documents		
	FO:AFWC/2004/INF.1	Information Note
	FO:AFWC/2004/INF.2	Provisional Timetable
	FO:AFWC/2004/INF.3	List of documents
	FO:AFWC/2004/INF.4	Report on the XII World Forestry Congress 2003
	FO:AFWC/2004/INF.5	Wildland Fire Agreements

ANNEX D

LIST OF NATIONAL REPORTS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION

Guinea
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Niger
Senegal
Tunisia

**Report of the FAO Regional Workshop on Implementation of
IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in Africa**

Accra, Ghana, 16-18 February 2004

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Workshop on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in Africa was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Government of Ghana from 16 to 18 February 2004 in Accra, Ghana, in conjunction with the Fourteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. The workshop was co-sponsored by the US Department of State/USDA Forest Service.

Gathering from all sub-regions of Africa and beyond, 49 experts participated in the workshop, from countries (20), members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations (14), private sector (1) and non-governmental organizations (4).

Mr. A.S.K. Boachie-Dapaah, Ghana, was elected as Chairperson and Mr. Ababu Anage Zeleke, Ethiopia, as Vice-Chairperson of the Workshop. Mr. Abdel Azim Mirghani Ibrahim, Sudan, acted as Rapporteur and Ms. Christina Amoako-Nuama as Facilitator. The work was conducted in three Working Groups: (I) Trade and Sustainable Forest Management, chaired by Mr. Roger Foteu, Cameroon; (II) Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands, chaired by Mr. Ndiawar Ndieng, Senegal; and (III) Strengthening Regional Collaboration and Preparedness of African Countries in International Forest Dialogue, chaired by Mr. Bertrand Zida, CILSS.

The workshop was organized to strengthen country, sub-regional and regional action towards sustainable forest management, including through the implementation of proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). This was in direct response to the Sixteenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2003, which recommended that FAO take the lead in supporting policy and providing technical advice to countries and facilitate the flow of information between the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and countries.

The workshop provided a forum to exchange country experiences and discuss materials available for implementing IPF/IFF proposals, specifically around themes of trade and sustainable forest management and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands. It also provided an opportunity to inform countries about developments in the international forest dialogue and to discuss how countries could better prepare for global meetings. This was particularly timely considering the upcoming decisions in 2005, on the future international arrangements for forests.

The report was endorsed by the Fourteenth session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission.

2. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Implementing Proposals for Action

Observations/Lessons Learned:

1. Democratization, decentralization, political and social stability, continuity of staff, good governance, awareness raising and law enforcement are prerequisites for sustainable forest management (SFM), which in turn contributes to reduce poverty.
2. On the other hand, a growing number of international recommendations is overwhelming country implementing agencies. Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action is weak because they are not well known and due to the low level of participation of African governments during the negotiations of these international processes.
3. There is lack of sufficient institutional capacity and financial resources to fully implement IPF/IFF proposals for action and decisions of UNFF. The negative impacts of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), inappropriate policy reform programmes and HIV/AIDS pandemic cause further difficulties.
4. However, many countries are struggling to implement them, particularly through their national forest programmes, and are using the proposals to check the compatibility of national activities with international guidance.

Recommendations:

5. Local, national, sub-regional and regional level actors should raise awareness on and make use of the simplified versions of the proposals, which should be made available in hard copies. The Permanent Missions to the UN in New York should pass on material received from UNFF timely.
6. Countries should share experiences on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and criteria and indicators, for example, how to prioritize the proposals to concentrate on the most relevant in the context of their specific conditions.
7. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) should provide a forum for sharing experiences on successes and failures.
8. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) should develop coordinated and simplified approaches for implementation.
9. FAO, in collaboration with other CPF members, should continue to facilitate meetings on implementation.
10. FAO, other members of CPF, the African Forestry Research Network (AFORNET) and the Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) and other regional and sub-regional organizations should continue to support research capacity building and networking.
11. FAO should strengthen efforts to provide information on forest resources and products and, in collaboration with other CPF members, should facilitate access to information and ease reporting burden to countries.

2.2. Participation of African Countries in the International Forest Dialogue

Observations/Lessons Learned:

12. The African voice is not heard at the international negotiations. Only few countries are able to participate, often with only one person in the delegation.
13. UNEP's role in helping African countries to prepare for IFF-4 and UNFF's efforts to support participation were recognized. Regional preparations and building of a common African position in future international forest policy negotiations are crucial.
14. African countries have limited capacity to take advantage of existing opportunities, for instance, the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) grants on land degradation.
15. Few regional/sub-regional bodies are accredited to the UNFF.

Recommendations:

16. AFWC, in collaboration with sub-regional organizations, should provide a forum for strong regional policy dialogue, including preparations for future global meetings and for a common African position at UNFF-5.
17. Domestic resources from both the public and private sectors should be harnessed to support both participation in and implementation of proposals for action.
18. Countries should improve consultations with stakeholders.
19. Background information should be available well in advance of UNFF sessions.
20. All countries should designate focal institutions/persons.

2.3. Strengthening Regional Actions

Observations/Lessons Learned:

21. Regional/sub-regional organizations, including NGOs, are not sufficiently informed of and engaged in the UNFF processes and its outcomes. They should be proactive in requesting for information.
22. Efforts are underway to harmonize policies and strategies in some sub-regions.

Recommendations:

23. The various existing regional and sub-regional organizations dealing with economic issues, regional development and political coordination should incorporate SFM into their mandates and implement it, but they need partners to do so.

2.4. Trade in and Sustainable Forest Management (Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action)

Observations/Lessons Learned:

24. Prerequisites for trade are: (i) product availability; (ii) competitiveness; (iii) buyer confidence (quality of product; social management; legality; SFM); (iv) investments.

25. Certification is one tool to promote SFM.
26. Good governance is essential to curbing illegal logging and associated trade.
27. Technical standards and product specifications, especially in Europe, are likely to impair market access to African producers.
28. Non-wood forest products, including medicinal plants and forest foods, are driven by urban demand, informal production and export processes that may hurt communities and the forests. Commercialization is beginning, but export opportunities are informal and undeveloped.
29. The potential of trade in carbon is poorly understood in Africa. Further experiences of application of carbon trading would be valuable.

Recommendations:

30. Countries should strengthen linkages between trade and forest policy, starting by increasing collaboration among ministries and with the private sector.
31. Countries should create an enabling environment to attract foreign investments.
32. ATO should continue to develop the Pan-African Forest Certification Scheme (PAFC).
33. FAO should help strengthen mutual recognition between the certification schemes.
34. Producer associations should be strengthened to better promote products, disseminate information and participate in the national decision-making.
35. Governments, logging companies and international organizations, such as FAO, should collaborate more to understand market opportunities and dynamics.
36. Governments should promote the use of local wood and other forest products.
37. FAO should facilitate the establishment of bi-lateral and sub-regional forest trade agreements, for example, by helping with feasibility studies that identify market opportunities and impediments for trade, including infrastructure problems and export taxes.
38. Technology needs should be specified, especially with regard to appropriate machines and ways to enhance small-scale enterprises. Private sector partnerships are a key to transfer of technology.
39. Governments and private sector entities should collaborate to disseminate and make better use of market information.
40. FAO, ITTO and ATO should collaborate to avoid duplication in the collection and dissemination of information.
41. Countries should improve their recording of information on production, trade and prices of NWFPs in order to improve sustainable forest management and capture the real value of these products and the contribution of forestry to food security and rural development.
42. Countries should replace exports of bushmeat with domesticated production.

43. Countries should design market mechanisms that capture the value of water and other non-market services from forests and ensure that the returns are used back to forest management.

2.5. Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands (Implementing IPF/IFF Proposals for Action)

Observations/Lessons Learned:

44. In many countries, sector policies are separate, and many forest problems are a result of policies outside the sector.

45. Since forestry has become marginalized, forestry actions must be addressed through national development strategies and action plans, and strategies of other sectors.

46. Low forest cover countries, many of which are low-income and food-deficit countries as well, are particularly sensitive to land degradation.

Recommendations:

47. Land rehabilitation strategies should be integrated into other sectoral strategies.

48. National forest programmes should include rehabilitation of degraded lands. Countries, in collaboration with international institutions, should establish funds for rehabilitation, replenished partially by forestry activity revenues.

49. Forestry departments and stakeholders should collaborate with other sectors to incorporate minimum standards in their activities affecting forest.

50. Countries should ensure that research is demand driven and considers community and socio-economic conditions.

51. Regional efforts should be strengthened to access GEF assistance in supplementing country national resources in rehabilitating degraded lands.

52. Involvement of private sector and communities in rehabilitation should be encouraged.

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