



SECRETARIAT REPORT ON FAO RESPONSES TO THE REQUESTS FROM THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION



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Introduction.

Document - FO:AFWC/2016/7.1

Presents a synthesis of activities undertaken by FAO- not exhaustive .



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Com: 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

Measures:

- ❖ **Support to AUC - Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative; Monitoring for Environment in Africa**
- ❖ **FLEGT; CSA with forestry**
- ❖ **COMIFAC sub-regional programme on forests for food security and nutrition**
- ❖ **West Africa, FAO completed the National Forest Policy updates for ECOWAS**
- ❖ **Developed a sub-regional strategy for enhancing the participation of civil society actors in forest policy formulation in ECOWAS member countries**



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Com: Requested that FAO strengthens partnerships with sub-regional economic integration organizations (e.g. SADC, ECOWAS) which could act as a channel in supporting Member countries.

Measures

FAO supported:

- ❖ AUC to develop a sustainable forest management framework programme for Africa (Malabo)
- ❖ AFF in establishing the Forestry Association/network for Eastern Africa
- ❖ Implementation of the ECOWAS Forest Convergence Plan
- ❖ ECCAS and COMIFAC involved in FAO's priorities identification for Central Africa



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Com: 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

Measures:

- ❖ Contribution of forests to FSN presented at 22nd Session of COFO; 41st Session CFS and the XIV WFC.

Com: 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

Measures

- ❖ FAO published Guidelines to formulate community-based action plans for addressing Human-Wildlife conflicts
- ❖ Supported SFM and REDD+ Strategy and programme in Eastern and West Africa
- ❖ Organized sub-regional workshop on Forest products Statistics for Southern Africa with ITTO and SADC



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Com: 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

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Released the “Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands: building resilience and benefiting livelihoods”
- ❖ Supported work in NWFP in Africa including Gum Arabic activities in the Drylands of Africa
- ❖ Supported small scale forest enterprises development, and Market analysis and development in many countries



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Com: Requested FAO to enhance efforts to popularize the voluntary guidelines and the guidelines on forest tenure (VGGT) in countries and provide support on implementation of activities aimed at strengthening land and tree tenure issues.

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Supported capacity development on tenure governance
- ❖ FAO developed a VGGT-based forest tenure assessment framework
- ❖ Supported community and private forestry development
- ❖ Supported community-based forest management in many countries



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Com: 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.

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Supported the profiling of forestry in the region
- ❖ Developed and widely disseminated forestry information materials
- ❖ Hosted a workshop on “Forest Communication in a Digital World” for members of the African Forest Communicators Network
- ❖ Communication capacity development session at the XIV WFC
- ❖ Baseline surveys, training on data collection and communication



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Com: 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

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ finalizing a practical guide for the promotion of ‘payment for forest environmental services in sub-Saharan Africa
- ❖ Compiled a sub-regional report: “Contribution of Forestry sectors to GDP in East African countries”
- ❖ Supported Djibouti with national strategy, and extension manual for sustainable management of *Prosopis* spp. (invasive species) and development of *Boswellia* spp.
- ❖ Supported Somalia to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- ❖ Supported Rwanda in costing of its Green Growth Climate Resilience Strategy, related to Sustainable Forestry, Agro-Forestry and Biomass Programme of Action Plan



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Com: 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

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Nature & Faune Journal continues to enhance the visibility of the forest sector and profiling women and youth participation
- ❖ Support to bamboo production in eastern Africa
- ❖ Continued to promote forestry in food security - awareness raised
- ❖ Continued to support community-based and participative forestry in SSA



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Com: 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.

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ **Produced a Guidelines for improving administration of sustainable hunting in sub-Saharan Africa**
- ❖ **Continued, in collaboration with CIFOR, CIRAD and WCS to address the bush meat crisis in sub-Saharan Africa**



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Com: Requested 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.

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Technical publications on illegal hunting and bushmeat trade were prepared
- ❖ Supported development of a cross-border conservation area linking forest reserves areas in Ghana and Cote d' Ivoire
- ❖ Supported the organization of the International Conference on Illegal exploitation and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa, which was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, – April 2015



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Com: **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**

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ **Many SSA countries received assistance on the forest and landscape restoration (FLR) approach**
- ❖ **Climate-smart natural resource management being promoted**
- ❖ **Support being provided for the implementation of the GGWSSI**
- ❖ **Various community woodlots, agroforestry, shelterbelts approached being promoted**
- ❖ **Issues brought to the attention of the African Regional Conference**



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Com: Requested FAO to support the development of a forest-related SDG to ensure continued and strengthened presence of forests in broader development goals

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ **FAO worked with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the development of Goal 6 and Goal 15.**



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Com: 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

Measures

FAO:

- ❖ Ethiopia received support to develop a national strategy on forest protection
- ❖ Progress in developing the Voluntary Guidelines for national Forest Monitoring (Annex)
- ❖ Progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources (GPA-FGR) provided in Annex III



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Points for Consideration

1) Countries to:

- **Promote the use of the SFM Toolbox to support planning and implementation of SFM-related programmes/initiatives;**
- **Implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources;**
- **Support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and forest invasive species;**

2) FAO to:

- **Assess the need for reconsidering and strengthening the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development so that it could support fully the achievement of the Strategic Objectives and strengthen the contribution to the implementation of the SDGs by reviewing and revising the Forest Strategy and make a recommendation to COFO in this regard.**
- **Continue supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.**
- **Continue to support the development and dissemination of the SFM Toolbox.**



THANK YOU