



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

The role of forests and wildlife in building resilience and recovery from crises and threats

Kinshasa - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 22-26 August 2022

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This note reports on progress in implementing AFWC and FAO supported activities and initiatives since the 22nd Session, which was convened in Skukuza, Mpumalanga in March 2020. It serves as basis for reviewing follow-up to specific requests and recommendations addressed to FAO, the Committee on Forestry, and the African Regional Conference.

The Commission :

Requested FAO to assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education, and to establish a working group on forestry and wildlife education with the view to provide guidance to the education and professional systems in Africa.

2. As part of the Global Forest Education Project¹, two series of regional consultations on the topic of forest education took place in February 2021. The objective of each regional consultation was twofold: 1) to validate the findings of the regional assessment report on forest education, informed by a global survey; and 2) to identify actions that could be taken to strengthen forest-related education in the region. The consultations were a critical component of an initiative to strengthen forest education globally, led by FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and funded by the Government of Germany.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/forestry/forest-education/97367/en/>

3. In June 2021, FAO published the “Regional Assessment of Forest Education in Africa”². This regional report is part of the Global Forest Education Project 2020-2021 that aimed at assessing the goals, achievements, and gaps of forest education at all levels of formal education in order to catalyze and enhance efforts in forest education from local to global levels.

Requested FAO to support implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030).

4. FAO, together with the African Union Commission and other partners, organized, in July 2020, a Regional webinar on “COVID-19 and forestry sector: Challenges, opportunities and strategies for better resilience in Africa”. The webinar took stock of the current impacts, challenges and possible opportunities for the forestry sector, brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and shared ideas on what could be done to minimize the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the forestry sector and identify viable strategies to support stakeholders in Africa. The AFWC Chairperson represented the AFWC and presented the South African Experiences and best practices. The Chair has further highlighted the role of forestry sector in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. In September 2020, FAO contributed to the review and validation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Strategy to Combat Wildlife Crime and also contributed, as a member, to the Expert working group of African Union Sustainable Forest management Framework for Africa. Building on the West Africa Strategy to Combating Wildlife Crime, FAO is supporting subregional guidelines on management and conservation of forest and wildlife resources. The Global transformation of Forest for People and Climate Project is currently developing a Training of Trainers’ (ToT) curriculum in order to strengthen institutional responses to combat wildlife crime focusing on timber.

6. FAO published and launched the West Africa Land Cover Reference System (WALCRS) in the frame of Sida funded project “Global transformation of Forest for People and Climate Focus in West Africa”. The WALCRS responds to the need for harmonizing and standardizing the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) legend of the 15 ECOWAS countries.

7. In Central Africa, FAO contributed to the publication of the “Status of Congo Basin Forest 2021” which is a key publication on the Congo basin forest led by the Commission of Forest for Central Africa (COMIFAC) with the support of CIFOR and technical contributions from other development partners. The Status of Congo Basin Forest contributes significantly to the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030).

8. FAO co-organized with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and FERN a webinar on “Unleashing the potential of Community-based Forest and wildlife management for building back better: livelihoods, biodiversity and climate resilience in Africa” in 2020. It aimed to promote dialogue on the effectiveness of community-based forest and wildlife management regimes in Africa and to explore ways to strengthen them in the context of the Agenda 2063, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Requested FAO to support, in collaboration with other entities, the intra-Africa Dialogue on sustainable use and trade of forest and wildlife products.

9. FAO developed a flexible and modular plan of action, through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. COVID-19 Regional Actions Plans were developed to address the Trade and Food Safety Standards, facilitating and boosting regional trade and mainstreaming food safety in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

² Documents available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb6733en/cb6733en.pdf>

Requested FAO to support countries in compiling, analyzing and disseminating good practices on forest and landscape-related climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as case studies for scaling up investment for NDC implementation in the region.

10. FAO through a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project (TCP/RAF/3704) supported the African Union Commission and countries in the formulation and tracking the progress of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation plans in Africa. Among the key achievements are the revision of the mitigation component of the Côte d'Ivoire NDC, the development of an NDC roadmap document and implementation plan for Gabon, and improved vertical and horizontal coordination in AFOLU sectors. The project also conducted capacity development activities in NDC planning and tracking tools (Ex Ante Carbon balance Tool [EX ACT] and Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis for 35 government officers in Mozambique), strengthened the in-country facilitation mechanism in participating countries, and enabled knowledge exchange and learning across subregions and countries, and within countries. It collected, synthesized and generated knowledge products, including case studies and best practices on NDC implementation in Africa.

11. FAO published in 2021 the draft Outlook on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in the Africa SIDS entitled "Transforming Agriculture in Africa's Small Island Developing states: Lessons learnt and entry points for Climate-Smart Agriculture investments in Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Seychelles³". The CSA country profiles, present a good overview of important baseline information as well as challenges and opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sectors.

12. The capacities of public and private organizations were strengthened in AUC member countries, including Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Mozambique, Namibia and Rwanda, on better and harmonized technical options, practices and strategies on Conservation Agriculture and climate smart agriculture to facilitate adaptation and mitigation climate change measures for improved productivity.

13. FAO and partners are collaborating to help countries gather and summarize the data necessary to support scaling up climate smart agriculture (CSA). FAO co-organized with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and other partners, the 1st Biennial Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) on 1-2 December 2020, to take stock on CSA knowledge and implementation progress and develop the way forward for scaling up CSA in Africa and support the development of CSA platforms at country and regional levels.

Invited FAO to support local communities in restoration efforts, in designing and consolidating mitigation actions, including REDD+ processes, and in developing ecosystem results-based payments and their implementation.

14. Countries were supported to embed actions related to legal and sustainable agriculture commodities supply chains in their REDD+ strategies and in the scaling-up of efforts, through leveraging on a combination of initiatives and projects (The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD, Green Climate Fund (GCF)) - especially focusing on strengthening integrated forest management with livestock, agroforestry and removing conversion from cocoa-production (Côte d'Ivoire and Congo). Countries' capacities and knowledge were also strengthened in assessing drivers of deforestation and accessing climate finance, with special reference to GCF and results-based payments emerging opportunities (e.g. LEAF).

15. To address the lag on West African countries in progressing with the elements of Warsaw Framework (REDD+ strategy, NFMS, MRV and SIS), FAO worked with a group of 5 ECOWAS countries (Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria) to prepare a REDD+ readiness project

³ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB7582EN/>

titled “Institutional and technical support for REDD+ readiness in West Africa”. Participating countries noted several gaps/challenges/ barriers to become REDD+ ready. This multi-country approach will allow co-learning and common framework for advancing REDD+ in the region. It will support the targeted countries to overcome the identified challenges and address the barriers by strengthening their institutional and technical capacities to develop REDD+ Warsaw framework.

Requested FAO to further support member countries on resource mobilization efforts and strengthening countries’ capacities to access climate finance - including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience.

16. FAO supported member countries in capacity building training on green and climate finance and the formulation and implementation of large-scale climate change related projects, with the financial support of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Benefiting countries includes:

- Benin - Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative (OCRI) (USD 35million);
- Congo - PREFOREST CONGO - Project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests in five departments in the Republic of Congo;
- Côte d’Ivoire -PROMIRE on promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d’Ivoire, worth USD 10 million;
- Zambia with UNDP (USD 2 million);
- Mozambique with WFP (USD 600,000);
- Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho both supported in preparation of Readiness programmes, with combined to total of about USD 1.5 Million

17. Through other TCP projects, FAO supported Congo, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to leverage resource mobilization from the GCF.

18. FAO supported extraordinary advocacy and mobilization of resources that lead to an increase of funding/pipeline funding by USD108 million during the period 2020-2022 for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) 7 window. Further preparation of GEF-8 formal and informal meetings have been organized with The GEF Operational Focal Points (OFP) to ensure full understanding of GEF-8 programming direction, FAO priority area of works and readiness to mobilize resource for the benefit of the countries we are serving.

Requested FAO to facilitate the development of multi-partner regional initiatives with Regional Economic Communities similar to the ongoing successful partnership with ECOWAS and Sida for climate action in West Africa.

19. Regional research organisations, such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and CGIAR institutions such as CIAT-Bioversity, The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) - World Agroforestry (ICRAF) have worked with FAO to advance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) in Africa. The joint work included taking stock of experiences and lessons learned and developing policy and technical guidance for scaling-up CSA programmes in Africa building on respective research work and field projects of all the organizations involved as well as their data and knowledge compilation and analysis.

20. FAO is also teaming up with ECOWAS and other partner, with the objective of establishing a consensual and operational program to support the development of agroecology and the transition to a sustainable resilient food system.

Requested FAO to continue its support to member countries in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them.

21. FAO is implementing a regional project covering six countries in Central Africa funded by Central Africa initiative (CAFI) on the assessment of the trends of deforestation in the Congo basin using SEPAL method.
22. FAO is working with key partners to further update assessments and methodologies of direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at global, regional (Central and West Africa), national and local scale. Technical capacities and knowledge are being strengthened. Results of this key work are expected for end of 2022.
23. FAO implemented Capacity development workshops and missions focused on strengthening National Forest Monitoring (NFM) for a further 15 government agencies for technical pillars of “National Forest Inventory, Satellite Land Monitoring Systems, and Greenhouse Gas Inventory”. The Capacity development resulting in two Forest Reference Level submissions to the UNFCCC.
24. In the framework of Sida-funded project on “Global transformation of Forest for People and Climate Focus on West Africa” on the assessment of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the project has compiled and assessed the existing national and regional studies on drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and other land use change and the identification of gaps/needs for further analysis. In 2022, the methodology for the assessment of direct drivers of forest change in West Africa from 2015 to 2020 will be developed and validated, building on the methodology currently being tested in Central Africa and as such, facilitating comparison of data between the two subregions. FAO has also enhanced capacity in the use of remote sensing/GIS technology, including the use of FAO open source tools (Open Foris, SEPAL, Collect Earth Online) for the assessment of forest and land use/land cover change, and related drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Requested FAO to support the compilation, analysis and dissemination of good practices for sustainable charcoal production as well as the adoption of alternative sources of energy.

25. The key issues related to the sustainable charcoal production was one of the major focus discussed during the International Conference on Wood fuel Value Chains in Africa: Governance, Social, Economic and Ecological Dimensions (Kumasi, November 2021). The conference promoted understanding and sharing of knowledge, good practices and solutions among scholars, practitioners, private sector and policy-makers on sustainable and equitable wood fuel value chains and advocated and explored strategies for their scaling-up. Over 400 participants benefited from knowledge and lessons learned shared through 60 case studies exploring the three thematic areas of the conference: i) Wood fuel production and use; ii) Socio-economics of wood fuel value chains; and iii) Governance (including policy, legislation, institutional mechanisms, and justice in the wood fuel sector).
26. FAO and partners have been supporting the demonstration of Community-based Sustainable Forest and Land Use Practices and Encouraging South –South Cooperation in ECOWAS countries through a call for proposal for community based forestry intervention with the objective to select and support small demonstration initiatives with the aim to i) develop, demonstrate and share knowledge on sustainable community forest and land management initiatives in the subregion and ii) to demonstrate the positive economic, social and environmental contributions of community based forest management initiatives to the livelihoods of the populations.

Recommended that FAO support countries in the formulation and implementation of national charcoal strategies.

27. The TCP/RAF/3704 supported the development of a report entitled “Charcoal policies in Sub-Saharan Africa” (report ready to be published). The main objective of the study was to assess the extent to which national energy and environmental policies and strategies in Africa have the potential to provide enabling conditions for sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector. Enabling conditions are those that provide policy and regulatory frameworks that acknowledge the importance of charcoal for energy and livelihoods, recognizes the toll that it can have on the environment and the difficulties experienced by actors along the value chain, and subsequently, provides coherent and

pragmatic guidance and support for a wide range of actors to engage in actions that improve conditions for people and the environment.). The study was limited to the 31 countries that have pledged commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), including three of the top 10 charcoal producers in the world.

Urged FAO to produce in collaboration with countries and regional organizations a regional forest outlook study for sustainable development in Africa, identifying trends and opportunities for the development of wood and non-wood forest products as well as ecosystem services.

28. The FAO Regional office for Africa prepared a concept note and Term of reference for the development of the publication: “Regional forestry outlook study focused on forest value chains for sustainable development in Africa”. FAO has also supported the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to develop a cost-action plan (implementation plan) and reporting framework for their SADC Forestry strategy 2020-2030, this reporting framework will feed into the regional outlook study.

Requested FAO to support countries to build or strengthen partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders and to scale-up investments for strengthening sustainable forest-based industries in Africa, building on existing mechanisms and opportunities, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

29. Knowledge products, including guidelines for the development and harmonization of food control measures, food control systems and trade facilitation programmes were provided to national stakeholders, private and public organisations in African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support their effective participation in the activities of International Standard-Setting Bodies (ISSBs) and their contribution to continental free trade agreements (AfCFTA).

30. Working in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the AUC-FAO Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services was developed and disseminated to national stakeholders, private and public organizations in ECOWAS and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region to support intra-regional agricultural trade under the AfCFTA. FAO also supported the formulation of the African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policy Framework and the AUDA-NEPAD regional harmonized guidelines for food safety standards for improved trade in the Africa region.

Requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the mobilization of resources, including through GEF and GCF, to contribute to AFR100, GGW and other similar programmes and initiatives in line with national and regional priorities.

31. FAO led, in coordination with co-implementing agencies (IUCN, WWF and WB), the development and implementation of the GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP), which was endorsed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2021 with a total grant funding of USD 104 million and USD 810 million of co-financing. The programme is supporting African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe in the implementation of their interventions by providing demand-driven technical support which includes the development/refinement of selected community of practices for sustainable dryland management and the documentation and sharing of evidence-based good practices to enhance the programme's overall coherence, scale and impact.

32. FAO is also leading the GEF Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) in three countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Guinea) with focus on deforestation free commodity supply and degraded landscape restoration.

33. FAO is currently supporting the SADC with operationalization of SADC Great Green Wall Initiative through its Technical Cooperation Programme (of about USD 0.5 million), TCP/SFS/3804.

The support is for the development of strategy, capacity building, development of national action plans sensitization and mobilization of resources.

34. In response to countries' requests, FAO is supporting the GCF Regional Resource Mobilization- Scaling up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall, (TCP/RAF/3804). The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project aims to leverage existing resource mobilization efforts to:

- Carry out the required studies to complete the multi-country GCF/GGW multi-country project funding proposal and annexes, including and not limited to: project feasibility and cost-benefit studies, Environment and Social Risk assessment/Analysis, In-depth gender assessments/analysis and a Gender action plan for the Project.
- Complete the technical workshops with the six (6) countries for review and validation of the national and regional components of the GCF/GGW Multi-country project.
- Support co-financing mobilization efforts as required by the GCF, through consultation and partnerships development with national, regional, and international stakeholders and partners.

Recommended that FAO continue the preparation of the planned "State of restoration in Africa" report, under the FAO regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, in collaboration with member countries and AFR100 technical and financial partners.

35. The "Review of Forest and Landscape Restoration in Africa 2021"⁴ was prepared and launched (in English and French) during Africa Climate Week 2021 (26-29 September 2021). The report, based on primary (interview) and secondary (desk research) data, provides an overview of FLR initiatives in Africa. It identifies key challenges, opportunities, stakeholder, and processes, illustrated with some case studies. The report also contributes to tracking progress on the implementation of AFR100 and other FLR initiatives in Africa on the ground. It provides a baseline for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and is expected to be updated at regular intervals.

36. The forthcoming publication "Africa Open Data for Environment, Agriculture and Land (DEAL) and Africa's Great Green Wall, Technical land use report", provides a detailed panorama of land use and change across the entire continent and countries.

Called upon FAO to support AFR100 Secretariat and countries in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts.

37. See above, FAO supported AUDA-NEPAD and member countries in the implementation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) through a technical cooperation programme entitled "Support to the implementation and monitoring of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)". For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/5

Requested FAO to initiate appropriate forestry-related follow-up actions in relation to the development and implementation of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session

38. FAO organized one regional or sub-regional training workshop on the targets and indicators for Forest and Genetic Resources (FGR) and trained national focal points on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW-FGR) reporting requirements,

Requested FAO to continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, and upscale and out-scale lessons learnt to other countries in Africa, and report on progress made at its next session.

39. In its efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO continues to strengthen countries' capacities on sustainable wildlife management, looking at the human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb6111en/cb6111en.pdf>

interface and using the One Health Approach and related programme in Africa. For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/6

Requested FAO to:

continue promoting international knowledge exchange and coordination on issues related to sustainable wildlife management, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as appropriate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and report on progress made at its next session.

to prepare a study on the role of sustainable wildlife management in sustainable forest management in Africa, including in mainstreaming biodiversity, for discussion at the next session of the AFWC and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.

to continue building capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools.

40. For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/6

Requested FAO to support the Bureau and the working groups in preparing their work plans and in the mapping of potential partners to be involved in working groups' activities;

41. FAO updated the bureau members on its ongoing efforts to respond to the AFWC recommendations, with particular focus on its resource mobilization and capacity strengthening activities.

42. On 2nd October 2020, 11 May 2021 and 18 May 2021, AFWC Secretariat organized three virtual Inter-sessional meetings of the Executive Committee of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) to update on the status of AFWC recommendations and implementation; discuss the contribution to the 25th Session of Committee on Forestry (COFO25); and develop a road map to the implementation of the AFWC action programme and recommendations.

43. The AFWC Secretariat extended invitation to all its member countries and partners' institutions to nominate focal points and interested technical experts to take part in the five working groups to work respectively on the five endorsed programme priorities : (1) Advocating for, and profiling Africa's forests and wildlife; (2) Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa; (3) Climate Change: Restoration for resilience;(4) Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa and / issues related to human-livestock-wildlife-ecosystem interface; and (5) Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession.

44. For each Working Group, there are 16 Member Countries who have expressed their interest and nominated their focal points. The AFWC Secretariat also received nominations from a few partners willing to be part of the working groups.

Requested FAO to support the design, set-up and hosting of a digital platform to serve as a knowledge sharing hub for the Commission and its working group activities, building on existing tools such as the AFWC Website and FAO's Nature & Faune Journal;

45. In progress. To strengthen transboundary cooperation and to facilitate forest data sharing, a West Africa Forest Resources knowledge portal for forest resources monitoring and management will be established under the frame of Global Transformation of forest for people and climate with Focus on West Africa. It will contribute to two of the ECOWAS Forest Convergence Plan priority areas: N°

2: Subregional Knowledge of Forests Status and Dynamics and #7 Information, education and communication.

46. The establishment of the portal will facilitate the access to forestry and forest related in the sub-region and making it readily accessible in a bilingual format. Sub-regional and global case studies that highlight best practices on forest monitoring and sustainable management including community-based forest management practices will be gathered and shared through the portal. Specific content of the portal will focus on forest resources but could also address the need for wildlife and biodiversity monitoring across the region, depending on the needs of the users.

47. In addition, together with AGRHYMET and partner, FAO is setting a West Africa knowledge portal on forest resources established to strengthen transboundary cooperation that could be replicated to other subregion in Africa.

Requested FAO to support the working groups in preparing flagship publications (e.g. thematic studies/outlooks) and communication materials to share and disseminate their activities.

48. The AFWC focal points were invited in meetings organized by the AFWC Secretariat and consulted during the publication preparation process.

Requested FAO to support the AFWC22 Bureau (through its Secretariat) to:

liaise with AMCEN's Bureau and Secretariat, the African Union Commission and bodies to coordinate their activities and identify, and build synergies with AFWC action programme;

review further the proposed implementation mechanisms and assess the potential financial implications in operationalizing them;

liaise with the nominated experts of the working groups for the submission of their views and proposals on respective work plans,

review and report on progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the AFWC action programme, at the next AFWC session.

49. The AFWC Secretariat informed the Bureau member on its intent to build synergies with regional bodies through its active involvement respectively in the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa working group (AUC-led), and the African Green Stimulus Programme Working Group (AMCEN-led) and other relevant continental dialogues.

50. In March and April 2021, The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) Secretariat organized the first meetings of the working groups, to operationalize their establishment and develop work plans for the implementation of the AFWC action programme priorities. To date, there have been four virtual meetings conducted for the following Working Groups:

- WG1: Advocating for, and profiling Africa's forests and wildlife
- WG3: Climate change: Restoration for resilience
- WG4: Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forests and wildlife
- WG5: Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession

Recommended that the Committee on Forestry (COFO) consider the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for upscaling forest and landscape restoration activities.

51. For further information, see document: FO:AFWC/2022/5 and FO:AFWC/2022/9

Recommended FAO to:

continue contributing to the Global Climate Action Agenda and to promote forest related initiatives, projects and programmes, as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund.

to explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

52. For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/9

Recommended FAO to further promote urban forestry activities.

53. The FAO Green Cities Initiative was launched in the Africa region to trigger transformative actions for increasing people's well-being through better availability of and access to products and services provided by urban and peri-urban forestry, agriculture and food systems. The first phase of the Green Cities Regional Action Programme for Africa (GC-RAPA) was rolled out in 2021. This phase targeted 15 cities in Africa with innovative "quick win" actions to develop the capacity of local stakeholders to integrate food systems, urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban forests and trees into local planning and actions. Priority entry points are identified for the development of a regional programme formulation and further funding mobilization to support cities to embody sustainable Green Cities principles. Several existing projects were incorporated into the Green Cities Initiative implementation, including the City Region Food System programme in Antananarivo, Madagascar and Kigali, Rwanda and support for food governance in Kisumu and Nairobi, cities in Kenya.

54. Furthermore, FAO and UN-Habitat jointly organized the 1st African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF). The Forum intended to be a technical meeting to exchange experiences and lessons learned and discuss strategies for a greener, healthier and happier future for African cities. It aimed to identify concrete actions, such as creating a road map, to achieve greener, happier, more inclusive and healthier African cities and urban communities, in line with the Call to Action and the five standards proposed by the Tree Cities of the World programme.

Recommended FAO to take an active part of the UN Decade of Family Farming and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility.

55. FAO engaged in partnerships with the Network of Farmers' and Producers' Organizations in West Africa (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) (ROPPA) to develop the capacity of producers and the regional action plan for the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) in West Africa;

Recommended FAO to inform COFO on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

56. For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/5

Requested to continue :

supporting the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and establish clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and report on implementation accordingly;

its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

57. For further information, see document: FO/AFWC/2022/9

Requested the Bureau, with the support and guidance of the Secretariat, to examine and review the current AFWC modalities and develop a proposal outlining the required process and amendments for its consideration.

58. In progress.