



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

REPORT

Kinshasa,
The Democratic Republic of the Congo,
22 – 26 August
2022 (hybrid)

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Twenty-third Session

(and the Seventh African Forestry and Wildlife Week)

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1st Session	Ibadan, Nigeria	31 October-7 November 1960
2nd Session	Lomé, Togo	20-25 January 1969
3rd Session	Nairobi, Kenya	7-12 February 1972
4th Session	Bangui, Central African Rep.	22-27 March 1976
5th Session	Accra, Ghana	24-28 April 1978
6th Session	Arusha, Tanzania	12-16 September 1983
7th Session	Bamako, Mali	20-24 January 1986
8th Session	Blantyre, Malawi	1-3 May 1989
9th Session	Kigali, Rwanda	10-14 August 1992
10th Session	Sanbonani, South Africa	27 November-1 December 1995
11th Session	Dakar, Senegal	14-17 April 1998
12th Session	Lusaka, Zambia	27-30 March 2000
13th Session	Libreville, Gabon	25-29 March 2002
14th Session	Accra, Ghana	18-21 February 2004
15th Session	Maputo, Mozambique	29 March-1 April 2006
16th Session	Khartoum, Sudan	18-21 February 2008
17th Session	Brazzaville, Congo	22- 26 February 2010
18th Session	Cotonou, Benin	16-20 January 2012
19th Session	Windhoek, Namibia	30 September-4 October 2013
20th Session	Nairobi, Kenya	1-5 February 2016
21st Session	Dakar, Senegal	19-23 June 2018
22nd Session	Skukuza – Mpumalanga, South Africa	9-13 March 2020

REPORT

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Kinshasa – Democratic Republic of the Congo
22 – 26 August 2022
(hybrid)**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Commission:

- requested Members to make every effort to submit their reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Commission.
- invited members to:
 - (i) Implement strategies that boost legal and sustainable products and nature-based solutions to counter any short and longer-term shocks to livelihoods.
 - (ii) Support the most vulnerable and marginalized groups such as forest communities and indigenous people through social protection, as well as on capital investments.
 - (iii) Promote policies to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests and wildlife as a means of creating resilient and sustainable recovery plans.
 - (iv) Promote investments in new business opportunities in particular in enhancing the skills of youth and women.
 - (v) Strengthen Public and Private Investments to enhance forest resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate change.
 - (vi) raise their level of ambition to strengthen forest and natural resources governance while scaling-up concrete actions aligned with national, regional strategies and global approaches and mechanisms to support efforts to halt deforestation and maintain forest ecosystem services.
- requested Members to support the transformation to more sustainable and integrated agrifood systems aimed to increase agricultural productivity on existing land, targeting smallholder farmers and benefiting local stakeholders, particularly women and other marginalized groups.
- requested Members to: (i) Share experiences, methodologies and approaches in restoration planning, implementation and monitoring; (ii) Scale up their actions and funding allocations for ecosystem restoration and addressing drivers of degradation; (iii) Seize the opportunity of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to strengthen country and regional level action and coordination across sectors and countries (for example through the Great Green Wall and the Africa Forest and Landscape Restoration Initiative - AFR100).
- invited Members to analyse the scale and impact of Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWCs) in national and transboundary contexts.
- called upon Members to further collaborate with FAO in developing innovative approaches to manage HWCs; share relevant country case studies on sustainable use and management of wildlife, including in dissemination of key knowledge products and tools on Sustainable Wildlife Management.
- requested Members to take note of the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative work in Africa, and engage with FAO and other partners to convene policy dialogues to exchange and strengthen knowledge sharing and technology transfer to advance the responsible production and consumption of sustainable wood.
- requested Members to take action to support the development of sustainable planted forests to meet the expected increase in demand for industrial wood and fuelwood in Africa, including through agroforestry and support to smallholders, small and medium enterprises, and their producer associations.

- requested Members to promote the development of policies and strategies that support the transition to a bioeconomy at regional, subregional and country levels.
- invited Members to implement the recommendations of the XV World Forestry Congress as appropriate; and requested FAO to support Member Nations in their efforts in this regard.
- requested Members to respond to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) questionnaire as part of their midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests.
- raised concerns on the challenges related to cross border regulations in the Region and called upon Members Nations to further cooperate and develop, with the support of FAO - upon request - and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting the legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF FAO/COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

The Commission:

- requested FAO to enhance international cooperation in strengthening capacities, including in forestry and wildlife education, forest monitoring, and financial and policy measures.
- requested FAO to:
 - (i) Provide the necessary support to enhance capacity and share experience at national and regional level to strengthen, update, and implement monitoring frameworks for governing forest resources.
 - (ii) Support Members in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the development of strategies to address these drivers.
- requested FAO and partners to showcase benefits deriving from wildlife and view wildlife species as an economic asset to create value in a manner that is aligned with conservation objectives.
- requested FAO to continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management activities, consolidate and assess the effectiveness of models, upscale good practices and lessons learned from Member Nations in Africa.
- recommended FAO, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Members, upon their requests, in strengthening their technical and institutional capacity and promote international knowledge exchange on human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface.
- requested FAO to:
 - (i) Support countries, strengthen political and institutional frameworks and mobilize resources for the sustainable management of African planted and natural forests for wood production, restoration and climate change mitigation.
 - (ii) Support countries in their transition towards a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
 - (iii) Engage with countries, public and private sectors, international organizations and research institutions to collect, assess, and disseminate good practices promoting the sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of wood energy in Africa.
 - (iv) Promote recommendations of State of the World's Forests 2022 report (SOFO 2022) within and outside of the forestry sector.
 - (v) Take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities.
 - (vi) Contribute with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy discussions of the UNFF.
 - (vii) Actively support the implementation of the UNSPF through its communication and outreach strategy aimed at raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests, and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes, initiatives and events.
- recommended FAO to hold communication campaign, raise awareness, on the Commission and include wildfire in the agenda of next session of the Commission.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE TO THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Commission:

- requested FAO to boost collaboration on forest and wildlife related policies, education and scientific research with other relevant sectors and stakeholders, in particular, with the health sector, in line with the One Health framework.
- requested FAO to continue supporting Member Nations, upon their requests, toward effective implementation of forest and landscape restoration (FLR) plans, AFR100 commitments and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- requested FAO to continue its active engagement including through the implementation of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other international processes.
- recommended FAO to continue its technical and resource mobilization support to Members including through Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other climate funds for the implementation of large-scale restoration investment programmes, for increasing agricultural production across sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) and the resilience of livelihoods.
- The Commission welcomed the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress and recommended FAO through its COFO and Council and Conference, to consider these recommendations for inclusion in the Strategic Framework 2022-2031, the Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the coming biennia.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE SESSION (ITEM 1)

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Twenty-third Session in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 22 to 26 August 2022, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Session was convened in hybrid modality (in physical presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and virtual participation). The 23rd Session was attended by 188 participants including representatives from 26 Member Nations as well as Observers from five institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental, Regional Economic Communities, international and regional non-governmental organizations, Youth, Academia and Research Institutions (Annex B provides a list of participants).
2. The Twenty-third Session of the Commission was held together with the Seventh African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW7) under the common theme “The role of forests and wildlife in building resilience and recovery from crises and threats”.
3. Mr Macki Nourou Tall, FAO Deputy Representative to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the Assistant Director-General of FAO and Africa Regional Representative, Dr Abebe Haile Gabriel, expressed the Organization’s gratitude to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and welcomed participants. He commended the excellent cooperation between DRC and FAO on key areas such as forestry, climate change and other programmes. He reiterated the importance of African Forestry and Wildlife Commission to FAO and to its African Members, and particularly being one of the efficient mechanism for identifying the critical issues and solutions underlying forestry and wildlife development in Africa.
4. Ms Morongoa Susan Leseke, South Africa, Chairperson of the 22nd Session of AFWC (in her statement read by Mr Ntsahavheni Steven Matsea) on behalf of the Executive Committee (Bureau) of 22nd session of AFWC welcomed participants and thanked the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for hosting the Session. She further mentioned, 23rd session of AFWC will give Members once again an exchange platform for better appreciation of the challenges and the opportunities presented by both forestry and wildlife sectors in Africa.
5. Mr Bruno Lemarquis, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, applauded the government efforts and leadership in promoting the integration of biodiversity into the economic sectors to facilitate changes in behavior and decision-making at all levels and effectively promote the conservation and sustainable use of the various components of biodiversity and the associated services. He highlighted the importance of AFWC23 and reaffirmed the United Nations commitments to support the implementation of its recommendation as well as nature-based solutions at local, national, regional and global levels.
6. The Honorable Minister Hassan Hussein Mohamed, Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Republic Federal Government of Somalia highlighted the critical role of forest resources in improving livelihoods resilience and raised the importance of national and regional forestry policies and strategies.
7. Her Excellency Eve Bazaiba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo underscored the

government efforts in protecting forest and wildlife despite the challenges of COVID- 19 pandemic. She highlighted the DRC's rich biodiversity and natural resources as part of "solution" to the global fights against climate change. In her address, she stressed the importance of partnerships and need to implement international commitments with the rest of the world, while mobilizing financial and technical resources to the benefits of local communities. Thereafter, she declared the 23rd session of AFWC open.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ITEM 2)

8. The Agenda (Annex A) was adopted. The documents considered by the Commission are listed in Annex C.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ITEM 3)

9. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of AFWC Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur as newly Executive Committee (Bureau) as follows:

- Chairperson: Mr Jose Ilanga Lofonga (the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Three Vice-Chairpersons
 - 1st Vice-Chairperson: Prof Dos Santos Silayo (the United Republic of Tanzania)
 - 2nd Vice-Chairperson: Mr Abedinigo Marufu (Zimbabwe)
 - 3rd Vice Chairperson: Mr Baidy Ba (Senegal)
- Rapporteur: position to be confirmed by Bureau on its first intersessional meeting

10. Mr Edward Kilawe, Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Southern Africa based in Zimbabwe, served as Secretary of the Commission.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (ITEM 4)

11. The Secretariat presented two documents reporting on actions taken by FAO (document FO:AFWC/2022/2.1) and by countries (document FO:AFWC/2022/2.2) to implement the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the Commission.

12. The Commission took note, with appreciation, of the range of activities being implemented in the region and commended FAO for its comprehensive efforts in pursuing the recommendations of the 22nd Session of AFWC. The Commission also noted that 14 countries had submitted their reports (based on the electronic survey sent by FAO) for countries to report on measures taken in response to the recommendations of the 22nd session of the Commission and the results achieved. The Commission requested Members to make every effort to submit their reports on the measures they have taken to implement the recommendations of the Commission.

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN COVID-19 RECOVERY PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA (ITEM 5)

13. The Commission took note of the Secretariat report FO:AFWC/2022/3, titled "Forestry and wildlife in COVID-19 recovery programmes in Africa". This report was jointly prepared

by FAO and with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). It acknowledged the findings, identified strategies and recovery measures for addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on forestry and wildlife sectors in Africa.

14. The Commission invited members to:

- Implement strategies that boost legal and sustainable products and nature-based solutions to counter any short and longer-term shocks to livelihoods.
- Support the most vulnerable and marginalized groups such as forest communities and indigenous people through social protection, as well as on capital investments.
- Promote policies to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests and wildlife as a means of creating resilient and sustainable recovery plans.
- Promote investments in new business opportunities in particular in enhancing the skills of youth and women.
- Strengthen Public and Private Investments to enhance forest resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate change.

15. The Commission requested FAO to:

- Enhance international cooperation in strengthening capacities, including in forestry and wildlife education, forest monitoring, and financial and policy measures.
- Boost collaboration on forest and wildlife related policies, education and scientific research with other relevant sectors and stakeholders, in particular, with the health sector, in line with the One Health framework.

TURNING THE TIDE AGAINST DEFORESTATION IN AFRICA (ITEM 6)

16. The Secretariat introduced document FO:AFWC/2022/4 entitled: “Turning the tide on deforestation in Africa”. The paper focused on the alarming trends of deforestation and forest degradation in Africa. It highlighted existing regional and international commitments to tackle deforestation, and ways to jointly address the sustainability of agri-food systems in the forestry sector.

17. The Commission invited Members to raise their level of ambition to strengthen forest and natural resources governance while scaling-up concrete actions aligned with national, regional strategies and global approaches and mechanisms to support efforts to halt deforestation and maintain forest ecosystem services.

18. The Commission requested Members to Support the transformation to more sustainable and integrated agri-food systems aimed to increase agricultural productivity on existing land, targeting smallholder farmers and benefiting local stakeholders, particularly women and other marginalized groups.

19. The Commission requested FAO to:

- Provide the necessary support to enhance capacity and share experience at national and regional level to strengthen, update, and implement monitoring frameworks for governing forest resources.
- Support Members in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the development of strategies to address these drivers.

AFRICAN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE (AFR100) (ITEM 7)

20. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2022/5, reporting on FAO's activities related to the AFR100 Initiative. The Commission appreciated countries' efforts in advancing AFR100 as part of their own national commitment, restoration plan and resilience strategies.
21. The Commission welcomed FAO and UNEP co-leadership to promote the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and the progress made so far.
22. The Commission requested Members to:
- Share experiences, methodologies and approaches in restoration planning, implementation and monitoring.
 - Scale up their actions and funding allocations for ecosystem restoration and addressing drivers of degradation.
 - Seize the opportunity of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to strengthen country and regional level action and coordination across sectors and countries (for example through the implementation of the Great Green Wall and the AFR100 Initiatives).
23. The Commission requested FAO to continue supporting Member Nations, upon their request, toward effective implementation of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) plans, AFR100 commitments and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
24. It further recommended FAO to continue its technical and resource mobilization support to Members including through Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other climate funds for the implementation of large-scale restoration investment programmes, for increasing agricultural production across sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) and the resilience of livelihoods.

FAO ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA (ITEM 8)

25. The Commission considered Secretariat document FO:AFWC/2022/6 "FAO Activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa".
26. The Commission called upon its Members to look beyond addressing negative impacts of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and requested FAO and partners to showcase benefits derived from wildlife, and view wildlife species as an economic asset to create value in a manner that is aligned with conservation objectives.
27. The Commission:
- Invited Members to analyse the scale and impact of HWCs in national and transboundary contexts.
 - Called upon Members to further collaborate with FAO in developing innovative approaches to manage HWCs; share relevant country case studies on sustainable use and management of wildlife, including in dissemination of key knowledge products and tools on the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme.

28. The Commission recognized the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife in promoting the sustainable use of wildlife resources. It requested FAO to continue its active engagement including through the implementation of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other international processes.

29. It further requested FAO to continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management activities, consolidate and assess the effectiveness of models, upscale good practices and lessons learned from Member Nations in Africa.

30. The Commission recommended FAO, subject to the availability of financial resources, to support Members, upon their request, in strengthening their technical and institutional capacity and promote international knowledge exchange on the human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface.

SUSTAINABLE WOOD AND NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS - TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL AND RESILIENT BIO ECONOMIES (ITEM 9)

31. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2022/7 “Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products - towards carbon neutral and resilient bio economies”.

32. The Commission acknowledged the emerging concept of bio economy in Africa and took note of the opportunities and ongoing initiatives in support of sustainable wood and non-wood forest products towards carbon neutral and resilient economies in the region.

33. The Commission requested Members to:

- Take note of the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative work in Africa, and engage with FAO and other partners to convene policy dialogues to exchange and strengthen knowledge sharing and technology transfer to advance the responsible production and consumption of sustainable wood.
- Take action to support the development of sustainable planted forests to meet the expected increase in demand for industrial wood and fuelwood in Africa, including through agroforestry and support to smallholders, small and medium enterprises, and their producer associations.
- Promote the development of policies and strategies that support the transition to a bio economy at regional, subregional and country levels.

34. The Commission recognized the need of the African region to increase public awareness for more effective climate resilience and sustainable agriculture production. It requested FAO to:

- Support countries, strengthen political and institutional frameworks and mobilize resources for the sustainable management of African planted and natural forests for wood production, restoration and climate change mitigation.
- Support countries in their transition towards a sustainable forest-based bio economy.
- Engage with countries, public and private sectors, international organizations and research institutions to collect, assess, and disseminate good practices promoting the sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of wood energy in Africa.

THE OUTCOMES OF XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (ITEM 10)

35. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2022/8 entitled “Outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress (XV WFC)” which highlighted the Seoul Forest Declaration, the XV World Forestry Congress Action Points, the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood, and the Work with Us - Youth Call for Action as key outcomes of the Congress.

36. The Commission welcomed the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress and recommended FAO through its COFO and Council and Conference, to consider these recommendations for inclusion in the Strategic Framework 2022-2031, the Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the coming biennia.

37. The Commission invited Members to implement the XV WFC recommendations as appropriate, and requested FAO to support Member Nations in their efforts in this regard.

UPDATE ON GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS (ITEM 11)

38. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2022/9 “Update on global initiatives and processes of relevance for the regional Forestry Commissions”. This Secretariat document was then followed by a statement by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), see Annex F.

39. The Commission took note and considered major developments within global and regional policy initiatives and processes with strong relevance to forestry and wildlife.

40. The Commission welcomed the FAO’s flagship publication “Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies”.

41. The Commission took note and appreciated FAO’s efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow-up process, developments under the UN Secretary-General’s Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation, and the progress and accomplishments of FAO’s work in support of the Global Forest Goals, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the Collaboration Partnership on Forests (CPF).

42. The Commission requested Members to respond to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) questionnaire as part of their midterm review of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests.

43. The Commission requested FAO to:

- Promote recommendations on the State of the World’s Forests 2022 report (SOFO 2022) within and outside of the forestry sector.
- Take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General’s Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities.
- Contribute with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy discussions of the UNFF.

- Actively support the implementation of the UNSPF through its communication and outreach strategy aimed at raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests, and through this, enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes, initiatives and events.

ANY OTHER MATTERS (ITEM 12)

44. The Commission raised concerns on the challenges related to cross-border regulations in the Region and called upon Member Nations to further cooperate and develop, with the support of FAO – upon request – and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting the legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products.

45. The Commission recommended FAO to hold communication campaigns and raise awareness on the Commission, and include wildfire in the agenda of next session of the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (ITEM 13)

46. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the United Republic of Tanzania to host the 24th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission at the end of 2023. It advised the Member Nations which had expressed interest in hosting the session to send an official letter to the Director-General of FAO. The exact dates of the meeting would be further determined by AFWC bureau in consultation with the country concerned after appropriate logistical consultations.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (ITEM 14)

47. The Commission reviewed the report of 23rd session which was subsequently adopted.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (ITEM 15)

48. Closing remarks were delivered by Ms Marie José Bunsana on behalf of H.E. Ève Bazaiba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and by Mr Ewald Rametsteiner, Deputy Director, FAO Forestry Resources Division on behalf of FAO. Both thanked participants for their valuable contributions and extended their thanks and sincere appreciation to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Chairperson of the AFWC, the AFWC Secretariat, and FAO for the smooth running of the 23rd Session and a successful outcome.

*Annex A***AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Progress in implementing the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission: FAO-supported activities in the region & Report on Member Nations activities
5. Forestry and wildlife in COVID-19 Recovery programmes in Africa
6. Turning the tide against deforestation in Africa
7. African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)
8. FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa
9. Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products - towards carbon neutral and resilient bio economies
10. The Outcomes of XV World Forestry Congress
11. Update on global initiatives and processes of relevance for the regional Forestry Commissions
12. Any other Matters
13. Date and place of the next session
14. Adoption of the report
15. Closure of the session

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*Annex C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

FO:AFWC/2022/1	Provisional agenda
FO:AFWC/2022/2.1	Report on FAO activities in response to the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2022/2.2	Report on measures taken by member countries to implement the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2022/3	Forestry and wildlife in COVID-19 recovery programmes in Africa
FO:AFWC/2022/4	Turning the tide against deforestation in Africa
FO:AFWC/2022/5	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)
FO:AFWC/2022/6	FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa
FO:AFWC/2022/7	Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products - towards carbon neutral and resilient bio economies
FO:AFWC/2022/8	Outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress
FO:AFWC/2022/9	Update on global initiatives and processes of relevance for the regional Forestry Commissions
FO:AFWC/2022/Inf.1	Information note
FO:AFWC/2022/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:AFWC/2022/Inf.3	List of documents
FO:AFWC/2022/Inf.4	Building a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in Africa through forest products – trends, opportunities and challenges

Annex D

**THE SEVENTH AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK EVENTS
LIST AND PROGRAMME**

Tuesday, 23rd August 2022

12.00-13.30 *Protected areas and wildlife management*

hours

- Monitoring species in protected areas (*Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature –ICCN*)
- Innovative experiences in ecological monitoring of wildlife (World Wide Fund for Nature-WWF)
- From the forest to the fork: a multimedia campaign to reduce bushmeat consumption in Kinshasa (Wildlife Conservation Society-WCS)

16.15-18.00 *National Forest Monitoring Systems and Deforestation*

hours

- Estimation of key drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin (FAO)
- National Forest Monitoring System of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Ministry of Environment & FAO)
- Allometric equations to support carbon accounting for REDD+ process, by the Observatory of Miombo Woodlands (Observatory of Miombo)
- Experience of Landscape restoration monitoring at provincial level in South Kivu (Observatory of Landscape Restoration)

REDD+ Process in DRC

- The contribution of Payment for Environmental Services in the context of REDD+ (WWF and FAO)
- The Land use planning reform and its impacts on sustainable forest management in the Equateur Province (Ministry in Equateur Province/FAO)
- The REDD+ process in DRC: Main lessons learned (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development)

Wednesday, 24th August 2022

12.00-13.30 *Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products - towards carbon neutral and resilient bioeconomies*

hours

- Presentation of the report “Building a Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Africa through forest products: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges” (FAO & Dalberg)
- Sharing experiences on sustainable wood and non-wood forest products (Gabon, Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana)

**14.30-16.00
hours***Experiences in Community forestry and Wildlife management in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

- Wildlife management experiences in Okapi National Park (WCS)
- Community forestry-based management Experience on Payment for Environmental Services: Case of PIREDD Equateur (FAO)
- Development of non-timber forest products by small enterprises in the Equateur Province (WWF)
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Management in DRC (ICCN)

*Annex E***SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE SEVENTH AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK EVENTS**

This summary is a compilation of reports prepared by the organizers of the Seventh African Forestry and Wildlife Week events and submitted to the Secretariat by the organizations coordinating these events.

A. PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

This session was moderated by Mr. Robert Mwinyihali, Project Director at WCS. The moderator introduced the background and objectives of the session, and it was then followed by three presentations, namely:

1. Monitoring species in protected areas, by Dr Chantal Shalukoma, Director of the Congolese National Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)

Dr Chantal Shalukoma, delivered a presentation on ecological monitoring in protected areas and surrounding forest concessions in the DRC. She highlighted the rich DRC's biodiversity as an enormous specific national wealth and the Institute's scientific research mission is to deepen the knowledge on the species, bio monitoring activities, and dynamics of species within the protected areas. Monitoring of elephants, bonobos in the Salonga National Park, okapis, gorillas and chimpanzees in other protected areas is being conducted on a regular basis, together with the monitoring of physical boundaries of protected areas. Apart from this, monitoring outside protected areas is conducted for several species, including for mountain gorillas. Satellite monitoring (e.g. Copernicus) allows to identify wildlife threats within a day. The IMET tool is used to assess the management effectiveness. SMART is used for data entry and analysis and data interpretation. In terms of recommendations, biological inventories inside and outside protected areas are encouraged; harmonic use of means for monitoring used in PAs and concessions outside protected parks; need to implement the landscape approach to protect movements of wildlife and prevent risks related to zoonotic diseases and human-wildlife conflicts; the creation of buffer zones is needed around protected areas and formal management that is adapted to the regional context.

2. Innovative experiences in ecological monitoring of wildlife, by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Mr Menard Mbende, WWF Coordinator on protected areas and bio monitoring, intervened with a brief presentation on innovative experiences in wildlife monitoring. He presented the pilot experience as part of the collaborative project with Belgium Development Cooperation. Within the project activities, camera trapping monitoring was used to capture wildlife and its movements within the DRC rangelands and grasslands, in particular, Salonga National Park, Bekalikali, Iyono and Bamanga. The Malebo site was used to monitor and conduct the bonobos census via drones. Overall, this pilot experience helped to enhance the capacities of Congolese researchers on monitoring and improve knowledge on local species.

3. From the forest to the fork: a multimedia campaign to reduce bushmeat consumption in Kinshasa, by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Mr Robert Mwinyihali from WCS presented the slides on urban bushmeat campaign to reduce the consumption of wild meat in Kinshasa. Bush meat is sold in Kinshasa and Brazzaville and it is coming from protected areas such as the Salonga and Noubale Ndoki National Parks. This trade has negative impacts on wildlife around protected areas and forests and disregarding food security, increasing IEDs risks, thus undermining people livelihoods. The WCS campaign “from the Forests to the Fork” was a three-month campaign with media reaching 850 000 people and profiling behaviours change programme. Kinshasa was selected because it is the biggest city in Central Africa with 18 million people where 40% of households consume wild meat every three months. In the city, the meat is not an essential protein and consumed more than eggs and dairy products.

Following these presentations, some clarifications were requested and they centered on (i) ICCN's policy/strategy for securing protected animals to avoid further loss; (ii) the means of protection used by ICCN when a threat is identified; (iii) The need to promote a landscape approach in managing protected areas to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases and to minimize human-wildlife conflicts; (iv) The approach and methodology used by ICCN to report the number of selected animal species when it does not conduct inventories in some areas of the country's protected areas (conflict zones, areas occupied by armed groups, etc.).

B. NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS AND DEFORESTATION

The moderator, Mr Aimé-Médard Mbuyi Kalombo, Head of the Climate Change Division at the Sustainable Development Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC, presented the background and objectives of the session, after which the following three presentations were delivered:

1. Estimation of key drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin, by Aurélie Shapiro, FAO

Dr Shapiro presented an overview of earth observation and geo-spatial tools used in human-wildlife management and coexistence, facilitated notably by the availability of Data for Monitoring (e.g. planet), new tools such as SEPAL (<https://sepal.io/>) assist in using and accessing the data. She pointed out that with respect to the monitoring of deforestation, forest degradation and their direct drivers, the project has produced a map estimating deforestation and forest degradation throughout the Congo Basin for a period between 2015 and 2020, to identify multiple factors/direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to develop methods and produce results that are open and accessible to all.

2. National Forest Monitoring System of the Democratic Republic of Congo, by Augustin Lamulamu, FAO

Mr Augustin Lamulamu presented the DRC's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) program, the primary objective of which is to provide the DRC with a complete and operational NFMS for the implementation of its REDD+ mechanism. This program is linked to the DRC's

REDD+ Investment Plan's Targeted Outcome 2. He presented the main components (Satellite Land Monitoring, Major Deforestation Events, National Forest Inventory and Greenhouse Gas Inventory) as well as some achievements of the program. He concluded by presenting the prospects which are as follows: (i) Promote NFMS data at the level of the Integrated REDD+ Programmes for Resilient Development and Sustainable Livelihoods (PIREDD) and scientific institutions; (ii) Organize feedback sessions on forest inventory data; (iii) Formulate a new proposal that will capitalize on experiences and lessons; and (iv) Produce scientific and technical publications.+

3. Allometric equations to support Carbon accounting for REDD+ process, by the Observatory of Miombo Woodlands

Professor Jonathan Muledi presented the results of the allometric equations. To put this activity into context, he recalled that in the REDD+ process, it is important to assess the carbon contained in the various reserves, namely: living biomass (AGB, BGB), dead biomass (dead wood and litter) and soil. He indicated that this estimation is done through the three types of allometric equations: pantropical, regional and local. Unfortunately, there is no equation yet for the Miombo forests of the DRC, hence the need to develop an equation specific to the Miombo of Upper Katanga. He stated that the method used was based on terrestrial LIDAR scanning and that the results are promising compared to the existing equations. He concluded by confirming that: (i) LIDAR scanning is a very useful and accurate tool for calibrating allometric equations and offers the advantage of not destroying trees. It can therefore be used in other types of biomes in the DRC; (ii) the pantropical or regional model would not be ideal for estimating the biomass of a forest at local level, hence the interest in developing specific allometric equations for the Upper Katanga Miombo and the local wood densities are better than the published values.

4. Landscape restoration monitoring at provincial level in South Kivu, by Ms. Nadège Cirezi Cizungu, Université Evangélique d'Afrique centrale/Observatory of mountain forests and landscapes of South-Kivu/UEA

Ms Nadège Cirezi Cizungu made a presentation on the monitoring of landscape restoration in South Kivu: Priority areas and restoration options. She emphasized that following reports of increased pressure on forest resources and natural landscapes in the DRC, and the degradation and devastation of large stretches of forest each year for the benefit of human activities (agriculture, mining, urbanization, etc.), it was important to put in place a mechanism to fight against landscape degradation and promote the restoration of degraded landscapes. Hence, the establishment of the RGEM Pilot Project based on the approach "Forest and Landscape Restoration", which consisted in (i) Developing a methodological approach for the determination of LULC; (ii) Analysing changes in LULC and identifying hot spots; (iii) Determining priority areas for restoration; (iv) Setting up a website and communication tools.

After these presentations, discussions followed with question and answer session focused on (i) the use of the NFMS program results in implementing the PIREDD, (ii) clarification of the areas of Major Deforestation Events, the actual area deforested in the year 2020, and (iii) clarification on the level of error of the pantropical, regional and sub-regional allometric equations in relation to the DRC Miombo forests equation.

C. REDD+ PROCESS IN DRC

Moderated by Mr Hassan Assani, National Coordinator of REDD in DRC, the session featured 3 presentations:

1. The contribution of Payment for Environmental Services in the context of REDD+, by Mr Laurent NSENGA, WWF in DRC

After noting the frequent use of the concepts “Payment for Ecosystem Services” and “Payment for Environmental Services”, he presented the types of community and individual PES examples in DRC. He highlighted that the prerequisites for the success of PES lies in effective governance and regional integration.

2. The Land use planning reform and its impacts on sustainable forest management in the Equateur Province, by Mr Papy EKOFO, Ministry of Environment, Equateur Province, DRC

He opened with a presentation of the overall objective of this reform, of which the development of a Provincial Decree and a Provincial Plan on Land use planning are the specific objectives. He highlighted the actors involved in, and supporting this process, including FAO and others. He also presented the progress of the land use planning process, indicating that there exists a Methodological Guide for Participatory Zoning of Village Lands and Decentralized Territorial Entities. Finally, he acknowledged that improved land use planning, land security, etc., are available before presenting various prospects for his province.

3. The REDD+ process in DRC: Main lessons learned

It was presented by Mr Hassan Assani, the Coordinator of REDD/DRC. He recalled the history of the REDD+ process at global and national levels. In effect, the DRC has been engaged in this process since 2009 and has developed its national REDD+ strategy, which is one of the key elements required of a country. This strategy aims at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GES) and improving the living conditions of the populations. He also noted that a REDD+ investment plan has been developed to implement the REDD+ process in DRC. The main lessons learned from implementing REDD+ in DRC highlight the need to ensure the coordination of REDD+ actions (technical & financial), to mobilize adequate and operational resources, and to consolidate the achievements of REDD+ investments.

Following these 3 presentations, discussions focused on the link between the REDD+ process and PES, guarantees for REDD+ investments in the land use planning process in the Equateur Province, clarification on results-based payments within the framework of PES, and capitalization of other initiatives on land use planning prior to the Integrated REDD+ Programme for Resilient Development and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equateur Province (PIREDD Equateur). In the specific context of REDD+, exchanges on public awareness activities at the national and provincial levels, financial difficulties in operationalizing the REDD+ Registry in the DRC, and ownership strategies for the implementation of REDD+ projects in DRC.

D. SUSTAINABLE WOOD AND NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS - TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL AND RESILIENT BIO ECONOMIES

The session was moderated by Mr Nchoutpouen Chouaibou from the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). The event provided an opportunity to discuss, how Africa could further develop its bioeconomy based on its forest resources. It outlined, how the sustainable use and production of forest products can help countries reach their climate, biodiversity and land degradation neutrality targets. The session had two parts: first was a presentation of a report on *“Building a Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Africa through forest products: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges”*, which was then followed by experience-sharing among countries in Africa on sustainable wood and non- wood products.

Presentation of the report “Building a Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy in Africa through forest products: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges”

Mr Ewald Rametsteiner, Deputy Director of FAO’s Forestry Division introduced the report “Building a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in Africa through forest products – trends, opportunities and challenges¹” by highlighting that it was jointly prepared by FAO and Dalberg. He presented the purpose of the report which is to make the case for socioeconomic pathways for the development of the African forest-based bioeconomy, ensuring that forest economies (i) adhere to social and ecological safeguards, including no net forest loss, and no net harm to climate, forest ecosystems, communities, or health; and (ii) grow the market for these sustainably managed forest products. The report also aims to present relevant data on the forest-based bioeconomy in Africa as a means to shift how the sectors related to the forest-based bioeconomy are seen in the region, and as a way to gather momentum towards realizing the opportunities available to these sectors.

Mr Mokena Makeka, Principal Officer and the Dalberg Office Director for Southern Africa presented the methodologies and scope of the report which focuses on forest-based products and services, as well as the economic, social and sustainable opportunities in the African forest-based bioeconomy, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Although many forest-based value chains are riddled with challenges, they can be sustainable and contribute to a sustainable circular bioeconomy if properly designed and managed. The report identifies and quantifies the demand-side opportunities that are presented in the African forest-based bioeconomy through the lens of forest-linked economic sectors, namely agriculture, energy, construction, health, manufacturing, and services. It is understood that it is critical to also consider other aspects of forest-based value chains to ensure the sustainable development of the sector.

He concluded by arguing that the African forest-based bioeconomy presents a unique ecosystem that differs from the well-mapped and regulated economies found in many developed markets and:

- Although Africa’s forest-based bioeconomy has significant potential for impact, the pathways to realizing this impact are not always clear and differ among subregions and countries.

¹ Information note on the Report ‘Building a sustainable and circular bioeconomy in Africa through forest products – trends, opportunities and challenges’, is available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1549en/cc1549en.pdf>

- The opportunities identified all offer socioeconomic, ecological and additional social benefits to the African population. The continent's forest-based bioeconomy has the potential to significantly contribute towards development, but would benefit from stakeholders in the various sectors supporting the ecosystem to unlock this potential and investment into better understanding the operations and markets of forest-based value chains on the continent.
- Both the private and public sector will be crucial in addressing barriers to growing the forest-based bioeconomy in Africa. The various economic sectors and value chains identified, require an array of actors to partner towards the development of the various aspects of Africa's forest-based bioeconomy.

Sharing experiences on Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products (Gabon, Tanzania, South Africa and Ghana)

Mr Mokena with examples from Gabon, highlighted the need to mainstream knowledge, do further research, deepen knowledge on indigenous wood performance as construction material and taking into safeguards issues and maintenance techniques. He stressed the need to work with the global community, especially the experts from other tropical countries (example Singapore) while doing so.

Ms Lilian Kitosy, Chief Financial Officer for the Green Resources Group in Tanzania, advocated for a financing investment policy in Tanzania and throughout Africa taking into account that it takes about 10-15 years for forests to mature. To fully exploit the potential of wood products as contribution to the bioeconomy, citizen awareness and clear communication are needed to replace coal and oil for biofuel. Governments should also look into improving roads infrastructure and waiving tax so as to encourage people to invest in forests and forestry.

Ms Molony, Executive Director of the Paper Manufacturers' Association of South Africa (PAMSA), stressed the need for sustainably managed plantations and for government and private sectors to encourage research, development and innovation for renewable energy, climate change policies (text and budget). She further stressed the need to increase sustainable consumption and production patterns related to pulp and paper not only in South Africa, but in the entire continent.

Mr Lawrence Damnyag, Principal Scientist at the CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana stressed that Wood and non-wood forests products contribute considerably to the livelihoods of people in Ghana not only for their own consumption, but also for commercial purposes. Research on bioprospecting issues, value chains assessment and development of NWFPs, building capacities on value additions, forest enterprises, forest valuation and payments for ecosystem services are being conducted in Ghana.

To incentivize the potential of wood production, Ghana is looking at both the supply and the demand sides. There is a need to continue sustainable management of forest production for all type of forests. Efforts are also needed on value addition for wood production and empowering neighbouring local communities to support the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes. Looking into the demand size, wood sourcing is very challenging, and illegalities need to be addressed through forest policies.

E. EXPERIENCES IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The session was moderated by Mr Maurice Matanda, from the Studies and Planning Department, Office of General Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, DRC. The moderator presented the background and objectives of the session and introduced the following four presentations:

1. Wildlife management experiences in Okapi Wildlife Reserve (RFO), by Wildlife Conservation Society

Mr Paulin Pole Pole of WCS reminded participants that the issue of bushmeat is still unresolved due to the lack of clear laws on bushmeat trade. Communities harvest wildlife for food and sale to meet their need for basic necessities (soap, salt for their households, etc.). To ensure the survival of the RFO, it is essential to build the capacity of community-recognized hunters and to involve them in managing hunting in the Reserve.

2. Community forestry-based management experience on Payment for Environmental Services (PES): Case of PIREDD Equateur, by FAO

Representing FAO, Mme Brigitte Mbuyi Bilonda, Expert in charge of Land Management at PIREDD Equateur, demonstrated that it is possible to pay communities living in remote villages through cash transfer using financial institutions (banks). In order to secure funds for PES beneficiaries, the Cash modality needs to involve public institutions, local authorities and communities, with the aim to guarantee the sustainability of the PES mechanism even after the end of the projects.

3. Development of non-wood forest products by small enterprises in the Equateur Province, by WWF

In his presentation on the development of non-timber forest products by small enterprises, Mr Laurent Senga showed that market analysis and development is a tool that has enabled the process of setting up small NWFP enterprises.

4. Human-Wildlife Conflict Management in the DRC

Dr Chantal Shalukoma, ICCN, focused on human-wildlife conflicts in the DRC, specifically in the areas surrounding parks and nature reserves. She demonstrated that when wildlife habitat is threatened, there is an upsurge in conflicts between humans and wildlife. This is the case for the populations who farm in the parks and reserves.

Discussions followed these presentations and participants requested further clarifications on issues such as the sustainable hunting plan, the frequency of PES to communities, and the sustainability of interventions after the end of these projects.

Annex F**STATEMENT BY MS. JULIETTE BIAO, DIRECTOR, UNFF SECRETARIAT**

23rd session of African Forestry and Wildlife Commission –

Linked to Item 11: Update on Global initiatives and processes of relevance for the regional Forestry Commissions Kinshasa - Democratic Republic of the Congo, 24 August 2022

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to join today's session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, and to contribute to the discussions under agenda item 11 on update on global initiatives and processes of relevance for the regional Forestry Commissions.

I would like to thank the AFWC Secretariat for this opportunity to update the Commission on the recently concluded UNFF 17 session which was held at UN Headquarters in New York this May, as well as to give you an overview of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming UNFF18 session which will be held at UNHQ in May 2023.

UNFF17 was unique in many ways, it was the first session since the outbreak of the global pandemic in 2020, where we were able to meet in person once again. For me, it was indeed such a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet face to face with delegates from governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, regional and subregional organizations, Major Groups, and other stakeholders.

At the same time, I am aware, that for many countries including those from the African region, travelling to New York for the Forum session was simply not feasible, and we had to rely on a virtual platform to make sure that we heard from all regions. I sincerely hope that we will be able to remedy this at next year!

Another unique aspect for UNFF17 was the high-level round table which was held to discuss the Forum's response to major forest-related multilateral developments. We were privileged to hear from senior UN officials including the President of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana), the President of the seventy sixth session of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid (Maldives) and the ASG for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Maria-Francesca Spatolisano who spoke on behalf of the UN Secretary-General.

Our partners from the Rio Conventions highlighted the interlinkages between forests and biodiversity and climate change, while our colleagues from IFAD emphasized the areas for synergies between SFM and agriculture. We heard about the importance of making the business case for forests from the CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund, while our colleagues from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, SG's Envoy on Youth, reminded us of the vital role that regional partners, indigenous and youth leaders play in shaping the future of our world's forests.

Across the board, all the speakers emphasized the central role of forests in addressing many of our current global challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the triple planetary threats of biodiversity, climate and pollution. At the same time, the role of forests in building a sustainable, resilient future for all was also emphasized time and again.

Over the course of our one-week meeting we had rich discussions on a wide range of issues related to the Forum's key areas of work, including on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030; means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN); monitoring, assessment, and reporting; and preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

One of the messages we heard from the Forum is the urgent need to accelerate efforts towards achieving Global Forest Goals by 2030. As you well know, the pandemic has directly and indirectly taken its toll on forests and efforts towards SFM. Yesterday, my colleague Peter Gondo made a presentation on this topic, as well. Getting back on track to achieve the Global Forest Goals, the SDGs and other major international environmental commitments has to be a priority if we hope to tackle the various development threats and crises that are looming on the horizon.

Another clear message that came through was the need to support countries in their efforts to strengthen national policy frameworks on forests, including forest restoration readiness, improved access to technologies, capacity building and forest finance, including climate finance. For our part, providing capacity development assistance is certainly a major focus of our work, specifically in the areas of forest financing and on monitoring progress towards the Global Forest Goals. Our Secretariat is also exploring the possibility to work with some existing multi-lateral institutions so that once the national forests financing strategies and plans are developed, they could then assist countries in facilitating access to financial resources, thus aligning with the overall country-driven approach.

Last but not least – to prepare for the midterm review of the International Arrangement of Forests at UNFF19 in 2024, the Forum outlined a set of actions and decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group for this purpose.

I have tried to give you the highlights from our meeting, but I would also like to mention that the UNFF17 session report includes a Chair's summary as well as the omnibus resolution which was adopted by the session, and I encourage you to access it on our UNFF website.

Dear Colleagues,

As I previously mentioned, the next UNFF session, UNFF18, will be held from 8 to 12 May 2023 at UNHQ, New York. UNFF18 will be a technical session of the Forum, so the focus will be on technical discussions on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and its Global Forests Goals, including an update on the preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the effectiveness of the IAF. The main outcome will be a chair's summary, including possible proposals for consideration at UNFF19 in 2024.

The thematic priorities for UNFF18 and UNFF19, as decided by the UNFF18/19 Bureau will be:

- (i) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits;
- (ii) Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests; and
- (iii) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management.

Technical sessions of the Forum truly are an opportunity for interactive exchange among Members of the UNFF, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, regional and subregional organizations, and Major Groups. For those of you who didn't have the opportunity to join us at UNFF17, let me take this opportunity to invite you to join us at UNFF18! Regional organisations and processes are a vital part of the UNFF family, and we would very much welcome your perspectives and lessons learned on the cross-sectoral and emerging issues that are affecting forests, and forest dependent people in your regions.

One such opportunity to share input and regional perspectives is currently ongoing. As part of our intersessional activities, we are engaged with preparations for the midterm review (MTR) of the effectiveness of the IAF, which as I mentioned previously will be undertaken at the Forum's nineteenth session in 2024.

As mandated by UNFF17, a series of assessments are being carried out on the following areas:

- a) UNFF and its Members Secretariat,
- b) UNFF Secretariat
- c) Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF),
- d) Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN),
- e) UNFF trust fund,
- f) Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF),
- g) Contributions of the UNFF to the 2030 Agenda,

- h) Communication and outreach strategy of the UNSPF (COS),
- i) Involvement of regional and subregional partners and
- j) Involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Earlier this month, an online questionnaire was circulated by the UNFF18 Bureau Chair (the PR of Burundi to the UN) to UNFF National Focal Points and other partners, including CPF members, regional and subregional organisations and Major Groups, to gather their views on the issues covered under the assessment. The questionnaire is currently available on the UNFF website and the deadline for submission is 30 September 2022. I hope that AFWC members will share their perspectives with us as part of this exercise.

The IAF mid-term review assessments will be carried out jointly and collaboratively by a team of consultants to help ensure transparency and the independent nature of the assessments. The consultants are expected to assess progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33, analyse impact, gaps and areas which could be strengthened, propose measures to enhance collaboration and synergies, and identify key challenges and constraints, amongst other areas.

Your input will thus truly help shape the future of the International Arrangement on Forests!
I thank you for attention.

Annex G

**Priorities of AFWC for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO),
the FAO Programme of Work and the African Regional Conference (ARC)**

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>COFO</i>	<i>ARC</i>	<i>Global forest Goals²</i>
Forestry and wildlife in Covid-19 recovery programmes in Africa			
1. Enhance international cooperation in strengthening capacities, including in forestry and wildlife education, forest monitoring, and financial and policy measures	X		Goal 1 and 6
2. Boost collaboration on forest and wildlife related policies, education and scientific research with other relevant sectors and stakeholders with the health sector, in line with the One Health framework.	X	X	Goal 1 and 6
Turning the tide against deforestation in Africa			
3. Provide the necessary support to enhance capacity and share experience at national and regional levels to strengthen, update, and implement monitoring frameworks for governing forest resources.	X		Goal 1, 2 and 3
4. Support Members in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the development of strategies to address these drivers.	X		Goal 1,2,3 and 5
5. Support Members in their resource mobilization efforts in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation.	X		Goal 1, 4 and 6
Forest and Landscape Restoration in Africa			
6. Continue supporting Members, upon their requests, toward effective implementation of forest and landscape restoration (FLR) plans, AFR100 commitments and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.	X	X	Goal 1, 2,3 and 6
7. Continue its technical and resource mobilization support to Members including through Green Climate Fund [GCF], Global Environment Facility [GEF] and other climate funds for the implementation of large-scale restoration investment programmes, for increasing agricultural production across sectors		X	Goal 1, 4 and 6

² <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Global-Forest-Goals-booklet-Apr-2019.pdf>

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>COFO</i>	<i>ARC</i>	<i>Global forest Goals²</i>
(crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) and the resilience of livelihoods.			
Sustainable wildlife management in Africa			
8. Showcase benefits deriving from wildlife and view wildlife species as an economic asset to create value in a manner that is aligned with conservation objectives	X		Goal 1,2 and 3
9. Continue engagement including through the implementation of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other international processes.	X	X	Goal 1 and 3
10. Implement the Sustainable Wildlife Management activities, consolidate and assess the effectiveness of models, upscale good practices and lessons learned from Member Nations in Africa		X	Goal 1, 2,3, 4,5 and 6
11. Support Members in strengthening their technical and institutional capacity and promote international knowledge exchange on human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface.	X		Goal 1, 2 and 3
Sustainable wood and non-wood forest products			
12. Support Members to strengthen political and institutional frameworks and mobilize resources for the sustainable management of African planted and natural forests for wood production, restoration and climate change mitigation;		X	Goal 1,2,4,5 and 6
13. Support Members Nations in their transition towards a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy;	X	X	Goal 2, 4
14. Engage with countries, public and private sectors, international organizations and research institutions to collect, assess, and disseminate good practices promoting the sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of wood energy in Africa;	X		Goal 1, 2 and 3
XV World Forestry Congress (XV WFC)			
15. Include WFC recommendations in the Strategic Framework 2022-2031, the Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the coming biennia.	X	X	
16. Support Member Nations in their efforts in implementing the Congress recommendations.	X		
Global Forestry processes and Initiatives relevant to AFWC			
17. Promote recommendations of the State of World's Forests 2022 report (SOFO 2022) within and outside of the forestry sector.	X	X	6

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>COFO</i>	<i>ARC</i>	<i>Global forest Goals²</i>
18. Take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities.	<i>X</i>		<i>1,6</i>
19. Contribute with expertise, data and knowledge products to the policy discussions of the UNFF.	<i>X</i>		<i>All goals</i>
20. Support the implementation of the UNSPF through its communication and outreach strategy aimed at raising awareness on the multiple benefits of forests, and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes, initiatives and events.	<i>X</i>		<i>All goals</i>

*Annex H***MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Algeria	Libya
Angola	Madagascar
Benin	Malawi
Botswana	Mali
Burkina Faso	Mauritania
Burundi	Mauritius
Cabo Verde	Morocco
Cameroon	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Namibia
Chad	Niger
Congo	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sao Tome and Principe
Egypt	Senegal
Equatorial Guinea	Seychelles
Eritrea	Sierra Leone
Eswatini	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa
France	South Sudan
Gabon	Sudan
Gambia	Togo
Ghana	Tunisia
Guinea	Uganda
Guinea-Bissau	United Republic of Tanzania
Kenya	Zambia
Lesotho	Zimbabwe
Liberia	

Vertical line 1

Vertical line 2

Vertical line 3

Vertical line 4

Vertical line 5