



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN
AFRICA**

Meeting report

Harare, Zimbabwe
30 January to 1 February 2024

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I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The Regional Workshop on Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Africa was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 30 January to 1 February 2024. The workshop was co-organized by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), and the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia). The list of participants is given in *Appendix IV* to this report.
2. The Honourable Vangelis Peter Haritatos, Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe, gave a welcome address. He welcomed participants and stressed the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) to the region's agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience.
3. Mr Patrice Talla, Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and FAO Representative in Zimbabwe, welcomed participants to Zimbabwe and wished them a fruitful workshop.
4. Ms Megan Denver, Scientific Commission Chairperson with Apimondia, welcomed participants, thanked them for attending the meeting and stressed the importance of Apimondia's collaboration with FAO on BFA, a topic of great interest to both parties.
5. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, welcomed participants, thanked the FAO Subregional Office in Zimbabwe for supporting the organization of the workshop, and thanked Apimondia for its collaboration in the organization of the series of regional workshops on BFA. He stressed that the outcomes of the regional workshops would be brought to the attention of the first session of the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which the Commission established at its last session in July 2023.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

6. The workshop was divided into six sessions. Session I involved presentations on BFA, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Commission's *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA)¹. Session II addressed the status of BFA and its management in the region. Sessions III to V addressed the region's gaps and needs with regard to the three strategic priority areas (SPAs) of the FA BFA: Characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA (SPA 1); Management of BFA (SPA 2); and Institutional frameworks for BFA (SPA 3). Session VI focused on implementing the FA BFA in Africa.

III. SETTING THE SCENE: BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

7. Mr Kudzai Kusena, FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa, gave a presentation on the *Current status of the policy landscape on biodiversity for food and agriculture in Africa*. Mr Frederic Castell, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO, gave a presentation on *Mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors: the example of the FAO Strategy*. Ms Monica Kobayashi, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), gave an overview of relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Mr Justify Gotami Shava, South African Development Community Plant Genetic Resources Centre, gave a presentation entitled *The example of a regional biodiversity strategy*.

IV. THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

8. National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFPs BFA) and designated representatives gave presentations on the status of BFA in their countries, including on country activities related to the various strategic priorities of the FA BFA. The results of a survey that was

¹ FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

circulated to NFPs BFA and designated representatives prior to the regional workshop are summarized in *Appendix III* to this report.

V. CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS

9. Participants broke into subregional working groups (one for Central Africa, one for Southern Africa, one for Eastern Africa and one for West Africa) to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the national implementation of SPA 1 (Characterization, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture). The working groups then reported back to the plenary. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 1 of *Appendix II* to this report.

VI. MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

10. Ms Hannah Karuri, University of Embu, Kenya, gave a presentation highlighting the importance of soil biodiversity to food and agriculture. Mr David Mukomana, Apimondia, gave a presentation on *Pollinator-friendly practices for Africa*. Mr Fassil Gebeyehu Yelemtu, African Biodiversity Network, gave a presentation on *Biodiversity-friendly practices in Eastern Africa*. Mr Koffi Kombate, Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique, gave a presentation on *The role of biodiversity in agricultural practices in Western Africa*.

11. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the national implementation of SPA 2 (Management of biodiversity for food and agriculture). The working groups then reported back to the plenary. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 2 of *Appendix II* to this report.

VII. CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

12. Ms Patience Hoto, FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa, gave a presentation on *Developing enabling institutional frameworks for diet diversification and agrobiodiversity*. A video on *Migration, agriculture and climate change in Western Africa*, produced by the International Organization for Migration, was shown to the participants. Mr Andrew Mushita, Community Technology Development Trust, Zimbabwe, gave a presentation entitled *From seed to food: Putting biodiversity at the centre of African policies on food and agriculture*.

13. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to SPA 3 (Institutional frameworks for biodiversity for food and agriculture) at national level, including capacity-building, strengthening of legal, policy and incentive frameworks, and cooperation and funding. The working groups then reported back to the plenary. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 3 of *Appendix II* to this report.

VIII. IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

14. Participants broke into subregional groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the implementation of the FAB FA. The working groups reported back to the plenary. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 4 of *Appendix II* to this report.

IX. CLOSING

15. Mr Dan Leskien thanked the FAO Subregional Office in Harare for having provided excellent support for the organization and operation of the workshop. He thanked all the speakers and participants for their enthusiasm and active engagement and expressed his gratitude to Apimondia for having co-organized the event. He also thanked the interpreters, all the personnel of Coghlan Guest House and the IT team for their excellent work, and the Government of Germany for the generous support that made the workshop possible.

APPENDIX I

**AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL WORKSKOP ON TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA**

DAY 1: 30 January 2024	
9:30 – 10:00	Registration
OPENING	
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Patrice Talla, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa and FAO Representative in Zimbabwe</p> <p>Megan Denver, Scientific Commission Chairperson, Beekeeping for Rural Development, Apimondia</p> <p>The Honourable Vangelis Peter Haritatos, Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Photo Session
SESSION I	SETTING THE SCENE: BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – THE GLOBAL POLICY LANDSCAPE
10:45 – 12:00	<p><i>Current status of the policy landscape on biodiversity for food and agriculture in Africa</i> Kudzai Kusena, National Policy and Programme Specialist, FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa</p> <p><i>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Creating the synergies</i> Monica Kobayashi, Programme Management Officer for Agricultural Biodiversity and Inland Waters, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p><i>The example of a regional biodiversity strategy</i> Justify Gotami Shava, Head, South African Development Community (SADC) Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)</p> <p><i>Mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors: the example of the FAO Strategy</i> Frédéric Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO</p>
SESSION II	THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA
<p><i>Reports by National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and designated ad hoc representatives</i></p> <p>SPA 1: Characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA</p> <p>SPA 2: Management of BFA</p> <p>SPA 3: Institutional frameworks for BFA</p>	
12:00 – 13:00	NATIONAL COUNTRY REPORTS
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 17:30	NATIONAL COUNTRY REPORTS
17:30 – 20:00	Reception Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	NATIONAL COUNTRY REPORTS

DAY 2: 31 January 2024	
SESSION III	CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS
09:30 – 09:45	Brief introduction to SP1
09:45 – 11:15	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Africa (EN/FR) • Southern Africa (EN) • Eastern Africa (EN) • West Africa (EN/FR)
11:15 – 12:00	Session III: Reports from the working groups <i>Discussion</i>
SESSION IV	MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Soil health management approaches for control of plant-parasitic nematodes</i> Hannah Karuri, Senior Lecturer, University of Embu, Kenya <i>Pollinator-friendly practices for Africa</i> David Mukomana, President, Apimondia Regional Commission for Africa <i>Biodiversity-friendly practices in Eastern Africa</i> Fassil Gebeyehu Yelemtu, General Coordinator, African Biodiversity Network (ABN) <i>The role of biodiversity in agricultural practices in Western Africa</i> Koffi Kombate, Plant Genetic Resources Officer, Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA) <i>Discussion</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:15	Brief introduction to SP2
14:15 – 15:45	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Africa (EN/FR) • Southern Africa (EN) • Eastern Africa (EN) • West Africa (EN/FR)
15:45 – 16:30	Session IV Reports from the working groups <i>Discussion</i>

SESSION V	CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
16:30 – 17:30	<p><i>Developing enabling institutional frameworks for diet diversification and agrobiodiversity</i> Patience Hoto, Nutrition Specialist, FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa</p> <p><i>Migration, agriculture, and climate change in Western Africa: mainstreaming biodiversity in migration policies and actions</i> Hind Aïssaoui Bennani, Regional Specialist in Migration, Environment and Climate Change, International Organization for Migration</p> <p><i>From seed to food: Putting biodiversity at the centre of African policies on food and agriculture</i> Andrew Mushita, Head of Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

DAY 3: 1 February 2024	
09:30 – 09:45	Brief introduction to SP3
09:45 – 11:15	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION V <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Africa (EN/FR) • Southern Africa (EN) • Eastern Africa (EN) • West Africa (EN/FR)
11:15 – 12:00	Session V Reports from the working groups <i>Discussion</i>
SESSION VI	IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA
12:00 – 13:00	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION VI WG I: National implementation: gaps, needs, next steps WG II: Regional cooperation: gaps, needs, next steps (EN/FR)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION VI WG I: National implementation: gaps, needs, next steps WG II: Regional cooperation: gaps, needs, next steps (EN/FR)
14:30 – 15:30	Session VI Reports from the working groups Survey results <i>Final discussion</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Closing – lessons learnt and next steps

APPENDIX II

MAIN GAPS AND NEEDS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

The following tables summarize and consolidate inputs and comments received from the subregional working groups.

SECTION 1: CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS

Main gaps in Africa

- Weak inventories of BFA; lack of descriptors for some crops.
- Inadequate data on species inventories, phenotypic, molecular and biochemical characteristics, and associated traditional knowledge. Weak characterization of specific diversity. Limited on-farm characterization.
- Insufficient financing and inadequate use of allocated financial resources.
- Lack of human resources; lack of hardware capabilities; insufficient skills and technologies; lack of training of populations on biodiversity issues.
- Outdated structures.
- Limited coordination within and between sectors; inadequate coordination, linkages and synergy among key actors involved in the management of BFA.
- Lack of integration of biodiversity themes into school and university curricula; lack of adequate institutions with continuous training programmes.
- Lack of political will, i.e. lack of interest in the topic from decision-makers.
- Low level of knowledge and understanding of biodiversity-friendly practices in Africa.
- Lack of capacity to implement and upscale some of these practices.
- Very low level of investment in agrobiodiversity – promotion of monoculture is destroying biodiversity; limited investment in agricultural research in general.
- Limited availability of appropriate biodiversity-related technology.
- Limited interministerial coordination.
- Limited implementation of the Maputo Declaration, which states that at least 10 percent of the national budget should go towards agriculture.
- Lack of prioritization of biodiversity issues.
- Limited awareness at policy level.
- Absence of policies and legislation on biodiversity.

Main needs in Africa

- Efficient tools for species inventory, phenotypic, molecular and biochemical characterization, and recording associated traditional knowledge.
- Better human resources and infrastructure.
- Better coordination mechanisms and linkages between key actors.
- Greater mobilization of financial resources.
- Stronger policy and legal frameworks.

Action to address the main gaps and needs

- Collect data, and assemble and manage databases.
- Improve inventories and characterization.
- Prepare and implement advocacy activities to promote BFA-related matters among decision-makers.
- Establish budget lines allocated to research. Establish an efficient mechanism for the use and management of all allocated financial resources.

- Empower stakeholders with appropriate skills and technologies; reinforce national training systems.
- Provide students and researchers with adequate scholarships for BFA-related studies.
- Strengthen coordination by holding regular meetings, developing platforms and promoting synergies.
- Allocate financial resources to the construction of relevant infrastructure.
- Establish effective communication systems.
- Elaborate descriptors.
- Raise awareness across all sectors, including the private sector.
- Establish information hubs at various levels.
- Adopt and promote a range of BFA-friendly technologies.
- Support crop diversification and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.
- Improve capacity to document and disseminate information, including information on BFA-friendly indigenous knowledge practices that will complement modern practices.
- Strengthen institutions, specifically human resources and equipment.
- Establish formal mechanisms for coordination (e.g. legislation and policy).
- Invest in research and development.
- Create a multistakeholder platform for the implementation of activities at various levels, and provide it with legislative support.

Action to be taken by FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help address the gaps and needs

- Provide technical, financial and capacity-building support for characterization activities selected at the national level.
- Assist FAO Members with capacity building, including funding.
- Facilitate domestic resource mobilization to address gaps.
- Provide appropriate data collection and management tools.
- Establish capacity-building programmes targeting key BFA actors, including by developing arrangements for sharing experiences.
- Establishing a central database for BFA.
- Raise awareness among political decision-makers.
- Facilitate the identification of appropriate biodiversity-friendly technologies for each production system.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of strategies, plans and actions for the management of biodiversity to ensure soil health and soil fertility.
- Facilitate the development by education institutions of curricula on biodiversity and tailor-made short-term and long-term training programmes on agrobiodiversity conservation.
- Facilitate the development of training materials (guides, protocols, etc.).
- Develop policy guidelines that can be adopted or adapted by countries.
- Assist with the implementation of best practices, specifically by supporting publications on biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Support regional sharing of skills and knowledge.
- Support local-level capacity-building activities at the grassroots.
- Promote the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Support transboundary movements of genetic materials.
- Facilitate information sharing and exchange.
- Develop protocols for research and development.
- Assist with rescue missions.
- Upscale capacity building for the implementation for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
- Support the establishment of multistakeholder platforms to drive the implementation of MEAs.

Should the Commission develop status indicators for monitoring the status of associated biodiversity and relevant regulating and supporting ecosystem services to complement the existing monitoring schemes for plant, animal, forest and aquatic resources?

- Yes, but always taking account of the fact that predefined indicators should be adapted to the realities of each country. FAO should develop indicators for monitoring the status of associated biodiversity and relevant regulating and supporting ecosystem services to complement the existing monitoring schemes for plant, animal forest and aquatic genetic resources, for countries to adopt.
- One of the regional groups asserted that indicators were critical in the promotion, adoption and upscaling of best practices, information sharing and exchange. Another group supported the development of indicators by the Commission but signalled that the process should be country-driven or respond to country requests and should be based on the precautionary approach. It also indicated that internal synergies should be utilized to cut costs, that access and benefit-sharing frameworks need to be strengthened and that there is a need for wider in-country consultation.

SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Measures necessary to tackle the gaps and needs

- Improve communication mechanisms; develop tailor-made communication and awareness tools.
- Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders.
- Introduce restoration and conservation incentives.
- Promote good agroecological practices.
- Promote conservation measures for traditional species, varieties and breeds in community and national gene banks.
- Encourage the use of biopesticides and natural enemies.
- Expand the study of neglected species.
- Establish incentive schemes for biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Build and strengthen the capacity and structure of extension services.
- Enhance the enforcement of measures supporting biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Bridge the gap between science, policy, practice, citizen-science practitioners, and traditional and local knowledge through multiple evidence-based approaches.
- Align projects with national development policies.
- Design projects of national scope.
- Strengthen the applicability of the rule of law.
- Involve communities in the design and implementation of management actions.
- Improve oversight of the management of funds.
- Encourage the involvement of opinion leaders.
- Organize training and awareness-raising campaigns for local communities.
- Put resources into the creation of more farmer field schools.
- Ensure that awareness is raised in all sectors, including the private sector.
- Establish information hubs at various levels.
- Adopt BFA-friendly technologies.
- Support crop diversification.
- Promote the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.
- Improve capacity to document and disseminate information, including information on BFA-friendly indigenous knowledge practices that will complement modern practices.

Action to be taken by FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help countries/stakeholders to implement biodiversity-friendly practices

- Disseminate good practices; provide technical and financial support; address other general capacity-building needs.

- Support resource mobilization for the implementation and upscaling of BFA-friendly practices.
- Develop and/or review appropriate tools and guidelines for the implementation and upscaling of BFA-friendly practices.
- Support South–South and South–North cooperation and sharing of knowledge and experiences.
- Bridge the gap between science, policy, practice and citizen science through multiple evidence-based approaches.
- Facilitate the identification of appropriate biodiversity-friendly technologies for each production system.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of strategies, plans and actions to manage biodiversity to ensure soil health and soil fertility.
- Facilitate the development by educational institutions of curricula on biodiversity and tailor-made short-term and long-term training programmes on agrobiodiversity conservation.
- Facilitate the development of training materials (guides and protocols).
- Develop policy guidelines that can be adopted or adapted by different countries.
- Support capacity-building programmes targeting key actors in BFA management.
- Support the production of publications on the best biodiversity-friendly practices.

Need for targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices by countries

- The Commission should develop model indicators to monitor countries' implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices. One of the subregions indicated that such indicators must be adapted to the reality of each country.

SECTION 3: CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

What are the main challenges that need to be addressed to create institutional frameworks, including economic measures, enabling the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture?

- Inadequate policies and legal frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and BFA.
- Lack of frameworks for coordinating actions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of BFA; one objective should be to create funds dedicated to the promotion of biodiversity.
- Inadequate institutional capacity building; one challenge is the lack of binding institutional arrangements.
- Inadequate implementation of legislation and enforcement measures that promote the conservation and wise use of the BFA;
- Inadequate implementation of biodiversity credits.
- Inadequate characterization, monitoring, assessment and valuation of BFA.
- Lack of information on the economic value of genetic resources with which to influence policy processes.
- Lack of attention to the budgetary implications of operationalizing envisaged institutional frameworks.
- Competing interests among stakeholders.
- Conflicts of interest among competing development needs (e.g. mining vs agriculture).
- Lack of coordination, cooperation and synergies between institutions at national and international levels.
- Silo mentalities and compartmentalization.
- Limited financial resources for institutional frameworks for BFA.
- Lack of political will (support at ministerial level).
- Limited levels of awareness of priority BFA-related issues.

- Lack of mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectoral policies.
- Lack of effective measures to stop the misuse of hazardous pesticides.
- Weak integration of BFA into higher education and research curricula.
- Lack of institutional frameworks for information sharing, awareness raising and communication.

Actions to be taken by FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help countries/stakeholders create enabling frameworks

- Promote the mobilization of funds for the benefit of countries.
- Provide technical support that takes into account the real needs of communities.
- Develop tools for BFA natural capital accounting.
- Develop awareness-raising tools for all levels.
- Mobilize resource to support awareness-raising initiatives.
- Support the establishment and operationalization of a working group on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA).
- Support the establishment of payment for ecosystem services mechanisms.
- Facilitate the establishment of multisectoral stakeholder platforms to encourage collaboration efforts.
- Facilitate sustainable financing mechanisms and budgeting for the implementation of BFA-related measures.
- Provide technical and financial support for the development of legal and regulatory texts and intervention frameworks relating to the management of BFA.

Development of guidelines to support countries in the establishment of enabling frameworks

The following factors need to be taken into account:

- competence and transparency;
- integration of good practices into the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity; and
- the knowledge and know-how of Indigenous communities.

One subregional group considered that FAO should support countries in the development of guidelines on natural capital accounting and agrobiodiversity policies. Another subregional group stressed that although guidelines should be supported there was a need for wider stakeholder involvement and consultations.

What should the guidelines address?

- Scoping exercises, stakeholder mapping and database development.
- Legislation reviews.
- Participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and stakeholders from civil society.
- Indigenous/traditional knowledge and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Gender issues.
- Funding mechanisms.
- Creation of synergies.
- Access and benefit-sharing.
- Elaboration or revision of strategies.
- Elaboration of national indicators for monitoring.
- Elaboration of advocacy strategies to strength political will.

SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

Priorities for a project on the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Priorities for a project on national implementation

Project 1

Ex situ and *in situ* conservation of genetic resources.
Implementation of a variety of regeneration actions.
Promotion of integrative projects aligned with local systems and habits.
Gender approach that integrates women and young people.

Project 2

Development of national action plans for the implementation of the FA BFA.
Establishment of coordination mechanisms for BFA-related activities.
Characterization and assessment of BFA.
Awareness raising on BFA.
Monitoring and management of BFA.
Policy and legal frameworks.

Project 3

Development of appropriate policies and implementation of institutional frameworks: the processes should be multisectoral to encourage coordination.

Project 4:

Elaboration of the national management strategy for BFA.
Information dissemination, awareness-raising and communication on the importance of BFA and its management.
Measures to safeguard elements of BFA that are in danger of extinction.

Priorities for a project on regional implementation

Project 1

Creation of a regional observatory consisting of a DNA databank for BFA.

Project 2

Establishment/strengthening of a regional framework on BFA.
Review/updating of regional BFA management policies and legislative frameworks.
Development and implementation of regional programmes, plans and projects.

Project 3

Creation of learning platforms for sharing experiences, knowledge and skills relevant to innovation and the implementation of successful practices.
Strengthening of institutional frameworks at South African Development Community (SADC) level, as existing policies do not explicitly address agrobiodiversity-related issues.
Improvements to coordination and integration.

Project 4

Exchange of experiences.
Capacity building.

Selection criteria for projects addressing national implementation

Project 1.

Focus on *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of genetic resources.
Variety of regeneration activities.
Focus on gender mainstreaming.
Focus on youth empowerment.

Project 2:

Status of BFA management.
Potential impact.
Capacity to manage and implement the project.
Track record in the implementation of other related projects.

Project 3:

Focus on agrobiodiversity.
Multistakeholder participation, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth.
Focus on national/regional priorities for agrobiodiversity.
Focus on policy and institutional capacity-building needs.
Strength of monitoring and evaluation framework.
Focus on access and benefit-sharing.
Novelty of suggested approaches and ability to address known BFA-related challenges.

Project 4

Relationship between the actions and the project funding (correspondence between the actions and the funding, the methodology, the impact, the links between the objectives and the expected results, the quality of the monitoring indicators, the mapping of the interventions and the stakeholders).
The quality of the logical framework and action plan.

Selection criteria for projects addressing regional implementation

Project 1

Focus on biodiversity conservation issues in national policies.
Focus on actions that promote food and nutrition security.
Holistic approach to sustainable development.

Project 2

Status of existing coordination and cooperation.
Existence of transboundary BFA.
Existence of BFA initiatives that can be built on.

Project 3

Focus on transboundary issues – intercountry trade facilities, sharing of resources, facilitation of dialogues to encourage sharing of genetic resources to promote effective management of BFA.
Intercountry and multicountry cooperation.
Focus on capacity-building issues.
Focus on access and benefit-sharing.
Novelty of suggested approaches and ability to solve known BFA-related challenges.

Project 4

Number of countries involved and the quality of participants.
Quality of the proposals and the capacities to be reinforced.

APPENDIX III

**SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE FAO SURVEY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA**

Introduction

Prior to the workshop Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Africa, a 27-question survey was circulated to all National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFPs BFA) and designated representatives in the region. The survey aimed to generate an overview of activities in the region and facilitate the preparation of brief country reports during the workshop (see *Appendix II*).

Sixteen responses were received within the deadline set by the workshop organizers, and these responses provide the basis for this summary.

Identification of knowledge gaps and training needs

The survey sought to identify which of the six strategic priorities of the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA)² respondents considered to be of highest priority for training on, or expert assistance with, national implementation. Respondents were asked to provide a priority score for each strategic priority. More than half of the 96 ratings (i.e. 16 respondents rating six strategic priorities) placed the respective strategic priority in the highest priority category (Table 1). The strategic priorities that received the largest numbers of “highest level of priority” ratings (six in each case) were Strategic Priority 2.1 (Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture [BFA] and integrated approaches to its management), Strategic Priority 2.2 (Improve conservation and restoration of BFA) and Strategic Priority 3.3 (Improve cooperation and funding) (Figure 1).

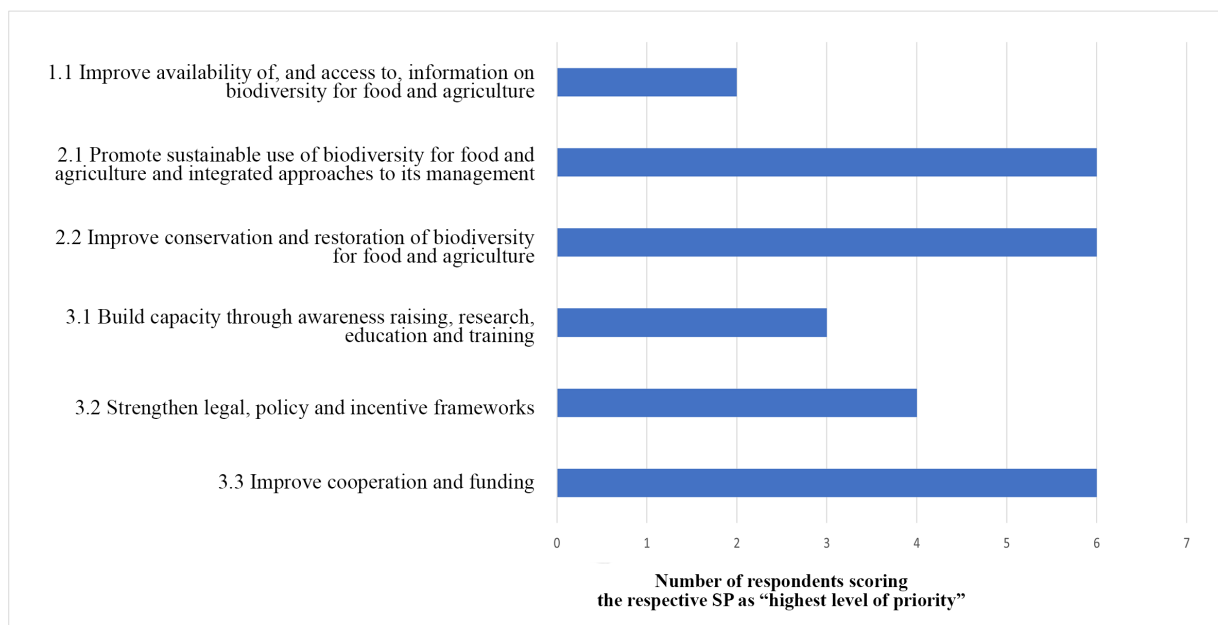
Table 1 Priority rating of strategic priorities

NUMBER OF RATINGS	LEVEL OF PRIORITY
51	HIGHEST LEVEL
31	HIGH LEVEL
12	MEDIUM-HIGH LEVEL

Notes: Respondents were asked “For which of the following SPs do you consider the training/expert inputs would be particularly useful to assist you with national implementation?” They were presented with a list of the six strategic priorities (SPs) of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and requested to assign a priority level to each (Highest level of priority; High priority; Medium-high priority; Medium-low priority; Low priority; Lowest level of priority). The same priority level could be assigned to more than one SP.

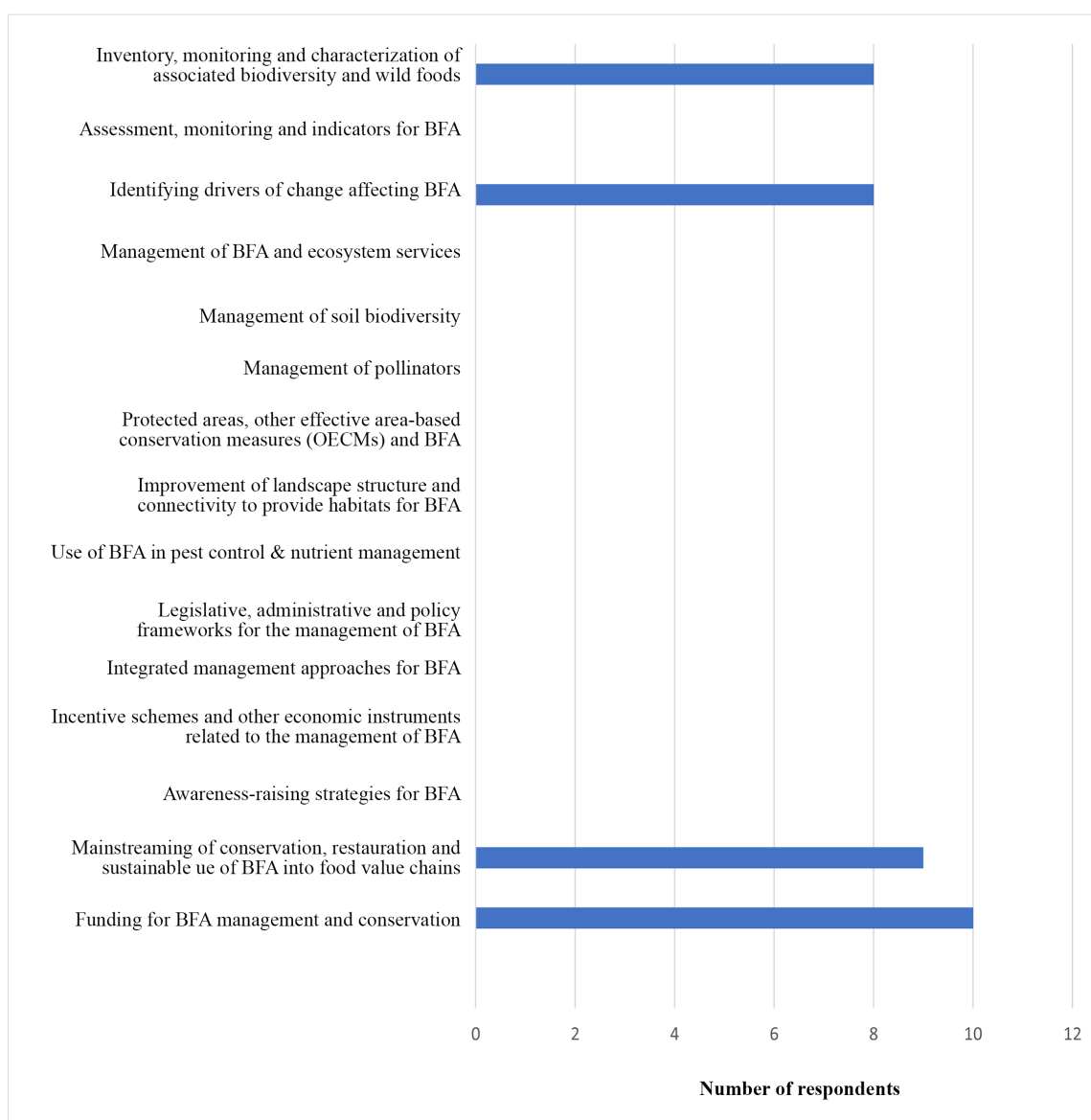
It can be noted that all the respondents scored all the strategic priorities as medium-high priorities or higher – over 95 percent of responses fall into those categories. Low and medium-low priority scores were assigned only twice. This might imply that the NFPs BFA and designated representatives consider that the strategic priorities listed in the FA BFA remain up to date and relevant to their agendas.

² FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

Figure 1. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (strategic priorities)

Notes: Respondents were asked "For which of the following SPs do you consider that training/expert inputs would be particularly useful to assist you with national implementation?". They were presented with a list of the six strategic priorities (SPs) of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and requested to assign a priority level (Highest level of priority; High priority; Medium-high priority; Medium-low priority; Low priority; Lowest level of priority) to each. The same priority level could be assigned to more than one SP.

Respondents were further presented with a list of 16 topics and asked to mark four for which they considered that knowledge enhancement would be particularly useful. Figure 2 shows that funding for BFA management and conservation was the most popular option.

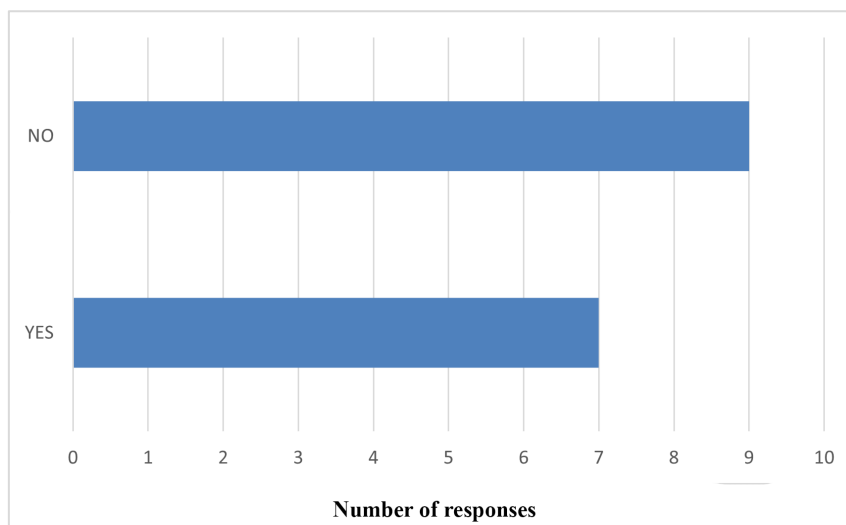
Figure 2. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (specific topics)

Notes: Respondents were presented with a list of 16 topics and asked to mark four for which they considered that knowledge enhancement would be particularly useful.

Status of national implementation

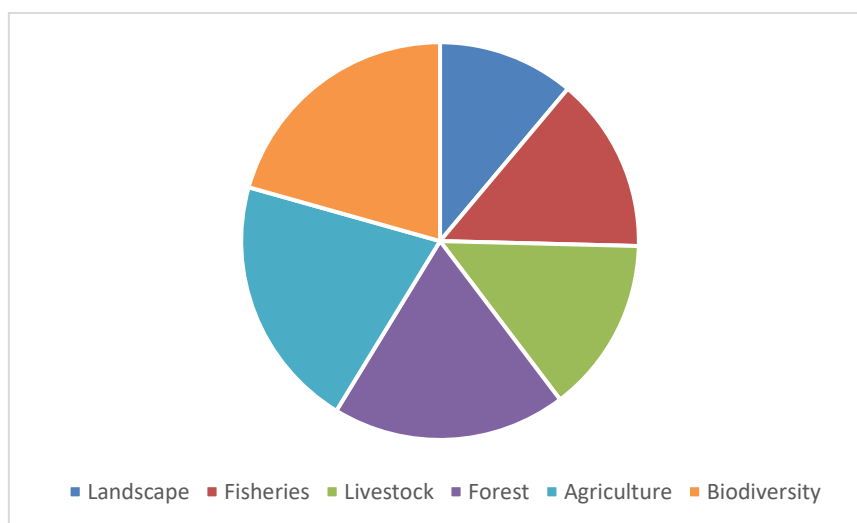
The first question in this section of the survey asked respondents to indicate whether there were national frameworks in their respective countries for the assessment and monitoring of associated biodiversity and wild foods. Nine respondents indicated that no such frameworks exist, while seven indicated that they do exist (Figure 3). Respondents were also asked to provide their views on policy and legal frameworks and to indicate under which umbrellas (i.e. within which broader policy frameworks) BFA-related policies have been established. The responses indicate that most BFA-related instruments fall within biodiversity and agricultural policy frameworks, closely followed by forest policies (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Existence of national frameworks for the assessment and monitoring of associated BFA



Notes: Respondents were asked the following question: “Are there national frameworks on evaluation and monitoring of BFAs in particular associated biodiversity and wild foods in your country?”.

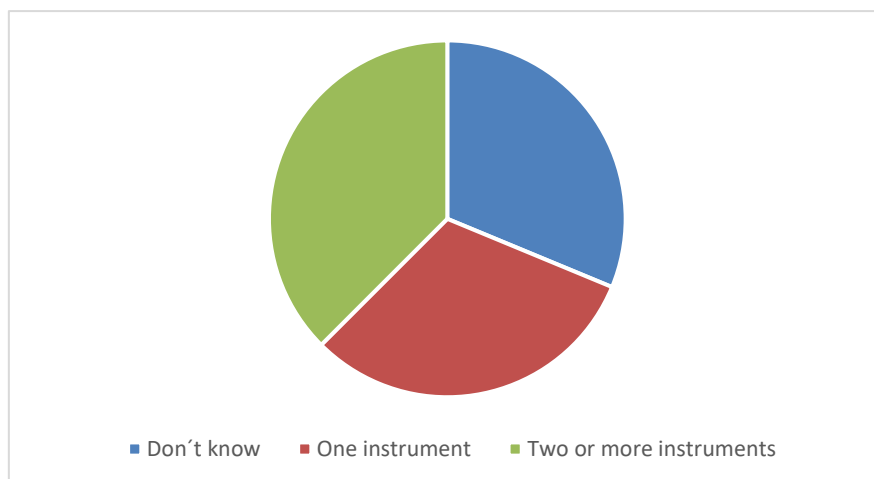
Figure 4. Frameworks within which policies addressing BFA are located



Notes: Respondents were asked the following question: “If policy and legal frameworks for BFA exist in your country, where are they located?” and given a list of options. More than one option could be chosen. The pie chart indicates the share of each option among the total responses.

In responses to a question about whether various types of economic instruments are used to promote the sustainable management of BFA their countries, five respondents explicitly answered “Do not know”, while the remaining eleven stated that they know of one or several such instruments (Figure 5).

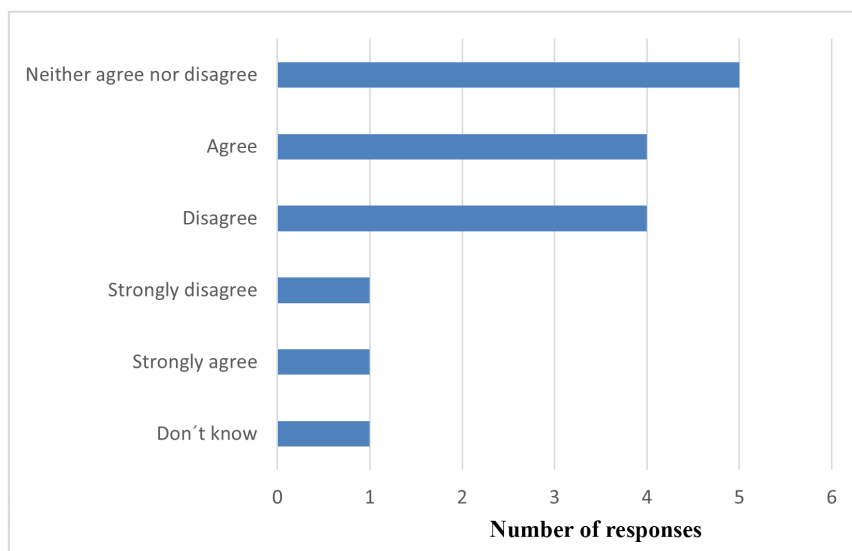
Figure 5. Level of use of economic instruments to promote sustainable management of BFA



Notes: Respondents were asked “Which of the following economic instruments are used to promote the sustainable management of BFA in your country?” and given a list of options. The options were BFA relevant fees and charges; BFA relevant taxes; BFA relevant tradable permits; BFA relevant subsidies; Payment for ecosystem services; Biodiversity offsets; Don't know. More than one option could be chosen. The pie chart indicates the proportion of respondents that answered “Don't know”, that named one instrument, and that named more than one instrument.

Four respondents indicated that they agreed with the statement “BFA-related policies and instruments are coordinated among each other in my country”, while another four indicated that they disagreed (Figure 6) The most frequently chosen option, selected by five respondents, was “Neither agree nor disagree”.

Figure 6. Status of BFA-related policies and other instruments

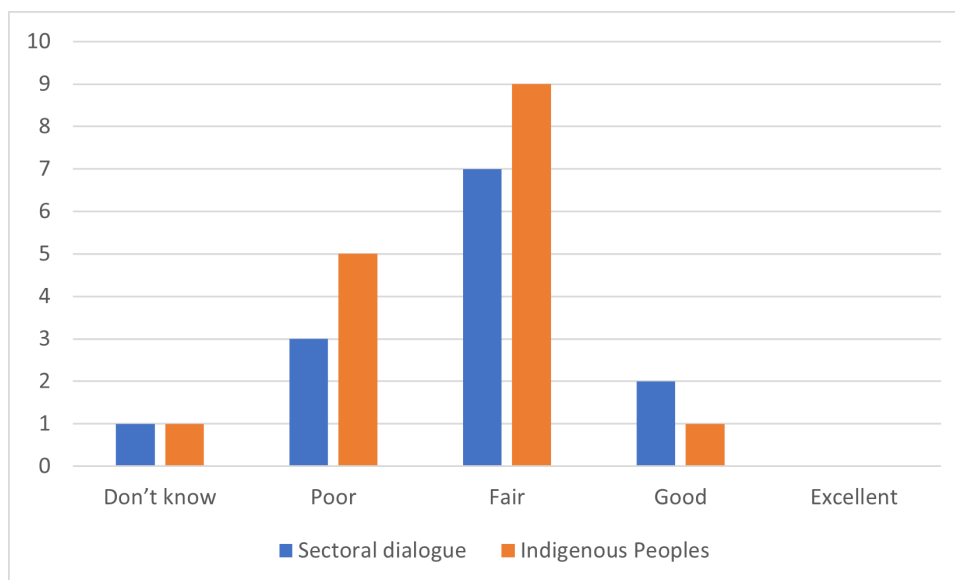


Notes: Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statement: “BFA-related policies and instruments are coordinated among each other in my country?”.

In response to a question about the state of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue in their respective countries – a critical factor in the adequate implementation of activities in a multidisciplinary sector such as BFA – six respondents indicated that the level of dialogue was poor,

two that it was good, seven that it was fair and one that they did not know (Figure 7). No respondents reported that the level of dialogue was excellent.

Figure 7. Status of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue and status of involvement of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making



Notes: Respondents were asked “How would you describe the level of BFA-related cross-sectoral/interagency dialogue in your country?” and “How would you describe the integration and participation of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making processes in the food and agriculture sector in your country?” and given a list of options.

In response to a question about the integration and participation of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making processes in the food and agriculture sector in their respective countries, one respondent indicated that it was good, five that it was poor, nine that it was fair and one that they did not know (Figure 7). Once again, no respondents gave a rating of excellent.

**APPENDIX IV
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

BURUNDI

M. Thacien NKURIKIYE
Conseiller au Cabinet du ministère de
l'environnement, de l'agriculture et de
l'élevage
Bujumbura
Email: thacien.nkurikiye@yahoo.fr

CABO VERDE

Ms Nora Helena RAMOS SILVA
Researcher
National Institute for Research and
Agricultural Development
Praia
Email: nora.silva@inida.gov.cv;
noraahsilva@yahoo.com.br

COMOROS

Mme Charmila Mohamed ANOIR
Ingénieur de recherche en biotechnologie
végétale et microbienne
Ministère de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de
l'environnement
Moroni
Email: charm-i2m@hotmail.fr

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mme Adjoua Emma KOFFI
Sous-directrice de la recherche agricole
Direction des cultures vivrières et de la
sécurité alimentaire
Ministère de l'agriculture, du
développement rural et des productions
vivrières
Abidjan
Email: emmakoffi004@yahoo.com

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO**

M. Godefroid KABALA ILUNGA
Inspecteur phytosanitaire
Cadre à la Direction protection des
végétaux
Ministère de l'agriculture
Kinshasa
Email: kabalailunga@gmail.com

ESWATINI

Mr Thembinkosi GUMEDZE
Senior Research Officer
Department of Agricultural Research and
Specialist Services
Mbabane
Email: tg.tgumedze@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA

Mr Tesfu Fekensa TUJUBA
Director
Animal Biodiversity Directorate
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute
Addis Ababa
Email: t.tujuba@studenti.unimol.it;
tesfuaau@yahoo.com

GABON

M. Gislin MBYE NTOMA
Economiste du développement durable
Ancien conseiller environnement du
Ministre d'état, Ministre des forêts et de
l'environnement chargé du Plan Climat
Libreville
Email: mbyentoma@yahoo.fr

GUINEA

M. Mamadou GANDEKA
Chef
Division cultures vivrières et d'exportations
Direction nationale de l'agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage
Email: mgandeka@magel.gov.gn

KENYA

Mr Desterio NYAMONGO
Senior Principal Research Officer and
Director of the Genetic Resources Research
Institute
Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research
Organization
Nairobi
Email: dnyamongo@yahoo.co.uk;
desterio.nyamongo@kalro.org

MADAGASCAR

Mme Herizo Lalaina RAKOTOARISOA
Chercheur
Centre national de la recherche appliquée
au développement rural
Antananarivo
Email: zoherilalaina@yahoo.fr

MOZAMBIQUE

Ms Sidonia MUHORRO GUEZE
Head of Natural Resources Management
Department of Environmental Management
Ministry of Land and Environment
Maputo
Email: smuhorro@gmail.com

NAMIBIA

Mr Ricky KAPUTJAZA
Agricultural Scientific Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land
Reform
Windhoek
Email: rkaputjaza.rk@gmail.com

SOUTH SUDAN

Mr Paul LADO DEMETRY
Director for Biodiversity
Directorate of Wetlands and Biodiversity
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Juba
Email: ladolodemen@yahoo.com

TOGO

M. Koffi KOMBATE
Point Focal Environnement
Chargé des ressources phylogénétiques
Institut Togolaise de recherche
agronomique
Lomé
Email: kombate_koffi@yahoo.fr

UGANDA

Ms Catherine KIWUKA
In Situ Conservationist/Research Officer
Plant Genetic Resources Centre
National Agricultural Research
Organization
Kampala
Email: ckiwuka@naro.go.ug

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Mr Mujuni SOSPETER KABULULU
Senior Research Officer
Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides
Authority
National Plant Genetic Resources Center
Arusha
Email: mujuni.kabululu@tphpa.go.tz

ZIMBABWE

Mr Onismus CHIPFUNDE
Curator
Genetic Resources and Biotechnology
Institute (National Genebank)
Research Services Department
Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and
Rural Development
Harare
Email: ochipfunde@gmail.com

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

APIMONDIA

Ms Megan DENVER
 Scientific Commission Chairperson
 Beekeeping for Rural Development
 Woodstock, New York
 United States of America
 Email: megandenvr@gmail.com

Ms Constance MARIMO
 Assistant-Secretariat
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: connie.much@gmail.com

Mr David Mukomana
 President
 Apimondia Regional Commission for
 Africa
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 Email: dmukomana@gmail.com

Ms Monica Tura
 Apimondia
 Rome, Italy
 Email: monica.apibees@gmail.com

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ms Monica KOBAYASHI
 Programme Management Officer for
 Agricultural Biodiversity and Inland Waters
 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological
 Diversity
 Montreal, Canada
 Email: monica.kobayashi@un.org

FOOD AND NUTRITION COUNCIL

Mr George KEMBO
 Director General
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: georgekembo@gmail.com;
 gkembo@sirdc.ac.zw

Ms Perpetual NYADENGA
 Director of Knowledge Management
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: pnyadenga@fnc.org.zw

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Mr Washington ZHAKATA
 Director
 Department of Climate Change
 Management
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: washingtonzhakata@gmail.com

Mr Stephen ZINGWENA
 Deputy General Manager
 Forestry Commission
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: szingwena@gmail.com

Mr Pomerayi MUTETE
 Tree Breeder
 Forestry Commission
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: pmutete@frchigh.com.zw

Mr Fultom MANGWANYA
 General Manager
 Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management
 Authority
 Harare
 Email: fmangwanya@zimparcs.org.zw

MINISTRY FOR HEALTH AND CHILD CARE

Mr Handrea NJOVO
 Deputy Director Nutrition
 National Nutrition Unit
 Harare, Zimbabwe
 Email: hnjovo@mohcc.org.zw

MINISTRY OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Vangelis Peter HARITATOS, M.P.
 Deputy Minister
 Harare, Zimbabwe

Mr Andrew CHAMISA
Deputy Director
Department of Livestock Research
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: chamisaa@gmail.com

Mr Christopher CHAPANO
Head
National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens
Department of Research and Specialist
Services
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: cchapano@gmail.com

Ms Charity KUNAKA
Acting Head
Fertilizers, Farm Feeds and Remedies
Institute
Harare Agricultural Research Centre
Department of Research and Specialist
Services
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: csakuhuni@gmail.com

Mr Abraham MASHUMBA
Director
Strategic Planning, Monitoring and
Evaluation
Department of Strategic Planning and
Business Development
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: admashumba@yahoo.com

Mr Thabani Matthews SIZIBA
Agricultural Economist
Department of Strategic Planning and
Business Development
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: teemsiziba@gmail.com

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

Mr Justify Gotami SHAVA
Head
SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Lusaka, Zambia
Email: gotamigav@yahoo.com

EXPERTS

Ms Nyasha CHITAKA
Agriculture and Markets Advisor
Care International Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: carezim@carezimbabwe.org

Mr Chibememe GLADMAN
Representative of the CHIEHA Community
Chibememe Earth Healing Association
Chibememe, Masvingo Province
Zimbabwe
Email: gchibememe15@gmail.com

Mr Lewis MASHINGAIDZE
Executive Director
Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: lewis@fambidzanai.org.zw

Ms Catherine MASUNDA
Director/Founder
Youth 2 Youth in Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: y2yprogrammes@gmail.com

Ms Fortunate NYAKANDA
Director
Zimbabwe Organic Producers and
Promoters Association
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: fortunate@zoppa.org.zw

Ms Getrude PSWARAYI
National Coordinator
Participatory Ecological Land Use
Management Association
(PELUM_Zimbabwe)
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: getrude@pelumzimbabwe.org

Ms Patience SAMHUTSA
International Market Systems Advisor
Practical Action Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email:
Patience.Samhutsa@practicalaction.org.zw

Mr Deckster SAVADYE
Chief Executive Officer
National Biotechnology Authority
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: dsavadye@nba.ac.zw

Ms Annah TAKOMBWA
Inspectorate Manager
National Biotechnology Authority
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: annahtakombwa@gmail.com

Mr Patrice TALLA
Subregional Coordinator for Southern
Africa and FAO Representative in
Zimbabwe
Subregional Office for Southern Africa
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: patrice.talla@fao.org

Mr Rutendo TINARWO
Programme Assistant
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: rutendo.tinarwo@fao.org

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS**

Mr Frédéric CASTELL
Senior Natural Resources Officer
Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and
Environment
Rome, Italy
Email: frederic.castell@fao.org

Ms Patience HOTO
Nutrition Specialist
UN Nutrition National Facilitator
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: patience.hoto@fao.org

Mr Kudzai KUSENA
International Biodiversity Policy Expert
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: kudzai.kusena@fao.org

Mr Dan LESKIEN
Senior Liaison Officer
Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy
Email: dan.leskien@fao.org

Mr Juan LOPEZ VILLAR
Biodiversity Policy Specialist
Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy
Email: juan.lopezvillar@fao.org