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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
NINETEENTH SESSION
THIRD AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK
WINDHOEK, REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA 30 September - 4 October 2013
Theme: Development of the Forest and Wildlife Sectors for effective contribution to Food Security and a Green Economy in Africa
SECRETARIAT REPORT ON FAO RESPONSES TO THE REQUESTS FROM THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1. The Eighteenth Session of the Commission made many requests/recommendations for the attention of members, FAO and the Committee on Forestry (COFO). This document presents the actions that FAO has taken to implement the recommendations directed to it.
2. The Commission:
 - 1) **requested FAO to assist member countries in developing common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover, deforestation and forest degradation.**
3. FAO, in collaboration with COMIFAC, and with financial support from the Congo Basin Forest Fund, is providing support to ten countries in Central Africa through a project entitled "Congo Basin MRV Regional Project – Phase 1", to support the design and implementation of national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems in line with international recommendations and requirements, including coordination and capacity building at sub-regional level. The project, which will cover 24 months and cost Euro 6 157 127, was launched in September 2012.
4. In eastern Africa, FAO supported Ethiopia to formulate and implement projects on forest cover assessment and land use planning. Capacity development on national forest monitoring and assessment (NFMA) was provided for Uganda and South Sudan.
 - 2) **requested FAO to assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment.**
Following the southern African Development Community (SADC) regional meeting on illegal hunting and bushmeat trade in southern Africa, held in Johannesburg in October 17-18,

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2012, FAO, in collaboration with IUCN-Sustainable Livelihoods (IUCN-SuLi), Pathera (an NGO) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), commissioned a study to assess the impact of illegal hunting and bushmeat trade on the potential for sustainable wildlife-based livelihoods in the SADC region. For the Central African sub-region, FAO, in collaboration with IUCN, CIFOR and CIRAD, through the GEF sub-regional project, “Sustainable Management of the wildlife and bushmeat sector in Central Africa”, is providing support to four countries in Central Africa in participatory wildlife assessment in the community areas.

3) **supported the establishment of a Multi Donor Trust Fund in FAO to better respond to the increasing and changing demands in fire management.**

5. FAO has endorsed the “Smart Fire” Umbrella Programme: Managing Landscapes and Fires in a changing climate proposal. The proposal is meant to strengthen the ongoing programme on fire management and appropriate funding sources are being sought for.

4) **requested FAO to assist members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans for fire management, based on multisectoral stakeholder involvement in an integrated landscape management approach.**

6. FAO continues to implement projects or components of projects in fire management at the landscape level in Swaziland and Morocco. Regional proposals are under development for the Fouta Djallon massif (West Africa) and for SADC, as part of a second phase of a GEF watershed management project.

7. FAO implemented a technical cooperation programme (TCP) project on fire management in Swaziland. A forestry project, which includes fire management, has been formulated for Zimbabwe, and submitted for EU funding. FAO also provided assistance to Chad to develop a national strategy for fire management. The draft of the strategy has been submitted to the government for approval

5) **requested FAO to assist member countries in enhancing institutional capacities and promoting knowledge sharing on payment for forest ecosystem services at the national and subregional levels.**

8. Through a TCP project (TCP/RAF/3306) FAO is supporting the development of the ECOWAS “Convergence Plan for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems in West Africa” in which the issues of payment for forest ecosystem services have been covered. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and other partners, FAO had organized a capacity building workshop in 2012, in Burkina Faso, on climate change financing for member countries in West Africa. Among others, the workshop discussed strategies for enhancing payments for ecosystem services from forests such as REDD+.

9. The FAO Regional Office for Africa is currently making arrangements to develop guidelines on enhancing payment for forest ecosystem services in sub-Saharan Africa.

10. Great deal of work was done on this area in the context of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea (SILVAMED), which is a joint endeavour of AFWC, EFC and NEFR. SILVAMED launched the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) and a Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests (SFMF) were prepared in 2012 in accord with prior decisions.

11. The SFMF has been structured as follows:

I) a strategic analysis based on the information in the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF);

II) three main objectives for the Mediterranean region to be reached through implementing the following strategic lines:

- Developing and promoting goods and services provided by forest ecosystems and other wooded lands;
- Promoting the resilience of these forest ecosystems and other wooded lands to face global changes;
- Enhancing capacity of stakeholders and the resources mobilization necessary for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and other wooded lands.

Detailed information is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/> and <http://www.iii-med.forestweek.org/>.

- 6) **requested FAO to develop a platform in the region for South-South cooperation and exchange of information on best approaches, methodologies and practices on payment for forest ecosystem services.**

12. Efforts are underway to develop a corporate guidance document on improved understanding of payments for ecosystem services (PES) and their effective internalization in public policies with relevant information on best approaches and practices. This may pave the way for developing the South-South regional cooperation platform on PES.

13. FAO is working to facilitate sub-regional cooperation in forest, range and climate change adaptation. In Africa, efforts are focused on the Nile Basin countries and countries in southern Africa. FAO organized a workshop for the southern African countries, in conjunction with SADC, in June 2013. A workshop is planned for the Nile Basin countries for late 2013 to work with countries, potential partners and donors on project identification and development.

14. As part of the eastern Africa share fair event in October 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, FAO organized a focused discussion panel on contribution of natural resources (forests, trees, land and water) to food security and nutrition, which included elements of forest ecosystem services.

- 7) **requested FAO to facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels.**

15. FAO out posted a UNREDD technical officer to its Sub-Regional Office for West Africa in Accra, Ghana, to support REDD+ activities of the office, The officer's presence in Accra will facilitate both capacity development and information exchange in West Africa in particular and the Africa region in general.

16. FAO has developed climate change guidelines for forest managers to assist them in integrating climate change into their forest management planning and practices. The guidelines were validated by forest management stakeholders in Kenya in November 2012. FAO is now supporting the preparation of implementation plans for the guidelines for three pilot sites in Kenya.

17. Capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ will be implemented in Central Africa through the "Congo Basin MRV Regional Project – Phase 1". Furthermore, REDD+ was a key focus area in a training on forest and climate change that FAO implemented in 2012 for eastern African countries.

- 8) **requested FAO to assist countries in identifying actions of high REDD potentials, and support the development and implementation of programmes and projects in this regard.**

18. In West Africa, FAO has engaged in assisting Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria in all aspects linked to the MRV component of their REDD+ strategies, while it continues to provide assistance to DRC and Congo through the UN REDD Programme. Ethiopia and South Sudan were supported in the formulation and implementation of their National REDD+ program. Kenya was also assisted in formulating a project on REDD+ and sustainable forest management.

- 9) **requested FAO to continue assisting member countries in HWC prevention and mitigation, and mobilize additional resources to support growing demand for technical assistance.**

19. English and French versions of FAO's Human-Wildlife Conflict Toolkit with some adaptations to the West African context were prepared and circulated during the 2nd semester of 2013.

20. An HWC interpretation centre was set up in Zimbabwe for awareness raising, education and capacity building programmes with wildlife practitioners, parks officers, schools, farmers and general public. Mozambique received FAO support in the form of a TCP to implement HWC. Furthermore, a regional project with a HWC component was formulated - Appui à l'initiative transfrontalière du Mayombe, (Support to the trans-frontier initiative of Mayombe) covering Angola, Congo, Gabon and DRC. A wildlife management project including HWC management aspects was formulated for Zimbabwe and submitted for EU funding.

21. A sub-regional workshop took place in November 2012 in Gabon on the development of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Toolkit. The workshop agreed to adapt the HWC Toolkit developed in Southern Africa to the Central African context and conditions. Additional support from FAO will be provided through a TCP project with the aim of developing the toolkit, testing and validating it, and producing copies for distribution and trainings for wildlife managers and local communities.

22. A national strategy on HWC, including an action plan, was developed in Gabon with FAO assistance. This national strategy was approved by the Government on 4 October 2012.

23. FAO is supporting countries in eastern Africa with capacity development for mitigation of human wildlife conflict. A training on application of human wildlife conflict toolkit was undertaken in 2013 in Kenya. It involved participants from all eastern Africa countries.

10) requested FAO to support members in their efforts to design, introduce and implement community-based forest and wildlife management programmes.

24. FAO published its "Guidelines for Institutionalizing and Implementing Community-Based Forest Management in Sub-Saharan Africa" in 2012 and circulated it to all the members. In December 2012, FAO also implemented a sensitization workshop on community-based forest management (CBFM) for policy-level individuals working in the land and natural resources sectors from English-speaking countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose of the workshop was, amongst others, to create greater awareness and deepen understanding of CBFM and its potential for sustainable forest management in sub-Saharan Africa. A similar workshop is envisaged for the French-speaking countries in 2014.

25. A communal game ranching feasibility study was implemented in Zimbabwe and a wildlife management project including community based commercial game ranching formulated and submitted for EU funding.

26. In collaboration with COMIFAC, CIFOR, CIRAD and IUCN, and with the financial support of GEF, FAO is providing support to four countries in Central Africa (Congo, Gabon, CAR and DRC) through the project entitled "Sustainable Management of the wildlife and bushmeat sector in Central Africa". The project will run from September 2012 to August 2017. Its goal is to demonstrate that participatory management of wildlife can be a viable strategy for conserving forest ecosystem function, integrity and biodiversity in the Congo Basin.

11) requested FAO to provide technical support to members to build capacity and deepen the understanding of community-based forest and wildlife management and also to establish capacity building programmes for local communities.

27. The FAO GEF project mentioned in Recommendation 10 above is entirely based on participatory wildlife management at eight pilot sites in the four countries. It is focused on the involvement of and technical capacity building for local communities and stakeholders.

28. In Madagascar, a TCP on forest governance and community-based small enterprises was implemented. Similarly, a TCP on capacity building in alien invasive species management and phytosanitary standards was implemented in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

12) requested FAO to undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation among them.

29. FAO conducted a survey of forestry training institutions and networks in Africa in the first half of 2013. The results of the survey are provided in document FO:AFWC/2013/7.1.1. Although responses may have not been always complete, the outcome presents a fairly good mapping of forestry training institutions and what they offer.

13) requested FAO to support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing.

30. One of the targets of the Forest Convergence Plan for West Africa, which FAO is supporting to develop, is to enhance public and private financial support for forest management in West Africa.

14) recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research.

31. FAO is providing institutional support to the RIFFEAC (the Network of Central African forestry and environmental training institutions). The FAO Forestry Officer for Central Africa has, since 2008, served as Chair of the RIFFEAC Board of Directors.

15) requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest communication both at national and regional levels.

32. FAO supported the establishment of a forest communication network for eastern and southern Africa. A workshop for forest communicators from French-speaking countries is being implemented by FAO during the course of this AFWC Session. Its aim is to establish a similar network for the French-speaking countries. FAO's ultimate objective is to establish a regional network of forest communicators to increase the visibility of forestry in national and regional developmental policies in Africa.