


July 2013

	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
---	--	--------------------	---	---	---	--

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
REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1. This document presents a synthesis of the reports submitted by 12 members of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission on actions that they have taken to implement the recommendations of the 18th Session of the Commission held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in January 2012.
2. Countries that submitted reports to the Secretariat are: Benin; Côte d'Ivoire; Madagascar; Niger; Burundi; Republic of Congo; Cameroun; Gabon; Egypt; South Africa; the Gambia; and Mozambique. It must be noted that not all the reporting countries implemented all the recommendations.

The Commission:

encouraged governments to establish a permanent process of data collection in forestry and wildlife and to involve research organizations.

3. **Egypt** is currently undertaking a pilot project in cooperation with FAO with regard to attainment of sustainable management on its existing forests. One of the major activities of the project is building a data collection system that might support forest inventories as well as forest management.
4. In **South Africa**, commercial timber statics on plantations are collected and collated. Every three years the state forest report is published reflecting trends on sustainable forest management. The Government collaborates with academic and research institutes in forestry research. In some instances the Government assist with funding for forestry research.

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

5. During the implementation of its National Forest Assessment Programme of 2009/10, which was supported by FAO, The **Gambia** established a network of permanent sample plots nationwide. The Department of Forestry has all the information on these plots stored in its databases and these will be subsequently used to monitor forest, woodland and tree changes in the country.
6. **Mozambique's** National Directorate of Land and Forest (DNTF) designed a SISFLOF model which is a forest and wildlife information management system, for establishment of a permanent data bank.
7. It established a front-line SMS reporting system of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) information and a data base on HWC at central level. The data collection system was developed with involvement of universities.
8. DNTF started implementation of a Project on Establishment of Sustainable Forest Resource Information Platform in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Through this cooperation, it is planned to set up a GIS database system which includes REDD+ Registry, national forest monitoring data, land use rights data, and forest exploitation concession data, which will be regularly updated.
9. In collaboration with ITTO, **Benin** has initiated a process to establish a system to collect data on forest resources. Connected to FAO's Country-Stat system, this database will enable the collection and storage of maximum information on forest resources management. The database will become operational at the end of 2013.
10. For the past decade, the Government of **Côte d'Ivoire** and its partners (Wildlife Research Institutions, Universities, NGOs, etc.) collected data on wildlife through inventories and research activities. However, formal establishment of a working platform is still at conceptual stage, despite all the work realized.
11. Each year, **Madagascar** completes FAO forms to provide data on the state of forests in the country. Madagascar also keeps a database on wildlife (REBIOMA) which is updated as and when research and survey findings on wildlife management are made available.
12. With support from the National Forest Programme Facility, **Niger** developed a National Forest Inventory and Forest Resources Monitoring Programme. Databases have also been created based results of ecological monitoring in three protected areas, in collaboration with the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey and the Sahara Conservation Fund.
13. **Burundi**, in collaboration with the Observatory for Central African Forests (OFAC), has established a National OFAC group composed of executives from the General Directorates for Forests and the Environment, and the National Environment and Nature Conservation Institute. A FRA Focal point has also been established at the Ministry in charge of forests. Burundi organized a workshop in 2013 to validate data encoded onsite for 2009 and 2010.
14. **Congo** is implementing a forest inventory project with FAO support. Furthermore, in the context of the programme for the sustainable management of forest concessions launched in 2000, forest and wildlife inventories are being made in forest areas under management. The activities, which are jointly funded by Congo and the French Development Agency, are geared towards the management of forest concessions covering about 5,000,000 ha. In northern Congo, some logging companies are required to undertake inventories for the management of allocated forest concessions. About 6,500,000 ha of forest concessions have been developed since 2000.
15. For sustainable wildlife management, examples of environmental and socio-economic monitoring are being developed in jointly managed protected areas in collaboration with some international conservation NGOs, with a view to formulating management plans for these protected areas.
16. Anti-poaching mechanism that monitors human, wildlife and plant activities, has been established in Congo enabling the control of illegal logging in forest concessions and providing needed information for sustainable management of these ecosystems. The Marien Ngouabi University

is supporting this data collection. Similarly, a data collection programme on illegal elephant killing (MIKE) is being developed in the Odzala Kokoua and the Nouabalé Ndoki National Parks to inform management decisions regarding illegal killing of elephants.

17. Through the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and in the context of Project OFAC, the Government of **Cameroon** has put in place a data collection system covering such areas as forest cover, commercial titles, production, and export. A team, including representatives from the Directorate for forests and other technical directorates has been established to encode the data before making em available to the other stakeholders.

18. Currently, **Gabon** does not have a permanent data collection process on forests and wildlife. With ITTO's support, the Government initiated in 2002 the establishment of a forest information and management system named 'Statfor' to facilitate the collection and availability of data in the wood sector. The process is in its pilot phase. Implementation phase on the entire national territory has not yet been initiated.

19. A new national forest inventory project financed by the Japanese technical cooperation is currently being implemented. In addition, Gabon is participating in the preparation of a periodical (biannual) on the state of forests in the Congo basin facilitated by OFAC and COMIFAC – organizations such as ITTO and FAO (in the context of FRA) are working to establish a data sharing system and strengthen reporting capacity.

The Commission:

recommended that members raise awareness and exchange lessons learned to build national capacities that promote and up-scale good practices in fire management.

20. With regard to fire management, **Egypt** has been working to introduce new methodology to combat forest fires using irrigation pipe-lines equipped with pressure boosters. Accumulated litter is also transformed into organic composts for enriching poor sandy soils in desert areas.

21. **South Africa** has institutionalized a fire management capacity development and training function within the National Office and its Regions. It has embarked on the National Forestry Capacity Building Strategy to ensure the sustainability of capacity development and training by addressing an integral part of the change management process and service delivery imperatives of Forestry. The strategy reflects a plan for capacity development and training requirements focusing on Veld and Forest Fires.

22. With the support of its partners, **The Gambia** has developed a regional fire management concept which recognises that successful prevention requires the full understanding and active involvement of the rural population. At the core of the concept is the formation of regional fire management committees which are trained on prevention and control measures and other fire management strategies that can reduce fire damage on forest resources.

23. In **Mozambique** an annual fire prevention campaign is held in selected Districts. DNTF is preparing to launch Fire Monitoring Status Periodical Reporting System (Sistema de Alerta e Monitoria das Queimadas (SAMOQUE)) using MODIS satellite image. On-the-ground fire monitoring system will be undertaken to validate the satellite data

24. In collaboration FAO's National Forest Programme Facility, **Benin** has conducted a national Dialogue on wildfires which led to the formulation of a national wildfire management strategy and its five-year action plan. The vision of this strategy is to "reduce by over 60% the effects/impacts of uncontrolled wildfires on the environment and natural resources by 2025", with the following three main strategic themes: improve the controlled management of wildfires; develop information management and monitoring-evaluation capacity; develop technical capacity for wildfire management.

25. Through support from the United States, **Madagascar** has established a satellite database to detect fire points in the whole country. This database is communicated to the 23 regions of the island through the regional offices in the districts and in the communes (basic administrative units).

26. **Burundi** has established an inter-ministerial committee to control bushfires and wandering livestock. Public awareness and environmental education campaigns are ongoing.

27. In **Congo**, bushfire management is practiced in the context of developments in protected areas where there are savannah ecosystems. For example, in the Odzala National Park, late fires are set in the huge savannah areas of the south in order to combat colonization by the forest.

The Commission:

recommended that member countries continue sharing experiences on human and wildlife conflicts (HWC) prevention and mitigation; and collaborate with FAO in: (i) improving the HWC toolkit; (ii) developing local, national and sub-regional strategies for HWC prevention and mitigation, and (iii) developing reporting and monitoring systems.

28. **Egypt** has been making efforts to maintain biodiversity and eco-system equilibrium in the indigenous floral areas that provide habitat for different types of fauna in the country and along the coast of the Red Sea. The activities undertaken also target dwellings of indigenous tribes to raise awareness for environmental resources conservation.

29. **South Africa** has developed a policy and strategy framework to implement Participatory Forest Management (PFM) to ensure that communities derive benefits from the forests and to develop a harmonious relationship between the people and the forest resources. Various guidelines have been developed to ensure the successful roll-out of the programme.

30. In **The Gambia**, joint field visits have been conducted by the Department of Forestry and the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management and other stakeholders to assess wildlife damages to rice fields of local communities in parts of the country and to jointly work out prevention and mitigation measures.

31. **Mozambique** adapted, produced and distributed to the local level, 250 toolkits on human and wildlife conflict prevention and mitigation. It trained rangers, extensionists and community members on HWC prevention and mitigation.

32. Through the Project to support national parks in the countries of the Entente and with UNDP's support, **Benin** takes part in dialogues in the area of human-wildlife conflict prevention and mitigation in order to establish a sub-regional mechanism.

33. In 2011, **Côte d'Ivoire** began an exchange with experts from Kenya, South Africa and relevant NGOs concerning conflict between a group of elephants from a park and rural populations with the aim to propose solutions to this conflict. Managing this conflict will lead to improved practical tools and strategies.

34. Notification and surveillance systems are also being developed. Côte d'Ivoire plans to organize information and awareness campaigns on these conflicts for local populations, and working sessions with field staff for preliminary monitoring and management of the conflicts.

35. **Niger** organized a national consultation forum on 'Human-Hippopotamus conflicts' in 2013. The forum provided guidelines for developing practical tools on HWC management. A national anti-poaching system (LAB) is being established in all the protected areas in the region (Niger, Benin, Burkina Faso). Local environmental monitoring committees have been established for giraffe management.

36. Methods to deter elephants, especially nighttime firing, have proven ineffective in **Congo**. Thus, village teams have been put in place around national parks to turn elephants away from farms. To avoid needless killing of elephants who cause damages to farms, Congo has put in place a system to compensate the affected populations.

37. **Gabon** has a national strategy and an action plan for the management of human-wildlife conflicts. It was adopted by the Government during the Council of Ministers held on October 4, 2012. However, there is no surveillance or warning system yet. Data on conflicts are collected through

reports from the provincial services of Water and Forests Departments and those in charge of agriculture. Partners (WWF, UNDP, WCS, RAPAC, etc.) conduct activities on wildlife conservation and bushmeat management. They report cases of conflicts in their zones.

The Commission:

urged members to continue to cooperate by sharing experiences and lessons learned in forest governance.

38. **Egypt** is currently working on exchanging experiences with countries with similar climatic conditions, such as the North African and other desert and arid countries, that may facilitate design of governance plans and their implementation.

39. **South Africa** participated in the development of a SADC Regional FLEGT programme where forest governance related issues have been shared with the different SADC Member States. South Africa was nominated to chair the Working Group which led the development process. A number of consultative workshops were held both with the Member States and in the country to allow participation of relevant stakeholders. The development process has been finalised and the document was approved by the SADC Technical Committee on Forestry in February.

40. Through some regional programmes and projects such as the PROGEBE and the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem programmes, **The Gambia** continued to share experiences and lessons learned in areas of forest governance, particularly on community-based natural resources management.

41. The Government of **Mozambique** signed an MOU with the government of South Africa in December 2011 on co-operation in forestry based industries to address the challenges facing the countries, especially as these relate to the small enterprises.

42. The National Directorate of Land and Forests (DNLF) signed an MOU with **Tanzania** Forestry Service Agency in April 2012, that cover key areas for cooperation in the forest sector, with focus on transboundary issues.

43. In the context of the Forest Dialogue in West Africa, **Benin** participates in developing the convergence plan for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems in West Africa. To that effect, Benin has adopted the national document for the sustainable management and utilization of forest ecosystems. This document recommends an action plan for: securing the reserved forest estate of the State; managing ecosystems and reforesting the protected estate; controlling the resource; strengthening capacity, stakeholders participation, actors' information and training; strengthening the legislative and regulatory mechanism; promoting the enhancement of wood and non-wood forest products; guiding and developing funding mechanisms for the forestry sector; and conducting an institutional reform of the Forest sector.

44. In **Madagascar**, several stakeholders are working closely with the Forestry Administration to establish good forest governance in view of the country's endowment with precious wood found in protected areas. A national strategy to control forest products exists. Joint control brigades also exist in some regions but their effectiveness is limited due to insufficient consultations and political will, which are needed to curb illegal logging.

45. **Niger** is actively involved in developing the Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa as well as in implementing the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Programme.

46. **Burundi** has committed to fulfill its various obligations from conventions it signed, and takes part in fora organized by sub-regional and regional organizations it is a member of.

47. **Congo** organized a consultation in May 2013, which brought together various stakeholders and allowed for exchange of information and experiences in the area of: sustainable management of forest concessions; Forest certification; advanced wood processing; wildlife management and conservation in protected areas; restoration of the guard zone; forest governance, especially the 'Forest

Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process; and opportunities and conditions for obtaining funding.

48. **Cameroon** has signed and is implementing the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement. The Agreement prevents the entry into the European Union of illegal timber. A traceability system is also being developed to combat illegal logging. An independent observer takes part in the inspection missions of the National and regional Brigades.

49. **Gabon** is part of initiatives such as VPA-FLEGT. It participates in sharing of experiences and lessons learnt through national, sub-regional and regional meetings or workshops (e.g. ECCAS, Parliamentarians Network for the Sustainable Management of Central Africa Forest Ecosystems (REPAR) and COMIFAC).

The Commission:

recommended that member countries take advantage of the ongoing initiatives and experiences to broaden and diversify the economic base of their forest sectors.

50. **Egypt** is engaged in experience sharing and broadening and diversifying the economic basis of the its forest sector through evolvement of new modules of technical cooperation that might enhance forest sustainability and economic feasibility.

51. **South Africa** has developed a Forest Enterprise Development (FED) Strategy. The aim is to develop profitable and viable business ventures using forestry resources. To avoid focusing on one particular resource, i.e. commercial timber, non-timber forest products (NTFP) has been introduced as a key subsector of the FED programme. Most of the interventions related to NTFPs are for honey production.

52. **The Gambia** has developed a 5years community-based dryland forest management and climate change mitigation project to be submitted to the GEF Council for possible approval.

53. The Forest and Farm Facility was recently launched in the Gambia with a view to enhancing the organization and capacity of local people to more effectively engage in local, regional and national level policy dialogues and decision-making processes that influence the future of forests and farms. The FFF supports local people to contribute their ideas and knowledge, helping to ensure that forest and farm policies improve their livelihoods, food security and the sustainability of the productive land they rely on.

54. A consultancy funded by CILSS for Social Engineering Work in preparation of a Regional Program on Sustainable Land Management (PRGDT) in the North Bank Region was recently commissioned. The outcome of the study will be the formulation of a 1.2 million Euro community-based sustainable land management (SLM) and Climate Change mitigation project for the Region.

55. **Mozambique** was selected to implement the SADC GIZ REDD+ initiative on MRV.

56. Following a reevaluation of the forest sector's share of the national economy which highlighted the significant contribution of non-wood forest products (55% of the forest sector's contribution which is 6.8% of the GDP), **Benin**, in partnership with FAO, has undertaken to enhance non-wood forest products (NWFPs). Subsequently the development of a national strategy for the management of NWFPs was initiated through a technical cooperation project. The strategy is expected for September 2013 and will have a corresponding five-year action plan for developing NWFPs in Benin. Moreover, with support from the National Forest Programme Facility, Benin has developed a national reforestation strategy. With UNDP's support, the implementation of this strategy was initiated by the Head of State and started with the '*9 million souls, 9 million trees*' programme.

57. This year, **Madagascar** is preparing to become a member of ITTO in order to enhance the development of legal products originating from Madagascar.

58. To contribute to widening the economic base of its forestry sector **Niger** is developing a National Strategy for promoting agroforestry and also supporting the gum Arabic sector.

59. In **Burundi**, experiences are being shared on the relevance of bamboo cultivation in stabilizing soils. Tests are ongoing on the cultivation of bamboo in collaboration with partners.
60. On 6 November, 2011, **Congo** launched the National Reforestation Programme (PRoNAR) which aims at planting one million hectares of forests and agroforests over a period of ten years. These plantations will provide wood for industrial, fuel, and other purposes and enable the creation of SMEs and green jobs.
61. The experience of some African countries in exporting non wood forest products (*Gnetum africanum*, etc.) was put to good use. Thus, with FAO's support, Congo initiated a project on managing NWFPs, especially the *Gnetum africanum* and honey.
62. In order to include wildlife in the economic development of the country as is the case with the other natural renewable and non-renewable resources, Congo has introduced tourism products and services in the various protected areas. These include visits to see wild animals (elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, etc.) and fishing in the Conkouati Lagoon-Lake complex. To enhance the development of wildlife, an ecotouristic activity was developed by partners in the Odzala Kokoua and Nouabalé Ndoki National Parks. Ecotourism has been entrusted to partners with a proven expertise in the area.
63. The results of both projects are expected to enable the development of ecotourism in the country, with an indirect effect of job creation and increased incomes.

The Commission:

requested members to promote synergies between REDD+ and other initiatives, such as national forest programmes and forest law enforcement and governance.

64. **South Africa's** 1998 National Forests Act provides for the protection of natural forests against destruction. In addition the country has developed guidelines to regulate development, especially in urban areas, where there is pressure for housing and other types of development. The unit responsible for Administration of the National Forest Act, 1998 ensures that the regulations are enforced.
65. In **Mozambique**, in March 2012, FCPF-RPP was approved by PC11. Using the advance find for RPP preparation, drafting of legal and institutional framework law has started and discussions were held among working group members including various related stakeholders. In this law each government institutions' roles and responsibilities for national REDD+ system will be defined.
66. With support from FAO, **Gabon** has benefited from two sub-regional projects: fenced Non-wood forest products management project; and wildlife sector project (ongoing). This enables the country to propose taxation on NWFPs and wildlife (for example the trade in bushmeat).
67. The sub-regional project on the operational support mechanism for the advanced wood processing sector in five countries with the support of ECCAS-ITTO contributes to the decision to ban the export of timbers in order to facilitate local wood processing and enhance wood produced in Gabon.
68. The National Forest Programme of **Benin** was used as a tool to adopt a new forestry policy and develop national strategies in the area of wildfire management and reforestation. To better appropriate the REDD+ programme, Benin has planned to train forestry executives in the REDD+ process by the end of 2013.
69. **Madagascar** already has an RPP and the procedures to benefit from the REDD+ programme are ongoing. With the fourth Republic, Madagascar hopes to benefit from the funding of REDD+ initiative from the World Bank.
70. An implementation decree of Law 2004-040 dated June 8, 2004 on the forestry system in **Niger** is being adopted by the Government.
71. **Burundi** has developed a national forest policy with the support of the National Forest Programme Facility of FAO. The initiative is intended to harmonize the forest policy with the

convergence plan of COMIFAC. The Forest Code has been revised and is being validated by the Government.

72. **Congo** took the REDD dimension in account in its protected areas management programmes such as the Mayombe transboundary initiative (Mayombe Project) which involves the sustainable management of natural resources and wildlife conservation in the landscapes from Angola to Gabon. A process to development a national sustainable development strategy was launched since April 2013 with the organization of the National Forum on Sustainable Development. A national REDD+ strategy will eventually be developed.

73. **Gabon** has harmonized the Initiatives of the REDD+ programme with activities such as forest management, forest plantations promotion and the implementation of the Monitoring, Notification and Verification Project (MVN) in the Congo Basin.