



AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Dakar, Senegal, 19 - 23 June 2018

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

1. This note is a compilation of series of reports submitted to the Secretariat by member countries of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) on the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the 20th Session of the AFWC, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2016.
2. Countries that have submitted reports to the Secretariat are: Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia and The Gambia. It should be noted that not all the reporting countries have implemented all recommendations. Other countries are encouraged to take the opportunity to briefly report on their actions during the 21st Session of the AFWC.

The Commission:

Urged countries to use the regional forest convergence plans and other regional initiatives on forests as instruments to help achieve international commitments.

3. During the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals in July 2017, African countries requested the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to be involved in Regional Economic Commissions (The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) through the development of guidelines and regional policies on sustainable development.
 - Ethiopia is developing forest sector development plans to be implemented at sub-national scale across all country regions. It could directly, or indirectly, affect the development of regional cooperation in the forest and wildlife sectors.
 - The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal are currently developing a regional initiative/programme on participatory forest and household energy management with the World Bank support. It is a cross border program involving different stakeholders such as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and government

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institutions, directly, or indirectly, addressing the Rio Conventions. Specifically, The Gambia undertook: a review of the Biodiversity Wildlife Act; restoration of degraded wetlands/uplands and; designation of Indigenous Community Conservation Areas.

Urged countries to integrate forests into their national climate change strategies and their plans for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. In Burkina Faso: the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (French: PNDES) takes into account the SDGs. Guidelines have been developed to integrate forest, environment, climate change and sustainable land management issues into 14 sectoral policies, municipal and regional plans.

5. In Eritrea, forests and related issues are the core of the national Land Degradation Neutrality targets setting process, recently finalized and approved. They are also integrated into the National Climate Strategy and the national strategy for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation.

6. The forest sector is well integrated in the Ethiopian Climate-Resilient Green Economy strategy (CRGE).

7. In The Gambia, the forest sector is adequately captured in the National Development Plan (NDP) of the country, which was recently validated at national level.

- The strategic objectives of the sector were also included in the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) to address climate change;
- The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program (LDN TSP) was developed and validated;
- Initiatives are on the way to start the formulation of a transformative project to address Land Degradation;
- The country developed several measures including: a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), a National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and a National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA). All of which takes into account the forest sector, wildlife and their habitats.

Requested countries to Support local value addition of Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), and market and enterprise development.

8. Burkina Faso has a national strategy for promoting NWFPs. It has developed several activities to consolidate the NWFPs industry, develop women's entrepreneurship and create NWFPs market units.

9. To preserve genetic resources, Eritrea domesticated endangered indigenous trees and shrubs. The Government is working on market and enterprises development for their NWFPs.

10. Ethiopia encourages the promotion and adoption of NWFPs development and domestication in the entire forest sector, with a special focus on the involvement of youth and women.

11. In The Gambia, based on the principles and approaches of Participatory Forest Management (PFM), the collection, marketing and addition of value is regulated through the formulation and adoption of management plans. The country developed an Enterprise Development Plan (EDP) for the production and marketing of NWFPs. It further ratified the Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) Protocol and developed alternative livelihood projects and program such as bee keeping, oyster culture, horticultural gardening, plantations and micro-finance schemes, among others.

Requested members to set-up or strengthen institutions that will collect reliable data on NWFPs.

12. In Burkina Faso, market analyses were carried out to identify NWFPs with economic potential or interest for improving food and nutrition security. The ministry in charge of forest resources has collaborated with the Directorate-General for Economic Affairs and Planning, as well as with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography, for the development of reliable national indicators for environment and forestry, including NWFPs. NWFPs are taken into account at national level through the agricultural market information system.

13. The Forest Conservation and Development Division of the Forestry and Wildlife Authority in Eritrea, has been mandated to regulate the utilization of NWFPs and collects reliable data on NWFPs.

14. The Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is mandated to manage the resource and data across in the country. The Institute has collected data last year on forest health, vitality and other related information.

15. In The Gambia a system of data collection for revenue collection and a monitoring and evaluation team has been set-up and tasked to collect information on NWFPs alongside other data collection processes.

Urged member countries to strengthen the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT).

16. A guideline on the development of sustainable land use planning is being developed along with local land charters in some municipalities of Burkina Faso.

17. The governance and tenure of land is well addressed in the new Land Proclamation and in the Forestry and Wildlife Conservation and Development Proclamation 155/2006 in Eritrea.

18. Policies and guidelines are implemented by the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment forest and climate change, the Ministry of livestock and fisheries, and the Prime Minister Office on land tenure, and aligned to the Growth and Transformation Plan.

19. In The Gambia, the national Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) working group and the district level Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are involved in the strengthening and implementation of VGGT principles. The VGGT principles are recognized during the designation of new wildlife protected areas and their implementation is secured through Participatory Forest Management (PFM) with transfer of legal ownership to communities.

Encouraged members to develop generic Criteria & Indicators for the region in assessing progress towards Sustainable Forest Management and further encourage members to adapt them to national needs.

20. The Ministry in charge of forest Resources is working with national specialized structures to develop national criteria and indicators in Burkina Faso.

Recommended countries to bring the issue of woodfuel to the attention of the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

21. Burkina Faso has entered into a partnership with Mali and Niger through the FONABES¹ Project in collaboration with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and other partners to reflect on the wood-energy sector and ensure sustainable supply of

¹ <http://fonabes.org> : Gestion des forêts naturelles et approvisionnement durable en bois énergie pour les villes du Sahel (in English Management of natural forests and sustainable supply of fuelwood for the cities in the Sahel)

wood energy in urban areas. A technical workshop to discuss the issue is planned by the Ministry in charge of forestry in 2018.

22. The uses of energy saving technology or solar sources activities are highly promoted by the Government or projects and programs in Ethiopia.

23. The Gambia has adopted new innovative techniques such as improved stoves, solar energy and development of woodlots but at low scale. Awareness raising on the need for environmental protection and restoration is ongoing.

Requested member countries to translate the “2050 Vision” into concrete actions (programmes) at regional and country level.

24. Concrete actions of the “2050 Vision” are implemented through the operationalization of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (French: PNDES) in Burkina Faso.

Encouraged member countries to:

- ***Ensure adequate budgetary allocations to the forest sector and create an enabling environment for investments into forestry and wildlife programmes.***
- ***Promote cross-sectoral collaboration and integration between the forest and wildlife sectors.***

25. To advocate the increase of financial allocation to the forest and wildlife sector in Burkina Faso, a study has been undertaken. It assesses the contribution of the environment and natural resources to the national economy and the cost of inaction of the use of chemicals in agriculture (specifically cotton growing and gold mining). Allocation of resources to address increasing challenges remain insufficient.

26. The forest and wildlife sectors are managed under the same authority in Eritrea allowing integration between these two sectors. Budget allocation remains limited although the proclamation No 155/2006 support the creation of an enabling environment for investments into forestry and wildlife programmes.

27. The Climate Resilient Green Economic (CRGE) plan in Ethiopia highlights the forest sector as the main pillar for a green path to fast economic growth. The country has also laid down some enabling environment and indicators in term of forest policy, strategy, forest laws and a ten years forest sector development programme.

28. The forest and wildlife sector is under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, climate change and natural resources in The Gambia. The Department of Forestry complements the allocated subvention from central government through the creation of a National Forestry Fund (NFF) to implement policy strategies and action plans for sustainable management of forest resources. The forest and wildlife sectors are also working with the private sector to complement their revenues. A memorandum of understanding is being finalized between the government and the private sector organisations.

Urged its member states to analyse the impacts of illegal hunting and trade and to develop, test, and implement, in collaboration with FAO and its partners, innovative control strategies, and further recommended that members promote legal wild meat production and consumption for increased food security and improved livelihoods.

29. Close follow up of illegal hunting and control are done by inspectors and rangers in Eritrea. Promotion of legal wild meat production and consumption might be considered in the future.

30. The wildlife development policy in Ethiopia has a legal framework of controlling impacts of illegal hunting and trade, which is implemented at federal level and at respective regions where wildlife resources are available. It is also promoting the intervention of private investment in wildlife and tourism industry for the success of economic development plans.

31. Legal and operational measures are being implemented to fight against poaching, and control of game meat is a component of food security through participatory forest management and the promotion of village hunting in Burkina Faso.

Encouraged member states to implement, at national and regional levels, the strategy on Illegal exploitation and Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora adopted at the Brazzaville Conference.

32. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West African Monetary and Economic Union (UEMOA) are finalizing guidelines on this issue.

Recommended that member countries promote dialogue with private sector to stimulate investment, technological innovations and improved partnerships with community groups and smallholder for Small Scale forest and wildlife enterprises (SSFWE) development.

33. The Gambia promotes Public Private Partnership (PPP) with potential investors to enhance sustainable forest management and linking community groups for technological transfers especially on value addition and eco-tourism.

34. Eritrea is promoting a partnership with the private sector and community groups. Up to three licenses for investors to participate in the forestry and forest product development have been issued in 2017.

35. The investment policy at federal and regional states level in Ethiopia encourages participation of private investors into the economic development, especially from the tourism sector in medium and long-term action plans. Various workshops and trainings have been undertaken to engage the private sector in sustainable management of natural resources.

36. There are several economic interest group of loggers and NWFPs in Burkina Faso. The Government is seeking technical and financial support for the development of production standards and requirement, labelling and certification of economically viable products.

Recommended that member countries continue to assure access to forests, wildlife and trees outside forests by community and other small investors, for their enterprises. The Commission also requested an improved support to SSFWE development in terms of harmonised government interventions, organization, business and entrepreneurial skills development, facilitation of funding, training and capacity building especially at the community level to better access markets, information and technology.

37. Access to resources is ensured to all community members in The Gambia.

38. Eritrea support SSFWE development by facilitating funding and credit access from the bank. Needs assessment, training and capacity building at the community level is being provided.

39. To improve access to markets, information and technology, Ethiopia conducts business and entrepreneurial skills development, facilitates funding, training and capacity building at the community level.

40. Trade fairs, public/private partnership consultations are organized to promote green businesses in Burkina Faso.

Encouraged member countries to mobilize adequate resources to strengthen the capacity of existing river-basin organizations and to develop a strategy and action plan to integrate local communities and river-basin organisations into the watershed management.

41. Management of shared resources is well accepted in Burkina Faso. Sustainable management is implemented through the authorities of the Niger and Volta Basins.

42. Through the commitment to restore 15 million hectares of degraded land, Ethiopia has given a due emphasis to national watershed management strategies within the growth and transformation plans. The Government has also allotted a considerable amount of budget and human resources to watershed management. Community mobilization and contribution in this regard have brought tangible results in the efforts to combat desertification.

43. The Gambia enhances and facilitate procedures for acquiring permits and licenses for collection of forest products for community members through the decentralization process. Community members are trained on enterprise development and group strengthening for better management and collection of forest product. Watershed management is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and is being implemented.

Encouraged Members to mainstream gender and youth into their forest and wildlife policies, and ensure the implementation and monitoring of these policies in enabling environments such as community-based forest management. It further requested that members explore innovative approaches to tackle challenges facing the future of forest education, in order to attract more students to the field of forestry.

44. The gender aspect is transversal in the curricula of academic training and in the field since the adoption of the National Gender Policy in Burkina Faso. Forestry issues are integrated into the local plan and national policies through an environmental guideline in Burkina Faso. Forestry training is done through universities, vocational and technical training schools, and either public or private. Special certificates are issued on the protection of wildlife and wetlands.

45. To tackle challenges on forest education, Green Clubs are being established in all schools, from elementary to high school in Eritrea.

46. Gender and youth issues were mainstreamed into the forest sector activities through rural job creation for women and youth in watershed management and forest development program and projects in Ethiopia.

47. The current forestry policy in The Gambia explicitly emphasized gender mainstreaming and inclusion of youth and women in the management committees of forest resources. At least two thirds of the members of the management committees are women and in addition, female candidates are given priority during selection to the forestry school.

Invited members to enhance their efforts to plan, implement and create an enabling environment for forest and landscape restoration to address national needs and to fulfil their current and future pledges to international and regional Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) targets.

48. There are ongoing processes in Burkina Faso with the transfer of skills and resources to the communities by the central state. At the same time, initiatives are underway within the framework of the public-private partnership or with community organizations.

49. In Eritrea, the national greening campaign has taken place. It creates an enabling environment for forest and landscape restoration and address national needs and fulfils pledges to international and regional forest and landscape restoration targets. The greening day is set every 15th of May and observed by all stakeholders.

50. Ethiopia pledged to rehabilitate 22 million ha of degraded land. Restoration activities across the nation are proved successful to combat desertification through the involvement of community.

51. The Gambia supported NGOs, CBOs and CSOs to implement forest landscape restoration plans through provision of planting materials and technical advice. During the planting season, the department collaborated with partners to conduct planting in various parts of the country. Cross-border forest management initiatives were promoted by the department in collaboration with local NGOs involved in trans-boundary initiatives.