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Organization of the
United Nations

REPORT

Skukuza - Mpumalanga,
South Africa,
9 – 13 March
2020

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission

Twenty-second Session

(and the Sixth African Forestry and Wildlife Week)

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

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

FO: AFWC/2020/REP

REPORT

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**Skukuza – Mpumalanga, South Africa
9 – 13 March 2020**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Accra, 2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.....	iii-ix
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE 22 nd SESSION.....	1-9
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2).....	10
ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 3).....	11-12
REPORT ON FAO AND COUNTRIES' ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 21 ST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (Item 4).....	13-15
HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES ON FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (Item 5).....	16-22
CLIMATE CHANGE AND AFRICA'S FORESTS: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND BOOSTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (Item 6).....	23-30
FOREST VALUE CHAINS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY (Item 7).....	31-36
AFRICAN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE (AFR100) (Item 8).....	37-40
FAO'S WORK ON BIODIVERSITY (Item 9).....	41-44
FAO ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA (Item 10).....	45-47
AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION PROGRAMME (Item 11).....	48-56
OUTCOME OF GLOBAL POLICY PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS (Item 12).....	57-62
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS AND COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (Item 13).....	63-66
THE 25 TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (Item 14).....	67-70
ANY OTHER MATTERS (Item 15).....	71-73
DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 16).....	74-75
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 17).....	76

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 18).....	77
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ANNEXES	Pages
Annex A – Agenda.....	13
Annex B – List of Participants.....	14
Annex C – List of Documents.....	34
Annex D - The Sixth African Forestry and Wildlife Week Events: List and programme.....	35
Annex E – Summary Report of the Sixth African Forestry and Wildlife Week.....	38
Annex F – Summary Report of field trips.....	52
Annex G - Priorities of AFWC for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the FAO Programme of Work and the African Regional Conference (ARC).....	56
Annex H – Members of the Commission.....	63

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Commission:

- took note with appreciation that 20 countries had completed their reports (based on the electronic survey submitted by FAO) on measures taken in response to the recommendations of the last session of the Commission and applauded the results achieved. Furthermore, the Secretariat took note of the in-session contributions [] and requested other countries to submit their comprehensive reports to be recorded by the Secretariat.
- invited member countries to timely adapt and further update current forestry and wildlife professional and education systems, including the curricula, accordingly.
- urged member countries to spearhead relevant improvements in forestry education and professionalism in Africa, taking into account lessons learned and existing networks, and to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders (private, informal, academia etc.) within and beyond the continent, as well as across sectors.
- invited member countries to recognize and strengthen the capacity development of rural women, promote skills development, youth employment, forest and wildlife related jobs and business creation in rural areas and cities and mainstream the consideration and use of traditional knowledge in the education curricula.
- called upon member countries to further develop and implement, with the support of FAO - upon request- and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting the legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products, in a coordinated way across the Region.
- called upon its member countries to look beyond the core law enforcement activities and to incorporate economic and social development alternative options with environmental related aspects to benefit peoples' livelihoods.
- requested its member countries to raise the level of ambition of climate action and strengthen institutional frameworks and cross-sectoral collaboration at national, transboundary and regional levels to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance the multiple benefits generated by sustainable forest management and restoration.
- called on member countries to raise the profile and visibility of national level climate action during the global level processes such as the Conferences of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- urged its member countries to explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources.
- stressed the need for its member countries to assess and consider the potential impacts of fast growing introduced species on existing natural ecosystems.
- encouraged member countries to build synergies between the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the Great Green Wall (GGW) and other ongoing restoration activities, and consolidate these as an integral part of their contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience.
- invited member countries to support the mobilization of increased levels of public funding and financing from the private sector.
- called upon countries and FAO to mobilize networks of experts, scientists and practitioners across Africa to share experiences, methodologies and approaches in

restoration planning, implementation and monitoring, as well as in the identification of suitable native and useful species and areas for restoration.

- urged member countries to build bridges with the youth, the scientific and other communities, in particular women, for youth employment and job creation, including by creating incentives for farmers mobilization in restoration.
- invited member countries to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors and urged them to implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.
- encouraged member countries who have not yet submitted their country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, to finalize and to submit them to FAO by 30 June 2020.
- invited countries to adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach when implementing sustainable wildlife management strategies, as recommended in decision 14/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in FAO's mainstreaming biodiversity strategy.
- invited countries to share with FAO relevant country case studies on the role of wildlife management in sustainable forest management by the end of August 2020, with the further aim of preparing a technical study to be discussed at the next session of the AFWC, and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.
- invited countries to continue developing sustainable wildlife management of transboundary nature and cooperate in exchange of wildlife species for restocking and restoration of wildlife resources and corridors between protected areas.
- validated the proposed implementation mechanisms of the AFWC Action Programme, including the establishment of five (5) working groups to work respectively on the five (5) endorsed priorities and requested that member countries and interested regional institutions and networks submit to the Secretariat, within one month of the release of the present report of the session, their nominations of experts to participate in the working groups.
- requested that its Members and the Secretariat make use of the FAO's Nature & Faune Journal, the AFWC website and regional networks to inform and report on the activities of the Commission and its working groups.
- requested that working groups meet virtually, as much as possible, and face-to-face if resources allow.
- requested that the AFWC22 Bureau, with the Secretariat's support:
 - a. liaise with AMCEN's Bureau and Secretariat, the African Union Commission and bodies to coordinate their activities and identify, and build synergies with AFWC action programme;
 - b. review further the proposed implementation mechanisms and assess the potential financial implications in operationalizing them;
 - c. liaise with the nominated experts of the working groups for the submission of their views and proposals on respective work plans;
 - d. review and report on progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the AFWC action programme, at the next AFWC session.
- took note of the UN reform process and encouraged countries to ensure that forestry issues be given the priority they deserve in the elaboration of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework documents for their country.
- invited Member Countries of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) to engage in the IPC's continued reform and invited countries not members of the IPC to consider joining the IPC under its new scope.

- recommended that member countries work across sectors to address deforestation and agricultural impact through cross-sectoral partnership and multisectoral dialogue.
- invited member countries to facilitate the widest possible attendance to the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry and to the XV World Forestry Congress, ensuring participation from all sectors within the Region. It further invited members to propose themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the World Forestry Congress.
- invited women from the members' forestry and wildlife institutions, to engage in the Network of African Women Environmentalists (NAWE) and further participate in its activities and build synergies with the AFWC Action programme.

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

The Commission:

- requested FAO to assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education, and to establish a working group on forestry and wildlife education with the view to provide guidance to the education and professional systems in Africa.
- commended FAO's technical and financial support to the African Union Commission (AUC) and member countries in the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030) and further requested FAO to support its implementation.
- requested FAO to support, in collaboration with other entities, the intra-Africa Dialogue on sustainable use and trade of forest and wildlife products.
- requested FAO to support countries in compiling, analyzing and disseminating good practices on forest and landscape-related climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as case studies for scaling up investment for NDC implementation in the region.
- invited FAO to support local communities in restoration efforts, in designing and consolidating mitigation actions, including REDD+ processes, and in developing ecosystem results-based payments and their implementation.
- requested FAO to further support member countries on resource mobilization efforts and strengthening countries' capacities to access climate finance - including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience.
- requested FAO to facilitate the development of multi-partner regional initiatives with Regional Economic Communities similar to the ongoing successful partnership with ECOWAS and Sida for climate action in West Africa.
- requested FAO to continue its support to member countries in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them.
- requested FAO to support the compilation, analysis and dissemination of good practices for sustainable charcoal production as well as the adoption of alternative sources of energy.
- recommended that FAO support countries in the formulation and implementation of national charcoal strategies.
- urged FAO to produce in collaboration with countries and regional organizations a regional forest outlook study for sustainable development in Africa, identifying trends and opportunities for the development of wood and non-wood forest products as well as ecosystem services.
- requested FAO to support countries to build or strengthen partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders and to scale-up investments for strengthening sustainable forest-based industries in Africa, building on existing mechanisms and opportunities, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.
- requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the mobilization of resources, including through GEF and GCF, to contribute to AFR100, GGW and other similar programmes and initiatives in line with national and regional priorities.
- recommended that FAO continue the preparation of the planned "State of restoration in Africa" report, under the FAO regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, in collaboration with member countries and AFR100 technical and financial partners.

- called upon FAO to support AFR100 Secretariat and countries in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts.
- requested FAO to initiate appropriate forestry-related follow-up actions in relation to the development and implementation of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session
- requested FAO to continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, and upscale and out-scale lessons learnt to other countries in Africa, and report on progress made at its next session.
- requested FAO to continue promoting international knowledge exchange and coordination on issues related to sustainable wildlife management, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as appropriate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and report on progress made at its next session.
- requested FAO to prepare a study on the role of sustainable wildlife management in sustainable forest management in Africa, including in mainstreaming biodiversity, for discussion at the next session of the AFWC and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.
- requested FAO to continue building capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools.
- requested FAO to:
 - a. facilitate the exchange of information and the networking within and between the AFWC working groups and the Bureau;
 - b. support the Bureau and the working groups in preparing their work plans and in the mapping of potential partners to be involved in working groups' activities;
 - c. support the design, set-up and hosting of a digital platform to serve as a knowledge sharing hub for the Commission and its working group activities, building on existing tools such as the AFWC Website and FAO's Nature & Faune Journal;
 - d. support the working groups in preparing flagship publications (e.g. thematic studies/outlooks) and communication materials to share and disseminate their activities.
 - e. support the AFWC22 Bureau (through its Secretariat) to :
 - liaise with AMCEN's Bureau and Secretariat, the African Union Commission and bodies to coordinate their activities and identify, and build synergies with AFWC action programme;
 - review further the proposed implementation mechanisms and assess the potential financial implications in operationalizing them;
 - liaise with the nominated experts of the working groups for the submission of their views and proposals on respective work plans,
 - review and report on progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the AFWC action programme, at the next AFWC session.
- recommended that the Committee on Forestry (COFO) consider the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for upscaling forest and landscape restoration activities.

- recommended FAO to continue contributing to the Global Climate Action Agenda and to promote forest related initiatives, projects and programmes, as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund.
- recommended FAO to explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- recommended FAO to further promote urban forestry activities.
- recommended FAO to take an active part of the UN Decade of Family Farming and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility.
- recommended FAO to inform COFO on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- requested FAO to continue supporting the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and establish clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and report on implementation accordingly;
- requested FAO to continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
- requested the Bureau, with the support and guidance of the Secretariat, to examine and review the current AFWC modalities and develop a proposal outlining the required process and amendments for its consideration.
- recalled the expression of interest made during the 21st Session by the delegation of Morocco to host its 22nd Session and requested the Secretariat to liaise with Morocco to check if this offer should still be considered for the 23rd Session.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE TO THE AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Commission:

- expressed concerns regarding deforestation, illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products and requested Members to : (i) develop and implement with support of FAO - upon request- and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products; (ii) address deforestation and agricultural impact through cross-sectoral partnership and multisectoral dialogue; and (iii) explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources.
- requested FAO to continue its support to member countries in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them.
- expressed concerns that Africa may not meet its NDC targets and requested Members to raise the level of ambition of climate action and strengthen institutional frameworks and cross-sectoral collaboration at national, transboundary and regional levels to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance the multiple benefits generated by sustainable forest management and restoration.
- appreciated countries' efforts in advancing the African Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100) as part of their own national development and resilience strategies and encouraged Members to build synergies between AFR100, the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGW) and other ongoing restoration activities, and consolidate these as an integral part of their contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience.
- called upon FAO to support AFR100 Secretariat and countries in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts.
- invited Members to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors and urged them to implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.
- requested FAO to initiate appropriate forestry-related follow-up actions in relation to the development and implementation of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session.
- invited countries to adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach when implementing sustainable wildlife management strategies, as recommended in decision 14/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in FAO's mainstreaming biodiversity strategy;
- recommended that countries continue developing sustainable wildlife management of transboundary nature and cooperate in exchange of wildlife species for restocking and restoration of wildlife resources and corridors between protected areas
- recommended FAO to continue building capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING OF THE 22nd SESSION

1. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) held its Twenty-second Session in Skukuza – Mpumalanga, South Africa, from 9 to 13 March 2020, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The Session was attended by 331 participants including representatives from 25 member countries, and representatives from 3 institutions of the United Nations system. Observers from 10 intergovernmental, Regional Economic Communities, international and regional non-governmental organizations, Youth, Academia and Research Institutions also attended. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jeanne Ilunga Zaina; The Honourable Minister of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, Kingdom of Lesotho, Tefo Fabian Mapesela; H. E the Minister for Livestock, Forestry and Range, Somalia, Hussein Mohamed Sheikh Hussein; The Honourable Makhotsu Soty, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa and the Honourable Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism & Hospitality of Zimbabwe also attended the session. (*Annex B* provides a full list of participants).
2. The Twenty-second Session of the Commission was held together with the Sixth African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) under the common theme “Forests and Wildlife: Africa’s diversity for shared prosperity and security”.
3. Ms Nora Berrahmouni, FAO Senior Forestry Officer chaired the opening ceremony on behalf of the Chairperson of the 21st Session of the Commission. She welcomed all delegates and participants to the 22nd Session and the 6th AFWW as well as the new members of the Commission: Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan. She acknowledged the attendance of The Honourable Minister from the Kingdom of Lesotho, and the Honourable Deputy Minister from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
4. The Honourable Vusi Shongwe, Member of the Executive Council for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, addressing the Commission on behalf of the Premier of Mpumalanga Province, stressed the interconnectedness and the interdependence of people and nature, which are threatened by activities such as illegal logging, poaching, illegal trade and wildlife exploitation. He appreciated the member countries’ commitment to improve the status and management of wildlife and forest resources in Africa.
5. The Honourable Fikile Xasa, Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa, highlighted the people’s dependence on forests for survival, “from the air we breathe to the wood we use”, and raised the importance of investing in rural infrastructure that supports forest resources and livelihoods.
6. Mr Francesco Pierri, FAO Representative in South Africa, speaking on behalf of the FAO Assistant Director-General of Forestry, the FAO Director-General and the Resident Coordinator of the UN in South Africa commended South Africa’s efforts in championing wildlife and forest conservation. He further highlighted the importance of AFWC22 with regard to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-

2028), as well as to the implementation of the African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030).

7. Mr Mamadou Diakhite, talking on behalf of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), stressed the wealth of natural resources in Africa, including wildlife and forests. He mentioned that AUDA-NEPAD, with the support of partners, steered the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), pointing out that thirty (30) countries have joined AFR100 so far, with restoration pledges exceeding the target of 100 million hectares. He encouraged other AFWC member countries to join, building on the Great Green Wall and other Pan-African and country initiatives. He also praised the ongoing collaboration with FAO on AFR100.

8. The Honourable Makhotso Soty, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa, highlighted the role of forests and wildlife in supporting people, the planet and prosperity. She further noted that forests are major carbon sinks, while deforestation remains one of the main climate change drivers. She finally stressed the relevance of the AFWC22 theme, as it captures the importance of forests in supporting livelihoods. She also drew attention to the International Women's Day, which was celebrated the day before, and underscored the role of women in advancing the sustainable management and restoration of Africa's natural resources.

9. Mr L. Monareng, Acting Head of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Mpumalanga Province, presented a note of thanks to the high table and all participants who had made themselves available for the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (ITEM 2)

10. The agenda was adopted as set out in document FO:AFWC/2020/1 Rev.1 (see Annex A). The documents considered by the Commission are listed in Annex C.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ITEM 3)

11. In accordance with the provisions of Rules II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and one Rapporteur as follows:

- Chairperson : Ms Morongoa S. Leseke (South Africa)
- Three Vice-Chairpersons:
 - 1st Vice-Chairperson : Her Excellency Jeanne Ilunga Zaina (the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - 2nd Vice-chairperson : Mr Pagnangde Bertrand Tapsoba (Burkina Faso)
 - 3rd Vice Chairperson : Mr Kabtamu Girma Assefa (Ethiopia)
 - Rapporteur: Mr Richard Hyacinthe Nguibourg King (Cameroon)

12. Ms Nora Berrahmouni, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, served as Secretary of the Commission.

REPORT ON FAO AND COUNTRIES' ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION (ITEM 4)

13. The Secretariat presented two documents reporting on actions taken by FAO (document FO:AFWC/2020/2.1) and by countries (document FO:AFWC/2020/2.2) to implement the recommendations of the 21st Session of the Commission.
14. The Commission commended FAO for the comprehensive actions taken in response to the recommendations of the 21st Session of the AFWC and praised the outcomes of the activities. The Commission also took note with appreciation that 20 countries had completed their reports (based on the electronic survey submitted by FAO) on measures taken in response to the recommendations of the last session of the Commission and applauded the results achieved.
15. Furthermore, the Secretariat took note of the in-session contributions by countries, in particular on advancing AFR100 implementation, assessment and mapping, forest investment programmes, strategies, law enforcement, food security and nutrition, national adaptation and resilience focused on women and youth, community forestry and conservation programmes, as well as cross-border partnerships towards sustainable natural resources use. The Commission requested other countries to submit their comprehensive reports to be recorded by the Secretariat.

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUES ON FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (ITEM 5)

Theme 1: Forestry and wildlife profession and education for youth and women

16. The Commission took note of current initiatives and efforts in revamping the forestry and wildlife research and education in Africa. It noted the fast-evolving global changes, such as those related to climate change, biodiversity conservation and restoration. The Commission invited member countries to timely adapt and further update current forestry and wildlife professional and education systems, including the curricula, accordingly.
17. The Commission urged member countries to spearhead relevant improvements in forestry education and professionalism in Africa, taking into account lessons learned and existing networks, and to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders (private, informal, academia, etc.) within and beyond the continent, as well as across sectors. It further invited member countries to recognize and strengthen the capacity development of rural women, promote skills development, youth employment, forest and wildlife related jobs and business creation in rural areas and cities and mainstream the consideration and use of traditional knowledge in the education curricula.
18. The Commission requested FAO to assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education, and to establish a working group on forestry and wildlife education with the view to provide guidance to the education and professional systems in Africa. The Commission suggested that the working group, support member countries, in collaboration with relevant education specialized institutions and regional networks, in the formulation of proposed changes to the national curricula and report to the Commission at its next session.

Theme 2: Illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products

19. The Commission took note of trends and challenges related to the illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products in Africa. It appreciated the ongoing efforts invested by member countries, regional economic communities, regional and global partners to address related issues. The Commission took note of the implementation framework of the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora of the African Union and the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Framework for Africa (2020-2030). It commended FAO's technical and financial support to the African Union Commission (AUC) and member countries in the development of the SFM Framework for Africa and further requested FAO to support its implementation.

20. The Commission raised concerns on the challenges related to cross border regulations and insecurity in the Region and called upon member countries to further develop and implement, with the support of FAO - upon request- and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting the legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products, in a coordinated way across the Region.

21. The Commission recognized the unique opportunity provided by AFWC to its Members for meeting and discussing issues related to wildlife in Africa, enabling them to develop coherent positions in preparation for Conference of Parties of international agreements such as CITES. It requested FAO to support, in collaboration with other entities, the intra-Africa Dialogue on sustainable use and trade of forest and wildlife products.

22. The Commission called upon its member countries to look beyond the core law enforcement activities and to incorporate economic and social development alternative options with environmental related aspects to benefit peoples' livelihoods.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AFRICA'S FORESTS: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND BOOSTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (ITEM 6)

23. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/3, which informed about the challenges of the forestry sector and climate change in Africa, as well as FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and in building resilience in the sector in the Region.

24. The Commission commended FAO's efforts, including the work initiated on capacity development at national and regional levels to strengthen, update, implement and monitor NDCs, and promote cross-sectoral dialogue and policies to ensure their compliance.

25. The Commission expressed concerns that Africa may not meet its NDC targets. It raised several issues hampering the achievement of the NDC implementation, including the lack of technical and financial capacities.

26. The Commission requested its member countries to raise the level of ambition of climate action and strengthen institutional frameworks and cross-sectoral collaboration at national, transboundary and regional levels to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance the multiple benefits generated by sustainable forest management and restoration.

27. The Commission called on member countries to raise the profile and visibility of national level climate action during the global level processes such as the Conferences of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
28. The Commission requested FAO to support countries in compiling, analyzing and disseminating good practices on forest and landscape-related climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as case studies for scaling up investment for NDC implementation in the region. The Commission recognized challenges in balancing livelihoods' needs and ecosystems restoration. It invited FAO to support local communities in restoration efforts, in designing and consolidating mitigation actions, including REDD+ processes, and in developing ecosystem results-based payments and their implementation.
29. The Commission requested FAO to further support member countries on resource mobilization efforts and strengthening countries' capacities to access climate finance - including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience. It further requested FAO to facilitate the development of multi-partner regional initiatives with Regional Economic Communities similar to the ongoing successful partnership with ECOWAS and Sida for climate action in West Africa.
30. The Commission requested FAO to continue its support to member countries in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them.

FOREST VALUE CHAINS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY (ITEM 7)

31. The Secretariat presented two documents under this item: document FO:AFWC/2020/4.1 entitled: 'Sustainable wood value chains for sustainable development in Africa' and document FO:AFWC/2020/4.2, informing about charcoal value chain related initiatives in Africa.
32. The Commission appreciated FAO's work in support to countries on the promotion of sustainable wood value chains for sustainable development in Africa and sustainable charcoal production for food security and forest landscape restoration.
33. The Commission urged its member countries to explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources. It recognized the need to plant fast-maturing trees for charcoal production to reduce pressure on natural forests. The Commission also stressed the need for its member countries to assess and consider the potential impacts of fast growing introduced species on existing natural ecosystems.
34. The Commission requested FAO to support the compilation, analysis and dissemination of good practices for sustainable charcoal production as well as the adoption of alternative sources of energy. It recommended that FAO support countries in the formulation and implementation of national charcoal strategies.
35. The Commission urged FAO to produce in collaboration with countries and regional organizations a regional forest outlook study for sustainable development in Africa,

identifying trends and opportunities for the development of wood and non-wood forest products as well as ecosystem services.

36. It further requested FAO to support countries to build or strengthen partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders and to scale-up investments for strengthening sustainable forest-based industries in Africa, building on existing mechanisms and opportunities, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

AFRICAN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE (AFR100) (ITEM 8)

37. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/5, reporting on FAO's activities related to the Initiative.

38. The Commission appreciated countries' efforts in advancing AFR100 as part of their own national development and resilience strategies.

39. The Commission took note of the opportunities such as the Great Green Wall (GGW) and national planting campaigns and programmes for establishing commitments for restoration under AFR100 and related initiatives, and developing restoration plan programmes. Member countries stressed the importance of mobilizing funding and increasing levels of investment from the private sector.

40. The Commission:

- a. encouraged members countries to build synergies between AFR100, GGW and other ongoing restoration activities, and consolidate these as an integral part of their contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience.
- b. invited member countries to support the mobilization of increased levels of public funding and financing from the private sector. It called upon countries and FAO to mobilize networks of experts, scientists and practitioners across Africa to share experiences, methodologies and approaches in restoration planning, implementation and monitoring, as well as in the identification of suitable native and useful species and areas for restoration.
- c. urged member countries to build bridges with the youth, the scientific and other communities, in particular women, for youth employment and job creation, including by creating incentives for farmers mobilization in restoration.
- d. requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the mobilization of resources, including through GEF and GCF, to contribute to AFR100, GGW and other similar programmes and initiatives in line with national and regional priorities.
- e. recommended that FAO continue the preparation of the planned "State of restoration in Africa" report, under the FAO regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, in collaboration with member countries and AFR100 technical and financial partners.
- f. called upon FAO to support AFR100 Secretariat and countries in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts.

FAO'S WORK ON BIODIVERSITY (ITEM 9)

41. The Secretariat presented document FO: AFWC/2020/6, on FAO's work on biodiversity.
42. The Commission invited member countries to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors and urged them to implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.
43. The Commission encouraged member countries who have not yet submitted their country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, to finalize and to submit them to FAO by 30 June 2020.
44. The Commission requested FAO to initiate appropriate forestry-related follow-up actions in relation to the development and implementation of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session.

FAO ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA (ITEM 10)

45. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/8 on 'FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa'.
46. The Commission invited countries to:
 - a. adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach when implementing sustainable wildlife management strategies, as recommended in decision 14/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in FAO's mainstreaming biodiversity strategy.
 - b. share with FAO relevant country case studies on the role of wildlife management in sustainable forest management by the end of August 2020, with the further aim of preparing a technical study to be discussed at the next session of the AFWC, and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.
 - c. continue developing sustainable wildlife management of transboundary nature and cooperate in exchange of wildlife species for restocking and restoration of wildlife resources and corridors between protected areas.
47. The Commission recommended that FAO:
 - a. continue implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, and upscale and out-scale lessons learnt to other countries in Africa, and report on progress made at its next session.
 - b. continue promoting international knowledge exchange and coordination on issues related to sustainable wildlife management, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as appropriate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and report on progress made at its next session.
 - c. prepare a study on the role of sustainable wildlife management in sustainable forest management in Africa, including in mainstreaming biodiversity, for

discussion at the next session of the AFWC and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021.

- d. continue building capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools.

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION PROGRAMME (ITEM 11)

48. The Secretariat presented, on behalf of the AFWC21 Bureau, the document FO: AFWC/2020/8, on 'African Forestry and Wildlife Commission's action programme' informing about the process of the action programme formulation, the priorities identified, the proposed mechanisms of implementation and the next steps for consideration by the Commission and FAO.

49. The Commission commended the AFWC21 Bureau for their efforts and the proposed priorities, validated and endorsed them as follows:

- (i) Advocating for, and profiling Africa's forests and wildlife;
- (ii) Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa;
- (iii) Climate Change: Restoration for resilience;
- (iv) Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa;
- (v) Promoting forest and wildlife education and profession.

50. The Commission further proposed adding aspects related to the implementation of the REDD+ and other results-based payments as part of the above-validated priority (ii) on Sustainable financing for forestry and wildlife programmes in Africa.

51. It also emphasized the importance of addressing aspects related to illicit trade of forest and wildlife products and the issues related to human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, as captured under the priority (iv) on Enhancing action against deforestation and illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products for sustainable development in Africa.

52. The Commission further validated the proposed implementation mechanisms, including the establishment of five (5) working groups to work respectively on the above priorities and requested that member countries and interested regional institutions and networks submit to the Secretariat, within one month of the release of the present report of the session, their nominations of experts to participate in the working groups.

53. The Commission requested that the Bureau liaise with the African Union Commission and its Specialized Institutions as well as with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) for building synergies and coordination between these bodies during the implementation of the working groups' priorities.

54. The Commission requested that its Members and the Secretariat make use of the FAO's Nature & Faune Journal, the AFWC website and regional networks to inform and

report on the activities of the Commission and its working groups. The Commission requested that working groups meet virtually, as much as possible, and face-to-face if resources allow.

55. The Commission requested that the AFWC22 Bureau, with the Secretariat's support:
- a. liaise with AMCEN's Bureau and Secretariat, the African Union Commission and bodies to coordinate their activities and identify, and build synergies with AFWC action programme;
 - b. review further the proposed implementation mechanisms and assess the potential financial implications in operationalizing them;
 - c. liaise with the nominated experts of the working groups for the submission of their views and proposals on respective work plans,
 - d. review and report on progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the AFWC action programme, at the next AFWC session.
56. The Commission requested FAO to:
- a. facilitate the exchange of information and the networking within and between the working groups and the Bureau;
 - b. support the Bureau and the working groups in preparing their work plans and in the mapping of potential partners to be involved in working groups' activities;
 - c. support the design, set-up and hosting of a digital platform to serve as a knowledge sharing hub for the Commission and its working groups' activities, building on existing tools such as the AFWC Website and FAO's Nature & Faune Journal;
 - d. support the working groups in preparing flagship publications (e.g. thematic studies/outlooks) and communication materials to share and disseminate their activities.

OUTCOME OF GLOBAL POLICY PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSION (ITEM 12)

57. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/9 on outcome of global policy processes of relevance for the regional forestry commissions. The Commission took note of the forest-related outcomes of 24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) and COP 25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and invited countries to consider how to strengthen forest-related contribution to their respective NDCs.

58. The Commission took note of the:
- forest-related outcomes of the CBD COP 14 and invited countries to provide inputs to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
 - conclusions of the High-level Political Forum and strive to implement the commitments pertaining to forests listed in the Ministerial Declaration;
 - outcome of the 1st World Forum on Urban Forests and invited countries to promote the Tree Cities of the World initiative.

59. The Commission recommended that the Committee on Forestry (COFO) consider the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for upscaling forest and landscape restoration activities.

60. The Commission took note of the UN reform process and encouraged countries to ensure that forestry issues be given the priority they deserve in the elaboration of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework documents for their country.

61. The Commission invited Member Countries of the International Poplar Commission (IPC) to engage in the IPC's continued reform and invited countries not members of the IPC to consider joining the IPC under its new scope.

62. The Commission recommended FAO to:

- continue contributing to the Global Climate Action Agenda and to promote forest related initiatives, projects and programmes, as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund;
- explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- further promote urban forestry activities;
- take an active part of the UN Decade of Family Farming and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility;
- inform COFO on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS AND COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (ITEM 13)

63. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/10 on 'Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests'.

64. Ms Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild, UNFF Representative, commended the excellent collaboration between FAO, the Commission and the United Nations Forum on Forests towards achieving the Global Sustainable Goals and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF).

65. The Commission recommended that member countries work across sectors to address deforestation and agricultural impact through cross-sectoral partnership and multisectoral dialogue.

66. The Commission requested FAO to:

- continue supporting the implementation of the UNSPF;
- establish clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and report on implementation accordingly;
- continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

THE 25TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (ITEM 14)

67. The Secretariat presented document FO:AFWC/2020/11 providing information on the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress.

68. The Commission invited member countries to:

- facilitate the widest possible attendance and participation from all sectors within the Region;
- propose themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the Congress.

69. Furthermore the Bureau, through its rapporteur, presented the priorities of AFWC for attention to the Committee on Forestry, the FAO Programme of Work and to the African Regional Conference (ARC).

70. The Commission commended the efforts of the Bureau for its work in capturing these priorities as discussed during the Session and approved them with minor amendments. The adopted priorities are presented in Annex G.

ANY OTHER MATTERS (ITEM 15)

71. The Commission considered a proposal by the Bureau to conduct, during the forthcoming intersessional period, a process to review the AFWC statutes and rules of procedure and seek ways to enhance its efficiency and achievements, in consideration of the emerging issues and challenges in the forestry and wildlife sectors and the need for inter-sectoral dialogue and work.

72. The Commission requested the Bureau, with the support and guidance of the Secretariat, to examine and review the current AFWC modalities and develop a proposal outlining the required process and amendments for its consideration.

73. The Commission took note of the presentation by the 2nd Vice-Chair on the Network of African Women Environmentalists (NAWE), supported by UNEP, FAO, UN Women and other partners, and invited women from the members' forestry and wildlife institutions, to engage in NAWE and further participate in its activities and build synergies with the AFWC Action programme.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (ITEM 16)

74. The Commission recalled the expression of interest made during the 21st Session by the delegation of Morocco to host its 22nd Session. The Commission requested the Secretariat to liaise with Morocco to check if this offer should still be considered for the 23rd Session.

75. It also acknowledged the expression of interest made by the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to host the 23rd Session, and recommended that this offer be further reviewed and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (ITEM 17)

76. The Commission adopted the report by acclamation.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (ITEM 18)

77. The Commission extended its thanks and sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the AFWC, the Government of the Republic of South Africa, and the Secretariat for the

excellent organization of the 22nd Session, commending the very fruitful dialogue and outcomes achieved including the adoption of the AFWC Action Programme. With this, the Chairperson declared the 22nd Session closed.

*Annex A***AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Report on FAO and Country Activities in response to the Recommendations of the 21st Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
5. High Level Dialogues on Forestry and Wildlife :
 - Theme 1: Forestry and wildlife profession and education for youth and women
 - Theme 2: Illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products
6. Climate change and Africa's forests: Building Resilience and boosting the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions
7. Forest value chains for sustainable development, energy and food security
8. African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)
9. FAO's work on Biodiversity
10. FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa
11. African Forestry and Wildlife Commission's action programme
12. Outcome of global policy processes of relevance for the regional forestry commissions
13. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests and collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests
14. The 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the XV World Forestry Congress
15. Any other Matters
16. Date and place of next session
17. Adoption of the report
18. Closure of the session

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6TH AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK – ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS**Agriculture Research Council (ARC)**

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Working on Fire (WoF)

Amanda Mthembo

Christalene De Kella

Mbuso Siwela

Pieter van der Merwa

YCSA

Sicelo Mpamba

*Annex C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

FO:AFWC/2020/1 Rev.1	Provisional agenda
FO:AFWC/2020/2.1	Report on FAO activities in response to the recommendations of the 21 st Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2020/2.2	Report on measures taken by member countries to implement the recommendations of the 21 st Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission
FO:AFWC/2020/3	Climate change and Africa's forests: Building Resilience and boosting the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions
FO:AFWC/2020/4.1	Sustainable wood value chains for sustainable development in Africa
FO:AFWC/2020/4.2	Sustainable charcoal production for food security and forest landscape restoration
FO:AFWC/2020/5	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative - AFR100
FO:AFWC/2020/6	FAO's work on biodiversity
FO:AFWC/2020/7	FAO activities on sustainable wildlife management in Africa
FO:AFWC/2020/8	African Forestry and Wildlife Commission Action programme
FO:AFWC/2020/9	Outcome of global policy processes of relevance for the regional forestry commissions
FO:AFWC/2020/10	Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests and collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests
FO:AFWC/2020/11	Preparations for the 25 th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the XV World Forestry Congress
FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.1 Rev.2	Information note
FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.3	List of documents
FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.4	Report of the Multisectoral Dialogue and Learning Event on Human-Wildlife-Livestock-Ecosystem Interface
FO:AFWC/2020/Inf.5	Outcomes of the African Regional Multistakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across agricultural sectors

Miscellaneous Documents

FAO strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across agricultural sectors
The Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020- 2030)

Annex D

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

Sunday, 8 March 2020 *Young African foresters Summit*
Organiser: International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

Monday, 9 March 2020
16:30-18:00 *Side event: Reviewing the current status and bridging the gap between tertiary institutions offering forestry in South Africa*
Organiser: International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

Tuesday, 10 March 2020
09:00-10:00 *Seminar on Forest and Wildlife: Climate Change in Africa*

- *A Regional Perspective on the Impacts of Climate and Land-use Changes on Wild Species and Wild Spaces.*
By Mr Samuel Temidayo Osinubi, Conservation Programmes Coordinator for Africa, Birdlife International (Accra Office)
- *Management of Veld and Forest Fires in South Africa.*
By Mr Trevor Abrahams, Executive Director, Working on Fire

Q & A (20')

11:15 – 12:00 *Guest Presentation: The Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030). By Mr Almami Dampha, Senior Policy officer, African Union Commission (AUC)*

12:00-13:30 *Side event: Sustainable Business Models for Tree-based value chains in sub-Saharan Africa: charcoal, gum and resins*
Organisers: African Forest Forum (AFF) and the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA)

Side event: Biodiversity Economy in South Africa: unlocking wildlife and bioprospecting value chains for community beneficiation
Organiser : Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), South Africa

Side event: Fire Management (prescribed fires) and associated biodiversity consequences
Organisers: Working on Fire and Kruger National Park South African National Parks (SANParks)

16:15-18:00

Side event: The Decade to Act: Restoration for food security and resilient livelihoods & landscapes in Africa

Organisers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), African Union Commission (AUC), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and United Nations Programme (UNEP)

Side event: Youth engagement in forest policies and decision making processes

Organiser: International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

Side event: Agroforestry practice: Promoting multiple land-use for environmental conservation and socio-economic development

Organisers: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Agriculture Research Council (ARC), University of Limpopo (UL), Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD)

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

12:00-13:30

Side event: Bringing Innovative Approaches to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts and enhance multi-sectoral collaboration in Africa

Organiser: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Side event: The concept of participatory forest management

Organisers: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL)

Side event: Biodiversity for Societies in Africa

Organisers: South Africa Hunters and Game Conservation Association

15:00-16:00

Guest Presentation: *Wildlife Management in South Africa*, by Mr Fundisile Mketeni, Chief Executive of SANParks

Launch of Nature & Faune 2020, VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1 (English and French Versions), focused on the following theme: *Biodiversity: The central role in the sustainable development of Africa.*

Presentation, orientation field trips

- Forestry: Tweefontein plantation and fire management, Sabie, 99 km from Skukuza
- Wildlife: Kruger Ecological trip, 35km from Skukuza
- Wildlife: Implementation of co-management models with Mdluli and Nkambeni communities, 55km from Skukuza.

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

This summary is based on the compilation of reports prepared by events assigned rapporteurs and submitted to the Secretariat by side events and seminars' leading organizations.

YOUNG AFRICAN FORESTERS SUMMIT

Young foresters form the basis of the continent's workforce and are important stakeholders for fulfilling the future trajectory of the African forestry and wildlife sectors. While many experts and professionals recognize the need to improve and reform the knowledge regimes and capacity building initiatives in forest education, they have limited knowledge on the efforts being made to enhance forest education and their perceived roles and opportunities are still inadequate in the initiatives.

This session brought to light the initiatives that the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and its professional partners have put forth to enhance forest education and the roles and opportunities that may exist for youth and/or students in these initiatives. In addition, The Summit gave participants an opportunity to define how they envision their role in the forestry sector and the education reforms they would wish to see in the sector. Furthermore, it provided the opportunity for the youth from across Africa to network across cultures.

The Summit involved the **following activities**:

- Workshop on pitching and personal style
- Briefing on the work of IFSA and forest education collaborations
- Gap analysis on the state of forest education in Africa and perspective collation on bridging the gaps in the forest education curriculum
- Briefing on the work of the Commission
- Networking

Key recommendations were developed to the attention of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and various stakeholders with a stake in forestry. These recommendations relate to current identified gaps in the forestry and wildlife sectors in Africa:

- Include generic skills in the forest education curriculum (referred by the Global outlook on forest education by IUFRO Joint Taskforce on forest education available at: https://foresteducation.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/gofe_final_report.pdf)
- Curriculum development (vocational and technical competencies) to integrate self/professional-development (competency needs versus curriculum gap analysis) – private sector and academic sector collaboration on needs assessment and labour market situation.
- Enhancement of Small Scale Forestry Enterprises for job creation and education reform focusing on providing the skills needed for job creation (general and practical). There is a

need for a Special Program for Developing Capacity on essential skills in forestry for those without access to formal education

- Mainstream forest education in lower academic institutions/education to provide background knowledge as Africa shows one of the lowest enrolment rates into higher academic institutions.
- Participants further noted the role of the private sector in transforming the forest sector and recommended the academia to collaborate with the private sector to reform forest education curriculum.

SEMINAR ON FOREST AND WILDLIFE: CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

A Regional Perspective on the Impacts of Climate and Land-use Changes on Wild Species and Wild Spaces. By Mr Samuel Temidayo Osinubi, Conservation Programmes Coordinator for Africa, Birdlife International (Accra Office)

This presentation was made by BirdLife International, which is a global partnership of conservation-oriented non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The presentation provided a brief evidence-based review of climate change and land-use impacts on wild species and spaces in Africa, options for adaptation to climate change and supporting ecological resilience, an overview of what is being done across the region, and recommendations to take forward.

The presentation was based on data from various research conducted as part of conservation projects, particularly but not exclusively in the Sahelian region. Attention was drawn to the Living on the Edge project. Information discussed included changes in rainfall and temperature patterns, forest cover loss in Africa, indigenous tree cover restoration aimed at supporting indigenous fauna, modelled species range shifts and the effects on endemic and migratory species, important sites for conserving species (Important Bird Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas, IBAs and KBAs respectively), and the key role of agriculture in the conservation of species and sites. One point is that the effect of climate change on species and at sites is not unidirectional. Climate change may lead to different levels of decline or increase of species, which makes broad ecological studies very crucial. There was an overview of relevant projects and approaches being undertaken by BirdLife through actions in 39 countries, with 23 Partners and offices in 5 countries. The presentation closed with a look at extant habitat restoration initiatives and a call for closer partnerships across various sectors.

The discussions that followed the presentation reflected the interests of participants and included vulture conservation and the different threats driving the declines across Africa, reforestation using indigenous tree species and reconciling fast growth (often aimed at carbon credits) with supporting the local wildlife, harmonizing conservation and agriculture with interest in domestication and value chain involving birds, and improving synergies with other organizations. Participants stressed the need to avoid silos and develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders and institutions across the region.

Management of Veld and Forest Fires in South Africa. By Mr Trevor Abrahams, Executive Director, Working on Fire, South Africa

This presentation highlighted the current work, objectives and approaches of *Working on Fire* in South Africa which is anchored in job creation, skills development while contributing to develop South Africa's Integrated Fire Management capacity.

One concern raised on plantation permits is guided by the need to manage water scarcity and the consideration of indigenous tree species through a phase-up approach. Ensuing discussion revolved on the cost implication, funding and staffing for implementation of activities related to fire management. Staff are engaged in fire management throughout the year irrespective of fire likelihood, intensively for 5 months and in preventive measures for the rest of the year. South Africa has also indeed supported other countries, particularly in the SADC region, with firefighting training.

The Session highlighted the contributions of private sector, the greater intra government coordination across levels of government and the need to expand international exchange and support on fire management.

REVIEWING THE CURRENT STATUS AND BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OFFERING FORESTRY EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Each of the institutions - the University of Pretoria, the University of Venda, and Fort Cox Agricultural and Forestry Training Institute - offering forestry qualifications were given an opportunity to share their forestry product offering. Information was shared about two additional qualifications in forestry potentially being presented at the University of Mpumalanga, and the Tshwane University of Technology (Mbombela Campus).

The panel of representatives further highlighted that forestry curricula, whether in South Africa or anywhere in Africa, are largely impacted upon by the prevailing socio-political environment and the industry needs within the respective countries. In South Africa specifically, the forestry curriculum is driven by the commercial forest industry requirements for a holistic forester.

There was a discussion on how institutions must continuously review and improve their curricula to stay relevant, thereby ensuring the employability of their forestry graduates. Some of the focal areas of forestry curricula that have been invoked included: Forest evaluation and investment; GIS in forestry; Forestry extension; Research methodology and climate change.

There was a further discussion on the importance of reforming education, including in forestry, and on the need for a transformation of the sector in Africa to make it more concept-specific.

A recommendation was made to establish exchange programmes between tertiary institutions whereby lecturers and students would spend a certain amount of time at another institution garnering new perspectives and information, and simultaneously share and develop skills with their peers. The suggested benefits of such an exchange programme were identified as follows:

i) improved exposure and thus the development of a more grounded and holistic student and, ii) the creation of unity amongst the forestry fraternity.

SEMINAR ON THE AU SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA (2020-2030)

The African Union Commission presented the newly adopted “**Sustainable forest management framework (SFM) for Africa (2020-2030)**” to the Commission members. Member countries supported the strategy and appreciated the participatory process that was undertaken to produce the framework. The Framework is built on 5 main priorities including: (1) Enhance the value of forests, sustainable production, processing, markets and trade for forest products and ecosystem services; (2) Develop capacity and knowledge management for SFM; (3) Develop supportive policies and institutional frameworks for SFM; (4) Restore degraded forests and landscapes for building resilience and sustainable livelihoods; and (5) Build partnerships and mobilize resources for achieving SFM.

While AUC will continue its job of continued advocacy, partnerships building, capacity building and resource mobilization, implementation of the Framework would be needed on the ground and pioneered by member countries. Countries requested the African Union to engage other sectors and mobilize their support to address forest degradation and add a financing plan focusing on countries’ own resources.

The existing Forest strategies coordinated under the leadership of the regional Economic Communities (SADC, IGAD, ECOWAS, COMIFAC) are building blocks and complementary to the AU continental framework and therefore contribute to its implementation.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS FOR TREE-BASED VALUE CHAINS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: CHARCOAL, GUMS AND RESINS

Presentations and discussion made during this session highlighted that the informal nature of the tree-based value chains presents challenges that call for the need for enabling policies, legal and institutional frameworks that provide clear and adequate incentives to support the development of these value chains, which operate in a largely informal sector of national economies. The development of these value chains will be instrumental in generating and capturing more economic benefits from the products for the local communities and national economies. Presently local community actors do not enjoy full benefits from the value chains and national governments do not capture the same through taxes. The economic and employment opportunities offered by the forest based value chains are very strong incentives for national governments to intervene in the value chains through policy and other supporting frameworks that would not only incentivise the various actors to become more effective and efficient, but also formalise the operations and their sustainability along the value chains.

While the roles of women, men and youth in the gums and resins as well as in charcoal sub-sectors are understood and visible, the constraints they experience in harvesting these gums and resins and also in harvesting timber and its charcoaling can adversely affect the sustainability of the forest and tree resources. They use rudimentary tools and technologies, which result into low recovery of the saleable product in its initial stages of processing, and therefore lead to

considerable waste. To remedy this situation capacity building to upgrade their harvesting and processing technologies in ways that cut down on waste is necessary.

A new project on scaling up resilience of the people in the Great Green Wall area in the Republic of Sudan through upgrading of the gums and resins value chains that will be launched soon hold promise of a valuable opportunity to improve production of gums and resins in that country. The Republic of Sudan has been the leading exporter of gums and resins from Africa from *Acacia Senegal* and *A. seyal*. Therefore improving its production and commercialisation could contribute considerably to the welfare of the people and national income.

Acquisition of formal education has not hindered the entry of actors in the charcoal supply chain. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that in order for the actors to effectively and efficiently participate in the commercialisation of charcoal, it is important for them and especially women, to understand the market dynamics for the product in order to enable them to position themselves strategically to succeed in the business. Training would therefore be essential especially for women and youth who dominate the vending stage in order to empower them to participate in all activities of the value chain, and especially in production and transportation phases of the supply chain that are currently dominated by men.

The economic contribution of charcoal value chain is significant in the countries studied and this contribution could be further consolidated through organised groups of actors. In addition, alternative livelihood options should form part of measures to support the charcoal sector, because charcoal alone cannot support all the requirements of the actors, let alone lifting them out of poverty.

The analysis of the impact of the ban on charcoal production in the countries indicated that it has led to smuggling of charcoal from other countries. It is therefore important to be cognisant of the fact that charcoal may be the only source of energy available. Other energy options could be inaccessible, and the demand would thus be met through illegal channels. Such transboundary trade of charcoal calls for a regional approach to the value chain, particularly where the impact of the ban in one country could have adverse implications for the neighbouring countries from which it is illegally sourced.

BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA: UNLOCKING WILDLIFE AND BIOPROSPECTING/ BIOTRADE VALUE CHAINS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFICIATION

A thriving biodiversity resource base offers ecosystem services and is essential for sustainable livelihood. The biodiversity Economy Programme of South Africa is a game changer, seeking to sustainably unlock value chain opportunities within the wildlife, bioprocessing/biotrade and ecotourism industries. Localisation of the value chain stimulates business innovation chasm, retain & expand skills base, contribute to the gross domestic product and create job opportunities for local communities. This side event shared the following:

- South Africa's priority subsectors, i.e. wildlife, ecotourism and bioprospecting/ biotrade, in the broader Biodiversity Economy Sector;

- The current support mechanisms for the Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprises (SMMEs) of South in the Biodiversity Economy Sector;
- The opportunities for SMMEs in the abovementioned subsectors; and
- The plans for the country to ensure climate change adaptation and to integrate climate change into other biodiversity conservation/ sustainable use plans.

The key outcomes from the side event included the **following key messages**:

- There are various opportunities in the Biodiversity Economy Sector. Specifically for the bioprospecting/ biotrade sector, the Marula tree has been used for generations to produce mostly beverages and has supported livelihoods for years. The tree is now being used in the cosmetics sector to produce various products, including tissue oils. The tree-based business has contributed to job creation, rural community development and empowerment, skills development and transfer, as well as contribution to economic growth.
- The wildlife sector on the other hand has provided opportunities for communities to establish valuable partnerships with the private sector to develop/ grow their wildlife ventures. Especially in communities that have acquired land from the land redistribution process, this has enabled communities to not only have ownership of the land but also to be fully involved in business/ economic opportunities, and acquiring skills to run those businesses.
- The critical role played by Research and Development Institutions in supporting communities and traditional healers fully realise the economic value of their natural resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- Various support (financial and non-financial) mechanisms are available for SMMEs in the sector. These include support by various government/ public institutions in inter alia: Infrastructure: Game fences; business plans/ feasibility studies; focused Trainings/ Capacity Building in the areas of enterprise development, Opportunities in the Biodiversity Economy Sector, Biodiversity Economy Sectoral Support by Business Support Organization, Sustainable Resource Management (cultivation and harvesting), Compliance: Policies and Legislations; Market access and market linkages; Veterinary services & game count; Fair commercial deal structures; Strengthening Governance.
- Communities who acquired their land through the land redistribution programme have received private sector investment which has assisted in covering operational costs/ marketing and other operational costs, and compliments the support already been provided by government in these communities.
- South Africa has a long history of inequality as well as exclusion of certain groups from participating in the broader Biodiversity Economy. Hence, there are various initiatives that have been adopted to rectify this, for example, through the People and Parks programme. This programme was established to ensure that communities' adjacent to protected areas are provided with opportunities to benefit from the economic activities in Protected Areas, as well as empowered through their administered programmes.
- While there is a recognized need for such economies in rural challenged areas, the government understands the environmental risks associated with these economies, hence, the efforts to ensure that such economic activities are conducted in a sustainable manner. Various plans have thus been developed to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, including Climate Change Adaptation Plans that have been developed for different Biomes. The adaptation plans call for the need to prioritise the most important adaptation options within each biome

to build adaptive capacity of the biodiversity, ecosystems and the people who inhabit those biomes.

FIRE MANAGEMENT (PRESCRIBED FIRES) AND ASSOCIATED BIODIVERSITY CONSEQUENCES

Fire is a key driver for ecosystem changes within the African landscape and is one of the most effective tools that managers have to achieve Biodiversity, Beneficiation and safety mandate. Prescribed fire, also called prescribed burning or controlled burning, is a form of land management in which fire is intentionally applied to vegetation. A single prescribed burning can achieve multiple benefits. For example, a prescribed burning that consumes more dead fuel than it creates will reduce the fire hazard and, with few if any modifications, will improve wildlife habitat. Almost any prescribed burning improves access. Prescribed fires help reducing the catastrophic damage of wildfire on lands and surrounding communities by safely reducing excessive amounts of brush, shrubs and trees; encouraging the new growth of native vegetation; maintaining many plant and animal species whose habitats depend on periodic fire. However, understanding the effects of prescribed fires on Biodiversity is key in protected areas thereby ensuring reduced fire risk and maintaining healthy ecosystems for the benefits of the people. The objective of this side event was to share current knowledge and lessons learnt based on Working on Fire and the Kruger National Park Research related to the effects of fire management (prescribed fires) on Biodiversity. Speakers of the side events presented:

- An overview of the fire management in the Kruger National Park, showcasing the importance of the availability of data/ research during long time series. Such long term research made it possible to inform and influence fire policy. fire policy;
- Results demonstrated that Savanna trees are fire adapted and they can deal and cope with fire. In addition, the presentation recognized the importance of fire for Savanna Ecosystems;
- Robust and rapid techniques were developed to determine fuel biomass over large distances to allow for early burning.

In order to support good fire policies, research and science need to be incorporated. Fire awareness is very important at all levels (communities, schools, protected areas, etc.), and anywhere people are found as the dominant ignition source for fires in Africa.

The side event highlighted that just as “Rain” is crucial for the survival of the Amazon Rainforest, so is “Fire” for the survival of Savannah. We need to not suppress the key driver that has shaped Southern African landscape but rather use fires (traditional and prescribed) for the benefit of the landscape and the Savannah, which is a biome that supported people, livelihoods, ecotourism and Africa’s last remaining megafauna.

THE DECADE TO ACT: RESTORATION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS & LANDSCAPES IN AFRICA

The side event provided an opportunity for partner organizations including AUDA-NEPAD, the African Union Commission, SADC, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), UNEP, FAO and member countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mauritius) and the Representative of the Chair of the COFO working group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral systems to

highlight **Africa's commitment and preparedness** to the implementation of the UN decade on Ecosystem Restoration through the ongoing Pan-African initiatives such as AFR100 (since 2015) and Africa's Great Green Wall in both the Sahara-Sahel Zone (since 2007) and the SADC region, as well as country led initiatives.

They considered the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) co-led by FAO and UNEP, as a golden opportunity for Africa to advance and scaling-up restoration work to address the severe degradation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, generating further action to support the materialization of the political commitments, building on the public demand for action on issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and the resulting impacts on economies and livelihoods, especially for vulnerable communities. They have underscored the importance of fostering collaboration between the UN decade on ecosystem restoration and the UN decade for family farming (2019-2028) co-led by IFAD and FAO as well as the LDN country initiatives under the auspices of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the African Chapter of SER under development.

In Africa, the Implementation of the UN Decade on ecosystem restoration will benefit from advanced Pan-African restoration commitments and movement, building on the following existing plans and initiatives:

- The Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience endorsed at the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity, 13 November 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt provides the framework for implementing the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD coordinates the Pan-African Action Agenda which was developed in anticipation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a country-led initiative launched in 2015, to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030. It connects participating African nations with technical and financial support to scale up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits, including fuelwood, food security, biodiversity conservation, climate change resilience, and poverty alleviation arising from sustainable use of forest products and ecosystem services. To date, 29 countries pledged restoration of a total of 125 million ha in Africa under AFR100.
- The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative endorsed since 2007, by the African Union, an Initiative backed by Heads of states and governments of more than 20 countries, north and south of the Sahara, and seek to build resilience and prosperity of Africa's drylands people by sustaining and climate-proofing farming, livestock, fisheries, forestry and agroforestry production systems in Africa's drylands around the Sahara. This initiative is currently being expanded to Southern Africa under the coordination of the SADC.

Panellists (Partners and member countries) showcased progress made so far in the implementation of the Pan-African initiatives (such as the Great Green Wall and AFR100) as well as on countries' experiences, lessons learnt and challenges. They have called on the importance and urgency to build bridges between these multiple initiatives with support of

partners including FAO and the need for cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration at country level especially to do so.

STATE OF FOREST EDUCATION IN AFRICA/ YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN FOREST POLICIES AND DECISION MAKING IN AFRICA

This session was inspired by the need to mainstream youth voices into forest policy processes in Africa and the need to create opportunities for the youth in the various forest and landscape restoration processes taking place in Africa. Furthermore, the youth shared their vision of the future of forestry in Africa and their perceived role in the sector.

Current trends show that youth-focused groups in Africa are insufficiently included in the design and implementation of regional and national initiatives that aim to address the many forestry and environmental problems confronting Africa. This in turn led in losing the opportunity to share youth-led perspectives and innovations- a clear gap in policy.

The session convened roundtable discussions on the stated gap to raise youth/students concerns and recommendations, to have youth inclusion in the stated processes, and tap into the incredible potential that lies within them. The key discussion points were: youth employment in forestry, forest education and mentorship, and capacity building for young people to steer the forestry sector.

Key outcomes and recommendations to the commission include the following:

- Set-up a mobility grant for young people in Africa to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences in development programmes related to forestry in Africa.
- Establish a forest education advisory committee and a youth forestry governing body to inform both informal and formal forestry education development and its integration into development programmes. The former, targeting unemployed and unskilled youth and the latter, for the academia.
- Establish a Special Capacity Development Programme and strengthening the existing ones for youth in forestry and a grant to support youth activities that complement the forestry sector of Africa.
- Mainstream young people into various forestry related policy and development programs in Africa.

AGROFORESTRY PRACTICE: PROMOTING MULTIPLE LAND-USE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The side event focussed on the development of the Agroforestry Strategy in South Africa in order to promote multiple land uses for the benefit of farmers and growers and communities who live in and around forests.

The following topics were presented:

- The Agroforestry Strategy Framework (Tebogo Mathiane, Director: Small Scale Forestry, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa)

- Research study on Socio-economic and environment impact assessment in Limpopo province (Phokele Maponya, Senior Researcher: Smallholder Farmer & Enterprise Development, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa)
- Case study on agroforestry practice in Limpopo province, or Sustainable partnerships - Collaborative Partnership on Conservation Agriculture, Building on Large Evergreen Agriculture for Southern Africa (BLEANSA) Project- ICRAF (Netshivhodza, Deputy Manager: Natural Resource Management, Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, South Africa)
- Agroforestry piloting in South Africa (Takalani Tahulela; Research Officer: South African Forestry Company Limited)
- A perspective from the beneficiaries, (Nyadzani Sida, Project leader: Dimani Agroforestry project)

The main highlighted issues were the following: “How the system can promote participatory forest management”, and “How to address household food security issues for smallholder growers” who have to wait for a long time before realising their harvest.

There was an emphasis on the need to establish pilot projects in collaboration with universities, research institutes, and the agriculture and forestry sectors before implementation. From the Beneficiaries’ perspectives, participants stressed, inter alia, the main issues and challenges to be addressed such as land tenure, training and capacity building of extension officers on agroforestry, changing mind-set on the contribution to sustainable forest management and conservation farming. .

BRINGING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS AND ENHANCE MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION IN AFRICA

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) is a growing problem for communities and people living around and along borderline of forest reserves and protected areas. The impacts due to HWC are countless, including destruction of forest resources, crops and farms damage, deaths (for human, livestock and wildlife), among others. This Side event was organized to report back on the follow-up made to the recommendation addressed to FAO from previous AFWC session, calling on sharing good practices and innovative solutions on HWC among countries and institutions in Africa region.

The side event was structured in two parts. The first part included two presentations delivered through video by FAO experts respectively in wildlife/protected areas; and animal health/production giving:

- An overview of HWC in Africa and FAO’s work in addressing HWC issues
- A presentation of the One Health approach, and discussing drivers of disease emergency and impacts to wildlife, biodiversity, livestock and people.

The second part was structured in a form of a panel discussion. The panellists from Kenya, Zimbabwe and the African Union Commission shared practices and innovative solutions currently being applied to counter and manage HWC in their country/region. These showcased

multi-sectoral interventions and efforts to scale up these practices beyond their countries' borders.

Panellists and participants to the event noted that HWC is a common challenge and requires a joint approach and cross-sectoral collaboration. Among various reasons for HWC continued problems are:

- settlements, expanding cultivation areas and blockage of wildlife corridors and passage of animals ,
- poor access to watering points for animals and wildlife, encroachment into protected areas,
- climate change impact (change of habitats and grazing patterns).
- increase of Wildlife populations,
- land use challenges due to expansion of agriculture and settlements and grazing lands with livestock.

Countries have been taking a number of measures such as awareness raising and campaigns benefiting communities, translocation of animals, engaging communities and promoting non-wildlife initiatives to promote other livelihood options, such as ecotourism and funding other activities e.g. drilling wells, etc. Some of the measures taken to address these problems include, among others, working with communities, use of wildlife scouts and setting up of response mechanisms, fencing, media campaigns (press releases), collaboration with other sectors and implementation of protection of wildlife corridors.

Other measures taken to address these issues include; development of HWC strategies in a number of districts/protected areas, destocking of animals, and intensification in the fight against zoonotic diseases jointly with the livestock sector, currently countries are reviewing campfire initiatives, and continue to see collaboration with land based sectors.

The representative from the African Union Commission pointed to the need to intensify innovative solutions which can bring success at transboundary level, such as the One Health approach and the need for each country to implement protocols on movement of animals and livestock, and for the establishment of wildlife corridors, so as to allow nature and wildlife to co-exist and continue to provide benefits to people and environment. He called on African countries to continue to collaborate and share experiences on HWC.

There are many innovative approaches in the continent ready for use and adoption by countries. The One Health approach could bring many benefits and solutions to the problem, in particular in addressing diseases and impacts caused by the interaction between livestock, humans, wildlife and ecosystems including forests. The HWC requires a multi sector approach and requires that the wildlife sector to go beyond developing a HWC strategy at site or protected area level, and to invite and reach out to other sectors to collaborate. Taking note of the the experiences shared by countries (panellists) and measures they have taken to address HWC, participants recommended to further develop a network to allow further exchange among countries.

THE CONCEPT OF PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT

Two presentations were made as a basis for discussion. Mr. Matsea Steven from DAFF presented on the landmark events including the evolution of the legislation that led to the adoption of participatory forest management as a tool to manage forests on a sustainable basis. Dr. Jeremie Mbairamadji, from FAO presented on “Unlocking the potential of community-based forestry: Lessons from 40 years of global experience”. The presentation focused on key findings from a review of extent and effectiveness of Community Based Forestry (CBF) carried out by FAO. Arguments were backed by a substantial body of literature on CBFs and factors for significant impact on forests and local livelihoods.

Representative from MTO, Mr Andrew Warren, Security Manager, shared success stories on working together with communities to combat illegal activities. What stood out was the fact that through this approach they managed to reduce timber theft by 60%. Issues of building good relations with communities neighbouring plantations was raised as essential/or key in controlling illegal activities especially timber theft in plantations. Another factor that was highlighted was the investments made in technology that assist security initiatives. Six steps were identified as crucial for the enforcement initiatives. These are: (i) sharing information with affected stakeholders; (ii) training security personnel; (iii) correct placing of personnel and; (iv) procuring proper technology to assist in enforcement and equipment, incidents and pre-planning.

Contrary to the success story, a Communal Property Associations (CPA) representative shared the frustrations they have, including lack of support from relevant authorities in the department and the police service. Some community members are stealing timber and sell to the local saw millers by the price which is below the market rate. Communal Property Associations are landholding institutions established under the Communal Property Associations Act No. 28 of 1996 (the CPA Act). Beneficiaries of the land reform, restitution and redistribution programs who want to acquire, hold and manage land as a group can establish legal entities to do so. The CPA is still waiting for the title deeds; therefore, they feel that they do not have power over the land. These challenges put at risk the success of the land reform, restitution and redistribution programs.

A discussion followed on how this could be balanced. The issue of land tenure still remains an issue of concern and ownership patterns provision where land has already been restored to the rightful claimants. Factors of success in joint forest management reside in: securing tenure, creating an enabling environment and supportive bureaucracy. Furthermore, participants recommended a peer review to be conducted with MTO and neighbouring communities that are faced with challenges and that existing supportive forest policies and strategies at the regional and national levels are implemented.

BIODIVERSITY FOR SOCIETIES IN AFRICA

Richard Sowry welcomed the side-event participants from various countries in Africa and explained that the purpose of the event was to facilitate dialogue on the potential of biodiversity resources to deliver positive land use outcomes that not only contribute to addressing socio-

economic development challenges of developing countries, but also improve the conservation of its rich biodiversity.

The first presentation by Lizanne Nel highlighted that an integrated approach is required when dealing with the conservation of wildlife and forest resources in Africa on the one hand, and socio-economic development in developing countries. Many people in developing countries are faced with poverty, unemployment and degraded environments and governments are desperate to stimulate rapid social and economic development. The typical approach of governments to follow a trade-off approach between economic, social and environmental objectives are however not sustainable. As competition for land is increasing, the pressure on the remaining natural areas and well-functioning ecosystems is increasing. These areas are however not only crucial in providing basic livelihoods for marginalized rural communities, but they also provide ecosystem services, critical in fueling countries' economies.

An overview was given on how collaborative initiatives by government and the wildlife sector in South Africa, contributed to the development of a vibrant and inclusive wildlife economy, enabling to convert the value of ecosystem and wildlife resources into positive land use outcomes that not only contribute to biodiversity conservation, but also foster socio-economic development in a responsible manner for the benefit of current and future generations. This is especially true for dryland ecosystems where people are greatly affected by environmental vulnerability and poverty and where other viable land use options are often limited.

One of the critical success factors is the "language" of communication. It was demonstrated how changing the language from "protectionism" to "integrated land use planning", resulted in improved political buy-in for conservation of the natural resource base. It was clear that if politicians and decision-makers understand the message, they begin to fully factor in the wildlife economy in political decision-making and market transactions.

Louise Swemmer discussed how changes in conservation approaches from exclusionary to inclusive socio-ecology, facilitated the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources within protected areas using three sustainability objectives: the maintenance of ecological integrity, economic viability and the promotion of social relevance. Work done in the Kruger National Park was showcased, demonstrating how earlier conservation approaches such as forced removals and restricted access policies resulted in humans being removed as drivers of ecosystem processes within the Park. This may have contributed to ecosystem degradation as a result of underuse or reduced human impact. Participants discussed how these policies also led to social, political and economic degradation of people's rights and opportunities to access and derive benefits from conservation leading to an erosion of people-nature connections, people-parks relationships, and a reduction in socio-ecological resilience.

Extractive resource use projects currently being implemented in the Park (mopane worms, thatch, medicinal products and meat) were discussed in the context of how and to what degree these projects have restored natural and social system functionality.

Repositioning of wildlife and protected areas as part of the wildlife economy also requires a new approach in equipping people with the necessary knowledge, leadership and applied skills to

conserve and protect Africa's natural resources and biodiversity in viable, inclusive and economically successful ways. Dr. Richard Ferguson and Sboniso Phakathi spent time on the development of human capital and approaches to equip people with the necessary knowledge and applied skills to harness opportunities presented by a vibrant wildlife economy. Initiatives of the Southern African Wildlife College in Africa were discussed, including youth development programs. The importance of not only formal academic programs, but also learning-by-doing approaches were highlighted.

Participants expressed their support for this innovative and integrated approach to unlocking socio-economic opportunities for the people of Africa through unlocking the net benefits from wildlife areas, whilst also fueling the economy. There was agreement that the future of Africa is inextricably tied to the wellbeing of rural Africans that bear the brunt of the costs of living with Africa's wildlife, but generally derive little economic benefit from that coexistence.

Particular interest was expressed in how changing the language from "protectionism" to "integrated land use planning and development" can result in improved political buy-in for valuing wildlife resources and protected areas and the role it can play in addressing challenges of poverty, unemployment and environmental vulnerability. Concern was however expressed that very few people dealing with the conservation and development agendas in Africa, have the ability to converse with the relevant role players in the required "language" that would foster this integrated approach. It was suggested that the opportunities and challenges identified, be escalated to the Secretariat and other relevant platforms to fast track further in-depth engagements between the various role players and countries as integrated solutions that empower decision-makers and communities, and that promote collective action, are needed.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIELD TRIPS

This summary is based on the compilation of reports prepared by volunteered rapporteurs and submitted to the Secretariat by the local organizing committee.

FIELD TRIP 1: TWEEFONTEIN PLANTATION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT, SABIE

General context: Introduction to SAFCOL and Tweefontein Plantation

SAFCOL (South African Forestry Company Limited) is a State owned Forestry Company established in 1992 under Law 128 of 1992, which stipulates the management and control of state forests. The company's objectives are the long-term development of the forest industry according to recognized commercial management practices.

SAFCOL operational plantations are spread over three regions and three provinces, namely Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, with an area of 189,633 hectares, of which 15 plantations are spread over 121, 637 hectares. It produces 1.3 million cubic meters of wood per annum: 20% of the production is value added and up to 80% is sold as a raw material.

Tweefontein plantation was amalgamated with Ceylon plantation early in 1999. The total area of Tweefontein plantation then is 25,231.63 hectares of which 1,3023.27 hectares is non-commercial and 12,208.36 hectares is afforested area.

Forest value chain and Socio-economic development in Tweefontein Plantation

Forest Value chain in Tweefontein plantation stretches from research and development, tree nurseries, planting and stabilization, protection (monitoring and surveillance), harvesting and value addition, sale of wood and lumber/ logs etc.

As a state-owned company, SAFCOL run a commercially viable business whilst delivering on the developmental agenda of government. The partnership with the communities ensure that both the state company and communities work together in prioritizing and addressing their basic needs to alleviate poverty, improve living conditions and develop their skills. Memoranda of Understanding are established with communities for mutual development, economic empowerment of communities and integration of forestry and agriculture for communities through implementation of different projects on food security, water, manufacturing, social infrastructure, Corporate social responsibility SR (Supplier development & Enterprise development along the value chain).

Fire management

Bush and Forest fires are one of the major threats to the forest. In order for SAFCOL to be sustainable, they put in place a team and strategies to fight a fire, hence the "fire management team". The team gave a brief demonstration of their fire suppression maneuver and among the things to be taken into account in their intervention is Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). In terms of strategy, the removal of branches to a length of four (4) meter is one of the strategies carried out to avoid the rapid spread of fire.

Observations and recommendations by participants:

Participants appreciated the commendable efforts made by SAFCOL in the integration of research into the industries. They appreciated excellent firefighting and management development, and made the following recommendations to the SAFCOL teams:

- As the clones are too vulnerable to the various diseases, it would be important to put in place emergency methods in case of infection.
- Deepen the study of the laboratory by involving academics to develop or improve the safety and stability of the clones.
- Need for further integration of the academia into the research and development.
- Need for establishment of a seed/tissue culture body (seed centre) to provide planting material to the people.
- Job creation into forest plantation, fire management and downstream to reduce unemployment and to buffer up for the unemployment created due to the mechanization more emphasis on value addition.
- Need for action on Invasive species in the plantation
- Need for placement on more emphasis on ecosystem sustainability and mainstreaming it into commercial forestry.
- Need for ensuring the sustainability of the community projects (130+ community projects)

FIELD TRIP 2: KRUGER ECOLOGICAL TOUR

1. Experimental Burn Plots (EBPs)

Fire research formally began, in the Kruger National Park (KNP) with the establishment in 1954, by the newly formed Biological Section of the Kruger National Park through a fire experiment, to address the lack of information on the role and influence of burning the flora and fauna in KNP. The initial objective of this experiment was to investigate the effect of fire season and frequency within the four major vegetation communities (or landscapes) in the park (National Parks Board 1954).

After a detailed analysis of the EBP's, the following conclusions were reached: the trial should no longer be seen and regarded entirely as a management orientated experiment, but rather as a comprehensive scientific trial for promoting the understanding of fire-herbivory interactions (open to grazing and browsing by a diverse suite of herbivores), the effects of the different components of the fire regime on various biotic and abiotic elements, and for assisting in the calibration of the thresholds of potential concern that are used as management end points by the

KNP. Now regarded as the longest running fire/herbivore landscape experiment in Africa, if not globally, a total of 112 products (peer reviewed articles, thesis and datasets) have been produced since the inception of the experiment and is also recognised as an invaluable research, management and teaching site, which is supported by SAEON (South African Earth Observation Network).

2. Nkhlulu Exclosure

The main purpose of these exclosures is to determine the effect of different combinations of fire, elephants and other herbivores on the vegetation. The exclosures will be maintained and managed as such for the next 20-25 years during which close monitoring of changes take place regularly. The set-up also provides ideal opportunities for other research, such as soil – plant relationships, soil nutrient and population dynamic studies. In their basic form, exclosures are fenced areas designed to keep out animals.

At two localities (Nkhlulu and Letaba), a pair of exclosures limit the access of herbivores; one being a “total” (electrified) exclosure, i.e. to exclude all herbivores (plant-eaters) from a hare upwards in size, and a “semi-exclosure”, consisting only of two cables and electric wiring at 1.8 m and 2.2 m above ground.

The purpose of the semi-exclosure is to exclude elephant, and, by virtue of their size, giraffe, but allows access to all other herbivores. Each exclosure is divided in half, with one half burning should fire pass through, and the other kept unburned. These exclosures extend from within the river channel to the crest, and enclose the full sequence of terrain morphological features and their associated soils, vegetation, and smaller fauna. This allows for the study of the relationships of habitats along the topographic gradient, from the crest to river channel.

During the initial stages of the exclosures, baseline vegetation surveys were conducted to serve as benchmarks against which subsequent changes will be measured. These surveys are repeated every five years, thereby building a time-series dataset. On-going data collection on soil water parameters take place in exclosures and provide important information on soil water movement locally and along the toposequence. Fixed-point and aerial photography have also been conducted to form part of the longer-term monitoring programmes. There are a number of projects that have been registered in both the exclosures and enclosures (including growth rates, plant defences, etc.).

3. Flux Tower

This is a joint project between researchers from SANParks, South African Universities and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, South Africa.

The flux tower houses an eddy covariance system at a site near Skukuza Camp in Kruger National Park, South Africa, with meteorological measurements started in February 2000, and first flux measurements in April 2000. The site is unique in that the micrometeorological instruments are positioned on a tower located between two distinct savanna types, a broad-leafed *Combretum savanna* and fine-leafed *Acacia savanna*.

The Skukuza research site is the focus of several complementary studies by colleagues from South Africa and elsewhere into savanna biophysics, radiative transfer and biogeochemistry. A key product from the tower was its role as an important site-based component of the regional Southern Africa Research Initiative (SAFARI-2000). This international study is designed to investigate the bi-directional interactions in southern African savanna ecosystems between land surface biogeochemistry, fire, land use, management and atmospheric chemistry and dynamics.

FIELD TRIP 3: MDLULI SAFARI LODGE

The Mdluli Safari Lodge is located close to the Numbi Gate in the southern section of Kruger National Park. The Lodge was officially opened in January 2020.

The land on which the Mdluli Lodge has been constructed comprises 850ha immediately south of the Numbi Gate, and east of the railway line. In the 1970s there was a process of rationalising the western boundary of the Kruger National Park along the railway line, and this land was fenced into the Park, although it did not form part of the proclaimed area of the Park.

In 1998 this land was restituted to the Mdluli Community and a title deed was handed to the Mdluli Community Trust. Since that time there has been support for the concept of developing a lodge in partnership with the private sector and in 2002 a positive ROD was received for the EIA on a lodge development on this property.

The Mdluli Lodge comprises an upmarket tent camp of 50 units (100 beds). This is a fully catered product with an offering of dinner, bed, breakfast and game drives.

Annex G

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

AFWC22 recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session

<i>Area/ action for FAO Programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Global Forest Goal of UNSPF</i>
<i>Forestry and Wildlife profession and education for youth and women</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education Establish a working group on forestry and wildlife education with the view to provide guidance to the education and professional systems in Africa. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 6 and 1</i>
<i>Climate Change</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support countries in compiling, analyzing and disseminating good practices on forest and landscape-related climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as case studies for scaling up investment for NDC implementation in the region. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 4</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to the Global Climate Action Agenda and promotion of forest related initiatives, projects and programmes, as well as support countries in the development of their forest and other land use related proposals for the Green Climate Fund. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1 and Goal 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support member countries on resource mobilization efforts and strengthening countries' capacities to access climate finance - including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 4 and 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of multi-partner regional initiatives with Regional Economic Communities similar to the ongoing successful partnership with ECOWAS and Sida for climate action in West Africa. 	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Sub-regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 4, Goal 6</i>

<i>Area/ action for FAO Programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Global Forest Goal of UNSPF</i>
Restoration					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local communities in restoration efforts, in designing and consolidating mitigation actions, including REDD+ processes, and in developing ecosystem results-based payments and their implementation. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>National</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3 and 4</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize resources, including through GEF and GCF, to contribute to AFR100, GGW and other similar programmes and initiatives in line with national and regional priorities 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 4, Goal 1 and Goal 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare the "State of restoration in Africa" report, under the FAO regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project, in collaboration with member countries and AFR100 technical and financial partners. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1 and Goal 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support AFR100 Secretariat and countries in strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COFO to consider the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for upscaling forest and landscape restoration activities. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional and global</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform COFO on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1 and Goal 2, 3 and 6</i>
Halting Deforestation, boosting sustainable forest management, value chains and livelihoods					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the implementation of the AU Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030) 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (all goals)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support, in collaboration with other entities, the intra-Africa Dialogue on sustainable use and trade of forest and wildlife products. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>SO2, SO4, SO3, SO1</i>	<i>Goal 2 and 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to member countries in the assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3 and 5</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the compilation, analysis and dissemination of good practices for sustainable charcoal production as well as the adoption of alternative sources of energy. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, sub-regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2 and 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support countries in the formulation and implementation of national charcoal strategies. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>National</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2 and 3</i>

<i>Area/ action for FAO Programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Global Forest Goal of UNSPF</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce in collaboration with countries and regional organizations a regional forest outlook study for sustainable development in Africa, identifying trends and opportunities for the development of wood and non-wood forest products as well as ecosystem services. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support countries to build or strengthen partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders and to scale-up investments for strengthening sustainable forest-based industries in Africa, building on existing mechanisms and opportunities, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional, Sub-Regional and national</i>	<i>SO2, SO3, SO4</i>	<i>Goal 3, 4 and 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO to take an active part of the UN Decade of Family Farming and scale up its support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional and global, national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)</i>
<i>Biodiversity and sustainable wildlife management</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate appropriate forestry-related follow-up actions in relation to the development and implementation of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways and means to help further enhance the forest sector's contribution to post-2020 global biodiversity framework. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional and global</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1 and Goal 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, and upscale and out-scale lessons learnt to other countries in Africa, and report on progress made at its next session. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, Sub-Regional, national and Global</i>	<i>SO2, SO1 and SO3</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote international knowledge exchange and coordination on issues related to sustainable wildlife management, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, as appropriate and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and report on progress made at its next session. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional and global</i>	<i>SO2, SO1 and SO3</i>	<i>Goal 6 and Goal 1</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a study on the role of sustainable wildlife management in sustainable forest management in Africa, including in mainstreaming biodiversity, for discussion at the next session of the AFWC and at the World Forestry Congress in 2021. 	<i>Medium</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>SO2</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2, 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools. 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Regional, Sub-Regional and national</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>Goal 1, 2 and 3</i>
<i>AFWC Action programme and modalities</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitate the exchange of information and the networking within and between the AFWC working groups and the Bureau; support the Bureau and the working groups in preparing their work plans and in the mapping of potential partners to be involved in working groups' activities; 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>All Goals (1, 2,3,4,5 and 6)</i>

<i>Area/ action for FAO Programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Global Forest Goal of UNSPF</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the design, set-up and hosting of a digital platform to serve as a knowledge sharing hub for the Commission and its working group activities, building on existing tools such as the AFWC Website and FAO's Nature & Faune Journal; • support the working groups in preparing flagship publications (e.g. thematic studies/outlooks) and communication materials to share and disseminate their activities. • support the AFWC22 Bureau (through its Secretariat) to : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) liaise with AMCEN's Bureau and Secretariat, the African Union Commission and bodies to coordinate their activities and identify, and build synergies with AFWC action programme; b) review further the proposed implementation mechanisms and assess the potential financial implications in operationalizing them; c) liaise with the nominated experts of the working groups for the submission of their views and proposals on respective work plans; d) review and report on progress made in the operationalization and implementation of the AFWC action programme, at the next AFWC session. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFWC bureau, with support and guidance of the Secretariat, to examine and review the current AFWC modalities and develop a proposal outlining the required process and amendments for its consideration 	<i>High</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>All goals</i>
<i>Urban Forestry</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote urban forestry activities 	<i>Medium</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Regional, national and sub-regional</i>		<i>Goal 1</i>
<i>UNSPF and CPF</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and establish clear links between its activities and the UNSPF and report on implementation accordingly 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Global and regional</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>All goals</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 	<i>High</i>	<i>Continued</i>	<i>Global</i>	<i>All SOs</i>	<i>All goals in particular goal 6</i>

AFWC PRIORITY ISSUES FOR COFO TO CONSIDER	<i>Expected outcome (Information/discussion/decision)</i>
<i>Climate change</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compiling, analyzing and disseminating good practices on forest and landscape-related climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as case studies for scaling up investment for NDC implementation in the region 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resource mobilization and strengthening countries' capacities to access climate finance (including GCF and GEF) in support of climate change mitigation, adaptation and building resilience 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<i>Forestry and wildlife profession and education for youth and women</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess existing knowledge and approaches on forestry and wildlife education and creation of a working group to support member countries 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<i>Deforestation & Illicit exploitation and trade of forest and wildlife products</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing deforestation and agricultural impact through cross-sectoral partnership and multisectoral dialogue 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further develop and implement, with support of FAO - upon request- and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing sustainable forest value chains: produce in collaboration with countries and regional organizations a regional forest outlook study for sustainable development in Africa, identifying trends and opportunities for the development of wood and non-wood forest products as well as ecosystem services 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<i>Restoration</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the opportunities provided by the UN Decade of Family Farming and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for upscaling forest and landscape restoration activities 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform on plans for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build synergies between African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Africa's Great Green Wall (GGW) and other ongoing restoration activities, and consolidate these as an integral part of their contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the mobilization of increased levels of public funding and financing from the private sector 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilize networks of experts, scientists and practitioners across Africa to share experiences, methodologies and approaches in restoration planning, implementation and monitoring as well as the identification of suitable native and useful species and areas for restoration 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>

Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalize and submit The country reports to the “Second Report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources” to FAO by 30 June 2020 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and implement the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
Sustainable wildlife management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop sustainable wildlife management of transboundary nature and cooperate in exchange of wildlife species for restocking and restoration of wildlife resources and corridors between protected areas 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
Promote urban forestry activities	
AFWC PRIORITY ISSUES FOR ARC TO CONSIDER	
Deforestation and Illicit exploitation and trade of forests and wildlife products	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and implement, with support of FAO - upon request- and other partners, strategic actions and programmes promoting legal and sustainable use and transboundary trade of forest and wildlife products 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment and analysis of drivers of deforestation and developing strategies to address them 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore alternative sources of energy and ways to reduce the pressure on the native trees and forest resources 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> address deforestation and agricultural impact through cross-sectoral partnership and multisectoral dialogue 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
Climate Change and Restoration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raise the level of ambition of climate action and strengthen institutional frameworks and cross-sectoral collaboration at national, transboundary and regional levels to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to enhance the multiple benefits generated by sustainable forest management and restoration 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> build synergies between AFR100, GGW and other ongoing restoration activities, and consolidate these as an integral part of their contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Pan-African Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and engagement of different sectors in restoration efforts. 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement international agreements relevant to biodiversity and forests, as well as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and implement of the Action Plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and report on progress made at the next appropriate session 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<i>Sustainable wildlife management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach when implementing sustainable wildlife management strategies, as recommended in decision 14/7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in FAO's mainstreaming biodiversity strategy 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop sustainable wildlife management of transboundary nature and cooperate in exchange of wildlife species for restocking and restoration of wildlife resources and corridors between protected areas 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> build capacity on sustainable wildlife management, in particular, the issues at human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface, by facilitating South-South exchange, organizing additional multi-stakeholder dialogues, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, as well as improving access to already existing knowledge and tools 	<i>Discussion and Decision</i>

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

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

Vertical line 1

Vertical line 2

Vertical line 3

Vertical line 4

Vertical line 5