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联合国  
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Organización  
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## AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### FIFTEENTH SESSION

Maputo, Mozambique, 29 March-1 April 2006

**Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through regional cooperation: NEPAD and other regional and sub-regional organizations**

**Partner Panel – Thursday, 30 March 2006**

With the highest proportion of poor people compared to any other continent, Africa is facing major development challenges. Its populations, especially in rural areas, rely heavily if not exclusively on goods from agriculture and mainly forests as key factors for the creation of wealth and decent livelihoods. The fragility of forests constitutes a high risk for the development and survival of the most vulnerable segments of the populations. However, it is widely recognized that sustainable forest management is an essential element of sustainable development and thus also contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### **Objectives of this agenda item and the panel discussion:**

- To update information on the variety of cooperation frameworks at sub-regional and regional levels that contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and thus the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa (see Annex 1);
- To share information on the work and achievements of the regional and sub-regional organizations and frameworks in Africa;
- To formulate recommendations on the ways and means of strengthening regional cooperation on forestry and coordinating efforts for mobilizing resources and improving efficiency

#### **Key elements for discussion: broadening partnerships and developing innovative approaches**

The organizations and activities described in Annex 1 indicate that there is a large number of regional and sub-regional entities that deal with forest issues and development. Many of them have oriented their programmes to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of NEPAD.

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The Fourteenth Session of the AFWC (2004) recommended that “*regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the economic communities, be sensitized and supported in their efforts to strengthen collaboration among them and with international partners such as FAO in identifying options and products for inter-African exchange*”.

Delegates may wish to discuss how to enhance and make sub-regional and regional dialogue and activities more dynamic and effective, through streamlining and removal of duplication. They may also wish to identify ways to harmonize and better coordinate the range of forest-related activities that exist under various arrangements, especially the ways to:

- improve collaboration and develop synergies;
- promote intersectoral dialogue and harmonize sectoral policies; and
- develop innovative mechanisms for resource mobilization, including domestic resources.

Finally, delegates may wish to identify the role of the Commission, as the UN system body dealing with forest issues in Africa since 1959, in helping to achieve the above objectives.

**Panelists:** African Union (AU), New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Western Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The African Development Bank (AfDB), African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have also been invited to actively participate.

**Facilitated by:** African Forestry and Wildlife Commission Secretariat

**Contact person:** Pape-Djiby Koné, Secretary of AFWC, FAO, Regional Office for Africa

## ANNEX 1

**DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SELECTED SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FRAMEWORKS DEALING WITH FOREST ISSUES**UN Bodies

- The **African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)**, supported by FAO, is the oldest and largest intergovernmental forum on forestry and wildlife on the continent. It provides recommendations and advice to FAO, governments and to the international forestry community on key issues facing the forestry sector in Africa.
- The **FAO Regional Conferences** identify specific problems of the region and priority areas to be taken into account in the preparation of the programme of work and budget for the following biennium. The Conferences also undertake high-level consultations to improve food security and sustainable development in their respective regions. The Twenty-third FAO Regional Conference for Africa (ARC), South Africa, 2004, addressed the integration of forestry into the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and discussed a paper on the bushmeat crisis. The Twenty-fourth ARC (Bamako, Republic of Mali, 30 January to 3 February 2006) will be informed about fire in the forest-agriculture interface. The Twenty-eighth Regional Conference for the Near East (Republic of Yemen, March 2006) will be informed of the status of forests and trees in the region and their contribution to combating desertification and mitigating drought. It is expected that the FAO reform will help provide stronger linkages and synergies with regional commissions, including on forestry, for example through a more systematic dissemination of conference decisions.
- The **African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)** supported by UNEP, is a political forum, established in 1985. Its objective is to halt environmental degradation and promote sustainable development in Africa by enhancing inter-governmental cooperation among African countries. AMCEN has played particular attention to the implementation of the Rio conventions and has also facilitated African preparations for some of the key meetings of the conferences of parties of these conventions. Managing forest resources is one of the 15 programme elements of AMCEN. In 2005-2006, ensuring effective and coordinated regional approaches to the participation of Africa in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was listed as one of its key objectives.
- The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** has fostered regional integration and promoted international cooperation for Africa's development since 1958. ECA's programme in 2006 and beyond includes the second Sustainable Development Report on Africa; a study on lessons learnt and best practices in the development of national strategies for sustainable development; the Africa Regional Review Report on land, agriculture and rural development, and drought and desertification; and a review of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Sustainable Development through regional implementation meetings and preparations for the Commission on Sustainable Development. Other work areas related to forests include agriculture and food security; natural resources development; project development and intra-regional implementation with ESCAP on trade and environment to build capacity on trade-related issues, including in the forest sector. Collaboration on the Great Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative of the African Union is another project focusing on forests. Five subregional offices contribute a subregional perspective to the work programme and support outreach. The Commission took an active part in the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa (FOSA) and hosted the first Regional synthesis meeting in Addis Ababa, February 2002. It also participated in the joint AfDB/ECA/FAO

mission to ECOWAS to discuss the outcome of FOSA and propose modalities of its use in their sub-regional planning processes.

#### Regional initiatives, programmes and partnerships

- **The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** was adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), in 2001 to address the development challenges facing the continent. The forestry sector is included in the NEPAD-Environmental Initiative and in the NEPAD-Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The draft forestry component in CAADP was discussed during the Fourteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission before being finalized in 2004.
- **The Congo Basin Forest Partnership** has since 2002 sought to improve coordination among its 29 members on sustainable forest management, governance and poverty issues. One of its recent initiatives was a workshop held in March 2004 to design a forest concession monitoring system to document the industry's logging practices in the region and highlight the companies making significant strides towards sustainability. Initially "facilitated" for two years by the USA, the CBFP is now facilitated by France. Countries appointed a co-facilitator to work in synergy with the international facilitator and serve as the liaison officer with COMIFAC and other regional bodies and authorities.
- At the **African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG)** Ministerial Meeting (Cameroon, 2003) governments expressed their intention to, *inter alia*: mobilize financial resources for and raise awareness on AFLEG; support forest-dependent communities to reduce illegal activities; promote cooperation between law enforcement agencies; involve stakeholders in the process; and explore means of demonstrating the legality and sustainability of forest products. An AFLEG Support Group was established in 2004, with support from the World Bank, to foster the implementation of the Declaration. Efforts are being made to integrate AFLEG-related objectives and actions into existing initiatives, such as NEPAD and other regional bodies such as COMIFAC (Central Africa); SADC (South Africa); Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (East Africa); and ECOWAS (West Africa).
- **TerrAfrica** is a coalition in support of collective action by African governments, NEPAD, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UNCCD Global Mechanism, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Norway and multilateral, regional and sub-regional organizations. It focuses on land degradation and sustainable land management. TerrAfrica's target is to reach an investment of at least US\$ 4 billion over a twelve-year period.

#### Economic communities

- **The Southern African Development Community (SADC)** was the first sub-regional economic community to establish a strong forestry sector technical coordination unit (SADC/FSTCU). The FSTCU no longer exists, but the SADC Secretariat still runs the Forestry Technical Committee annual meetings. Current SADC initiatives include: establishment of the Forest Resource Data Bank; development of a Forestry Protocol for SADC; support to a regional programme on biological diversity; development of a project for the domestication and marketing of indigenous fruit trees.

- **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** has been mostly active on political and economic issues, including trade, circulation of people and goods, conflict resolution, etc. In 2000 ECOWAS elaborated, in collaboration with CILSS, the Sub-Regional Plan of Action for Combating Desertification in West Africa and Chad (PASR/AO). Following elaboration of its Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) in 2004-05, the Community decided to add forestry policy proposals in November 2005.
- **Western Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)**. The Commission of the Union initiated a common industrial policy in 1999 and a common mining policy in 2000. Main orientations for the common energy policy and for the Union's agricultural policy were adopted in 2001. The formulation and implementation of a common policy for the improvement of the environment was initiated in close cooperation with the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and ECOWAS.
- **Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)** devoted significant efforts to the formulation of agriculture and food security policies. It also initiated the formulation of a Natural Resources Management Programme and started dialogue with the UNCCD for the formulation of sub-regional programmes for some of its member countries.
- **The East African Community** is an intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, dealing with areas of common economic interest, including cross-border trade in forestry products and harmonization of environmental regulations.

#### Technical organizations and sub-regional processes

- **The Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)**, created in 1973, has long experience in food security and desertification control. It has a Policy Major Programme and Strategy for the management of natural resources. CILSS was used by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to lead the preparation of its Sub-Regional Plan of Action for combating desertification. Its technical expertise is supported by the AGRYMET Centre in Niger and the Sahel Institute in Mali which are dealing with research and training on agrometeorology and on farming systems and natural resources management.
- **The African Timber Organization (ATO)** was created in 1976 to help promote cooperation among its 13 members countries from Central and West Africa to enhance the competitiveness of African tropical timber. The Organization further included sustainable forest management in its mandate and developed principles, criteria and indicators (PCI) for sustainable forest management in Africa, which were recently harmonized with the ITTO criteria and indicators. ATO has also elaborated a Plan of Action for forest industrialization, which would help catalyze further processing of African tropical timber. An ITTO project is on-going to build capacity for the implementation of the ATO/ITTO PCI at the national level in the African ITTO member countries, through the training of at least 60 forestry staff in each country.
- **The Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC)** or "Brazzaville Process" was initiated in 1996 at a Ministerial Meeting to develop a common vision for the conservation and sustainable use of the region's moist forests. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) hosts its secretariat. CEFDHAC is working as a sub-regional forum for a variety of stakeholders in the forestry sector. It is institutionally attached to COMIFAC which it serves as the supporting forum. The fifth CEFDHAC meeting (Cameroon, May 2004) focused on three themes related to governance and partnerships for sustainable forest management: forest concessions and trans-boundary protected areas; decentralisation of forest management; and benefit sharing from the use of forest resources.

- **The Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)** resulted from the Yaounde process through which Heads of States of Central Africa met in Cameroon (1999) and issued a declaration on the conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa's forests. The declaration was translated into a convergence plan to harmonize national forest policies and streamline regional efforts to mobilize resources and implement programmes in a concerted way. The second Summit (Congo, February 2005) approved the Convergence Plan.

#### Scientific and information networks

- **The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)** contributed greatly to capacity building for young African scientists through its Capacity Building in Forestry Research (CBFR) programme supported by Sweden and through its capacity building component for implementation of national forest programmes (nfps), also funded by Sweden, with technical support from FAO. The AAS further created the African Forestry Research Network (AFORNET) as a thematic research network mainly aimed at providing opportunities to former CBFR fellows to participate in concrete research programmes in their respective countries. AFORNET is currently hosting the KSLA/FAO/AFORNET programme on "Lessons learnt in sustainable forest management in Africa".
- **The African Forest Research Network (AFORNET)** was established in 1999 at its first steering committee meeting held in Uppsala, Sweden. Its goals are to contribute to the social and economic development and the conservation and sustainable management of Africa's forest resources through relevant and high quality research. It also aims at the strengthening of multi-disciplinary and multi-country research. AFORNET has a Board, a Technical Committee, and three regional "nodes" with a regional steering committee, a nodal coordinator and national contact persons.
- **The Forestry Research Network for sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA)** was established in 2000 at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana, with the support of the EC. Its goal is to strengthen forestry research for greater impact on the management and conservation of forest and tree resources for sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **The Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA)** was created during an expert meeting held in Zomba, Malawi from 13-15 December 2004. Its mandate is to coordinate the collation and dissemination of information relating to forest invasive species in sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity especially on the latest outbreaks and quarantine issues. The Forestry Research Institute of Malawi provides the Secretariat with support from the Interim Executive Committee, comprising all members of the Task Force.
- **The Forest Genetic Resources Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (SAFORGEN)** was created by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), following the recommendation of meetings on forest genetic resources jointly organized with the FAO in West and Southern Africa. The network provided support to FAO's work on African country profiles on forest genetic resources.

#### Other networks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- **The Network of African Women for Forestry and Development (REFFAD)** disseminates information on and promotes the role of women and gender balance in the forest sector in Central Africa.