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de las  
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para la  
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y la  
Alimentación

## AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### SEVENTEENTH SESSION

### AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE WEEK

**BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
**22-26 February 2010**

### **African Forests and Wildlife: Response to the Challenges of Sustainable Livelihood Systems**

### **Summary Report of the Regional Technical and Validation Workshop on the Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa 20-22 January 2010, Dakar, Senegal**

#### **Introduction**

1. As part of its support to sub-Saharan countries in their efforts towards sustainable forest management, FAO launched a process for the preparation of "Guidelines on sustainable forest management practices in drylands of sub-Saharan Africa".
2. The process began with the preparation of a first draft of the guidelines, in close consultation with member countries and parties concerned. This initial draft was discussed and reviewed at an expert meeting organized in Addis Ababa in March 2009. A revised version was developed based on the comments and technical inputs from the Addis Ababa experts' meeting as well as climate change related issues proposed by other FAO and international experts from the region.
3. As a final step in the process, and prior to the Commission's 17th Session, FAO, in partnership with the *Agence Nationale de la Grande Muraille Verte* (Senegal) organized, from 20 to 22 January 2010 in Dakar a regional technical and validation workshop with the following objectives to:

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- share, finalize and validate the draft version of the guidelines with government representatives (mainly forestry departments), partners and stakeholders active in forest management in the arid zones of sub-Saharan Africa, with a view, amongst others, to facilitating the availability of the finalized and validated guidelines as an information note at the Commission's 17<sup>th</sup> Session;
- promote the implementation of the validated guidelines by partners and stakeholders active in forest management, forest-related environmental and socio-economic issues in the region, including the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative (GGWSSI), TerrAfrica, and other programmes developed and implemented by regional and international bodies, governmental and non-governmental organisations, research forestry centres and networks active in the region; and
- obtain the required support from funding and cooperation organizations for the effective implementation of the validated guidelines (including the European Union, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies and UN agencies).

4. The Validation workshop in Dakar was officially opened by H.E. Djibo Leyti Kâ, Minister of State for the Environment, Nature Protection, Water Retention Basins and Artificial Lakes. More than 70 participants comprising representatives from forestry and environmental related departments and ministries as well as Focal Points for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) from 11 sub-Saharan countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan); and representatives from international and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the validation workshop.

5. The validation process was enriched by three keynote expert presentations, which provided an overview of the arid zone forests of sub-Saharan Africa, their environmental, social and economic importance, challenges and opportunities for their sustainable management and conservation, climate change impact on these forests and their needs for adaptation. Working groups focusing on all the guiding principles and aspects of the guidelines considered the content of the guidelines as well as the information from the expert presentations and formulated recommendations for the amendment of the guidelines. Ongoing initiatives in the region (including the Forest dialogue in West Africa, the GGWSSI, the TerrAfrica programme, sub-regional initiatives developed by the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) were also presented as they were also considered as opportunities for implementation of the guidelines. Results and next steps are summarized as follows:

- FAO will produce a final version based on comments and inputs from workshop participants as well as other stakeholders who were unable to participate in the workshop. This version should be ready by mid-February 2010 at the latest.
- The English version of the Guidelines will be submitted for information to the Commission's 17<sup>th</sup> Session as well as to all workshop participants and stakeholders involved in the process. As a further step, the French version will be reviewed and finalized with an expected publishing date of June 2010.
- Participants recommended that a summary of the guidelines be prepared to disseminate among forestry departments and other sectors and donors, to raise the profile of arid zone forests at national, regional and international levels and to demonstrate why there's a need to invest in their sustainable forest management.
- Government representatives undertook to report back to their respective ministries on the workshop and to discuss at national level follow-up actions for the implementation of the Guidelines in their respective countries.
- Participants also committed themselves to and highlighted that both the GGWSSI and the second phase of the Acacia project and the *Fouta Djallon* programme are opportunities for implementation of the Guidelines.

**The revised and finalized guidelines**

6. The present version is the result of amendments and improvements suggested by the Dakar workshop and other contributions from various international partners. They are being submitted for the information and appreciation of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, and presented as a strategic document that sets out how forestry in the drylands of sub-Saharan Africa meets international standards for sustainable forest management, addressing the pressing socio-economic needs while integrating the new challenge of climate change.

7. The area covered under these guidelines comprises the arid, semi-arid and sub-humid zones of sub-Saharan Africa. The major forest and tree formations are the following:

- Xeric desert and desert fringe formations of scrubs and steppes;
- Arid tree and grass savannah formations;
- Semi-arid to sub-humid tree formations or dry forests and woodlands.

8. The Guidelines were developed thanks to an enormous contribution from international, regional and national forestry experts and partners active in the region, as indicated above. The main body of the document is organized in four sections; the first is an introduction to the drylands forests in the sub-Sahara and to the publication and the subject. The second section describes the various major challenges facing forests and forestry in this region. While the third part describes in detail the nine guiding principles. In the last section a glossary and a bibliography were inserted.