



ECOWAS Forest Policy and Convergence Plan for the
Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems
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Presentation Outline

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1. Introduction

- ECOWAS Forest Policy document prepared with assistance from FAO in the framework of ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy
- Validated by technical experts December, 2005 in Lome, Togo
- Updated in 2007 with some more recent figures on the basis of FAO's Forest Resource Assessment (FRA 2005)

II Status of Forest in the ECOWAS Region

- 72 millions Ha of Forest including 27.7 millions Ha of classified forest;
- Coverage forest rate of 14% of the territory of the WA, but with large variations between countries;
 - Guinea-Bissau 60% of the Territory;
 - Niger with about 1%.

Status

- Firewood represents about 85% of the total energy consumption of West African countries

Consumption will increase from:

- 204 million m³ in 2010
- 235 million m³ in 2020, due to the effect of population growth

- Daily consumption: 1.2 kg / Person
- The share of A O in the African consumption of firewood is about 27.5%

Status

- Africa recorded a loss of 3.4 million hectares of forest per year between 2000 and 2010
 - The sub-region recorded on the average an alarming deforestation estimated at 1.2 million hectares per year (FAO, 2006)
 - Forest area for firewood: 1,033,333 ha
 - Area may be doubled if the consumption of charcoal increases because 1kg charcoal request 3 kg wood

Consequences

- Increased exposure of land to erosion with the consequent reduction of soil fertility,
 - Reduced availability of groundwater,
 - Biodiversity loss,
 - Deteriorating food security (health and malnutrition)
 - Migration, (loss of life in the wilderness and ocean for migrants to Europe),
 - Conflicts Including land issues



II. ECOWAS Forest Policy

- The overall goal is the conservation and sustainable development of the plant and animal genetic resources, restoration of degraded forest lands for the lasting benefit of the people of ECOWAS
- The objectives include:-
- To harness the potential of forests to improve food security

Policy Objectives (contd)

- To integrate forestry in the sustainable economic development of countries
- To contribute to environmental protection
- Strengthening institutional structures
- Reforestation to restore degraded forests and woodlands

III. Development of ECOWAS Environmental Policy

- ECOWAS has the objective to promote cooperation and integration, leading to establishment of an economic union in West Africa, in order to raise the living standard of the people.
- Articles 25&29 of ECOWA Treaty stipulate that member States agree to cooperate in order to develop agriculture, silvi-culture, animal husbandry and fisheries



(ECOWEP)

- The ECOWAS revised treaty further recognizes the need for “policies harmonization and coordination for the protection of the environment”
- Hence in 2007 the creation of a Directorate of Environment in the ECOWAS Commission
- The Directorate is responsible for this policy harmonization and coordination in the field of natural resources and environment in general

ECOWEP



- By November 2007 the Directorate had finalized draft ECOWEP and was validated by regional experts (Nov 2007) Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- The Policy was adopted by the Summit of Heads of State in Dec 2008



Overall Objective of ECOWEP

- To reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources , ameliorate the quality of the living environment, conserve biological diversity, with a view to ensuring a healthy and productive environment; thereby improving the well- being of the ecosystem and the population of the sub-region



ECOWEP Strategic Lines

- Policy has four Strategic Pillars
- Strategic Pillar No.2: Promotion of sustainable management of resources for the improvement of an environment-friendly sub-regional economy
- The pillar deals with Forest issues under four sub-pillars

Pillar no. 2

- To improve sustainable management of natural resources
- To promote management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, fauna and grazing lands
- Combat land degradation, drought and desertification
- Sustainable management of coastal, island and marine ecosystems

Need for Dialogue on Forests

- Forest and wildlife management in West Africa is generally based on various individual national regulations and policies with no real consultation and dialogue among member States
- So the need for a sub-regional effort at common policy – Dialogue on forest
- Process spanned over four years 2006 - 2010

Processes in the Forest Dialog Development



- Process has been lengthy but participatory
- **Major actors** include: ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, CILSS, the FAO, IUCN, CIFOR, ICRAF, AFF, Forestry and Wildlife experts from Member States of ECOWAS, CSOs, Private Sector, Parliamentarians and selected Consultants

The Stages in the Development Process



- **July 2006** initial meeting by IUCN in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- **April 2007** Endorsement by ECOWAS Ministers of Environment; assigned coordination role to ECOWAS/UEMOA
- **January 2009** in Accra, Ghana Forest Dialogue study report considered by experts
- **June 2010**, Cotonou, Benin adopted by sector Ministers and requested FAO for support to prepare Forest Convergence Plan



IV Forest Convergence Plan

- From 2011 – 2012 national consultations with country reports followed by country validation workshops in 14 countries
- **2012 – 2013**, Regional validation meetings and ministerial adoption of the FCP





Goal and Objectives

- Countries in West Africa have quite similar challenges in terms of forestry, and none of them is able to address them on its own;
- The goal of FCP therefore is **to be a federating framework to enable states to undertake actions at national, regional and trans-boundary levels**



Goal and Objectives (contd)

- West African countries sustainably manage in concerted manner forest and wildlife resources in the sub-region for the wellbeing of their populations and environmental preservation by 2025



Implementation

- To be based on 7 Priority Areas of Intervention
 - Harmonization of legislative and forest policies
 - Knowledge on the state and dynamics of forest ecosystems
 - Development of forest ecosystems and reforestation



Implementation

- Biodiversity conservation
- Enhancement of ecosystems goods and services for food security, economic stability and environmental sustainability
- Forest research and development
- Information, education and communication

Priority Areas of Intervention (PAI)

- These are constituted into Thematic areas
- Institutions in ECOWAS with related field of expertise are grouped in appropriate Thematic area
- Institutions with comparative advantage chosen as Group Leader July 2014
- April 2015 Thematic Group Leaders developed Action Plan 2016 – 2020
- Sep 2015 Action Plan reviewed and finalized by small expert group



Implementation Mechanisms

- A. Institutional mechanism
 - Committee of Ministers
 - Sub-regional Advisory Committee
 - Technical and Scientific Committee
 - The Technical Unit- operational body to ensure coordination and implementation



Implementation Mechanisms

- B. Funding mechanism
 - Internal and External
 - The process will explore all possible funding sources
 - C. Budget: **\$53,845,400** estimated for implementation of the current form of FCP



.Perspective

- ECOWAS Commission will submit the draft Action Plan to member States in 2016 for consideration and adoption
- Member States to promote development initiatives in the areas of forestry and agro-forestry
- Promote development of National Investment Plans to implement the FCP



Perspective (contd.)

- FCP to be integrated into the recently established ECOWAS Regional Agriculture and Food Agency
- Determine criteria for identification of members of the Sub-regional Advisory Committee
- Development of carbon finance



Conclusion

- Process may have taken years to develop, however the Authorities of ECOWAS Commission and the sector Ministers are pleased with the outcome
- It is expected that the implementation of the FCP will contribute to achieving the strategic objective of sound mgt of natural resources and environmental preservation



Conclusion

- Commitment of partners and all actors through the process highly appreciated
- Funds mobilization is crucial for successful implementation of the adopted FCP



• *Thank You All For Your
Attention*