



SADC FORESTRY STRATEGY: 2010-2020

**MAKING FORESTS WORK FOR THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION**

2010



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Executive Summary

This strategy document represents the culmination of a consultative process which involved the member states of SADC and its key partners. The strategy is based on **the vision** which is to have “a vibrant and evolving forest sector that contributes significantly to rural development, poverty reduction, industrial progress and vital environmental services”. The **purpose of the strategy** is to provide a framework for both regional cooperation and international engagement on forest issues; paying special attention to issues that transcend national boundaries and to encourage concerted action by SADC Member States in the management, conservation and sustainable use of their forests. Derived from the above grand vision is **a mission**, whose aim is to facilitate co-operation among member states to “promote the active protection, management and sustainable use of forest resources, through, sound policy guidance and the application of requisite skills and the best available technology, in order to enjoy the multiple benefits of forests in perpetuity” The mission is supported by 5 objectives, namely i) to foster regional cooperation and the creation of enabling policy environments, ii) to facilitate increased levels of production and trade in forest products, iii) enhanced capacity of forests to provide ecosystem services for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the protection of key catchments; iv) the empowerment of rural communities and v) the cooperation among countries to assess and monitor key forests of strategic importance to the region. Linked to all these, is also a call to improve the capacity of the secretariat to more effectively coordinate and facilitate the sector programmes and facilitate a stronger participation of member states in international processes on forests.

The objectives of the forestry strategy are further reflected in 8 Strategic Programme Areas which are:

- 1) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- 2) Protection of Key Water Catchment Forests
- 3) Energy supply and rural poverty reduction
- 4) Enhanced participatory forest management
- 5) Enhanced intra regional trade in forest products
- 6) Cooperation in trans-boundary forest and fire management
- 7) Forest assessments and information management
- 8) Capacity improvement in SADC

A set of logical framework tables, indicating the suggested result areas under each strategic programme, and relevant programme level indicators are also presented. To implement the strategy, it is proposed that SADC improves its capacity at the Secretariat and also apply innovative means such as the creation and facilitation of *Specialist Working Groups*, composed of members nominated by member states, which can operate as ‘virtual task forces’ to ensure the implementation of programmes derived from the strategic programme areas. The design of programmes will need to focus on the value added of each programme to existing national programmes and promote information and skills sharing, and also facilitate technology transfer to improve production and processing systems and generally improve the performance of the sector. Cognisant of the need to maximize the use of scarce financial and technical resources in the region, it is also recommended that SADC plays a strong leadership role, to rally its donor partners and relevant regional bodies and institutions to pool resources needed to implement the strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SADC forestry programmes: A historical perspective

For SADC member states (Figure 1), forests, whether natural or man-made, are a resource, which provide commercial products, biomass energy and employment, alongside the ecosystem services, for which forests are well known. Their importance underlies the fact that forestry development has been one of the areas for technical cooperation between SADC member states themselves and also with bilateral and multilateral funding agencies from outside the region. The collaboration among member states was initially facilitated through the Forest Sector Coordinating Unit which was hosted by the Government of Malawi prior to the 2002 restructuring of the SADC Secretariat, which transferred responsibility for such coordination to SADC Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana. The recognition of the value of these forests led to the development of a SADC Protocol on Forestry which was signed by SADC Heads of States and Governments in 2002. Since then, the protocol has been ratified by a sufficient number of member states, enabling it to enter into force in 2009.

From a political perspective, the signing of the protocol and its latter ratification by 10 Member States of SADC is a milestone of monumental proportions. The political momentum created by those two milestones provided the motivation for a SADC Strategy on forestry. However, the milestones should be equally seen as a challenge to the forest sector to prove its economic worth among competing land uses and economic activities in SADC. *In essence, the protocol entering into force signified the need for member states to commit their resources to implement it, in line with its articles, which have been translated into achievable objectives and performance targets in this strategy document.* While the values of forests are well known and documented, it is no exaggeration to suggest that the forest sector of SADC, except for a few countries, is performing way below its potential. Furthermore, even in countries where its contribution to the national economy or the basic survival of rural economies is real and significant, the value of such contributions, are not well recognized and represented in national accounts. Today, SADC states are determined to improve their individual forest sectors to contribute more to their growing and modernising economies as they participate actively towards regional economic and political integration. Issues of forest production, research, value addition, trade, employment creation and governance structures and law enforcement therefore need to be addressed, to enable countries to live up to the principles expressed clearly in the protocol on forestry, which calls on countries to work collaboratively to improve the performance of the sector across the region.

Going by the fact that by 2002, SADC had an estimated population of 210 million people, a combined GDP of over US\$226.1 billion (SADC RISDP, 2005) and a large untapped natural resources base, a huge economic potential exists in the region and it should build more vibrant forest based industries and increase its trade in forest products than exists today. The fact that an estimated 40% of SADC's population lives in abject poverty, is in itself, an opportunity for the forest sector, to 'rise to the occasion', and increase its contributions in traditional, as well as in new and innovative forms.

This document is a serious attempt by SADC to implement the protocol on forestry and by so doing, revive the forest sector and make it live up to the principles outlined in National Forest Programmes, The Protocol on Forestry and International Policies that seek to guide developments in the sector.

The SADC Forestry Strategy does not aim to usurp national mandates which are expressed in official documents such as National Development Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, National Forest Programmes and Tropical Forestry Action Plans. The strategy aims to identify a few areas in forestry development which are of strategic importance to the region and in which cooperation among countries can help achieve more than is possible if countries act individually.

It is of course clear that current global dialogue on forests with respect to mitigating climate change will affect the way SADC forests are managed since international investment patterns could be influenced by such dialogue. It follows that member states stand to gain a lot more if they speak jointly through a regional political mandate offered by SADC.

To come up with the main contents of the strategy, SADC countries were consulted through joint workshops and individual in-country interviews of forestry specialists, including those from the private sector, and also members of civil society and non-governmental organizations. The SADC Secretariat also appointed a Task Force composed of representatives of the Forest Services of member states to provide guidance to the process and review drafts of the strategy before its finalisation.

1.2 The Forest resources of SADC: A summary

Until 2002 when the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and later Madagascar joined SADC, the forests of SADC other than industrial plantations, were mostly composed of the *Miombo* and the Kalahari Sands Woodlands, the *Afromontane*, the *Cape Fynbos* and *Acacia Savanna* Woodlands. Of these the *Cape Fynbos* is not strictly a forest but an interesting and unique floristic kingdom valued for its high endemism. Today, the addition of the DRC (Figure 1) has brought in the Moist *Guinea-Congolian* Forests including huge wetlands and river systems, creating a huge repository of plant and animal genetic resources and a globally important climate regulating ecosystem and centre of endemism. The Island States of Mauritius, the Seychelles and Madagascar have added another set of 'centres of endemism', of which Madagascar is world renowned for its many unique and endemic flora and fauna. On the mainland, the *Guineao Congolian*, the *Miombo*, the *Afromontane* Forests and the spectacular Cape Floristic Kingdom (the fynbos) are as biologically diverse as they are socio-economically important. The *Miombo* Forests or Woodlands, typified by trees in the sub-family *Caesalpinioidea* are predominant in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and a good portion of Angola and South Eastern DRC. Angola however sits in a transition zone between the Guinea-Congolian and the *Miombo* ecosystems, so has zones where the two mix with interesting floral and faunal diversity. The Kalahari Sands Woodlands cover much of Northern and North Eastern Namibia, Southern and South Eastern Angola, Northern Botswana, North-western Zimbabwe and Western Zambia. The species that are dominant are, also from *Caesalpinioidea* sub-family.

Besides, the cultural, spiritual and scientific interests that these forest ecosystems serve, they are economically quite important and their management and sustainable use is collectively of regional and global importance. The Congo Basin, of which the DRC is the

largest single component, produces high value tropical hardwoods of which species of Mahogany (*Khaya*, *Entandophragma*) and other species such as, *Triplochiton*, *Terminalia* and Mvule or Iroko (*Milletia excelsa*) are world famous. In the Miombo, species of *Brachystegia* are used in the mining industry and in some parts, valuable species such as Mahogany (*Khaya*), Mukwa/Mninga/Kiaat or *Pterocarpus angolensis* are commercially exploited. In north-western Zambia, the dry evergreen *Cryptosephalum* forests are unique but not major in the current timber markets. In the Kalahari Sands, the *Caesalpinoid* Species known as Zambezi Teak (*Baikia plurijuga*), *Pterocarpus angolensi*, *Burkea africana* and *Guibourtia coleosperma* are characteristic. In pockets within the Miombo and the Kalahari Sands, particularly on low lying clay soils, forests of Mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) woodlands can be found in almost pure stands. In Mozambique, forests comprise of a mixture of Miombo and Coastal elements and riverine forest communities do harbour species such as panga panga (*Milletia stuhlmanii*), blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) and *Pterocarpus*. The Afromontane Archipelago Forests that is represented by the Eastern Arc Forests of Tanzania, Mulanje in Malawi and the Drakensburg in South Africa are not only unique centres of plant and bird endemism but also have valuable timber species such as East African Cedar (*Juniperous procera*), *Podocarpus* and *Windringtonia* (Mulanje Cedar). In all these areas, *riverine forest communities* tend to have different tree species such as *Diospyros*, *Trichilia*, *Zizygium*, and are valuable dry season habitat for a number mammals, reptiles and bird species. Madagascar has several valuable timber species such as *Dalbergia*, *Diospyros*, *Terminalia* and others in the moist forests. Its dry woodlands have several endemic Baobab (*Adansonia*) and *Commiphora* species and in the south, the fascinating dry spiny forest area is a major tourist attraction as well. Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar have mangrove forests, of which Mozambique has the largest remaining blocks. Angola has some limited mangroves in its northern coastline. The other two Island States of Mauritius and the Seychelles have unique indigenous flora but they do have problems of invasive species such as Chinese Guava in Mauritius and Cinnamon and *Albizzia falcataria* in the Seychelles, which in some areas have invaded and overrun the natural vegetation.

Intuitively, the most important products from these forests is timber, which traditionally, is the single most formally traded commodity, both nationally and internationally. However the other diverse values from these forests often exceed the timber values extracted from them. These include protection of water catchments and regulation of river flow, carbon sequestration and climate regulation, the production of wild fruits, vegetables and medicines, local construction materials and wood energy. In addition, the forests provide habitat to a number of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects, which support SADC's ever-growing nature based tourism. These values far exceed timber and are in themselves important enough to warrant the management and protection of SADC forests.

In addition to the natural forests (Table 1 and Figure 3), the SADC member states have man-made plantations (Table 2). Among them South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have the most substantial land area under industrial plantations. Angola, DRC, Malawi and Madagascar, and Zambia also have plantation forests but the plantations do not support the levels of wood based industries as in the four countries already mentioned. From the discussions leading to the formulation of this strategy document, Angola, DRC, Madagascar and Mozambique, are all keen to develop industrial plantations alongside co-management arrangements of natural forests with local community groups.

Prior to the proposal of this strategy, SADC member countries are quite clear that their forests have to be managed in ways that promote rural and national economic development and also help them meet their international obligations, on issues such as, biodiversity and climate change. The figures in table 1 show substantial forest cover in SADC countries, which

is an opportunity for development, but it also indicates that the problems of deforestation and degradation are real and if left unchecked can make some countries vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change and other forms of extreme weather events.

Table 1. Forest cover and changes in SADC

Country	Forest Cover in 1990 (000ha)	Forest Cover in 2000 (000ha)	Forest Cover 2005*
Angola	70 998	69 756	59 104
Botswana	13 611	12 427	11 943
DRC	140 531	135 207	133 610
Lesotho	14	14	8
Malawi	3 269	2 562	3 402
Madagascar	-	-	12 838
Mozambique	31 238	30 601	19 262
Mauritius	50	50	37
Namibia	8 774	8 040	7 661
Seychelles	-	-	40
South Africa	8 997	8 917	9 203
Swaziland	464	522	541
Tanzania	39 724	38 811	35 257
Zambia	39 755	31 246	42 452
Zimbabwe	22 239	19 040	17 540
Total	379 614	357 143	352 898

Source: FAO (2001), *(FAO 2007, The State of the World's Forests)

Table 2. Natural and planted forests in SADC

Country	Area of natural forest cover in 2000 (000ha)	Estimated Area under plantations in 2009 (000ha)
Angola	69 756	140
Botswana	12 427	1
DRC	135 207	-
Lesotho	14	14
Malawi	2 562	93
Madagascar	-	35
Mozambique	30 601	50
Mauritius	37	13
Namibia	8 040	0.4
Seychelles	-	-
South Africa	8 917	1 550
Swaziland	522	160
Tanzania	38 811	81
Zambia	31 246	75
Zimbabwe	19 040	141
Total	357 143	2340.04

Figure 1 Political map of the SADC Region



SADC Forests Distribution: Landcover for Africa 2000

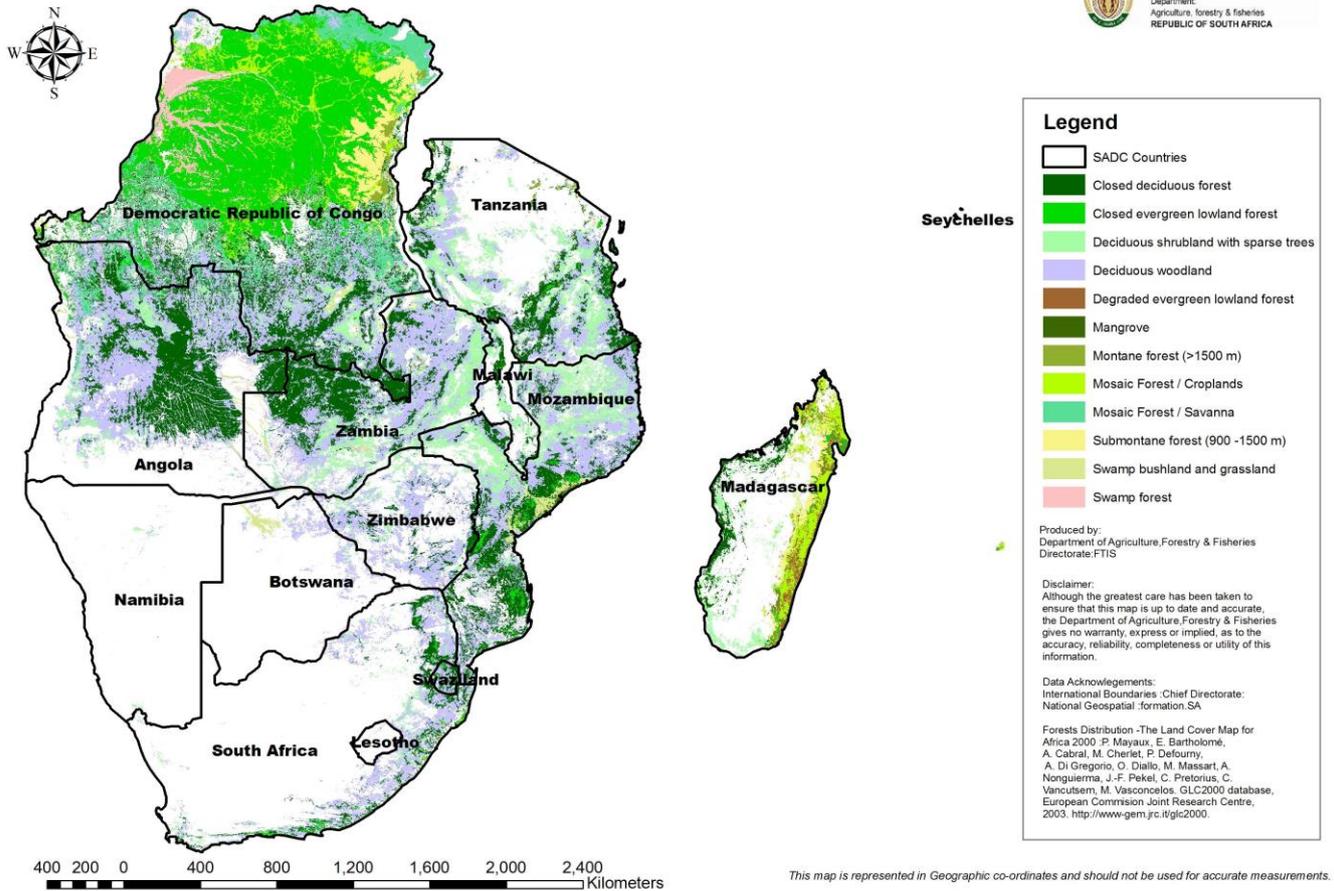


Figure 2 Distribution of forest cover in the SADC Region

Source (European, Commission Joint Research Centre, website <http://www-gem.jrc.it/glc2000>)

2. THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY AND FORESTRY STRATEGY

2.1 SADC Treaty

The Declaration and Treaty of SADC (1992) recognizes the dependence of SADC communities on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. It identifies food security, sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment as some of the key objectives of SADC in sustaining its development process. It emphasizes that the exploitation and utilisation of natural resources requires good management and conservation to ensure that development does not reduce or impair the diversity and richness of the region's natural resources base and the environment. The Treaty therefore recognizes forestry as a key natural resource and a major component of the environment, which should be managed for the benefit of SADC communities.

2.2 The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in August 2003 and launched in March 2004. The RISDP is a blue print for deeper regional integration and poverty reduction, providing strategic direction to SADC programmes, projects and activities. In fact, *the ultimate objective of the RISDP is to deepen the integration agenda of SADC with a view to accelerating poverty eradication and the attainment of other economic and non-economic development goals.* Furthermore, it embraces the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) which is considered as a credible and relevant continental framework. At the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in Mauritius in 2004, it was recommended that SADC and NEPAD Secretariats should work closely with the later providing a pivotal role of translating NEPAD objectives into practical implementable programmes, projects and activities at the sub-regional level. Similarly, the conservation, management and use of natural resources are listed in the RISDP as a major component to *Ensure Food Availability*. In addition, SADC forests provide a significant amount of non timber forest products (NTFPs) to many people in the region.

2.3 The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security

The Extra-ordinary Summit on Agriculture and Food Security produced a short and a medium to long term Plan of Action in which forestry has a role to play in enhancing agricultural productivity, creating wealth to improve access to food and providing food and medicines which mitigate impacts of HIV/AIDS.

The short term activities (2005/2006) were expected to result in immediate relief to acute food insecurity. These included providing key agricultural inputs to farmers, encouraging value addition, control of crop and livestock pests and diseases, increasing food production and improving water management and irrigation development. To this end, natural resources such as forestry were expected to contribute to food provision and enhancement of agricultural production. For example, up-scaling of agro-forestry research technologies

already developed enable forestry to boost crop and livestock production while commercialisation of tree fruits and other vegetative components help to increase food availability and nutrition.

The long term plan of action was aligned to the RISDP, focusing particularly on sustainable utilisation of natural resources, reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, strengthening private sector participation in agricultural and rural development, increasing access of agricultural products into high value markets, strengthening human resource development, research and technology development and dissemination, mainstreaming gender and policies to combat HIV/AIDS in agriculture. The potential of forestry to contribute to all these activities is huge. In a follow up to the Summit, the Executive Secretary of SADC visited Rome in November 2004 and sought assistance in a number of key areas, including the development of a comprehensive SADC Forestry Programme.

2.4 SADC FANR Business Plan

To make the RISDP operational, the SADC Secretariat developed 15-year business plans, of which the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate is a component and has articulated short term (1 year), medium term (5 years) and long term (15 years) perspectives. New and relevant activities are identified and incorporated in the FANR Business Plan when it is reviewed annually. The FANR Business Plan focuses on six intervention areas aimed at achieving sustainable food security in the region. The contributions from the forest sector with respect to the provision of foods, other tradable commodities and ecosystem services are very well recognized in the business plan and this strategy in itself is testimony to that fact.

2.5 The African Union (AU) / New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) - Common African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)

Under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for *Africa's* Development (NEPAD) is a food security and poverty reduction mechanism, popularly known as the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). To achieve its goals the CAADP Process has four main 'pillars' namely 1) Sustainable Land and Water Management, 2) Trade and Marketing Infra-structure, 3) Food and Nutrition Security and 4) Agricultural Research and Technology Adoption. The most crucial target of CAADP is to achieve 6 % annual growth in agricultural output. To that extent, this forestry strategy by putting an emphasis on the protection and management of water catchment forests is contributing to whole CAADP Process, starting with 'Pillar One'. It is important for the forest sector to keep drawing attention to often under-valued contribution to the agricultural sector.

2.6 The SADC Biodiversity Strategy

The forest sector is critical to the protection and maintenance of biodiversity in many ways. For example, protecting and maintaining forest cover through representative forest ecosystems in the entire SADC Region, complements the SADC Biodiversity Strategy. The carbon element in forest ecosystems is also a major influence in climate change mitigation

and adaptation, which is of interest to biological diversity. In addition, forest planting and harvesting practices can also affect biological diversity. For these reasons, the forestry strategy fully recognizes the principles contained in the SADC Biodiversity Strategy developed in 2006.

2.7 The SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999)

The protocol is linked quite strongly to all natural resource management programmes, including the Protocol on Forestry and the Forestry Strategy, since it supports the principles of sustainable use of natural resources such as wildlife and the rights of member states to decide on such use. It also calls for cooperation and information sharing on management and control of illegal activities. In this respect, it has direct links to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

2.8 Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by the World Summit to reduce poverty and improve human wellbeing. They comprise of quantitative goals, time targets over a 25 years period (1990- 2015) and numerical indicators of poverty reduction, combating HIV and AIDS and improvements in health, education, gender equality and women empowerment, the environment and other aspects of human wellbeing (UNDP, 2004). Although goal number 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability is the main one to be addressed by forestry, other goals of relevance include:

- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
- Promotion of gender equity and women empowerment;
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and
- Ensure environmental sustainability.

Forestry has a major role to play in achieving the above objectives to which all SADC Member States committed themselves.

2.9 The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Established in October 2000, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was created with the objective to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end, based on the Forest Principles in Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, in the Rio Declaration. In 2007, the UNFF deliberations finally produced a Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI), which is expected to have a major impact on international cooperation and national actions to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest-dependent peoples.

The principles and objectives of the SADC Forestry Strategy are consistent with the spirit and aspirations expressed in the UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument.

3. THE SADC PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY

3.1 Objectives

The SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002) remains the over-arching policy framework for future forestry collaboration amongst Member States. The Protocol lays out a number of guiding principles on how Member States should cooperate to protect, manage and utilise their forests to meet both regional and national objectives. Its specific objectives are to:

- (i) Promote the development, conservation and sustainable management and utilisation of all types of forests and trees
- (ii) Promote trade in forest products throughout the Region, in order to alleviate poverty and generate economic opportunities for the peoples of the Region; and
- (iii) Achieve effective protection of the environment, and safeguard the interest of both present and future generations

3.2 Guiding principles of the protocol

Article 4 of the protocol states its guiding principles, a summary of which is given here. It calls upon member states to:

- a) Cooperate in good faith
- b) Abide by the Charter of the UN, the principles of international law and reserving the right to use forest resources for a country's own socio-economic and environmental needs
- c) Uphold the principles of sustainable forest management
- d) Support sustainable use with appropriate policies and legislation
- e) Recognize their responsibility to protect, manage and where necessary, restore degraded forest ecosystems
- f) The use of the precautionary principle in the protection and management of forests, where there is insufficient scientific information
- g) Seek, reveal, anticipate and mitigate the forces of deforestation and degradation

3.3 Articles of the Protocol

The protocol also contains specific provisions on national and SADC-level obligations notably:

- i. *Article 5 – Tenure and Ownership* – deals with incentives for long term investments and facilitate benefit sharing
- ii. *Article 8 – National Forest Policies and Programmes* – seeks the adoption of common criteria for Sustainable Forest Management and harmonisation of policies
- iii. *Article 9 – National Forest Assessments* – recommends assessments based on a common platform to facilitate sharing of expertise and information and the establishment and use of a regional data base
- iv. *Article 10 – Regional Database*
- v. *Article 11 – Forest-Related Laws*, -enables the protection of representative forest ecosystems in order to supply ecosystem and other services
- vi. *Article 12 – Community-Based Forest Management* – promotes community participation and beneficiation, including regional sharing of such information and experience.
- vii. *Article 13 – Participation of Women in Forest Management* -advocates the adoption of mechanisms for effective participation of women in SFM
- viii. *Article 14 – Trans-boundary Forests* - identifies trans-boundary forests for cooperation and integrated management in collaboration with the existing SADC Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) Programme.
- ix. *Article 15 – Protection of Forests*, - calls for member States to develop early warning systems and to protect forests against threats such as cross border forest resource exploitation, fires, pests and diseases and invasive alien species.
- x. *Article 16 – Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge* – the recognition, protection and rewarding of individuals and communities for their forest-related knowledge, supported by both national and regional mechanisms to restrict exploitation
- xi. *Article 17 – Forest Genetic Resources*, this promotes access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from forest genetic resources.
- xii. *Article 18 – Industry, Trade and Investment* - promotes formation of national and regional timber and forest products associations, flow of investments and the participation of the private sector and communities in management and all forms of certification. It also seeks to discourage illegal and unsustainable cross border trade.
- xiii. *Article 19 – Capacity Building and Public Awareness* –promotes awareness through education, research, information dissemination and the establishment of centres of excellence.
- xiv. *Article 20 – Research and Development* – this advocates the active involvement of research institutions in forest research and development, collaboration among the institutions and engagement of the private sector in research and technology development.
- xv. *Article 21 – Reporting and Information Exchange* - this advocates for exchange of forestry data and information among Member States and to notify potentially affected members of any accidents, emergencies or other activities that have trans-boundary adverse impacts.

3.4 The Rationale for Regional Programmes to implement the Protocol

The programmes of SADC should have regional impact or strong regional value added and there should be clear benefits at both regional and national scales. In line with this, the

SADC Council of Ministers approved the following criteria for regional programmes in their 2003 meeting in Luanda Angola

- a) Have direct economic and social benefits to at least two countries;
- b) Contribute to poverty eradication and human development;
- c) Have economies of scale gains where regionally co-ordinated investments or operations will result in substantial cost saving and employment;
- d) Unlock the economic potential of less developed areas and countries to promote balanced and equitable development;
- e) Contribute to SADC's integration into the regional, continental and global economy;
- f) Contribute to market integration especially facilitating free movement of goods, services and factors of production; and
- g) Contribute to sustainable development and gender equality.

The above criteria would thus need to be considered when developing regional forestry programmes and projects.

4. CHALLENGES TO FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SADC

A strategy for SADC to improve the management of its forests requires an understanding of the challenges which the forest sector has to contend with, and particularly those that need concerted action in a regional context and those that need national actions but have regional impacts or implications. The challenges, constraints and opportunities identified for concerted action by SADC have been used to develop the analytical framework upon which *strategic areas of focus* in forest development are based. The elements of the proposed action plan define and describe mechanisms of addressing the challenges, constraints and opportunities specific to the chosen strategic areas of focus.

The challenges and constraints described in this section came from several interviews with respondents of SADC countries and regional consultative meetings. Most of these reflect the perspectives of the respondent groups, namely representatives of government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society and academic institutions. Forest Practitioners were in the past brought together through multi-country projects, which was a mechanism for partnership building and knowledge sharing platforms among SADC member states. After SADC centralized its functions at SADC Secretariat headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana, innovative mechanisms, to get practitioners and specialists to work together, on common thematic areas within forestry are critical.

1. *Inadequate Investments in the Forest Sector in a majority of countries (new technologies, industrial plantations, inadequate interest from the banking sector)*

Except for South Africa which has huge industrial plantations and major timber and pulp and paper industries, this statement is true for virtually all other countries but the type of investment varies from country to country.

Even the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with 10 million ha under timber concessions, the fact that the majority of timber is simply sawn or exported as logs is indicative of the problem of underinvestment particularly in the area of wood based value-added manufacturing which could create local jobs and increase trade between the DRC and its other SADC states. Indications are that there are a number of species in the Congo Basin that could be sustainably harvested and converted into panels, parquet flooring, frames which can satisfy the growing construction industry in much of SADC and East Africa. Related to this is that local private sector players are few and weak; and this is reflected in the low capacity of countries to invest in and add value to raw materials. In this regard capital infusion to facilitate technology adoption, development of quality products and the cultivation of new markets are crucial.

On the management and production side of things, countries such as Angola, Zambia, Mozambique and the DRC, have potential for industrial plantations, some of which could

attract carbon credits under CDM eligibility schemes. So far that potential is seriously under-exploited.

The challenge is that forests have yet to prove their economic worth in reducing existing poverty in most countries, except perhaps, South Africa and Swaziland with substantial plantation forests .

2. *Weak management of commercial timber concessions*

A general reflection of the status of Forest Departments is their decreasing ability to supervise and manage forest timber concessions. As a result there are several cases of over-harvesting and vital regeneration of key species is neither enhanced nor monitored. In addition, harvesting levels are under-reported resulting in lower than expected revenues to central and local governments. This provides a challenge to forest departments and also a strong motive for countries to adopt forest management and forest product certification schemes, particularly in the export market.

3. *Inadequate participation of local communities in productive forest management*

Despite the expectations that industrial logging would alleviate poverty, the poorest of the poor live in forests' and the many years of timber exports to Europe and more recently to South East Asia, has done little to alleviate poverty in line with the SADC Treaty and RISDP. That poignant point was made by the DRC. That observation was corroborated by a number of countries such as Angola, Mozambique and Madagascar suggesting that SADC should facilitate greater community participation and ownership of forests and forest-based enterprises. This would be a serious attempt to use forests to reduce rural poverty. However the institutional (policy and legislation) challenges that need to be overcome should not be underestimated, going by the experiences in a number of SADC countries.

The participation of communities in forest management and for them to benefit appears to suggest a number of things that governments have to provide or overcome. These are:

- That some form of legal tenure is bestowed or awarded to local communities to own commercially viable tracts of forest land
- That communities participate in value added jobs in the forest sector
- That there is sufficient and affordable technology for communities to add value to forest resources; both timber and non-timber forest products
- That, communities would benefit directly from CDM and other carbon related payments in exchange for their inputs and protection of forests thereof.
- In industrial plantation initiatives communities would benefit as employees and also as producers, through out-grower schemes, in their own right
- That policies and legislation would be developed, reviewed to support community involvement

4. *Inadequate formal trade in forest products between most member states.*

A number of countries in SADC decry the fact that significant amounts of *cross-border trade in forest products is ad hoc and often illegal or unreported*. The phenomenon of illegal and unreported trade in forest products, wildlife and minerals across political boundaries is a serious issue. If unchecked, it can represent major losses in revenue to both local and central governments.

Worse still, *illegal logging and trade* tend to lead to resource degradation, loss of biodiversity and weakens governance structures, all of which may increase poverty and threaten peace and security. These concerns on illegal logging and trade in both timber and wildlife call for collaboration and concerted action in the region, and *would need policies and laws that are complementary or harmonized* across member states to enforce compliance.

In this regard there is potential for SADC's biggest exporters of tropical hardwoods to develop new formal markets within SADC apart from traditional European and recently Asian markets. This would enhance cooperation among member states to deal with the ever growing issue of illegal and unreported trade between countries. SADC Member States that are currently concerned with illegal trade are Angola, the DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. The DRC which is the biggest exporter of tropical hardwoods amongst the SADC countries is keen to increase trade with fellow SADC states and has called for serious investors from within SADC. This is a very significant opportunity that should be taken up, in order to strengthen the timber economy of SADC, especially if the member states also commit themselves to control illegal trade which some few countries suffer from.

5. *Climate Change and Forests*

Forest ecosystems are known for a number of ecological functions of which, climate regulation through their influences on Carbon Dioxide fluxes and hydrological cycles are good examples. The challenge is that these vital ecological influences or functions, require the setting aside, of large areas of un-fragmented forest ecosystems. For a number of SADC countries, particularly those with high forest cover, the challenge is therefore to balance economic development needs which may require the intensive use of forest lands or their conversion to other uses on the one hand, and their conservation on the other. Over the last 5 years, the role of forests as *crucial for the absorption of atmospheric carbon* has highlighted the need for forest rich countries to manage their forests for climate change mitigation as a global good. Hence the advent of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) has again brought international pressure on SADC to manage its forests not for the supply of products and services, in which a service such as carbon sequestration, unlike in the past, is now a major component. An additional challenge to forest management is the area of *climate change adaptation*. In this regard, and considering the fact that forest ecosystems are repositories of biological diversity means that management objectives may require new or strengthened aspects of linkages or ecological connectivity between forest blocks and also with other ecosystems. This would facilitate escape corridors for both plants and animals, should climate change necessitate dispersal. Should climate change imply increasing aridity, then the vital functions of forests in soil and water

conservation will be even more crucial. *In summary, climate change mitigation and adaptation has already brought in changes in the way forests will be managed and has also spearheaded international debates on how and who will pay the costs of such management.*

6. Influence of SADC as a unit on International Processes important to the forest sectors of member states

While the SADC Secretariat has in the recent past, brought countries together to understand, discuss and come to agreements on positions on key International Arrangements, the tradition of coming together and negotiating as a regional block on key international issues needs to be strengthened. The current issues regarding the reductions of carbon emissions through forestry (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - REDD) and any Post-Kyoto Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) arrangements require that SADC Secretariat and its member states understand and keep abreast of issues as they emerge and influence the methodologies and policy positions on how forests and particularly those from Africa can usefully be part of any carbon sequestration schemes after Copenhagen in December 2009. To date SADC countries have not influenced the process to the extent that is possible and there have been little coordination with the Congo Basin Countries, with whom an African Position, jointly crafted, would have tremendous weight at International Forums.

7. Poor data collection and the limited use of data for management decisions

In general most countries do not routinely collect data on the state of their forests or simply to make short and long-term management decisions. This is one reason why government incomes from commercial timber harvesting permits are low and gives room to widespread abuse. For those countries, which have huge public and private industrial plantations that support the manufacturing industry, the data situation is somewhat better. The general lack of data is a weakness in a sector where information on levels of deforestation, illegal trade, and carbon sequestration potential, is badly needed for awareness creation and the development of much needed public policies on forests. The advent of REDD and renewed efforts in industrialization has renewed interest in monitoring and processing of forest resource information.

8. Inadequate use of technology for value-added for both small and large scale manufacture

The inadequate use of technology includes even the basic issue of using modern efficient saws to improve recovery during sawing. The evidence is that there is still a lot of wastage through inefficient sawing equipment and techniques. In the use of modern technology to add value to wood, a few interesting examples that have been developed in some countries, have not been scaled up to the extent that is possible or desirable. An example is the use of encroaching 'bush species', in Namibia, to make 'fire blocks', made from chipped wood which is pressed to much higher densities, then neatly packed and marketed for energy both locally and abroad. Technology for such re-constituted wood products is well known and can be applied to other woody species to make wood based panels and also serve as a way of locking some carbon into durable products, thus reducing emissions. Furthermore the

technology for the 'gasification' of wood to generate electricity in the same country will also be tried in a project expected to generate 10 Megawatts of power per year. Such initiatives, including the processing of non-wood forest products such as Marula Oil ought to be encouraged and taken seriously by member states. Also relevant in this regards is improved charcoal production, using low emissions technology and improved production efficiency.

In general the industry has to benefit from more investments and the industry has to evolve to improve its competitiveness in a rapidly evolving regional and international markets.

There is therefore need for SADC to actively promote the adoption and use of improved processing technology and provide access to the necessary training facilities in partnership with public and private institutions

9. Conversion of forest lands to other uses

The fact that the bulk of forest land is often converted to agricultural production is an ongoing challenge, which is difficult to address, since it is often associated with a political and development need to improve food production by rural folk. As a result, forestry is often pitted against agriculture; a perception that is reinforced by the fact that in many countries, cultivation agriculture and infra-structure developments are the major forces underlying forest conversion. Hence the challenge is to find mechanisms through which proposals for conversion are discussed and transparently justified to avoid unethical practices that have been associated with excisions and permanent loss of forest lands, and the attendant disregard for environmental or ecological safeguards. Connected to this, is the chilling realization that the problems of the forest sector, particularly those that promote deforestation and forest land conversions, tend to originate from outside the forest sector. The real challenge is to get multi-sector recognition of the true economic values of forests, which besides timber values, are absent from the Statements of National Accounts. .

Linked to the above issues, for forestry to survive, it has to continuously prove its worth in areas dominated by agricultural production systems. To do so, the practice has to evolve and adopt technologies such as hedgerow inter-cropping with fodder or nitrogen fixing trees, shade or nurse trees, fruit trees, boundary plantings and windbreaks. In addition, new afforestation or reforestation schemes can be given incentives to promote more intensive forms of agriculture and by so doing, improve production and transfer production technologies to rural agriculture.

The use of fire in land management is also heavily linked to the degradation and eventual conversion of forest land. Fire is also a serious phenomenon across political boundaries. In trans-boundary resources such as forest and wildlife reserves, compatible forms of fire management, such as fire use protocols and early warning systems are needed. Without that, the efforts of a neighbouring country can be negatively affected by the unwise use of fire by another.

10. The challenges to plantation development, including biofuels

The establishment of new plantations whether for *bio-fuels*, *timber* or *pulpwood*, particularly with exotic species invariably tend to face a number of challenges, which one must take into

account in the process of developing project proposals for funding. This can be for various reasons but the most frequent reasons, often voiced by environmentalists, appear to be fears over bio-diversity losses through the use of exotic and potentially invasive species. Another politically sensitive issue is the loss of land and economic opportunities by local communities who become alienated from lands earmarked for such large commercial ventures. To facilitate the flow of public and private capital into the industrial plantation sector and to overcome the fears or obstacles already described, *countries need to develop clear investment policies and guidelines for industrial timber plantations and bio-fuel crops such as Jatropha* which should include among others, the protection of the *economic interests of local communities* and *safeguards for food security, environmental and biodiversity* concerns. In addition, the legal protection of investments and investors in such long term ventures are critical for their economic viability.

11. Overdependence on wood fuels

The majority of SADC, including the Island State of Madagascar depends on wood for energy, either in the raw form or as charcoal. The energy needs of people that is met by wood, is the most underrated and unreported economic contribution of the forest sector. It also goes to suggest that sustainable energy supply solutions to Africa, especially if it means supplying wood from sustainable sources and using less of it through diversification, will have significant positive effects on the quality of forest cover and global emission reductions.

The predominant use of wood energy in cities is more a reflection of 'false affordability' of wood which is often viewed as a common access product, rather than its abundance. It also points to the fact that electric power is either inaccessible, unaffordable or both, to the majority of people. This causes massive deforestation around cities, sometimes with effects that go beyond a radius of 100 km from the city

12. Weakening of forest departments

This is a major constraint since the forest services of each country are the main custodians of the law and when they are under-staffed or under-facilitated mainly because of inadequate funding and poor infra-structure, they cannot perform both their production, monitoring and regulatory roles. Key capacities therefore need to be boosted in most of the forest departments of SADC to facilitate forest inventory and Monitoring, SFM, Silviculture, and development of REDD projects. Related to that, registration into tertiary training in Forestry has gone down considerably in a majority of countries and for various reasons. The result is a dearth of trained personnel in the region, to perform specialist functions such as GIS, Inventory and cutting edge production related research. The best facilities for research and technology exist mainly in one country and even then, there is no major mechanism for sharing with other SADC Countries.

5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR RENEWED ACTION ON THE FORESTS OF SADC

Just as much as there are challenges to contend with to manage SADC forests, in an increasingly competitive and globalized world economy, there are also opportunities which SADC needs to be cognizant of and use them to its advantage. A few of such opportunities in the forest sector are highlighted herein.

Interest in increased legal trade within SADC

There is much interest from forest rich countries to engage more effectively with the rest of SADC in trade, investment, and sharing of best practices.

Intensive focus on poverty reduction

All countries have a clear focus on using forest resources to reduce and where possible, eliminate poverty. This is a common challenge to the forest sector. There is also a very positive attitude to promote small and medium private entrepreneurs in the forest sector

Recognition of the power of joint negotiations on international processes

All member countries share the view that SADC Countries are better off pooling their resources and negotiating skills to effectively participate in international processes on issues such as *REDD and Climate Change* as a Block, rather than as individual countries. In addition, it will be also quite powerful, if SADC can coordinate its actions with the Congo Basin Countries on matters regarding forests. Furthermore, Member states stress that they would like to meet their international commitments and obligations in tandem with meeting their national development objectives. These require regionally agreed positions prior to international meetings and in that regard, the *REDD process is an opportunity for the forest sector of SADC to collectively bargain for its interests and it must do what is necessary to influence the processes, to protect its interests, seek the necessary international engagement and also meet its responsibilities on climate change mitigation and adaptation.*

Interest to invest in increased production

There is a near unanimous interest in improving production both from natural forests and newly established industrial and small scale plantations

The existence of the SADC Protocol on Shared Water Courses, River Basin Commissions a new SADC Water Strategy

At the level of SADC, the *Protocol on Shared Water Courses* which has been signed by a number of countries also provides a policy framework for the management of catchment forests as are the *Zambezi Rivers Basin Commission (ZAMCOM)* and the *Okavango River Commission (OKACOM)*, both of which are SADC organs. In addition the *SADC Water Sector* has a comprehensive strategy to which, reference must be made because it can help the forest sector make a strong case for the special regionally driven protection of key water

catchment forest. Given this background, the *Forestry Strategy is uniquely placed to seek and enjoy synergies with these SADC frameworks.*

Existence of trans-boundary cooperation in wildlife conservation areas

The existing cooperation in Trans-boundary or Trans-frontier Conservation Areas such as the Greater Limpopo(GLTFCA), the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) and others have generated both political and technical support and serve as theatres to test all manner of trans-boundary cooperation in integrated natural resource management (assessments, sustainable use, fire use) and the movement of tourists across borders.

6. A STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR SADC FORESTRY: VISION, MISSION, VALUES, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS

6.1 Vision, Mission and Values

Vision: *A vibrant and sustainable SADC forest sector that contributes significantly to rural development, poverty reduction, industrial progress, and vital environmental services*

Mission: The mission of SADC with respect to the Forestry Strategy is to facilitate co-operation among member states to *“promote the active protection, management and sustainable use of forest resources, through, sound policy guidance and the application of requisite skills and the best available technology, in order to enjoy the multiple benefits of forests in perpetuity”*

Values: In carrying out the mission, SADC will be guided by the following values;

- (i) *Making forests work for nature and people*
- (ii) *Protecting nature in its diversity*
- (iii) *Promoting regional cooperation to tackle shared problems and achieve regional benefits*
- (iv) *Responding timely to the needs, challenges and opportunities of the forest sector*
- (v) *Keeping up with the global policy environment and maintaining public and political interest on forestry matters*
- (vi) *Honouring Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on forests*

6.2 General Objectives of the Forestry Strategy

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for both regional cooperation and international engagement on forest issues; paying special attention to issues that transcend national boundaries and to encourage concerted action by SADC Member States in the management, conservation and sustainable use of their forests. The major objectives are:

1. To focus on regional issues and seek opportunities for synergies on forest development matters, including institutional reforms in order to help transform the forest sector in the SADC Region into a much higher state of performance.
2. To increase the levels of production from natural and man-made forests, add value to wood and non-wood products and increase the volume of trade and reduce poverty.

3. To safeguard and enhance the capacity of SADC forests to mitigate the effects of climate change, protect key water catchment areas and ensure the supply of other ecosystem services
4. To empower the rural communities of SADC to productively participate in forest management and create an enabling environment to enhance the achievement of both economic and environmental objectives.
- 5 To promote the assessment and monitoring of the forest resources in the region, paying special attention to those of regional importance and using the results thereof to make policy and management decisions, at both national and regional scales.

6.3. The value-added of the Regional Forestry Strategy

As already stated in earlier sections, the strategy will concentrate on issues which are important at the regional level and which can only be achieved by countries working deliberately together. The value- added of the strategy, are as follows.

- a) Reinforces the collective commitment of SADC to honour international forestry and environmental agreements for both regional and global benefits.
- b) Encourages multilateral collaboration to protect and manage strategic water catchment forests
- c) Promotes a regional approach to increasing production of forest goods by arguing for region-wide approaches to guide investors and minimize malpractices
- d) Aims to promote intra-regional trade significantly beyond current levels and reduce illegal cross-border trade in forest products
- e) Will facilitate multi-country sharing of information and capacity to improve community participation in forest management in key forest-rich countries
- f) Negotiations at international fora demands a strong regional voice, which this strategy encourages and promotes
- g) The constitution of peer groups (Working Groups) to steer, promote and monitor progress under each strategic programme area is a deliberate attempt to share skills regionally and build strong communities of practitioners or specialists.
- h) A well articulated and well publicized regional strategy should be a powerful fund raising tool
- i) A regional data base which will be populated with among other things, key information and data on the progress of each strategic programme area will further strengthen collaboration among member states on the agreed forestry programme.
- j) A strengthened coordination unit will support the working groups and maintain focus on what is of regional importance

6.4 Strategic Programme Areas

Bearing in mind the already stated, Vision, Mission and Values of the strategy and recalling the objectives of the Protocol on Forests, this section emphasizes the fact that for SADC member states to realize the objectives of economic development and regional integration within a forestry context it needs to transform the forest sector to a higher state of performance than is currently the case. To transform the forest sector and significantly improve its contribution to its economies, the issues listed and described here are fundamental to such a transformation. It is also to be expected that over the course of its implementation, some elements of the strategy will change in importance or in their 'status of urgency'. The key message is that they are areas which require coordinated and '*concerted action*' by a majority of SADC member states and they provide a vehicle to implement the SADC Protocol on Forestry which has now entered into force. The nine major programme areas are described herein.

6.4.1 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Forests play a major role in regulating climate. In the case of the Congo Basin, local and regional precipitation or rainfall is largely based on evaporation and transpiration from the forests and as a consequence, the forests drive the hydrology of the entire basin. The protection of the Congo Basin forests is therefore of great value, starting right from the local to regional contexts. Besides the Congo Basin Forests, the SADC Region is covered by the Dry Miombo Forests, which stretch from Angola in the West to Tanzania and Mozambique on the Eastern Seaboard of Africa, and these dry forests and woodlands support over a 100 million peoples. By the sheer combined size of SADC and its vast forest resources, there is no doubt that, as a region, it will play its rightful role in international processes regarding the sustainable management of forests (SFM) and directly benefit from the protection and management of its forests.

In this strategy document, the participation of SADC member states in negotiations regarding global policy processes and conventions such as, UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD and CCD and some of their mechanisms such as REDD, and CDM, among others, have become even more important than before. Member states should seek and take advantage of opportunities offered by these processes to facilitate sustainable forest management at home. The current carbon markets based on the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) and the voluntary carbon offset markets have not been accessible to a number of African Countries. The topical issues of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is yet another opportunity that has presented itself. However, given Africa's bad experience with CDM, it must by all means, try to influence discussions on REDD on matters such as methodology to be applied to REDD Programmes and CDM compliance of forestry projects. SADC with all its forests put together, can be a force as formidable as the Congo Basin Countries (COMIFAC) and it ought to put relentless efforts to link up with other African Regional Economic communities (RECs) and the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN) to voice the agreed opinion of SADC, such as the position it developed on REDD in 2009

Issues to consider: *The challenge will be to increase awareness levels in governments, so that they can adopt adaptation and mitigation strategies, and overcome their general reluctance to take issues of climate change, as seriously as they should. Communicating practical adaptation and highlighting vulnerability studies will eventually wear down skeptics among policy makers. Furthermore, a lot of information on the challenges and benefits of REDD and future forestry related CDM projects should be made available for governments, so that they can put more resources to enable their participation in ongoing international processes*

6.4.2 Protection of Key Catchment Forests ((Articles 11 and 15 of the Protocol on Forestry)

The *protection of key river catchments* is a vital forestry function, but for which the forest sector does not normally receive its due recognition. Given the chronic water deficits in much of SADC, this function requires concerted action by key countries in SADC and is emphasized since it has far reaching effects on agriculture and industrial development through the supply of hydro-power. In addition, this strategic area also emphasizes the need for SADC to promote the protection and sustainable management of *representative forest ecosystems* since such forests are, besides their broader ecological functions, repositories of both plant and animal biodiversity and host yet to be known biological resources. In this regard, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened by *invasive plant species, particularly, invasive aliens*, require urgent attention.

Protecting representative forest ecosystems

Realizing the importance of conserving forests for both production, conservation of biological diversity and the supply of ecosystem services, countries should ensure the legal protection forest blocks which represent the different forest types in the region, preferably through protected area systems and areas that are co-managed with local communities. Noting that protection forests such as those on catchments and all types of forest reserves are strong candidates in future REDD schemes, SADC as a region should influence the activities of other sectors such as those involved with infra-structure development and large scale agriculture to respect forest boundaries and restrict other forms of developments that are not compatible with REDD objectives. *The incentive to protect and manage such forests for REDD as well, is that they will be benefitting from current and future global carbon markets.*

Control of invasive alien species

The issue of invasive plant species deserves special mention and in this regard, the experiences of SADC's Island States and South Africa have indicated that if not controlled, they can affect biodiversity conservation and also reduce water yields. However this issue has been sufficiently treated in *SADC's Biodiversity Strategy*.

Special emphasis on catchment forests

Most of SADC, besides its member states to the north, experiences water deficits and because of that possibility of increasing deficits in the future, could seriously affect industrial

development or expansion in places such as the industrial heartland of Gauteng Province in South Africa, not to mention planned commercial agricultural developments in countries along the major rivers of SADC.

Angola, the DRC and Zambia are crucial and have the unique function as suppliers for SADC water and hence the unique responsibility to protect the catchments of iconic rivers such as the Okavango, the mighty Congo and Zambezi Rivers respectively. Angola in fact hosts the entire catchments of rivers such as Kunene, Kavango, Kuando (later Chobe/Linyanti), all of which are important for not only itself but also Namibia and the last two to Botswana as well. Zambia and Angola also share the catchments of the main Zambezi River, but Zambia hosts the catchments of Kafue and Luangwa Rivers, both tributaries of the Zambezi. *In addition to the Zambezi and the Okavango, the Catchment Forests of the River Congo, with its colossal potential for additional hydro-electric power generation, requires long term management and protection plans that SADC should award the highest strategic priority.* In this regard, strategic and operational synergies must be developed between this document and that of SADC Regional Water Strategy which is currently being developed

By way of emphasis, if there is anything in the forest strategy that requires strong SADC oversight, it is these catchments since they are of strategic importance to a multiple number of countries with regard to trans-boundary water management. Furthermore, full recognition, support and other due considerations, should be given to the countries, under whose jurisdictions these river catchments fall.

Issues to consider: *The challenge is to convince countries that host critical catchments to protect them for the good of the region and also for themselves. In this regard bringing in the benefits of forest protection through REDD, CDM and other mechanisms can be used. In addition, the concept of payment for environmental services particularly water could be applied, and the forest sector must promote its image as a strategic sector for current future economic development.*

6.4.3 Energy supply and Poverty Reduction (Articles 5 of the Protocol on Forestry)

The focus on poverty reduction stems from the expressed need of member countries to improve incomes from forest resources, particularly in rural areas. It therefore includes aspects of production, processing and value added manufacturing and trade. In addition the issue of empowerment of local communities to participate in forest management and benefit sharing is critical. The energy dimension recognizes the supply of energy from biomass and the protective capacity of forests on water catchments which is important for hydro-power generation; which is a typical example of where the concept of payment for environmental services can be applied. The requisite policy and legal support needed for all the above are also important considerations.

Increased production

Production challenges can be mitigated through a number of mechanisms starting with the sustainable use of natural forests. In addition, plantation development, either in afforestation of grasslands or re-afforestation of degraded woodlands has been widely applied. In both of these, a strong poverty reduction focus should provide for out grower schemes on individually or communally owned lands. Such production may initially require significant public spending, particularly technical and input support to farmers to help them start up.

Improved Food Security

Food security challenges have to be met since food security and small scale commercial agriculture are legitimate means of poverty reduction. Forestry should promote tree growing in agro-forestry settings which offers an opportunity to maximize the use of agricultural land. Furthermore, investors in large scale plantation developments should be offered incentives or simply required to invest some of their capital on food production as part of their *corporate social responsibility*. In addition the greater integration of trees, particularly multipurpose trees on farm land in *agro-forestry systems*. Furthermore *silvo-pastoral systems* that integrate forestry and animal production should be also promoted alongside mainstream plantation forestry and the management of natural forests, since they are useful in attaining food security.

Application of technology for value added processing

While *Technology transfer or adoption* has been mentioned under poverty reduction it requires special emphasis. Adding value to wood and non-wood forest products is a must if SADC is really serious about poverty reduction and creating rural employment through forestry. In this regard, developments in Namibia on reconstituted wood energy blocks, power generation and the processing of *Non Timber Forest Products*, such as plant oils are showing promise. In fact countries such as Angola, the DRC and Madagascar and several others have the potential to transform their forest and wood based industries if they concentrate on modern technological applications in processing and manufacturing, most of which already exist elsewhere in the world.

Energy supply

As stated in the second strategic programme area, the protection of key water catchments is not only important as a mechanism for climate change adaptation, but is also crucial in the supply of hydro power which SADC is seriously in need of. Linked to this is the fact that the forest sector should both demonstrate or communicate its added value to the power sector and also claim payment for environmental services linked to hydro power. Furthermore, the forests of SADC should also be managed deliberately for the supply of biomass energy. In this regard, the sustainable harvesting of wood for charcoal, improvements in the efficiency in carbonization and the adoption of energy efficient stoves are critical elements.

Issues to consider: *One of the big challenges here is to attract investments to diversify and increase production, while safeguarding environmental and food security objectives. The question of technology transfer to add value is well known but appears difficult to do but there is no other ways but to make an earnest attempt in forestry. The other challenge has to*

do with the issue of land tenure and security of such tenure. So far, successes from project experiences in SADC have been mixed but there have been a few workable examples from the wildlife sector.

6.4.4 Enhanced Participatory Forest Management (Articles 5, 12 and 13 of the Protocol on Forestry)

The empowerment of communities, through the development of participatory models, so that they can be better players in management and production makes for greater rather than weaker forest sectors. That political realization is growing in a number of SADC countries and also drives their support and advocacy for sustainable use of natural resources, particularly wildlife. Community empowerment models have been tried and tested in the SADC Region over the last 15 years, hence it is feasible for such technologies to be shared among member states either bilaterally or through the SADC Secretariat. It is encouraging that some of the most forest rich of the SADC member states are keen on such empowerment models so that community based forest management approaches can be used as a to reduce rural poverty.

Issues to consider: *The challenge to most governments in this regard is the devolution of rights to communities to own, manage and receive benefits. In addition low business skills and poor organizational development skills of communities continue to constraint development.*

6.4.5 Enhanced intra-regional trade in forest products (Article 18 of the Protocol on Forestry)

Member states have all decried the fact that trade in forest products is way below its potential and would like to replace today's largely informal, illegal and unreported trade with formal ones. In addition, trade among SADC member states is largely inadequate and governments have not facilitated investments to promote trade. The Directorate of Trade within the SADC Secretariat will be needed to help achieve results under this strategic programme area. The strategy is for member states to set time bound and measurable trade targets, analyze the institutional needs to realize them then formulate programmes to implement them. Performance against targets will be monitored yearly and reported to SADC and member states. Examples of activities in promoting increased trade are:

- Harmonized timber trade policies
- Linking buyers to suppliers
- Promotion of trade through demand surveys, buyer-seller joint seminars
- Organizing reliable suppliers of predictable quantities and qualities of products
- Facilitation of resource inventories and monitoring
- Cross border law enforcement to curb illegal logging and trade in forest products, including non-timber forest products
- Promotion of common product standards and grading systems for popular wood products, and
- Tax incentives to promote new investments

Issues to consider: *The biggest challenge is to overcome the inability of governments to stimulate legal trade, share market information and link private sector plays from their*

countries to potential trading partners in other countries. Alongside this is the difficulty to move goods within the sub-continent due particularly to poor road or rail networks and, lengthy procedures across border posts.

6.4.6 Cooperation in trans-boundary forest and fire management (*Articles 14 and 15 of the Protocol on Forestry*)

Forest management in this respect also covers the aspects of protection which is normally associated with *fire, pest and disease control*, all of which require trans-boundary collaboration.

While fire is an essential component in the ecology of African Savannas and the Miombo Woodlands, wildfires have become a problem, as areas burn more frequently than in natural circumstances. In addition to increase in frequency of wildfires, ill timed fires can destroy biomass that would otherwise be used for economic and other purposes. When neighbouring countries do not have similar or complementary fire management or use regimes, accidental escape of fires across boundaries can cause severe damage to natural ecosystems and also domestic or owned property. The phenomenon of cross-border fires and the fact that fire use need to be managed with minimal unplanned losses to public and private spaces, warrants cooperation among and between countries. In Southern Africa, the use of fire in range management or even in the preparation of agricultural land is well known in some circles. However the safe and science based use of fire is not widespread. Clearly, fire management is an area that would benefit from concerted action between countries.

Because fire is a key agent in the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the deliberate and considered use of fire should be an essential part in any forest management scheme in the context of REDD or CDM. The issues of REDD can justify *a regional satellite-based fire monitoring and mapping scheme* as is already the case using NOAA satellite images.

At the moment SADC, could use existing Trans-boundary Conservation Areas (TFCAs), which are primarily dominated by wildlife and tourism management concerns. From a fire management perspective, TFACs and other trans-boundary areas which are covered by forests, can serve as ideal 'laboratories' to test out cross-border trans-boundary cooperation models. The Greater Limpopo, Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area and the Zambezi Catchments are therefore places where countries can also cooperate in *forest management, fire management, trade and tourism and even empowerment of local communities. Furthermore TFCAs are also areas where ways of harmonizing policies to enhance integrated natural resource management, tourism and infra-structure development can be tested.*

At the time of preparing this strategy SADC was already developing a *Regional Fire Management Strategy* (2010) which will be one of the first major regional programmes to initiate the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Forestry.

The control of pests and diseases requires the development of early detection or surveillance systems and suppression programmes. Technical personnel from countries having common disease problems should be encouraged to collaborate on research and technology development. In addition phyto-sanitary procedures also require close collaboration in order to reduce spread within and between countries, hence the importance of mutually reinforcing policies and laws across countries that share borders or have direct transport links.

Issues to consider: *The challenge here is to promote the thinking that the control and safe use of fire in land management should not be left to the forest sector alone but requires joint efforts from the agriculture and livestock sectors. All of them need to work with communities who have routinely used fire for land management and do not see the larger picture regarding increased frequency of burns and its long term negative effects. In addition regional cooperation requires an illustration of the negative effects of uncontrolled fires while promoting its safe use in pastures, forest and wildlife management areas, starting in border regions. On the issue of pests and diseases countries tend to react only when their direct interests are threatened, or when a situation reaches epidemic proportions and in general governments tend to give negligible budgetary support unless the private sector is strong enough to finance research and development. This tendency should be discouraged*

6.4.7 Forest assessments and information management (Articles 10, 20 and 21 of the Protocol on Forestry)

With the advent of global carbon markets one of the demands of sustainable forest management is resource data and information. To improve collaboration and the negotiating strengths of SADC, it needs to know the status and extent of its forest resources and for that reason alone, there is need for having comparable methods of assessment, in addition to the fact that the status of strategic forests within SADC ought to be monitored and the data and information shared among member states. In addition, the performance of SADC in the strategic areas already identified requires monitoring and the data and information should be stored and retrieved from a central repository in SADC.

Issues to consider: *The general poor state of data on forests is a reflection of its perceived low value or state of management. The challenge is to articulate the economic values of forest resources using modern techniques to generate support for their assessments. In this regard possibilities under forest carbon (REDD) and the current voluntary carbon markets will help. Because in the past we have not designated any forest areas as strategic to the region, there has been no motivation to monitor their status and store them in a shared regional data base. In the current strategy, regionally important forests will necessitate their long-term monitoring through joint efforts of member states.*

6.4.8 Capacity improvement in SADC (Article 19 of the Protocol on Forestry)

It is important for SADC as a Region to implement the Protocol on Forestry through this strategy. It means that the member states should examine and appropriately address their

own national capacity needs and also work with the appropriate Directorates of the Secretariat to identify the minimum capacity needed at the Secretariat to lead, coordinate and orchestrate the will to implement the strategy. In that regard, priority will be given to skills relevant to the strategic programme areas already identified.

Issues to consider: *To attract resources needed to improve capacity, the forest sector will need to communicate a new sense of urgency, use convincing data and demonstrate its value to national economies. That way skeptical governments and donors could allocate resources to build capacity to implement the strategy.*

6.4.9 Cross-cutting issues (Articles 8 and 11 of the Protocol)

Policy and legal reforms

It is recognized that to transform the forest sector to a higher level of performance, through trade in forest products, participating in global carbon markets, increasing production and empowering communities and so on, *applicable policy and legal reforms* will be necessary. The logical framework tables in Section 8 of the strategy, has already applied this principle.

Participation of Women

In addition and as a key operational principle, all project designs and plans will take into account the *role of gender issues* and special attention will be given to the *participation of women* as major resource users and beneficiaries of benefits accruing from forest management.

Research and Development

Research and development is an essential component in the management of forest resources and the processing of those resources into marketable products. As such, technology development through research or adoption of existing technologies to improve resource management and to develop new and improved wood and non-wood products must be given priority in all of the strategic programmes, which have been described above. As an operating principle the implementation of programmes covered by the 8 strategic programme areas ought to be supported by relevant research and technology development. Countries should bear this in mind when they elaborate their national forest programmes and seek funds for applied research.

HIV Work

The debilitating influence of HIV related sicknesses in our SADC societies is a well known and recognized fact, which can seriously affect the success of natural resource management at all levels of society and more particularly resource managers and users. As such, all programmes under the forestry strategy must be designed to take into account strategies that raise awareness on HIV and monitor its effects on resource management, with a view to collaborate constructively with institutions directly charged with its management.

7. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation plan consists of operating guidelines for SADC Programmes, points regarding the value added of such programmes, coordination arrangements and the role of Specialist Working Groups to guide and promote programmes under each of the strategic programme areas already described.

7.1 Operating guidelines for SADC Forestry Programmes

The Programmes which are run under SADC are normally developed using agreed guidelines which are used by the SADC Secretariat in conjunction with member states. To guide the implementation of the forestry strategy, SADC Secretariat will not seek to usurp national mandates but will promote actions that promote co-operation and collaboration among and between member states and on those matters that are of regional, multi-country and global interest. Since Poverty Reduction requires both national and global actions, SADC Secretariat will also promote actions to address poverty reduction in line with the already articulated MDGs. In doing so, a number of operating principles are applied.

- a) It will follow set guidelines for regional co-operation in line with the Protocol on Forestry and evaluate, monitor and report on the performance of the sector based on a set of agreed regional programmes. *In this regard, the responsibility of the SADC Secretariat is to coordinate and promote the implementation of the protocol through the strategy, but the actual implementation remains the responsibility of member states.*
- b) Help set realistic and achievable targets in programmes developed and implemented to improve the status of forest resources and also to encourage collaboration among member states
- c) Promote the harmonization of forest policies and legislation where appropriate, and the sharing of best practices across the region
- d) Seek support to improve selected technical skills of forestry personnel in the region to meet growing challenges and exploit emerging opportunities. Furthermore to encourage the 'pooling' of skills available within member states, when called for, to help solve national, regional and international problems
- e) Vigorously promote the protection and management of key water catchments and water courses, alongside the protection of the region's forest based biodiversity and coordinate participation at international meetings on forests
- f) Actively pursue technology transfer and / or apply existing technology to improve capacity for research, production, management, utilization, value adding and marketing

- g) Encourage member states to devote some of their funding to agreed strategic programmes and objectives and in conjunction with member states, prepare proposals for funding by bilateral or multilateral donors

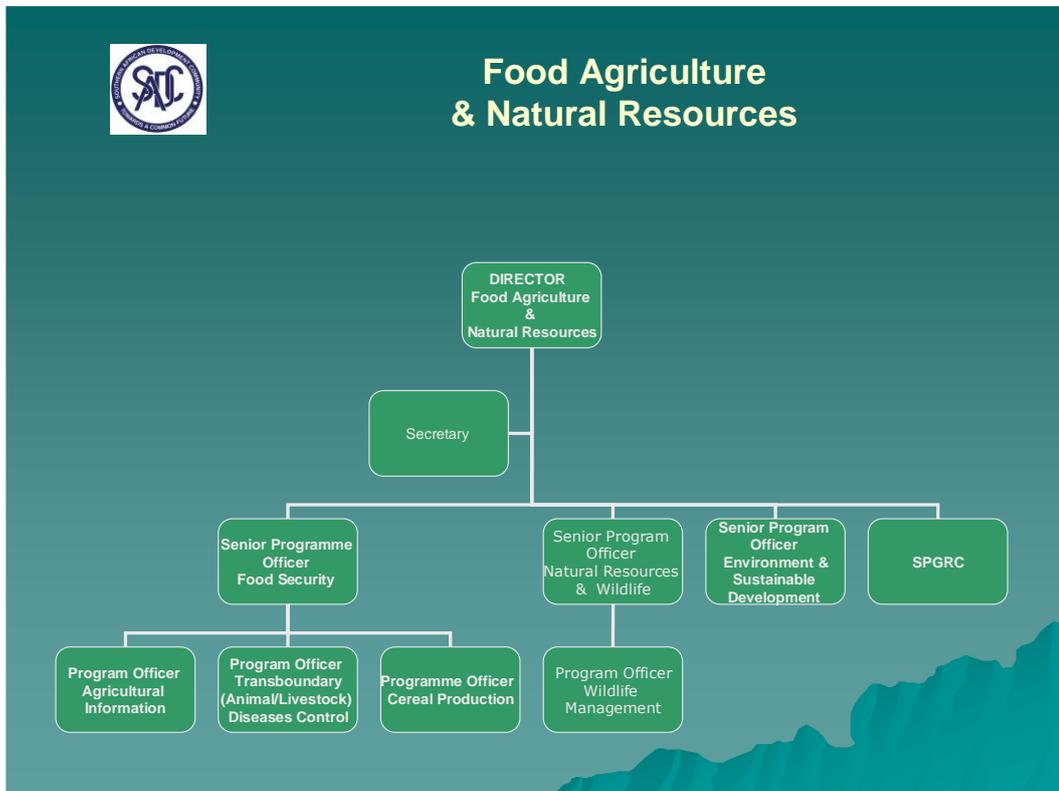
7.2 Coordination arrangements and strengthening the SADC Secretariat, to support implementation.

The current structure of the SADC Secretariat and particularly, the Directorate of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), provides for a lean staff complement to deal with the issues of coordination of SADC Forestry Programmes along the lines of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). This was brought about by a political decision that changed the older structures which were previously built around Sector Coordinating Units, facilitated by individual member states. *The FANR* is responsible for coordinating work in the *forestry, fisheries and wildlife sectors* and it also has a special programme on *Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAS)*. Going by the fact that the overwhelming majority of SADC depends on natural resources and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future, it is justifiable to have a modest increase in the capacity of the FANR to coordinate and orchestrate the implementation of SADC level programmes. However, in the *Natural Resources Unit*, which falls under FANR no one is devoted to forestry work. Figure 3, is a proposed organizational chart, which recommends a new structure that was generated through a job evaluation exercise. At that time it was already recognized that there would be need to recruit, under the unit of Natural Resources and Wildlife, a devoted post to coordinate the forestry programme. Recognizing, the need to maintain a lean structure as was decided by the Governing Body of the Secretariat, and going by the increased responsibility that this document entails, an innovative coordination mechanism is still therefore needed in order to comprehensively address the ambitions implied in the Protocol on Forestry and laid out more clearly in the forestry strategy document.

In line with the above and given the economic importance of the forest sector in SADC, the urgency associated Climate Change and the responsibility of the forest sector to help lower harmful emissions into the atmosphere, a post devoted to the coordination of the SADC Forestry Programme within the SADC Secretariat is strongly recommended.

In the interest of operating efficiently and reducing overhead costs, and after consultations with member states, it is proposed that SADC commissions '*Specialist Working Groups*' for *each Strategic Programme Area* as necessary, to steer developments under each. The working groups will be composed of a network of specialists, nominated by member states and each group, in conjunction with SADC Secretariat and Member States, may incorporate specialists from outside government. Each working group will in conjunction with the SADC Secretariat, guide project development in the Strategic Area and oversee the implementation and realization of set targets in the Strategic Programme Area. The general characteristic of the proposed working group are briefly described below.

Figure 3. FANR structure as proposed by a Job Evaluation Exercise



Source: Job Evaluation Report, October 2007

7.3 Specialist Working Groups on Forestry

As stated in the preceding section, working groups should be commissioned to promote and guide the work to implement the strategy. The general characteristics and functions of such working groups are suggested here, bearing in mind that their constitution, terms of references and legal mandates will be decided by member countries in conjunction with the SADC Secretariat.

- a) Members will be proven specialists nominated and paid by their countries and will have a team leader
- b) Engagement by a member state in a working group will be formalized by a formal letter between SADC Secretariat and the member state.
- c) The Groups will concentrate on those actions and programmes that are better handled at the Regional Level and where such actions add value to national programs
- d) The working groups may consult with member countries and thereafter develop proposals and seek donor funds through SADC Secretariat and act as steering group to guide implementations.

- e) They may also seek partnerships with government and non government institutions (particularly those with regional mandates) to plan and implement field programmes
- f) Each working group will convene scheduled steering committee meetings to oversee agreed work and report to the FANR and through it to the SADC technical Committee on Forestry
- g) SADC Secretariat will seek funds to support the position of a Forestry Coordinator and to facilitate the formation and launching of working groups

7.4 Specialist Working Groups

Based on inputs from SADC member states, an initial set of Specialist Working Groups is listed herein.

- a) Forests for Climate Change Regulation, Water and Biodiversity
- b) Forest Production and Food Security
- c) Technology Transfer, Value Addition, Certification and Trade in Forest Products
- d) Community Empowerment (Community Based Forest Management)
- e) Fire Management and Cooperation in Trans-frontier Conservation and Forest Management Areas, and
- f) International multilateral arrangements on Forests

7.5 Project selection to launch the implementation of the SADC Forestry Strategy

The specialist working groups could quickly develop a few but highly visible exciting or 'early win' SADC projects that can help raise the profile of the Forestry Strategy and 'galvanize' interest among member states and donors. The strategy will need positive publicity in its launch to get the necessary political support it requires for its implementation.

7.6 Implementation Framework

The development of the Logical Framework for the Forestry Strategy is derived from the documents of SADC Secretariat that guide its programming within each of its Directorates. These are mainly the RISDP, The FANR Business Plan, The Biodiversity Strategy and The Protocol on Forestry. However, implementation of the strategy ultimately lies within the mandate of member states.

SADC will align its documents with agreed global policies regarding forests, biodiversity, environment and economic development. Hence the Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change and the Programme of Work under the United Nations Forum on Forests, provide the necessary global guidance for SADC's work through its member states. In addition the Conventions on Desertification and that on the control of trade of endangered species (CITES) are also taken into

account in policy formulation and programming. The poverty reduction focus that has been emphasized by SADC in the Forestry Protocol is very much in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

At the country level, the Forestry Strategy will be implemented within the framework of National Forestry Programmes or their equivalents.

SADC Secretariat is however obligated to report on the progress made, under each strategic programme area, to its appropriate official organs. Such reports will be compiled by member states and respective Working Groups and channeled to the SADC Secretariat for editing and presentation to the appropriate body.

7.7 Partners to facilitate the implementation of the strategy

To implement this strategy SADC will work with a number of stakeholders who are listed below and whose roles are shown in table 3.

- Member states through their forest and environmental departments or directorates
- Institutions of Higher Education in Forestry such as Universities and Technical Colleges
- National, regional and international research institutions operating in SADC
- Bilateral and multilateral donors
- Civil society organizations (such as, Community organizations, non-governmental organizations)
- The private sector

In view of the resource constraints at the level of SADC, entering into formal agreements with the above stakeholders, particularly those with regional mandates to help implement the strategy is strongly recommended. In that regard, Table 3 presents the types of partners that will be engaged to implement the forestry strategy and thereby give life to the Protocol.

7.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

As implied by the logical framework tables in the next section, a strong and consistent process to monitor and evaluate the progress being made under each strategic programme area will be developed. This will require the adherence to result-oriented programming to achieve the 8 objectives contained in the logical framework tables. In addition, SADC will spearhead the monitoring of key indicators that will help depict the state of forests in SADC. As such SADC will also regularly report on the status of key representative forests, those on catchments and also the general changes in forest cover to be provided by member states.

Table 3 Partners and their roles in implementing the forestry strategy

PARTNER	TYPE	REGIONAL / NATIONAL	ROLE
Government Agencies	Forest , Wildlife, Environment & Agriculture Departments	National	Policy / Legislation, Strategic Plans, Action Plans, Financing and Implementation
Teaching Institutions	Universities Technical Colleges	National and partly Regional Intakes	Academic, Research / Skills Training Skills Training
Research Institutions	In Government Independent Research Institutes	National National	Applied Research Resource monitoring Product development
Bilateral Donors	Government Aid Agencies	National and Regional	
Multilateral Donors	Both Bi and Multilateral	National and Regional	Policy Advocacy Funding
Organizations with Regional Mandates	Inter-governmental and Non-Governmental	Regional	Policy Advocacy, Training, Planning, Fundraising and Implementation

8. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK: OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL INDICATORS

There are 15 Articles (5 to 21) in the Protocol on Forestry which are relevant to the strategic programmes areas and referred to in the tables.

Table 4 Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>1. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <p>Objective: To improve the capacity of SADC member states to engage in International Processes and also have viable adaptation and mitigation projects in the forest sector</p>	<p>(i) All countries are participating in international forestry related policy processes</p> <p>(ii) At least 25 % of all new industrial plantations are CDM eligible by 2014.</p> <p>(iii) By 2012, 20% of Key Forests are managed under REDD Schemes</p> <p>(iv) A committee of core of REDD and CDM specialists (1 from each member state) established and supported by 2012</p> <p>(v) Key Forest Reserves are linked to other ecosystems through corridors to enhance climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to continue to use its convening power • SADC to host key training sessions on CDM, REDD and Marketing of Forest Products • Information dissemination on REDD • Launching of Specialist Working Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session Reports • Position and information papers • Working Group Reports to Secretariat • Field projects steered by working groups • List of CDM and REDD projects 	<p><i>Articles 8 and 11 on National Forest Programmes and Forest Related Laws respectively</i></p>

Table 5 Management of key catchment forests

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>2. Protection of key water catchment forests</p> <p>Objective: To safeguard and enhance the capacity of SADC forests to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect key water catchment areas</p>	<p>(i) Major River Catchment Forests proclaimed by 2015</p> <p>Examples: Critical catchment forests in the basins of the Congo, Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi Rivers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and Zoning • Land Use Planning • Requisite policy review and legislative processes • Promote Agro-forestry systems • Promote food security for local farmers • SADC's Directorate on Infrastructure liaises with member countries to recognize and protect these critical forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps • Land use plans and special management plans • Reviewed Policies and Legislation (Take to new table on Harmonized Policies and legislation) • Proclamation Documents 	<p><i>Articles 11 and 15 on forest laws and protection forests respectively</i></p>

Table 6 Forestry and poverty reduction

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>3. Energy supply and reduction of rural poverty</p> <p>Objective: To increase the levels of production from natural and man-made forests, create more employment and help reduce poverty</p>	<p>(i) New plants for finished wood products from planted and natural forests, established by 2016 in at least 3 countries</p> <p>(ii) New Industrial Plantations established for local industry in at least 3 countries and also supported by small scale out-grower schemes</p> <p>(iii) All new industrial plantation (pulp, timber & biofuel) investments invest in food security programmes</p> <p>(iv) Each country has at least one new value added NFTP in regional or international markets by 2015</p> <p>(v) Countries have compatible and mutually reinforcing bio-fuel and plantation development policies</p> <p>(vi) All countries promote sustainable harvesting of biomass fuels and their efficient uses I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active introduction or acquisition of wood working, finishing technology • Initiate pilot projects in reconstituted wood products • Requisite policy review and legislative processes • Promote the establishment of local commercial nurseries • Provision of improved planting materials • Promote Agro-forestry systems • Ensure that all large scale forest investment projects have viable food security programmes • Mandatory requirements for sustainable supply and use efficiencies particularly in urban areas • Incentives for adoption of alternative energy e.g. propane and natural gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New products in the market • Land use plans and special management plans and established plantations • Reviewed Policies and Legislation • Community based local wood based industries • Village run commercial nurseries 	<p><i>Article 5</i> on tenure and ownership. Also <i>Article 11</i> on forest laws</p>

Table 7 Community based forest management

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>4. Enhanced participatory forest management</p> <p>Objective: To empower the rural communities of SADC to productively participate in forest management</p>	<p>(i) Co-Management Contracts with at least 5 community groups per country established by 2014</p> <p>(ii) By 2015, an aggregate total of 1 million ha of natural forests under co-management schemes</p> <p>(iii) Community owned forests (natural or planted) legally recognized by at least 5 countries by 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for policy and legislative reviews in Angola, DRC and Madagascar • SADC facilitates technology and information sharing from other countries • Physical and socio-economic Mapping of designated areas • Training of community organizations and formation of management committees - share existing methods • Drafting of partnership or co-management contracts - share existing models • Drafting of revenue sharing agreements • Models for community empowerment in forest management developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents • Maps • Draft agreements • Revenue sharing • Functional Committees 	<p><i>Article 12</i> on community based forest management. Also <i>Articles 5 and 13</i> on tenure and Participation of women respectively</p>

Table 8 Enhanced trade in forest products

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>5. Enhanced Trade in Forest Products</p> <p>Objective: To increase the volume of legal trade in forest products within and outside SADC and reduce illegal and unreported logging and trade</p>	<p>(i) An agreed instrument to curb illegal logging and associated trade signed by all member states by 2014</p> <p>(ii) SADC Forest Products Trade Forum formed by 2012</p> <p>(iii) Volume of legal trade in timber increases by at least 50% above 2010 levels by 2015</p> <p>(iv) Significant increase in local entrepreneurs in at least 5 countries by 2015</p> <p>(v) Five countries have developed and adopted national management or product certification schemes by 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of position paper on curbing illegal trade for discussion and processing in SADC • Promotion of trade through demand surveys, buyer-seller joint seminars • Promotion of common product standards and grading systems for popular wood products • Propose tax incentives to promote new investments • Searching and sharing information on market opportunities for forest products • Facilitating development of National Certification Standards and Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed 'plan of action' document • Trade statistics • Trade Forum Meeting Reports • Publication of a standards handbook • Tax incentives by individual governments • Guidelines for regional trade in forest products • Certification guidelines 	<p><i>Article 18</i> on Trade in Forest Products</p>

Table 9 Fire management and cross-border cooperation

Strategic Programme Area	Five Year Target	Key Actions	Programme Level Indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>6. Cooperation in trans-boundary forest and fire management</p> <p>Objective: To co-operate in the exemplary management of fires, particularly in shared forest and other ecosystems</p>	<p>(i) Fire management agreements between at least 3 pairs of countries by 2012</p> <p>(ii) Forest and Wildlife Management Systems harmonized among countries sharing forest and wildlife ecosystems by 2014</p> <p>(iii) Joint assessment and monitoring systems in use by 2014 for both forests and wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of common fire management regimes across countries • Co-operation agreements with local governments, traditional leaders and community groups • Fire scar monitoring service to inform and educate policy makers and the public • Supply of fire management equipment including (fire suppression) to collaborating partners • Construction of fire lines • Setting rules and by laws for safe burning e.g. (timing of early burns) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications • Field deployment of fire management tools • Trained fire management personnel • Fire scar maps for all agreed areas 	<p><i>Articles 14 and 15 on Trans-boundary forests and protection forests respectively</i></p>

Table 10 Forest resource assessments

Strategic programme area	Five year targets	Key actions	Programme level indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>7. Forest resource assessment and Database management</p> <p>Objective: To coordinate the assessment and monitoring of the forest resources in the region, paying special attention to those of regional importance and facilitate information sharing among member states through a regional database</p>	<p>(i) Establishment of a regional database of agreed content in SADC 2014</p> <p>(ii) Routine and periodic monitoring based on a common platform by 2016</p> <p>(iii) Periodic publication on the "State of the SADC Forests Report" by 2015</p> <p>(iv) A database and information sharing platform for all Community Based, Value Added and CDM/REDD Projects in SADC by 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a set of forest assessment guidelines • Design, establish and promote the use of the database by member states • Facilitate the development of a regionally agreed monitoring system and launch its application on agreed strategic forests • Prepare the first status report on SADC Forests • Assess existing national and regional databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed monitoring framework or platform • Existence of Database • Status of Forests Report 	<p><i>Article 10</i> on Regional Database. Also <i>Articles 20</i> and <i>21</i> on research and information exchange respectively</p>

Table 11 Capacity building needs

Strategic programme area	Five year targets	Key actions	Programme level indicators	Article of Protocol Covered
<p>8. Capacity building of member states and SADC Secretariat manage the forest sector</p> <p>Objective: To improve the capacity of the SADC Secretariat and member states to offer devoted services to the strategic areas of the forest sector and competently participate in the international policy dialogue on forests.</p>	<p>(i) All countries participating in international dialogue on forests</p> <p>(ii) All member states understand and participate in CDM and voluntary carbon markets by 2015</p> <p>(iii) All forest departments have REDD Specialists by 2012</p> <p>(iv) By 2012 SADC Secretariat staffing level increased to facilitate Specialist Working Groups to lead the implementation of the strategy through member states</p> <p>(v) A core of REDD and CDM Specialists being supported by SADC Secretariat</p> <p>(vi) Research initiated in the key aspects of production and value-added processing and on aspects of REDD and climate change adaptation</p> <p>(vii) A new initiative for post-graduate training in the management of natural and man-made forests for REDD/CDM and industrial production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to continue to use its convening power • SADC to host key training sessions on CDM, REDD and Marketing of Forest Products for member states • Information dissemination on REDD • Launching of Specialist Working Groups • Review of Secretariat staffing in view of the strategy • Increased funding for applied research in at least 3 institutions in SADC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An upgraded SADC facility for the strategy • Session Reports • Position and information papers • Working Group Reports to Secretariat • Field projects steered by working groups • Government and donor allocations • Research projects in production technologies, REDD, Climate Change and bio-fuels 	<p><i>Article 19</i> on capacity building</p>