

AAPF ACTIVITY COMPLETION BRIEF (10 March 2013)



Participation in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Forum on Forests, Food Security and Financing in a Changing Climate
20 – 23 September 2011



Results

Background: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with the African Forest Forum (AFF) and the Department of Environment, Forests and Fisheries of South Africa, organised a Technical Forum on Forests, Food Security and Financing in Changing Climates, as part of the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum. This was a two-day event held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 20 to 21 September 2011.

AusAID, through the AAPF, agreed to provide financial support in response to a request from IUCN. The AAPF funded the costs of accommodation, travel and other activity-related expenses for 40 participants from Botswana, Djibouti, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Objective: The objectives of the Forum were as follows:

- The forum will increase the awareness and knowledge of practitioners, technical experts, community based and civil society organisations and policymakers on: (i) the significance of forest ecosystems, agriculture and food security; and (ii) lessons and good practice from the field in enhancing the role of forests and the wider landscape in relation to food security.
- Outcomes and key messages from the Regional Conservation Forum will inform national, regional and global processes.
- Communities of Practice will be strengthened and/or created for the development of collaborative research and development initiatives, policy dialogue and communication on food security, forests and other critical ecosystems.

Activity description: The Technical Forum was organised to influence knowledge, attitudes and practice for integrating forest conservation and food security, in a context of a changing climate in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Forum was structured into three Knowledge Streams, namely: Forests and People; Forests and Food Security; and Financing Biodiversity and Forests in a Changing Climate.

A Green Pavilion was also organised, which enabled participants to showcase their work in the region as well as interact and initiate the building of Communities of Practice.

The Regional Conservation Forum brought together 112 participants from across eastern and southern Africa. Of these, 35 attended the Forest and People Stream, 51 attended the Forests and Food Security Stream, and 21 attended the Financing Stream (total 107 participants). The remaining participants were support staff.

Activity outcomes: The Forum enhanced dialogue, and improved knowledge of integrating forest conservation and food security in attitudes, practices and policies, within a context of changing climates in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Participation by country and gender:

Country	M	F	Total
Botswana	2	1	3
Djibouti	1	0	1
Kenya	3	2	5
Malawi	4	0	4
Mauritius	1	0	1
Mozambique	0	1	1
Namibia	1	1	2
Seychelles	1	0	1
South Africa	10	4	14
Swaziland	2	0	2
Uganda	3	0	3
Zambia	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	0	2	2
TOTAL	28	12	40

Lessons learned: In the region, there are examples of good practice even though these are few and there is a need to do more. Specific lessons noted include:

- Successful examples of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) are 'few and far between'. PES is still at an early stage—currently there is low return at a community level. There is a need to increase market size; otherwise, return to individuals is very low.
- Pockets of best practice do exist, but there is a lack of synergy and lesson-learning between sectors (such as agriculture and environment) and institutions.

Next steps:

- Create partnerships between agriculture and conservation sectors in government, Regional Economic Commissions, Africa Union Commission and civil society.
- Develop joint programs and projects on food security and ecosystems management in the region.

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■ AusAID:	AUD31 438