



Regional/Sub-regional Organization: East African Community (EAC)

Represented by:

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2. Reviewing the

Section 0. Overview of the East African Community

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Burundi with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30 November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following its ratification by the original three Partner States – Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18 June 2007 and became full Members of the Community with effect from 1 July 2007.

A. Mission and Vision

The **Vision** of EAC is a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa; and the **Mission** is to *widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Culture integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.*

The EAC's core values are:

- Professionalism
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Teamwork
- Unity in Diversity and Allegiance to EAC ideals

B. Aims and Objectives

The EAC aims at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in, among others, political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefit. To this extent the EAC countries established a Customs Union in 2005 and a Common Market in 2010. The next phase of the integration will see the bloc enter into a Monetary Union and ultimately become a Political Federation of the East African States.

C. Enlargement of the Community

The realisation of a large regional economic bloc encompassing Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda with a combined population of more than 130 million people (2010*), land area of 1.82 million sq kilometres and a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$74.5 billion (2009*), bears great strategic and geopolitical significance and prospects of a renewed and reinvigorated East African Community.

D. Overview Of The Organization Of The East African Community

The East African Community is organized on the basis of the principle of shared responsibilities through various organs and specialized institutions. The following is the Decision Making at the Community:

a) **The Summit of Heads of State or Government.**

The Summit consists of Heads of State or Government of the Partner States and is responsible for giving direction and impetus to the development and achievement of the objectives of the Community. This is the vision setting organ of the Community.

b) **The Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers is the policy organ of the Community and consists of Ministers responsible for East African Community affairs in the Partner States and such other Ministers, as the Partner States shall determine. The Council of Ministers may constitute Sectoral Councils to address specific areas of cooperation on its behalf.

c) **The Coordination Committee**

This consists of Permanent Secretaries responsible for East African Community affairs in the Partner States and such other Permanent Secretaries, as the Partner States shall determine. The Committee reports to the Council of Ministers and coordinates the activities of the Sectoral Committees.

d) **The Sectoral Councils/Committees**

These are established by the Council of Ministers on the basis of the recommendations of the Coordination Committee, which spells out their composition and functions. The Sectoral Councils/Committees prepare comprehensive implementation programmes, setting out priorities with respect to the various sectors as well as monitoring their implementation.

The smooth functioning of the above organs is based on the provisions of the Protocol on Decision-Making of the Community, the Rules of Procedure for Summit Meetings, the Rules of Procedure for Council Meetings and the Rules of Procedure for Sectoral Committees.

Operational Organs and Institutions

a) ***The East African Court of Justice***

The East African Court of Justice as established under Chapter Eight of the Treaty is the organ charged with the interpretation and application of the Treaty. The Court's appellate, human rights and other jurisdictions are to be determined by the Council of Ministers by way of a Protocol that is currently under consideration.

b) ***The East African Legislative Assembly***

The East African Legislative Assembly is established under Chapter Nine of the Treaty and is the legislative organ of the Community. Its membership consist of 27 elected members, nine from each Partner State, plus five ex-officio members who include the three Ministers responsible for East African Community affairs, the Secretary General and the Counsel to the Community.

c) ***The Secretariat***

The Secretariat is established under Chapter IV of the Treaty and is the Executive Organ of the Community. It is headed by the Secretary General who is the Accounting Officer of the Community and is assisted by four Deputy Secretaries General.

The EAC has established a number of autonomous Institutions, which include:

The East African Development Bank

The East African Development Bank, headquartered in Kampala, Uganda, is one of the surviving institutions of the Community. The Bank operates on a Charter and its shareholders are the partner States' Ministries of Finance. The Bank is involved in the cross-border financing of regional development programmes and projects, small and medium scale

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFs as well as the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

A. Progress towards implementation of the Forest Instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

Tarrif Barriers (NTB)

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

Unsustainable exploitation of forests in the forms of illegal logging, unbalanced terms of the international trade and outdated forests management plans in the major forest reserves are main challenges experienced.

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

Actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products include revising National Forest Policies legislations and programs, strengthening check up at the main borders control, ban in the transferring of logs and decentralization of the forest sector. Furthermore, through Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Program, EAC Secretariat is supporting Partner States to strengthen the ongoing institutional reforms in the forests sector specifically in the area of good governance and technical capacity building.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

Conflicting policies and inadequate collaboration among the stakeholders undermine efforts in combating trafficking of forest products in the region. Lack of Regional Forest Policy and Regional Forests Law enforcement and Governance Strategy also jeopardize the fights against illicit trade in forest products.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

The activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources for SFM includes soliciting resources for the implementation of REDD+ scheme and funds generated by the CDM Projects.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

The main challenges encountered is inadequate or inappropriate finances to compensate community for their involvement in REDD+ Projects and complicated procedures for establishing CDM Projects.

B. Progress towards the achievement of the GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process and/or by other major stakeholders in your region/sub-region to help achieve the following:

GOF1, “Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including prot

2. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

EAC Secretariat is in the processes of developing regional forestry policy and strategy to support conservation and development of forest sector in the region. The envisaged policy will guide and determine the present and future decisions and actions and will be aligned with regional development goals and strategies.

C. Contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

As to date the Environment and Natural Resources department of the Secretariat have initiated a couple of activities though not specific to Forest involve the aspects of SFM. One of these initiatives is the Trans-Boundary ecosystem conservation workshop part of the efforts in conserving Trans-boundary areas of ecological importance will be aimed at reversing the loss of forests

2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

Indicators that could be used to assess the contribution of forests would be empowerment of communities surrounding forests especially SFM's, through education, employment and sustainable utilisation of forest resources GOAL 1 (eradication of extreme poverty and hunger) could be realised in the near future especially around forested regions. Periodic environmental audits on forests and their surrounding areas could be used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented policies aimed at reducing and reversing forest degradation, that would be in line with MDG 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability)

3. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on MDGs forest-related work.

Currently the Secretariat is engaging the Partner States to develop or rather consider the Trans-Boundary ecosystem bill and Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (RBCSAP), these will encourage harmonized policies and laws when it comes to the management of Trans-boundary ecosystems that tend to be vulnerable to environmental degradation. Some of these biodiversity significant Trans-boundary ecosystems lay within different types of forests in the region.

