

SADC-JICA Forestry Project organized the advanced capacity building training on Forest Information System in Gaborone.

25 July 2019

Republic of Botswana offered warm welcome to the participants of Forest Information System (FIS) advanced training which was held from 24th June to 2nd July for the 1st group, and from 8th to 16th July for the 2nd group respectively in Gaborone. The training was organized by the Project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa, which is being implemented jointly by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since June 2015.

Though it is expected that all SADC Member States should have the forest information system and could maintain it properly and regularly update forest information data, only a few Member States have achieved such practice so far. It is mainly due to lack of budget for purchasing and updating software and forest information data set. The training was aimed at introducing open source software and open forest information data which are both available free of charge so that the participants can easily establish and update forest information system of their own country without financial constraints. This is a consistent policy from the 1st FIS basic training which was held in June 2017 in line with advocacy and principles by the TICAD, that is to say the importance of African ownership and international partnership.

After the FIS advanced training, all participants expressed their deep satisfaction with the contents of the training which was eye-opening to the financially sustainable information system in continuation from the 1st FIS basic training. The participants are expected to share the skills and knowledge with their colleagues after they go back home and establish or improve National Forest Information System in each Member State.

The training was attended by participants from 13 Member States for the 1st group; Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and from 13 Member States for the 2nd group; Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe respectively. Training module included advanced technology for forest resources monitoring, exercise on field data collection using mobile

tablet PC, open source software operation such as PostgreSQL/QGIS/Google Earth Engine, and exercise on forest area change detection analysis. At the end of the training, participants were able to have a chance to make their own presentation on how to apply skills and knowledge they had learnt in the training to solve actual challenges in their respective country.

The project is being implemented for the purpose of enhancing capacity development of SADC Secretariat and the Member States for the sustainable forest management to implement the SADC Forestry Strategy 2010-2020. Main areas of activities are 1) Forest Information System, 2) Forest Fire Management, and 3) Participatory Forest Management.

The next training on Forest Information System will be held in December 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana as well.





the 1st group participants (from 24th June to 2nd July)



the 2nd group participants (from 8th to 16th July)