

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

13 December 2019

Republic of Botswana, JICA Botswana Office, SADC Secretariat offered warm welcome to the participants of Forest Information System (FIS) capacity building training on Regional Forest Information System (RFIS) and National Forest Information System (NFIS) which was held from 9th December to 13th December in Gaborone with attended by 18 participants from 16 Member States; Angola, Botswana (3 participants), Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe. 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.

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 initial stage of the project. When it comes to the RFIS System Design presentation session, participants contributed positively to discuss on how to refine the document based on their own forest circumstances although it was capacity building training not expert working group meeting.

Training module included understanding of mechanism on how to develop the RFIS and general structure of the RFIS, and understanding of operation on how we can produce Forest Outlook using the RFIS which is directly going to contribute to the “SADC Forestry Strategy 2010 – 2020” to monitor regional forest resources in sustainable manor.

The participants are expected to share the skills and knowledge learnt here especially on how to customize NFIS template system with their colleagues after they go back home and establish or improve their National Forest Information System in each Member State considering their own system development environment.

The next meeting on Forest Information System group will be convened jointly with the Forest Fire Management group in February 2020 in Kasane, Botswana.



In house FIS capacity development training using Laptop PC



Participants of the FIS capacity development training (from 9th December to 13th December)