SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

FORESTRY STRATEGY

2020 – 2030

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AQUA	National Environmental Quality Control Agency of Mozambique
AUC	African Union Commission
AFR100	Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
ASEAN+	Association of South East Asian Nations Plus Three
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CDC	United Kingdom's development finance institution
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAFF	Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries of Republic of South Africa
DINAF	National Directorate of Forest of Mozambique
DFI	Development Finance Institutions
DFNR	Department of Forestry and Non-Renewable Natural Resources of Zanzibar
DFRR	Department of Forestry and Range Resources of Botswana
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FANR	SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate
FISNA	Forestry Invasive Species Network for Africa
FMO	Netherlands Development Finance Company
Ha	Hectares
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FINNFUND	Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation Limited
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICPs	International Conservation Partners
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JCC	Joint Coordination Committee
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting under the UNCCD
LEAP	SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy
MCO	SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ
NAFORMA	National Forest Monitoring and Assessment
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NORFUND	Norwegian Investment Fund for developing countries
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
RECs	Regional Economic Commissions
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RISDP	SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFMPF	Sustainable Forestry Management Programme Framework of AUC
SWEDFUND	Swedish Development Finance Institution
TFS	Tanzania Forest Service Agency

UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention on Combating Desertification
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Definition of Key Terms

Drivers: Drivers of indirect threats are factors behind the occurrence of one or more direct threats and can be in the form of political, economic, social, cultural or institutional. For this strategy, drivers are defined based on issues at national level and regional scale and how they contribute to the occurrence of threats. The strategy focuses more on regional drivers (political, economic, social, cultural or institutional) given the limitation to directly specific national issues. The emphasis on drivers at regional scale has the objective of empowering Member States in their efforts to directly tackle common regional threats and learn from each other.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS): are plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health. IAS pose impacts on biodiversity, including decline or elimination of native species - through competition, predation, or transmission of pathogens - and the disruption of local ecosystems and ecosystem functions. Their damage is further exacerbated by effects of climate change, pollution, habitat loss and human-induced threats.

National Forest Institutions: For the purpose of this strategy and associated initiatives, national forest institutions are defined to include national forest authorities, departments, agencies, services with legal mandate over various aspects of forest management, research, policy, trade and investments. The institutions also include those entities with a legal mandate to oversee set-up, implementation, research and management of legislations related to CITES. Across Member States, forest institutions are referred to in various names due to respective legislations which define their legal mandate.

Non-Timber Forest Products: These include all biological material, other than timber, which are harvested from forests for human and industrial use such as roots, barks, fruits, flowers and leaves.

Private Sector: For the purpose of this strategy, the private sector means entities with financial investments interests (from Africa and abroad) and those operating forestry related businesses in both natural and planted forests. The financial investors here include Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) e.g. Finnfund, Swedfund, Norfund, AfDB, local banks in Member States), and forest-related companies.

REDD+: Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (or REDD+) 'is a mechanism to create an incentive for developing countries to undertake forestry and related activities at the national (and in some cases subnational) level that, together, would contribute to climate change mitigation. The incentive is provided through promotion of conservation of forests and the creation of financial value from the carbon stored in trees.'

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR): is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. FLR is more than just planting trees – it is restoring a whole landscape to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time.

Sustainable Forest Management: means the management and use of all types of forests and trees in a manner that ensures that the ecological functions of the forest are maintained, and that the ecological, economic, social and aesthetic value of the forest to the current and future generations is not impaired.

Threats: are direct human intervention or activities that may lead to deforestation and degradation of forest resources. The nature and occurrence of threats is very specific to a geography and their solutions, for the context of this strategy, fall within the jurisdiction of Member States.

Transit State: a country that is a passage but neither origin nor destination of the timber or other forest product consignment. The destination in this case may be for another transit country (where transhipment can happen to another country), for processing or the final market. For example, timber logs originating from Zambia may travel to Tanzania to either be semi-processed, consumed in Tanzania or shipped to China.

Executive Summary

The first Southern African Development Community (SADC) Forestry Strategy (2010-2020) was approved in 2010 to support implementation of the SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002) ratified in 2009. The strategy, among other things, aimed at providing a basis for cooperation amongst SADC Member States on matters related to forestry. Since its inception in 2010, the implementation of the Strategy has been supported by several regional programmes and partners - most notably, the JICA/SADC Project on Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa (2015-2020). The Forestry Strategy came to an end in 2020 and as a result, the SADC Secretariat was directed by the 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the JICA/SADC Forestry Project meeting held in Mauritius in May 2019 to revise the strategy. This decision was also cognizant of the changing environment on forest management, governance and trade as noted by various developments across the region.

Despite some notable achievements of the forestry strategy in areas such as information management systems, participatory forest management and trans-boundary cooperation in forest fire management, the strategy was not fully implemented due to three major reasons:

I. In general, there was a low level of awareness of the previous strategy by some Member States and other stakeholders. This did partly lead to inadequate and non-consistent annual reporting by Member States to the SADC Secretariat on progress of implementation of the Forestry Protocol and Strategy.

II. There was an inadequate understanding of what the regional strategy meant and the role of the SADC Secretariat in the implementation of the strategy.

III. There was a consensus that the targets of the strategy were highly ambitious contrary to the resources available, timeframe, and focused on issues that countries could have addressed unilaterally. Concurrently, while Member States approved the forestry strategy in 2010, the SADC Secretariat was left without the necessary human and financial resources to facilitate implementation of the Strategy's action plan.

Therefore, the process to revise the 2010-2020 strategy was made as comprehensive, consultative and participatory as possible to ensure ownership of the process by the Member States to avoid repeating past mistakes. All Member States provided their views during consultation either in writing or through personal meetings, which indicated ownership and the value the strategy can bring across the region. In addition, the process to develop a revised strategy included four main phases to ensure focus on common areas that matter at regional level - status assessment and establishment of baseline information, horizon scanning of the changing contexts in which this new strategy would operate, a thorough analysis of collected views and prevailing literature, and review process by Member States. While it was important to develop an ambitious Strategy, these processes were critical to recognize and develop relevant, realistic, attainable, affordable, and measurable targets.

This revised strategy has put an emphasis on the extent and potential offered by regional forest resources which are currently estimated to cover 41% of total area in the SADC region. For SADC Member States, 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. The potentials offered by forest resources is however undermined by growing threats across the region that range from human interventions within Member States and beyond. The direct threats facing forest resources identified by Member States resembled largely to those spelled out in the previous forestry strategy (2010-2020) and include forest fires; expansion of unsustainable small and large-scale agriculture; unsustainable and illegal harvesting of forest resources for charcoal, timber and fuel wood; pests and diseases; and invasive alien species.

The direct threats facing forest resources are also driven by a number of factors which include political, economic, social, cultural and institutional. The drivers raised by the Member States represented an increased institutional understanding of the forest sector compared to when the original strategy was developed in the late 2000's. The most pressing drivers include the disparity in institutional structure, authority, and capacity of national forest authorities (or departments) across the region; the limited

collaboration within countries and across borders among forest authorities or with others (e.g. enforcement agencies such as Customs); limited understanding and capacity to deal with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); lack of updated data and capacity thereof to collect the information; and the limited political attention towards forestry sector at regional scale.

In tackling the threats, Member States identified several priorities which were then benchmarked against SADC criteria for regional initiatives including focus on transboundary biomes, geographical balance of the countries (i.e. island states, coastal areas, inland and landlocked countries), and issues that may bring at least two or more countries together. In countries such as Tanzania where there is more than one forest authority, Zanzibar's Department of Forestry and Non-Renewable Natural Resources (DFNR) explicitly indicated that 'new strategy should recognize Zanzibar forest sector independently from Tanzania mainland sector given that forest sector is not a union matter. There was also more call for SADC Secretariat to improve internal capacity to support Member States in forestry issues in a range of areas including transformation of forest authorities to have more authority and consistency across the region, international negotiations (e.g. CITES), identification of new programmes, developing regional agreed mechanisms (e.g. methodologies for forest investors and reporting, harmonised tax regimes), publication of a periodic regional status report on the forest sector in SADC, fundraising, and improving networking among others. The strategic areas identified by Member States are as follows:

I.   Forest Institutional Capacity and Governance
   ● To build capacity of the SADC Secretariat Forestry Programme to facilitate support in the implementation of this strategy
   ● To encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible for forestry
   ● To promote regional mechanisms that enable cost-effective collection and storage of data to improve decision making in forest management
II. Market and Trade in Timber and other Forest Products
   ● To create and support regional mechanisms to improve legal trade in forest products
III. Financial Investments and Private Sector Engagement
   ● To promote the role of private sector and financial investments in commercial forestry and processing industries in the region
IV. Protection, Restoration and Sustainable Management and Use of Forest Production Systems
   ● To establish and promote regional mechanisms to enable protection, sustainable management, and restoration of all forest types
   ● To encourage and support Member States in response to Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and diseases associated with forestry.

In line with these priorities, this revised SADC Forestry Strategy (2020-2030) does not aim to usurp national mandates which are expressed in official documents but to add value to what Member States are already doing. The strategy intends to pay attention to those regional issues, outlined in the priority areas, that bring Member States together at regional level and beyond. The strategy does not intend to pursue interventions that Member States can implement unilaterally but to create an environment whereby lessons and best practices at Member States level could lead to regional consensus and export to other countries facing similar constraints.

1. Background and rationale for the forestry strategy

This section highlights the context of the Forestry Sector in the SADC region including the brief description of forest resources in SADC, brief analysis of current direct and indirect threats (drivers) facing forest resources. The section also includes rationale for revising the previous forestry strategy (2010-2020) including key developments in the SADC region that have partly triggered the need to revise.

1.1. The historical perspective and basis for SADC focus on forestry

For SADC Member States, 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 among SADC Member States themselves and with bilateral and multilateral agencies from outside the region. This development is evidenced by past and existing large-scale programmes, operational and attempted agreements geared to protect and sustainably benefit from forest resources.

The focus on forestry and operations by SADC are mandated and guided by the Protocol on Forestry, which was signed by Heads of States and Governments in 2002 and entered into force in 2009. The entry into force of the protocol signified the need for Member States to commit their resources for its implementation, in line with agreed articles, which were included into the previous Forestry Strategy (2010-2020). Apart from the requirements by the SADC Protocol on Forestry, the first forestry strategy (2010-2020) was created to reinforce collective regional commitment by SADC to honour critical international issues on forestry and environmental agreements; to encourage multilateral collaboration to protect and manage shared ecosystems and threats beyond national borders; to promote intra-regional and inter-regional trade in forest products; for Member States to improve their individual forest sectors through learning from each other; and facilitate collective negotiations at international fora to enable strong regional voice.

For guidance, the revised SADC Forestry Strategy (2020-2030) does not aim to usurp national mandates which are expressed in national official documents but to add value to what Member States are already doing. The strategy intends to pay attention to common issues that bring Member States together at regional level and beyond, including trade in forests products and negotiations towards international agreements, among others. The strategy does not intend to pursue interventions that Member States can implement unilaterally but to create an environment whereby lessons and best practices from implementation at Member States level could lead to regional consensus and also be exported to other countries facing similar constraints.

1.2 Forest resources of the SADC region and their economic use

Forests in the SADC region are characterised by various forest types across the region with an estimated total area of 400,503,000 Ha (**Table 1**). Until 2002 when the Democratic Republic of 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. The addition of the DRC 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, Comoros 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. Comoros with its forests which are more related to those in Madagascar, is characterised by the lowland and montane rainforests, and mangrove along the coast.

The Miombo Forests or Woodlands, typified by trees in the subfamily *Ceasalpinoideae* are predominant in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and 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 *Caesalpinioideae* subfamily.

The Congo Basin, of which the DRC is the largest single component, produces high value tropical hardwoods of which species such as Mahogany (*Khaya, Entandrophragma*), *Triplochiton, Terminalia* and *Mvule* or *Iroko* (*Milicia excelsa*) are world famous. In the *Miombo*, species of *Brachystegia* are used in the mining industry and in some parts, *Dalbergia melanoxylon* (or black wood) used in making high value musical instruments, and 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 *Caesalpinia* species known as Zambezi Teak (*Baikiae plurijuga*), *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *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 a mixture of Miombo and Coastal elements and riverine forest communities do harbour various tree species such as panga (*Milletia stuhlmanii*), blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) and *Pterocarpus*. The Afromontane Archipelago Forests that are 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 the East African Cedar (*Juniperous procera*) and Mulanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei)*. The African Cedar are increasingly threatened by illegal harvesting and trade and their distribution confined only to areas set aside for conservation.

In all these areas, riverine forest communities tend to have different tree species such as *Diospyros, Trichilia, Syzygium*, and are valuable dry season habitat for several mammals, reptiles and bird species. Madagascar has several valuable timber species such as *Dalbergia, Diospyros, Terminalia* and others in the moist forests, which their survival is severely threatened due to illegal trade and demand from China. Madagascar's 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, and Madagascar have mangrove forests, of which Mozambique has the largest remaining blocks followed by Madagascar. 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, *Vachellia nilotica,* Cinnamon and *Albizzia falcataria* in the Seychelles, which in some areas have invaded and overrun the natural vegetation.

Table 1: Forest cover* and changes in the SADC region

Country	Forest cover (000ha) 1990	Forest cover 2000	Forest cover 2005	Forest cover 2010	Forest cover 2015
Angola	60,976	59,728	59,104	58,480	57,856
Botswana	13,718	12,535	11,943	11,351	10,840
Comoros	49	45	42	39	37
DRC	160,363	157,249	155,692	154,135	152,578
Lesotho	40	42	43	44	49
Madagascar	13,692	13,023	12,838	12,553	12,473
Mauritius	41	42	38	38	39
Malawi	3,896	3,567	3,402	3,237	3,147
Mozambique	43,378	41,188	40,079	38,972	37,940
Namibia	8,762	8,032	7,661	7,290	6,919
South Africa	9,241	9,241	9,241	9,241	9,241
Swaziland	472	518	541	563	586
Seychelles	41	41	41	41	41
Tanzania	55,920	51,920	49,920	47,920	46,060
Zambia	52,800	51,134	50,301	49,468	48,635
Zimbabwe	22,164	18,894	17,259	15,624	14,062
Total	**445,553***	**427,199**	**418,145**	**408,996**	**400,503**
Total SADC land area	**986,427**	**986,427**	**986,427**	**986,427**	**986,427**
% of forest cover	**45**	**43**	**42**	**41**	**41**

Note: * Total cover includes plantations (Source: FAO, 2015a)

In addition to the natural forests, the SADC Member States have man-made plantations which account for about 0.34% of total land area (**Table 2**). Among them South Africa, Malawi, Madagascar, Tanzania and Eswatini, have the most substantial land area under industrial plantations. Apart from Madagascar, other island states including Mauritius and Seychelles have forest plantations totaling about 23,000 Ha as of 2015 figures. The role of plantation forests in the SADC region and across Africa varies across countries (e.g. to feed paper and pulp industry and there has been growing interest in the sector recently as evidenced by several conferences targeted at plantations and debate on its role in climate change solutions).

In terms of economic benefits, the forest resources across the SADC region offer various products, livelihood options and ecosystem services. The forests provide timber, which traditionally, is the single most formally traded commodity, both nationally and internationally. Other benefits 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 several species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects, which support SADC's

ever-growing money-making nature-based tourism. These values form the basis to warrant the management and protection of SADC forests.

Table 2: Natural forest and planted forest in the SADC region (FAO, 2015a)

Country	Plantations (000ha) 2010	Plantations (000ha) 2015	Natural forest (000ha) 2010	Natural forest (000ha) 2015
Angola	128	125	58,352	57,731
Comoros	1	3	30	26
Botswana	0	0	11,351	10,840
DRC	59	60	154,076	152,518
Lesotho	10	17	34	32
Madagascar	415	312	12,138	12,161
Mauritius	18	18	20	20
Malawi	365	419	2,872	2,728
Mozambique	12	75	38,960	37,865
Namibia	0	0	7,290	6,919
South Africa	1,763	1,763	7,478	7,478
Swaziland	140	135	423	450
Seychelles	5	5	36	36
Tanzania	240	290	47,680	45,770
Zambia	62	64	49,406	48,571
Zimbabwe	87	87	15,537	13,975
Total	**3,305**	**3,373**	**405,683**	**397,120**
Total SADC land area	**986,427**	**986,427**	**986,427**	**986,427**
% of forest area	**0.33**	**0.34**	41	40

2. The Baseline: The Regional Policies, Strategies and Initiatives on Forestry

This section sets the basis for what the strategy is building on (i.e. contribution) and highlights areas where gaps still exist in which SADC and other partners could add value. It includes specific areas, but not limited to, SADC forestry related instruments, other relevant regional forestry instruments, relevant long-term regional plans and programmes. In summary, this section is an extension and update of various sections (2,3, 4, 5) of the 2010-2020 strategy whilst considering the current information.

2.1 The SADC Instruments related to Forestry

2.1.1 SADC Treaty

The Declaration and Treaty of SADC (1992) recognizes the dependence of SADC communities on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. The treaty 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. The treaty also 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.

2.1.2 SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015-2020)

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is currently under review, is a blueprint for deeper regional integration and poverty reduction, providing strategic direction to SADC programmes, projects and activities. The RISDP (2015-2020) under review includes areas of conservation, management and use of transboundary natural resources as priorities to ensure food availability. In line with this, SADC forests provide a significant amount of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) as food to many people and input of raw materials to various industries (e.g. cosmetics) within the region and beyond.

2.1.3 SADC Regional Agricultural Policy

The SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) main purpose is to set common agreed objectives and measures to guide, promote and support actions at regional and national levels in the agricultural sector of the SADC Member States in contribution to regional integration and the attainment of the SADC Common Agenda. This policy, among other sectors, includes the forestry sector within the context of food security, sustainable land use practices for agricultural and energy production, and market information system integration. Specifically, to forestry, the policy seeks to stimulate and support Member States' efforts to improve production, processing, trade, conservation and sustainable management of forest resources. The policy calls for various interventions on forestry including promoting trade and investment in forestry products and developing strategies on invasive forest species all of which are included in this forestry strategy as priorities.

2.1.4 SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan

The SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) (2017-2022) is the operational mechanism of SADC RAP and it sets out priority programmes to be implemented over 5 years. The RAIP covers various productive sectors including fisheries, agriculture and forestry. The RAIP consists of priority programmes in forestry in various areas including control and illegal harvest and trade of forest products, surveillance and monitoring systems, promotion of cross-border forestry products business, and sustainable forest management. The RAIP set out indicators on various programmatic priorities related to forestry will form the basis for the results framework of this strategy.

2.1.5 SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Business Plan

To make the RISDP and RAIP 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 is testimony to that fact.

2.1.6 SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement

The 1999 protocol on wildlife is linked quite strongly to all-natural resource management programmes, including the Protocol on Forestry and this Forestry Strategy, since it supports the principles of sustainable use of natural resources such as wildlife (which include forests and forest biodiversity and fisheries) and the rights of member states to decide on such use. The Protocol 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 of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

2.1.7 SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (LEAP) Strategy (2016-2021)

The LEAP strategy seeks to bring Member States to develop various approaches to tackle the challenge of poaching for elephants, rhinos and other wildlife including forests and fisheries, for illegal financial gain. The strategy emerged at the time when SADC Member States were faced with increased poaching driven mostly by the international black market and demand particularly in China and South-East Asia. The strategy is an implementation vehicle of the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement (1999), as well as Protocol on Forestry (2002) and Protocol on Fisheries (2001) with an overall aim of providing a framework for national and regional cooperation, cross-border and inter-continental collaboration among state and non-state actors. This strategy serves to benefit the SADC forestry sector in areas of illegal trade of timber and other forest products with importing countries in Asia, cross-border collaboration, engagement with Customs authorities, and engagement with judiciary both at national and regional scale.

2.1.8 The SADC Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development (2015)

The Strategy is the region's response to the global initiative for reducing vulnerability to climate change and to adopt and implement low carbon development pathways. Among the sectors described in the strategy and action plan include forests and biodiversity; and energy underlines the importance of sustainable forest management (SFM) in a green economy. Under the energy sector, reduced deforestation and the promotion of sustainable forms of renewable energy call for improved management of the region's forest resources. Furthermore, the strategy and action plan has recognized the potential value of payments for ecosystem services (PES) as a policy option which recognizes SFM's contributions to the wildlife, tourism and water sectors.

2.2. SADC Instruments on Forestry

2.2.1 SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002)

The Protocol remains the overarching policy framework for forestry collaboration amongst Member States and beyond. The Protocol lays out several guiding principles on how Member States should cooperate to protect, manage and utilise their forests to meet both regional and national objectives. The objectives of the Protocol are to promote the development, conservation and sustainable management and utilisation of all types of forests and trees as well as legal trade in forest products throughout the Region, in order to alleviate poverty and generate economic opportunities for the peoples of the Region; and effective protection of the environment and safeguard the interest of both present and future generations. The Protocol sets out several guiding principles on how Member States could collaborate and protect forest resources across the region. Apart from laying out the fifteen articles, the Protocol also has set out criteria for definition of regional initiatives.

2.3. Other International and Regional Instruments related to forestry in SADC

2.3.1 United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Established in October 2000, the UNFFwas 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.

2.3.2 Africa Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100) Initiative

The Initiative is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land in Africa into restoration by 2030. The initiative aims to accelerate restoration to enhance food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation, and combat rural poverty. The AFR100 initiative is part of the global commitment termed the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares by 2030 across the world. The initiative also aims largely to support African countries build on international commitments including Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) targets among others. The AFR100 coordinated by the African Union (AU) New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) receives support from United Nations Agencies such as FAO and range of Non-Governmental and International Organizations such as World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). At the time of writing this forestry strategy, total commitment by SADC Member States was standing at 28.8 Million Hectares of degraded and deforested land. The Member States that have already pledged their commitment towards the AFR100 and Bonn Challenge include Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Madagascar, Eswatini and DRC.

2.3.3 African Union Sustainable Forestry Management Programme Framework (AU-SFMPF)

The SFMPF seeks to guide AU Member States and African Regional Economic Communities on forest-related priorities towards achieving the objectives of AU Agenda 2063. The vision of the SFMPF is that, by 2063, Africa will have zero deforestation and forest degradation and its forests will be protected, sustainably managed and restored through collaborative, cross-sectoral, transformative efforts to ensure the prosperity, food security and resilience of its people. The priorities for SFMPF, which align largely with priorities laid bare by SADC Member States, include access to information and monitoring of forest resources, building capacity of forest sector institutions, strengthening markets of wood and non-wood forest products and ecosystem services, and build partnerships to mobilise resources (technical and financial) to achieve the objectives. The revised SADC forestry strategy (2020-2030) stands to benefit from the SFMPF's list of actions that encompass priorities at continental scale.

2.3.4 East African Community (EAC) Forestry Policy and Strategy

The EAC Forestry Policy, which became operational in February 2020, intends to promote SFM in the East Africa region for the ecosystem services and livelihoods of its population. Among other things, the policy objectives include issues of collaboration on forestry among EAC Partner States, increasing value addition of forest products, promoting agroforestry to tackle deforestation and land degradation, and promoting mechanisms for sustainable financing in the forestry sector. The EAC Forestry Strategy (2020-2030), which also became operational in February 2020, outlines the mechanisms and timeframe to implement the priorities spelled out in the forestry policy. The EAC Forestry Policy and Strategy covers issues (e.g. timber trade and transboundary collaboration) that also affect some of the Members in the SADC region including DRC, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.

2.3.5 Other existing SADC Regional and Bilateral Agreements on forestry

Over the last decade, SADC Member States have pursued several bilateral and regional agreements with the objective to promote SFM, improve trade of forest products among others. These agreements, which have aimed at creating political momentum for collaboration, cover the SADC geographical region and beyond within Africa and Asia. The agreements include, for example, the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and other Forest Products (2015) covering Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Uganda; the Brazzaville declaration on combating illegal timber trade in the Congo Basin (2013); bilateral agreements between Tanzania and Mozambique (2011), Tanzania and Zambia (2015), China and Mozambique (2018), and Tanzania and Kenya (2015). There are also other agreements under development including the one between South Africa and Eswatini on transboundary fire management.

2.4 Member States 'National Processes

With this revised strategy, it is important to recognize efforts attempted and successfully implemented by Member States over the course of 2010 – 2020 in strengthening their institutions towards SFM. Apart from pursuing bilateral and regional agreements, Member States have implemented several changes within their national boundaries which the revised strategy could build on. These efforts include, for example:

- Across SADC, many countries have gone through the process of revising and updating their legislations related to forest management and trade in forest products. These changes in the legislation are in response to the need to adapt to new realities, domesticating international agreements (e.g. UNFF, CITES, UNCCD), and making forest management more inclusive towards the private sector and local communities. For example, DRC has revised forestry legislation to guarantee legal rights for local communities in forest management and harmonized the system for taxation of forest products to create incentives for the private sector.
- Despite challenges related to costs and capacity, some countries (e.g. Angola, South Africa and Tanzania) have either completed or initiated the process to invest in tracking forest stock (status, off-take and recovery) through national assessments, inventories and setting-up a forest information system database. While the national forest assessments and inventories have relied on FAO guidelines, the methodology for database has differed from country to country.
- Across many countries, there has been growing appetite to strengthen national forest authorities through combination of mechanisms including restructuring (e.g. Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe) by creating additional institutions or moving to new home ministries, establishment of new legislations (e.g. Angola, DRC, Malawi), institutional re-arrangement (Tanzania, Mozambique, Botswana) or executive order to establish new institutions (e.g. Tanzania). The main objective of embracing these changes, although not homogenous across the region, is to seek several improvements – autonomous powers, efficiency and ultimately enough capacity to sustainably manage forest resources for both environmental and economic benefits. This is a strategic area where the majority of Member States, e.g. Mozambique and Botswana, have expressed interest to seek support from the SADC Secretariat to enable commonality across the region and experience sharing to increase capacity of their institutions responsible for forestry.
- Countries have also either started or completed the process to develop various forestry related climate change national targets such as the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting under the UNCCD and the post-2020 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. These targets are relevant to support Member States in achieving forest related goals at national, regional and global scale.
- Many countries have either launched new or about to review their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) in line with the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework. NBSAPs form the basis for formulating actions and various programmes that could respond to regional priorities.

3. Challenges, remaining gaps and opportunities on forestry sector in the SADC region

A strategy for SADC to improve the management of its forests requires an understanding of the challenges which the forest sector must contend with, and particularly those that need concerted action in a regional context. The challenges, constraints and opportunities identified for concerted action by SADC have been used to develop priority areas for this strategy. 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 Member States, the assessment of the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Forestry, and previous regional meetings including SADC Technical Committee on Forestry. Most of the issues presented here reflect the perspectives of the respondent groups, namely representatives of government, private sector and NGOs. The issues in this section also reflect those facts that are still relevant from the previous forestry strategy (2010-2020).

3.1 Challenges facing forest resources and management in the SADC region

A strategy for SADC to improve the management of its forests requires an understanding of the challenges which the forest sector must contend with, and particularly those that need concerted action in a regional context. The challenges, constraints and opportunities identified for concerted action by SADC have been used to develop the priority areas for this strategy. 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.

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3.1.1 Conversion of forest lands to other uses

The conversion of forest land to small scale agricultural areas, grazing land, infrastructure and other land use is an ongoing challenge across SADC that requires attention. These forms of land uses, which expose forests to deforestation and degradation, are often associated with politics, rural development as well as the need to improve food production, search for grazing land due to growing populations, and provision of infrastructural needs in rural areas. In some cases, politicians degazete protected forest areas and allocate them to supporters to solicit for votes. The pressure from small scale agriculture is always associated with use of fire during farm preparation and shifting cultivation.

The use of fire during farm preparation is linked to the degradation and eventual conversion of forest land while shifting cultivation involves clearing of land after a certain period depending on crop, soil fertility and harvests.

3.1.2 Encroachment into forest areas both inside and outside forest protected areas

The encroachment into forest areas both inside and outside forest protected areas is still a major threat facing Member States across the SADC region. This encroachment comes in the form of unsustainable artisanal mining (e.g. DRC, Tanzania), illegal hunting using fire, charcoal production (e.g. Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia), and unsustainable and illegal logging among others. These forms of encroachment open up forest areas, lead to habitat fragmentation, expose land to degradation, and remove high value tree species. As most forest areas are found within rural populations, the production of charcoal and harvesting of fuelwood and construction materials may constitute activities that local communities would use as means to prepare their farms. The incentives to produce charcoal is separately

driven by the need to meet domestic energy demand mostly in urban areas where prices are higher, and as means of employment and income generation.

Similarly, illegal logging for domestic and international markets are major drivers for increased depletion of precious wood in countries where forestry resources are still intact (e.g. Madagascar, DRC, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe). In this case, illegal logging may also involve transboundary forest areas such as the border between DRC and Zambia, or Zambia and Tanzania.

Also, the use of forest fires from unsustainable practices (e.g. farm preparation, shifting cultivation, and hunting) is a threat to forest resources within borders of many Member States (e.g. Malawi, Zimbabwe) as well as between the transboundary areas of the Republic of Angola and the DRC, DRC and Zambia, South Africa and Eswatini.

3.1.3 Demand for energy from fuel wood and charcoal

Most SADC countries, including the Island State of Madagascar depend on wood for energy, either in the raw form or as charcoal. The wood energy demand 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. In Malawi, for example, over 90% of its population rely on fuelwood and charcoal as primary domestic energy sources mainly for cooking. The predominant use of wood energy in cities is often driven by limited access and affordability of electric power and alternative energies (solar or Liquified Petroleum Gas). These gaps increase the demand and prices for fuel wood and charcoal leading to massive deforestation around cities and beyond.

3.1.4 Limited capacity of government institutions responsible for forestry management

This is a major constraint since the forest services (or departments, or authorities) of each country are the main custodians of the law and when they are under-staffed or under-equipped mainly because of inadequate funding and poor infrastructure, they cannot perform both their production, monitoring and regulatory roles. Across SADC, capacity of forest institutions varies depending on legislations, forestry statistics, donor priorities in the country, budget allocation and mandate to collect and retain revenue obtained from forest resources related trade. Some examples of these capacity gaps include:

- There is inadequate cooperation between Customs and forest authorities in source, transit and destination countries for monitoring movements of timber and other forest products. This weakness continues to facilitate unsustainable sourcing and illegal trade of timber and other forest products. In transit countries such as Botswana, the forest department is not allowed to conduct inspection of transit cargo. This is taking place where Customs authorities do not possess the necessary skills and capacity to handle forest products consignments. With limited collaboration domestically between forest agencies and Customs, and bilaterally with transit and importing countries, the region will continue to witness a surge of unsustainable and illegal harvesting and export of timber.
- In Madagascar, for example, there is inadequate scientific capacity and technology to fully understand and identify the extent and presence of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species. Most of the reliable information available of these species is *subject to harvest and trade*.
- Related to the above, most countries do not routinely collect, store and disseminate properly the data on the state of their forests limiting their ability to make short and long-term management decisions. 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.
- Other countries such Tanzania have empowered their forest authorities with legal mandate and powers to retain most revenues for protection and management of forest resources.
- There is also no bilateral or regional mechanism in place to manage and/or repatriate seized timber and forest products consignments across the SADC region. This is despite a call by several Member States (e.g. Madagascar, Mozambique, DRC) and several research findings on the loss of revenue associated with seized (or confiscated) consignments. As noted earlier, between 2013 and 2015

alone, Madagascar lost an estimated US$ 200 million of revenue due to seized timber consignments that were illegally exported.

• There is limited capacity for the forest institutions to sustainably 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 a strong motive for countries to adopt forest management and forest product certification schemes, particularly in the export market. To counter this, some countries such as Angola, Zambia, Madagascar, DRC and Mozambique have used several approaches including temporary bans for harvesting and export of logs by either targeting specific species or a geographical area. While member states have taken provisional efforts to limit illegal harvesting and export of timber (e.g. Angola with *Mussivi* or *Guibourtia coleosperma* tree species), the effectiveness of these measures do not completely eradicate the threats.

These gaps in terms of capacity limit the ability of institutions responsible for forestry to enforce necessary legislations, forge strong partnerships domestically and internationally, initiate and maintain bilateral relations which may render ineffective measures to control illegal flow of timber.

3.1.5 Inadequate participation of local communities in productive forest management

Across SADC, a large number of local communities living near forest resources do not hold sustained rights to participate in forest management and obtain a share of benefits generated from sale of forest products. The degree to which local communities are bestowed or awarded some form of legal tenure to own commercially viable tracts of forest land varies from country to country given the legislative framework, presence of non-state actors to promote such schemes, and history of how forests have been perceived from prior to independence. It is estimated that Africa has the lowest forest ownership by local communities representing 6% of the 396 million hectares of forest area. But there is good progress in some countries where there is indication of increased awareness and appetite to have local communities as part of forest management and sharing benefits accrued from forest resources (timber, firewood, NTFP etc.) given the level of deforestation to date. The efforts that are important to 13reecognize are those being undertaken by governments of Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia and DRC despite specific challenges that each country is facing. In all efforts and experiences, it is important to 13recognize the role played by both local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and NGOs. The experiences from these countries could offer good lessons to other countries that are trying to pursue similar approaches (e.g. Zambia) in terms of the needed legislations, practical steps in implementation and potential non-state actors to support governments. Stop here

3.1.6 Inadequate formal intra-regional trade in forest products between most Member States

Several countries in SADC decry the fact that significant amounts of cross-border trade in forest products is ad hoc and often illegal, unreported and harvested unsustainably. The phenomenon of unsustainable, illegal and unreported trade in forest products across political boundaries is a serious issue. If unchecked, it can represent major losses in revenue to both local and central governments for economic development of the country. It is estimated that nearly 5000 tonnes with value of more than US$ 200 million of Madagascar's rosewood and ebony, for example, have been seized outside the country including ports in Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya (Mombasa), Mozambique and in Asia between 2011 and 2015 alone. It is also reported, for example, that there is also illegal timber flow through a number of routes including from DRC to Tanzania and Kenya and then to China; from Zambia to Tanzania and then China; from Madagascar to the island states (e.g. Seychelles) and then to China and other South East Asia countries.

Table 3: Estimated export of roundwood from SADC Member States from 2015 to 2018

	Q (1000 m3)	Value (US$1000)	Q (1000 m3)	Value (US$1000)	Q (1000 m3)	Value (US$1000)	Q (1000 m3)	Value (US$1000)
Member State	**2015**	**2015**	**2016**	**2016**	**2017**	**2017**	**2018**	**2018**
Angola	**45.59**	**15206.19**	**108.97**	**29405.78**	**97.26**	**43599.93**	**107**	**50446.1**
Botswana	0.00165	4.75	0.05	3.42	0.000361	1.64	0.00045	1.35
Comoros	0.002	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	**181.98**	**67878.54**	**117.17**	**45320.18**	**63.53**	**42965**	**69.48**	**40995.64**
Eswatini	7.7	4625.46	20.72	4453.84	38.24	8955.43	19.08	6273.56
Lesotho	0.02	4.09	0.01	4.8	0.06	6.78	0.1	31.45
Madagascar	0.91	132.93	0.41	37.12	0.28	53.26	0.04	69.3
Malawi	1.94	849.26	0	0.001	0.12	11.77	0	0
Mauritius	0.02	9.19	0.17	70.97	0.05	35.03	3.98	2019.21
Mozambique	**1050.53**	**293914**	**1020.72**	**296308.8**	**1019.2**	**280550.4**	**881.3**	**244958.9**
Namibia	4.39	400.55	4.25	362.23	19.75	1465.8	9.18	3533.04
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0035875	9.07
South Africa	**267**	**23381**	**147.95**	**13460.62**	**433.18**	**52781.03**	**418**	**76972**
Tanzania (United Rep. of)	29.47	7968.88	16.56	4788.38	6.09	3529.14	10.86	7151.9
Zambia	**172.32**	**60228.8**	**300.99**	**87128.84**	**95.53**	**130051.9**	**48.61**	**52506.55**
Zimbabwe	1.3	376.18	0.54	170.14	13.99	1777.48	6.81	2096.05

Source: ITTO database: https://www.itto.int/biennal_review/ accessed on 12 Feb 2020

The fact that some countries have less wood products supply and increasing demand (e.g. Botswana) do also contribute to flow of timber and other products within SADC (e.g. from DRC and Zambia) (**Table 3**). Worse still, illegal logging and trade tend to lead to resource degradation, loss of biodiversity and weakened governance structures, all of which may increase poverty and threaten peace and security. These concerns on illegal logging and trade in both timber and other forest products 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.

3.1.7 Climate change

Forest ecosystems are known for several 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 functions require emphasis on sustainable management of remaining forest ecosystems. For several 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 land uses on the one hand, and their conservation on the other.

Across the SADC region, forests are increasingly facing pressure from the effects of climate change. These effects range from increased frequency of fires and floods which expose forest areas to erosion and lead to land degradation and reduce suitable areas for agriculture of which large populations rely on. The effects facing forests has direct implication on habitat for biodiversity and reducing a global share of how SADC forests can play a role as carbon sinks. In this aspect, it is important to also note specific risks faced by dryland forests (miombo) given their exposure to extreme weather conditions, and to island and coastal areas where forests such as mangroves play an important role in protecting coastal populations and associated biodiversity. The reliance on forests coupled with effects of climate change and institutional challenges facing the forest sector tend to limit the ability of Member States to adapt to climate change in an adequate way. This limitation is also exacerbated by inadequate funding and implementation of national strategies including, for example, NDCs, REDD+ and National Adaptation Plans of which forestry plays an important role.

3.1.8 Challenges related to development of forest plantations sector

The challenges related to plantation sector are clustered across many areas including legislative and government support, and capacities within and along value chain:

Government and legislative support: The development and growth of commercial plantations is entirely dependent on the national governments' ability to build a conducive investment environment for the private sector to operate. 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.

Financial investments: Although many SADC Member States (e.g. Tanzania, South Africa) have created and reformed their forest policies to enable investments in plantations and encourage commercial tree planting, financial investors still see disparity in national experiences and in most cases conditions set are not attractive and secure to long-term interests. The challenges reported so far related to the plantation sector development include cases of conflicts with local communities on use of land; the use of traditional single species plantations systems with no agroforestry techniques which may impact biodiversity and other ecosystem services on site; the government's inability to uphold agreements with private sector; limited experience in sustained record of reliable returns; and lack of proper investment in technical capacity on seeds development and adoption of modern silvicultural practices.

Production: Across Member States, the plantation sector has issues around quality of planting materials, low investment in silvicultural practices, aggregation in situations where you have smallholders with dispersed woodlots, and lack of forestry extension services.

Processing: A few issues here were reported across the region including low use of modern technology with high recovery rate, which affect the quality of the product and competition in the market.

End markets: The end markets for wood from plantation forests are affected by competition in domestic markets and lack of favourable public procurement policies. In many cases, for example, domestic markets do not recognize and reward quality and do struggle to compete with imported wood products (e.g. marine boards, furniture from China) and illegally harvested and imported hardwoods.

3.1.9 Invasive Alien Species

The spread and threats posed by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) have been cited by Member States as one of the major challenges facing forest ecosystems in a number of SADC countries such as Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana and Seychelles. The IAS can destroy forest ecosystems, compete with and colonize native tree habitat, and lead to extinction. At introduction, IAS could also be a source of diseases that may directly affect trees and other agricultural crops. Zimbabwe, for example, has recently discovered a fast spreading Invasive Alien plant species, *Vernonanthura polyanthes*, invading significant areas of

exotic plantation forests in its Eastern border region with Mozambique. This plantation weed, of which research is still underway to determine the impact, is believed to have spread from Mozambique by Cyclone Eline in year 2000, having been brought to Mozambique from Brazil where it is native.

In terms of regional concerted actions, the attention on IAS appears to have peaked between early 2000's to about 2010 with various pilot policy and on ground projects across the region aimed at prevention and management of alien species. These projects were scattered from Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Seychelles and supported by UNDP, FAO, UNEP and IUCN among others. The projects also included the creation of Forestry Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA) hosted by FAO in 2004 to coordinate information on IAS related to forests in sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently, at national level, countries do not possess the necessary research, technical knowledge and financial means to effectively control IAS. For example, Botswana has expressed concerns that it doesn't have the capacity and funding to control the effects posed by *Prosopis juriphrora,* which was introduced in the arid areas to combat desertification. Similarly, Tanzania and Mauritius have recently developed national strategies and action plans to combat and control spread of IAS but there are no proposed financed projects in the pipeline. While the funding support has gone down over the years, the problem of IAS hasn't gone away given the expressions of Member States in recent years and recent scientific reports.

3.2 Opportunities for action on forests of SADC region

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 to its advantage. A few of such opportunities, including those previously defined in section 2, are highlighted herein:

3.2.1 Growing Influence of SADC as a bloc on International processes important to the forestry sector

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the role of the SADC Secretariat by the Member States and other stakeholders as a regional platform for discussions and supporting agreements on positions of key international multilateral environmental agreements related to forestry. There is also recognition of collective action shared by SADC Member States in negotiating as a regional bloc on key international issues such as UNFF, UNFCCC, CITES etc., engagement with other regional blocs in timber importing countries, and other related agreements where forestry is crucial.

For example, in the second half of the last decade, the secretariat has taken active steps in mobilising new partnerships (e.g. with CIFOR, GIZ, JICA, TRAFFIC and WWF), elevating forestry agreements (e.g. Zanzibar Declaration) to high-political level, supporting Member States to have common positions towards international multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. CITES, CBD), and initiating regional processes to engage timber importing countries in Asia.[1] These efforts have, however, taken place in light of limited technical and financial capacity at SADC secretariat to adequately meet all the demands by the Member States and within this revised strategy. These gaps underline the need for this revised strategy to build on the momentum created so far where SADC Member States could follow-up.

As a bloc, SADC has also become active in pursuing regional approaches that seek to address challenges related to increasing illegal export of timber to South East Asia, and management and storage of accumulating stockpiles of forest products, mainly timber. In 2019, SADC Secretariat and WWF commissioned a research to assess the potential of and provide framework for development of harmonised mechanism for inventory, management and disposal of seized stockpiles of timber and other forest products; and a bloc agreement between SADC and Member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations Plus Three (ASEAN+) on cooperation to tackle illegal trade in timber and other forest products and improve sustainable forest management. These processes were in response to the

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[1] For example: Decisions from the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism, at their meeting held on 23-24 November 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa)

directives by the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Tourism, at their meeting held on 23-24 November 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa.

3.2.2 Existing bilateral and regional agreements related to the SADC region

As mentioned earlier, there are a number of existing bilateral (e.g. Mozambique-China) and regional agreements (e.g. Zanzibar Declaration) that this strategy could build on by complimenting efforts. There are also agreements that have been tried (e.g. Zambia, Angola, Namibia) and currently under development (e.g. South Africa, Eswatini). These agreements underline the commitment of Member States to work together bilaterally and at regional level within SADC and beyond. These agreements could be a building momentum for SADC to identify areas that Member States could be supported with on issues related to timber trade, NTFP, fire management, data and information sharing.

3.2.3 Increased appetite for Member States to undergo institutional transformation on their forest authorities

Given the limited institutional capacity to address and control some of the challenges related to forestry as outlined in section 3, some Member States (e.g. Botswana and Mozambique) have expressed a strong desire to seek transformation. The need to transform and to seek lessons from other Member States is an opportunity for this strategy to build on such commitments.

3.2.4 Potential for bilateral legal timber trade

Within the context of timber trade, there is a potential for SADC's biggest exporters of tropical hardwoods to develop new formal markets within SADC and legalise cross-continental trade with booming Asian markets. This would develop a competitive wood/timber market, enhance cooperation among Member States to deal with the ever-growing issue of illegal and unreported trade between countries and beyond. SADC Member States that are currently concerned with illegal harvesting and illegal trade of timber and other forest products are Angola, the DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. In the previous strategy (2010-2020), these top exporters have expressed interest to increase trade with fellow SADC states, attract legal and sustainable investments, and call for legal arrangements within SADC to control illegality. This interest, which still holds today, is a very significant opportunity that should be taken up, in order to strengthen the timber economy of SADC to benefit the region, especially if the member states also commit themselves to control illegal timber trade which some few countries suffer from.

3.2.5 The growing interest and potential of forest plantation sector

Despite the challenges related to the forest plantation sector, some developments across Africa indicate a strong momentum for the sector given increased interests by governments, commercial plantations companies and the financial investors. These developments include the potential of lower cost brownfield investments and expansions of past greenfield investments; lessons from investments and operation of plantations over the last two decades; increasing focus on natural climate solutions and negative emissions over recent years; increasing interest by African grown institutions such as the AfDB and local banks in forestry sector; and presence of global platforms that offer a dialogue mechanism among governments, communities, financial investors and private sector such as New Generation Plantations (NGP). The other current financial investors that are potential for the SADC region, which have also indicated interest, include Finnfund, CDC, Swedfund, Norfund and local banks across many Member States.

The promotion of tree growing for commercial purposes has the potential to provide jobs, create opportunity for Member States to industrialize, and encourage trade balance through substitution of forest products. This is timely given growing interest to invest in and scale up the forest plantation sector, from medium to commercial scale across many SADC countries. This opportunity and growth is driven mostly by the current demand pressure being exerted on both natural and planted forests across Africa and beyond, meaning that the current supply will not be in position to sustainably meet all needs for wood

products. There is also growing interest by Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in the form of private equity and venture capital funds to invest in the sector as evidenced by historical trends, climate change mitigation efforts and business opportunities offered by Member States. Many of these opportunities are country specific given that financial investment risks related to commercial tree planting are country based limiting a concrete regional approach.

There is also a huge good fortune for growing the smallholder size tree plantations through a combination of right mechanisms including government, donors and private companies support. There are lessons already (e.g. legislative) across Africa for successful small-scale growers' schemes in Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa. For example, Uganda was able to attract private investment and establish planted forests of over 50,000 hectares within 10 years (2003 to 2012) of which majority was owned by small-scale, local farmers. There is also an exemplary experience in Tanzania where there is an estimated 150,000 ha of smallholder size plantations driven and established exclusively by local people with support from a combination of government, donor and private sector programs. In South Africa, for example, the government has created an environment where the private sector has a huge role to play in investing in the plantation sector. With the private sector owning 180 of the 183 wood processing plants, the plantation sector is playing a significant role in improving domestic revenues, creating opportunities for knowledge and experience exchange and creating jobs (based on the interview with DAFF in February 2020).

3.2.6 Presence of pan-African and regional processes on forests

As defined earlier, there are several regional and continental processes that this strategy could build on:
• In recognition of threats facing Miombo drylands forests, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative has been extended to the SADC region. As part of this process, FAO began to support Member States in 2018 to develop a Miombo programme through funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
• The promotion of engagement of local communities is promoted as a solid form of conservation that could support efforts to curb deforestation and reduce poverty in rural areas, as defined in the AUC-SFMPF and various national legislations. In this case, some countries have advanced community-based forest management (e.g. Tanzania), initiated processes to pilot participatory forest management systems (e.g. Zambia) and some have gone further to fully integrate NTFPs in the hands of local communities (e.g. Namibia, South Africa). To achieve this, the presence of inclusive friendly policies and legislation need to be in place to create roles for local communities. This could be through offering opportunities for rural populations to participate in value added jobs in the forest sector; to add value to forest resources, both timber and non-timber forest products; and to engage in industrial plantation initiatives in which communities draw benefits in the form of employment and out-growers' producers.

4. Experiences and lessons from the previous strategy (2010-2020)

Although there was never a dedicated assessment of the implementation of the 2010-2020 Forestry Strategy, a study was commissioned in 2017 by SADC Secretariat to look at the status of implementation of the Protocol on Forestry of which the Forestry Strategy (2010-2020) is based upon. The lessons so far include the following:

- In general, there is low level awareness of the strategy by some Member States and other stakeholders. This was the same for the SADC Forestry Protocol of 2002 as reported in the assessment commissioned in 2017. Although these two documents were not well known, there is a strong sense of ownership by Member States and the role that the strategy and protocol could play to leverage political support on regional issues.
- There is also inadequate understanding of what the regional strategy means and what role the SADC Secretariat plays in addressing bottlenecks facing forest resources. The responses by many Member States included some issues and priorities that countries could be able to tackle unilaterally but not regionally. It is important in this context to lay bare the principles of the SADC operations which include fairness and equity across Member States where actions should benefit at least two or more countries.

- Similarly, there is a consensus that the targets of the previous strategy were highly ambitious contrary to the resources available, timeframe, and with emphasis on issues that countries could address unilaterally.
- The limited funding and capacity of the SADC Secretariat on Forestry programme is one of the reasons that a large part of the strategy was not implemented. While Member States have developed and agreed to embrace the forestry strategy, the Forestry Programme at the Secretariat was left without the necessary human and financial resources to implement the action plan. This has also gone in parallel with the fact that forestry (i.e. in comparison to wildlife and food security) has not been on top of the agenda at the regional scale to attract the critical political momentum. A lot of past and current efforts on forestry by SADC have been donor funded which, in many cases, led to sector specific focus and left other important issues out. The challenge here is that SADC doesn't have control as in many cases there is no direct agreement with the donor/organization supporting such efforts.
- In the first half of the last decade, SADC saw the emergence of several pilot REDD+ projects and associated monitoring mechanisms across the region. The experience on the performance of these projects and REDD+ framework has been mixed and with very little promising results. There is a general consensus and enough evidence that implementation of REDD+ has been too slow than expected, is limited and partly realistic to only a few countries (e.g. DRC). In some countries (e.g. Tanzania), the failures of REDD+ international process led to abandoned initiatives and expensive forest and carbon stock systems (e.g. NAFORMA - National Forest Monitoring and Assessment that Member States can't afford to maintain without donor support.
- Building on a few areas that were implemented in the outgoing forestry strategy, there are a number of areas which form the basis for this revised strategy to build on. These areas include capacity building within SADC Member States on participatory forest management and initiating cost-effective forest information system and forest fire management. The components have included attempts to create a regional database and development of guidelines for participatory forest management and forest fire management.
- The issues of dealing with illegal trade in timber at regional scale are still at infancy stage and it is only around 2015 that SADC began to fully engage with the EAC during the development and signing process of the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and other Forest Products. This does not mean timber trade was never part of the agenda within SADC but there is not enough push given other equally important regional issues (e.g. wildlife crime) due to lack of funding and technical capacity for the Forestry Programme at SADC Secretariat.
- There has been an increase in focus by Member States to engage in CITES forestry-related issues at national and international level. This is evidenced by creation of separate legislations dedicated to forestry issues on CITES (e.g. Tanzania, Malawi, Madagascar), unilateral (e.g. Malawi and Madagascar) and regional positions to influence international negotiations and upgrading conservation status of endangered tree species. Despite this transformation the government forest authorities responsible for management and providing scientific basis for decisions do not have the necessary capacity (e.g. technical and funding) to perform their duties.
- Many countries have either gone through or are in the process of revising their forest strategies and legislations. This process has been motivated by a range of factors including the need to deal with emerging issues such as fire and international timber trade (e.g. Botswana, Zambia), to empower the current forest departments with more autonomy (e.g. Mozambique, Botswana), to include the international agreements affecting forest resources (e.g. Malawi) and to provide for inclusive conservation (e.g. Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique).
- There is also a challenge within SADC to agreeing to certain regional measures and projects given the need to ensure equity and fairness across all 16 member states (e.g. balancing priorities between mainland and small island states). This has proved challenging to get things done given the time and amount of resources it requires to pursue on different needs of Member States.
- Reporting by Member States to the SADC Secretariat on the implementation progress of the Forestry Protocol and Strategy is inadequate and often with exclusion of necessary elements that are relevant at regional level (e.g. CITES). The reporting is also non-consistent where Member States may present evidence of successful cases related to regional priorities at conferences but not in annual submissions requested by the SADC Secretariat. This has been

partly attributed to the limited understanding of the link between regional and national issues, inadequate level of awareness of the regional forest strategy and human resources capacity within the Secretariat to follow-up on gaps in reporting.

5. The Revised Strategy (2020-2030)

This section covers the main elements of the strategy including vision, mission, goal, objectives and strategic areas. The section includes institutional arrangement and role and responsibilities, role of Member States and of SADC secretariat as well as partnerships with non-state actors, private sector and other international agencies.

5.1.1 Vision, Mission, Values and Goal

Vision: A vibrant and sustainable SADC forest sector that contributes significantly to rural development, poverty reduction, industrialization and vital environmental services for the economic development of the region.

Mission: The mission of SADC with respect to the Forestry Strategy is to facilitate cooperation among Member States to ''promote the active protection, management and sustainable use of forest resources through sound policy guidance and the application of available requisite skills and technology, in order to enjoy the multiple benefits of forests for regional economic development in perpetuity"

In carrying out the mission, SADC will be guided by the following values:
• Making forests work for nature and people
• Protecting nature in its diversity
• Promoting regional cooperation to find solutions to shared problems and achieve regional economic development.
• Responding timely to the needs, challenges and opportunities of the forest sector
• Keeping up with the global policy environment and maintaining public and political interest on forestry matters
• Honouring Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on forests.

The Goal: The Goal of the forestry strategy is: By 2030, Member States have the capacity to sustainably manage and use both national and transboundary forest resources through unilateral, bilateral, regional and international frameworks to provide for the economic development and ecosystem services to the people of the SADC region.

5.2.2 The Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives based on Member States responses are grouped into four main areas namely, forest institutional capacity and governance, market and trade in timber and other forest products, financial investments and private sector engagement, and forest production systems. These areas and their associated objectives were defined based on Member States' views and criteria set out during the SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in 2003 in Angola. These criteria ascertain that, for an initiative to qualify as regional, it should at least address the following:

• Have direct economic and social benefits to at least two countries
• Contribute to poverty eradication and human development
• Have economies of scale gains where regionally coordinated investments or operations will result in substantial cost saving and employment
• Unlock the economic potential of less developed areas and countries to promote balanced and equitable development
• Contribute to SADC's integration into the regional, continental and global economy
• Contribute to market integration especially facilitating free movement of goods, services and factors of production; and

- Contribute to sustainable development and gender equality.

Also, considering lessons from previous strategy and an assessment of the implementation of the SADC Forest Protocol, this revised strategy has included strategic areas that have the potential to be implemented given interests by the Member States. The selection has taken into account the risks identified during the revision process which include, among other things, forestry capacity within SADC Secretariat to support Member States to pursue the priorities as per the timeframe; limited funding sources from donors earmarked for regional issues; limited number of partners that are ready and willing to work with the secretariat to pursue the priorities as compared to other sectors; present political opportunities to implement the priorities; and time it can take to develop and agree on regional resolution with all Member States at SADC level. These risks are further outlined in the Annex 1 including their mitigation measures.

Therefore, the objectives for this strategy, divided according to the four strategic areas, are as follows:

Strategic area 1: Forest Institutional Capacity and Governance

- **Strategic objective 1.1:** By 2030, SADC Secretariat Forestry Programme has improved capacity to facilitate Member States in the implementation of this strategy
- **Strategic objective 1.2**: By 2030, mechanisms are in place to encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible for forestry
- **Strategic objective 1.3:** By 2030, cost-effective mechanisms are developed and promoted to enable collection, storage and dissemination of data to improve decision making in sustainable forest management and trade in forest products.

Strategic area 2: Market and Trade in Timber and other Forest Products

- **Strategic objective 2.1:** By 2030, bilateral and regional mechanisms are created and supported to improve legal trade in forest products.

Strategic area 3: Financial Investments and Private Sector Engagement

- **Strategic objective 3.1:** By 2030, regional mechanisms are in place to promote private sector and financial investments on forestry in the region.

Strategic area 4: Protection, Restoration and Sustainable Management and Use of Forest Production Systems

- **Strategic objective 4.1:** By 2030, mechanisms are in place to encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible for forestry.
- **Strategic objective 4.2:** By 2030, capacity and institutional arrangements are in place to encourage and support Member States to respond to IAS and diseases associated with forestry.

6. The Approaches and expected results (or outputs) under each Strategic Objective

This section further defines each objective to include approaches and expected results (or outputs) that will be undertaken during implementation through the period of the strategy. The approaches and outputs under each defined strategic objective also form the basis for the results framework of this strategy.

6.1 Strategic area 1: Forest Institutional capacity and governance

Strategic objective 1.1: By 2030, SADC Secretariat Forestry Programme has the capacity to facilitate Member States in the implementation of this strategy.

This strategic area is in response to the gaps expressed by Member States and the Secretariat of the need to build capacity to implement this strategy. Therefore, this area of work will aim;

- to seek both short-term (e.g. consultant or secondment from Member States) and long-term mechanisms (i.e. full-time staff) to provide necessary capacity to the Secretariat. The availability of human resources will enable the Secretariat to further facilitate development of programmes in the strategic areas in this document whilst fundraising and monitoring to reach the objectives.
- to seek to improve coordination mechanisms within SADC Secretariat, which currently do not exist, through establishment of an internal working group to enable collaboration with other sectors particularly climate change on development of mechanisms to address land degradation which go beyond forestry, and issues on environmental crime which include fisheries and wildlife.
- to promote and raise awareness of this strategy to Member States, Partners and other stakeholders. The promotion of the strategy will support fundraising towards implementing various areas of this document.
- to urge and encourage Member States that have not ratified the SADC Forestry Protocol to do so in order to renew the political momentum and raise the profile of forestry issues within SADC.

Strategic objective 1.2: By 2030, mechanisms are in place to encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible for forestry.

This area of work will build on the existing processes at national level (e.g. in Tanzania) appetite expressed (e.g. Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana) by Member States to strengthen national forest authorities through combination of approaches including;

- Developing a standardised guideline for Member States to follow the process to restructure forest institutions, upgrading forest departments to either agencies or authorities. The guideline could highlight the legal requirements, benefits and possible risks of each approach and options. The aim here will remain the same as expressed before by Member States - to seek improvements in terms of autonomous powers, efficiency and ultimately enough capacity to sustainably manage forest resources for both environmental and economic benefits.
- Facilitate learning exchange visits and secondments bilaterally or at regional level among Member States with best practices and for those in need of acquiring and putting the knowledge into use.
- To enable mechanisms towards capacity to develop proposals (fundraising), identify potential funding sources and keep abreast with current information through newsletters and regional roundtables with donors (bilateral, multilateral and private sector).
- Promote curriculum development and reviews that reflect new realities in forestry and that recognise the role of private sector, financial investments, commercial forestry industry, and safeguards systems to ensure the rights of communities and disadvantaged groups are protected. This will later include development of special courses and degree programmes to reflect the reviews that will be undertaken at the regional level.

Strategic objective 1.3: By 2030, cost-effective mechanisms are developed and promoted to enable collection, storage and dissemination of data to improve decision making in sustainable forest management and trade in forest products

This area of work builds on current national efforts on tracking the status of forest stocks through national assessments, inventories and setting-up a forest information system database. This area is in response to addressing the challenge of costs involved in data collection, inconsistencies in national database, and methodologies thereof.

- The strategy will seek to develop a regional standardised guideline that is cost effective and offer consistency for Member States to follow to conduct forest stock status assessments and establish a database. The guideline will be accompanied with training manuals and capacity building workshops to support its implementation. The guideline should consider conditions of countries based on types of forest ecosystems (e.g. miombo woodlands, mopane woodlands, the *baikiea* woodlands, acacia woodlands, montane and tropical moist forests, and mangrove forests) and/or geographical location (i.e. island and coastal states, west-south area, east-south) to balance various needs by Member States. This strategic approach will seek to address the challenges related to lack of data repository.

- Within an agreed timeframe (i.e. 5 years) and after having agreed on data consistency, SADC produces a regional status report on forestry and associated pressing issues such as IAS, diseases, and timber trade. This report will build on national status reports that will be produced by Member States. In terms of issues, this strategic approach is intended to respond to Member States' expressed need to have a dedicated focus on IAS and diseases given their connection to the agriculture sector, and decisions by the SADC Ministers responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism in October 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania. Important to note that this strategy approach will seek to address the issue of inconsistency in data submission to the SADC Secretariat and build on national NAFORMA systems, and the work carried out by the SADC-JICA project on Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa (2015-2020) in the area of forest information systems.

6.2 Strategic area 2: Market and trade in timber and other forest products

Strategic objective 2.1: By 2030, bilateral and regional mechanisms are created and supported to improve legal trade in forest products

This strategic area will aim to build on momentum already created at SADC level on various mechanisms pursued by Member States including bilateral agreements and engagement on UNFF and CITES. This strategy will aim at the following approaches to respond to current challenges on illegality related to trade in timber and other forest products:

- The SADC Secretariat will continue to facilitate the development of common positions of Member States for international multilateral agreements (e.g. UNFF, CITES, CBD) related to forestry by building on lessons so far learnt, for example, from the latest engagement in CITES in 2019. The aim here will be to provide consistency, consolidate regional negotiation, and avoid repercussions on decisions that may create confusion across Member States.
- Related to above, encourage experience sharing and production of best practices among CITES scientific and management authorities. This is crucial given the fact that the focus of CITES on forestry is very new in many Member States (with exception of Madagascar) and many institutions lack the necessary skills to fully research and implement actions related to CITES.
- To support regional and bilateral agreements that will seek to manage, repatriate and/or dispose (e.g. through auctioning) confiscated timber away from the country of origin in accordance with national and international laws. This work will build on current CITES commitments by Member States; the current feasibility work that SADC is pursuing on timber stockpiles management and existing bilateral and regional agreements that Member States have in place among others. As stated previously, there is a need to work on minimum standards and options for disposal and management of stockpile as per the decision of the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, and Tourism held in October 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania. This work will emphasise the involvement and collaboration with Member States that are transit countries (both inland and island states) and those that are destinations for illegal timber originating within SADC (e.g. South Africa, Botswana).
- To encourage and support bilateral and regional engagement with timber importing countries in China and South-East Asia through raising the political profile of current agreements and creating mechanisms where regional Customs are engaged in discussions on forestry. The engagement with China is based not only on growing threats posed by illegal exports of timber but also the decision by the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) at its meeting held in July 2017 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in which it directed the Secretariat to explore possibilities of engaging in Memoranda of Understanding at regional level with regional bodies in the destination countries for illegally traded wildlife products.
- Encourage formal trade agreements between source and destination countries to promote legal trade within SADC Member States through, for example, national and regional showcase events of timber products per country. For example, Mozambique described SADC as a very big market where it can open opportunities to sell timber. Currently, the market in the SADC region is informal, lacking government to government agreements on legal trade, and limited awareness where products could be showcased. This is also an area where Zanzibar (Tanzania) expressed interest given that it doesn't have the forest resources to meet the demand for timber and other forest products.

- Encourage Member States to formulate national guidelines and regulations to promote and enable public procurement of timber and other forest products from sustainable sources.
- Learning from wildlife, promote and encourage mechanisms that will seek to work with judiciary on forest crimes, create a regional platform for judiciary for learning within the already existing systems within LEAP to avoid duplication.
- Development and promotion of systems that will seek to address barriers across countries to timber and other forest products trade such as tax.

6.3 Strategic area 3: Financial investments and private sector engagement

Strategic objective 3.1: By 2030, regional mechanisms are in place to promote the role of private sector and financial investments in commercial forestry and processing industries in the region

This area of work will seek to promote several mechanisms including;

- Creating and promoting roundtables to catalyse forestry financial investments and business opportunities to provide match making between countries and the private sector. This will accelerate access to opportunities to both Member States and the private sector with interest. The roundtables could offer an opportunity for similar/like-minded private sectors to work together and improve bilateral relations on business issues. The initial step would be to work with an initial group of interested financial investors to identify opportunities, rules of engagement, countries of interest and the role that the SADC Secretariat could play to support Member States. The advantage here would be the aggregation into one regional investment hub where SADC could help to mobilise political will and financial support.
- To promote and encourage Member States to recognise the role of the private sector in forestry management and utilisation of forest resources through, for example, newsletters and directing requests to countries.
- Encourage growth and investment of forest industries through both national and regional instruments and mechanisms such as learning exchanges, innovation in technologies and design of wood and non-wood forest products, incentives to private sector, timber and other forest products procurement policies
- To develop regional mechanism and support Member States to harmonize systems for taxation of forest products to create incentives for the private sector and financial investments.

6.4 Strategic area 4: Protection, Restoration and Sustainable Management and Use of Forest Production Systems

Strategic objective 4.1: By 2030, regional mechanisms are in place to enable protection, sustainable management, and restoration of all forest types

This area of work will seek to promote several mechanisms including;

- Encourage Member States that have not pledged to AFR100 and Bonn Challenge to do so, in order to ensure forest issues are included and are part of the continental effort. This process will go along the national process to set neutrality targets under UNCCD in which forestry plays a crucial component.
- To support member states to re-prioritize and implement NDCs commitments through capacity building given that the original process was rushed, and countries did set ambitious targets.
- Encourage bilateral and regional cooperation in trans-boundary forest fire management using the experience from regional engagement among South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. Apart from climate change perspectives, forest management is normally associated with fire, pest and disease control, all of which require trans-boundary collaboration.
- Develop a regional common vision and strategies which countries can take to effectively rehabilitate their degraded lands and pursue afforestation. This should go hand in hand with defining the important role of local communities in sustainable forest management across the region.
- This objective will also seek to promote the role of local communities in protecting and managing sustainably forests areas. The work will include necessary guidelines and safeguard systems that seek to enhance participation and protect role of local communities including their livelihoods, and

traditional knowledge. In enhancing livelihoods and traditional knowledge, the strategy will promote and enable coordination, capacity building and financing of identification, development and commercialisation of forest products beyond timber (e.g. tourism, fruits, cosmetics) to build forest-based local, national and regional economy.

• In concurrent with the African Union targets, regional standards will be developed for planning, design and sustainable management of forest plantations and woodlots based on the sound selection of species, the use of high-quality genetic resources, biodiversity conservation, resilience building and landscape approaches.

Strategic objective 4.2: By 2030, capacity and institutional arrangements are in place to encourage and support Member States to respond to IAS and diseases associated with forestry

This area of work will primarily build on Member States' call for action, ongoing national processes, on IAS and initial regional efforts including aspirations agreed at the workshop on 'Prevention and Management of Invasive Alien Species: Forging Cooperation throughout Southern Africa' held in Lusaka, Zambia in June 2002. Despite the fact that it is nearly two decades since the regional consensus, a lot of actions are still relevant to date and resonate with Member States' calls for focus on IAS. The experiences of SADC's Island States and South Africa have indicated that if not controlled, IAS can affect biodiversity conservation and reduce water yields. This approach is therefore intending to tackle the challenge of limited focus on IAS in various efforts across SADC, increasing threats posed by IAS to forestry and agriculture among others.

• Establish a dedicated regional IAS and associated diseases strategy as per the decisions by the SADC Ministers responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism in October 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania. This strategy will aim at creating mechanisms for Member States to have dedicated national strategies and specific national legislations targeting IAS as recently pursued by Tanzania, establish a regional working group on IAS, identify relevant sectors to be involved in and develop targeted awareness campaigns on IAS and associated diseases.
• Develop regional frameworks that intend to prevent and control IAS at regional level and in partnership, for example, with SADC Customs Union.
• In partnership with ICPs (e.g. CABI, Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology, FISNA), develop a dedicated database on IAS in the SADC region. This will build on an existing global database 'Invasive Species Compendium' operated by CABI and regional database operated by FISNA.
• At agreed specified timeframe, produce a regular regional status report on IAS in the region to raise awareness and maintain political relevance.
• Support exchange visits across Member States where best practices on research, data and control could be shared through partnership with International Conservational Partners (ICPs) (i.e. NGOs, UN agencies) and private sector (e.g. forest plantation sector).

7. Results framework

The results framework (Table 4) provides a consistent process to monitor and evaluate the progress being made under each strategic programme area. The results framework including data collection and reporting will be implemented concurrently with the SADC RAIP M&E system. In addition, SADC Secretariat will spearhead the monitoring of key indicators including setting baseline to help depict the state of forests in SADC. As such SADC will also regularly report on the status of key forest ecosystems and the general changes in forest cover to be provided by Member States.

Table 4: Results Framework

Goal	Indicator	Explanatory notes of indicator	Baseline (Value and date)	Planned 5 years results					Planned final result	Article of Forestry Protocol
				2020-2021	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**		
By 2030, Member States have the capacity to sustainably manage and use forest resources through unilateral, bilateral and international frameworks to provide for the economic development and ecosystem services to the people of the SADC region	Number and level of regional initiatives targeted at delivering agreed commitments

Status of forestry resources Report in SADC region | The number of projects which responds to Member States, their level of funding, and extent to which they deliver regionally agreed priorities

The regional status of forest cover report arising from all Member States national reports, isaggregated by forest types, level of threats and management. | Regional: X number of projects (2020) (TBD) Regional forest cover: 41.5% (Plantation and Natural Forest) (2017) as per RAIP baseline information Area under Sustainable Forest Management (RAIP) is 42.1% (2017) | | Short-term and long-term arrangements are secured to provide necessary capacity to implement the strategy

Target for forest cover is 44% (RAIP target)

Area under SFM: 43.1% (RAIP target) | At least two regional proposals/projects are developed to support implementation of the strategy | Long-term staff is recruited/seconded and funded within SADC Secretariat

Long-term regional frameworks are in place, politically supported and funded | The regional status report of forestry in SADC (or forestry outlook study) is instutionalized

The regional standardised guideline for cost-effective and consistency data collection, storage and reporting are in place and operational

At least two full proposals/projects are funded and operational to implement the strategy | Improved and long-term capacity by both SADC Secretariat and Member States sustainably manage and use forest resources

Improved management and use of forest resources

Annual increase of forest Cover is increased by at least 0.5% annually and improved sustainable forest management by at least 0.5% annually | All |

Strategic Objectives	Indicator	Explanatory notes of indicator	Baseline (Value and date)	Planned 5 years results/outputs					Planned final result	Article of forstry Protocol
				2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025		
By 2025, SADC Secretariat has the capacity in the forestry sector to deliver this strategy and support Member States	Number of staff in place

Number of developed and funded programs/projects | Staff dedicated to supporting implementation of the forestry strategy and member states

Project and programs that are either directly coordinated by SADC Secretariat or by ICPs (or a group of Member States) | No capacity/funding in place related to forestry for both short and long-term staff

X agreements with ICPs | Short-term arrangement in place to provide necessary capacity to the Secretariat to refine the strategy and finalise the results framework

The first donor-roundtable meeting held with interested development partners | Detailed actions are available for each objective

Detailed actions are available for each objective including an awareness raising plan for the strategy

Process for long-term staff capacity initiated with Member States | An internal working group is established and operational to improve coordination mechanisms within SADC Secretariat

The second donor-roundtable meeting held interested development partners | Long-term staff is recruited/seconded and funded within SADC Secretariat

The SADC Protocol on Forestry acceded to and ratified by all Member States | The third donor-roundtable meeting held with interested development partners

At least two full proposals/projects are funded and operational to implement the strategy | Long-term capacity in place to implement the strategy and support Member States in monitoring and reporting

Funding is available to implement at least 60% of the strategy

The SADC Protocol on Forestry acceded to and ratified by all Member States | 7, 16, 19, 21 |

By 2025, mechanisms are in place to encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible for forestry	Level of improved capacity as reported by Member States Number of curriculums reviews and/or developed	Member State's forest institutions pursuing one or several measures to strengthen their national capacity	Existing processes at national level (1 x Tanzania) - (TBC/D) Appetite and interests expressed by 3 Member States (Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana) to strengthen national forest authorities Existence of regional (2) and bilateral (3) agreements targeted at illegal trade in timber	Mechanism is under development to enable regional exchange visits and secondment across Member States with similar challenges/experiences	Standardised guidelines for Member States are developed for restructuring and upgrading forest institutions	At least 2 exchange visits among member states are implemented to encourage learning At least one workshop is conducted targeted at developing capacity to identify potential funding and develop proposals (fundraising)	Tertiary level forest related curriculums responding to capacity gaps and regional needs are revised	At least 2 exchange visits among member states are implemented to encourage learning	At least two countries are on track to restructuring and upgrading forest institutions using SADC-developed and agreed guidelines	11, 15, 20, 22

By 2025, cost-effective mechanisms are developed and promoted to enable collection, storage and dissemination of data to improve decision making in forest management	Number of national databases developed Number of Member States complying with regional guidelines Number of Member States implementing NAFORMA systems	Database dedicated for data storage or dissemination Member State implementing at least 60% of areas defined under the regional guideline to ensure consistency of regional reporting	National available data collection systems (TBD) and storage systems (TBD) Regional data collection system (none) and storage system (1)	Process to develop regional guidelines for collection and storage of data; and for conducting forest stock assessment is initiated The process, funding mechanisms and timeline is agreed for the SADC forestry outlook study and is initiated	Guideline for conducting forest stock assessment is initiated and developed	The draft regional guideline for collection and storage of data is in place Training manuals for the guidelines are in place At least 1 workshop is conducted to enable implementation of the guidelines	At least 2 countries are supported technically to implement the guidelines	The first SADC forestry outlook study is published	The regional standardised guideline for cost-effective and consistency data collection and storage in place At least two countries are on track to implement and use the guidelines The regional status report of forestry in SADC (or forestry outlook study) is conducted, produced and disseminated	10, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22

By 2025, bilateral and regional mechanisms are created and supported to improve legal trade in forest products	Number of bilateral and regional mechanisms developed/supported		National commitments and action plans towards international agreements related to forestry (UNFF, CBD, CITES) by x Member States (TBD) The existing feasibility study on management of timber stockpiles (1) Existing decisions on engagement with other regional blocs in timber importing countries in Asia (1) No legal trade agreement to date	Process for developing regional guideline on regulations on public procurement for sourcing legal and sustainable timber and other forest products is initiated The draft agreement between SADC Member States and ASEAN+ countries is developed	A schedule and plan is in place for development ???? of all regional common positions for MEAs related to forestry - UNFF, CITES, CBD The draft regional mechanism to manage, repatriate and/or dispose confiscated timber away from the country of origin is in place/under development Regional mechanism (database, information exchange and training) is initiated to develop forestry trade related TWIX	Best practices are developed for CITES scientific and management authorise across the region At least 1 workshop is organised to promote lessons sharing on implementation of trade agreements related to forestry Regional CITES common position on forestry is facilitated and developed for COP 19 Mechanisms are initiated to support legal trade agreements between countries on export, transit and import of timber and other forest products	At least one workshop is held to support Member States in implementation of CITES national action plans Regional plan to engage judiciary and Customs are in place Mechanism and support in place to enable necessary skills to fully research and implement actions related to CITES Capacity is built for forestry and Customs officials from Member States in using TWIX Studies on Tax barriers and harmonisation needs related to forest products trade are conducted	At least 4 countries are supported to enter into legal trade agreements in timber and other forest products The regional mechanism to manage, repatriate and/or dispose confiscated timber away from the country of origin is in place Forestry related TWIX is in place at regional and national level Regional guidelines and regulations on public procurement of timber and other forest products from sustainable sources is developed	A regional platform for judiciary on combating forest crime is created and functional The regional mechanism to manage, repatriate and/or dispose confiscated timber away from the country of origin is approved by Member States At least 4 countries have either signed or agreed to a deal for legal trade in timber and other forest products Forestry related TWIX is operational Regional guidelines and regulations on public procurement of timber and other forest products from sustainable sources is developed and approved by Member States	11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 22

By 2025, regional mechanisms are in place to promote private sector and financial investments on forestry in the region	Number of financial investors attending regional roundtable Number of investment agreements supported/developed	Financial investors from Africa and abroad) and those operating forestry related businesses in both natural and planted forests Agreements that either are geared to secure interests by financial investors	None Interested financial investors (2)	Long-term plant to grow and strengthen (innovation, technology, products development) forest industries developed	Structure and plans in place for roundtables to catalyse forestry financial investments and business opportunities	The first roundtable is held Targets to scale-up commercial forest plantations (incl. woodlots) and attract private sector investments are agreed by Member States	At least 2 countries are piloted to implement actions agreed at the roundtable Regional guideline on best practice to engage and partner with private and financial investors is in place	A long-term plan/strategy in place to roll-out private sector and financial investments in forestry The review to harmonize taxation of forest products to create incentives for the private sector and financial investments is conducted	Strategy to promote engagement with private sector and financial investments on forestry in the region is in place and operational	7, 20, 22

| By 2025, regional mechanisms are in place to enable protection, sustainable management, and restoration of all forest types | Number of forest related targets supported

Number of regional mechanisms established and operational | Actions targeted at reducing/controlling levels of deforestation/degradation

Strategies, plans and guidelines targeting enhancing community/participatory forest management | 2 - AFR100/Bonn Challenge (with existing targets) and Great Green Wall (no targets) | TFCAs operations harmonised (TBC) - from RAIP | A plan is in place and funded to support Member States to pledge, develop national plans and fundraise for forestry related targets under AFR100 and UNCCD | Forest related targets are advocated for and included in the regional plan for Great Green Wall of SADC region

From RAIP: Sub-regional action programme (SARP) to combat desertification is implemented | Guideline to facilitate and ensure community engagement and safeguard mechanism in sustainable forest management in the SADC region developed and approved

Regional plan is in place to support coordination, capacity building and financing of identification, development and commercialisation of forest products beyond timber | Regional guideline on rehabilitating degraded lands, and pursue afforestation is developed

Regional standards are in place for safeguards, planning, design and sustainable management of forest plantations and woodlots | At least 50% Member States in SADC have national strategies and funded programs targeting AFR100 and UNCCD

Regional guideline on rehabilitating degraded lands, and pursue afforestation developed and approved | 11, 12, 15, 22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

32

By 2025, capacity and institutional arrangement are in place to encourage and support Member States to respond to IAS and diseases associated with forestry	Number of regional and national mechanisms supported/developed Number of incidences of new IAS reported (from RAIP)	National or regional targeted systems developed specifically for addressing challenges related to IAS and associated diseases	National processes in X countries (Mauritius, Tanzania) No regional process 10 (2017 figure under RAIP)		The regional process to respond to IAS and associated diseases in initiated	Regional and national long-term partnerships are developed to fast-track response to IAS and associated diseases Process to develop regional database on IAS and diseases is in place 8 incidences ???	The regional multi-sectoral strategy to combat IAS and associated diseases in place At least two regional exchange lessons sharing are held on IAS and diseases	The regional process to respond to IAS and associated diseases is finalised with an agreed regional plan (including a SADC regional database) Develop regional phytosanitary standards for forestry and associated capacity building plan for institutions for undertaking such actions	The first regional status report on IAS is produced (alongside forestry outlook study) Regional database on IAS and diseases is developed	11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22

8. Implementation and Institutional Arrangements of the strategy

The development of this forestry strategy is derived from the documents of the SADC Secretariat that guide its programming within each of its Directorates. These are mainly the RISDP, The Regional Agricultural Investment Plan, 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. To guide the implementation of the forestry strategy, SADC Secretariat will not seek to usurp national mandates but will promote actions that promote cooperation 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, the SADC Secretariat will also promote actions to address poverty reduction in line with the existing national priorities.

SADC will align its documents with agreed global policies regarding forests, biodiversity, environment and economic development. Hence the Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Climate Change (UNFCCC) 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 UNCCD and CITES are also considered 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 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the country level, the Forestry Strategy will be implemented within the framework of National Forestry Programmes or their equivalents. The SADC Secretariat is however obligated to report on the progress made, under each strategic programme area, to its appropriate statutory structures. Such reports will be compiled by member states and respective Working Groups and channelled to the SADC Secretariat for editing and presentation to the appropriate SADC statutory body.

SADC Secretariat will also partner with a range of partners including NGOs, UN Agencies, private sector, AUC and other international organizations to deliver this strategy. In this regard, the guiding roles of each entity will be as follows:

8.1 The role of SADC Secretariat

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 the SADC Forestry Programme along the lines of the RISDP. The FANR is responsible for coordinating work in the forestry, fisheries and wildlife sectors alongside a focus 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 pay attention to the capacity needs of the FANR to respond to the growing needs of Member States on priorities set forward in this strategy. The role of the Secretariat will therefore be to:

- Coordinate and ensure that systems are in place to support Member States in the implementation of this forestry strategy. This will include reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the delivery of this strategy.
- To coordinate regular meetings of the 'Technical Committee on Forestry' and "Ministers responsible for forestry" to support implementation and monitoring of this strategy.
- Facilitate technical cooperation and development of common positions for MEAs in line with objectives set under this strategy.
- Facilitate Member States in the preparation and signature of multilateral and bilateral memoranda of understanding to enable achieving the objectives of this strategy
- To develop regional programmes, projects, plans and strategies and assist in mobilizing resources for the successful implementation of this strategy.
- Facilitate access to sustainable financing to enable implementation of various areas of this strategy.

8.2 The role of Member States

- To ensure implementation and reporting of policy, legislations, strategic plans and action plans related to the delivery of this forestry
- To ensure financing and implementation of bilateral and international agreements on forestry that support delivery of this strategy
- To support research and share data produced at regional level in line with objectives of this strategy
- To generate and share lessons and best practices related to implementation of this strategy
- Integrate aspects of the strategy into national programs
- Empower and restructure institutions to meet targets set under this strategy
- To honour financial and technical support to the secretariat to enable human resources technical capacity and mechanisms to deliver this strategy.

8.3 The role of Partners and other Stakeholders

- Provision of funds for implementation of this strategy through long-term partnership agreements with SADC Secretariat. This will include, for example, secondment of technical capacity to enable availability of initial capacity at the Secretariat to implement the SADC forest programme.
- Engage private sector through relevant meetings and workshops and establish partnerships to enable implementation of various areas of this strategy
- In line with several targets under this strategy, participate in governments roundtables to discuss business opportunities and investments on timber and forest products.
- Facilitate partnerships with other actors currently not working with the SADC Secretariat or Member States in pursuit of realization of the vision set under this strategy.

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10. Annexes

ANNEX 1: Risks and Mitigation

RISK	RISK MITIGATION MEASURE
• **Political diversity:** A major risk is the diverse political states in the Member countries which translate into different priorities. Also, the change in governmental regimes after every certain period (4/5 years) may push for changes in national policies, leadership of forest authorities and responsible ministry. These could take time for the structure to reconsolidate and sometimes limit continuation of issues.	• During consolidation of ideas towards developing specific initiatives, the strategy must consider common areas and find out the related challenges which are found in the member countries. • Develop and operationalise robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that will enhance follow up of implementation of the planned interventions on timely bases and reflect any changes. • Promote awareness of strategy to the member state at all levels including political leaders, decision makers and having routine monitoring of the performance. • Analyse possible threats of the member states in relation to planned strategies and provide mitigation measures timely
• **Financial risks**: The lack of funding to implement the strategy and provide for required human resources within SADC Secretariat to support Member States.	• SADC Secretariat and Member States to pursue new partnerships and maintain existing ones to provide for funding opportunities at regional and national level. • Prepare and direct motivation packages to the member states to adopt the strategy in their political and management sessions. • Prepare the mechanism for resources mobilization to implement strategies effectively and timely
• Climate change	• Given the vivid effects of climate change and their future scenario, the strategy will seek to complement efforts with other programmes in SADC, particularly those that target energy access, land degradation among others. In Member States, the strategy will promote the role of forestry in both adaptation and mitigation through Nature Based Solutions
• Conflicts related to the management of transboundary forest resources	• The organization of workshops, conferences and fora on awareness raising and popularization of the provisions contained in the strategy • Strengthening the institutional capacities of experts from member countries at the border level in the form of mixed teams • Learning exchange visits

• Insufficient organizational capacity of the private sector in member states	• Support and empower the private sector • Support regional roundtables with private sector to cultivate relationships and identify opportunities where Member States could benefit
• Limited capacity within SADC Secretariat to support Member States to implement strategy	• Facilitate short- and long-term partnerships with International Conservation Partners (ICPs) to solicit funds and technical support to define and implement parts of the strategy • Initiate the process to encourage secondment from Member States and partners to fulfil capacity gaps • To initiate the process to seek long-term and full-time placement of a Programme Officer for Forestry within Secretariat, FANR Directorate.
• Limited capacity and prioritization of forestry sector e.g. Zambia do not have a national forestry strategic plan	• Roll out the regional strategy country by country to outline specific implementation plans. This will be according to the national prevailing environment and build assistance mechanisms for identified gaps.