



## RECORD

### The JICA-SADC Project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa

#### 6<sup>th</sup> and last Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Virtual Meeting

01 SEPTEMBER 2020

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#### 1. Introductions

The meeting started with a roll call of Member States by the chair person and self-introduction of all participants. Participants who joined during the meeting were given opportunity to introduce themselves. Fourteen Member States were in attendance, namely: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, represented by JCC Members and forestry experts involved in the implementation of the project. In addition, SADC Secretariat and GIZ officials, and experts from JAFTA and JICA also attended the meeting. (Refer to the attached list of Participants – Annex I).

#### 2. Remarks and Objectives of the meeting by the Chair

The Director - Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), SADC opened the meeting by thanking the government of Japan for supporting the SADC forestry sector and highlighted the background of the JICA/SADC project that started in 2015 with the purpose to improve capacity of both SADC Secretariat and Member States in forest information system (FIS), participatory forest management (PFM) and forest fire management (FFM). The project was largely successful with notable outcomes to be shared during this meeting such as guidelines and the revised Forestry Strategy. The chair also thanked Member States and the partners as well as the advisory role of GIZ during implementation of the Project. This meeting was delayed and had to be held virtually because of the Covid19 pandemic. The objectives of the meeting were to assess progress made, review the revised Forestry Strategy and project completion report.

### 3. Remarks by the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair, representative of JICA headquarters, made opening remarks by recognizing all present and thanked all participants who made it to the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the cooperation of Japanese experts with SADC Secretariat and Member states that led to the remarkable results achieved and looked forward to fruitful discussions.

### 4. Official Opening by SADC Chair, Mozambique

The SADC Chair, Mozambique, made official opening remarks for the meeting, indicating that it's the last project meeting held under the difficult conditions of Covid19 pandemic with significant impact globally. He thanked the organisers of the meeting and the support of the government of Japan through JICA. He highlighted the importance of forests to economic development, community support, ecosystem services and amelioration of climate change. Forests face a number of pressures such as agricultural expansion, and mining, among others, that led to SADC Member States to come out with this project with support of the Japanese government. He recognized the hard work and achievements of the JICA/SADC Forestry project and recognized the support of the Japanese government. The SADC chair then declared the meeting officially opened.

### 5. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The JCC reviewed and adopted the draft agenda without amendments as proposed by Botswana and seconded by Zimbabwe.

### 6. Report on overall Project Progress from inception

The JICA team leader presented the overall Project Progress Report from inception of the project. Main achievements included training of 310 participants in FIS, FFM and PPM, revision of the Forestry Strategy, which replaced recruitment of a forest officer for SADC Secretariat, and development of materials for use to improve conservation of forests in the SADC Region such as guidelines, Regional Forest Information System (RFIS), Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Good Practice Database, and project portal. There was also a notable ripple effect of the enhanced communication and networking amongst Member States. However, there are still remaining tasks to be completed after this meeting such as changing the domain name of the project portal, migrating Regional Forest Information System (RFIS) to AIMS, planned to be developed by FAO, to be completed by mid-November. This will also include the hand-over of laptops with the National Forest Information System (NFIS) template system

**Decision 1:** JCC approved the Progress Report and urged JICA and SADC Secretariat to complete all the remaining tasks (including FIS website, handing over laptops to countries) and recommended that the laptops be handed over to Forest Information Systems Units of the Member States through the JCC members.

## 7. Presentation of key project deliverables

### 7.1 Presentation on Regional Forest Information System (RFIS)/ Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Good Practice Database

The JICA FIS expert presented, through a system operation demonstration, the Regional Forest Information System (RFIS) and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Good Practice Database. He referred the participants to follow the links for accessing the details of meetings of expert working groups, and demonstrated the use of the data base. The system has restricted access through password by authorized persons for management of the database. Passwords will be provided to Member States. The public can also access for information without permission to edit.

**Decision 2:** JCC approved the RFIS / PFM Good Practice Database and urged JICA to provide Member States with the necessary passwords to access the system.

### 7.2 Report on Draft SADC Definition of Forest

The JICA FIS expert presented a report on the Draft SADC Definition of Forest which was discussed and proposed at the last EWG-FIS in Kasane, Botswana. This task was given by the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC based on the need for a standardized forest definition for SADC Region as SADC countries have different definitions based on their unique forest situations. The meeting recommended that the SADC standard definition be guided by the FAO definition based on canopy cover, tree height and minimum area with flexibility on the unique forestry diversity in the Member States.

**Decision 3:** JCC directed the SADC Secretariat to send a letter and circulate draft SADC Definition of Forest to Member State for further inputs and present it to Technical Committee on Forestry for validation.

### 7.3 Revised SADC Forestry Strategy 2020-2030

The Consultant (Mr. Geoffrey Mwanjela) presented the Revised SADC Forestry Strategy 2020-2030. He started with background to the previous forestry strategy 2020-2020, and highlighted the importance of forests in the SADC region. He noted baselines and developments at continental and global levels. The previous forestry strategy was evaluated as ambitious but there were still some aspects which were still relevant. This project has made a huge contribution to the review of the previous strategy which has identified additional emphasis to be placed on the participation of private sector investment, community participation and well as more organized trade and value chains. The strategy's mission and vision has not changed much but the revised Strategy has four components covering institutional capacity, market and trade in forest products, financial investment and private sector involvement, and protection restoration and use of forestry production systems. The strategy is also linked to the African Union (AU) Sustainable Forestry Management Strategy.

**Decision 4:** JCC directed SADC Secretariat to present the Strategy to the next Technical Committee on Forestry for validation.

#### 7.4 Review of Draft Project Completion Report

The JICA Team leader presented the Draft Project Completion Report. He reviewed the original objectives and plan of the project against the actual achievements including the notable changes made during the implementation of the project, such as the change from pilot demonstrations to capacity building and recruitment of a forestry officer to development of SADC Forestry Strategy (2020-2030). In general, about 90% of project objectives were achieved although the project period was extended due to the delays in the completion of the project caused by Covid19 pandemic and project costs were exceeded due to additional activities to meet the needs identified during implementation and were key to the achievement of results. Further work was also recommended including on the ground verification and use of the guidelines and database by the member States. The expert also presented suggested a way forward to sustain the support and coordination of implementing JICA/SADC Forestry Project results through five criteria for sustainability based on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

**Decision 5:** JCC noted the completion report and urged the Member States to provide their feedback by 08<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 through the SADC Secretariat.

### 8. Project Way Forward

#### 8.1 Update on Concept Note for the KAZA Transboundary Forest Fire Project

The JICA vice team leader presented a Concept Note for the KAZA Transboundary Forest Fire Project for possible external financing. The proposal has been submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

**Decision 6:** JCC noted the concept note for KAZA Transboundary Forest Fire Project submitted to Green Climate Fund (GCF) for funding and urged Member States to look into possibilities of developing Project Idea Notes (PIN).

#### 8.2 Handing over of NFIS PCs to Member States

The JICA provided a brief explanation on the handing over of the Laptop PCs on which the National Forest Information System (NFIS) template system is installed.

**9. Adoption of decisions by the JCC**

The JCC adopted the decisions as per the decision table presented by secretariat. These decisions are incorporated in the appropriate sections above.

**10. Wrap up and closing**

The Chair and the Co-Chair provided closing remarks for the meeting. SADC Chair, Mozambique officially closed the meeting.

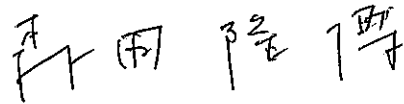


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Domingos Z Gove  
Director, FANR,

SADC Secretariat  
Co-Chair of JCC

Date...23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.



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Takahiro Morita  
Senior Deputy Director General,  
Group Director for Forestry and  
Nature Conservation,  
Global Environment Department,  
JICA  
Co-Chair of JCC

Date...23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

6<sup>TH</sup> JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING – VIRTUAL MEETING

01 SEPTEMBER 2020

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	Forest Fire Management		Mr. Qaphela Ndabankulu	
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