

## SADC-JICA Forestry Project organized the Study tour and the 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Working Group (EWG) Meeting for Forest Fire Management (FFM) in Namibia/Botswana.

2 March 2020

The Study tour and the 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Working group (EWG) meeting for forest Fire Management (FFM) were held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Namibia/Botswana. The Study tour was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February in Zambezi region in Namibia and the 4<sup>th</sup> EWG for FFM was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February in Kasane in Botswana. The activities were attended by 15 participants from 14 countries among SADC Member States, namely Botswana (2 participants), Comoros, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The training was organized by the Project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa, which is being implemented jointly by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The main objectives of the activities were to:

- 1) Finalize the Regional Guidelines on Forest Fire Management,
- 2) Undertake a field visit to Zambezi region in Namibia to obtain on the ground experience on transboundary fire management issues and their management, and
- 3) Wrap up series of FFM Group activities and discuss the way forward after the end of the project, of which date is the end of June 2020.

In the Study tour in Namibia, participants visited the Zambezi regional office of 'Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry' in Katima Mulilo, Caprivi state forest and Mashi conservancy in Zambezi region. In the 4<sup>th</sup> EWG-FFM meeting, SADC regional guideline for FFM was finalized and the use of mobile device for FFM was explained, and then whole project activities on FFM were evaluated. The joint EWG meeting of Forest Information System (FIS) group and FFM group was held in the last day of the activities and the participants made presentations on the use of the results of training of the project in the respective countries.

According to the evaluation by the participants the project had advantage to share the experience and information among SADC member states, while the project had disadvantage to lack consideration of country specificity. Participants recommended to

formulate a succeeding project in order to follow-up skills they have learnt.

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

All the training, study tour and expert working group meeting on forest fire management of the project ended by the completion of this time activities.



Visit to Caprivi state forest in Namibia



Visit to Mashi conservancy in Namibia



Discussion on the Regional Guideline for on in the EWG meeting for FFM



Presentation by participants in the joint meeting of FIS and FFM



Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> EWG-FIS/FFM meeting at Travelodge in Kasane, Namibia