



**RECORD**

**5<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting**

**for**

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

**14 - 16 May 2019**

**Tamassa Resort, Bel Ombre, Mauritius**



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## 1. Introduction

The fifth Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the SADC/JICA Forestry Project was held on 14-16 May 2019, at Tamassa Resort, Bel Ombre, and Mauritius. The meeting was co-chaired by the Director for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, Mr. Domingos Gove and the Resident Representative of JICA in Madagascar, Mr. Shinji Umemoto.

## 2. Attendance

Thirteen (13) SADC Member States attended the meeting, namely: Angola, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Officials from the SADC Secretariat, Officials from JICA Madagascar, JICA DRC, JICA South Africa, JICA Consultant Team from Japan Forest Technology Association (JAFTA), SADC-GIZ Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources (TUPNR) Programme also attended the meeting.

The attendance list is attached as **Appendix 1**.

## 3. Welcome remarks by host country

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mrs. Cecily Cyparsade, from the Forestry Service, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security in Mauritius, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. She said that Mauritius was honored to host the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting, and invited the delegates to feel welcome to Mauritius, and looked forward to fruitful discussions.

## 4. Remarks and objectives of the meeting by the Chair, SADC Secretariat

The JCC Chair, Director-FANR, Mr. Domingos Gove, on behalf of the SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, welcomed the delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting (also referred to as the Steering Committee meeting).

The JCC Chair noted that 40% of the total land area of SADC region is covered by forests, rich in forest biodiversity, and very important for the socio-economic development of the region. The wellbeing of a majority of the SADC population depend on forest resources for their daily livelihoods and food security; hence the importance for the region to promote sustainable forest management for the benefit of both present and future generations.

He also noted that the SADC Treaty calls upon Member States to achieve sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment. In this regard, SADC developed the Protocol on Forestry to promote



conservation, sustainable management and utilisation of all types of forests and trees, as well as to promote legal trade in forest products throughout the region.

The JCC Chair further noted that SADC developed a forestry strategy and programmes for implementation through collaboration among SADC Member States as well as with international cooperating partners. It is for this reason that SADC Secretariat obtained support of the Government of Japan through JICA, to implement the SADC-JICA Forestry Project; which is supporting implementation of three priorities of the SADC Forestry Strategy namely: Forest assessments and information management; Cooperation in trans-boundary forest and fire management; and Enhanced participatory forest management. In addition, there is a fourth component on Capacity improvement in SADC Secretariat that has not been implemented.

He reminded the JCC of its obligation as a decision-making body responsible for providing overall strategic direction and oversight for project implementation. He reiterated the crucial role played by the Directors of Forestry or their representatives, in the Project implementation, and called upon Member States to be free to raise any issues or questions regarding the direction and implementation of the project, so that the Project is properly guided to achieve its intended objectives. He also called on Member States to take ownership of the project and ensure its sustainability beyond JICA support. He also noted that the Project has already convened four JCC meetings, and this was the fifth one. As in previous JCC meetings, the objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting were to:

- (i) review the project progress since the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting;
- (ii) receive the reports of thematic Expert Working Groups;
- (iii) consider and approve the annual project work plan; and,
- (iv) consider and approve the proposed project exit strategy since the project is ending in June 2020.

The JCC Chair thanked the Government of Mauritius for hosting, and JICA for facilitating the logistics of the meeting. He also acknowledged the collaboration and support rendered by the SADC/GIZ TUPNR Project to the SADC/JICA Forestry Project, as important in ensuring synergies among partners in the natural resource management sector. He further thanked the Project Team and FANR staff who ensured the convening of the meeting and the Member States for their participation; and wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

#### **5. Remarks by the Co-chair, JICA**

The JCC Co-Chair-JICA represented by the Resident Representative of JICA in Madagascar, Mr. Shinji Umemoto, expressed appreciation to the SADC Secretariat and Japan Forest Technology Association (JAFTA) staff, and particularly to the Mauritius Government for their efforts in making this meeting possible in Mauritius.

The Co-Chair informed the JCC that the SADC-JICA Forestry Project is the first attempt by JICA to work regionally with an intergovernmental organization such as SADC as a partner. Therefore, JICA is going through a learning curve working in such an environment to ensure that the project succeeds. He highlighted some of the achievements of this Project such as the over 400 personnel trained, and the Regional Forest Information System developed. He looked forward to the inclusion of




the Project achievements and programmes to the agenda of the next Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) scheduled for Yokohama in August 2019.

The Co-chair reminded the participants that the three Expert Working Groups (EWGs) on Forest Information System (FIS), Forest Fire Management (FFM) and Participatory Forest Management (PFM) had respectively held their meetings as scheduled. In this regard, he expressed his deep regret on behalf of JICA HQ about the budget crisis of the last financial year 2018/2019, which resulted in many inconveniences amongst the Member States, and deferring a number of activities under the project to this financial year 2019/2020. He also explained that the budget issues were across the board affecting all the activities of JICA, but it does not justify what the project had gone through. Nevertheless, he assured the meeting that the financial situation for the year 2019/2020 is back on track and that project activities would be fully covered financially.

In closing, he expressed a strong wish for putting plans in practice on the ground in each Member State, after all the seminars and training conducted under the project.

## **6. Official opening**

The Conservator of Forests, Forestry Services of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mr Vishnu Tezoo, welcomed the delegates to Mauritius. He thanked the SADC Secretariat for organizing the meeting in Mauritius, as well as JICA and JAFTA for their support in the project implementation.

He highlighted the importance of forests to build resilience and create the conditions that support food security and environmental benefits such as livelihoods, provision of wood fuel for cooking, fodder for animals and income generation. He noted that the project shows the importance of forest conservation and protection of natural resources in addressing forest degradation, deforestation, food insecurity, natural disasters as well as combating the challenges of Climate Change and Natural Disasters among others. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration among Member States as well as with partners, namely civil society, the private sector and international agencies.

The Conservator noted that the Government of Mauritius recognizes the importance of forests and its benefits in the sustainable development of the country owing to their environmental, ecological, social and economic functions. Mauritius is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with limited land resources, and there is pressure on forestlands for agricultural and infrastructural development. The country is putting in place enabling policies and strategies to increase forest cover through various policies, strategies and other projects, which include landscaping programs all over the island.

He also highlighted that the Forestry Service under the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, obtained technical assistance of the FAO to conduct legal and institutional reforms and to organize an inter-sectoral program for developing capacity and raising awareness in implementing the existing forest policy. Furthermore, processes are underway to revise the existing forest legislation, restructuring the institutional arrangements and capacity development. In addition,



Mauritius is committed to the obligations of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and is undertaking all efforts to combat climate change, mitigate natural disasters, and provide environmental benefits to the wellbeing of the citizen of Mauritius.

The Conservator noted that the training programs under SADC-JICA Forestry project were beneficial to Mauritius through capacity building and learning experiences from other countries on the effective management and development of participatory forestry by involving multi-stakeholders including private forest land owners, NGOs, local people, small handicraft businesses, bee keepers, as well as eco-tourism practitioners. The proposed Regional Guidelines on Forest Fire Management and Participatory Forest Management, and Regional Database on the Forest Information System will also help the decision makers to promote and develop approaches for Sustainable Management of Forests by involving all relevant stakeholders.

The Conservator also noted that Mauritius will continue to work on intensifying consultations with SADC countries and exchanging expertise on core issues related to forest protection and biodiversity conservation, and sustainable agricultural development. Also, Mauritius will continue to cooperate and collaborate in the implementation of SADC Forestry project and provide support for its successful completion.

The conservator hoped that the recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting will help the region to implement the project efficiently and that the ideas exchanged during the meeting will help to make decisions leading to greater interaction among all the parties working to achieve sustainable forest management in the SADC region and globally.

In conclusion, the Conservator wished the JCC Members a successful meeting, and fruitful deliberations; and declared the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting officially open.

#### **7. Adoption of the meeting agenda**

The JCC considered and adopted the agenda as presented by SADC Secretariat.

#### **8. Self-introductions**

Delegates were invited to make self-introductions to create awareness of who was present in the meeting.

#### **9. Review of the record of the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting and matters arising**

The Senior Programme Officer – Natural Resources and Wildlife presented the matters arising from the record of the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting, See table 1. The JCC discussed the matters arising and adopted the record.

Table 1

| <b>ITEM</b> | <b>ACTION</b> | <b>RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>STATUS</b> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|




| ITEM  | ACTION  | RESPONSIBLE      | STATUS   |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| <b>Decision 1: Budget situation at JICA for 2018/2019</b> | 7.1.1<br>(b) JCC requested JICA to consider extension of project as necessary should the need arises, in order to allow implementation of project activities as per initial agreement and achieve desired results.  | JICA             | JICA to provide update in the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC meeting. Refer to item 7.2 of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated Agenda |
|   | (c) JCC directed the SADC Secretariat to send formal correspondence to Member states informing them about budget reduction.   | SADC Secretariat | The information is captured in the record for the 4 <sup>th</sup> JCC meeting under item 7.1 paragraph 2                 |
| <b>Decision 2: Forest Information System</b>              | (a) JCC approved the proposal to defer Advanced Training on Forest Information System from July 2018 to June 2019;  | PMU              | Activity included in the 2019/2020 work plan. Refer to item 7.3.2 (i) of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated Agenda.       |
| <b>Decision 3: Forest Fire Management</b>                 | (a) JCC approved the proposal to defer Awareness Training (Training of Trainers) for Forest Fire Management from August 2018 to November 2019.  | PMU              | Activity included in the 2019/2020 work plan. Refer to items 7.4.2 (i) of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated Agenda       |
|   | (c) JCC urged EWG on FFM to consider undertaking practical training in Fire Management in mountainous terrain to enable participants to tackle fire in different landscapes. Practical training on fire management in low-lying areas has already been conducted. | PMU              | Activity included in the 2019/2020 work plan. Refer to items 7.4.2 (ii) of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated Agenda      |
|   | (d) JCC directed the EWG to finalize the development of Regional Guidelines in FFM by the end of 2018 in order to give time to test and improve guidelines before the end of the project.   | PMU              | Regional Guidelines on Forest Fire Management drafted and shared   |

| ITEM  | ACTION  | RESPONSIBLE           | STATUS  |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Decision 4: Participatory Forest Management</b>          | (a) approved the proposal to defer one EWG meeting and Market analysis training from November 2018 to September 2019. The two will be held back to back;  | PMU                   | Activity included in the 2019/2020 work plan. Refer to items 7.5.2 (i) of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated Agenda  |
|   | (b) directed the EWG to finalize the development of Regional Guidelines in PFM by December 2018 in order to give time to test and improve guidelines before the end of the project.   | PMU                   | Regional Guidelines for PFM have been drafted and shared  |
| <b>Decision 5: Capacity Development of SADC Secretariat</b> | The Joint Coordination Committee<br><br>(a) welcomed the move to hire Technical Assistance for the project; and<br><br>(b) noted that Terms of reference has been developed in consultation with SADC Secretariat and that the position will be advertised soon | JICA                  | The SADC-JICA Forestry Project will not hire a Forestry Officer. Details are included in item 7.6 of the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC Annotated agenda                                     |
| <b>Decision 6: Financial Reports from JICA</b>              | The Joint Coordination Committee directed SADC Secretariat to send formal correspondence to JICA requesting for financial reports from project inception to date.   | JICA/SADC Secretariat | (a) SADC Secretariat requested for financial report.<br><br>(b) PMU to present financial report.  |
| <b>Date and venue of the next meeting</b>                   | Two countries were proposed as venue for the 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC meeting as follows:<br><br>(a) Mauritius if JCC is organized alone; and<br>(b) Namibia if the JCC is convened back to back with the SADC Technical Committee on Forestry.                      | SADC Secretariat      | (a) The meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Forestry was held 8-9 November 2018 in Windhoek, Namibia<br><br>(b) 5 <sup>th</sup> JCC is being held 14-16 May 2019 Mauritius |




## 10.0 Report on the overall progress of the Project after the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting

10.0.1 JCC recalled that, at their 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, they were informed about the budgetary constraints that was affecting JICA across the board for the FY 2018/2019 and that the project activity budget would have to be drastically reduced during this period in order to accommodate this unfortunate situation. Consequently, JCC approved the proposal to defer some of project activities planned for FY 2018/2019 to FY 2019/2020 in order to accommodate budgetary constraints at JICA as follows:

- (i) Advanced Training on Forest Information System was deferred from July 2018 to June 2019;
- (ii) Awareness Training (Training of Trainers) for Forest Fire Management was deferred from August 2018 to November 2019; and
- (iii) One Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting on Participatory Forest Management and Market analysis training were deferred from November 2018 to September 2019. The two will be held back to back.

10.0.2 JCC also recalled that they approved the annual work plan for April 2018-March 2019. The plan constituted activities from the three pillars of the project namely Forest Information System, Forest Fire Management and Participatory Forest Management.

10.0.3 The PMU presented a summary of the overall progress of the project since the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 14-15 February 2018:

### Forest Information System (FIS)

- (i) 3<sup>rd</sup> EWG-FIS meeting was held on 9-11 October 2018 in Lusaka, Zambia
- (ii) Regional Forest Distribution Map (FDM) 2015 (Ver.0) was shared and discussed and recommendations on how to raise accuracy of the Map were made.


### Forest Fire Management (FFM)

- (i) 3<sup>rd</sup> EWG-FFM meeting in conjunction with the Advanced Training was held on 29 October - 2 November 2018 in Nelspruit, South Africa
- (ii) Draft Regional Guideline on Forest Fire Management was prepared by the end of December 2018

### Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

- (i) 5<sup>th</sup> EWG-PFM meeting was held on 3-7 September 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi
- (ii) Exercise of making Action plan for mobilizing external fund was conducted
- (iii) Draft Regional Guideline on Participatory Forest Management was prepared by the end of December 2018

## 10.1 Update on budget situation for 2019/2020






10.1.1 The JCC recalled that the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting was duly informed that despite the fact that the budgetary constraints had led to rescheduling of project activities, the deferred activities were not falling off from the project plan but would be implemented as planned at different time slots as the budget situation improves. The JCC was assured that JICA is planning to provide necessary budget for 2019/2020 to implement all activities including those that were deferred from 2018/2019.

10.1.2 The JCC also recalled that the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting was cognizant of the fact that the project was ending in June 2020 and posed the following questions:

- (i) Will there be enough time to implement project activities effectively in 2019/2020; and
- (ii) Will JICA consider the proposal to extend the Project cooperation period beyond June 2020 in order to cover for the delays resulting from 2018/2019 budget reduction should the need arise.

Fourth JCC was informed that JICA would assess the achievement of outputs at due time and advice on the most appropriate course of action.

10.1.3 The Resident Representative of JICA in Madagascar presented to the JCC the Project budget situation for 2019/2020 and the way forward. JICA now has budget to implement the remaining activities for 2019/2020. The Project will end in June 2020 as planned and there will be no further extension. JICA is working on a proposal for a Transboundary Forest Fire Management Project in KAZA TFCA as a follow on project.

## 10.2 EWG Report on Forest Information System

10.2.1 The Chairperson of the Expert Working Group on Forest Information System reported on the progress in the implementation of FIS activities in 2018/2019 and presented the draft annual work plan for 2019/20.

10.2.2 Progress after the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting in the implementation of FIS activities in 2018/2019 was follows:

- (a) The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EWG-FIS was held on 9-11 October 2018 in Lusaka, Zambia and was attended by 14 Member States. The objectives of the meeting were to:
  - (i) develop Portal Site for sharing information of the Project Outputs;
  - (ii) share lessons learnt for the advanced FIS in the host country;
  - (iii) develop RFIS System Design (Regional Guideline);
  - (iv) develop Regional Forest Distribution Map 2015 (FDM Classification Map 2015); and
  - (v) develop Annual Work Plan for 2019/20.
- (b) The outputs of the EWG FIS meeting included the following:

- (i) Idea/Comments on development of the Portal Site (a common platform for storing and sharing information among all three project components);
- (ii) Lessons learnt from the advanced FIS;
- (iii) Idea/Comments on RFIS System Design;
- (iv) Information for accuracy of the Forest Distribution and Classification Map 2015; and
- (v) Draft Annual Work Plan for 2019/2020.

10.2.2 The Chairperson also presented the proposed FIS Annual work plan for 2019/2020 as follows:

- (i) Advanced Training on Forest Information System to be held on 24 June -16 July 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana;
- (ii) RFIS/NFIS Training to be held on 9-13 December 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana;
- (iii) 4<sup>th</sup> EWG-FIS meeting to be held on 24-27 February 2020 (venue to be confirmed later); and
- (iv) Finalization of the Regional Guidelines on Forest Information System.

10.2.3 The JCC noted that the FIS component is preparing a vegetation map, which will be based on the European Commission Global Land Cover Map 2000. The JCC advised that the map should use standardized definitions related to other global definitions such as those used by United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF), Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO) and African Union Commission (AUC). The FIS will store data and information on fire; participatory forest management; as well as forest cover and forest cover change. The data will be used to calculate forest volume, and forest volume change to facilitate planning and decision-making.

10.2.4 The JCC also noted that the project has carried out training on FIS. In addition, there will be capacity building for field data collection. The project has procured sixteen laptops as well as Tablet-PC (Mobile device) for field data collection) which will be handed over to Member States. This equipment is to facilitate information sharing among the countries.

10.2.5 The JCC recalled that at the beginning of the project it was agreed that each EWG would have one main Member and an alternate Member from each Member State. JCC was informed that this is still the case.

#### **DECISION 1: Forest Information System**

10.2.6 The Joint Coordinating Committee:

- (i) directed the Expert Working Group on Forest Information System to develop a SADC definition of Forest and present it to JCC for consideration. The definition should be benchmarked against universal forest definitions such as those used by the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF), Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO) and African Union Commission (AUC); and,

- (ii) approved the Forest Information System Annual Work Plan for 2019/2020

### 10.3 EWG Report on Forest Fire Management (FFM)

10.3.1 The Chairperson of the Forest Fire Management (FFM) reported on the progress in the implementation of FFM activities in 2018/2019 and presented the draft annual work plan for 2019/20.

10.3.2 Progress after the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting in the implementation of FFM activities in 2018/2019 was follows:

- (a) advanced training on Forest Fire Management was held on 29-31 October 2018 in Nelspruit, South Africa and was attended by participants from 14 SADC Member States. The objective of the training was to develop capacity for Forest Fire Management on Remote Sensing and GIS. Training was delivered through a combination of lectures and outdoor practical activities. Participants actively took part in both activities and were exposed to the following key techniques on how-to:
- (i) process Forest Danger Index using Google Earth Engine;
  - (ii) interpret satellite image in order to update status of fire break; and
  - (iii) collect field data using mobile application with Tablet-PC
- (b) collection of field data on
- (i) extent in hectares of burned areas;
  - (ii) coordinates of locations of burned areas;
  - (iii) type of vegetation burned down; and,
  - (iv) fire breaks / cut lines.
- (c) the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EWG-FFM was held on 1-2 November 2018 in Nelspruit, South Africa and was attended by 14 Member States, to finalize the development of Regional Guidelines on Forest Fire Management. The draft Regional Guidelines on FFM has been produced and shared with EWG for input and consideration. The meeting also developed a draft FFM annual work plan for 2019/2020.

10.3.3 The Chairperson also presented the proposed FFM Annual work plan for 2019/2020 as follows:

- (i) Trial MoU/Awareness Training to be held on 22-26 July 2019 in Nelspruit, South Africa,
- (ii) Comprehensive Training (ICS,GIS) to be held on 18-23 November 2019 in Maseru/Hlotse, Lesotho, and
- (iii) EWG-FFM meeting to be held on 24-27 February 2020 in Katima Mulilo, Namibia.

10.3.5 The JCC was informed of the need for fast internet connectivity during fire trainings, as well as the necessity to conduct training on fire fighting in a




mountainous environment in Lesotho instead of a two weeks training on development of MoUs.

#### **DECISION 2: Forest Fire Management**

10.3.7 The Joint Coordinating Committee:

- (i) directed the Expert Working Group on Forest Fire Management to summarize the draft guidelines on Forest Fire Management to a suitable size document; and,
- (ii) approved annual work plan for Forest Fire Management for 2019/2020.

### **10.3 EWG Report on Participatory Forest Management (PFM)**

10.3.3 The Chairperson of the Participatory Forest Management (PFM) reported on the progress in the implementation of PFM activities in 2018/2019 and presented the draft annual work plan for 2019/2020.

10.3.4 Progress after the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting in the implementation of PFM activities in 2018/2019 was follows:

- (a) the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EWG-PFM was held on 3-7 September 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi and was attended by 12 Member States. The objectives of the meeting were to:
  - (i) conduct the PFM Regional Database training for data registration and collect comments for improvement on system interface;
  - (ii) learning and experience sharing on PFM activities through the field-visit;
  - (iii) finalize the development of Regional Guidelines on PFM;
  - (iv) develop concept note and action plan for mobilizing external funding; and,
  - (v) draft the Annual Work Plan for 2019/2020
- (b) The outputs of the EWG-PFM meeting included the following:
  - (i) comments for improvement of the PFM Regional Database System;
  - (ii) Lessons learned on PFM activities from visiting the Sendwe Village in Malawi;
  - (vi) Draft Regional Guidelines on PFM, which was shared with JCC for input and consideration;
  - (iii) Action plan for mobilizing external funding; and
  - (iv) Annual PFM Work Plan for 2019/2020.

10.4.2 The Chairperson also presented the proposed PFM Annual work plan for 2019/2020 as follows:

- (i) Marketing Analysis / PFM Database Training; and,
- (ii) 6<sup>th</sup> EWG-PFM meeting




The two activities will be held back to back on 26 November to 3 December 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana.

10.4.2 The JCC noted that the PFM Guidelines were too long and should be shortened. The section in the Guidelines on good practice should be removed from the Guidelines and produced as a separate document. The JCC also noted that the draft guidelines on participatory forest management were shared only among EWG-PFM members and not with the JCC members. The JCC advised that the guidelines must be finalised before sharing with the JCC for endorsement and recommendation to SADC Statutory Structures.

10.4.3 The EWG-PFM was also having challenges on definitions of PFM in the Guidelines. JCC advised that like in the forest definitions, EWG-PFM should consider using globally accepted definitions on PFM. In addition, JCC recommended setting up a working group to look into definitions, and that this group should deal with both FIS and PFM definitions.

### **DECISION 3: Participatory Forest Management**

The Joint Coordinating Committee:

- (i) directed the Expert Working Group on Participatory Forest Management to:
  - (a) develop a SADC definition of Participatory Forest Management and present it to JCC for consideration;
  - (b) summarize the draft regional guidelines on PFM to a suitable size document; and
  - (c) separate the good practices from the draft regional guidelines on PFM as these are two distinct deliverables
- (ii) JCC approved annual work plan for Participatory Forest Management for 2019/2020

### **10.4 Report on Capacity Development of SADC Secretariat**

10.4.7 The JCC recalled that in addition to the three Project pillars of forest information systems (FIS); integrated forest fire management (FFM); and participatory forest management (PFM), the Project has a fourth pillar on Capacity building for SADC Secretariat. Under this pillar, the Project is expected to recruit an Expert (Forestry Officer) from the SADC region to work alongside JICA experts to facilitate smooth implementation of the project as well as skills transfer. At their 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the JCC received a report on progress made towards recruitment of a Forestry Officer; Terms of Reference for the position were in place and that plans were underway to advertise for the position.




- 10.5.2 JCC noted that the SADC Technical Committee discussed the issue of recruitment of a Forestry Officer under the SADC/JICA Forestry Project on Forestry at its meeting of November 2018, in Windhoek, Namibia. The Committee noted that no progress had been made on the recruitment since 4<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting, and urged the Project to fulfill its obligation of strengthening coordination capacity at SADC Secretariat through provision of a regionally recruited forestry officer.
- 10.5.3 JCC also noted that the position has not been advertised due to some unforeseen challenges from the JICA side. JICA informed the Secretariat that they would only be ready to support the position upon receiving guarantee that the incumbent will be automatically absorbed by the Secretariat at the end of the project.
- 10.5.4 JCC further noted that the position of Programme Officer Forestry is included under the current SADC Secretariat Structure, but it is categorized as flexi, meaning that it cannot be funded under the mainstream Member States budget allocation to SADC Secretariat due to budgetary constraints. Like with all other flexi positions the position can be filled either through secondment by Member States or through financial support from International Cooperating Partners (ICPs). This being the case SADC Secretariat is not able to provide a guarantee that it will automatically absorb the incumbent at the end of the project. The position is still vacant. JCC recommended that the flexi position should be changed to permanent position paid by the Member States contribution to SADC Secretariat to ensure sustainability.
- 10.5.5 The PMU informed JCC that JICA had only USD25,000 for capacity development of SADC Secretariat and offered to support capacity building for SADC Member States as a whole in place of recruiting a forestry officer. JCC recommended using the money for (i) purchase of a vehicle to be used in KAZA TFCA for field visits when the proposed JICA project is implemented (ii) supporting long-term training at Masters Level for forestry candidates from SADC region.
- 10.5.6 JCC raised concerns over the little amount of USD25,000 for capacity development of SADC Secretariat considering that the position had not been filled for four years. JAFTA offered to raise the amount with additional USD25,000 from the project operational budget to come to USD50,000. The JICA Representative for Madagascar advised JCC that it will not be possible to raise the amount from USD 25,000 to 50,000.
- 10.5.7 JCC noted that JICA had pledged to recruit a forestry officer for 5 years and wondered what happened to the money for this activity, since there was now only USD25,000 left. JCC was concerned that the Project failed to implement Component 4 of the Project on Capacity Development of SADC Secretariat.



**DECISION 4: Capacity Development of SADC Secretariat**

The Joint Coordinating Committee noted that the position will not be filled and directed SADC Secretariat to:

- (i) send a letter to JICA to request information on the funds that were allocated to component 4 of the project and the amount currently available for use;
- (ii) communicate with JICA the concern of Member State on failure to implement this component; and,
- (iii) propose to JCC activities to be supported by the funds available under component 4.

**10.5 Update on Forest Information System Portal (A common platform for three components)**

10.6.1 JCC recalled that the project was in the process of developing a Forest Information System Portal to serve as a tool/platform for storing and sharing of Project Outputs and information from all three-project components. All Project products, such as Forest Area Information, Guidelines on Forest Fire Management and Participatory Forest Management, Database for good practices of PFM and so forth, will be stored in the platform and made available to Member States.

10.6.2 PMU provided JCC a progress report on the development of Forest Information System Portal and the JCC considered and noted progress made.

**11 Action Plan for External Funding (Development of Project Idea Note)**

11.0.1 JCC recalled that at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting it requested the PMU to:

- (i) provide practical training and/or focused support to EWG members on how to access funds from existing financing mechanisms to enable countries to access funds in an effort to address funding gaps to support Forestry programmes; and,
- (ii) develop an exit strategy and a way forward in order to ensure sustainability of outcomes from the current project beyond the duration of the current cooperation (June 2020).

11.0.2 JCC noted that PMU has developed a Concept Note for the KAZA Transboundary Forest Fire programme and Project Idea Note for individual countries to mobilize external funding and ensure sustainability of the outcomes of SADC/JICA Forestry Project.

11.0.3 PMU presented to JCC a proposed project way forward Strategy (exit strategy).

**DECISION 5: Proposed Project Way-Forward Strategy**

11.0.4 The Joint Coordinating Committee approved the proposed project exist strategy and way forward.

**12 Review and update of the Plan of Operations (PO)**

12.0.1 The PMU made a presentation on the draft updated Plan of Operations (PO) based on the actual progress made, agreed changes where applicable and future activity plans.

12.0.2 The JCC considered and noted the proposed update of the Plan of Operations (PO).

**13 Review and update of the Project Design Matrix (PDM)**

13.0.1 The PMU made a presentation on the draft updated Project Design Matrix (PDM) based on the agreed changes to future activities. JCC noted and provide input to the updated PDM.

**14.0 Other issues discussed and deliberated upon**

**14.1 Standard Procedures for Communication**

14.1.1 The JCC noted that the draft regional Guidelines on Forest Fire Management and on Participatory Forest Management were shared only among EWG members and not with the JCC members. JCC recommended that:

- (i) key deliverables of the project such as the Guidelines should be sent directly to both JCC and EWG Members to facilitate smooth communication; and,
- (ii) guidelines must be finalized before sharing with the JCC for recommendation to Statutory SADC structures.

**14.2 Capacity to support Forestry Sector in SADC Secretariat**

14.2.1 The Joint Coordinating Committee:

- (i) Directed SADC Secretariat to seek funding to support the position of Programme Officer-Forestry within SADC Secretariat to ensure sustainability of project and forestry activities in general;
- (ii) Urged Member States to consider seconding a Programme Officer-Forestry to SADC Secretariat. SADC Secretariat to provide details of cost implications to Member States; and,
- (iii) Recommended to Council (through Committee of SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources) to consider changing the current position of Programme Officer Forestry from flexi to fully funded position



## 15.0 Date and venue of the next meeting

Two countries were proposed as the venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> and the last JCC meeting. The first option was Seychelles and Tanzania, in her capacity as the Chair of SADC, should the Seychelles be unable to host.

## 16.0 Wrap up and closing

16.0.1 The Director FANR, Mr. Domingos Gove, thanked Member States for attending the meeting and for their guidance, which was crucial to ensure that what the Project does benefits the people on the ground in their countries. He noted that, instead of an exit strategy, the PMU made recommendations on the way forward for the Project, beyond June 2020 when it is expected to end. He also urged the Project to implement the recommendations of JCC.

The Director thanked Mauritius for hosting the JCC, and the hotel for the good service. He thanked the Co-chair for his openness, and the interpreters for their service. He also thanked the Government of Japan, JICA, JAFTA, and GIZ for their cooperation towards making the Project a success.

16.0.2 The Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forestry Service, Mauritius, and Mrs. Cecily Cyparsade thanked the JCC for choosing Mauritius to host the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting, and welcomed the delegates to visit Mauritius again. She also thanked JICA, SADC Secretariat and JAFTA for their support.

16.0.3 SADC Chair, Namibia, represented by Mr. Joseph Hailwa, noted that the delegates had a very good meeting, which was made possible by the good reception of the host country Mauritius. SADC-Chair noted that even though SADC Secretariat is poorly staffed in terms of forestry Officer the JCC appreciates Secretariat's support to the Project. He also noted that JCC would continue to raise its voice that Secretariat must be supported with a forest officer. The good turnout at the meeting of 13 out of 16 Member States showed that Member States warmly support this Project as well as the cooperation with JICA. Therefore, JCC takes this partnership seriously and looks forward to clean and fair deals. Even though there are challenges, these must be solved fairly in a win-win manner.

The SADC-Chair thanked JICA for support to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC in Mauritius, and that this showed that JICA is listening to the voice of Member States, and hoped that JICA continues to do so. He also thanked SADC Secretariat for facilitating Member States to attend the JCC meeting and the interpreters for a job well done.

16.0.4 The Co-Chair-JICA, represented by The Resident Representative of JICA in Madagascar, Mr. Shinji Umemoto, noted that he was not handling the Forestry Project in Madagascar; therefore, his responses to the JCC were based on his previous working experience with JICA. Therefore, even though he might not have been able to respond to some of the JCC requests, he




hoped that JICA would continue to work for the better with SADC despite the limited budget.

He thanked SADC Secretariat and JAFTA staff for organizing the meeting and the interpreters for their service.



**Domingos Z. Gove**  
Director, FANR  
SADC Secretariat  
Co-Chair of JCC

Date: 21 / 08 / 2019



**Shinji Umemoto**  
Resident Representative  
JICA Madagascar Office  
Co-Chair of JCC

Date: 21 / 08 / 2019

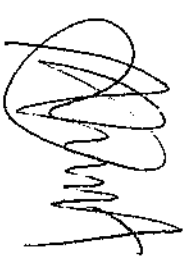


APPENDIX 1

Participants List of 5th JCC meeting held 14 – 16 May 2019

Tamassa Resort, Bel Ombre - Mauritius

| COUNTRY    | NAME                      | DESIGNATION/<br>ORGANISATION   | EMAIL ADDRESS                                   | TELEPHONE NO                      | FAX NO         |
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