

**CCARDESA**  
*Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa*



---

Ground Floor, Red Brick Building  
Plot 4701 Mmaraka Road  
Private Bag 00357  
Gaborone, Botswana

Telephone: +267 3914991/7  
Fax: +267 316 7211  
Email: [registry@ccardesa.org](mailto:registry@ccardesa.org)  
Website: [www.ccardesa.org](http://www.ccardesa.org)

---

# CONCEPT NOTE

**CCARDESA (SADC) FORESTRY WEBINAR: 17-18 November 2021**

**ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT THROUGH  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN SADC**

**September 2021**

## **BACKGROUND**

The forest and woodlands of southern Africa are dominated by human settlements and therefore are exposed to different levels of use for provision of different services including energy, construction materials, and a diversity of non-timber forest products. The current status of the woodlands is largely driven by the land use to which they are exposed, with the main drivers of forest cover change being agricultural expansion, energy, in the form of fuelwood and charcoal, urbanization, and extractive mining (Handavu et al 2018; Gondwe et al. 2020). 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 nature-based tourism. These values form the basis to warrant the management and protection of SADC forests.

The SADC region has several instruments that relate to forestry, including the Declaration and Treaty of SADC (1992); The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2015-2020); The SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP); The SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) (2017-2022); SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement; SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (LEAP) Strategy; and The SADC Green Economy Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Development. All these instruments recognize the importance of the forest resource in addressing the different ecosystem services including foodsecurity, conservation and the impact of climate change. There is also clear recognition of the transboundary nature of forests. *This calls for a regional approach in finding solutions for sustainable resource use and management.*

In this regard, the SADC Protocol on Forestry (2002) remains the overarching policy framework for forestry collaboration amongst Member States and beyond. The objectives of the Protocol are to promote the development, conservation and sustainable management and utilization 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. This protocol dovetails well with international and regional instruments including the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100); The EAC Forestry Policy and the African Union Sustainable Forestry Management Programme Framework (AU-SFMPF).

In most SADC countries, forest instruments are implemented in tandem with other policies to address SFM, Conservation, Climate Change etc. These instruments include Climate Change, Environmental, Land, Energy, Water and Agriculture policies. Additionally, the revised policies recognize a number

of issues including CBNRM, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change, land reform and tenure, access to natural resources, decentralization of forest management and governance, and the importance of trees off the forests (agroforestry). However, the SADC Region still has many challenges that impede the attainment of **AU Vision 2063** and **SDGs**, some of which include the following:

- Conversion of forest lands to other uses
- Encroachment into forest areas both inside and outside forest protected areas
- Demand for energy from fuel wood and charcoal
- Limited capacity of government institutions responsible for forestry management
- Inadequate participation of local communities in productive forest management
- Inadequate formal intra-regional trade in forest products between most Member States
- Climate change
- Challenges related to development of forest plantations sector
- Invasive Alien Species

#### **WHAT IS THE SADC APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES?**

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’’.

The strategic objectives are grouped into four main areas which are forest institutional capacity and governance, market and trade in timber and other forest products, financial investments and private sector engagement, and forest production systems. The objectives for this strategy, are as follows:

- To improved capacity to the Member States in the implementation of this strategy
- To promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible on forestry
- To enable collection, storage and dissemination of data to improve decision making in sustainable forest management and trade in forest products.
- To improve legal trade in forest products.
- To promote private sector and financial investments on forestry in the region.
- To encourage and promote capacity developments of national institutions responsible on forestry.
- To encourage and support Member States to respond to IAS and diseases associated with forestry

While each one the countries in the SADC may be addressing some of the challenges outlined above, it is a recognized fact that there are limitations in addressing both forestry research and development in the region. This is chiefly due to the lack of funding, capacity and skills. Secondly, the current set up in the SADC to address research and development is meant to be coordinated by the **Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)**, which was founded to harmonize the implementation of agricultural research and development (R&D).

**CCARDESA** in its current form is mainly centred on:

(i) Coordinating implementation of regional agricultural R&D programmes; (ii) Facilitating collaboration among stakeholders of the national agricultural research systems (NARS); Promoting public – private partnerships in regional agricultural R&D; and (iv) improving agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building. There is thus a need to mainstream Forest R&D in CCARDESA while also revisiting the main focus areas of R&D to address the emerging issues including climate change, biodiversity loss, among others. This calls for a consultative meeting of different stakeholders including policy makers, researchers, academics and development agents.

### **CALL FOR COORDINATION OF FORESTRY RESEARCH IN SADC**

As stated earlier, the SADC region has a number of tools in place relating to forestry. However, what is lacking is the inclusion of forestry in CCARDESA. The countries in the region are at different levels of forestry research and are endowed with different capacities to conduct research at both National and Higher Education Institution levels. On the other hand, the vegetation type in the region is similar in a number of countries including the Miombo, Savanna woodlands, Mangroves forests, among others. Fortunately, the SADC Forestry Strategy has outlined many common challenges, which, if well-coordinated, would benefit from the critical mass of scientists in the region. Hence, the objective of this call for a Regional Forestry Webinar is for policy makers, researchers, academics and development agents to:

- 1) Share information on the status of forest resource and management in the region;
- 2) Share information on state of forestry research in the region;
- 3) Identify areas of synergy and potential regional focus areas;
- 4) Identify potential lead institutions for different research focus areas; and
- 5) Develop a mechanism to integrate forestry research coordination into the CCARDESA programmes implementation model.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The main outcomes of the workshop will include the following:

1. State of the Forest Resource and Management Capacity in SADC;
2. Forest Research Strategy and Framework for SADC;
3. Lead institutions (equivalent of centers of excellence) identified for different research focus areas;  
and
4. Framework for the forestry research coordination in CCARDESA.

