



Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII)

Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa's Development

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Consensus Statement



African Union



African Development Bank



Economic Commission for Africa

Preamble

We, participants at the Eighth African Development Forum (ADF-VIII) on the theme, “Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa’s Development”,

Representing stakeholders from across the African continent, including Governments, academia, civil society, traditional rulers, the private sector, the United Nations family and development partners, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 25 October 2012, at the invitation of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB);

Cognizant of the vast natural resource endowments that the African continent enjoys in the form of land, minerals, fisheries, and forests;

Aware of the significant role which the natural resource endowments of the continent can and should play in the structural transformation of the economies of African countries and the all-round improvement in the lives of the citizenry;

Conscious of the unwholesome history of natural resource exploitation on the continent and determined to put an end to that history so that Africa’s endowments can become a source of developmental transformation that benefits its peoples;

Convinced that the fabled natural resource curse is not a fatality to which Africa is condemned, in whole or in part, and committed to the transformation of Africa’s resource wealth into a blessing for its peoples;

Noting the increased international interest in and demand for Africa’s natural resources and aware that this presents an opportunity which, if properly harnessed and managed, can rapidly help to turn the table of underdevelopment on the continent;

Committed to the promotion of wholesome participation by African women and the youth in the harnessing of Africa’s natural resource endowments and the achievement of gender and inter-generational equity in all domains and dimensions of natural resource management;

Recognizing that some of the natural resource endowments of the continent are finite and the commodity price boom which is currently being enjoyed in some sectors will not continue indefinitely;

Noting the importance of the sustainable exploitation of Africa’s natural resource endowment for the environment, local communities and the present and future generations of Africans;

Conscious of the salience of all-round multi-level contract transparency and accountability to the effective governance of natural resources for the attainment of development ends that will benefit the citizenry;

Committed to the achievement of a natural resource development regime and strategy in which private investors are supported as much as they are also held accountable and required to fulfill their financial, economic, social, environmental, ethical, and other associated obligations;

Affirming the obligations of governments and private investors to protect communities that are affected by the exploitation and development of natural resources;

Aware of the importance of research and innovation in the quest by African countries to derive optimal benefits from their natural resource endowments;

Cognizant of the role of energy as a key resource in the development of the other natural endowments of Africa;

Welcoming the adoption of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) by African leaders in 2009 as the overarching continental framework for a more development-centred and equitable management of the natural resource wealth of the continent;

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that Africa speaks with one voice and Africans believe in their own visions, ideas, and programmes;

Recalling all the relevant declarations and programmes of the African Union and the United Nations on natural resources, which African countries have endorsed.

Adopt this consensus statement as follows:

I. Mineral Resources for Africa's Development

1. Africa's considerable mineral wealth endowment ranks the continent first or second in known world reserves of bauxite, chromites, cobalt, industrial diamond, manganese, phosphate rock, platinum-group metals, soda ash, vermiculite and zirconium. The continent is also a major global producer of these and other minerals. These mineral resources represent a considerable asset base and an opportunity for broad-based economic development. Yet, Africa continues to suffer from a high incidence of poverty and underdevelopment even as the full potentiality of its mineral wealth endowment remains largely untapped due to structural and institutional challenges. These constraints include the absence of an integrated planning and management framework; the adverse impact of an improperly managed minerals sector boom on the rest of the economy; the lack of forward and backward linkages; the unequal sharing of the mineral resource rent across the value chain; poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks; weak institutional capacity, including the capacity to negotiate beneficial mineral agreements; and financial benefits that are lost by Africa through transfer pricing, illicit transfers and other covert mechanisms.

2. In its effort to overcome constraints and ensure that exploitation of its mineral wealth plays a greater role in its development, Africa can capitalize on the strategic and comparative advantages it enjoys. These include the much improved investor attractiveness of the continent;

increased competition for mineral acreage; a rising demand for mineral commodities that has translated into booming global commodity prices; improved domestic governance; strong participation of civil society organizations in public affairs; a more favourable political climate, including greater awareness of the important role which a properly anchored and structured developmental State could play; strong interest in articulating and operationalizing a more development-oriented policy framework for the minerals sector; and a much broader recognition of the imperatives of the social license to mine.

3. The AMV, which was adopted in February 2009 by the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union, was a watershed in the collective desire by African countries to break with an unhappy history of mineral resource exploitation and transit towards resource-based growth and industrialization to help drive the progressive structural transformation of the continent. Achieving the goals set out in the AMV, including the “transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development”, is the major challenge for African countries today.

Recommendations

4. In seeking to imbue mining activities in Africa with a much greater developmental role, ***African countries should:***

(a) ***Undertake*** all-round domestic policy reforms in the mining and other sectors to: anchor the minerals sector in a broad development vision; better align mineral, industrial and trade policies; institutionalize inter-departmental collaboration within the governmental system; expand local ownership, participation and control in the mining sector; significantly increase local content; boost mining revenue/taxation receipts whilst plugging financial leakages; enhance the contribution of mining activities to various backward and forward linkages in the local economy throughout the entire mineral value chain, and overcome the phenomenon of enclave economies; catalyze the emergence of domestic and regional economic corridors across the continent; improve geological and geo-scientific knowledge; promote environmental, social and material stewardship; and give attention to urban mining for the purpose of recycling extractable precious and base metals from e-waste;

(b) ***Commit*** to entrenching democratic governance principles along the mineral value chain, including strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) with a view to strategically repositioning it to become the primary instrument for promoting a shared understanding of mineral value creation, eliminating mineral resource-driven conflicts, institutionalizing mandatory mineral revenue disclosure, and improving overall mineral sector governance in Africa;

(c) ***Embrace*** the transparency and accountability advocated for by the AMV, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and similar reciprocal accountability standards and mechanisms to ensure that the minerals sector delivers development dividends to Governments and communities while rewarding investors for the risk they take. This outcome can and should be achieved alongside strong commitment to curb human rights violations, address issues of child labour, overcome gender-based violence, redress the abuse of migrant labour, improve

mining safety, achieve sustainable wages, provide decent housing and cater to the health needs of miners and their families;

(d) ***Extend*** significant support to Artisanal and Small-scale Miners (ASM) in recognition of the important role they play as legitimate actors in creating employment, rolling back household poverty, enhancing women's and youth participation, generating backward and forward linkages and overcoming underdevelopment in rural communities. Also, Governments should strive to address the technical equipment, skills and financial challenges faced by ASM, as an integral part of a development-oriented mining policy. This should be done in the knowledge that their full integration into rural development programmes, including their formalization as may be appropriate, could be a potent strategy for raising the living standards of communities, improving gender equity, encouraging youth participation, and promoting sustainable local economies;

(e) ***Enhance*** their knowledge of the continent's geological endowment as a good thing in itself but also with a view to employing that knowledge as a key tool for strengthening the continent's bargaining power with other international actors interested in Africa's mineral wealth. Better knowledge of Africa's mineral wealth will also allow Governments to experiment more effectively with innovative mechanisms of allocating exploration ground such as auctioning, and entering into better informed and more optimal "resources for infrastructure" deals. To this end, careful consideration should be given to the strategic importance of a stable funding mechanism that would support the geological mapping of the continent on an on-going basis;

(f) ***Urgently*** invest in tackling the institutional and human capacity challenges faced by stakeholders along the mineral value chain, doing so by strengthening existing institutions and, as necessary, building new, specialist ones. This will make for the emergence of a well-capacitated African minerals sector, anchored in a clear developmental vision, and able to negotiate beneficial contracts and contribute to innovation and development of a knowledge-based African minerals sector. In this connection, approval, by the continent's political leadership for the creation of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), to contribute to an education programme for the mining sector is to be saluted as a sign of the collective commitment of African countries to address issues of capacity and related flaws in Africa's mining sector. The establishment of the African Mineral Skills Initiative and the proposal to launch the African Mineral Geoscience Initiative under the overall auspices of the AMDC, are all contributions to building general, technical, and strategic capacity for individuals and institutions in the mining sector, which all stakeholders should embrace and own;

(g) ***Commit*** themselves to achieving sustainable mineral exploitation that addresses environmental challenges in the sector for the sake of inter- and intra-generational equity. To this end, African Governments should provide and enforce a strong environmental management framework for all actors in the mining sector, while mining companies should proactively put in place mechanisms for compliance and going beyond the dictates of policy, as part of their own environmental stewardship; and

(h) **Break** with past experience by assiduously implementing the AMV in order to achieve the much-needed paradigm shift in the African mining sector that has eluded much of the continent for decades. To this end, efforts should be made to popularize the Vision across Africa among a multiplicity of stakeholders who could partner with Governments to advance its goals towards full realization.

II. Land and Africa's Development Future

5. Africa has abundant agricultural land that can be harnessed to address its food security concerns and serve as a basis for a model of structural transformation to boost employment, income and livelihoods. The continent holds about 60 per cent of the world's total non-cultivated land area that is suitable for cropping and which lies in non-forested and non-protected areas with low population density. Land abundance on the continent has contributed to the recent upsurge of local and, in particular, international interest and investments in African land.

6. In the face of the upsurge in investor interest, Governments have come under considerable pressure to allocate arable lands for a variety of purposes, including export-oriented crop production aimed at satisfying the foreign markets from which many of the investors originate. In seeking to respond to these pressures, African Governments, traditional leaders and private citizens involved in domestic and foreign large-scale investments in land face two immediate challenges. The first is to identify and quantify the land available and unutilized, under both conventional and traditional land-use systems. The second is the inadequate recognition of customary-based land tenure rights and claims by statutory land laws and administration systems which results in the rendering of the land rights and livelihoods of local communities precarious in the face of large scale land acquisitions and the accompanying increase in land values.

7. While increased domestic and foreign investments in African agricultural lands comes with its challenges, it also offers the continent an opportunity to address its yield gap and enhance agricultural technology, infrastructure, mechanization, market access and value-adding possibilities that can play an important role in boosting productivity and output. Although African countries have made great progress in meeting their commitment under the 2003 Maputo Declaration to increase public spending to agriculture, it is also well-recognized that the 10 per cent allocation is not adequate to transform a sector after years of neglect. In this regard, partnerships with local and foreign investors in agricultural lands could provide much needed complementary resources to the sector over and above what Governments are able to offer.

Recommendations

8. In the light of the challenges and opportunities associated with the increased domestic and external pressure on their land resources, African countries are called upon to:

(a) **Commit** to fast tracking the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa so as to realize the reform of land policies, laws, and administration systems at the national level. In so doing, the prospects of successfully addressing the challenges of land ownership, use and management across the continent would be enhanced;

(b) **Identify** established local land rights, interests and claims, and clearly determine how much land is available and where it is located before engaging in large-scale land allocations. The process should take into account, land that is under traditional systems of agriculture, including shifting cultivation, fallow farming and pastoral grazing. Mapping and documenting land rights, interests and claims of communities and individuals should go beyond ownership rights and include user rights to land and related resources. Spatially referenced information on land will provide an evidence base that will be indispensable to planning at the local, meso, and national levels, and will also help overcome unfair dispossession or stripping of the land rights of communities;

(c) **Explore** innovative and inclusive large-scale land-based investment (LSLBI) models that empower smallholder farmers and communities and offer provisions to protect national food security, thereby achieving equitable agricultural and rural transformation in Africa. To this end, LSLBIs should adhere to the principles of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which enjoin African Governments and stakeholders to reverse unhelpful and inconsistent macro and sectoral policies that are biased against agriculture in general, and smallholder farmers in particular;

(d) **Adopt** appropriate policy and legislative frameworks that articulate modalities for access to land by both domestic and foreign investors and recognize the land rights of local communities and investors in order to facilitate and secure profitable and equitable LSLBIs. Optimal structuring of land deals requires evidence-based, transparent and consultative negotiations on the main elements. Some of the key elements that must be carefully considered are: optimal land size and land lease period; potential costs and benefits and how they are to be shared and distributed; terms for further allocations; basis and terms of compensation; protection of well-being of smallholder farmers, including the women among them; community participation and a sense of ownership; provisions for withholding production for domestic use to address food and energy security; fiscal and other provisions to minimize land speculation; and regulatory mechanisms for enforcement;

(e) **Strengthen** property rights, especially those falling under customary jurisdictions that serve as the principal regime under which most of Africa's abundant land lies. In this regard, there is an urgent need to fast track implementation of the African Union (AU) Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa that aims to reform land policies, laws and administration systems, with a view to entrenching the land rights of local communities and facilitating the security of all bundles of land rights, interests and claims, especially for women and other vulnerable groups;

(f) **Ensure**, in partnership with other stakeholders, that LSLBIs give due consideration to environmental sustainability and climate change concerns. In addition, make effectively enforced and properly monitored environmental stewardship a central component of contractual arrangements with land investors;

(g) **Strengthen** institutions that govern land rights, along with those that facilitate investments and oversee the regulatory environment, to ensure that land deals attain their economic, social, gender, inter-generational, and environmental goals. Well-functioning land markets that facilitate transparent land transfers are critical to creating an enabling environment for investments by large-scale investors and smallholder producers alike. Not only is this

essential to reducing the yield gap, but also to providing the basis for a structural economic transformation that allows the rural population to move into non-farm employment as appropriate;

(h) **Mobilize** financial and human resource capacity support for the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan on LSLBIs in order to enhance the governance of LSLBIs in Africa. Resources are urgently needed to ensure that African Governments and stakeholders validate these principles to create the sense of ownership that is critical to implementation. Support is also needed for capacity development and monitoring for responsive LSLBIs; and

(i) **Engage** the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) as a possible institutional resource for the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land and the Nairobi Action Plan on LSLBIs. This would mean that all the activities contained in the LPI strategic plan, including capacity-building, would have to be adequately mainstreamed at the national, regional, and continental levels.

III. Harnessing Fishery Resources

9. Africa's fisheries and aquaculture endowments are a renewable natural capital with large socio-economic, nutritional and ecosystem benefits. This capital offers the continent a golden opportunity to continue to reap benefits from these resources over a long period of time. Fish has excellent nutritional value, providing high quality protein and a wide variety of vitamins and minerals. Besides, exploitation of fishery resources creates revenue for Government and economic opportunities in fishing communities (including the most vulnerable and marginalized), leads to diversification of exports and generates shared wealth for a nation. To sustain the benefits provided by fishery resources, they must be used and managed in line with socio-economic goals and within the means of society and limits of ecosystems. Fishery resources, therefore, will be a strategic asset for achieving sustainable economic transformation of the African continent and the well-being of its peoples if adequate policy reforms and well-targeted investments along the fishery value chains are carried out.

10. The magnitude of annual catches of fish in African marine ecosystems, inland waters and fish farms delivers gross annual revenues of close to US\$5 billion and directly supports the jobs and livelihoods of about 4 million people. The fisheries sector, therefore, makes a valuable contribution to the GDP and total exports earnings of many African countries, especially the coastal ones. However, the contribution of the continent to the world capture production is still low in marine waters, in part, because of important supply-side challenges facing African countries in spite of the huge potential it has. Per capita fish production is half the global average. It is expected to decline further, leading to diminishing contribution to food security and the trade balance. About 1 million tons of fish are lost due to overfishing, which reduces potential incomes and undermines the productivity of Africa's marine ecosystems. Overall, the main fish stocks are fully exploited and are, therefore, producing catches that have reached, or are very close to, their maximum limit, with limited expected space for further expansion given current practices. Catches are likely to decrease if remedial action is not taken to reduce overfishing. The fact that the resource base is shrinking and that African fisheries and aquaculture are not living up to their economic potential is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

11. Aquaculture is becoming the main source of supply of fish products worldwide. Africa currently accounts for only a marginal proportion of global aquaculture fish production although it is also the region that is enjoying the fastest growth. Aquaculture has the potential to contribute to meeting animal protein requirements at a time of rapid population growth worldwide. It should thus be carried out such that the sector: adds to the physical quantity of fish available for human consumption; produces economic value; supports community and social development; operates in an environmentally-sustainable way; and respects the limits set by nature. This requires consistent effort to upgrade the sector's operations from the largely subsistence practices to cage culture. Net revenue from marine fishing is estimated at \$4.2 billion a year if the fisheries sector is effectively governed. Moreover, Africa could increase its "fish wealth" from the current \$2 billion to \$30 billion within 25 years.

12. Addressing the challenges of reversing current systems of exploitation, restoring depleted stocks, maintaining biodiversity and optimizing economic and biological efficiency in fisheries production, calls for a complete paradigm shift in perception. Indeed, fishery resources should be recognized as "capital assets" from which wealth could be profitably and sustainably derived and productivity enhanced. African countries could use tax and expenditure policies as leverage for better managing the continent's fishery resources. African countries must also reclaim their maritime territory, expand aquaculture and promote industrialization of fishery value chains in processing and marketing. This will entail accelerating the transition from subsistence to integrated and inclusive aquaculture-agriculture farming systems and commercial fishing. Curbing illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) is key to capturing or recapturing regional and global markets, optimizing rents and other socio-economic benefits and the sustainable management of the resource base.

Recommendations

13. Cognizant of the opportunities, potentialities and challenges involved in Africa's efforts to harnesses its fishery resources for its economic transformation and sustainable development, the countries of the continent should strive to:

(a) ***Promote*** national strategies that focus on the many facets of policy and governance, especially in relation to employment, poverty alleviation, gender equality, youth participation, and environmental sustainability in the fisheries sector. This would require tackling specific challenges in these policy areas at the national and regional levels;

(b) ***Implement*** the first set of priority actions of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture, with close attention to inland fisheries, coastal and marine fisheries and aquaculture at the national and regional economic community levels, taking ongoing initiatives and development priorities into account;

(c) ***Pursue*** sustainable financing of fisheries governance, through appropriate taxation and fees, greater transparency of revenue management and increased reinvestment of fisheries revenue;

(d) **Adopt** policies that optimize nutritional and economic benefits from the regional and global fisheries trade, while reducing overfishing and post-harvest catch losses to more benign levels, and rebuilding overexploited resources;

(e) **Align** existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to adequately support the implementation of fisheries and aquaculture sector action plans such as the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture and NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture;

(f) **Promote** the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises, including artisanal fishing, in the fishery and aquaculture sectors while strengthening the nexus between fisheries and aquaculture resource-based industrialization within the framework of the African Union Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;

(g) **Mainstream** the fisheries sector into the existing sector-specific package of governance instruments and develop, accordingly, the required capacities at all levels so as to enable African countries to effectively domesticate these mechanisms;

(h) **Develop** policy monitoring and control systems in combination with legal and judicial systems that could be internally agreed to curb IUU fishing, and fast track the implementation of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-AU Plan of Action on IUU as a possible first step in that direction;

(i) **Strengthen** the transformative capacities and bargaining power of national and regional decision-making bodies by lifting impending constraints on strategic management, research and development, and financial and technical resources;

(j) **Promote** peer learning and knowledge-sharing within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world on efficient, sustainable and equitable fisheries and aquaculture management and governance systems.

(k) **Support** strengthened collaboration between regional fisheries bodies and regional economic communities in regional fisheries governance, as an integral part of the African Union initiative on policy framework and mechanism for the fisheries sector; and

(l) **Include** fisheries and aquaculture in the climate change adaptation plans of African countries.

IV. Forest Resources

14. Africa is endowed with enormous and diverse natural and plantation forest resources that cover 675 million hectares or 23 per cent of the land area of the continent. The continent accounts for 17 per cent of the world's forest cover and has a higher per capita forest cover of 0.8ha/person compared to the global average of 0.6ha/person. This forest base supports the livelihoods of about 60 million people and contributes to about 6 per cent of the gross national product of African countries. This great wealth of forest resources is currently exploited and

traded mostly in its raw form. Where initiatives have been made to add value, it is still at the lower end of the chain, compared to other continents. This is partly because of poor forest technologies and inadequate or limited processing capacity and skills. In fact, Africa's processed forest products account for only 2 to 3 per cent of the global value added trade. Continuing exploitation of forests in this manner is unsustainable since it is wasteful and denies countries revenue and employment. Exporting Africa's raw round wood or semi-processed products is tantamount to exporting jobs from the continent at a time when massive unemployment, especially among the youth, is a big challenge.

15. African forests are home to many valuable non-wood forest products, such as Gum Arabic, some of which are of very high value in international trade and whose production is dominated by the continent. Nonetheless, these non-wood forest products are still exported in semi-processed forms and fetch little by way of earnings, denying the continent the full value of the processed products. African forests provide a diversity of services for agricultural production, ecotourism and hydropower generation. Forests stabilize agricultural production by reducing soil erosion, supporting downstream flood control and facilitating water reserves for irrigation. They are also critical to bee-keeping activities. However, these important services provided by forests are often not reflected in national accounting systems or their value is wrongly apportioned to other areas of the economy.

16. Sustainable management of Africa's forest resources with a developmental vision comes up against a range of policy, legal, regulatory, economic, governance, equity, knowledge, institutional and environmental constraints. Overcoming these constraints is key to attaining inter-sectoral linkages between agriculture, forest, industries, energy, water, and human settlement in Africa. If the sector's contribution to national development is to be achieved and the accelerated depletion of the continent's forest resources stemmed and reversed, weaknesses in forest governance and management must be addressed, forest technologies improved and the illegal exploitation of forests and trade in forest products tackled. Strategies for significantly increasing the level of local value addition in the forest sector speak to the need to end the untenable situation in which the continent continues to export forest products in their raw form.

17. Sustainable forest management must be based on comprehensive knowledge of forest resources available. It is thus vital for African Governments to invest in the expansion and quality upgrade of forest education and research. Recognizing the central role and place of indigenous knowledge is also critical and could serve, among other strategies, to strengthen the participation of communities in sustainable forest management. Furthermore, it is important to mobilize the participation of other stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector in the management of the continent's forest resources. Also, women play a vital role in the development of the forest sector. This includes tapping into major new and emerging forest-based opportunities under green growth development, reaping potential benefits from reduction in deforestation and forest degradation emissions, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Recommendations

18. ***African countries should aim to:***

(a) **Implement** the non-legally-binding instruments on all types of forests and the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level segment of the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests;

(b) **Review** and, as appropriate, reform national policies and legislation, embrace new initiatives in forest management such as forest certification and put in place strong regional and continental frameworks to effectively stamp out illegal exploitation and trade of forest products to ensure sustainable forest management;

(c) **Strengthen** human and institutional capacity in forest management and governance at different levels - community, national and regional, including the private sector and non-government organizations - in order to achieve sustainable forest management;

(d) **Develop** comprehensive and participatory national forest plans with multi-stakeholder involvement, and formulate forest level management plans and ensure their implementation;

(e) **Establish** and apply in a transparent manner, Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management and ensuring that all types of forests are sustainably managed irrespective of tenure and ownership. In this connection, efforts should also be redoubled in reforestation, restoration, and afforestation in order to halt and reverse forest degradation and overcome deforestation;

(f) **Promote** intra-African trade in wood and other forest products as part of an overall strategy of regional development;

(g) **Create** an enabling environment to encourage private sector investment in forest plantation and tree planting and processing in order to reduce pressures for the over-exploitation of natural forests, increase revenue flows, and achieve value addition of forest products;

(h) **Strengthen** the capacity of forest education institutions to develop appropriate modules and research institutions to conduct appropriate research relevant to African conditions and development aspirations, and ensure that sustainable forest management in Africa is driven by best scientific knowledge;

(i) **Transform** the forest sector industry from its present role as a producer of round woods and other basic processed products into one characterized by a diversified range of valued added products that encompass secondary and tertiary processing, and increase the contribution of the forest sector to the socio-economic transformation of African economies;

(j) **Review** and, as necessary, reformulate existing forest policies to reflect cross sector- linkages and harmonize policies for the holistic and management of forest resources in light of emerging competing users of forest land;

(k) ***Develop*** policy and legal frameworks to embrace and harness opportunities offered by such new initiatives as REDD+ and the increasing world-wide quest for green growth, and enable countries, communities, and other stakeholders to tap available finances for sustainable forest management and human livelihoods;

(l) ***Consider*** sustainable forest management in Regional Economic Communities development programmes, strengthen collaboration and cooperation between countries in forest management especially in education, research and information exchange, fighting illicit timber and non-timber forest product trade and negotiating with one voice on matters of global concern;

(m) ***Promote*** the use of affordable and clean alternative sources of energy; and

(n) ***Reinvest*** a significant proportion of revenues derived from such sources as forest fees into the crucial task of conservation and renewal.