

Message from the Ministers Responsible for Forestry to TICAD VI on the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Africa

Nearly 150 participants from 9 countries, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholders met at the TICAD VI special event in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25-26 August 2016.

Building on the Durban Declaration – 2050 vision for forest and forestry – which was adopted at the XIV World Forestry Congress in September 2015 – for the first time in African continent –, the participants focused their discussions on the two topics: the future of wood-based energy, and forest & landscape restoration for food security and resilience to climate change.

It was widely recognized that TICAD VI comes at a crossroads when the global communities including Africa embark on the shift to implementing the 2015 historic milestones, i.e. the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In this regard, the participants particularly stressed the importance of integrating the role of sustainable forest management and agroforestry into national development policies taking into full consideration multiple benefits from forests and trees outside forests involving environmental, social and economic aspects, all fundamental to African prosperity in line with the overall TICAD context.

Acknowledging the urgency of realizing solid achievements toward sustainable forest management, the participants recommended the following actions.

- Integrate the forest sector's policies on the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases into national climate change strategies.
- Take concrete actions toward halting deforestation and forest degradation including through further promoting REDD+ programs and projects
- Promote integrated land uses and landscape management approaches to

address food insecurity as the main driver of deforestation

- Fully developing agroforestry, evergreen agriculture and the assisted natural regeneration of trees in national development policies and programs to enable smallholders to obtain the full benefits of these practices in alleviating poverty and promoting rural prosperity
- Accelerate the implementation of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa by 2030, to enhance food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation, and combat rural poverty, thereby contributing the implementation of the Bonn Challenge
- Build resilience to drought and floods as part of the climate change adaptation strategies including through the dissemination of drought-tolerant tree species
- Adopt enabling policy and institutional environment for stakeholders to adopt sustainable wood-energy technologies
- Further promote partnerships and south-south exchanges to benefit from existing and increasing experience and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation actions
- Make the best use of affordable and innovative technologies including remote sensing forest monitoring to increase national capacity to assess and report on the status of forests and trees outside forests throughout Africa