IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Intergovernmental Authority on Development

PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

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FOREWORD

The IGAD Mandate is transboundary in nature. IGAD therefore focuses on formulation and harmonization of policies and strategies to address common transboundary concerns. These concerns include sustainable management of cross-border resources, infrastructure development, trade, capacity development, information sharing and knowledge management, research and technology development and resources mobilization. As one of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union (AU), IGAD also domesticates AU policies and Strategies, taking into account the specificities of the region. IGAD has therefore developed and have approved by its Policy Organs a number of regional and sectoral policies and strategies to implement its mandate.

Despite the availability of such regional policies, protocols and strategies, their impact to enhance sustainable management of transboundary resources, cross-border trade, address cross-border crimes, and illegal wildlife trafficking, etc. is inadequate. This is because the domestication of these policies by the member states is low. Consequently, IGAD has formulated a Regional Strategy to enhance the domestication and mainstreaming of regional and sectoral policies and strategies to national and sectoral development frameworks. In doing so, the strategy tries to address legal and institutional frameworks that hinder the domestication and mainstreaming of the IGAD regional policies and strategies.

It is evident that the domestication and mainstreaming of global, continental and regional policies and strategies has been posing a great challenge. I am convinced that this challenge will continue as it is not easy to quickly address the legal and institutional hindrances at country levels. I am however also convinced that the current IGAD Strategy on Domestication of Regional Policies and Strategies would go a long way to support member states in domestication and mainstreaming of global and regional policies and strategies into their national and sectoral development frameworks.

Amb. (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim
Executive Secretary

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
BMP	Biodiversity Management Programme
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EAC	East African Community
EAPGREN	Eastern Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network
EIA / ESIA	Environmental Impact Assessment / Environmental & Social Impact Assessment
ESA	Environmental Security Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAOSTAT	Statistics Division of FAO
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
HAWEN	Horn of Africa Wildlife Protection Enforcement Network
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority in Development
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LMOs	Living Modified Organisms
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
PAs	Protected Areas
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOSSARY

ABS	The way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers)
ABS strategy	IGAD Regional Strategy and Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing of Biological Resources
Agreement	Agreement establishing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development
Nagoya Protocol	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and their Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
Biological resources	Includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity
Biotechnology	Any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use
Genetic resource	Genetic material of actual or potential value
Traditional knowledge	A living body of knowledge that is developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identified

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IGAD Region is one of the most biodiversity rich regions of the world, with some of the most fertile agricultural land, but is facing challenges arising from increasing poverty, climate change and environmental degradation. To protect the region's biodiversity, Member States agreed that it was necessary to develop a new policy that specifically addresses biodiversity. This Policy will complement the existing national policies as well as the many international and regional (EAC, COMESA, etc.) policies and frameworks,such as the IGAD Regional Environment Policy, IGAD Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Policy Framework and Protocol, the IGAD Regional Climate Change Policy, and the IGAD Regional Environment and Resources Management Strategy.

Chapter 1 summarises the process by which the Policy has been prepared, through a series of in-depth review and analyses of existing policies, and extensive consultation with regional policy makers and experts between 2014 and 2015. This version is a synthesis of the work done, and captures the key elements of policy. The in-depth reports remain as background documents that evidence the level of consultation and provide the detailed rationale for this policy.

Chapter 2 presents the Vision and objectives of the policy. The Vision of this Regional Biodiversity Policy is that 'By 2050, the IGAD region becomes a place where biodiversity is sustainably used, managed, restored and conserved and benefits accrued thereof equitably shared for sustainable socio-economic development'.

The overall objective of the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy is to foster socio-economic development for sustainable livelihoods, environmental sustenance, peaceful and secure coexistence, and regional integration through sustainable management of biodiversity resources in the region.

The specific objectives are to:

- Conserve and sustainably use regional biodiversity, through innovative ownership and management models for the net benefit of all stakeholders (Section 3.1)
- Govern biodiversity through a transboundary, multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach (Section 3.2)
- Develop technologies and capacity, create awareness and manage information for biodiversity conservation (Section 3.3)
- Harness biodiversity for economic development and equitable benefit sharing (3.4)

The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy is developed within the framework of the principles set out in the Agreement Establishing IGAD, the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity, and related international conventions and agreements as well as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It is based on the following guiding principles: Sharing common responsibility for present and future generations applying the Precautionary principle; conserving and managing biodiversity based on scientific knowledge contributing to sustainable development; strengthening regional integration and cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefits and good faith applying the subsidiarity principle; integrating all related stakeholders ensuring inclusiveness and ownership (good governance); building synergies with related conventions, policies, strategies and programmes to increase effectiveness; allowing moving at different speeds; understanding the policy and the priority actions as gender sensitive ensuring equity; sharing of benefits and costs; applying the Polluter Pays principle; resolving disputes peacefully; and sharing information.

Chapter 3 presents the policy statements, which are grouped under the following four key themes, which correspond to the above objectives:

- Safeguarding, conserving and restoring biodiversity
- Governance and mainstreaming of Biodiversity
- Technology, capacity development, awareness-creation and information management
- Biodiversity foreconomic development and benefit sharing.

For each "key theme" the challenges and opportunities are laid out for a number of specific issues, and then a Policy Statement is presented that addresses the issue and takes note of priority actions that should be implemented.

Biodiversity is an invaluable asset to the IGAD region as evidenced by its contribution to the livelihoods of millions of people. It provides the foundation for all human survival ranging from the most basic of needs such as food, to new economic sectors with financial and development prospects for the region.

Climate and rapid land use change, invasive alien species as well as managing water resources to ensure sufficient supplies ecosystem functioning are among the most relevant challenges for biodiversity. Member States shall therefore adopt common regional standards for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Security Assessment (ESA) to reduce / mitigate the impact of economic development on regional biodiversity and ensure resilience of the environment for sustained provision of ecosystem goods and services. Some of the human activities that threaten biodiversity have their origin in poverty and a lack of capacity and awareness.

Sustainable management of biodiversity can produce important benefits for the development of the IGAD region. Benefit sharing rules can improve the perception on biodiversity management being a development tool. Biodiversity resources are not shared equitably within the IGAD Member States. A regional agreement on sharing equitably the biological resources between the various Member States, and respecting the situation of the less endowed countries, can help to develop unity and peace in the region.

The legal frameworks need to be aligned with international conventions. Member States shall put in place governance processes and institutions that foster cooperation and coordination and best engage multiple stakeholders to contribute to biodiversity conservation. Integrated land use planning and innovative land tenure systems and management frameworks that encourage local communities and private sector to invest in conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources need to be introduced throughout the IGAD Region. Member States shall orientate their short and long term development strategies towards a Green and Blue Economy approach to mitigate biodiversity degradation and loss.

Building the capacity of institutions and individuals to understand, and manage biodiversity depends on the clear identification of needs, training and provision of access to information for self-learning. Member States shall promote joint management of transboundary and shared biodiversity resources and Protected Areas, involving local communities at all times. Harmonised guidelines and best practice information shall be provided for capacity building of the local communities in the establishment of micro-enterprises creating income from biodiversity management and for the protection of indigenous knowledge in the patenting process guaranteeing benefit to communities.

The final chapter 4presents the arrangements for adoption, financing and monitoring the implementation of the policy. The present policy shall be adopted by the Member States who will develop and/or update their respective policy and legal frameworks accordingly. It will be implemented by IGAD Secretariat in partnership with other regional organizations, and relayed by Member States' institutions and stakeholders.

To ensure the full implementation of the policy and compliance by all actors at all levels, IGAD, with the participation of all stakeholders, shall develop a regional biodiversity protocol. New sources of funding will be identified to support regional research cooperation and data collection.

Monitoring will be guided by the IGAD M&E Framework and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets. Harmonization of indicators at regional level will help to monitor the status of the biodiversity and its economic considerations. Member States will monitor progress at national level, and IGAD shall monitor and report on progress at regional level.

1. BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 The IGAD Region

The IGAD sub-region comprises the eight countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. It covers an area of approximately 5.2 million km^2, representing about 8 % of the world's area. With a total population of 250 million in 2015, the sub-region displays a rich diversity of peoples, cultures, geographic features and biodiversity. By 2025, the population of the sub-region is expected to reach approximately 300 million. In spite of current high poverty level, the sub-region houses some of the most productive agricultural land in Africa. The highland areas boast fertile soil, abundant rainfall, and low incidence of human and animal disease, thus providing some of the most favourable agricultural conditions in Africa leading to high population concentrations. These same areas are also home of some of the most biodiverse wecosystems in the Horn of Africa.

Figure 1: Map of the IGAD Region[2]

1.2 Biodiversity, Status and its Management in the IGAD Region

1.2.1 What is Biodiversity?

Article 2 of the CBD defines 'Biological diversity' as ***"the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."*** The diversity of all living things depends on temperature, precipitation, altitude, soils, geography and the presence of other species. Towards the Equator biodiversity increases and is highest in tropical rainforests and along coral reefs.

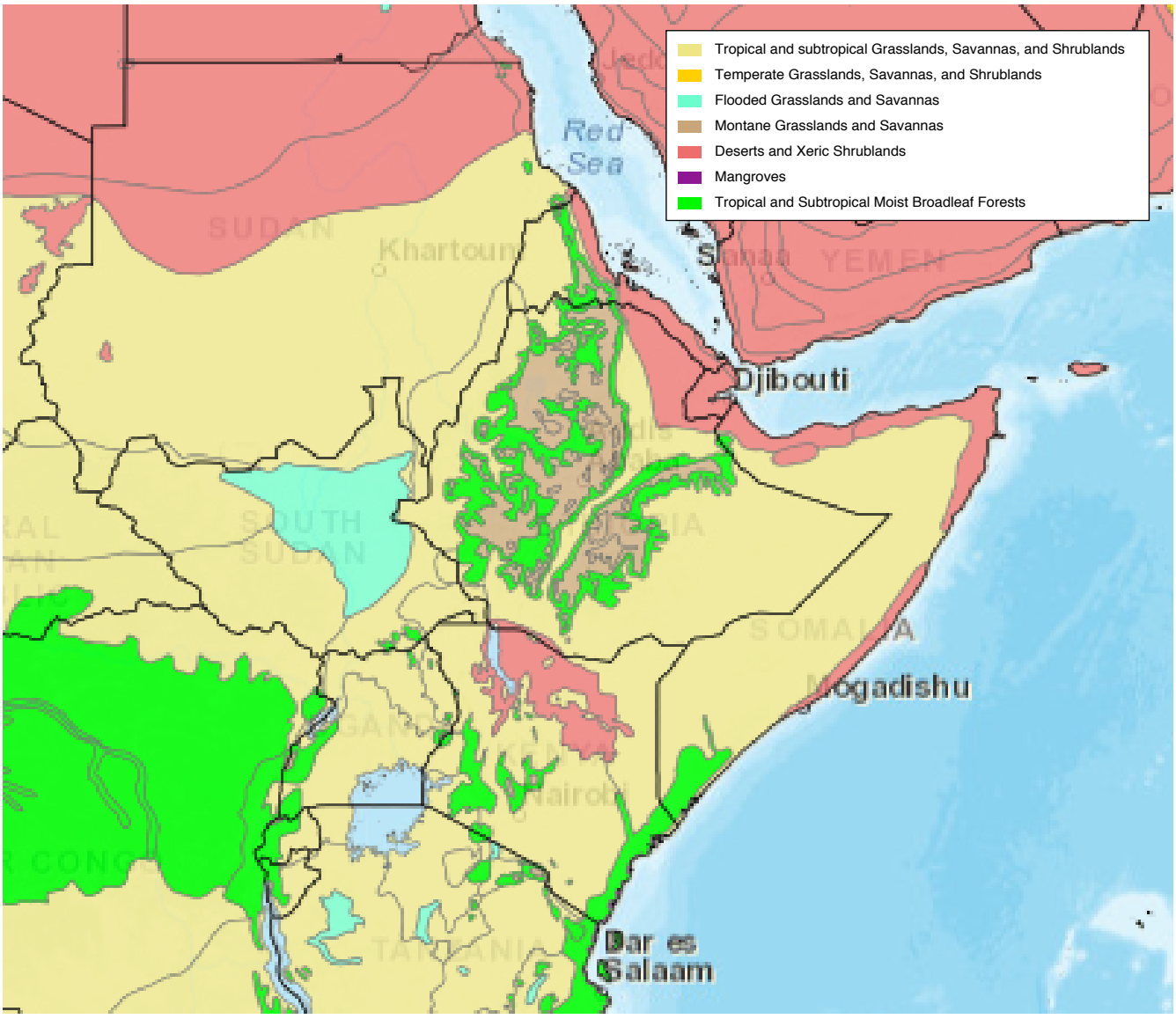
1.2.2 Status of Biodiversity in the IGAD Region

The IGAD region is one of the most important eco-regions in the world, with approximately 5,000 species of vascular plants, of which half are endemic. Approximately 40% of the animal species are endemic. Many medical and fodder plant species are grown as well as indigenous fruits and vegetables — which are highly valued during droughts, contributing significantly to resilience. In the IGAD region, biodiversity hotspots include the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa, the Eastern Afro-montane region, the Horn of Africa and part of the Albertine Graben. Ethiopia is one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries of the world and one of the 12 Vavilov Centres of crop diversity in the world. It is part of the 'Eastern Afro-montane and Horn of Africa' biodiversity hotspots that are globally important regions for biodiversity conservation.

The greater Horn of Africa has very large numbers of migratory wildlife species constituting three of the four largest mammal land migrations in the world (wildebeest, white-eared kob, tiang, among others) making it an important area for tourism development. The Kenya, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somali and Sudan coastal coral reefs are high in biodiversity, mostly pristine habitats. The mangrove ecosystem provides excellent refuges and breeding sites for many coastal fish species. There are mangrove stands, sea grass beds, and varieties of marine fisheries, turtles and sea birds.

The marine biodiversity along the Red Sea constitutes one of the major ornithological crossroads. Rivers and their basins as well as wetlands have a regional dimension as well. The Nile basin encompasses all IGAD Member States except Djibouti and Somalia; the Shebelle and Juba basins is in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia; the North-east coast group of basins extends across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia; the Rift Valley group of basins stretches from Eritrea to South Kenya crossing Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda; and the East central group of basins reaches from Kenya to Somalia.

Figure 2: Map of the eco-regions of the IGAD region



Source: http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/

1.3 Threats and Challenges Driving Biodiversity Loss

Habitats in the IGAD region that are of global and regional importance are being lost or degraded. Wildlife populations have dropped dramatically in the region. East Africa has lost more than half of its wildlife in the last 30 years.

Biodiversity in the IGAD Region is under threat from multiple drivers:

- **Climate change** is causing variable rainfall patterns – leading to more and longer lasting droughts in some areas and more serious flooding in others with serious impacts on humans, plants and animals.
- **Demographic growth and migration**– growth of population and movements of people from rural to urban areas increase the pressure on natural habitats.
- **Inappropriate water resources management** can worsen the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and projects must take into account potential impacts of water on biodiversity, along with many other social and economic factors. Potential impacts include water pollution over-extraction, changes in seasonal downstream water-flows etc.
- **Agricultural and grazing land use change and degradation:** agricultural expansion, monoculture, irrigation, fragmentation, industrialisation, mechanisation and intensification to feed an ever-growing population and the international demand for commodities are leading to habitat loss and degradation; farming on hill slopes is causing erosion; more widespread use of pesticides and herbicides in monocultures is contributing to pollution; overstocking in ranches or overgrazing due to lack of land and sub-optimal practises is degrading rangelands; irrigation contributes to salinization. Agricultural schemes along rivers throughout the region also threaten riparian habitats and species.
- **Infrastructural development** like transport, hydroelectric power, irrigation dams, is fragmenting or directly converting natural habitats.
- **Oil and mineral extraction:** recent rapid exploration and exploitation in oil, minerals and other resources have direct impacts on biodiversity such as spillages of oil and chemicals used in the extractive industries.
- **Fuelwood harvesting and charcoal production for energy:** the large and growing demand for biomass energy – primarily for cooking - is degrading the natural vegetal cover and reducing tree diversity on farms at an unprecedented scale. Substitute forms of energy are not yet being introduced at a sufficient scale or competitive price to address the growing demand.
- **Invasive and alien species** have been introduced and are spreading across the region, both in terrestrial and marine ecosystems, altering and often out-competing natural vegetation and therefore degrading habitats and displacing native species.
- **Harvesting, hunting and fishing of wild species of plants and animals** are an integral part of the traditional livelihood strategies of most communities in the region. However, as human populations grow and the area of habitat and populations of wild species have shrunk, harvesting levels of some species have become unsustainable. Further, illegal harvesting and trade in endangered species has become a lucrative business that has attracted organised crime to the region. The IGAD Member States' large area and open borders make controlling illegal harvesting and trade difficult.
- **Weak Governance:** Weaknesses in the policy, legal and institutional frameworks, and inadequate awareness and market failures underlie some of the challenges. Even where these frameworks are sufficient, weak governance of natural resources, corruption, involvement of organised criminal gangs in wildlife exploitation and trade, and persistent impunity for those who violate the laws that protect biodiversity undermine the respect

of the rule of law and are major underlying causes of biodiversity loss.

- **Protected Area management models** have not always secured local community support due to unfair distribution of the costs and benefits of conservation.

1.4 Rationale for and Scope of the Regional Biodiversity Policy

Ecosystems and species ranges stretch across national and sometimes continental boundaries. The drivers listed in Section 1.3 are often regional or global in nature and therefore must be addressed regionally and form the basis of the present regional biodiversity policy. Conservation of IGAD region's biodiversity at the habitat, species and genetic levels, therefore requires a comprehensive regional and transboundary approach.

A number of policy and strategy documents with statements and provisions relevant to biodiversity are available, both at the level of the IGAD Secretariat and at that of the Member States. These statements and provisions are not always formulated in a coordinated manner, leaving many gaps.

A biodiversity regional policy framework is needed to harmonize the existing related national and regional policies, consolidate them into a single document and address the existing gaps. The lack of regional harmonized policy is affecting the implementation of cross.-border projects and programmes.

The scope of the Regional Biodiversity Policy is manifold targeting biodiversity resources in the eco-regions, and the transboundary / shared ecosystems in the IGAD region. It provides guidance for regional cooperation and harmonisation, based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Moreover, integration of biodiversity management issues into regional and sectoral policies in all sectors of socio-economic planning is needed at all levels (regional, national and local). This enhances biodiversity conservation and contributes to achieving the objectives of poverty eradication, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation, environmental sustenance and peaceful coexistence.

1.5 Policy Formulation Process

The process of formulating the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy has been participatory and inclusive making the IGAD Member States own the process. In 2014, national consultants drafted national policy assessment reports. These were summarized in a synthesis report in 2015. To prepare drafting the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy,consultation workshops were conducted in 2015 with the strong engagement of the respective Biodiversity Management Programme (BMP) /Biodiversity National Focal Points allowing the participation of approximately 120 biodiversity experts of the relevant national institutions. The preparation of the Policy has also been informed by professional interview partners and practical experiences from the ground, including those from the IGAD Biodiversity Management Programme's Demonstration Sites. The first draft of the Regional Biodiversity Policy was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC, which is assisting the BMP Steering Committee) and BMP Steering Committee (PSC) meetings in Addis in May 2015. The second draft was presented to delegates of the IGAD Member States in Djibouti in October 2015. The final formulation of the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy is a synthesis of the "Comprehensive Information for the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy" having laid the foundation of the Regional Biodiversity Policy by providing in-depth information, also addressing non-specialized decision-makers, and the engaged discussions during the workshops.

In October 2015, the workshop participants decided to present a shortened version to the policy makers. The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy paper takes into account all recommendations formulated by the workshop participants.

2. VISION, OBJECTIVES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Vision

By 2050, the IGAD region becomes a place where biodiversity is sustainably used, managed, restored and conserved and benefits accrued thereof equitably shared for sustainable socio-economic development.

2.2 Overall and Specific Objectives

The overall objective of the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy is to foster socio-economic development for sustainable livelihoods, environmental sustenance, peaceful and secure coexistence, and regional integration through sustainable management of biodiversity resources in the region.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Safeguard, conserve and restore regional biodiversity, through innovative ownership and management models for the net benefit of all stakeholders (Section 3.1);
2. Govern and mainstream biodiversity through multi-stakeholder participation in a transboundary, cross-sectoral and coordinated approach of implementing harmonised policies, legislation & programmes (Section 3.2);
3. Develop and adopt appropriate technologies, build capacity, create awareness and manage information for biodiversity conservation (Section 3.3); and
4. Harness biodiversity for sustainable economic development and equitable benefit sharing, while respecting the indigenous knowledge of the people in the IGAD Region, and protecting their rights and safety (3.4).

2.3 Guiding Principles

The Regional Biodiversity Policy is developed within the framework of the principles set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (which produced Agenda 21) and the other Rio Conventions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD), as well as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of the genetic resources.

The CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) (www.cbd.int/sp/) has set a number of Targets, which have helped guide formulation of this policy, known as the "Aichi Targets" (www.cbd.int/sp/targets). A full list is presented in Annex 2. These Aichi Targets are frequently referred to in this policy, which if implemented, will go some way towards achieving them.

The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy is based on the following guiding principles:

1. **Common responsibility for present and future generations:** Biodiversity is both a national and global good, and responsibility for their sustainable management should be shared accordingly. The Regional Biodiversity Policy is based on the Precautionary principle;
2. **Science-based:** Decisions about the management of biodiversity shall be based on good, scientifically based information, and transparency;

3. **Sustainable development:** Biodiversity shall be conserved and managed to contribute to sustainable development;
4. **Regional integration and cooperation:** shall be strengthened on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefits and good faith;
5. **Good governance:** Stakeholder engagement, participation, and free prior informed consent of all stakeholders in decisions relating to the conservation and management of biodiversity shall ensure inclusiveness and ownership;
6. **Subsidiarity:** The regional policy shall be implemented at the lowest competent authority where it can achieve maximal impact;
7. **Working in synergy for effectiveness:** Biodiversity will be best managed by identifying and building synergy with other conventions, policies, strategies and programmes. Member States will collaborate to avoid duplication of effort wherever possible;
8. **Variable geometry:** IGAD recognizes that each Member State is at different levels of economic development and moves at different speeds and constellations depending on its priorities;
9. **Gender sensitivity and equity:** Especially in biodiversity conservation and management gender plays an outstanding role. Therefore, all agreed policy statements and priority actions of the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy are to be understood as gender sensitive ensuring equity;
10. **Sharing of benefits and costs:** The Member States recognize that all costs and benefits inherent to biodiversity conservation and management in the IGAD eco-regions shall be shared.
11. The **Polluter Pays principle** shall be **applied**;
12. Peaceful resolution of disputes Regional cooperation in conflict prevention, resolution and management facilitates transboundary biodiversity management; and
13. **Public Disclosure of information:** Member States are committed to share and publish biodiversity information to facilitate peer review and public scrutiny.

3. ISSUES, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICY RESPONSES

3.1 SAFEGUARDING, CONSERVING AND RESTORING BIODIVERSITY

Rapid economic growth in the IGAD sub-region involves many large-scale projects that have direct or indirect impacts on biodiversity at both national and regional scales, for which safeguards are necessary but as yet insufficient. Section 3.1.1 outlines the specific challenges, opportunities and policy responses.

Rapid land use change is also occurring through agricultural expansion and increasing intensity of resource use that is not subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in transboundary programmes and projects. This can be enhanced through proper Land Use and Spatial Planning (see Policy Statements under Section 3.2.7).

Management of shared water resources that feed into riverine and wetland ecosystems that support rich biodiversity requires a clear policy response. Section 3.1.2 supplements the IGAD Regional Water Resources Management Policy (2015) and addresses the linkages between water resource management and biodiversity. Climate change is causing changing and unpredictable rainfall patterns with serious impacts on humans, and biodiversity. Climate change contributes to land degradation and desertification. Section 3.1.3 supplements the IGAD Climate Change policy by addressing specific issues that affect biodiversity. Proper protection and management of genetic resources and agro-biodiversity are essential tools in food security and climate resilience and require specific policy responses (see Section 3.1.4).

Historical approaches to Protected Area management in the region have had mixed success and merit review and updating. Section 3.1.5 puts forward a set of policy statements to support the development of new models for conservation. Section 3.2 lays out policy statements aimed to increase community participation in biodiversity conservation. Restoration of degraded lands and ecosystems and management of invasive alien species can have highly positive results for biodiversity and are addressed in Sections 3.1.7 and 3.1.8. Biosafety and genetically modified organisms are addressed in section 3.1.9.

3.1.1 Safeguarding regional biodiversity in the face of growing threats.

With rapid economic growth in the IGAD sub-region, many Members States are implementing large-scale infrastructure projects, exploring / exploiting natural resources (oil, minerals etc.) and promoting investment in large-scale commercial agricultural and forestry projects, often in areas located close to national borders.

Challenges: Large-scale programmes and projects which impose risks on biodiversity at both national and regional scales are not always subjected to Impact Assessment, and where they are, the methods and standards used are frequently inadequate to identify potential negative impacts on globally or regionally important biodiversity, particularly the cumulative impacts of many smaller projects that cannot be identified or addressed in isolation. At the highest level of decision-making, environmental management is often given less weight than other political considerations, and loss of biodiversity is written off as "collateral damage", with no recourse to mechanisms for concerned citizens to challenge decisions.

As a result, the mitigation measures proposed in Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for large-scale projects often fall short of avoiding, minimising and adequately mitigating impacts. Very often, even were mitigation measures are proposed in the EMPs, they are not subsequently monitored and therefore implementation is sub-optimal or simply not done. This is in part a technical problem this policy puts forward a set of policy statements to strengthen the "safeguard" instruments and process below. But it is also the result of weak governance which is addressed under Section 3.2).

In this context, "safeguards" means the "minimum requirements for avoiding apparent risks to biodiversity". Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Land Use Planning are understood as important tools for safeguarding biodiversity.

Opportunities: Multilateral agreements signed by IGAD Member States already recognise the need of transboundary Impact Assessment. Article 14 of the CBD on *"Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts"* states that *"each contracting party, as far as possible and appropriate shall introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures".* Article 14 also addresses the impact on biodiversity of programmes and policies, and promotes, on the basis of reciprocity, notification, exchange of information and consultation on activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to significantly affect adversely the biological diversity of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, by encouraging the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements, as appropriate.

The "Regional Environment Impact Assessment Policy Framework in the IGAD Region" (2012) outlines a framework for Transboundary environmental assessment. Section 14 of this Policy Framework requires "*(a) Member States to ensure that environmental assessment of policies, plans, programmes and projects shall include specific and rigorous biodiversity impact assessment for the prevention of potential adverse impact on flora and fauna; and (b) Member States shall therefore develop practical guidelines for biodiversity impact assessment … promoting biodiversity-inclusive Environmental Assessment.*"

The *"Protocol on Transboundary Environmental Assessment in the IGAD Region", lays out "Factors for Determining Significant Adverse Transboundary Impacts"*, which specifies the need to assess the *"severity or magnitude of trans-boundary environmental impacts"* during the EIA process. It also states that Member States shall determine the *"degree to which a project may adversely affect threatened or endangered species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical; the degree to which biodiversity is affected; and the degree to which natural ecological systems and landscapes are transformed".*

The IGAD Regional "Policy Framework", and the "Protocol" do not define how to determine 'significance' of threatened / endangered biodiversity or impacts on it. While individual Member State's guidelines for conduct of EIAs and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessments lay out specific provisions for assessment of risks of impacts on biodiversity for Biodiversity, they too do not yet define standards for quantifying the importance of biodiversity or for analysing risks during Impact Assessment or the design of appropriate mitigation measures.

There is now need for IGAD Member States to adopt Regional standards and methods for identifying, mapping and protecting priority regional biodiversity (see Section 3.3.2 relating to biodiversity information) and clear guidance on how to analysing impacts on important biodiversity in an objective and transparent manner.

Policy Statement1: Member States shall adopt common regional standards for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Security Assessment (ESA) to reduce / mitigate the impact of economic development on regional biodiversity and ensure the sustained provision of ecosystem goods and services.

Policy Statement 2: Member States shall develop standard methods to identify, map and prioritise the important biodiversity in the region, and to ensure its proper conservation and management during Impact Assessment (SEA and EIA) and land use planning.

Policy Statement 3: Member States shall create or support national environmental monitoring institutions that will control the quality of EIAs, monitor the mitigation measures, compile and publish the data from these EIAs at national level.

Priority Action

- Promote dialogue among socio-economic actors in each country to define and adopt public policies that promote the safeguarding and development of biodiversity,
- Develop or review regional standards and methods for impact assessments and reporting on transboundary biodiversity,
- Domesticate, popularize and ensure use of IGAD EIA frameworks, protocols and standards for assessing impacts on transboundary biodiversity.
- Collect accurate data and information about biodiversity following regional standards and methods during Impact Assessments and subsequent implementation monitoring
- Collect accurate data and information about biodiversity following regional standards and methods during Impact Assessments and subsequent implementation monitoring
- Make the data available for peer review and public scrutiny at national and regional level.
- Integrate data in the national biodiversity databases and regional biodiversity Information systems.

3.1.2 Water Resources Management to Ensure Biodiversity Conservation

Sustainable water management is key to the wellbeing of ecosystems, agricultural production and the overall human wellbeing. It therefore impacts positively on conservation and management of biodiversity resources, while well managed and well-functioning ecosystems are key for provisioning of water and maintaining the water cycle.

There are a number of national parks and wildlife reserves in the IGAD region. These parks and reserves attract tourists whose presence is beneficial to the economy. Parks and reserves need water for their very survival, therefore national and river basin plans must ensure that water in a quantity sufficient to satisfy their requirements is available.

Challenges: Most Member States depend on the water inflow from neighbouring countries. Within the IGAD region, 77% of the wetlands are found in Sudan and South Sudan, 10% in Uganda, and 13% in the other countries. These water systems not only provide the water lifeline for many millions of people, but the lakes, rivers and associated wetlands are very important from the perspective of biodiversity and as a livelihood source for fishers, farmers and pastoralists. However, the extent of wetlands is dynamic and every year hundreds of hectares of wetlands are modified or converted to other land uses.

Rainfall is the primary source of the region's freshwater and is characterized by an important spatial and temporal variability. This is due, in part, to the existence of large inland lakes, the Indian Ocean in the East and the seasonal migration of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone. The intra-annual rainfall variations impact on the reliability of the water resources, resulting in frequent periods of water scarcity/drought or floods.

Opportunities: The importance of water for biodiversity is included in the IGAD Water Policy adopted in January 2015. Water being a key issue on biodiversity management, some statements from this document are repeated hereafter, other additional statements are specific to the "Biodiversity and Water" issues.

IGAD Water Policy states: *It is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a picture of the situation at the level of a transboundary/shared water resource if there is no consistency in data collection, processing and administration at the level of the individual Member States sharing that resource. It is frequent that a number of institutions in a given country collect and process data and information each following its own procedures and standards, this leading in the majority of cases to results that are not even comparable.*

The UNFCC (Article 4, Para. 1, (e)) requires all Parties to *'cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods.*

The severe droughts and extreme flood events occurring in the IGAD region are exacerbated by climate change and variability, with negative repercussions on key socio-economic sectors, the people's welfare and the environment.

Coupled with climate change, modification of watercourses for hydro-power and irrigation can change the quantity, quality and timing of downstream water flows, with profound impacts on human wellbeing, ecosystem functions and biodiversity alike, if proper mitigation measures are not taken / planned.

Each Member State needs to introduce procedures and methodologies — within a programme framework — to ensure that the institutions carry out water resources monitoring and assessment in a transparent and collaborative manner to arrive at results which are at least comparable, and shall avoid, minimise, or mitigate impacts of proposed Programmes, Policies & Projects on biodiversity alongside other impacts (see Section3.1.1).

Policy Statement 4: Member States shall monitor and assess transboundary/shared water resources and related resources within their respective jurisdictions in accordance with common or comparable procedures, within the framework of national programmes (IGAD Water policy)

Policy Statement 5: Member States shall develop and manage water resources to ensure sufficient supplies for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

Policy Statement 6: Member States shall incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into their water resources monitoring and assessment activities (IGAD Water policy)

Policy Statement 7: Member States shall cooperate in the development of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans for their transboundary/shared water resources. (IGAD Water policy)

Policy Statement 8: Member States shall apply relevant measures to conserve and restore the natural forests and biodiversity in the watersheds in order to guarantee the permanence of the river flows

Policy Statement 9: Member States shall take all appropriate measures to protect and conserve water resources and their ecosystems following a precautionary approach, according to their capabilities." (IGAD Water Policy)

Policy Statement10: Member States shall protect and conserve wetlands connected to their transboundary/ shared water resources based on their needs and economic conditions. (IGAD Water Policy).

Policy Statement 11: Member States shall cooperate in the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure the water provisioning functions of ecosystems

Priority Action

- Introduce procedures and methodologies to ensure that institutions carry out water resources monitoring and assessment in a standard, transparent and collaborative manner that take into account impacts on biodiversity
- Link monitoring of water resources to meteorological monitoring to be able to assess climate change trends and risks. IGAD, through IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre(ICPAC), which is one of its specialized institutions, may assist the Member States in this effort
- Subject programmes, plans and projects that may influence transboundary water flows to Regional Impact Assessment and assess their impacts on biodiversity
- Verify that national and river basin plans provide water of sufficient quality and quantity to satisfy the requirements of Parks and Reserves
- Exchange information on the measures and tools implemented or planned to be implemented by Member States that may influence transboundary water resources, to achieve consistency in the implementation of the strategies and plans

3.1.3 Climate Change and its Linkages with Biodiversity

Challenges: Climate change is causing variable rainfall patterns – leading to more and longer lasting droughts in some areas and more serious flooding in others. This is having a profound effect on humans, ecosystems and species that live within them, exacerbating land degradation and creating unfavourable environments for key species, some of which may be endemic to the ecosystem. Climate change can fundamentally alter the ability of wild species to survive in their current geographical range, and can cause shift in range of occupation and potentially local extinction. Research into impacts of climate change on biodiversity is necessary to inform mid- to long-term conservation planning. Climate change is also accelerating the spread of invasive species (see Section3.1.8).

Combined with land degradation (addressed under Section 3.1.7), climate change is leading to desertification in some areas.

Opportunities: With such a profound impact on the biodiversity and the wellbeing of the region, IGAD adopted a Regional Climate Change Policy in March 2016, the implementation of which should help address impacts on biodiversity. Sustainable Development Goal 13 requires all member states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

The following Biodiversity Policy following statements emphasise the need to address the impacts of climate change on Biodiversity.

Policy Statement 12: Member States shall incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plansinto their biodiversity management, monitoring and assessment activities

Policy Statement 13: Member States shall cooperate and collaborate in the development of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans for transboundary biodiversity conservation

Policy Statement 14: Member States shall domesticate and implement the IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy and develop a Regional Policy on Climate Change.

Policy Statement 15: Member States shall work together to predict the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and mitigate impacts.

Priority Action

- Establish climate monitoring (meteorological) systems
- National / regional / international research institutions shall collaborate to predict how climate change will impact biodiversity
- Develop appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans to secure biodiversity
- Establish early warning systems on potential impacts of climate change (including on biodiversity).
- Mainstream biodiversity into climate change adaptation strategies and plans.

3.1.4 Conservation of Genetic Resources and Agro-Biodiversity for Food Security, Health & Livelihoods

The IGAD region contains agro-biodiversity and domestic species, breeds and gene resources that have to be identified, preserved and managed as sources for future development, both in terms of biological and potential economic resources. Plant genetic resources and in particular agro-biodiversity - indigenous food plants and farmer varieties - contribute significantly to livelihoods, food and energy security, medicine and health care, production of fibres and poverty alleviation due to their superior adaptation to the environmental conditions of the sub-region.

The rich biodiversity of the IGAD region offers important medicinalplants. The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes capacity building on bio-safety (see Section 3.1.9), genetic resources, gene banks, patenting and the sustainable use and benefit of indigenous knowledge especially for local communities.

Challenges: Improving food security and reducing poverty, adaptation and resilience to climate change and improving environmental sustainability are major challenges in the IGAD region, which can best be addressed by harnessing biodiversity and ecosystem services in a sustainable way.

Many agricultural production systems contribute to biodiversity loss. This has made them vulnerable and dependent on external inputs leading to reduced capacities to adapt to increased urbanization, reduced land, water and resource availability and climate change. If not addressed this can undermine food and nutritional security.

Opportunities: In line with the Aichi Target No. 8 to reduce pollution and excess nutrients to levels that are not detrimental to the ecosystem function and biodiversity, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Regional Biodiversity Policy acknowledges the interconnectedness of biodiversity, food security, human and ecosystem health and promotes related regional cooperation.

Policy Statement 16: Member States shall develop programs on the conservation of agro-biodiversity in order to preserve the gene pools that can be of interest in future agriculture and livestock development

Policy Statement 17: Member States shall promote adoption of sustainable land management practices (eco-farming) to secure on-farm biodiversity.

Priority Action

- Promote adoption of sustainable land management practices (eco-farming).
- Improve control over hazardous chemicals, education of farmers and rural workers, and closely monitor residues in the environment and in foodstuffs.
- Strengthen / establish gene banks.

3.1.5 Developing New Ownership and Management Models for "Biodiversity Conservation Areas"

IGAD member states have designated a number of Protected Areas (PAs) as National Parks, Forest Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservancies, etc. as presented in Annex 5. However, these Protected Areas are faced with a number of challenges, as the scheme put in place for their sustainable management is often weak. New models of management that reduce the degradation and conversion of these protected areas into other forms of land use systems should be sought.

Challenges: Most IGAD Member States recognize a small array of protected area models, including National Parks, Forest / Wildlife / Marine / Game Reserves and Sanctuaries, typically managed by a Wildlife Authority, National Parks or Forest Service, often with external financial support. But the public cost of government-managed PAs is high, and they often struggle to generate, or share, sufficient revenues with adjacent communities to sustain local support.

As a result, biodiversity within them is still threatened by encroachment and illegal use of resources and wildlife, often by poor and/or disgruntled neighbouring communities. Even in terms of their conservation goals, state owned and managed protected areas are not always succeeding - declines in biodiversity are high in many PAs.

Opportunities: Historical efforts to conserve biodiversity through networks of state-owned and managed Protected Areas have played an important historical role in biodiversity conservation, but new models of conservation are needed to manage buffer zones and corridors around and between Protected Areas that are more community-friendly, less costly on the public purse, and that are able to integrate multiple land uses in a landscape approach to conservation.

Supplementing these 'classical" PAs, a number of other conservation areas have been added recently, applying different ownership and management models. The legal provision to establish Community Conservancies was introduced in Kenya 20 years ago and has demonstrated substantial success, though not without its own challenges, and also requires funding. Community management is also practised in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda's forests and Uganda's wetlands. Private ranches that are managed primarily for conservation and tourism objectives are common in Kenya, less so in Uganda, but as yet do not exist in other IGAD countries at any significant scale. Wildlife is holding steady or increasing in large private holdings, conservancies or group ranches that are profiting from tour operators, where incentives to conserve biodiversity outweigh temptation to degrade biodiversity.

The CBD Strategic Plan (2010) established a target of 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 % of marine and coastal areas to be conserved through area-based conservation measures (Aichi Target 10). To meet this target, conservation models need to be diversified in order to fit the specific needs for both biodiversity conservation and economic and social development. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) proposes seven categories of protected areas, based on the intensity of protection or sustainable use: this can be used as a base for development of national categories adapted to national needs.

Outsourcing protected area management to specialized organisations or to capable communities (Public-Private Partnerships), and integrating tourism companies into cost sharing are options for member states to consider in order to complement Member States' efforts. Policy Statement 32 addresses the need for land tenure reform to support community-based conservation efforts.

Policy Statement 18: Member States shall review the effectiveness of conservation models for biodiversity conservation and protected areas, and integrate new knowledge into conservation policy and legislation accordingly

Priority Action

- Review innovative ownership and management models for conservation areas, and formulate new policy and regulatory instruments
- Build capacity to implement new models for conservation management
- Promote regional exchange and lesson-learning between conservation professionals and policy-makers
- Promote regional exchange and lesson-learning between conservation professionals and policy-makers

3.1.6 Community Participation in Biodiversity Conservation

Best practices have revealed that the fastest and most effective way to conserve biodiversity is to involve local communities in planning, management and decision making processes. Local communities are the main custodians of biodiversity, being the people that live closest to biodiversity.

Challenges: Living within or adjacent to protected areas or natural habitats which harbour populations of wild species can entail both costs and benefits to local people, for example as a result of human wildlife conflict. Equitable sharing of both costs and benefits is essential if community support for conservation is to be sustained (see Section 3.4.5 for policy statements on benefit sharing).

Opportunities: There are strong synergies between effective biodiversity management and conservation and improving the livelihoods of local communities.

IGAD in collaboration with IUCN developed a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Strategy, which was validated by IGAD Members States in 2004. Currently, IGAD is also pursuing the 'cluster' and 'cross-border' approaches to sustainable management of natural resources in the region, which should also help facilitate local stakeholder participation in cross-border landscapes.

The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes developing and utilising harmonised concepts on strengthening participation of local communities and their Civil Society representatives in biodiversity related planning and development activities.

Policy Statement 19: Member States shall develop regional guidelines to promote community-based biodiversity management applying available good practises and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits.

Priority Action

- Promote the involvement of local communities in the management transboundary / shared biodiversity resources and protected areas
- Develop and apply harmonized concepts for strengthening participation of local communities and their Civil Society representatives in biodiversity related planning and development programmes
- Identify and strengthen synergies between community-based biodiversity management, conservation and local livelihoods.
- Involve local people in conservation through strengthened and modernised local institutions, and ensure that the net benefits of conservation to local communities are positive and fairly distributed.
- Prepare regional guidelines of good practise for community-based biodiversity conservation and benefit sharing, building on the IGAD Regional CBNRM Strategy
- Develop and support implementation of biodiversity value chains, eco-tourism and other biodiversity-related development options that support community livelihoods.

3.1.7 Restoration and Rehabilitation of Biodiverse Ecosystems

In the IGAD region, FAO (2008) estimates that human induced severe to very severe land degradation averages 22% of the area, mostly due to deforestation, overgrazing or agriculture. This directly affects the wealth and economic status of the region, but also the resilience and the productivity of the agricultural areas. In some of the IGAD Member States the figures are well above the average (Uganda: 53%, Eritrea: 50%, Kenya: 40%, Sudan: 30% and Ethiopia: 28%). The principal "soil loser" in the region seems to be Ethiopia. Annually, Ethiopia alone loses over 1.5 billion tons of topsoil from the highlands due to erosion.

In 2011 the Institute for Environmental Security (IES) states that *"in the period from 2000 to 2005, forest cover in the Horn of Africa decreased by almost 1% per year",* and the tendency goes on increasing. Many regions in the Horn of Africa have become less viable areas to live for both humans and animals. Degradation of forests decreases the buffering (water storing) capacity of the land,weakening the capacity of the land to endure long drought periods. Mangrove forests and coastal vegetation along the Indian Ocean coasts decrease the resistance and the resilience to marine erosion, on top of decreasing their ecological role in marine biodiversity key habitat.

Challenges: Land degradation is a serious problem in the IGAD region. Restoration requires a multi-pronged strategy that combines land-tenure reform, mobilisation of local institutions, appropriate technologies and financing. Where restoration programmes have combined these factors appropriately, landscapes have been transformed back into productive, economically viable and biodiversity-enriched landscapes that generate much greater benefits to local communities.

Opportunities: All IGAD Member States signed the UNCCD. The Convention specifically addresses drylands and in its 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) sets out to reverse and prevent desertification / land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

The importance of restoring degraded ecosystems is expressed in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The key SDGs and their targets that are particularly relevant to biodiversity conservation are presented in Annex 3.The CBD Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets (see Annex 2) sets out to least halve and where feasible bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats including forests (Aichi Target 5). Aichi Targets 14 and 15 set key targets for restoration: Through conservation and restoration, Governments will restore at least 15% of degraded areas; and will make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs. The need to accelerate the adoption, and strengthen the implementation of these Multilateral Environment Agreements is highlighted in Section 3.2.5.

Under the Bonn Challenge (www.bonnchallenge.org) three IGAD Member States have committed to restore 22.6 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands within agricultural mosaics or at a large scale (Ethiopia - 15 million ha, Uganda - 2.5 million ha, and Kenya - 5.1 million ha). Carbon finance may help to fund these initiatives.

Policy Statement 20: Member States shall identify and take the necessary measures to restore and rehabilitate key biodiversity ecosystems, and implement mitigation measures when development programmes threaten them

Priority Action

- Halt and reverse the process of desertification through: land use planning, securing land tenure, and practical measures of erosion control, afforestation, rangeland management, water harvesting, etc.
- Harmonise regional approaches to mapping biodiversity to inform land-use planning and protected area network design that secures regionally important biodiversity;
- Involveand raise awareness of stakeholders in ecological restoration efforts to ensure ownership and sustainability

3.1.8 Managing Invasive and Alien Species

Challenges: Invasive and Alien Species (IAS) are crossing borders naturally, due to climate change or have been introduced (sometimes intentionally) to support development. Climate change, pollution, habitat loss, fragmentation and human-induced degradation play an important role in increasing the rate and extent of the spread of invasive species. Invasive Species change biodiversity by dominating native species possibly leading to their complete disappearance and are understood as main drivers in biodiversity loss. IAS contribute to or exacerbate human vulnerability and may negatively impact on certain livelihood and development options, threatening agricultural lands, rangelands, national parks, waterways, lakes, rivers, power dams, roadsides and urban agriculture.

Opportunities: The IGAD Environment and Water Policies both contain provisions to address IAS, whose implementation will be strengthened by this Biodiversity Policy.

In line with the Aichi Target 9 and the IGAD Environment Policy, the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes regional cooperation in monitoring, information sharing, research and awareness raising for both, making use of the species or eradication, and supports developing cross-border eradication and management mechanisms. The local communities threatened by the IS will be trained in either eradication or utilisation measures.

Policy Statement 21: Member States shall take measures to avoid the introduction of alien / potentially invasive species, control expansion, manage, use or, where possible, eradicate, in particular in agriculture and forestry sectors, in the region

Priority Action

- Promote regional cooperation in monitoring, information sharing, research and awareness-raising for both making use of, or eradicating IAS.
- Develop and support cross-border eradication and management mechanisms
- Conduct impact assessment prior to the introduction of alien or new species that may be invasive and detrimental to biodiversity
- Train and equip local communities threatened by IAS in either eradication or utilisation measures.

3.1.9 Biosafety and Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

The "Cartagena" Biosafety Protocol has its roots in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially Article 19.3 which obliged Parties to consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures in the field of the safe handling and use of any Living Modified Organism (LMO)/ Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) that may have adverse effect on biodiversity.

The Cartagena Protocol sets out provisions to regulate, manage or control risks associated with transfer, handling and use of LMOs that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, focusing on their transboundary movement.

The CBD Strategic Plan, contains a number of strategic objectives related to the Protocol including, among others, to ensure that by the year 2010:

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is widely implemented
- Every Party has a regulatory framework in place and functioning to implement it
- All Parties have available adequate capacity as well as increased resources and technology transfer to implement it, and that
- Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in support of the Protocol.

Challenges: For the foreseeable future, many compliance issues seem certain to remain inextricably linked to questions of capacity, for example to respond to and take decisions on notifications of proposed transboundary movements of LMOs/GMOs. For the Protocol to function in practice, countries need to have systems in place that allow them to process notifications, to carry out risk assessments, etc.

Opportunities: In order to control the risks arising from the use of biotechnology and LMOs and in line with the recommendations formulated in the IGAD Environmental Outlook, the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes the operationalization of a harmonised bio-safety framework (system of legal, technical and administrative mechanisms put in place to address safety in the field of modern bio-technology) including mechanisms for public participation and information.

Policy Statement 22: Member States shall develop and adopt a regional Bio-safety Policy to ensure safety in the field of modern biotechnology and bioengineering

Priority Action

- Promote the operationalization of a harmonised bio-safety framework (system of legal, technical and administrative mechanisms to address safety in the field of modern bio-technology)
- Put in place mechanisms for public participation and information dissemination.

3.2 GOVERNANCE AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

The World Bank (undated) defines governance very broadly as "the process and institutions through which decisions are made and authority in a country is exercised". The World Bank further describes good governance as "Inclusiveness and accountability established in three key areas: "selection, accountability and replacement of authorities (voice and accountability; stability and lack of violence); efficiency of institutions, regulations, resource management (regulatory framework; government effectiveness); respect for institutions, laws and interactions among players in civil society, business, and politics (control of corruption; rule of law)". Good Governance also requires participation and transparency.

Improving governance is both a political and a technical process; it requires building 'demand' for, not just 'supply' of governance; it builds 'local' not just 'national' capacity; it looks for pragmatic 'best-fit' institutions, not 'classical' or 'ideal' ones; it must be integrated into socioeconomic sectors; and it means changing the way everybody works.

Challenges: Some of the human activities that threaten biodiversity have their origin in poverty and a lack of capacity and awareness. However, weaknesses in the policy, legal and institutional frameworks also underlie some of the challenges. These are addressed in Section 3.2.2. Even where these frameworks appear sufficient, weak governance, corruption, involvement of organised criminal gangs in wildlife exploitation and trade, and persistent impunity for those who violate the laws that protect biodiversity all undermine respect for the rule of law. Law enforcement is addressed in Section 3.2.8.

Outside of the specialist institutions and experts that deal with biodiversity, the understanding of the concept, and importance of biodiversity conservation is often low. The issues are complex, and effective biodiversity conservation requires coherent action across multiple stakeholders and sectors. The recognition of the importance and economic benefits of biodiversity is often low, requiring a combined approach of better information and capacity building (see Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2) as well as more integrated planning and implementation of initiatives.

While some large-scale projects are subject to Impact Assessment Regulations (see Section 3.1.1), gradual land use change is also occurring through small-scale agricultural expansion and increasing intensity of resource use that is not subject to Impact Assessment. Opportunities: Effective biodiversity conservation depends on the positive action from many other sectors and stakeholders that impact on it. Putting in place multi-stakeholder platforms for transboundary dialogue at the local, regional and national levels is essential to improve cross-border conservation (Section 3.2.1). Building cross-sectoral coordination and integrating biodiversity into sectoral planning (as envisaged in Section 3.2.4) can increase the likelihood of successful biodiversity conservation.

Better survey methods and standards to survey biodiversity (see Section 3.1.1) can help to identify biodiversity hotspots and biologically sensitive areas that can then be secured during land use planning and the design of mitigation measures for development projects.

Land use planning is a fundamental tool to help in managing biodiversity conservation. Policy statements that mainstream biodiversity into land use planning are presented in Section3.2.7). New models of land tenure are also needed to underpin innovative community-based conservation initiatives (see Section 3.1.5).

A focus on improving "Governance" can render already existing policies, regulations and institutions much more effective. The delivery of "good governance" is a crosscutting theme, requiring progress on many topics addressed in this policy.

3.2.1 *Multi-stakeholder Approach, Cooperation and Coordination to Management of Shared Biodiversity Resources*

Achievement of biodiversity policy goals, perhaps more than most other policies relies on the active participation of governance structures at all levels (Regional State, District, County, Parish, Woreda, Locality administrations) as well as local communities. Member States need to involve all economic actors to adopt public policies and regulations that safeguard biodiversity resources. Updating and implementing laws and rules on biodiversity will help to reverse this trend (see Section 3.2.2).

Civil Society plays an important role in providing expertise, advocacy, catalysing knowledge and sharing experience from the local to the national and regional level. Besides involving specialised international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), national / local CSOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) must take active part in cooperation. To achieve more effective law enforcement, the judiciary, investigative, law enforcement and customs authorities are important actors.

Private sector actors (individuals and companies) also play a key role – being responsible for protection and management of biodiversity on private land, but also being a major player in the tourism and natural resources extraction industry. The need for recognising biodiversity in all development activities makes planning and budget preparation authorities important stakeholders as well.

Better conservation of transboundary biodiversity and ecosystems and their functions is dependent on regional cooperation, coordination and synergies.

National and regional structures that inventory land and natural resources, land use and degradation, climate change, etc., are important stakeholders as well as biodiversity observatories, gene banks, bio-safety institutions, universities, research organisations in order to monitor and develop knowledge and information products on biodiversity that can then be used by developers.

Cooperation and coordination with other regional entities is promoted, for example the African Union (AU), the East African Community (EAC), the Nile Basin Initiative and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, regional technical initiatives like the Horn of Africa-Wildlife Enforcement Network (HAWEN), the various civil society initiatives and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) including its programme Eastern Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network (EAPGREN), and other regional IGAD initiatives, like the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

Policy Statement 23: Member States shall put in place governance processes and institutions that strengthen cooperation and coordination and best engage relevant stakeholders to contribute to biodiversity conservation

Priority Action

- Identify and strengthen transboundary governance processes and institutions that best engage relevant stakeholders to contribute to biodiversity conservation
- Facilitate operation of regional cooperation and coordination structures among policy makers, law enforcers, practitioners and experts in all IGAD Member States
- Promote transboundary biodiversity management and conservation mechanisms, interventions and activities following an inclusive approach

3.2.2 Gender and Biodiversity

Gender issues are often underestimated in biodiversity management programmes. However, the various categories within a community use biodiversity in different ways: fuelwood gathering, food gathering, hunting, etc.

Challenges: Women and men, young people and elders, have different uses for and perceptions of biodiversity products and services. They use and manage biodiversity differently and have different knowledge and competence about biodiversity. Many common preconceptions exist, and sometimes initiations and rituals impose different views on biodiversity between the various social categories within the community.

Opportunity: The Parties to the CBD agreed on the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action acknowledging the gender differences in 'economic opportunities and access to and control over land, biodiversity resources and other productive assets, as well as in vulnerability to biodiversity loss, climate change and natural disasters'. There is need for a gender approach in biodiversity management at all stages of its development and implementation.

Policy Statement 24: Member States shall promote the necessity for a gender sensitive approach in biodiversity management at all stages of its development and implementation considering that women and men have difference in knowledge of, access, use of and conservation of biodiversity.

Priority Action

- Mainstream gender into all aspects of biodiversity conservation.

3.2.3 Legal and Institutional Framework and Standards

Challenges: National legal frameworks are often incomplete and/or not yet aligned with international conventions ratified by Member States. Sectoral legislation in most IGAD Countries is typically formulated and administered individually leading to conflicts between sectoral laws. Most Member States have no legal framework for Land Use Planning.

Institutional frameworks may also not have been modernised, or even put in place, to address today's challenges of biodiversity conservation. Penalties for wildlife crime remain non-dissuasive and law enforcement agencies and the judiciary do not prioritise the proper sentencing for such crimes.

Decentralisation is progressing at a varied pace across the IGAD Member States. Roles and responsibilities between agencies and at different levels of government remain weakly defined, or designated mandates are in conflict. Responsibilities have been delegated to lower levels of government without the necessary resources to implement them. As a result, elected local government leaders are often tempted to favour resource exploitation for short-term revenues to finance local development at the expense of longer-term conservation goals.

Oversight of decentralised structures by national 'supervisory' agencies to counter such tendencies is often weak and whistleblowing mechanisms are often absent. The role of Civil Society to monitor government and private sector actions, and advocate for change is also insufficiently defined or ignored.

Opportunities: Member States therefore need to identify appropriate governance processes and institutions for the development and efficient implementation of environmental and biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and programmes. Clearer definition of roles and responsibilities is

needed within and between government agencies with responsibility for, or impact on biodiversity, with associated allocation of human, physical and financial resources to deliver on mandated responsibilities.

Further, the role of civil society and private sector in biodiversity conservation, and their relationship with Government agencies need to be clearly defined. Definition and enforcement of clear standards for e.g. Impact Assessment (as proposed in Section 3.1.1) will help ensure that projects that put biodiversity at risk can be modified and mitigation measures designed to adequately compensate for biodiversity impacts.

Policy Statement 25: Member States shall review, harmonise and strengthen policies, regulations, standards and penalties that mainstream biodiversity safeguards and management across sectors

Policy Statement 26: Member states shall empower their Environmental Management Authorities, law enforcement agencies, private sector and civil society organizations to effectively monitor and enforce compliance for improved biodiversity management

Priority Action

- Harmonize policy and legal frameworks and standards in accordance with regional and international conventions and good practises
- Review institutional mandates and coordinating structures, and where necessary adjust and/or strengthen them to ensure better biodiversity management
- Empower and strengthen Environmental Management Authorities, law enforcement agencies and civil society partners to better monitor and enforce compliance

3.2.4 Cross-sectoral Linkages, and Conflict Resolution to Strengthen Biodiversity Management

Challenges: Sector development strategies are often drafted by individual ministries in consultation with only the immediate actors in the sector, resulting in conflicting proposals for land use (e.g. between conservation and agriculture) with no means of resolving conflicts during the planning stage. Where conflicts occur, mechanisms are not defined to resolve them amicably, resulting in inter-agency rivalry or even conflict on the ground.

Opportunities: The CBD Strategic Plan performs the role of an overarching framework of biodiversity management. Parties to the CBD agreed to translate this international framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) defining approaches to mainstream biodiversity into all other sectoral development strategies. Building cross-sectoral coordination and integrating biodiversity into sectoral planning can increase the likelihood of successful biodiversity conservation. To achieve this, working relationships must be built with other sectors involved in biodiversity management and conservation, like agriculture and water, forest and wildlife, urban and energy management as well as security and trade, among others.

Policy Statement 27: Member States shall mainstream biodiversity conservation as a cross-cutting issue into all regional and national strategies, sectoral strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives to complement and strengthen national and regional level efforts

Policy Statement 28: Member States shall establish and implement mechanisms to prevent, manage, resolve conflicts to enable proper management of biodiversity resources as a basis for sustainable development in the region.

Priority Action

- Promote cross-sectoral approaches to mainstream biodiversity conservation as a cross-cutting issue.
- Mainstream biodiversity issues at all levels, and systematically include biodiversity in relevant SEAs and EIAs.
- Promote functional relationships and partnerships with other sectors involved in biodiversity conservation
- Establish and implement mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts

3.2.5 Regional and International Obligations

Challenges: Annex 4 lists the status of adhesion of the Member States to the many international conventions related to biodiversity conservation. Many Member States have yet to sign or ratify some important conventions that would guide transboundary management of shared resources such as water, and processes, that have influence over biodiversity.

Opportunities: Many UN Agencies and other development partners provide support to countries that have ratified international conventions to then implement them.

Once they have ratified and signed, Member States should respect and honour the commitments they have made to realize these different regional and international frameworks for sustainable management of biodiversity resources. Better reporting on the implementation of these Conventions will also be encouraged.

Policy Statement 29: Member States shall ratify, accede, and implement international biodiversity-related conventions.

Priority Action

- Build the capacity and support the participation of Member States in international negotiations that relate to biodiversity
- Enhance and honour the implementation of regional and international agreements for sustainable management of biodiversity resources
- Enhance synergy in the implementation and reporting of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), in particular among the three Rio Conventions

3.2.6 Joint Management of Transboundary Shared Ecosystems via a Landscape / Cluster Approach

Challenges: Much of IGAD Region's important biodiversity is concentrated along boundaries and/or crosses borders. Many such areas are also subject to local or international conflicts, and are therefore insecure, and subject to large scale movement of displaced people, making conservation even more challenging. Coordination between agencies and governments on both sides of the border is particularly challenging in the absence of agreed mechanisms for international cooperation.

Opportunities: IGAD is developing a systematic approach to regional or cross-border programmes (clusters, landscapes), internationally coordinated under IGAD supervision but implemented by the member states according to their specific regulations. IGAD promotes and facilitates bilateral / multilateral agreements. Transboundary management allows for interventions at ecosystem level, watershed level, biological phenomenon level (e.g. migrations) or continuity of managed cross-borders activities.

In many cases communities of the same ethnic group spread across borders. Development of a coherent transboundary approach will thus contribute to:

improve the management of the biodiversity and the ecosystems; security and conflict resolution; and cooperation between communities and authorities.

Policy Statement 30: Member States shall promote joint management of transboundary and shared biodiversity resources and protected areas, involving local communities at all times

Priority Action

- Promote transboundary approaches to resource management and sustainable development
- Ensure trans-boundary mechanisms to secure meaningful community involvement and participation

3.2.7 Integrating Biodiversity into Land Use Planningand Land and Resource Tenure Reform

Challenges: As mentioned in section 1.3, agricultural expansion, monoculture, irrigation, fragmentation, industrialisation, mechanisation and intensification to feed an ever-growing population and the international demand for commodities is leading to clearance of natural vegetation, farming on hill slopes, more widespread use of pesticides and herbicides in monocultures, overstocking in ranches or overgrazing due to lack of land and sub-optimal practises, and increasing urbanisation. Agricultural schemes along rivers throughout the region also threaten the biodiversity of riparian habitats. While larger projects may be subject to Impact Assessment, small-scale agricultural expansion is not, and can best be regulated through land use planning.

Where land and resource tenure is not clearly defined and securely documented, there is greatly reduced or no incentive for either private sector or communities to manage biodiversity resources sustainably for the long term.

Opportunities: Well-designed networks of protected areas that integrate a mosaic of different levels of protection can effectively conserve biodiversity across much wider landscapes. Landscape-wide land use planning can identify core areas to be managed under stricter protection, supported by corridors and buffer zones under a range of ownership and management models (see Section 3.1.5) that can be utilised by local communities in sustainable but regulated ways that are compatible with maintaining biodiversity.

The legal provision to allow the establishment of"Conservancies"– a defined area of land that belongs to, and is managed by the community or private owner for their own benefit - was introduced in Kenya over 20 years ago. It has generated a rapid expansion of the area under conservation-oriented, multiple use management systems with very positive impacts on biodiversity. Developing new legal instruments that support clear tenure for both communities and private sector to manage biodiversity will trigger the long-term interest of communities and private sector to invest in and manage their biodiversity resources for sustainable use and eco-tourism ventures, and expand the area under conservation management. The creation of options for Public-Private Partnerships for the management of state or community land will allow maximum flexibility in business models for conservation

Policy Statement 31: Member States shall develop and promote integrated Land Use Planning processes which ensure the sustainable management of transboundary biodiversity

Policy Statement 32: Member States shall develop and implement innovative land tenure systems and management frameworks that encourage local communities and private sector to invest in conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources.

Priority Action

- Develop regionally standardised approaches to mapping biodiversity (key habitats, biodiversity hotspots, wildlife corridors) to inform land-use planning and protected area network design that secures regionally important biodiversity
- Identify and integrate biodiversity management in a landscape approach (e.g. around the biodiversity hotspots areas, protected areas etc.)
- Secure transboundary ecosystems and regional conservation values through the application of harmonised land use planning approaches
- Monitor implementation of land use plans and impacts on biodiversity to ensure that the plans meet agreed objectives.
- Review innovative land tenure systems and management frameworks within and beyond the region that encourage community and private sector conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity.
- Propose reforms in land tenure systems and management frameworks on the basis of review findings (see Section 3.2.3).

3.2.8 Law Enforcement and Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT)

Adequate policy, legal and institutional frameworks are all necessary prerequisites for biodiversity conservation but laws must then be enforced, with dissuasive penalties for those that break them. Standards need to be defined and met. Impacts must be measured, objectively assessed and results made public. Lessons learned need to be fed back into new policy and legislation in a continuous learning and reformulation process.

Many national, regional and international organisations have a role to play to tackle illegal wildlife trade. National forest and wildlife authorities, environmental police, the judiciary, investigative and law enforcement agencies as well as customs authorities, specialised organisations (such as TRAFFIC),United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol,anti-terrorism institutions, the Lusaka Task Force, etc. as well as IGAD region initiatives like HAWEN. International collaborative efforts such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) were also designed to support law enforcement.

Challenges: Despite the combined efforts of many of the above listed agencies, and the substantial resources at their disposal, illegality in the use of biodiversity-rich landscapes and wildlife remains pervasive and the level of identification, arrest, prosecution and sentencing of criminals remains insufficient to be dissuasive. Large scale commercial cattle rustling is impoverishing pastoralists; illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping at the coast is destroying coral reefs and marine wildlife; and illegal logging and wildlife trade is threatening habitats and endangered species even further. The cost of protection of biodiversity against such threats comes at escalating expense to the public purse.

All IGAD Member States are affected by poaching and trafficking, which is often orchestrated by organised crime. Wildlife crime or illicit wildlife trafficking has become one of the major threats in the IGAD Sub-region and contributes to biodiversity loss, the extinction of species and insecurity in areas affected by such crime.

Opportunities: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has been ratified by Kenya and Sudan while the other IGAD Member States have Accession status. Legislative reform (see Section 3.2.2) can provide sharper tools for law enforcement where good governance is also assured. Very substantial new resources made available

by international donors are being channelled into the region to address wildlife crime, and these must be used strategically and efficiently.

Clearly defined whistle-blower mechanisms to identify illegality and reward sources of information while assuring anonymity, combined with the definition of performance related incentives for law enforcement agencies and agents could counterbalance temptations of corruption.

New technologies, better intelligence and strategic partnerships between state and civil society organisations such as the EAGLE Network (www.eagle-enforcement.org) are demonstrating that well-designed initiatives and committed teams can result in much higher levels of crime detection, investigation, bringing to court and effective sentencing.

Policy Statement 33: Member States shall develop anti-wildlife trafficking frameworks and actions that ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders at all management levels

Priority Action

- Promote transboundary and regional networking between law enforcement agencies
- Support civil society to play an active role to identify illegality, fight corruptionand whistle-blow
- Develop and support intelligence networks and adoption of modern technology
- Report regularly on efforts made and progress achieved in addressing illegal activities affecting biodiversity

3.3 TECHNOLOGY, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, AWARENESS-CREATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

New technologies that can support natural resource management and biodiversity conservation are developing at an unprecedented pace. Remote sensing / Earth Observation has greatly increased our ability to monitor the status and change in natural resources. Global Positioning System (GPS) devices allow real time tracking of the movement of wildlife that help monitor them and plan protected area networks to secure their core habitats and migration corridors. Faster and wider coverage of communications networks have improved communications between actors and provide access to information resources and online tools with unprecedented ease, even in quite remote areas. Information systems can provide planners and decision-makers access to information that was hitherto restricted to 'experts'.

Challenges: Although the cost of new technologies is falling, the remoteness of many conservation priority areas makes them more expensive to operationalize than in other environments. This technology revolution works both ways, and is also used by organised crime to coordinate their illegal activities, and market their produce and move money around the world.

Data from many years of biodiversity research remains locked in scientific institutions, biodiversity management institution archives and individual experts' computers and has not yet been digitised, processed or analysed and is therefore not yet informing decisions.

Building the capacity of institutions and individuals to understand, and manage biodiversity depends on the clear identification of needs, targeted communication and training, and provision of access to information for self-learning. Modern biotechnology is increasingly tapping into biodiversity resources to improve food security, medicines and health that can directly or indirectly benefit the people of the IGAD Region.

Opportunities: Regional programmes are supporting IGAD Member State institutions to accelerate the digitisation of biodiversity data and preparation of new biodiversity information products for the IGAD Region, including maps of biodiversity hotspots, species distributions and status) about biodiversity. Sharing such information with decision makers using new, online technologies can help to raise awareness about biodiversity and guide decision-makers to take better decisions that protect, rather than threaten biodiversity.

3.3.1 Biodiversity capacity development and awareness

Stakeholders' ability to implement new policy depends on the development of new institutions and skilled people – at the regional, national, local and community level. Sector-specific biodiversity capacity development will be provided (security, customs, judiciary, extension services for farmers, pastoralists, fishers, foresters, energy and infrastructure developers, investors in infrastructure, mines and large-scale agriculture, urban and settlement developers).

Challenges: Lack of perception of the importance of biodiversity as a tool for development is one of the reason for the degradation of this resource. For many people, including deciders, nature and its products are a "gift of God" and can be used or destroyed without concern for the future. A popular belief is that these products are inexhaustible, although many indicators show that they reach a dangerous level of depletion. Economic impacts begin to appear, accelerated by climate change issues, especially in the most vulnerable categories of ecosystems. Lack of awareness, common preconceptions, lack of knowledge by decision makers, governments, authorities, local communities, civil society etc. make biodiversity a low considered issue compared to immediate development needs.

Opportunities: Capacity development on biodiversity issues is a cross-cutting issue and is relevant to every topic developed in this policy and to other sectors involved in the mainstreaming of biodiversity (security, customs, judiciary, extension services for farmers, pastoralists, fishers, foresters, energy and infrastructure developers, investors in infra-structure, mines and large-scale agriculture, urban and settlement developers). Specific issues like capacity building on biosafety, genetic resources, gene banks, patenting and the sustainable use and benefit sharing of indigenous knowledge especially needs to be developed at all levels, from regional and national agencies to local communities and civil society.

Awareness development on the importance of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services begin to rise, and perception that we are destroying this gift is becoming more generalized, although people prefer to focus on short-term development issues that long-term conservation issues. Recognition of environment services is raising and both awareness and capacity building are being addressed more and more often.

Mainstreaming biodiversity issues in all sectors of development will help in improving awareness and will stimulate the growth of capacity development programmes.

Policy Statement 34: Member States shall promote capacity development and awareness for biodiversity conservation in all sectors and at all governance levels.

Priority Action

- Identify capacity needs for biodiversity conservation and design and implement training programmes that respond to priority needs at all levels
- Identify target audiences, messages and channels and design and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness on biodiversity and its importance at biological and economic levels.

3.3.2 Biodiversity and Information Management

Lack of information, or access to accurate information, is a global issue, but specifically important in the IGAD region.

Challenges: Information found in "Open source" sites is often inaccurate, out-dated or flawed. Exploitation of these websites can lead to a wrong perception of the situation. Agencies in charge of CBD do not always have the tools to exploit data as indicators. Although many raw data exist, produced by projects, researchers, SEAs or EIAs, civil society or even communities, they often are not easily available.

Opportunities: Better research and information management can generate new maps and information products to highlight the location of rare and/or fragile habitats, endemic species, migration routes, major forest, wetlands, montane, coastal and marine ecosystems etc.). This requires collaboration between regional biodiversity experts to classify habitats and species according to their relative importance and prioritise species and habitats for conservation.

In line with the Aichi Target 19, establishing a regional mechanism to allow information exchange on development activities affecting the eco-regions or having a transboundary impact is being developed by IGAD through its Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) and development of specialised national databases for biodiversity information management. This mechanism will provide a platform for negotiations of biodiversity conservation needs and mutual benefits. It will promote strengthening of regional cooperation between national biodiversity databases, research institutions, civil society and local communities. It will put special emphasis on collecting and exchanging the know-how of local or indigenous people. This system can be sustained and developed only if Member State institutions participate to its development and take charge of the national data gathering, analysis and transmission of processed informationto the IGAD RRIS.

Cooperation between the IGAD RRIS, national databases and other regional or international partners such as IUCN, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), etc. is being institutionally developed and operationalized.

Policy Statement 35: Member States shall strengthen and support biodiversity databases, information systems and technical and administrative networks at national and regional levels.

Priority Action

- Map existing biodiversity data, identify end users and their biodiversity information needs, and capacity gaps.
- Assess existing national and regional information management systems and tools, and improve them to facilitate harmonised biodiversity data management, analysis and reporting.
- Strengthen and support research Institutions, academia and other data holders to contribute to develop Biodiversity sensitive curricula, compile, harmonise and publish accurate and up-to-date information about biodiversity and its contribution to the social, economic and environmental stability of the region
- Provide training to data producers and users on management, analysis and use of biodiversity information for decision-making and reporting
- Establish funding mechanisms that ensure the collection and systematic maintenance of national databases and a regional RRIS that ensure long-term monitoring of biodiversity and reporting on national and international obligations (see Section 3.3.4)

3.3.3 Biodiversity Research and Technology Development

Research on biodiversity allows for a better understanding of the ecosystems balance, the sustainability of environmental services, and the monitoring of the environmental indicators to assess the adequacy of the conservation versus development measures. The need to aggregate the national data at trans-national or regional level helps in considering these issues at a biological dimension, and not only at a geopolitical level.

Challenges: Research on biodiversity and related technologies is often implemented by outsiders to the IGAD region, either private companies looking for opportunities or internationally funded projects whose recommendations are not always adopted at national level. In the region, the universities and research institutions often lack the resources to develop their own research programmes. Administrations in charge of biodiversity monitoring do not have access to the data (see 1.3.2) or do not have the tools to have these data taken into account by development decision makers.

Opportunities: Technology development and research on biodiversity can lead to new economic developments, at local, national and regional levels. New technologies in research, inventory, and management of biodiversity resources are key for their conservation and sustained economic growth in the region.

Research and information sharing on biodiversity can help member states to better manage, conserve and restore biodiversity, and environmental services for the benefit of communities and national income generating activities.

New approaches are appearing now, with Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) that can help relevant institutions to develop their activities with the help of the private sector.

Policy Statement 36: Member States shall support national and regional institutions and initiatives to promote research and technology development tailored to national and regional priority needs for biodiversity conservation

Policy Statement 37: Member States shall encourage, oversee and coordinate the involvement of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to accelerate research on biodiversity and its economic potential

Priority Action

- Identify research needs and priorities to support biodiversity conservation
- Design and implement regional research policy, guidelines and programs to address priority research needs for biodiversity conservation
- Ensure access to, and benefits from research and development are shared in compliance with the CBD Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (see 3.4.5)
- Explore the potential development of PPPs to facilitate the generation of new programs, both in research and development.

3.3.4 Biodiversity Indicators and Reporting

Monitoring biodiversity indicators is the best way to evaluate the impact of the choices made in development and conservation in the IGAD Member States, both at national and regional levels.

Challenges: Many agencies in charge of biodiversity management do not have a specific program of monitoring neither at national nor at regional level. When they do develop these programs, they sometimes are not compatible for comparison within the country or at regional level. These data, when they exist, remain confidential and are seldom available for capitalization.

Opportunities: Harmonization of indicators at regional level will help at monitoring the status of the biodiversity and its economic considerations at national and regional levels. The CBD has proposed sets of indicators (Aichi targets) that should become the monitoring framework for the signatory countries.

A standard approach will also help neighbouring countries to establish monitoring and mitigation measures for cross-border development activities.

Policy Statement 38: Member States shall develop harmonised indicators, based on the Aichi targets, to monitor and evaluate the impact of the development and conservation measures at national, then at regional level.

Policy Statement 39: Member States shall regularly report on the biodiversity status through the existing national, regional and global coordination systems and mechanisms.

Priority Action

- Develop and update National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with biodiversity indicators that are aligned to the CBD Aichi Targets
- Network and harmonise biodiversity indicators and standardise reporting methods with the Aichi Targets.
- Establish IGAD-wide monitoring systems that support Member States to report regularly to the CBD and other MEAs

3.4 BIODIVERSITY FOR ECONOMIC AND BENEFIT SHARING

Biodiversity is an invaluable asset to the IGAD sub-region as evidenced by its contribution to the livelihoods of millions of people. It provides the foundation for all human survival ranging from the most basic of needs such as food, to new economic sectors with financial and development prospects for the region.

Challenges: While the value of biodiversity to the local, national and global economy is increasingly being understood by researchers and international institutions, the full value of biodiversity and ecosystem services has not yet been fully appreciated by national policy makers and there remains a gap between rhetoric and practise of sustainable development.

This is in large part because national accounting procedures do not value the growth or decline in stocks of natural capital (forest, wetlands, wildlife populations, etc.) or the contribution of ecosystem services to household welfare or national well-being.

While tourism revenues in the IGAD region depend heavily on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, the reinvestment of revenues generated by tourism is often not finding its way back into the operational budgets of those institutions that are responsible for managing and protecting biodiversity and/or is not shared adequately with the communities living adjacent to Protected Areas or in the close vicinity of wildlife to ensure that such communities value and protect biodiversity and the habitats on which it depends.

The carbon emissions from land use change in the IGAD sub-region have both national and global consequences on climate change and biodiversity, and IGAD Countries are among those predicted to be most negatively affected.

Opportunities: Better analysis of the values of biodiversity and its conservation to the national economy will increase the willingness of governments and other stakeholders to view biodiversity conservation as a worthwhile investment. More equitable sharing of revenues with stakeholders at

the national, local and community levels can result in more commitment of all such stakeholders to support biodiversity conservation and view it as part of a more formal economy. Benefit sharing is addressed in Section 3.4.5.

Within communities, the uses of biodiversity, the role in biodiversity management and the costs and benefits of biodiversity conservation are also not equally distributed between genders. Section 3.2.2 addresses gender issues.

The 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the UNFCCC held in Paris in December 2015, agreed on formal international mechanisms by which climate finance can be used to tackle deforestation, forest degradation and land cover change as key contributors to emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG). This will release more funds to support efforts to reduce deforestation and restore degraded habitats with more carbon-rich vegetation cover.

The agreement from the UN summit, "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" establishes high-level goals for poverty eradication, food security, health, climate change, and environmental sustainability, among other priorities. Several of the goals are related to forests, their sustainable use and conservation. Goal 15 in particular states; Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Ethiopia and Uganda have for some time been experimenting the application of green accounting in their respective national economy and can provide valuable experiences to the other IGAD Member States. The above factors create new opportunities to finance landscape level conservation and restoration initiatives and raise the profile of biodiversity-rich landscapes as net contributors to the national and local economies.

3.4.1 Ecosystem Sustainability

Ecosystems provide goods and services, which are essential for our survival. There is therefore a need to use these ecosystem goods at an annual rate that should be lower than their annual replenishment capacity. In some grassland ecosystem, we need to respect the carrying capacity to ensure sustainable grazing practices. Environmental sustainability will be monitored through the systematic development of standards for safeguarding biodiversity during SEAs and EIAs (see Section3.1.1). National environment management institutions will facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity through EIAs, land use planning (see Section 3.2.7) and by overseeing the implementation of mitigation and restoration measures.

Challenges: Development agencies or project proponents do not always consider biodiversity and more globally, environmental issues. This leads to the degradation or the destruction of biological resources. When mitigation measures are proposed, they are not sufficient to compensate the losses, and very often restoration choices and activities are not relevant, if implemented at all, and often "forget" the environmental services.

There is still some weakness in implementing processes and practices that would enable IGAD Member States to reduce the impact of their economic activities on the environment.

Opportunities: SEAs and EIAs have been dealt with in Section3.1.1. The harmonization of the processes at regional level and the obligatory implementation of mitigation measures to compensate for the destruction or the degradation of the biodiversity, but also of the environmental services will improve biological resources and environmental services and protect vulnerable communities that depend on them. Policy Statement 40: Member States shall manage their biodiversity resources through application of science-

based environmental planning and management systems to ensure environmental integrity and sustainability

Policy Statement 41: Member States shall recognize biodiversity conservation as a regional priority and mainstream biodiversity in any development activity.

Priority Action

- Enhance the use of science-based technologies in environmental planning and management systems to ensure environmental integrity and sustainability
- Develop mechanisms to make biodiversity conservation a regional priority

3.4.2 Green and Blue Economy and Accounting

Sustainable development, Green and Blue economy choices are aimed at minimizing negative environmental impacts, both on ecological and economical levels. Long-term impacts and perspectives will have to be considered when planning and choosing development strategies.

Challenges: The continuation of unsustainable practices in terrestrial and marine ecosystems is leading to a severe disruption of the biodiversity and its services. It causes serious social, economic, political and financial consequences: Climate change is one of the most talked about issues.

Opportunities: Parties to the CBD agreed to translate this international framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Sustainable development, Green and Blue economy, environmental and biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and programmes are mostly formulated and administered individually and separated from each other. The preparation of regionally harmonised comprehensive green and blue policy and legal frameworks, bundling all policies, strategies and regulations related to sustainable development will give biodiversity management a prominent position as it is affecting all human activities.

Policy Statement 42: Member States and other national, regional, continental and global actors shall mainstream biodiversity into a comprehensive Green and Blue Economy policy framework

Policy Statement 43: Member States shall orientate their short and long term development strategies towards a Green and Blue Economy approach to mitigate biodiversity degradation and loss

Policy Statement 44: Member States shall conserve biodiversity to secure the integrity of ecosystems and ensure sustainable use for human wellbeing and economic development.

Priority Action

- Mainstream biodiversity into a comprehensive Green and Blue Economy policy framework and implementation strategies
- Promote and undertake research on the contribution of biodiversity to national economies to inform the relevant authorities responsible for national development planning and budget allocation.
- Share experiences of IGAD Member States with Green and Blue Accounting, payments for Ecological Services and other innovative financing and economic tools.

3.4.3 Recognize the Values of Biodiversity and its Services in National Accounting Systems

Valuation of biodiversity and its services is a concept that is given more and more importance. If most countries recognize that environmental services do have a value, very few are considering these issues in their national accountings, and none among the IGAD member states.

Challenges: As the value of the biodiversity and its services are subject to market failures and are not accounted for innational accounting, there is a political disinterest in these issues. However, many impacts are becoming serious concerns, like desertification, pollution, health problems, economic degradation, human safety, food security, and other biodiversity-related issues.

Opportunities: Member States are encouraged to take these issues into consideration, develop valuation approaches for environment services and include in their national budgets not only the cost of the conservation, mitigation of adaptation measures but also the benefits gained from these.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), environmental taxes and fiscal policies and their mainstreaming into development frameworks, both at national and transboundary contexts, can be progressively developed in the region. These can contribute to the protection and preservation of transboundary/shared biodiversity, environment and particularly water resources.

In the case when transboundary/shared environment resources, like water conservation,is introduced by one Member State and is also beneficial to the other states sharing the same resource, the state introducing the measures should be enabled to negotiate with the other states, by reason of the benefits that they will derive from the measures, to participate in the relevant financing (IGAD Regional Water Policy).

Policy Statement 45: Member States shall integrate environmental and biodiversity values and costs into national accountings.

Policy Statement 46: Member States shall promote fiscal policies and payment for ecosystem services that address market failures

Priority Action

- Lobby for integration of both the costs of environmental degradation and the benefits of environmental services in national budgeting and accounting.
- Develop fiscal policies and Payments for Ecosystem Services to support biodiversity conservation across the IGAD Region.
- Explore options of green and blue accounting in parallel with conventional accounting with the Ministries of Economy and Finance

3.4.4 Biodiversity, Urbanisation and Clean Production

Challenges: The rate of urbanisation in the IGAD region is very high. Some of the capitals of the IGAD Member States belong to the group of 100 fastest growing cities & urban areas in the world (average annual growth in % from 2006-20: Kampala - 4.03, Nairobi - 3.87, Mogadishu - 3.52, Addis Ababa - 3.40 and Khartoum- 2.41) (www.citymayors.com). Urban development in the region is not subject to rigorous planning. Accelerated urban growth is fuelled by rural migrations, unemployment, increasing poverty, inadequate urban and land use planning and type of land tenure. Urban pollution and unplanned urban development are risks to biodiversity but also to human health and safety. These issues lead to a degradation of the social and economic conditions in many cities of the IGAD region.

Many industrial areas have been swallowed by urban development, and present new risks to human health. New ones are developing and affect the biodiversity.

Concentration of large human aggregations creates an increasing demand for products of biodiversity, and accelerate its degradation around the cities. It also encourages illegal activities in the remaining biodiversity hotspots and result in a loss of integrity of ecosystems, which is a condition to their resilience and quick recovery.

Opportunities: Urban development needs a better planning, especially in terms of pollution control, waste management, demarcation and protection of green belts, access to clean air and water (environmental services), and control of encroachment in key biodiversity areas. The same issues arise with the development of industrial sites around and sometimes in the urban areas.

Policy Statement 47: Member States shall mainstream biodiversity management in urban planning to ensure a cleaner, healthier and more productive environment.

Policy Statement 48: Member States shall develop measures to treat, neutralize and dispose of urban wastes

Priority Action

- Mainstream biodiversity management in urban planning
- Develop mitigation, adaptation, control, monitoring and evaluation measures for urban planning. Include not only the cost of these measures but also the benefits gained in the national accounting.
- Develop mechanisms to support urban waste management and pollution control.

3.4.5 Access and Benefit Sharing

Harmonised biodiversity access regulations based on prior informed consent and agreed terms keeping in mind traditional community rights and rules, will help in improving awareness and efficiency of the conservation measures.

Sustainable management of biodiversity can produce important benefits for the development of the IGAD region. Article 5 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization requires that benefits arising from the utilisation, subsequent applications and commercialisation of genetic resources shall be shared in a fair and equitable way.

Benefit sharing has different forms and implications according to the actors, sectors and decision-making levels involved:

Benefit Sharing Among the IGAD Member States: In line with the Strategic Goal E of the Aichi Targets, the associated traditional knowledge will seriously be taken into account. Aiming at further enhancing the contribution of biological diversity to sustainable development and human well-being, the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes harmonisation and cooperation between the IGAD Member States to conserve and manage biodiversity sustainably and to share the responsibility to protect and sustainably use genetic resources and indigenous knowledge. Agreements and harmonised regulations will be put in place as appropriate to determine the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and costs of bi- or multilateral transboundary biodiversity management. This applies especially to protection and exchange of genetic resources, indigenous knowledge and to the joint management of protected areas.

Indigenous Knowledge and Benefit Sharing with the Local Communities: In line with Strategic Goal D of the Aichi Targets, indigenous rights are respected and harmonised mechanisms for benefit sharing with local communities, such as providing incentives and sharing benefits, will be developed. Scientific research on indigenous knowledge will be promoted and inventories established. Civil Society will be involved in order to provide advocacy to the local communities. Benefit Sharing with Private Business and Patenting: Harmonised mechanisms to value biodiversity use, loss or damage due to economic activities will be set up as well as harmonised rules and regulations for compensation and rehabilitation. Commercial

utilisation of genetic resources needs patenting as well as (indigenous) knowledge. The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes strengthening the patenting capacities in the IGAD region and developing knowledge as well as exchange and cooperation mechanisms. Harmonised guidelines and best practice information will be provided for capacity building of the local communities in the establishment of micro-enterprises creating income from biodiversity management and for the protection of indigenous knowledge in the patenting process guaranteeing benefit to communities.

Global Benefit Sharing: The IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy promotes the use of existing global frameworks or drafting regional regulations for providing access to genetic resources over which the IGAD Member States hold sovereign rights, and for the fair and equitable sharing of research findings and benefits arising from the commercial use of such resources.

Challenges: Sustainable management of biodiversity is still limited in the IGAD region. A few countries have developed income generating schemes, like conservancies, community based conservation programmes, biodiversity value chain developments, PES, etc. Revenues generated are still confidential and do not often have a significant financial impact with the communities. In many projects, funds relevant to community development are used for compensating the lack of government involvement in the area, instead of increasing the idea that biodiversity management can become an income generating approach.

Some resources are concentrated in a few countries or regions, when the neighbouring ones do not have any. Opportunities: Benefit sharing rules can improve the perception on biodiversity management being a development tool and not only a blind conservation issue. Biodiversity resources are not shared equitably within the IGAD member states. A regional agreement on sharing equitably the biological resources between the various member states, and respecting the situation of the less endowed countries, can help to develop unity and peace in the region. Local communities have their role to play in terms of resource management, and thus in terms of income sharing. Income generation from PPPs can participate to the economical equity among the stakeholders, and stimulate biodiversity-based projects, like tourism, new technologies, etc.

The biodiversity of the IGAD region has also a global importance, with a high level of endemism of the biodiversity hotspots, and its conservation will stimulate the generation of projects and funds that will help member states to manage sustainably its biodiversity.

Policy Statement 49: Member States shall establish harmonized regulations and strategic frameworks on access and equitable benefit sharing from biodiversity,based on free prior informed consent and agreed terms. Differentiation shall be made between interstate sharing, especially the sharing of transboundary biodiversity benefits as well as the protection and management costs between stakeholders; the sharing of information with private companies; the sharing among states and local communities; and sharing at the global level.

Policy Statement 50: Keeping in mind traditional community rights, Member States shall establish harmonized rules, regulations and institutions for appreciation, collection, safeguarding, maintenance and further development of indigenous knowledge.

Policy Statement 51: Member States shall provide basic agreement for cooperation and development of detailed and harmonised regulations/guidelines for benefit sharing, protecting and exchange of genetic resources and associated local and indigenous knowledge.

Policy Statement 52: Member States shall establish harmonized rules, regulations and institutions for sharing benefits and monitoring of intellectual property rights in Public-Private Partnerships.

Policy Statement 53: Member States shall use existing global frameworks or draft new regional regulations to access to fair and equitable sharing of research findings and benefits arising from commercial use of biodiversity resources over which they hold sovereign rights.

Priority Action

- Develop strategic frameworks on access and benefit sharing
- Accelerate the establishment of related harmonized mechanisms at all four levels
- Apply the Nagoya Protocol so as to secure equitable sharing of costs and benefits of biodiversity management
- Create incentives for biodiversity conservation.
- Respect traditional community rights.
- Establish harmonized rules, regulations and institutions for appreciation, collection, safeguarding, maintenance and further development of indigenous knowledge.
- Develop harmonized rules, regulations and institutions for sharing benefits and monitoring of intellectual property rights in Public-Private Partnerships.
- Make use of existing global frameworks or develop new regional regulations enabling fair and equitable sharing of research findings and benefits arising from commercial use of biodiversity resources over which they hold sovereign rights.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL POLICY

4.1 Policy implementation arrangements

The present policy will be adopted by the member states who will develop and/or update their respective policy and legal frameworks in accordance. This reform of policy and legal frameworks will be done progressively according to the needs and priorities of each member state.

The Regional Biodiversity Policy will be implemented by IGAD Secretariat in partnership with other regional organizations, and relayed by Member States' institutions at national level, community institutions and organizations at local level, including local NGOs and CBOs, and the private sector.

4.2 Development of a Regional Protocol

To ensure the full implementation of the policy and compliance by all actors at all levels, IGAD, with the participation of all stakeholders, shall develop a regional biodiversity protocol.

4.3 Financing the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy implementation

The Parties of the CBD agreed on a strategy for resource mobilisation, with a substantial increase in the level of financial resources in support of implementation of the Convention. Member States and IGAD are encouraged to develop innovative local, national and regional mechanisms for increasing funding for the implementation of the regional biodiversity policy and strategy. IGAD will also look for external resources that will help in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Guidelines and regional platforms/ networks for information exchange and cooperation will be established, contributing to regional integration and cost/benefit sharing.

At national level Member States are encouraged to explore new types of partnerships, such as Public-Private partnerships (PPP or joint ventures), taking into account the national sovereignty.

New sources of funding will be identified to support regional research cooperation and data collection.

4.4 Monitoring and evaluation

A monitoring and evaluation mechanism, in line with the IGAD overall M&E Framework will be developed to monitor and guide the implementation of the policy.

The Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) (www.cbd.int/sp/) has set a number of Targets against which progress can be measured — commonly referred to as the "Aichi Targets" (www.cbd.int/sp/targets).The monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Biodiversity Policy will be in line with the Aichi targets.

A regular presentation of the situation will be presented to the member states during the relevant steering committees and statutory structures.

5. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Important Definitions

Annex 2: The Aichi Targets

Annex 3: Important Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to this Policy

Annex 4: Relevant biodiversity related international agreements and the IGAD Member States

Annex 5: Protected Areas in the IGAD Sub-region

Annex 6: References

Annex 1: Important Definitions

As Parties to the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNCED, 1992), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) it was decided to use the definitions of these UN texts and to which the EAC Partner States subscribe, for the purpose of the IGAD Regional Biodiversity Conservation Policy:

'Biological diversity' means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

'Biological resources' includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.

'Biodiversity management and conservation' means sustaining life and wealth for the present and future generations

'**Biodiversity hotspot'** is a region with a high level of endemic species.

'Biotechnology' means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use.

'Country of origin of genetic resources' means the country which possesses those genetic resources in in-situ conditions.

'Country providing genetic resources' means the country supplying genetic resources collected from in-situ sources, including populations of both wild and domesticated species, or taken from ex-situ sources, which may or may not have originated in that country.

'Domesticated or cultivated species' means species in which the evolutionary process has been influenced by humans to meet their needs.

'Ecosystem' means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

'Eco-regions' are areas of relatively homogeneous species composition, clearly distinct from adjacent systems.

'**Environmental impact assessment' (EIA),** as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority". **Source**: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 and Principle 17 of the Rio Declaration, and to which the EAC Partner States subscribe.

'Ex-situ conservation' means the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats.

'Genetic material' means any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

'Genetic resources' means genetic material of actual or potential value.

'Governance' is ***the process and institutions through which decisions are made and authority in a country is exercised" (World Bank).***

'Good governance' is "Inclusiveness and accountability established in three key areas: "selection, accountability and replacement of authorities (voice and accountability; stability and lack of violence); efficiency of institutions, regulations, resource management (regulatory framework; government effectiveness); respect for institutions, laws and interactions among players in civil society, business, and politics (control of corruption; rule of law)"

'Habitat' means the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

'In-situ conditions' means conditions where genetic resources exist within ecosystems and natural habitats, and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

'In-situ conservation' means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

'Invasive alien species' (IAS) are those which have been introduced and/or spread (intentionally or accidentally) outside their natural past or present distribution to an area and which cause harm to native biodiversity, human development and human health – as well (sometimes) as infrastructure and agriculture. They come in all shapes and forms – including animals, plants and micro-organisms and are able to spread and grow rapidly – often because they have no natural enemies in the new homes and because they are good competitors.

'**Protected area'** means a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

'Safeguards' means the "minimum requirements for avoiding apparent risks to biodiversity". Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Land Use Planning are understood as important tools for safeguarding biodiversity.

'**Sustainable use'** means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA) - refers to a range of analytical and participatory approaches that aims to integrate environmental consideration into policies, plans and programmes and evaluate the interlinkages with economic and social considerations.

'**Technology**' includes biotechnology.

'**Wildlife'** includes any wild and indigenous animal (mammals, bird, fish, amphibians and reptiles), invertebrate animals, plant or micro-organism or its parts within its constituent habitat or ecosystem on land or in water, as well as species that have been introduced into or established in the region.

'Wildlife smuggling or trafficking' involves the action of dealing or trading in wild fauna and flora (including timber and charcoal) in contravention of national or international law. It also involves gathering, transportation, and distribution of wildlife and their derivatives either internationally or domestically. 'Wildlife trafficking' is described as any environment-related crime that involves the illegal trade, smuggling, poaching, capture or collection of endangered species, protected wildlife and derivatives or products thereof.

Annex 2: The Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	
Target 1	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
Target 2	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
Target 3	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
Target 4	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	
Target 5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
Target 6	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Target 8	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
Target 9	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
Target 10	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	
Target 11	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
Target 12	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
Target 13	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the Benefits to All from biodiversity and ecosystem services	
Target 14	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
Target 16	By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	
Target 17	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
Target 18	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
Target 19	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
Target 20	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

Annex 3: Important Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to this Policy

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following three Goals and some of their targets are of particular relevance to this Biodiversity policy.

- **Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
    - **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
    - **Target 6.6:** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- **Goal 13**: *"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"*
- **Goal 14**: *"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*"
    - **Target 14.2:** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
    - **Target 14.4:** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
    - **Target 14.5:** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

- **Goal 15**: *"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"*

    - **Target *15.1:*** *By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements*

    - **Target *15.2:*** *By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally*

    - **Target *15.3:*** *By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world*

    - **Target *15.4:*** *By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development*

    - **Target *15.5:*** *Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species*

    - **Target *15.6:*** *Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed*

    - **Target *15.7:*** *Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products*

    - **Target *15.8:*** *By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species*

    - **Target *15.9:*** *By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts*

    - **Target *15.a:*** *Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems*

    - **Target *15.b:*** *Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation*

    - **Target *15.c:*** *Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities*

Annex 4: Relevant biodiversity related international agreements and the IGAD Member States

RELEVANT AND MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED CONVENTIONS / PROTOCOLS	DJIBOUTI	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	UGANDA
African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1969	Signed 2005, Ratification/ Accession 1978	Non Party	Signed 1968	Signed 1968, Ratification/ Accession 1969	Signed 1968	Signed 2013	Signed 1968, Ratification/ Accession 1973	Signed 1968, Ratification/ Accession 1977
Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), 2000	Party 1995	Non Party	Non Party	Party 1995	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party 1995
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, 2010	Party 2004	Non Party Range State	Ratified, Proclamation No. 635/2009	Party 2001	Non Party Range State	Non Party Range State	Party 1999	Party 2000
Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, 1991	Signed 1991	Non Party	Ratification/ Accession 2003	Signed 2003	Signed 1991	Signed 2013	Ratification/ Accession 1993	Ratification/ Accession 1998
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 1989	Party 2001	Accepted 2005	Accepted 2000	Accepted 2000	Accepted 2010	Non Party	Accepted 2006	Accepted 1999
Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan, 1981	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1994	Accession 1999	Accession 2005	Accession 1994	Accession 1988	Accession 2001	Accession 2012	Accession 1993	Party 1988
- Montreal Protocol, 1989	Accession 1999	Accession 2005	Accession 1994	Ratification 1988	Non Party	Accession 2012	Accession 1993	Ratified 1988

RELEVANT AND MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED CONVENTIONS / PROTOCOLS	DJIBOUTI	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	UGANDA
Convention of the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, Nairobi, 1985/ Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean, 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Convention of 1984: Ratified 1990, Amendment signed 2010	Convention of 1984: Ratified 1988, Amendment Signed 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
- Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment (LBSA Protocol), 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 2010	Signed 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
- Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region, 1985	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 1985	Signed 1985	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
- Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Eastern African Region, 1985	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 1985	Signed 1985	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
- Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities, 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 2010	Signed 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992	Ratified 1994	Accession 1996	Ratified 1994	Ratified 1994	Accession 2009	Accession 2014	Ratified 1996	Ratified 1993
- Cartagena Protocol, 2000	Accession 2003	Accession 2005	Ratified 2004	Ratified 2003	Accession 2010	Non Party	Accession 2005	Ratified 2003
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, 2010	Signed 2005, Ratification/ Accession 1978	Non Party	Ratification/ Accession 2012	Ratified 2014	Non Party	Non Party	Ratified 2014	Accession 2014
- Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (informally called the Espoo Convention), 1991	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party

RELEVANT AND MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED CONVENTIONS / PROTOCOLS	DJIBOUTI	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	UGANDA
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1989 and 2004	Accession 1992	Accession 1994	Accession 1989	Ratified 1978	Accession 1985	Non Party	Ratified 1982	Accession 1991
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979	Party	Party	Ratified 2010, Proclamation No. 634/2009	Party 1999	Party	Range State	Range State	Party 2000
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention), London, 1972	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary and International Lakes, 1992	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
The United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (New York, 1997)	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers (2008).	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Management Bill, 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party, enacted 2010	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party, enacted 2010
Horn of Africa Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (HA-WEN)	Party	Non Party	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 1967	Non Party	Accepted 1994	Non Party	Accepted 2004	Accepted 2014	Non Party	Accepted 1996	Non Party
International Convention for Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 2001	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Ratified 2004	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 1996
International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, 1961	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Member 1999	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), 1951	Adherence 2008	Adherence 2001	Adherence 1977	Adherence 1974	Non Party	Adherence 2013	Adherence 1971	Adherence 2007
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2001	Accession 2006	Signature and Ratification 2002	Signature 2002, Ratification 2003	Accession 2003	Non Party	Non Party	Signature and Ratification 2002	Accession 2003

RELEVANT AND MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED CONVENTIONS / PROTOCOLS	DJIBOUTI	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	UGANDA
International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Lusaka Agreement & Task Force, 1994	Non Party	Non Party	Party 1995	Party 1994	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party 1994
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ramsar Convention (formally, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially known as Waterfowl Habitat), 1971	Entry into Force 2003	Non Party	Non Party	Entry into Force 1990	Non Party	Entry into Force 2013	Entry into Force 2005	Entry into Force 1988
Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden Environment, 1982 - plus legally binding Action Plan for the Conservation of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden - plus 4 protocols: i) Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Network of Protected Areas in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; ii) Protocol Concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency; iii) Protocol Concerning the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; iv) Protocol Concerning the Exchange of Personnel and Equipment in Case of Marine Emergency)	Party 1997	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party	Non Party	Party	Non Party

RELEVANT AND MAJOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED CONVENTIONS / PROTOCOLS	DJIBOUTI	ERITREA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	UGANDA
South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party	Party	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001	Signature 2001, Ratification 2004	Accession 2005	Signature 2002, Ratification 2003	Signature 2001, Ratification 2004	Accession 2010	Non Party	Signature 2001, Ratification 2006	Accession 2004
The International Animal Health Code, 2000	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party	Party
Transboundary Environmental Assessment Guidelines For Shared Ecosystems in East Africa, 2005	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party, enacted 2005	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Party, enacted 2005
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992	Ratified 1995	Ratified 1995	Ratified 1994	Ratified 1994	Ratified 2009	Non Party	Ratified 1993	Ratified 1993
- Kyoto Protocol, 1997	Ratified 2002	Ratified 2005	Ratified 2005	Ratified 2005	Ratified 2010	Non Party	Ratified 2004	Ratified 2002
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982	Signed 1982, Ratification/ accession 1991	Non Party	Signed 1982	Signed 1982, Ratification/ accession 1989	Signed 1982, Ratification/ accession 1989	Non Party	Signed 1982, Ratification/ accession 1985	Signed 1982, Ratification/ accession 1990
- Agreement on Part XI, 1994	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Ratification/ accession 1994	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 1994	Signed 1994, Ratification/ accession 1997
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement, 1995	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Ratification/ accession 2004	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Signed 1995, Ratification/ accession 2001
UN Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994	Ratified 1997	Ratified 1996	Ratified 1997	Ratified 1997	Ratified 2002	Ratified 2014	Ratified 1995	Ratified 1997
World Heritage Convention, 1977	Ratified 2007	Accepted 2001	Ratified 1977	Accepted 1991	Non Party	Non Party	Ratified 1977	Accepted 1987
WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, 1995	Member 1995	Non Party	Non Party	Member 1995	Non Party	Non Party	Non Party	Member 2008

Other protocols developed by sub-regional bodies also address some aspects of controlling Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Examples include the treaty for the Establishment of the Eastern African Community (EAC), the treaty of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the treaty establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Annex 5: Protected Areas in the IGAD Sub-region

Protected Areas	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Uganda
Terrestrial National Parks		13			10	4	
National Parks			25	10			13
Game Reserves				3.5	12	2	
Forest Reserves			234		1		663
National Forest Priority Areas (Proposed)		58					
Bird Sanctuaries					1	4	
Nature Conservation Areas					2	2	
Ramsar Sites/ Wetlands of International Importance	1		5		1	3	13
Marine National Parks			5			2	
Marine Protected Areas	3						
Terrestrial Protected Areas	2						
Habitat & Species Protection Sites	1						
National Reserves			23				
Wildlife Reserves		8		8			12
Wildlife Sanctuaries		4				2	7
Sanctuaries							1
UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves		2	6			2	3
Managed Nature Reserves						1	
Nature Reserves				1			
Controlled Hunting Areas		18		2			
World Heritage Site		1					2
Bushbush (Proposed PA)				1			
Community Wildlife Management Areas							5
Community Conservancies			20				
Community Nature Reserves			28				
Locally Managed Marine Areas			9				
Private Reserves			16				
Other areas							1
Total number protected areas	**7**	**104**	**400**	**25**	**27**	**22**	**712**
% of the country covered	**1**	**18**	**11**	**0**	**21**	**2**	**16%**

The following summary by country derived from estimated surface areas of Protected Areas. These may change as maps include recent boundary revisions and re-classification of PAs. Protected Areas in tabular format.

- **Djibouti**: 1% of the country covered by protected areas, 7 protected areas (3 marine, 2 terrestrial, 1 Ramsar Site /Wetland of International Importance, 1 habitat and species protection).

- **Ethiopia**: 18% of the country covered by protected areas, 104 protected areas (58 National Forest Priority Areas, 18 Controlled Hunting Areas, 13 National Parks, 8 Wildlife Reserves, 4 Sanctuaries, 2 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves, 1 World Heritage Site).

- **Kenya**: 11% of the country covered by protected areas, 400 protected areas (234 Forest Reserves, 28 Community Nature Reserves, 25 National Parks, 23 National Reserves, 20 Community Conservancies, 16 Private Reserves, 9 Locally Managed Marine Areas, 6 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves, 5 Ramsar Sites/ Wetland of International Importance, 5 Marine National Parks).

- **Somalia**: 0% of the country covered by protected areas, 25 protected areas (10 National Parks, 3.5 Game Reserves, 1 Natural Reserve, 8 Wildlife Reserves, 1 Bushbush, 2 Controlled Hunting Areas).

- **South Sudan**: 21% of the country covered by protected areas, 27 protected areas (10 National Parks, 12 Game Reserves, 1 Bird Sanctuary, 2 Nature Conservation Areas, 1 Ramsar Sites/ Wetlands of International Importance, 1 Forest Reserve)

- **Sudan**: 2% of the country covered by protected areas, 22 protected areas (4 National Parks, 4 Bird Sanctuaries, 3 Ramsar Sites/ Wetlands of International Importance, 2 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves, 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 2 Game Reserves, 2 Marine National Parks, 2 Nature Conservation Areas, 1 Managed Nature Reserve).

- **Uganda**: 16% of the country covered by protected areas, 712 protected areas (663 Forest Reserves, 13 National Parks, 13 Ramsar Sites/ Wetland of International Importance, 12 Wildlife Reserves, 7 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 5 Community Wildlife Management Areas, 3 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves, 3 Other Areas, 2 World Heritage Sites, 1 Sanctuary).

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Webpages of all relevant international conventions and agreements

All relevant IGAD policies

Webpages of the governments of the IGAD Member States

RESOLUTION OF IGAD MINISTERS ON THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

WE, THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF IGAD MEMBER STATES, NAMELY DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN AND UGANDA, HAVE HELD A MEETING IN NAIROBI, KENYA ON 3 JUNE 2016.

CONVINCED THAT HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION POSE A GREAT THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION;

FURTHER CONVINCED THAT HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION RESULT IN HIGH VULNERABILITY OF THE LIVELIHOODS FOR COMMUNITIES IN THE REGION;

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE REGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING IGAD;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE INTEGRATION INTO THE PAN-AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROCESS AS OUTLINED BY THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 AND ITS 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, AS WELL AS THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030;

APPRECIATING THE EUROPEAN UNION FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGAD BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (BMP);

URGE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO EXPEDITE THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE IGAD BIODIVERSITY DATABASE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM;

FURTHER URGE THE IGAD BMP IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO EXPEDITE THE REALIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE CROSS-BORDER DEMONSTRATION SITES TO AVOID ANY FURTHER DELAY;

REQUEST OUR PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING INSTRUMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR A SECOND PHASE OF THE IGAD BMP;

RECALLING THE MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION OF 18 OCTOBER 2012 ON THE ENDORSEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGAD ENVIRONMENT POLICY, THE IGAD ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) POLICY FRAMEWORK, , THE IGAD EIA PROTOCOL, IGAD NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION STRATEGY AND THE IGAD WATER POLICY(2015);

HAVING CONSIDERED AND ENDORSED THE IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

1. **REAFFIRM** OUR COMMITMENT TO DOMESTICATE THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY INTO RELEVANT NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PECULIARITIES AND INTERESTS OF EACH COUNTRY;

2. **FURTHER REAFFIRM** OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT / STRENGTHENING AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATABASES AND THE REGIONAL REFERENCE INFORMATION SYSTEM;

3. **ENCOURAGE** PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECOSYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE MANAGEMENT;

4. **ENHANCE** SYNERGIES AMONG INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS, PARTICULARLY CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY AND ITS PROTOCOLS, TO WHICH OUR MEMBER STATES ARE PARTIES;

5. **FURTHER ENHANCE** SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION INVOLVED IN

THE FIELD OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGMENT;

6. **CALL UPON** THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, NON-STATE ACTORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST IGAD MEMBER STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE COMMUNITIESIN THE REGION;

IN THIS REGARD, WE REQUEST THE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO:

1. **DEVELOP** A REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL TO IMPLEMENT THE IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL IGAD STRATEGY;
2. **INVOLVE** MEMBER STATES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL; AND
3. **ASSIST** MEMBER STATES IN THE DOMESTICATION OF THE REGIONAL POLICY.
4. **MOBILIZE** RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY BY EXPLORING EXISTING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCIAL MECHANISMS AND INSTRUMENTS;

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR HOSTING THIS MINISTERIAL MEETING AND FURTHER CALL UPON AND MANDATE THE MINISTER OF FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AS THE CURRENT CHAIR OF IGAD TO BRING THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ATTENTION

OF THE NEXT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND TO THE IGAD SUMMIT.

THE MINISTERS REMAIN SEIZED ON THE MATTER.

DONE ON 3 JUNE 2016 IN NAIROBI, KENYA.

For the Republic of Djibouti: .....

For the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: .....

For the Republic of Kenya: .....

For the Federal Republic of Somalia: .....

For the Republic of South Sudan: .....

For the Republic of Sudan: .....

For the Republic of Uganda: .....

PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

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