

FOREWORD

This scientific synthesis document is the result of more than two years of thematic networking activities among forest scientists on the issue of rehabilitation of degraded lands in Sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative aims at demonstrating the added value of scientific output that can be achieved through enhanced collaboration and information sharing among scientists working in different countries and environments.

Under the umbrella of the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) and with financial resources provided by the European Commission through the Global Forest Information Service - GFIS Africa Project, a group of African scientists compiled case studies of land rehabilitation from all major ecological regions in Western- Eastern and Southern Africa covering “dry”, “humid” and “sub-humid” forests and woodlands. The results of these case studies served to formulate general lessons learned for the rehabilitation of degraded forests lands. The authors concluded the synthesis work with recommendations for policy formulation, management practices, research and training to guide future rehabilitation efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The development process of the synthesis document went through a number of stages involving the identification of lead scientists, preparation of background papers, organisation of meetings and e-discussions and the final production of the synthesis document. In total, three meetings were held, two in Finland at the Field Station of the University of Helsinki and one in Ghana at the Forest Research Institute Ghana (FORIG). In view of the overlapping objectives of both the GFIS Africa synthesis and the initiative on Trees, Agroforestry and Climate Change in Dryland Africa (TACCDA) coordinated by the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) and the Viiki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), efforts and resources were pooled to jointly organise the e-discussions and a final validation workshop. During the one-month e-discussions participants from all over the world involved in land management, extension, training and education had the opportunity to review the case studies and exchange ideas and experiences. In the final validation workshop the results of the case studies and lessons learned from both the GFIS Africa and TACCDA initiatives were discussed providing the input to the sections on lessons learned and recommendations.

Overall, the synthesis work was guided by the Steering Committee of the GFIS Africa Project and coordinated through the FORNESSA Secretariat led by Dr. Atse M. Yapi; and the IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator, Dr. Michael Kleine, as the manager of the GFIS Africa Project.

The present document contains the results of the scientific synthesis including all case studies and a CD ROM with the documents produced by the TACCDA initiative.

On half of FORNESSA and IUFRO-SPDC we wish to express our great appreciation to:

- The European Commission (EC) for generous financial support, which made this synthesis work possible.
- The group of African Research Scientists including Dr. Dominic Blay (FORIG, Ghana), Dr. Ben Chikamai (KEFRI, Kenya), Dr. Edouard Bonkoungou, (formerly Coordinator of ICRAF SALWA Regional Programme), and Professor S.A.O. Chamshama (Sokoine University, Tanzania) for their dedicated and hard work in compiling this scientific synthesis.
- The European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) Coordinating Unit led by Willemine Brinkman for technical support during the e-discussions, and valuable comments and advice at all stages of the networking process.

- The colleagues at the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), University of Helsinki, Finland, headed by Professor Olavi Luukkanen, for the support in organising the various meetings in Finland, providing expertise, resource persons and moderators for the e-discussions and workshops.
- The many African forest scientists, who have contributed either to the electronic discussions or case studies presented in the synthesis.
- The Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) for hosting a wrap-up workshop in Kumasi, Ghana with the purpose to reviewing the information collected and integrating the individual contributions made to the development of the synthesis document.
- Mr Peter Wood for his excellent work in reviewing the draft synthesis text and providing valuable input for preparing the text for publication.
- Dr. Robert Szaro and Dr. David Langor, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO-SPDC for their efforts to conceptualise and manage this synthesis work in its early stages.
- The IUFRO-SPDC Coordinating Team in Vienna, Austria and Accra, Ghana, for their constant encouragement and coordinating efforts during the entire process; and lay-out work of the final synthesis document.

Dr. Michael Kleine
 Manager of the GFIS-Africa Project
 and IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator
 Vienna, Austria

Dr. Paul K. Konuche
 Chairman of FORNESSA and
 Director of KEFRI
 Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Atse M. Yapi
 Secretary of FORNESSA and
 SPDC Regional Coordinator
 Accra, Ghana

Dr. Joseph R. Cobbinah
 Chairman of the GFIS-Africa IUFRO
 Project Steering Committee; and
 Director of FORIG
 Kumasi, Ghana