

TRIPARTITE REVIEW MEETING

GCP/RAF/287/ITA LAND COVER MAPPING OF EAST AFRICA BASED ON SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING

**18 AND 19 FEBRUARY 1999
NAIROBI**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. OPENING AND APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND RAPORTEURS

The meeting nominated Mr Kayitare of Rwanda as the Chairman of the first session, Dr. Mohie El Deen of Sudan for the second session and Mr Z.Y. Masele of Tanzania for the third session.

A drafting committee was proposed – including Mr J.S.Latham, Mr N.Van Leeuwen, Prof, M.Gorgoni and A.Zaremba.

2. PROCEEDINGS

Mr Van Leeuwen TCO (Operations), on behalf of FAO, made a brief resume of the TPR functionality, mandate and responsibilities as follows:

FUNCTIONALITY OF THE TPR

The Tripartite review meeting is a meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of the project. It is a formal mechanism for the taking of joint decisions about the design and implementation of the project and for determining how those decisions should be put into effect. The review should consider the status and progress of the project and analyse any problems it faces prior to taking any decisions.

The TPR considers the project progress and any other relevant monitoring information. The TPR of an ongoing project provides an important opportunity for the three parties to consider project objectives.; progress to them and the need for any action to ensure project achievements.

The subjects, which can be considered by such a forum, may include but not limited to:

- Follow –up on any previous review or evaluation.
- Project concept and design, the relevance of the project, as conceived, and the appropriateness of its design.
- Progress towards achievement of the project objectives and production of project outputs
- Operational issues, identify and discuss the reasons for any problems of implementation that have occurred
- Workplan: progress to be achieved before the next review
- Decisions and recommendations
- Need for in depth, external evaluation.

(A) AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as attached in Annex I.

(B) STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

The meeting represents the first TPR of the project at which representatives of the donor-Govt of Italy, FAO and the countries have had the opportunity to meet in a collective forum. The first TPR should have taken place within the first 12 mths. of the project life cycle. Delays for the convening of the first TPR are due to a number of factors including delays in implementation, change of project management, delays in obtaining signatories to the document.

(C) AGENDA AND REPORTING FORMAT

Agreement of minutes format – it was agreed that the bullets of the agenda form the basis of the minutes of the meeting. There will be a number of paragraphs reflecting the different components of each session plus one section on conclusions and recommendations. Recommendations would then be tabled on Friday 19th for consideration/endorsement of the TPR.

The descriptive component of the TPR minutes will be tabled Friday afternoon

The meetings of the Italian Delegation, FAO and representatives of Tanzania in Dar Es Salem will become an integral part of the minutes and the results of the Egyptian visit will be added as an addendum of the minutes at a later date. These will be a full part of the minutes of the TPR.

The delegates of Tanzania and Rwanda pointed out the need for more advanced information on the TPR and the need to have time to consult the original project document – and proposed that a second meeting in August maybe more pertinent for assessment of the results for a TPR.

The case of Rwanda is very specific as the country only signed the project document 1 week ago.

It became apparent that several members of the forum lacked proper knowledge of the original project document and had not in some cases had the opportunity to see the original document. This was corrected by circulation of the document at the meeting with the understanding that further review of the project document would take place at home in the country.

(D) DOCUMENTATION FOR THE TPR

The TPR noted that the meeting required a Project Performance Evaluation Report to be prepared by the project but due to adverse circumstances in the project and with the recent changes of the CTA no PPER has been prepared in accordance with the project document. Despite the absence of this document it was felt that in the immediate aftermath of the NCM, which has been so comprehensive, constructive and which has provided considerable insight into the project activities it is appropriate to continue with the TPR in accordance with the programme and agreed agenda. It was requested that the PPER should still be prepared to reflect how the original document foresaw implementation against how it is implemented currently.

It is noted that regular progress reports and work-plans have been produced by the project.

(E) An introduction to the project was provided by FAO recalling the following details:

(i) Project concept and design

The project was designed over five years ago –1994- and approved for financing in 1995. The donor contribution from the Govt. of Italy constitutes \$ U.S. 5.4 million the original duration was envisaged for three years.

Initial difficulties were encountered in 1995 and implementation was only started in January 1997 with the arrival of the CTA. For the last two years, the countries of the region and FAO have been involved in the implementation of the AFRICOVER project - East Africa module, whose goal is to establish, potentially for 12 countries of Africa, a digital geo-referenced multi-purpose database on land cover, land systems etc. and a geographic referential (geodesy, toponomy, roads, hydrography) at a 1:250,000/1:200,000 scale (1:100,000 for small countries and specific areas). This base will also be generalised at a 1:1,000,000 scale, updated, made homogeneous and comparable from thematic and geographic points of view on the whole African continent.

A further objective of AFRICOVER is to reinforce and to build up the national and sub-regional capacities for the establishment, update and operational use of the geographic referential and land cover maps and geospatial databases.

This project has been prepared in response to a number of national requests for assistance for the implementation of reliable and geo-referenced information on natural resources at sub-national, national and regional levels.

The analysis of national needs has proved that inadequate information system on resources, concerning early warning, forest and rangeland monitoring, planning, catchment management, production of statistics, biodiversity or climate change, cannot do without reliable and homogeneous basic geographic information, showing both usual landmarks (infrastructures, settlement, hydrography) and land cover.

Hence, the purpose of AFRICOVER is to prepare the basic geographic information common to the information components of actual and future programmes on natural resources in African countries.

(ii) Relevance of the project as conceived

From a technical point of view, the preparation of AFRICOVER products relies essentially on remote sensing data and geographic information systems (GIS). The land cover has been mainly derived from visual interpretation of recent high-resolution satellite images digitally enhanced. It has been done according to a homogenised and hierarchical classification – LCCS and applied in the mapping domain through the use of AIMS software. The geographic referential is being derived from existing topographic maps, Russian images and updated from remote sensing documents and ground surveys georeferenced from GPS points. A new approach using NASA/NIMA approach for block correction of historical Landsat data orthorectified using DTED Level 1 data from NIMA shows considerable potential from initial validation results to become a viable base for which to undertake image to image correction. The geometrical base that will be used as a reference will depend on the quality of the geodetic network and of the topographic maps. It could be either the existing topographic maps themselves either the satellite images geocoded with GPS measurements using spatio-triangulation techniques.

(iii) Regional dimensions of project design

From an operational point of view, national teams are carrying out the interpretation, with the assistance of specialised international experts from FAO. Several fully compatible approaches could have been considered for the implementation of the project, depending on countries and sub-regions:

- A both national and regional approach, as followed by the current project - in which countries of a sub-region co-ordinate through a regional entity to achieve the project in a shorted and more cost effective way. In this way, regional co-ordination facilitates

harmonisation of the classification and harmonisation of the geodetic database.

The TPR noted that the role of the Regional Centre has not been as envisaged in the project document.

It was pointed out that, quite in contrast with the initially envisaged situation, when the project was conceived, the Centre has gone through a reduction of its technical capacity concurrent with a reduction in available financial resources, which together have severely limited its ability to take on otherwise foreseen activities of the project. Furthermore, the individual countries have expressed considerable interest in producing and maintaining their own databases. Given these issues the mode of implementation has changed from its original format and an approach more orientated toward a national implementation has been embarked upon rather than totally through the regional centre. The Centre has also been the subject of external review, which at one time concerned the project and it was decided that to ensure national sustainability of the project it was preferable to strengthen the capacity locally in each country through national working groups, greater involvement of the country national interpreters and ultimate transfer of the equipment emanating from the project. As such the results of the project are embodied in the organisations, NFPI's who are responsible for both the supply of geospatial data and those who can benefit from its use.

SESSION TWO

(F) PROGRESS TO ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES

A progress report was distributed to the TPR by the Project as well as an inception report/status of the project where each activity has been reviewed against milestones and the project original objectives.

Progress To The Achievement Of Project Outputs

The CTA presented a review of the projects objectives, outputs and activities as related to the timeframe for implementation: -

Immediate Objective 1

To produce a current regional assessment of land cover of E. Africa as a basis for regional and national level planning.

Output 1

To produce a 1:1 000 000 colour and 1: 250 000 B&W satellite interpreted land cover maps of the whole of E. Africa (12 countries)

Output 2

A consistent hierarchical land cover classification legend for E. Africa at mapping scales of 1:1M and 1:250 000

Output 3

A digital database of land cover units of E. Africa based on interpreted 1:500 000 and 1:250 000 scale satellite imagery.

Immediate Objective 2

Development of a network of trained personnel in the utilisation of remote sensing and GIS technologies for land cover inventory and monitoring.

Output 1

20 trained technicians in basic remote sensing and methodologies for field data collection, image interpretation and cartography

The Status of the output is:

Considerably more trainees have become part of the process and have received more intensive and longer training than originally envisaged.

Output 1.1

To produce a 1:1 000 000 colour and 1: 250 000 B&W satellite interpreted land cover maps of the whole of E. Africa (12 countries).

The status of the output is:

Land cover data set development:

- Somalia – done in 1997/1998
- Kenya – done in 1997/1998
- Egypt – on going (to be completed in May 1999)
- Tanzania – on going (to be completed in June 1999)
- Burundi – to be done (to be completed in January 2000)
- Rwanda – to be done (to be completed in January 2000)
- Sudan – to be done (to be completed in February 2000)
- Congo – to be done (to be completed in August 2000)
- Uganda – to be done (to be completed in February 2000)

Map Offset - Litho Printing: has been suspended, as it was felt that software underdevelopment could better address country needs.

Output 1.2

A consistent hierarchical land cover classification legend for E. Africa at mapping scales of 1:1M and 1:200 000 and 1:100 000

Status of the output is:

The project has achieved considerable success in this regard with the preparation of a new internationally recognised land cover classification which has been developed and tested in the context of the East Africa context of the Africover project- this is a very credible result.

Development of a new world wide Land Cover Classification System:

Development of a new methodology and relevant software for land cover classification to allow in all the project area:

Homogeneity Standardisation

Flexibility Common Language

Output 1.3

A digital database of land cover units of E. Africa based on interpreted 1:500 000 and 1:200 000 scale satellite imagery 1:1M and 1:200 000.

The status of this output is:

Digitisation of the Land cover data set:

- Somalia – done in 1998/1999
- Kenya – done in 1998/1999
- Egypt – on going (to be completed in August 1999)
- Tanzania – on going (to be completed in September 1999)
- Burundi – to be done (to be completed in March 2000)
- Rwanda – to be done (to be completed in March 2000)
- Sudan – to be done (to be completed in June 2000)
- Congo – to be done (to be completed in December 2000)
- Uganda – to be done (to be completed in April 2000)

Output 2.1

20 trained technicians in basic remote sensing and methodologies for field data collection, image interpretation and cartography.

The Status of the output is:

Considerably more interpreters have been trained than originally envisaged

The TPR noted the effective progress and delivery of the project, which has reached a higher level of achievement with the arrival of the new CTA.

(G) OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Participants to the TPR were interested to gain access to the database quickly and enquiries as to why it was not disseminated or being printed were raised.

Due to the complexity of the number of classes and also the development of the AFRICOVER Database Gateway it was felt that a digital output – specifically designed according to user application, would offer greater utility to the end user in each country than printing maps of multiple classes at small scale of 1:1M.

Sudan requested information on the ability of the project to combine activities with Egypt and reasons for delay in acquisition – the project has limited capacity to absorb the work of two large countries simultaneously. The data procurement for Sudan is also dependent on Saudi Arabia ground station and this is a little behind delay at present hence the need to marginally postpone the initiation of activities on Sudan.

The delegate of Tanzania agreed that the printing at 1:1,000,000 was not necessary and there was a preference for printing only the maps at the local scale and size as required by the user.

The delegate of Sudan proposed the need for a large format plotter A0 to be provided by the project.

The countries agreed to prepare a summary of their assessment of the achievements of the project on the objectives of the project.

The TPR, recognising the formal end of the project at the end of 1999 and furthermore, recognising that the work-plan cannot be completed in its entirety by the end of 1999 and considering the opening statement made by the ambassador of Italy, made a strong recommendation to FAO and the donor to consider all possible efforts to extend project activities into the year 2000.

The TPR noted that, to that end, a detailed and well-documented proposal should be prepared by the project as soon as possible.

The TPR was informed by the project management that in order to finalise the work-plan it will require an additional \$US 500,000 to complete activities by the end of 2000.

It was requested from the floor that the national entities be more involved in the implementation of the project and as such it was proposed that the NCM takes on a functionality of a regional steering committee.

The TPR felt that the decision-makers should be informed of the participatory approach and the future availability of the database and that the TPR should be reviewing the potential take-up of the project outputs.

The issue of a possible need of an external evaluation was raised by FAO to determine if this was required. The options are for it to be a completely independent exercise (Tri-Partite Evaluation) which is expensive or it could be a component of the evaluation undertaken by the countries themselves. Considerably more

attention would be required to the timely preparation of the documents for this TPE. It was proposed that such an evaluation take place before the end of the project, which for the time being is December 1999. A decision on the preferred option has to be taken in a later stage by the representatives of the parties.

(H) INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY MEETINGS

The delegation of the Government of Italy and FAO met separately with representatives of each country. The following reflect the findings and comments made by each delegation:

BURUNDI

The delegation from Burundi is looking forward for an early start of the interpretation of the images for their country, the more in view of the fact that the number is very limited. They hope that this can be done during the present year. IGEBU is considering an institutional change to accommodate this new activity and the future visit of the CTA could contribute to clarifying the future activities related to the use and maintenance of the AFRICOVER database.

Since also equipment has been received recently from other projects, the needs from Burundi are more related to training of national staff. This should take place this year in order to create on time the optimal conditions to receive the database in the near future. A national working group with representatives from different ministries has been created. The activities of a project for the creation of an Environmental Monitoring Centre should be monitored in order not to duplicate with AFRICOVER.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed in August 1998 just when the war broke out and consequently nothing has happened until late 1998 and now LOA signed and first trench of funds should be released so that they can start with the activities of the NWG. The situation in the country has now normalised and work can start. The institutions that will collaborate in the NWG have been identified. Computer equipment has been received and is being cleared through customs. It is recommended that the CTA visit Kinshasa as soon as possible.

The major project issue as related to DRC is the fact that hardly any cloud free images exist. Another problem is that the geometric correction of imagery using existing maps is difficult as GCP's are difficult to locate. However, with the NASA/NIMA block geometric correction method this can potentially be solved. Through the use of the new satellite - LANSAT 7, to be launched in April 1999, it is hoped there will be more opportunity to collect cloud free images. There is also a need to reach an agreement between REIMP and AFRICOVER on the distribution of work and the sharing of cost in relation to the attainment of the production of the land cover map of DRC.

The issue of the remuneration of the National Co-ordinator was raised in view of the workload to be expected in the future and also in view of what other projects are practising. The project management in view of the present budget situation should review this issue. In view of the participation in future meetings the Delegation requested that consideration be given to their request for English language training

KENYA

The project is considered very important for Kenya because of major problems of environmental degradation because of the lack of a land-use policy. Population is moving from high potential areas to low potential areas and this is major concern of GOK. Results of project will allow monitoring to contain or reverse these movements. Since the project is located in Nairobi there has been more interactions of Kenya staff and national capacity building has been strong. With the arrival of the new CTA greater interaction has been forthcoming with the project office and now things are moving very fast and very important things are being done. The new CTA has now given more publicity to the project and defined more clearly what the project is doing. This should continue. Kenya fully supports the present organisation of the project and its present orientation toward strengthening of national capacities.

A major problem of Kenyan counterparts is now to move the results of the project to the decision-makers. This should start as soon as possible. Kenya is satisfied with the digital database and has had good experiences in its use.

Kenya being one of the first countries to have finished, their experience is important. The sustainability of the project result remains an issue of concern-donor support should not stop suddenly but be gradually phased out. Updating of the land-cover may require the purchasing of another image coverage. But at the same time, the availability of additional applications will increase the actual use and actually improve the sustainability. Kenya has initiated activities that use the database for livestock grazing problems. Project should try to assist in the development of applications of the database in a number of different fields.

The database gateway that is being development by the project will make it easier to extract certain data for specific uses. What is basically needed is an Information Management System. The availability of historical surveys in particular fields would allow the comparison with the actual situation and demonstrate the rate, area and speed of change. Kenya is ready to assist other countries to develop their national capacities but cannot support the cost of it. Kenyan nationals are already providing appreciable assistance to the project during its ongoing activities.

RWANDA

The country just joined the project with the signature of the project document shortly before the meeting. The creation of the National Commission on Natural Resources has been the catalyst for Rwanda to join the project. The strengthening of national capabilities is very important in Rwanda since few people have specialised professional training. The training provided by the project is mainly

limited and specifically in the field of image interpretation. The constitution of a national working group is very important to obtain the different types of specialisation for future applications. The CTA should assist through the establishment of a national work plan, as preparation for the development of a future photo interpretation of the country. Also there is a need to co-ordinate with other national ongoing efforts in the country and in particular with other projects in order to combine efforts.

Food security will be the first application for which the database will be used.

SUDAN

The National Working Group created by decree of Ministry of Agriculture has 16 members including the national co-ordinator. There are already questions from the Ministry on the progress of the work and the NC is accused that he is not doing his job. They expected after the previous NC meeting a visit of the CTA that was cancelled at the last minute. There was confusion in the country with regard to the start of the activities in Sudan that were initially planned for September 1998. The NC will now inform the national authorities on the new planning.

There is a national mapping exercise ongoing in Sudan that should be co-ordinated with the AFRICOVER activities. The computer equipment for Sudan has arrived and is being cleared through customs.

The opinion of the Sudan Delegation was asked with regard to the complementarity between AFRICOVER and the Nile basin project. The focal points of the two projects are different and the NC of AFRICOVER has not been involved in the working group for the Nile basin project. NC is convinced that there is a need for co-operation between the projects in a number of areas.

The Delegation was informed again of the firm commitment of the project to start as soon as possible but that the main problems at present is the acquisition of the images. They were informed that already 15 images have now arrived and that the activities can surely start in May 1999 and that the work will be completed by the middle of next year. There are a lot of studies, surveys and aerial photographs that could be included in the database and the delegation is encouraged again to obtain as much as possible materials before the project start the interpretation of the Sudan images.

TANZANIA

National Working Group with participation of a number of ministries has been active over the last 1.5 years. The WG has been briefed on the activities but Tanzania does not have a sample of the outcome that could be shown to them. There is a desire to get trained staff to train others in the same methodology. They have some ideas with regard to the future use. but are waiting for the results to come to the country.

The communications have improved a lot since the installation of the computer and that is considered very positive. The visits of project staff was appreciated as well as the demonstrations of project software and should continue in the future.

With regard to national capacity building: a lot of computer training is ongoing in the different ministries and they expect to have a number of trained staff to be available to use the data provide by AFRICOVER. The ownership of the database is still matter of discussion with the Department of Environment. A national seminar will be a good way to inform the decision-makers on the database and its potential use. Question of remuneration of the national co-ordinator was raised.

UGANDA

In contacts with other Government Departments, AFRICOVER is considered welcome and will fit in the national programme and that they will be motivated to collaborate in the future. It would be very useful to have a workshop to provide more information to a larger public. There are a lot of needs for maps for all kind of planning purposes. This will be a lot of opportunities and potential to use the landcover map. The fact that nobody has seen anything is a handicap for the time being. The CTA agreed to visit Uganda very soon.

The decentralisation of Uganda government should be taken into account. As the capacity for using and updating the database will be established in Central Government, some arrangements should be made to transfer also the capacity to use the database to the lower levels in Governments such as at district level and to look at possibilities on how to assist with this. Uganda has already landcover maps at 1:50,000 scale but they agree that these can be imported into the AFRICOVER database.

SESSION THREE

(I) Broader Regional Context

The meeting examined the issue in two contexts:

- (i) in terms of the regional approach of the project
- (ii) with reference to other regional projects also funded by Italy and other donors, including possible links or complementarities for the present and for the future and even long term.

AFRICOVER should be given the opportunity to produce useful data, which can be utilised by each individual country or shared with the other countries. Since these data are at comparable standard it makes it easy to use them for regional projects such as Nile Basin Water Resources (GCP/RAF/286/ITA), the Lake Victoria Water Resources Management (GCP/RAF/304/JPN) and the Lake Victoria Environmental Management funded by the World Bank et al. The Italian funded IGAD Marketing Information project (GCP/RAF/333/ITA) could also benefit from this data and in addition, the AFRICOVER database can be very helpful for other IGAD information systems, which are at present under formulation. However the countries own the databases and it is their decision to make these available to other countries and users.

It was clarified that the land cover classification is not solely an FAO initiative or classification but an international one that was prepared in large through collaboration with many African countries after extensive consultations at national and regional level. It has been realised through the extensive efforts of the project staff to develop the concept and the relevant software.

At national level, the countries should avoid overlap between national projects and the database prepared by AFRICOVER. In all the countries participating in AFRICOVER, many projects are ongoing, frequently without sufficient co-ordination. At the occasion of the organisation of seminars in the individual countries, representatives from other projects and programmes should be invited so that they can be provided with more details on the AFRICOVER database. This should lead to a better harmonisation between projects. These projects should be shown what is the trend today in the field of mapping and database as well as the advantages of adopting the same methodology.

Also, awareness should be created at international level so that the database can be adopted and countries are motivated to apply it at both national and regional level.

FAO also recalled the origin of the project and its relationship to UNCED agenda 21 – which called for the priority need for information on the status and trends of renewable natural resources. The need for harmonisation of data related to natural resources was clearly identified. Furthermore, it was demonstrated that the results of different classification systems can have on the classification of the same area of

land when different classification systems are applied. This results in difficulty in using the data and inaccuracies in statistical reporting.

The status of Africover on a continental level was also summarised and the different regional and national initiatives outlined.

Importantly, in terms of application areas, it was recognised that there were significant number of Information systems in Africa which could benefit from the available data of Africover including Early Warning for Food Security, River Basin Management, Forest Resource Assessment, Desert Locust Monitoring, Investment studies, Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity. However, the need is not only for data availability and the perpetuation of data collection but for the progression into Information Management Systems including access mechanisms for decision makers to common federated databases at national and regional levels.

The meeting was provided with information on the other components of AFRICOVER on the African continent. The Eastern Africa module is in advanced stage. Congo basin programme also in advanced stage of discussion (more application orientated biodiversity) SADC region has been reviewed and a report completed and under review by EU for funding at the national level. Need to create in SADC a central unit to harmonise the national efforts and the applications for SADC regional undertakings. For the time being, the Sahelian region is not considered for funding by any donor. Initiatives are still ongoing in some individual countries. A national funded project is going to start soon in Libya using the standards of AFRICOVER.

An initiative exists in Madagascar with support from France.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting that in some countries the donors have come together to join efforts under the lead of one of them in a particular field and that the same could be done with regard to the future use of the AFRICOVER database.

The Italian Co-operation is strongly interested to assist the East African region with development of Information technology and management fostering improved economic development, food security and management of national resources. The AFRICOVER project enters fully within this context. While it would be preferable to work on regional or sub-regional level, it is accepted that information generation and management takes place at national level.

(J) IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTIONS BEYOND THE PRESENT PHASE

Italy is funding a large number of projects in the EA region and considers that there are certain advantages in the multilateral funding. In addition to the three regional projects already mentioned before, Italy is funding several bilateral projects in Ethiopia and a Food Security Information System project in Eritrea through FAO. The development of a more harmonised approach involving co-ordination between multi-lateral and bilateral projects and implemented at regional, sub –regional and national level should be promoted. Information generation and management are

common features of most projects and Italy considers that there is a large potential in this area. Training at national level is a very important aspect and in the future more efforts should be directed to assist countries to make better use of the information generated within Information Management systems and ultimately to develop appropriate. Decision Support Systems. The project should migrate in this direction in future phases. It is envisaged that in addition to concentrating on greater utilisation of the data in which enhanced applications should be developed using the outputs of the 287 project.

Training by this project in use, maintenance of hardware and software was requested - the case of Tanzania was raised where problems with the maintenance of equipment - is an important issue. There is also the possibility for establishing links with the private sector to fulfil this function.

It was noted that training should be part of a broader domain, which is capacity building.

FAO in recognition of the need of the project to migrate from a purely data collection and mapping program into an enhanced mechanism for improved natural resources management, made a presentation on the potential introduction and evolution of information management systems. Such an approach that facilitates ease of access to the information emanating from the Africover project could become an important and primary focus of a subsequent phase of the project.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Session One

- 1. This TPR requests FAO to make available by the end of March the missing documents for the TPR covering the whole period of the project life up to now and a short comprehensive presentation of the project changes in terms of modes of implementation.**
- 2. The countries should individually provide a write up on project concept and national implementation.**
- 3. To allow the national delegations to prepare themselves properly for the TPR it is recommended that dates venue and draft agenda is communicated well in advance accompanied by the PPER and the relevant documentation.**

Session Two

- 1. The TPR recommends that the NCM takes on the function of a steering committee through a review of its mandate and it should review the agenda – a steering committee reviews ongoing activities of project and steers towards the end of the project. The NCM is more technical in nature. A TPR is still a**

required project activity. At the beginning of the next meeting, a draft mandate will be provide for consideration and approval.

2. The TPR, recognising the formal end of the project at the end of 1999 and furthermore, recognising that the work-plan cannot be completed in, it's entirety, by the end of 1999 and considering the opening statement made by the ambassador of Italy, makes a strong recommendation to FAO and the donor to use all possible efforts to extend project activities into the year 2000. The TPR noted that, to that end, a detailed and well-documented proposal should be prepared by the project as soon as possible.
3. The TPR recommends the convening of an international meeting the function of which will be to disseminate information on the project and the existence of the project and it is important overall contribution as the largest module of the holistic Africover project. Furthermore, it will provide a forum for re-certification of the project's credibility by external peers. Such a meeting, or a module of it, could be considered as an expert consultation. It could be held in Italy, possibly hosted by a qualified Italian Institution.
4. Printing of maps at 1:1m scale is not an appropriate mechanism for dissemination of the results of the project-rather it was recommended that this be done through the availability of a digital database and the ADG s/w – however an A0 plotter should also be made available to each country such that the countries can generate their own maps. However, the project noted the shortfall in funds to be able to realise this.
5. It has been recommended that countries submit a document including their comments and observations on the attainment of the project objectives to date and the future work-plan.

Session Three

1. The meeting recommended that each National Co-ordinator prepare an inventory of the ongoing projects that potentially could benefit from the AFRICOVER database.
2. The TPR recommended that national co-ordinators of other related projects be invited to attend future meetings of NWG.
3. The TPR recommends that co-ordination between projects in the AFRICOVER region be strengthened and extend this recommendation to national as well as regional projects independently of the type of funding.

4. **The TPR recommends exploring the possibilities to keep project activities in conformity with the recommendations of the National Co-ordinators meeting in order to ensure the completion of the database by the end of the year 2000.**
5. **The TPR recommends that due consideration be given to direct future activities towards the development of Information management systems with the ultimate objective of contributing to the development of Decision Support Systems for use by decision makers.**

The minutes were discussed and approved by the TPR meeting and signed by :

REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT OF ITALY

For the DGCS :

Mr. M. Foti

For the FAO / Italy Technical Review and Monitoring Panel

Prof. M. Gorgoni

REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Mr. L. Kayitare

REPRESENTATIVE OF FAO

Mr. N. Van Leeuwen (TCOC)