

CHIPETA, Mafa (Malawi)

Current employment and/or position/title:

Current engagements:

- Currently working as a forestry and food security consultant as well as speaker in various natural resources and food security fora (after retirement from the United Nations). He is the permanent panellist and participant in Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) supported by the African Union (AU), Economic Commission on Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). He is on an assignment by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Colombo, Sri Lanka to draft the Regional Agricultural Policy for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), in Botswana. He is also developing an FAO pilot project for the adoption of Results-Based Management in Africa focusing on the FAO Regional Sub-Office for Central Africa in Gabon and FAO Regional Office for Africa in Ghana.

Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

Mafa was the Deputy Director General for CIFOR – Centre for International Forestry Research. Was UN System Task Manager for UNCED focussing on forestry issues during the UNCED process which led to the Statement of Principles on Forests and to the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests that has now become the UN Forum on Forests. He led FAO Outlook studies on forests including a baseline global review and the first FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Outlook Study. He was one of the high level panellists at the **2011 IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa** where he also delivered a key presentation on *Forest, Food, Fuel, and Land Acquisition Nexus in Africa* and the *Role of forest ecosystems in the Comprehensive Africa's Agriculture Development Programme*. He also moderated the Knowledge Stream on Food Security in a Changing Climate and was a panellist during the Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 in Durban, South Africa at the IUCN hosted side event on **Nature Based Adaptation Policy in Africa**. He is the author of a number of publications and papers including co-author of the book *The private sector speaks: investing in sustainable forest management*. He has served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *International Forestry Review* published by the Commonwealth Forestry Association. He worked in Malawi within the private sector as the Manager of Blantyre Sawmills and later in the public service as Government Forestry Officer and Government Senior Forestry Officer.

Particular qualifications to be a Regional Councillor:

- Respected authority and professional on forestry and food security issues: Expert and speaker on forest conservation, poverty alleviation, improved livelihood and development including participation, inclusion and rights of interest groups, such as indigenous peoples. Global leadership on policy issues in forestry, agriculture, rural development, and food security. Senior level involvement as Deputy Head of CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research – a global leader in forestry knowledge, policy analysis and advocacy).
- Great familiarity with international and policy processes: Was part of the UNFF (United Nations Forum of Forests) process from the start and was the author of the UN Secretary-General's document that led to the adoption of the Statement of Principles on Forests and the UN-IPF (now UNFF). He was Representative to the AU (African Union) and UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission on Africa), steering policy and strategy processes in Africa on food security and natural resources management.
- Experience in working at continental level and with Africa's intergovernmental bodies: Chief, Policy Co-ordinating Service, and the first FAO Focal Point for NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) where he steered the NEPAD-CAADP. (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme – Africa's reference strategic framework for this sector). He served as FAO Representative to the AU, UNECA; Ethiopia and Uganda. He was also FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa.
- Work exposure in other regions of the world: He was at the UN-FAO in Rome, Italy and served in senior positions in forestry and food security policy including as Global Director of FAO Policy

Assistance (leading a largely decentralized team of policy professionals in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Americas and Caribbean, and selected countries); Worked in China as a Member, Task Force of the China ICED (International Committee on Environment and Development).