



PROCESS OF LAWS ENACTMENT OF AT EAC/ EALA

Hon. Christophe Bazivamo
EALA

1. LAWS COME FROM COUNCIL AND SENT TO EALA OR ARE INITIATED BY MEMBERS

- Initiative of laws belongs to the Council which is the Executive arm of the Community. Drafting is done by technical officers after thorough consultation with the relevant sectoral council
- The initiative can also come from the EALA where a Member can initiate a law he thinks is relevant or timely. He seeks leave of the House to bring a Private Member's Bill and when he gets it, he goes ahead and works on it
- The EAC forest management and protection bill is a Private member's bill
- Was prepared with AFF and some NAFA

2. THE BILL IS REFERRED TO A RELEVANT COMMITTEE FOR SCRUTINY.

- The House refers the bill to a relevant Committee for scrutiny
- The Bill is fine-tuned, amended and becomes a bill of the Committee which endorses it
- The draft bill is sent to partner states to organize stakeholders meetings and send submissions
- For the EAC forest bill in most partners states stakeholders were:
 - a. NAFA
 - b. Ministry of agriculture, forestry, land, environment ,water, civil society, forests products related trade/company

3. THE COMMITTEE TAKES IT TO CITIZENS FOR IMPROVEMENT THROUGH PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The Committee organizes Public Hearings which are workshops during which the bill is explained to the people in Partner States
- The forest bill was discussed with EAFF, experts from ICRAF, V-agroforestry, NAFAs, Research and Institutiond

4. THE CITIZENS PROPOSE AMENDMENTS

- The people contribute in enriching it by proposing amendments or new clauses
- They can support it or reject it by giving reasons
- The EAC Forests Management and Protection bill 2015 has proposed new clauses on agroforestry, research, urban forestry, etc... in addition to amendments.

5. THE COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE WHOLE HOUSE

After public hearings, the Committee reports on the workshops and presents a schedule of amendments, new clauses and other general considerations by stakeholders

6. WHEN ADOPTED, THE BILL PASSES WITH AMENDMENTS.

- The House makes debates on the report and adopts or rejects amendments, new clauses proposed by the Committee
- Once the House adopts it, it passes and becomes a law of the House.
- The EAC forest management and protection was adopted in November, 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda

7. THE LAST VERSION OF THE ACT IS SENT TO HEADS OF STATES FOR ASSENT BEFORE IT STARTS TO BE FUNCTIONAL.

- The adopted law is forwarded to the Heads of States for assent and when all Heads of states adopts it, it becomes an Act of the Community which can start to be implemented by countries.
- The EAC is still in the process of assent
- If any head of state is not happy , the bill is sent back with comments