



2008 – 2018

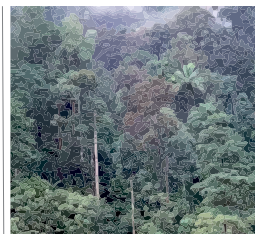
Celebrating 10 years of commitment
to Africa's forest and tree resources



sustainable
management



wise use



conservation





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Abbreviations and acronyms

AAS	African Academy of Sciences
AFF	African Forest Forum
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AUC	African Union Commission
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FC	Forest Certification
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations)
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KSLA	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry
LULUCF	Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPAs	National Adaptation Programmes of Action

NFPs	National Forestry Programmes
NGARA	Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa
PFAEA	Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa
PSAC	Project Steering and Advisory Committee
RaCSA	Rapid Carbon Stock Appraisal
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
HAFL	School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (in Switzerland)
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SAFCOL	South African Forestry Company Limited
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
XIV WFC	Fourteenth World Forestry Congress

Message from the Chair of the Governing Council

It is both amazing and gratifying to those of us who were there at the beginning to be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the African Forest Forum (AFF). I was one of the initiators of the 'forum idea' that aimed to galvanise the African voice and opinion on forestry issues as well as mobilise resources and mechanisms for their resolution.

Just as envisioned, AFF is now the leading platform of stakeholders in African forestry. For more than a decade, the institution has uncovered and highlighted the science crucial for enhancing sustainable forest management (SFM) practices and offered many solutions to the challenges faced in the sector - from mitigating and adapting to climate change to transforming unsustainable consumption and production practices. AFF has also provided a good framework for regional cooperation and action on forests at all levels.

This history would not have been possible without the invaluable leadership, expertise and support from AFF's founding members. Namely:

Michel Laverdière (Canada-FAO), Bjorn Lundgren (Sweden-KSLA), Frank Kufakwandi (Zambia-AfDB). Stephen Agong (Kenya-AAS), Sébastien Malélé Mbala (DRC-DGF), Iba Kone (Côte d'Ivoire-AFORNET), Afsa Kemitale (Uganda-UNFF), Edouard Bonkougou (Burkina Faso-NTI), Alice Kaudia (Kenya-IUCN), Godwin Kowero (Tanzania-SFM II), Lidia Brito (Mozambique-UEM), Fred Owino (Kenya-FORIN), Linda Mossop-Rousseau (S. Africa-SAFCOL), August Temu (Tanzania-ICRAF) and Foday Bojang (Gambia-AU). AFF is indeed grateful to them.

Sincere appreciation also goes to the AFF Governing Council, its various committees and the secretariat that ensured effective planning and implementation of projects over the past 10 years. I extend gratitude to all African governments and other stakeholders who enabled us to achieve our targets and gave us the encouragement and success stories to move ahead with our work. Furthermore, the various contributions from AFF

members, and especially those who were assigned various tasks as experts, workshop participants, postgraduate students (and their supervisors), that led to successful achievement of the planned outputs is truly recognized.

I wish to also appreciate, on behalf of the African Forest Forum (AFF), the kind financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to undertake a number of project activities in Africa. This demonstrates the interest of donor community in strengthening sustainable forest management and forestry related climate change issues on the continent.

This book is both for the people and by the people who have been part of AFF's journey. We hope you will all enjoy reading this 10th Anniversary booklet. Impressive as our success has been, we are still very much a work in progress.



Macarthy Oyebo

Chair of AFF Governing Council

Message from the Executive Secretary

It is with humility, and a great sense of pride that I write this foreword to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the African Forest Forum (AFF). The year 2007 saw the beginning of a new platform that could support African forestry stakeholders in the management of their forests. Fast forward to today and AFF has flown higher and achieved more than anyone could have ever imagined. AFF remains focused on the relevance and contribution of forests and trees to the people of Africa and their environment.

Since its founding, AFF has worked closely with several UN bodies, governments at all levels, intergovernmental organizations like the AUC, civil society and the private sector to drive a better understanding of the potential role that forests and forestry can play in addressing many current development issues. AFF remains very grateful to them for their collaboration and support to its agenda. With 2,214 members from all over the continent and beyond, AFF has worked hard to provide a bridge between science-based knowledge and strong policies that support the sustainable management and wise use of these resources for the benefit of future generations. It has strengthened the capacity of public and private forest institutions for sustained development outcomes in the sector and delivered on related issues in the context of climate change.

I am delighted to say that AFF today, is a recognised and respected actor on the African forestry scene and internationally; and has several cooperation agreements and formal links and memoranda of understanding with regional and international organisations, including AUC, FAO, UNEP UNFF, ITTO, IUFRO, ICRAF, as well as with the sub-regional economic communities in Africa. Such collaboration is essential as we strive to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the UN Forest Instrument, AFR100, the African Union 2063 Agenda - all of which are linked to forestry.

The steady generation of scientific knowledge by AFF over the past decade has enabled the Institution to issue many scientific papers, books, compendiums, policy briefs, fact sheets, and reports on important topics; organize knowledge exchange workshops and training events; and strengthen the voice of African delegates in international negotiations on forests. Significant strides have also been made in building and supporting a vibrant 'virtual' community of stakeholders in African forestry. For example, in 2018, the AFF website recorded 1,453,209 visits from 415,831 visitors worldwide who were in no doubt seeking to improve their understanding of various forestry issues. Data provided by the most

widely used web analytics service on the Internet – Google Analytics- indicates that a total 22,608 documents were downloaded from the knowledge repository and a further 24,043,020 pages were opened by information seekers.

None of AFF's successes would have been possible without the intelligence, foresight and commitment of its founding members and partners. I wish to thank the Members' Forum, Governing Council and its committees and Secretariat who have built AFF into the institution it is today. The staff, though a small team of nine people, is simply second to none.

I also gratefully acknowledge the generous assistance accorded to AFF by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). We are also grateful to the many

people and institutions who facilitated this work in various ways. Above all, we thank the Almighty God for making all these achievements possible.

In spite of all these accomplishments, we still have a lot of work in front of us. We need to maintain forestry issues high on the development agenda of African nations and globally; and hold one another to account.

It has also been a great honour, privilege and pleasure for me to lead the establishment of this great institution as its first Executive Secretary in this formative period.



Prof. Godwin Kowero
Executive Secretary of AFF





Photo: USAID/2007/Wikimedia Commons

A tropical forest
in Liberia

A Brief History of the African Forest Forum (AFF)



African forests and forestry opportunities and challenges

Forests and woodlands, according to the latest estimate of FAO, cover an estimated 624 million hectares with 20% of primary forests, 26% of production forests and 2.5% of planted forests. Africa also has extensive areas classified as 'other wooded land', such as the widespread savannas of Eastern Africa along with the extensive Sudano-Sahelian region and the fertile highlands of Eastern and Southern Africa, where much of Africa's agriculture, animal and human population density is found.

Major forest types include dry tropical forests and woodlands (most extensive), moist tropical forests in Western and Central Africa, mangroves in the coastal zones, montane forests around highlands and mountains of Central and Eastern Africa.

Man-made plantations cover limited parts (8 million ha) of Africa's total forest area with South Africa, Sudan, Nigeria and Morocco contributing broadly to this type of forest cover.

Large scale commercial forest operations are found in the plantation-based forest industry in the South and in the concession-based timber extraction and saw milling industry in Central and West Africa. Small quantities of plantation and naturally grown timber constitute the basis for small scale forest industry across the continent.

Africa's forests are highly diverse. They are renowned for their habitats for wildlife, beekeeping, unique natural ecosystems and genetic resources. They are catchment to many rivers that are a cornerstone of economic development in the region. Africa's forests are also increasingly receiving global attention because of their share in biological diversity, potential for industrial timber exports, livelihood 'safety nets', capacity for meeting the continent's energy needs and mitigating the adverse effects of global climate.



Red Colobus monkeys in Jozani forest. Endemic to Zanzibar. Photo credit: Olivier Lejade via Wikimedia Commons

Deforestation and forest degradation are key global forestry challenges. In Africa they result from agricultural expansion-which is the main driver, in addition to increased exploitation for rapid economic and population growth.

Concern about the destruction of Africa's forests and lands, particularly on strategies and actions for their rehabilitation, has grown considerably in the recent past. There is good evidence that there have been many changes in forest management and thinking in Africa and globally, and this has facilitated at least the following developments in Africa:

- a) Decentralisation and devolution of forest administration and increased emphasis on community participation in forest management.
- b) Changes in forest administration especially through the establishment of more autonomous boards, authorities and commissions.

- c) Increased role for the private sector in forestry production and processing; this has led to privatisation of public-owned commercial enterprises, including forest industries and plantations in many countries.

- d) Increased role of civil society – especially national and international non-governmental organisations - in influencing forest resource management, particularly through their advocacy role and also through direct involvement in forestry initiatives in supporting community participation.

- e) Increased political good will due to concerns about global changes, especially those stemming from demands that forests, also in Africa, shall provide global public goods and services, and environmental protection in particular, as reflected in various international arrangements including treaties and conventions

The opportunities that forests and trees offer to the continent and the challenges that confront the forestry sector combine to define the agenda for the African Forest Forum (AFF).

The African Forest Forum as an institution:

Role, priorities, structure and governance

Established in 2007 as a non-political, non-governmental, objective, independent and not for profit international organisation, the African Forest Forum (AFF) is an association of individuals with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

AFF exists to voice the concerns of African forestry stakeholders, and to use science, indigenous knowledge, and experience to advocate for the importance of forests and trees outside forests to peoples' livelihoods, national economies and the stability of the environment.

AFF provides a platform for independent analyses and advice to national, regional and international institutions and actors, on how economic, food security and environmental issues can be addressed through the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests.

Vision

The leading forum that unites all stakeholders in African forestry

Mission

To contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of the people of Africa and the environment they live in through the sustainable management and use of tree and forest resources on the African continent.

Goal

To galvanise a common African voice and opinion, and mobilise resources that are required to address forestry and related issues that cut across countries and regions, with the aim of enhancing the relevance and contribution of forestry and trees to the people of Africa and their environment.

History

In 2003, the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET) at the African Academy of Sciences with the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization implemented a two-year project on "Lessons Learnt on Sustainable Forest Management in Africa" funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The discussion of results from studies implemented under this project recommended, among other things,

the establishment of a platform that could support African forestry stakeholders in the management of their forests; and this led to the establishment of the African Forest Forum by the founding members on January 26, 2007. Shortly thereafter,

on December 06, 2007, the Kenyan Non-governmental Organizations Registration Board approved registration of AFF as a not-for-profit international NGO based in Nairobi, Kenya.



Founder Members of the African Forest Forum (2007)

Back Row: Michel Laverdière (Canada-FAO), Bjorn Lundgren (Sweden-KSLA), Macarthy Oyebo (Nigeria-FFD), Frank Kufakwandi (Zambia-AfDB). **Middle Row:** Stephen Agong (Kenya-AAS), Sébastien Malélé Mbala (DRC-DGF), Iba Kone (Côte d'Ivoire-AFORNET), Afsa Kemitale (Uganda-UNFF), Edouard Bonkougou (Burkina Faso-NTI).

Front Row: Alice Kaudia (Kenya-IUCN), Godwin Kowero (Tanzania-SFM II), Lidia Brito (Mozambique-UEM), Fred Owino (Kenya-FORIN), Linda Mossop-Rousseau (S. Africa-SAFCOL), August Temu (Tanzania-ICRAF). **Missing:** Foday Bojang (Gambia-AU)

Evolution of the African Forest Forum

The African Forest Forum was formed after extensive analysis, a series of participatory processes and consultations with many stakeholders, who helped to define the core needs and issues at the heart of African forestry and who provided legitimacy for the existence of the institution and the priority issues it will address.

Since its establishment in 2007, the African Forest Forum (AFF) has provided a bridge between science-based knowledge and strong policies to support sustainable forest management (SFM), effectively working within a science-policy-management

framework. AFF made the conscious decision and in its strategy (2015-2020) to foster a new level of cooperation and transparency through enhanced partnerships at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. The strategy was developed to make AFF a stronger and more focused institution, with the ability to deliver more effectively on its mandate while taking into account the challenges and opportunities that continue to unfold in the forestry sector. Guided by strategic and operating values contained in the strategy, AFF's work has been based on four priority areas namely; networking, programming, advocacy and organizational development.

Some of the meetings held during the formation of the African Forest Forum included the following:

- ▼ *August 2006, Lessons on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Workshop, Ethiopia*
- ▼ *September 2006, First East African Consultative Forum on Forests, Tanzania*
- ▼ *October 2006, Improving Teaching Material for Forestry Education Workshop, Kenya*
- ▼ *November 2006, Way forward for SFM in Central & West Africa Workshop, Cameroon*
- ▼ *Novembre 2006, Réunion des points focaux des FNUF de l'espace COMIFAC, Equitorial Guinea*
- ▼ *November 2006, Fifteenth Session of the African Forestry & Wildlife Commission, Ghana*
- ▼ *April 2007, Side Event on the African Forest Forum at the UNFF7 Session, USA*
- ▼ *May 2007, Lessons and way forward for SFM in Southern Africa Workshop, Zambia*
- ▼ *May 2001, African Nordic Collaboration on SFM Seminar, Sweden*
- ▼ *November 2007, Lessons a way forward for SFM in the Sahel Workshop, Mali*

AFF priorities

Networking

“AFF’s focus in this regard is to build and strengthen networking amongst forestry stakeholders in Africa”

In this regard it generates and shares up to-date knowledge and information on best practices for conserving, managing and using African forests and trees outside forests; as well as strengthening communication and interaction among relevant stakeholders.

Advocacy and policy

“AFF aims to raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment and champion better management of African forests and trees”

In implementing this, AFF collaborates closely with relevant stakeholders at all levels, including, civil society and marginalised groups; and in doing so it takes into account relevant policies and regulatory frameworks, gender relations, democratic space, and individual gain aspects.

Programmes

“AFF implements programmes, projects and activities that address priority issues and opportunities in African forests and forestry”

AFF undertakes studies that strengthen understanding of the dynamics of forest ecosystems, the people who depend on them, the policy and regulatory framework that surround the people and these resources, and the research policy-development interface that informs decision making at all levels for forest compatible development.

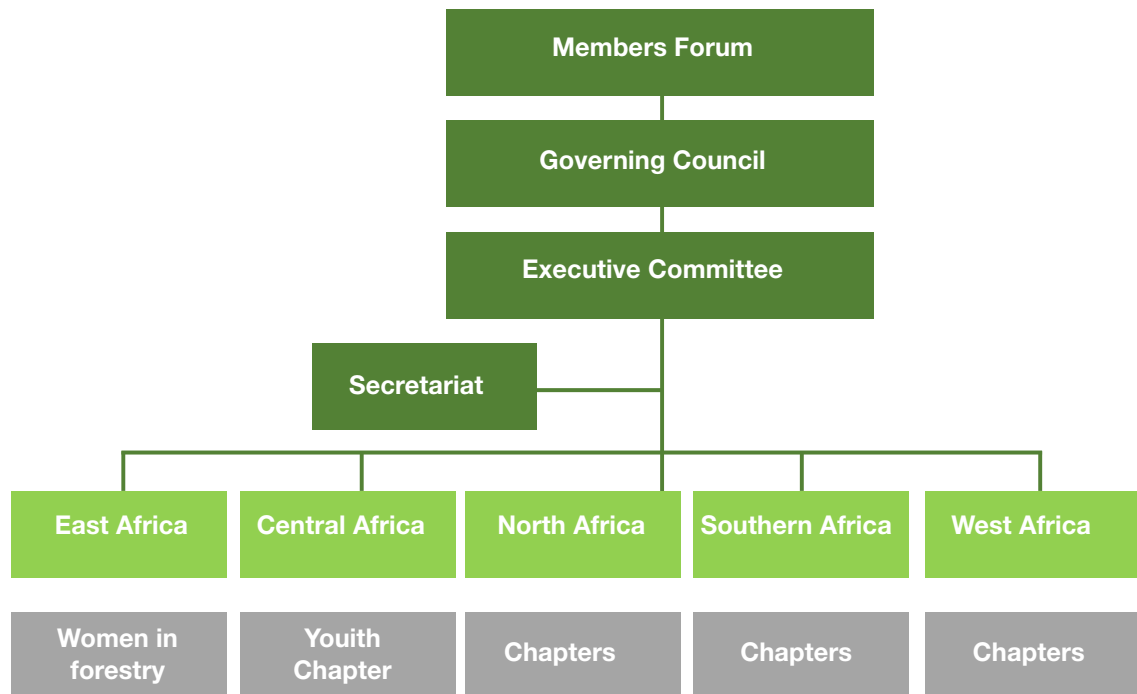
AFF today

Appreciating the need to continually adjust to the ever-changing forestry sector, AFF has evolved from a project-based network to an active institution with established governance, partnership and various platforms to its credit. As awareness has grown on the roles of forests and trees in national economic development, livelihoods and environmental stability, AFF has steadily gained membership (as of May 2019, it had 2214 members). It also has capacity (a well-functioning secretariat in Nairobi that works with about 40- 50 associate experts supporting it annually, and many partner agreements and MoUs with key national, regional and international institutions) to work within this framework.

Structure and governance

AFF has streamlined its organizational structure and became better aligned to deliver the results provided under its *Short and Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2015-2020)*. In particular: resource mobilization has been improved including adopting of a more efficient approach for using allocated funding; positioning of the institution as a strategic regional partner of choice for multilateral and international organizations and relevant international processes has been strengthened; and development of an endowment fund, that already has some modest contributions from members of the Governing Council and Secretariat of AFF in order to facilitate sustainability of the institution has been initiated. AFF places the views and needs of its members at the highest possible level, as shown in the governance structure below.

AFF Governance Model



The Members Forum, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Secretariat are the key organs of the Forum. There are also committees of the Governing Council: the Executive Committee, the Technical Support Team (TST) to Raise the Profile of Forestry, the Working Group on Climate Change, the Task Force on Resources Mobilisation, and the Finance Committee. Also AFF has an independent Project Steering and Advisory Committee that provides strategic guidance, scientific quality assurance, as well as financial oversight over AFF's projects. It also ensures that project implementation stays on course and that all practices reflect AFF's values of quality

participation and inclusivity and pass the threshold of international standards and are consistent with donor and AFF values and principles. The Governing Council and all the committees have been established with specific purposes and have terms of reference to guide their work.

AFF members

AFF has a membership that looks a lot different than it did a decade ago. Thanks to global expansion, AFF has a total of 2214 members, with 92% being ordinary members while the rest are associate members (mainly students).

Since its inception, AFF has progressively admitted members on an annual basis. AFF members come from all over the world. They are drawn from academia, government ministries/departments, NGOs, the private sector, farmer organisations, among others concerned with the promotion of, support of, or research into forests, forest management and forest products, and trees outside forests. AFF uses these diverse backgrounds to work for the sustainable management and use of tree and forest resources in order to protect the environment and improve the lives of African people. AFF members interact and share experiences, insights and expertise on issues related to forestry.

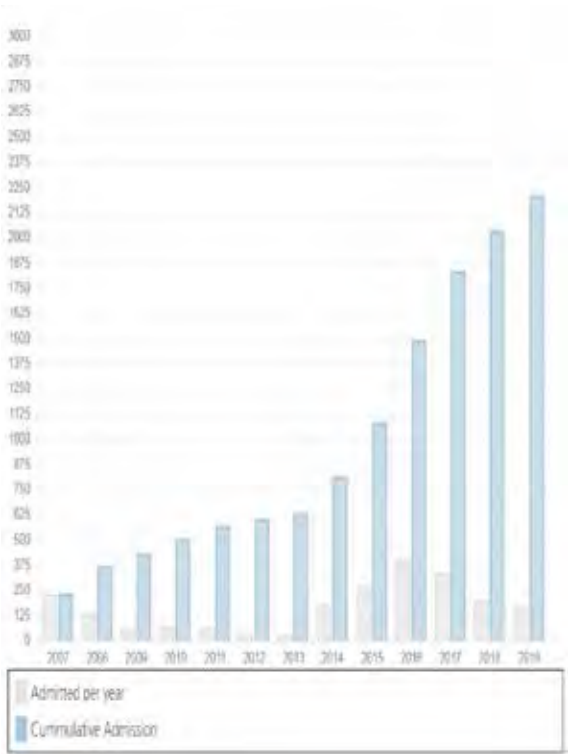
AFF membership applications

AFF Members come from 83 countries worldwide; of these, 51 are African countries. Only 4-member states of the African Union, namely Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Sahrawi Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe are yet to be represented.

Membership from outside Africa, referred to as “Friends of African forestry”, is from 32 countries namely: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Falkland Islands, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam. The region with the highest number of members is Western Africa (675), followed by Eastern Africa (502), Southern Africa (356), North Eastern Africa (343), Central Africa (213) and outside Africa (125).

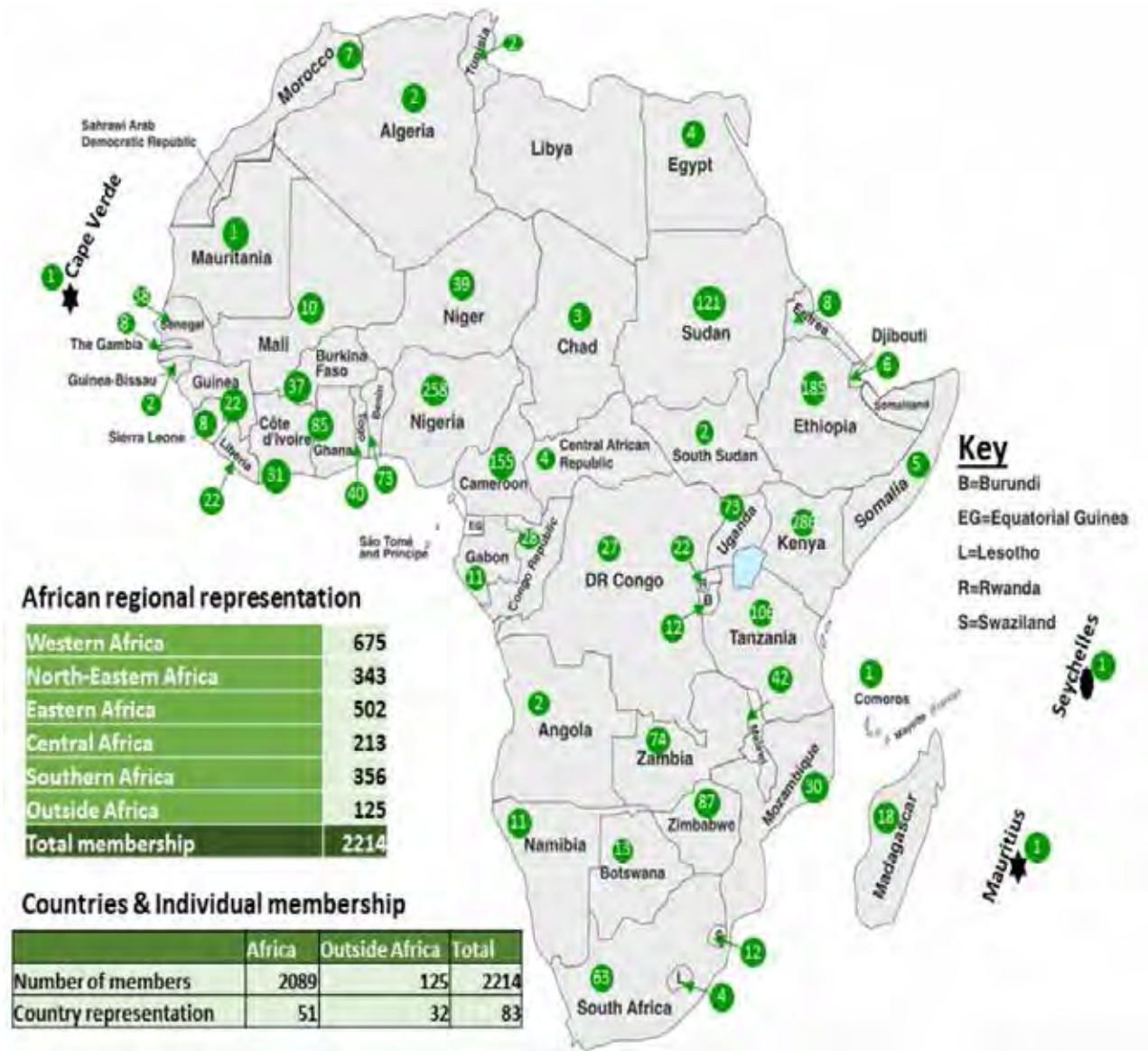
Number of applications for AFF membership over the years (source: AFF Data/2019)

Year	Admission	Cumulative admissions
2007	242	242
2008	141	383
2009	64	447
2010	76	523
2011	66	589
2012	35	624
2013	33	657
2014	183	840
2015	271	1111
2016	410	1521
2017	335	1856
2018	200	2056
2019	158	2214



Geographical distribution of AFF members

Source: AFF data (2019)



Over 69% of AFF members have either MSc or PhD level degree qualifications, 23% with a bachelor's degree and 4% with a diploma. The remaining 1% have a certificate level training.

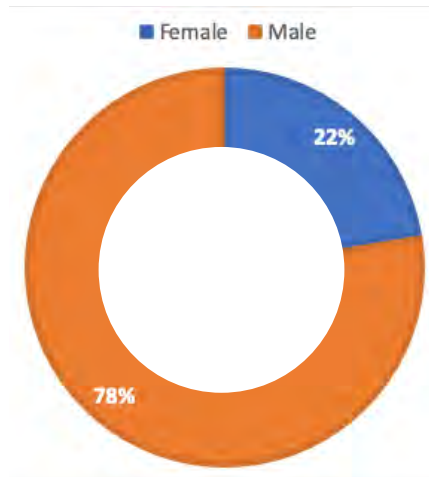
Members are predominantly male (78% of the total), reflecting the forest profession in general.

Members are actively contributing their time and expertise towards advancing the mission of AFF by voluntarily availing their individual resources

in a pool for sharing through the AFF members' intranet. By the end of 2018, members exchanged, through the intranet, more than 546 full text journal articles which received 16,319 views and have been downloaded 8,178 times.

Interested in becoming a member?

For more information on what AFF offers to members, and a chance to read latest news and publications, visit the AFF website. — www.afforum.org



> 69%

of AFF members have
either MSc or PhD level
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23%

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1%

have a certificate level training



Our Journey in the Last 10 Years

2

Photo: Ton Rulkens/Wikimedia Commons

A moist forested gulley
at Pemba Mozambique

Galvanizing Africa's voice in **international discourses related to forestry**

One of the challenges of Africa continues to be weak participation and articulation of its positions in multilateral environmental processes and agreements. Also, mainstreaming decisions from Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into national policies and actions, as well as monitoring and reporting on the same are equally challenging to Africa. AFF has over the years facilitated the African forestry sector in overcoming these constraints.

Forest policy formulation and implementation

AFF organizes preparatory meetings of African delegates in advance to such global multilateral environmental meetings, as well as providing them with back-stopping support during the meetings. This has enabled the African Group to have its voice articulated well and respected, as well as contributing to the final resolutions and decisions from such meetings. This has been more specifically to meetings of the

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and more recently those of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Further, AFF has conducted training sessions to African delegates on what the MEAs represent in terms of their focus and key decisions/resolutions from them; on negotiation skills for MEAs; how decisions from MEAs can be mainstreamed into national policies, plans and actions at work places; and other issues related to such meetings. Such training also includes people who do not actively participate in these processes, like those from the private sector, academia, research, NGOs, as well as those from other relevant national governments institutions.

The AFF Technical Support Team (TST) to Raise the Profile of Forestry is the one that undertakes these tasks. TST members have wide experience in international policy debates and negotiations related to forestry and have freely contributed their expertise to African delegates in such discourses.

A few accomplishments in recent years

Some of the publications available on the AFF website

- Oteng-Yeboah A. A. (2016). *Training module on effective engagement of African delegates in international multilateral processes*. Training Module. African Forest Forum. Nairobi.
- Oteng-Yeboah, A. A. 2015. *Module de formation sur l'engagement efficace des délégués africains dans les processus multilatéraux internationaux*. Module de formation. Forum Forestier Africain.



Capacity building

- 76 African delegates trained during the eleventh (40) and twelfth (36) United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 11 and UNFF 12) preparatory meetings.
- Another 77 forestry practitioners from 25 countries trained on international multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and negotiation processes, resulting in an increased number of competent resource persons in Africa on international negotiations.

Outcome

- Africa's voice in international negotiations on forest issues has become clear and more coherent leading to integration of Africa's position in the outcome documents of the United Nations Forum on Forests meetings and sessions. The common Africa positions developed for the meetings were effectively used by the African Group. For example, the proposed elements were integrated in UNFF 11 Resolution and Ministerial Declaration; the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-2020.

Impacts

- The trained delegates help make the African continent more effective in engaging in international forestry related processes, in addition to facilitating mainstreaming decisions from such processes/ agreements into their national policies, plans and actions.
- Key regional and global actors consider the AFF an active partner: AFF is officially accredited to sessions of UNFF, UNCCD and UNFCCC and works closely with AMCEN. AFF also participates in some specialized committees and expert panels established by these organisations. AFF, FAO and IUFRO also continue to work together on a number of issues.



Prof Godwin Kowero (Executive Secretary, AFF) providing technical advice and support to a private commercial plantation developer in Somanya, a district in the Eastern region of Ghana. The study tour was organized by AFF as part of the regional workshop on “sharing knowledge and experiences on public and private sector development in forestry and response to climate change and transboundary forestry issues” held at the Mensvic Hotel in Accra, Ghana from 10-14 July 2017. Photo credit: dgitonga/AFF.

- Within the African region, AFF continues to build itself as a reliable institution and partner with respect to fostering political commitment for sustainable forest management. For example, AFF worked closely with parliamentarians in the East African Community towards the drafting of the “East African Community Forest Management and Protection Bill” that was enacted in August 2015 by the East African Legislative Assembly. The Bill guides the practice of forestry in the EAC countries, as well as development and management of transboundary forestry activities.
- AFF, AUC and FAO-ROA have developed a draft Sustainable Forest Management Programme (SFMP) that will assist AU member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably manage and develop their forest sectors for socio-economic development and environmental protection, in response to the Heads of State and Government Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

Sharpening skills for managing forest and tree resources

Capacity gaps in institutional leadership and management as well as in skills and knowledge to facilitate effective uptake of available technologies represent one of the biggest challenges for sustainable forest management in Africa today. Capacity building and skills development is relevant to all AFF stakeholders, individually and as groups, from poor communities that live close to forest resources, to scientists, private sector businesses, and policy makers at all levels.

Training needs assessment

As an immediate first step, a number of Training Needs Assessment (TNA) have been undertaken in recent years by AFF. Specifically, for:

New perspectives in forestry education

A TNA was implemented in the Anglophone African countries in 2015/6 to evaluate the content of the forestry curricula in professional and technical institutions in Africa in relation to the current needs, and also addressing emerging issues such as climate change and green economy as they relate to the forestry sector. A similar undertaking was implemented for Francophone countries in 2016/7. The results of the assessment are anticipated to guide professional and technical institutions in improving their education and training programmes in forestry and related areas. In addition, a regional workshop held in Tanzania in 2019 served to en-

hance this science contribution by initiating the development of an updated training module and compendium on technical, professional and short courses in forestry education.

Forest management and climate change

An earlier TNA implemented for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2011, that among other things, examined mainstreaming climate change issues in African forestry sector, led to the development of “*Training modules on forest-based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading, and payment for environmental services*” by more than 100 African stakeholders in 2013-2014. Based on these modules, a first set of eight compendiums were prepared between 2015 and 2016 by ten experts engaged by AFF (3 from francophone Africa; 6 from Anglophone Africa; 1 pedagogical expert). The modules are tailored for different audiences, including at professional and technical levels, as well as for guiding delivery of short courses. The latter also target extension agents and civil society organisations that interact with local communities; and this is the approach AFF has taken to get its information reach local communities.

The compendiums were validated by forestry stakeholders at a workshop organized jointly with the University of Ouagadougou from 12-16 March 2018 in Burkina Faso. Thereafter, the validated versions of the compendiums were peer-reviewed by

a number of experts before being edited for production. They will be shared widely with education and training institutions in forestry and related areas for capacity building and skills development in Africa.

Forest science research

AFF has undertaken several studies to strengthen the understanding of the dynamics of forest ecosystems,

the people who depend on them, the policy and regulatory frameworks that surround the people and these resources, and the research-policy development interface that informs decision making at all levels. In this regard, the aim has been to make interventions in the forestry sector that are compatible with sustainable development.

In recent years, AFF has broached extensively at the pan-African level and, for the first time on issues related to forest certification, quality supply and management of tree germplasm, managing forest and tree pests and diseases, and public-private-partnerships in primary and secondary forestry production. The wealth of information generated through these activities has helped provide a good basis to develop and expand the forestry sector in Africa. Below, these studies and their key findings are discussed briefly.

Forest certification

AFF capacity building in forest certification (FC) aims to contribute to the development of strategic human capacity in African institutions to drive the forestry agenda at national and regional levels towards sustainable forest management (SFM). In



Dr. Ing. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forestry, Sustainable Development and the Environment, in a past AFF event in a forest plantation in Congo Brazzaville. Photo: AFF



Timber harvesting in a Ghanaian forest. Photo credits: Prof Godwin Kowero/AFF

this regard, four technical reports on the status of forest certification in North Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa have been developed based on studies made in these sub-regions. An additional synthesis report on forest certification in Africa entitled *“Forest certification in Africa: Description of Forest Certification Schemes and the Experience of Certification in the African Continent”* has also been developed as a monograph.

Further, a training manual has been developed to guide development of capacity and skills for forest certification on the continent. Subsequently, AFF in partnership with Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) has strengthened the capacity of 93 forestry practitioners from 30 countries in Africa in forest certification and development of national forest certification standards best suited for Africa, as result of two training courses organised in Accra, Ghana and guided by the AFF training manual. The countries were: Benin, Botswana, Cameroon,

Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Eswatini, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Forest law enforcement, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products

A study was undertaken, and a technical report made on forest law enforcement, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products in Africa. These three elements are critical in forest management, and in use of forest products. The results of the study provided an insight into how weak enforcement of forest policies and regulations/laws, including beyond national borders, affects not only the sustainability of forest ecosystems but also the sustainability of the livelihoods of local communities and national economies that depend on forest resources

The report also shed light on the ongoing implementation of the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT) and African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) processes. The latter was agreed on by African ministers responsible for forests in Yaounde, Cameroon, in 2003. The participants to the several workshops:

- o Agreed on how to promote good forest governance including how to mitigate illegal cross-border trade in forest products through activities coordinated by the national and regional forestry professional associations.
- o Put up mechanisms in 2015 for the formation of the Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa (PFAEA) comprising over 2000 members with the goal of achieving excellence in the practice of forestry within the

subregion. The functions and accountabilities of the PFAEA address many forest and landscape scale issues, including: curbing illegal timber trade, leading campaigns against politically motivated forest excisions, lobbying for improved forest governance and increasing their visibility among the wider stakeholder community in order to contribute meaningfully to national, regional and global discourses in forestry. The Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa (PFAEA) builds on past achievements of national forestry associations and related stakeholders including: successful resistance to the allocation of *Mabira* forest in Uganda to a private investor for sugar plantation; providing guidelines for eucalyptus farming in Kenya and halting the improper acquisition of a teak plantation in Tanzania.



Seed germination tests in a germination room, TTSA, Morogoro, Tanzania. Photo: Heriel Msanga/AFF

- o Put up mechanisms in 2016 for the formation of a **further two sub-regional platforms** in the form of a professional forestry association and a forest products trade association, both for West African countries, and with similar aims as for the Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa.

Tree improvement and seed management

Current afforestation, reforestation, and agroforestry activities in many African countries are frequently characterised by the use of poor-quality germplasm, resulting in low productivity, susceptibility to pests and diseases, and possibly, low resilience to climate change.

Subsequently, without a thorough understanding of the properties of various tree seed sources, a technical and scientific ability to improve such properties through selection and/or breeding, and a practical and institutional capacity to multiply and distribute seed of high and known quality, many ambitious forest and tree related initiatives will be futile. In short, there is an urgent need to revamp both the technical and infrastructural capacities of tree seed centres, tree improvement programmes, and commercial and public seed multiplication and distribution/sale mechanisms.

AFF has carried out analytical studies focused on tree germplasm improvement, production, supply and demand in the Eastern, Southern and West/Central Africa sub-regions. As a result, three technical reports provide up to date knowledge on best practices that hold potential to facilitate provision of quality germplasm for agroforestry systems and improved forest establishment and productivity.

The assessments have resulted in the development of a seed testing manual and protocol for handling seeds of priority tree species that will assist forestry practitioners, smallholder farmers and the private sector to access better adapted and quality germplasm for improved tree performance and productivity.

Managing forest tree pests and diseases

Analytical studies have been carried out on forest and tree pests and diseases in the Eastern, Southern and West/Central Africa sub-regions. Three technical reports provide up to date knowledge on the status

and trends of forest and tree pests and disease management in Africa and propose appropriate measures and protocols for effective surveillance of forest pests and disease epidemics within countries and across borders.

Public-private-partnerships in primary and secondary forestry production

The African Forest Forum has embarked on an initiative to better understand the private sector in forestry with the aim of facilitating the development of mechanisms for its strengthening and growth. In this regard, AFF has undertaken baseline studies in 22 African countries on different partnership arrangements in both primary and secondary private sector operations in forestry and including an assessment of viable private-public-partnership initiatives. The studies also examined how the private sector in forestry is handling climate change issues in its operations.



Moussa Massaoudou, recipient of a research fellowship by AFF at the Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo of Maradi in Niger

Collaboration with universities and other research institutions

To-date, AFF has signed 20 MoUs with African universities whose students were awarded research fellowships. The MoUs provide opportunities for further collaboration in many areas of mutual interest beyond the student fellowship period. All these partnerships are expected to also facilitate down-scaling the findings from AFF's studies, through these institutions, to the national and sub-national levels and eventually creating impact in their own countries.

In 2015, AFF signed a MoU with Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. This MoU seeks to enhance close working collaboration and relationship with relevant Kenyan Government agencies working on forestry and related issues, including climate change.

In partly operationalizing this agreement, AFF has signed an MoU with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) to promote and undertake research and development activities on forestry and allied natural resources; implement rigorous, well researched and detailed programmes to advance and enhance

an understanding of the needs and opportunities available through forest and tree resources; build the capacity of KEFRI, AFF and partner staff in science and policy in forestry.

Partnership platforms

AFF has created strategic partnerships that are crucial for advancing sustainable forest management in Africa. The partnerships bring together complementary resources, expertise and skills, and provide the opportunity to harness different organisations' competence and comparative advantages for the benefit of a common vision.

In Africa, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as SADC, ECOWAS and EAC, and regional and sub-regional institutions like the FAO Regional Office for Africa, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, COMIFAC, African Union Commission, Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall of the Sahel and Sahara Initiative, and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) work with AFF on several issues such as those related to good forest governance, effective enforcement of forest laws and regulations, and climate change.

AFF's participation in the initial activities of the Great Green Wall of Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWS-SI) (for which support was given to Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Chad) is a highly visible contribution that demonstrates the importance of forests and trees; and is a result of such partnership arrangements.

AFF is a team leader of one of the seven pillars of the Convergence Plan for Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa, namely "Information, education and communication" led by ECOWAS Secretariat.

AFF works very closely with the African Union Commission on many fronts. The two institutions have a MoU that guides development of forestry on the continent. For example, in 2016, AFF led the development of a Sustainable Forest Management Programme (SFMP) for Africa that was recommended by the AU Summit in its Decision 'Assembly/AU/Dec.538 (XXIII)' and adopted by Heads of States in Malabo in June 2014. This will be a framework for sustainable forest management that would enable Member States and Regional Groupings to sustainably manage and develop their forestry sectors for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

AFF has also made major strides in raising awareness on the importance of good forest governance and law enforcement within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This cooperation has to-date led to the development of a SADC-FLEGT Programme, following the Yaounde Ministerial Declaration of 2003, in support of activities aimed at strengthening compliance to forest regulations, as well as a SADC Timber Association concept.

AFF's partnership with AUC, FAO, UNCCD, CILSS, and SOS Sahel supports successful organization of the African Drylands Week events, which is a regional forum that brings together experts, representatives of local populations, and policy makers from international, regional and local organizations to deliberate on Africa's drylands development, focusing on successes and challenges they face, including sustainable land management.

African forests, people and the environment

In 2015, AFF organized a two-day workshop to examine important trends and issues in African forestry that could influence the roles of forests and trees in national economic development, support to livelihoods and environmental stability, among other forest values; in a lead up to the XIV World Forestry Congress.

The workshop was held in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa, the Centre for Sustainable Development-University of Ibadan, and the Forest Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa,



Participants of the pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop held from 4 to 5 September at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban, South Africa. Photo: AFF/2015

with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. It was attended by more than 100 stakeholders from 4 to 5 September 2015 and was held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban in South Africa.

Key messages from the two-day workshop were identified, discussed and presented by AFF's Executive Secretary, Prof. Godwin Kowero during Africa Day – a special event of the XIV World Forestry Congress - held on 8 September 2015 in Durban. The messages highlighted priority actions that could be taken by policy makers and forestry stakeholders locally, regionally and globally in order to deliver an economically beneficial African forestry sector.

The fourteenth World Forestry Congress (XIV WFC) concluded with a declaration that sets out a vision for 2050 where forests play a decisive role of improving food and livelihood security as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. Dubbed the 'Durban Declaration,' its plan of action outlines a series of steps that are crucial towards achieving the 2050 vision.

These steps include; further investment in forest education, communication, research and the



Prof. Godwin Kowero, ES AFF, at the XIV World Forestry Congress 2015, delivering the Durban Declaration during the Africa Day Special Event in South Africa. Photo: FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto.

creation of jobs, especially for young people. The declaration stresses the need for new partnerships among the forest, agriculture, finance, energy, water and other sectors, in addition to strong engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities. The Congress also issued messages to the UN Sustainable Development Summit and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Testimonial



"AFF generates a lot of information on forestry in Africa. We can exploit this capacity by placing ourselves as "Forest Observatory for Africa" AFF /FOA. This will require limited added capacity but can be done! Alternatively, among our partners, we should include forest resources observatories and forest watershed observatories in the different sub-regions of the continent. An example in the Congo Basin is the, "Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OSFAC), which generates highly specialized intelligence on forests in its area of coverage. There are others on forest watersheds in West Africa".

Dr. Martin Nganje, Independent Consultant, Cameroon

Shielding the African people from **vagaries of climate change**

Climate change is now recognized as a major threat to achieving the poverty reduction aspirations of many African countries as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns, water availability, sea levels, increasing droughts and bushfire frequency, increasingly impacting on human health, agriculture productivity and biodiversity. In this way climate change could adversely affect livelihoods of many people, incomes of nations and the environment people live in.

While forests are affected by climate change, they also play a key role in adaptation to climate change, for example, by increasing the resilience

of rural communities. Forests support species to adapt to changing climate patterns and sudden climate events by providing refuge and migration corridors. Also, they indirectly support economies to adapt to climate change by reducing the costs of climate-related negative impacts. Forest ecosystems also provide goods and services during extreme events (droughts and floods) and are key assets for reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Even better known is the role forests have in climate change mitigation.

An estimated 17.4% of global GHG emissions are derived from the forest sector and mainly from deforestation and forest degradation. Forests also have



Moussa Massaoudou (AFF member) and the chief of the village of Guidan Kusao, Niger, during a focus group discussion with women of the village on the socio-economic and cultural values of Faïd. Photo: AFF

considerable potential to sequester carbon. This can be achieved through afforestation, reforestation, forest restoration and changes to forest management practices, as well as substitution of forest products for fossil fuels or products requiring fossil fuels in their production. This has been fully appreciated by the ongoing global climate change negotiations.

The contribution of forests to climate change has been recognized as a cornerstone of the post-2012 climate change agenda with the decision on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) in COP-16 in Cancun. Developing appropriate adaptation and mitigation actions include the improvement of forest management to reduce vulnerability and to mitigate GHG through REDD+.

Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to face significant impacts from climate change, both on economies and the social systems. Forests and trees can play a crucial role in helping to adapt to climate change and mitigate greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Strengthening and further developing the forest / climate nexus therefore is a key issue for Africa's future development.

The work of AFF on climate change in forestry

As a contribution to the various efforts in addressing issues of climate change and variability, the African Forest Forum conducted some baseline studies in 2011 to understand better how climate change effects are manifesting in forestry. Also in 2011 AFF published a book on *"Climate change and forest and wildlife resources in Africa"* that summarized all scientific information the institution could gather and related to these resources in a climate change context on the continent. All these efforts facilitat-

ed the initiation of climate change work within the institution. To this end AFF has created, within its "Programmatic approach to the work of the African Forest Forum" a programme area on "Contribution of forests and trees to environmental health" that guides its work on climate change, biodiversity and water resources.

The climate change work at AFF is aimed to enhance the role of African forestry to help the people to adapt to the effects of climate change in various landscapes in ways that will improve livelihoods, sustain biodiversity and the quality of the environment, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Africa's forests to adapt to climate change and to contribute to mitigation efforts. The objective of this work is to better understand how forests and trees, and the people who depend on them in the various African landscapes, respond to climate change and variability.

Science-policy-practice interface in climate change

In an effort to promote a deeper understanding of policy and governance processes on climate change in the African forestry sector, AFF looked at relevant initiatives and policies at national, regional and global levels, such as national forestry programmes (NFPs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), climate change strategies and regional economic groups (RECs). The studies provide insights on how national policy development processes incorporate scientific information into national plans and activities, and how information about policy impacts is fed back into policy development. This has also offered a good understanding on the role of

forests in climate change, livelihood improvement and contribution to national incomes, as well as an understanding of better institutional and other governance arrangements and other opportunities needed to better manage forestry resources.

The results from AFF's efforts in this regard have been published in peer refereed journals like a special issue of "*Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science*" and that of "The International Forestry Review", documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, a book and book chapters, 8 teaching compendiums, policy briefs, fact sheets and reports

These results have helped inform stakeholders of how and why different modes of the science-policy interface work. They have also helped provide evidenced based science that can be used to improve existing policies and initiatives relevant to forests and climate change. In the process, AFF has played a role in raising the profile of the forest sector relative to other sectors of the economy to the challenges of climate change.

Regional knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation

Globally, there is growing recognition of the power of knowledge exchange, or peer-to-peer learning, as a highly effective approach to sharing, replicating, adapting and scaling up successful solutions for managing forest in the context of climate change.

As a contribution to this effort, AFF has to-date conducted a series of regional information sharing workshops on climate change in African forestry to disseminate the findings from studies conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa that focused on experiences with: (i) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), (ii) Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) and (iii) Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU), (iv) forest based adaptation and mitigation measures pertinent to AFOLU, (v) drivers of forest cover change and land use-change, (vi) the balance between food-fuel-fibre production in the context of climate change and (vii) public and private sector development in forestry and response to climate change.



Regional workshop on sharing knowledge and experiences on public and private sector development in forestry and response to climate change and transboundary forestry issues. 10-14 July 2017, Mensvic Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Evaluation on the effectiveness of the information sharing workshops shows that 91% of the African forest stakeholders gained new knowledge and skills on climate change in African forestry. The African forest stakeholders are applying new knowledge and skills to: create awareness and sensitization on African forestry in the context of climate change; build capacity on management of forests in the face of climate change; develop community projects; and research on forest management in the context of climate change.



Participants at a field exercise on above ground biomass assessment during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Madagascar.
Photo: AFF/2015

Capacity building and skills development in forest carbon stock assessment

The development of profitable national forest carbon projects in Africa is another challenge arising from climate change and climate variability. Over the past ten years, AFF in collaboration with many national partner institutions has held a series of national training workshops to strengthen capacities and develop skills of African countries to undertake Rapid Carbon Stock Assessments (RaCSA) and enable them to establish basic data needed for accessing carbon markets in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner.

The training focused on, among other things, assessment of forest carbon, forest carbon marketing and trade, development of Project Idea Notes (PIN) and Project Design Documents (PDD). The training modules developed earlier, namely; *“Training modules on forest-based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading and payment for other environmental services”* guided the instruction. These modules are now widely used by professional and technical institutions as well as other interested parties like extension agents and NGOs who can reach local communities.

A total of 574 African stakeholders were trained as trainers between 2011 and 2017 in 16 African countries. An additional 66 from the private African forestry sector were also trained. Many are reported to have used the training to develop or participate in developing forest carbon projects. In a survey undertaken by AFF, the trainees reported to have raised interest among stakeholders on carbon trading projects (46%), enhanced conservation activities in readiness for carbon trading projects (38%), and some had mainstreamed carbon assessment issues within their institutions (16%).

In the period (2014-2019), AFF developed eight training compendiums in a pedagogical manner on:

- Basic science of climate change: a compendium for professional training in African forestry
- Basic science of climate change: a compendium for technical training in African forestry
- Basic science of climate change: a compendium for short courses in African forestry
- Carbon markets and trade: a compendium for professional training in African forestry
- Carbon markets and trade: a compendium for technical training in African forestry
- Carbon markets and trade: a compendium for short courses in African forestry
- Climate modelling and scenario development: a compendium for professional training in African forestry
- International dialogues, processes and mechanisms on climate change: compendium for professional and technical training in African forestry

These training materials are the first of their kind in Africa, and most likely in the world, and are based on demands by African forestry and related training institutions expressed through a need's assessment conducted by AFF. They are expected to provide educational and training information, organized in a pedagogical manner, that is crucial to a standard or uniform approach in building the capacity and skills on climate change issues related to forestry among African forestry stakeholders in the various African sub-regions. They will also provide guidance on addressing national and regional issues on climate change and forestry by other interested stakeholders. AFF has also equipped African forest-based small-medium enterprises (SMEs) with skills and knowledge on how to develop and engage on forest carbon business.

This was achieved through two training workshops on rapid forest carbon appraisal, one held in Maputo, Mozambique, for Anglophone-Lusophone Africa where 33 participants were trained; and the other held in Cotonou, Benin, for Francophone Africa where 30 participants were trained. Following the training for Francophone countries, some of the delegates from the private sector formed their own WhatsApp platform for sharing information among themselves. This platform continues to be operational and managed by themselves. Others exchanged information on trade in forest products among themselves facilitated by AFF's intranet.

The key results from these efforts include:

- Improved knowledge available and used by African stakeholders in managing forests and landscape in the context of climate change.
- African stakeholders making good use of information on how to develop forest carbon projects and establish basic data needed for negotiating with carbon markets and trade in a cost effective and time efficient manner
- African stakeholders contributing to shaping of policies and initiatives relevant to forests and climate change

AFF-HAFL scholarship program

AFF and the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) of Bern University of Applied Sciences in Zollikofen, Switzerland, established a partnership to support a scholarship programme for capacity building of African scientists that will eventually enhance the role of forests and forestry in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.



AFF-HAFL scholarship students attending a meeting at Lüdernalp. Photo credit: School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Zollikofen, Switzerland.

The AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program prepares students who occupy a very special niche in African forestry to handle complex questions of forest policy and management under conditions of global change. This includes changing climate, the role of forests to contribute to poverty reduction, food security and human wellbeing and adapting and expanding forest utilization, wood technology and trade for future demands.

The graduates are best prepared for specialized positions in international organizations, management positions in private sector organizations, internationally-oriented civil society organizations and research institutions. Members of the private sector, civil society and academia are regularly invited to the classes to enable networking between students and players in the international forest development context.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, there were four first batch of sponsored African students, namely Jacob Amoako (Ghana), Fifonsi Ayélé Dangbo (Togo), Nesibu Yahya Kedirkan (Ethiopia) and Carolyni Kathini Kyalo (Kenya), selected from 41 applicants. The second batch of students for 2016-2018 were Temitope Elizabeth Adeniyi (Nigeria), Lydia Afriye (Ghana), Mulumba Matia Agaba (Uganda) and Fredyas Jaurès Eyebiyi (Benin) selected from 105 applicants.

The third cycle of the AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program began in 2018 and attracted 122 applicants from across Africa. Following an in-depth selection process, the four winners of the award are: Bhoke Masisi (Tanzania), Melody Makumborenga (Zimbabwe), Olivier Nkurinziza (Rwanda) and Isaac Youb (Gabon). The four students began their MSc programme in international forestry in February 2019 and are expected to graduate in September 2020.



Photo: MSc graduates at HAFL in 2015 (including Nesibu Kedirkan, Jacob Amoako and Ayélé Dangbo from the AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program) ©School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Zollikofen, Switzerland

Post-graduate scholarships in forestry-based programs with African universities

AFF launched a post-graduate fellowship grant to facilitate the implementation of various activities in its two projects. The scholarships aimed at building the capacity of the students in the areas AFF is working on, as well as the capacity of their universities and eventual employers. This also created another opportunity for AFF to partner with many African institutions and also increasing its reach on the continent. AFF developed memoranda of understanding with these universities before developing contractual agreements with them to implement the scholarships.

Twenty postgraduate students from 11 countries across Africa were awarded research fellowships for their graduate research in forestry-based programs. Twelve of the fellows (3 females and 9

males) were supported through the “African Forests, People and Climate Change” project funded by SDC. Of these, 4 were on their masters’ degrees while 8 were at PhD level. Their research was on issues related to the impacts of climate change vulnerability of biophysical and socio-economic systems with emphasis on gender responsiveness and critical ecosystems.

The fellows were from: University of Nairobi, Maa-sai Mara University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (all from Kenya); Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), University of Bahri (Sudan), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Dan Dicko Dan Kolodo University of Maradi (Niger), University of Free State (South Africa), Lilongwe University of Agriculture (Malawi), and University of Antananarivo (Madagascar).

The other eight fellows did research on issues related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), supported by the Sida funded project entitled “Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa”. The focus of the project was to contribute towards enhanced sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to the adverse effects of climate change, and up-scale promising approaches that could support livelihoods.

These eight postgraduate students were from seven African universities, namely University of

Stellenbosch and University of Pretoria (both South Africa); University of Buea and University of Yaoundé (both Cameroon); Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources (Ethiopia); Egerton University (Kenya); Moshi Co-operative University (Tanzania). Two of the students were on masters’ degree research and six on PhD level studies; with three from West and Central Africa five from East and Southern Africa. Both research fellowships were implemented in various African forest types including rain forests, mangroves, woodland and savanna, and parklands of the Sahel.

Testimonial



“The master’s degree I got from this program allowed me to enroll in a PhD program in Togo. At the same time, I work as a technical assistant on REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) program in Togo”.

Fifonsi Ayélé Dangbo (Togo)



“The University of Pretoria is one of the recipients for the Post Graduate Research Fellowships and has also signed the MoU for collaborative research with AFF.”

Professor Paxie Wanangwa Chirwa

SAFCOL Forest Chair & Director of the Forest Science Postgraduate Programme, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria

Mainstreaming gender in the work of AFF

Growing literature indicates that the full potential of forests may never be grasped without an understanding of how women and men use forest and tree resources differently. Because of cultural, social, economic, and institutional differences, the needs and contributions of women and girls are often overlooked. As a result, they are less able to participate fully and derive equal benefits from the forestry sector. It is for this reason that AFF has made deliberate efforts to mainstream gender into its activities and related analyses.

To start with, AFF engaged a gender specialist in 2014 to conduct a more in-depth gender analysis and monitor the inclusion and implementation activities throughout its projects. A staff seminar on

gender was organised in 2015 aimed at achieving a common understanding of gender responsive research. Subsequently, project activities have been organised to ensure gender sensitivity and responsiveness in selected studies. At the AFF Secretariat the staff of 9 people is 55.6% women and 44.4% men.

Regular surveys help assess aspects related to gender in AFF's work. The findings enable the institution to redress any shortcomings or inconsistencies in the design of its projects while identifying key opportunities for gender responsive actions. Specifically, to raise women and men's skills in relevant focus areas and ensure that all participants attending training sessions have the same



Cécile Ndjebet, President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests, and member of the AFF Governing Council – women in forestry chapter. AHEG2, New York, US. Photo: IISD/2015

knowledge to work together more effectively. For example, gender disaggregation of participants in consultancies, workshops, and trainings under the project *Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa* from 2014 to 2016 indicate:

- Out of a total of 49 experts engaged by AFF to undertake its activities in this period, nine experts were female (18.4%) while 40 (81.6%) were male.
- Out of a total of 10 workshops and training sessions organized through the project bringing together a total of 516 participants, women representation ranged from 12.8% to 34.4%.

The low representation of women is also exemplified among the AFF membership which currently stands at 22% while men represent 78%. Not many women participate in professional forestry activities on the continent. In this regard, gender responsive work at AFF to-date has led to integration of gender specific issues in the terms of reference developed for various studies; gender response analysed output and gender disaggregation data sets; gender indicators and information targets developed to track and monitor gender perspectives on expected outcomes; and gender criteria included in the selection of experts and students for research grants.

Knowledge and Information Brokerage

Forests and forestry continue to be very much profiled on the global agenda and their relevance to other sectors of national economies is increasingly being recognized. The processes that have precipitated these phenomena have involved considerable interaction among many stakeholders. The African Forest Forum continues to contribute to these processes by providing a platform for the networking and interchange of forest related information among the many stakeholders involved in the African forestry sector.

In this regard, the African Forest Forum (AFF)'s Communication Strategy is designed to connect with key audiences and increase levels of engage-

ment and commitment to the sustainable management of forestry resources in Africa. These audiences include governments, United Nations entities, international organisations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), research institutions, civil society, private sector, youth groups and other stakeholders in accordance with the Institution's Short- and Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2015-2020).

The key activity has been to communicate the content and context of projects, research findings, ideas, reports, interesting publications, best practices, events, opportunities, meetings and policy pushes. Other activities have centered



on promoting AFF's mission and vision, its values, corporate goals and comparative advantage of its character to influence and facilitate organizations and people to take actions that could better situate forestry in the path of sustainable development of African nations.

In this regard, a variety of communication tools have been used by AFF, the most important being the website. Info-mail and social media channels are the second and third most important communication tools while Flickr, a popular image and video hosting website widely used by researchers, has also been utilized to enhance embedding of AFF photographs in blogs and social media. AFF reports (annual and semi-annual), publications, and other documents like reports, policy briefs, fact sheets and newsletters are additional tools that AFF uses to make content available in different formats.

The AFF website

The AFF website serves as a knowledge and information hub on African forestry for its members and other stakeholders. The website increases the pub-

lic's access to data and information on forestry and other developments around the world, largely through collaboration with AFF members and relevant organizations and individuals. It has also been expanded considerably in terms of functionality to include two new knowledge portals. The portals link to 109 databases on forest resources and related information, to provide a one-stop shop for forestry knowledge in Africa.

In this way, the website avails knowledge on priority issues that are critical for the development of the forest sector, including current, new and emerging issues; the aim being to inform policy making, investment decisions and capacity building at continental, regional and national levels. The website is also able to provide daily information drawn from the news, social media, international and business community that forms the agenda of on-going discussions, making it both transparent and accessible to all stakeholders.

Data provided by the most widely used web analytics service on the Internet – Google Analytics – gives the following milestones on AFF's web traffic, product downloads and spread of visitors.



Unique visitors

The users of AFF's website are a mixture of regular and loyal audience, and those with interest in its content and the African continent and its forestry. Since 2014, the number of unique visitors¹ to the website has grown steadily from:

- 2014 with 10,747 unique visitors
- 2015 with 26,836 unique visitors
- 2016 with 37,833 unique visitors
- 2017 with 254,741 unique visitors
- 2018 with 415,831 unique visitors

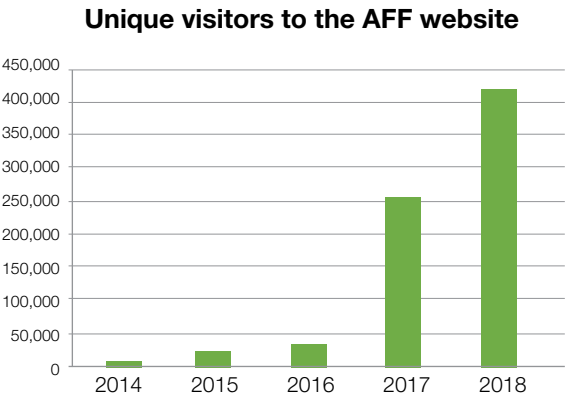


Table 1: Monthly unique visitors

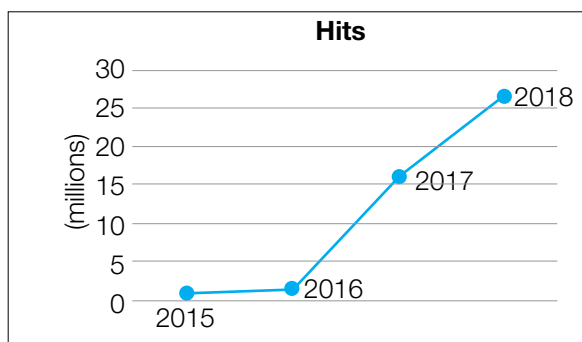
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages opened	Hits
Jan 2018	26,036	89,883	2,097,786	2,131,004
Feb 2018	24,596	96,691	682,625	712,949
Mar 2018	24,419	97,361	746,072	788,811
Apr 2018	22,523	92,305	803,326	840,009
May 2018	30,298	109,757	728,795	779,734
Jun 2018	29,869	115,099	947,268	981,297
Jul 2018	35,930	146,678	2,065,724	2,104,548
Aug 2018	39,446	181,010	3,410,617	3,454,440
Sep 2018	39,854	143,327	2,517,121	2,563,943
Oct 2018	42,000	175,478	4,411,973	4,466,674
Nov 2018	40,314	155,523	4,400,408	4,433,540
Dec 2018	60,546	225,575	3,204,398	3,240,524
Total	415,831	1,453,209	26,016,113	26,497,473

Source Google Analytics (2018)

¹ A visitor is sometimes referred to as a unique visitor or a unique user to clearly convey the idea that each visitor is only counted once through the IP address of the computer or device the user is browsing from

In 2018, the website recorded **1,453,209 visits from 415,831 unique visitors from 141 countries worldwide**. This shows a growth in total audience size by 161,090 unique visitors from the year 2017. The data also shows that the level of interaction with web content has significantly increased through the viewing of 26,016,113 pages. The highest amount of traffic was witnessed in the month of October with 42,000 unique visitors while the number of hits amounted to 26,497,473. The reason for this could be attributed to increased interest in AFF's work by the general public owing to regular web announcements and press coverage of AFF's activities, through local, regional and international media channels.

Hits on the aff website - comparative analysis



Furthermore, **the website's total hits² in 2018 were 26,497,473** while in 2017 they amounted to 16,020,898. In 2016, the total number of hits were 1.4 million and 0.9 million in 2015. While an analysis of this type of data is hardly a true reflection of the site's performance, it shows that there was an increase in the number and variety of photos, graphics, text and videos downloaded from the

website. As a result, the number of hits has increased over the past three years.

According to Google Analytics (2018), most visitors to the website came from an organic search –traffic originating from a search engine, such as Google or Bing (i.e. the first source of traffic). This is a direct reflection of AFF's improved ranking through site optimization, competitive keywords, consistent announcements and efforts in the sharing of information. It also demonstrates the results of promotional efforts made in promoting awareness on AFF as a trusted and authoritative platform for stakeholders in African forestry. Visitors, of whom manually entered the URL of the AFF website or had it bookmarked, are the second source of traffic and indicates that users of AFF's website have an interest in its content. Info-mail, social media and partner websites are the third, fourth and fifth sources respectively and shows that AFF members, along with other stakeholders in African forestry, visit the website.

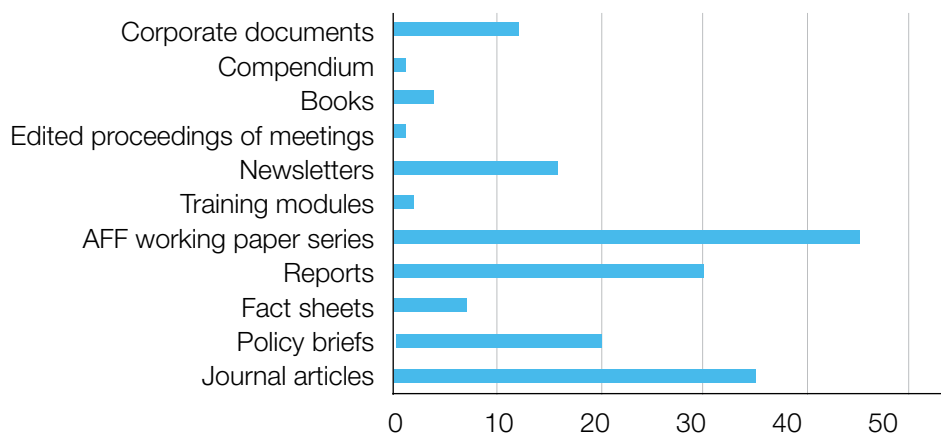
Product downloads

AFF produces a range of products that inform members and other stakeholders on the latest information from research and other studies on African forestry and related areas, as well as important events that have a bearing on national, regional and global forestry issues.

The range of information materials freely available on the website includes: Journal articles (35), policy briefs (20), factsheets (7), reports (30), publications under AFF Working Paper Series (45), training modules (2), newsletters (16), edited proceedings of meetings (1), books (4), compendium (1), and corporate documents (12). All this information is relevant to many African forestry stakeholders in decision making, policy formulation and implementation.

2 A 'hit' refers to the number of files downloaded on a site

List of AFF knowledge products



This is attested by the **downloading of a total 22,608 documents and 24,043,020 opened pages** by stakeholders in governments, scientists, civil society and other interested parties in 2018. The most downloaded document in 2018, was the Call for the 3rd cycle of the AFF- School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) at Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, scholarship programme call- 3rd edition.

Other publications that feature in the top 10 downloads for the year 2018, include: the book titled, "Forest certification in Africa: achievements, challenges and opportunities; compendium for technical and forestry education on "Non-Wood Forest Products and Services for Socio-Economic Development" and working papers, part of a series on the state of forest plantations and woodlots in eastern and north eastern African countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan, as well as the state of national forestry associations in eastern, southern and West Africa. The top ten downloads are different each year.

Geographical spread of visitors to the website

The highest visits to the website originate from the following ten countries: Kenya, USA, India, Nigeria, France, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Germany, Tanzania and China. African countries dominate the list with Kenya in the lead. The fact that AFF is headquartered in Kenya could be one of the main reasons that the country tops the list.

AFF continues to primarily target its information to African country stakeholders and this can be seen to bear fruit because six out of the ten countries are from the African continent. The United States of America follows closely behind, along with India and France, demonstrating an international and widespread appeal of AFF's activities and products, stretching from the Americas through Europe to Asia.

A further analysis of the top 50 countries visiting the website, indicate impressive visits from French speaking countries including, Benin, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Togo, Madagascar, Burkina Faso



and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), among others. The website is gradually being populated with French written material translated from what is already appearing there in English. Hopefully, before the end of 2019 the website will have both French and English windows, with all documents on the website appearing in both languages.

Media engagement

A key achievement towards this end has been the development of a media database of 60 journalists to facilitate sharing of timely information on the outcomes and news-worthy conclusions of AFF's work - crucial for increased visibility. The media outlets were selected following a comparative analysis of local, regional and international media based on reach, circulation and credibility. As a result, several media interviews have been coordinated by the AFF Secretariat, to help raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest

resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests and trees.

For example, 17 articles (15 English, 2 French) were collected in 2016 with media coverage spread across the East, West, South and Central Africa, as well as with the wider international community.

The majority of the media focused on issues related to the state of African forests while referring extensively to the contribution of forests to national economies and rural livelihoods by making reference to studies undertaken by AFF and partners.

In 2018, a media workshop was held on the 31st of October to build and strengthen AFF's relationships with the media. During the media workshop, media expressed interest in having more workshops on various forestry issues and topics such as forest certification and carbon trading. The journalists also expressed interest to be invited for conferences for a deeper understanding on forestry issues

AFF IN THE MEDIA

RADIO

- African Dialogue, 9 Sep 2015, 14th World Forestry Congress. Interviewees include: Trevor Abrahams, Secretary General of the 14th World Forestry Congress; Prof Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forestry Forum and Dr. Aissetou Yaye, Executive Secretary of The African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE). <http://iono.fm/e/207269>
- Our Heritage, 17 Sep 2015, Forest and people (part 1). The podcast features Prof Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum <http://iono.fm/e/209597>
- Our Heritage, 9 Oct 2015, Forests Our Heritage. The podcast features Dominic Walubengo (Kenya) and Dennis Kayambazinthu (Malawi) <http://iono.fm/e/216506>
- United Nations Radio: News feature with Prof Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forestry Forum <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/kiswahili/2015/09/mzigo-wa-kiuchumi-kwa-ajili-ya-tabianchini-mzito-kwa-bara-la-afrikaprof-kowero/#.ViS-Dn4rK01>
- African Dialogue, 29 Sep 2016, Knowledge sharing conference in Togo. Interviewees among others include: Prof Godwin Kowero Executive Secretary (AFF), Dr Mbolo Abada Marie Marguerite, Senior Lecturer University Yaounde and Humphrey Ngibuini Kenyan Delegate <https://iono.fm/e/336597> <https://iono.fm/e/352092?autoplay=1>; <https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/african-dialogue-forestry-lome-togo>; <https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/aff-prof-godwin-koweromp3>

<https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/african-dialogue-forestry-lome-togo>; <https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/aff-prof-godwin-koweromp3>

- Radio Lomé, 26 Sep 2016, Knowledge sharing conference in Togo. News feature available at <http://www.radiolome.tg/2016/09/26/forum-des-experts-forestiers-internationaux-a-lome/>
- African Dialogue, 23 May African Forest Forum. Channel Africa. <https://iono.fm/e/434315>

TELEVISION

- KTN, 2 and 3 Oct 2016, The Chamwada Report: The State of African Forests Episode 63 (part one and two) News feature available at: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/watch/2000114441/-the-chamwada-report-the-state-of-african-forests-episode-63-part-one> and <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/watch/2000114442/-the-chamwada-report-the-state-of-african-forests-episode-63-part-two>
- TVC News, 4 Oct Saving Africa's Forests available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lizzB-cSn9Y>
- Africa Forest Forum: UNIOSUN to host delegates from 16 Countries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AULQrP-D2gs>
- Experts call on African governments to prioritize conservation of forests. Published on May 23, 2017 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRsLeLbePYQ>
- Weak monitoring systems are a threat to the future of Africa's forests, say experts. Published on May 24, 2017 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgF2dyHLezY>

- SAFCOL Forestry Industrialisation Conference 2017. SOUTH AFRICA. Oct 19, 2017, CNBC Africa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvGA-L4Rsfw> (See minutes 48:48-52:50).
- Africa lack capacity to provide 50 percent of seeds, other planting materials for forestry. DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania Nov 8, 2017 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvHPeFeOVAo>
- YAOUNDE (Thomson Reuters Foundation) 2018: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cameroon-forest-soccer/as-cameroon-prepares-for-the-african-cup-of-nations-trees-fall-idUSKCN1IX3PO>
- The Daily Trust, 2018 <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/african-forest-forum-warns-on-dangers-of-deforestation.html>
- African Forest Forum explores modelling climate change in forestry sector <http://climateresources.com/2018/04/african-forest-forum-explores-modelling-climate-change-in-forestry-sector/>

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

- Eco Nigeria, 26-30 Sept 2016. News features available at: <http://econigeria.com/aff-kicks-off-regional-workshop-on-african-forestry-in-lome-togo/>; <http://econigeria.com/food-production-increases-annually-as-forest-area-diminishes/>; <http://econigeria.com/saving-africas-endangered-forests/>; <http://econigeria.com/lessons-from-africanforestry2016-understanding-sustainable-forest-management/>
- The Standard Tribune, 28 Sept 2016. Available at: <http://thestandardtribune.com/2016/09/28/forest-experts-seek-to-deepen-knowledge-on-african-forestry/>
- PAMACC news wire, 28 Sept 2016. Available at: <http://pamacc.org/index.php/k2-listing/item/339-forest-experts-seek-to-deepen-knowledge-on-africanforestry/> <http://www.pamacc.org/index.php/k2-listing/item/340-roads-used-by-forest-loggers-are-a-majorenvironmental-challenge-experts>
- InfoCongo news wire, 4 Oct 2016. Available at: <http://infocongo.org/africas-great-green-wall-to-fight-climate-migration-terrorism/>
- Environnment infos: N° 12 - 16 Octobre 2016
- African conservationists seek incentives to stimulate growth of carbon markets ENTEBBE, Uganda, May 26 (Xinhua) http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/26/c_136318263.htm
- Experts sound alarm over pests and diseases ravaging African forests. ENTEBBE, Uganda, May 24 (Xinhua) -- http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/24/c_136311933.htm
- African scientists root for improved forests management to tackle climate change ENTEBBE, Uganda, May 22 (Xinhua) http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/23/c_136305738.htm
- African experts urge investment in forest conservation to boost green growth NAIROBI, April 22 (Xinhua) http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/22/c_136228265.htm
- African countries vow to fight illegal timber trade. Published on Sept. 19 (Xinhua), Nairobi. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/20/c_136621971.htm

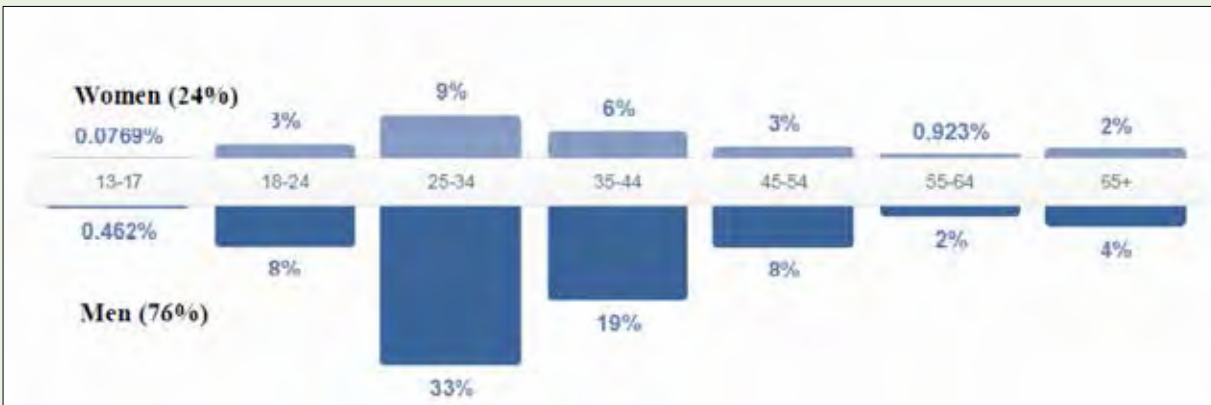
- Conservation leaders in Africa call for a crackdown on biopiracy. Published on Mongabay.com <https://news.mongabay.com/2017/10/conservation-leaders-in-africa-call-for-a-crackdown-on-biopiracy/>
- AFF builds capacity in forest management towards green growth path DAR ES SALAAM, November 2, 2017. <http://climatoreporters.com/2017/11/aff-builds-capacity-in-forest-management-towards-a-green-growth-path/>
- Watafiti nawanasayansi wafanya kongomano la misitu nchini Tanzania. Nairobi. KTN Leo, Tuesday 24 Oct 2017 <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/2000141909/-watafiti-na-wanasayansi-wafanya-kongomano-la-misitu-nchini-tanzania>

Social media channels

Social networks like Facebook, media-sharing sites like YouTube and micro-blogging sites like Twitter have facilitated social interaction during AFF training workshops. Topics that have dominated conversations on social media are related to the following areas; sustainable management of

African forests, climate change in African forestry, opportunities in the forestry sector and engagement of African delegates to multilateral processes, and carbon markets. In light of this, there has been an increase in twitter followers from 651 (2017) to 776 in 2018 while Facebook was up from 942 to 1,707 followers.

The figure below provides aggregated demographic data about the people who follow AFF Facebook page (the most popular social network) based on the age and gender information they provide in their user profiles. 24% of 1,231 followers (296 people) aged between 25-34 are women while the majority (76%) are male followers (935) within the same age bracket. The audience interacting with AFF on Facebook are from the following top 10 countries; Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, Egypt and United States of America. Five countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, India and United States of America) are consistent with their interest and level of engagement with AFF as they also visit the website regularly. Majority speak English (1,077), followed by French (118) and Arabic (25).



Demographic data – AFF Social media page (2018)





Perspectives From AFF Members and Partners



A few stories of change...

many more are available

Introducing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) into forestry courses in an African University



Service Charter, Njala University in Sierra Leone.

Photo: Njala University

Njala University in Sierra Leone is in the process of reviewing its forestry curriculum to include negotiations for forestry related multilateral environmental agreements as part of the courses in the Department of Forestry. This is according to Mr. Moses Fayiah, a lecturer in the Department of Forestry. Moses attended the training workshop on multilateral environmental engagements and related processes for Anglo-phone African countries organized by the African Forest Forum in Mombasa, Kenya, in December 2015.

"The workshop introduced to me to a new concept of international negotiations for African forestry and also made me aware of the need and possibilities of building more capacity on international agreements in our institution", he reported during a follow up interview with AFF in July 2016. At the end of the training, he had proposed to take some actions to introduce the concept of MEAs to his institution, Njala University. These actions included teaching, sensitizing the University administration, seminars and publications.

In January 2016, Mr. Fayiah wrote a report on the training workshop and submitted it to the Head, Department of Forestry, Njala University. In the report, he highlighted the need to train more students in the concept of MEAs and promote his country's participation in international processes. The Head of Department then held discussions with the Dean of School of Natural Resources Management and the University Senate to incorporate MEAs as a topic into forestry training programs at Njala University.

In 2017, the Department of Forestry made a curriculum review and the proposal from the Head of Department to include MEAs as part of the curriculum in Community Forestry and Rural Participation as well as Natural Resource Management was adopted into the revised curriculum. The curriculum review process is on course and was set to be completed in mid-2017. Meanwhile, the students taught by Moses are already benefiting from the knowledge and resource materials from the training workshop. By July 2017, a total of 51 students for Diploma and BSc courses in Forest Management, Introduction to Forestry, and Community Forestry had been impacted by the information and knowledge on MEAs. Moses is very optimistic that the knowledge on multilateral environmental agreements will be put to use by these students.



Promoting collaboration among forestry researchers in Africa

Professor Achille Assogbadjo is a senior lecturer and researcher in the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin. He teaches and supervises students at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels in forestry and more specifically in forest ecology, forest genetics, ethnobotany, non-timber forest products, conservation of natural resources and scientific writing. Professor Assogbadjo has been a member of the African Forest

Forum (AFF) since 2011 and has benefitted from AFF online resources.

He has published widely in forestry and, according to him, he relied on the AFF sources for information on the status and experiences of many African countries, for example in the publication on *'Impacts of human disturbance and climate variability on population structure of Afzelia africana Sm. ex pers (Fabaceae–Caesalpinioideae) in Benin'*.

In 2015, Prof. Assogbadjo was sponsored by AFF to attend the XIV World Forest Congress in Durban, South Africa where he made oral presentations both at the pre-Congress workshop organised by AFF and at the main Congress. As a result, his paper was selected and published in *Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science*, a peer reviewed journal. During this event, he networked with many forestry professionals from African counties.

After the Congress he teamed up with contacts from the University of Abomey Calavi, Republic of Benin, and the University of Ouagadougou (through Prof. Adjima Thiombiano) and the University Abdou Moumouni in Niger (through Prof Ali Mahamane) to propose a project on the contribution of home gardens to food security and nutrition in response to the African Union call. Almost all members involved in this consortium are also members of AFF and this is a key point to sustain through this network collaboration between their home institutions. All these have contributed to expanding his horizons on forestry research and training, and he is keen to share his experiences with as many people as possible

Promoting forest certification among tree farmers in Swaziland

Mr. Nkosinganathi Jele, is a senior forester in the Forestry Department, Swaziland. He attended the AFF training workshop on forest certification in Mombasa, Kenya, in December 2015.

In partnership with FSC South Africa Bureau, Mr. Jele is in the process of developing certification standards for private farmers in Swaziland to enable them supply their tree products to Montigny Forest Company. Montigny is a Swazi-owned and operated diversified timber Company. In February 2016, Mr. Jele held a workshop for private farmers together with FSC South Africa Bureau. The aim was to sensitize the farmers and to get them ready for certification of their trees so that they could be suppliers for the Montigny Company. Ten land owners with plantations of the wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) were selected to participate in the pilot phase of this initiative. The process is ongoing will be monitored to establish how farmers will adopt the certification standards and the challenges experienced. Certification is perceived to be expensive by individual farmers, and Mr. Jele encourages farmers to work as a group through the Montigny Company to reduce costs.



wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*)

Fostering community development in the context of climate change in Taita Taveta County, Kenya



Lake Challa ©Taita Taveta County Government

The training workshops organised by AFF have provided participants from civil society organisations such as Mr. Faraj Mwakitau with knowledge and skills on how to promote community development in the context of climate change. Mr. Mwakitau is the Chairman of Mwatate District Stakeholder's Forum and the Coordinator all development activities in Mwatate area of Taita Taveta County in Kenya.

Mr. Mwakitau has attended three training workshops sponsored by AFF. He attended the training on Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Assessment (RaCSA) in Kitui, Kenya, in September 2014; the training on multilateral environmental engagements and related processes in Mombasa, Kenya, in December 2015, and the training on forest certification in Accra, Ghana, in June, 2016.

When contacted in July 2016 to find out what actions he had taken to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the workshops, this is what he had to say: *"From the RaCSA training in Kitui, I am now able to understand carbon emissions, measurement, verification and reporting, and how to reduce carbon emissions. With this information, I am able to contribute to projects that improve community livelihoods through adaptation to climate change".*

"Since the training, together with other members of Mwatate Stakeholders Forum including Habel Mwakio, Hanna Sau, Godrick Mghosi, Margret Kasha and Joseph Kilango, we have conducted seminars and focus group discussions with the community on issues related to adaptation to climate change and economic empowerment. We use the AFF training modules on forest-based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading, and payment for other environmental services for informal groups to train the community on climate change and ways to adapt to changing weather conditions. We already installed 6 under-ground tanks with donor funding to encourage women to put up kitchen gardens for vegetable production. We also trained the women in table banking in order to raise income for these climate change adaptation projects".

"The training on multilateral environmental agreements and related processes in Mombasa improved my knowledge on the activities that can be taken by my organisation to implement the international agreements such as the one on REDD+. Through participation in the project on carbon marketing for credit undertaken by the Wildlife Works, funded by the European Investment Bank, IFC and World Bank on carbon bonds, we facilitate the community's readiness for carbon trading. The project has provided a community fund which facilitates infrastructural development in schools and other social places in the county. It also provides school fees for needy students."

Promoting regional cooperation in the management of forest fires in Togo

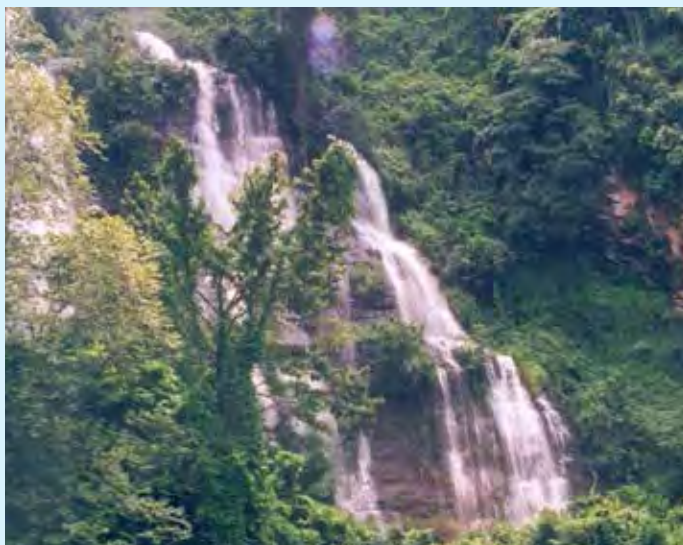


Photo: Waterfall near Kpalimé, Togo via Wikimedia Commons

Afelu Bareremna is the National Forestry Program Coordinator with the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources in Togo and also PhD researcher at the University of Lome. He participated in the XIV World Forest Congress (WFC) and presented a paper entitled '*Problématique de gestion des feux de forêts dans un contexte de dérèglement climatique et de REDD+*'. His study recommended for regional collaboration in management of forests and forest fires in particular, in the context of climate change.

"During and after this Congress, I widened my experts' networks in management of forests, I understood better the world stakes around the sustainable management of forests, REDD + and of

the geopolitics around forests" he reported in his feedback several months after the Congress. Back home in his institution, he proposed a raft of measures to promote forest plantations and management of forest fires. One of the initiatives was a research collaboration that he proposed in December 2015 to researchers from the University of Kinshasa, DRC and from Kenya, whom he met at the WFC. He proposed a research study on forest fires management. The researchers accepted his invitation to collaborate and the process to formalize the collaboration and raise funds for the project is ongoing.

He also shared the WFC recommendations with colleagues in the Ministry, including senior managers in charge of environment in Togo. He related his report to the main issues of the National Program of Planting presented to local stakeholders in Togo. There has been regular interactions among individuals and institutions around the issues from the meetings leading to information and sensitization of non-forest specialists on forest management issues in national development.

His constant interaction with colleagues and other stakeholders on these issues led to updating of forestry related policies in the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources of Togo, to integrate recommendations from the WFC in the National Forest Investing Program. It also resulted in new options for livelihood improvement through implementation of national program of planting (like non-timber forest products management) and more integration of the local communities needs in the forest management planning.

AFF info-mail brings international exposure to one AFF member from Uganda

Caesar Kimbungwe is the Senior Program Coordinator, Environment and Natural Resources at Water Aid Uganda. He is involved in implementation of forestry and climate change programs particularly on aspects of REDD+, forest certification, climate change vulnerability and collaborative forest management.

As a member of the African Forest Forum (AFF), Caesar receives regular information on regional and global news and updates on forestry by email.



According to him, this information provides reliable facts and statistics, lessons and experiences as well as first hand updates on forestry policy discourse fora and updates across the globe.

At the beginning of 2015, he received information about AFF's planned engagements at the XIV World Forestry Congress from one such email. He responded to the 'Call for abstracts' to participate in the pre WFC workshop organized by AFF and was selected to be one of the presenters in the Pre-congress event and also to participate in the XIV WFC.

This is what he said when contacted by the African Forest Forum about his experience: *"This is my first time to make a presentation at an international stage. It is a great opportunity that not only presents me with a platform to share experiences and influence forest policy at international level; it has also built my capacity in documentation of policy advocacy issues through compiling a policy paper on forest certification"*. His colleagues involved in the development of a national forest certification standard in Uganda are excited about the prospects of sharing their experiences at the international level through Caesar's presentation. His presentation entitled *'Demystifying forest certification as an approach to improving governance, marketing and trade in forest products: the case of Uganda'* contributed to shaping recommendations on forest governance, marketing and trade made at the pre-Congress workshop. Caesar commends AFF for its efforts in providing regular information to African foresters and urges AFF to continue with the efforts in promoting information sharing and networking among stakeholders.

Promoting forest certification among tree farmers in Tanzania

Beatrice Joseph, a participant in the training workshop on forest certification for Eastern and Southern Africa held in Mombasa, Kenya, in December 2015 has taken to promoting forest certification concept among tree farmers in Tanzania to improve the value of their tree products. Ms. Joseph is the Business Development Coordinator, Control Union Inspections and Certification (T) Ltd, Tanzania. At the end of the workshop she proposed to create awareness on the importance of forest certification and sustainable forest management to stakeholders after the training. This is because she had realised the gap in knowledge on forest certification, being a stakeholder in the tree plantation business.



Coastal forest at Pugu Hills Forest Reserve, Pwani, Tanzania. Photo via Wikimedia/ Pharaoh Han

In June 2016, during a follow up by AFF, she reported: *"I participated in a pre-audit for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for SFI/Foam International, a private company in Tanzania. This was my first opportunity to apply the skills from the training. During this time, I met with forest managers and the plantation owners under this company. The plantation managers understood the importance of forest certification and were willing to follow the FSC guidelines as they prepared for the official inspection. By March 2017, the SFI/ Foam plantation was not yet FSC certified, but they were on course to meet the requirements"*.

Separately, she undertook to sensitize local farmers, members of the Kitimbwi Tree Growers Association about forest certification but they were non-committal due to the cost involved. *"The Kitimbwi tree farmers showed interest in the concept of forest certification but when it came to the costs of certification, they were reserved, because there is no guarantee of getting their money back, unless, there was a*

willing buyer ready for the certified products. The general perception among local farmers is that forest certification is all about branding, a logo and higher prices for the certified products".

According to her, the misconception about forest certification also poses a challenge to promoting forest certification as tool for sustainable forest management. She encourages more sensitization and financial support for small holder tree farmers to adopt forest certification.

Ms. Joseph also participated in development of national forest certification standards as part of the secretariat of the Standard Development Group (SDG) Tanzania. She participated in collecting views from several stakeholders and drafted the national forest certification standards for Tanzania. The draft was sent to the PCU of FSC. Comments were received and changes made to the draft accordingly. The draft was resubmitted to FSC and now awaits their response.

Career growth because of the AFF- HAFL scholarship programme

Carolyne Kyalo is a senior researcher at the University of Nairobi and was among the 1st cohort beneficially of AFF-HAFL scholarship programme. She joined the programme in February 2014 and graduated in September 2016 With MSc in Life Sciences- Agricultural and Forestry Sciences.

With the skills and knowledge gained from the studies, she has increased her carrier succession at the University of Nairobi. She also offers consultancy services on Geospatial skills and participates in KEFRIs, Centre Research Advisory Committee (CRAC) aimed at Institutional research strategies. The expertise has increased her passion in community participation in forestry management which she is now a pioneer. Carolyne is currently pursuing measures in sustainable *Melia volkensii* timber harvesting and utilization with approach on most innovational and mechanized tools to minimize on product wastage.







Financial Management at AFF



Procurement and financial management at AFF

AFF is guided in both Financial and Administrative matters by the following key documents that have been approved by its Governing Council and the Members' Forum and also used by external financial auditors.

- a) Guidelines for Administrative and Financial Operations
- b) African Forest Forum Financial Regulations and Rules

ICRAF is AFF's host institution and AFF has an agreement with ICRAF that regulates the hosting arrangements. Within this agreement ICRAF all finances for AFF pass through ICRAF which then maintains the books of accounts. The annual budget for AFF in recent years is about US\$2.5-3.0 million. The AFF Senior Finance Officer initiates all the transactions to be made by ICRAF on behalf of AFF, in addition to following up with ICRAF to ensure that the transactions conform to approved AFF activities. AFF also has a separate cost center in the ICRAF finance system as well as an income account where income vs expenditure transactions between AFF and ICRAF are periodically

settled. The AFF Senior Finance Officer is also responsible for preparation of all financial reports to AFF's donors, external audits, and for internal consumption within AFF.

Also, within this agreement ICRAF supplies office space, ICT facilities, procurement services, human resources services especially for staff recruitment (and based on ICRAF human resources policies), handling of all staff salaries and insurance (including taxes for local staff), security of premises. All services provided to AFF by ICRAF are at fees defined in the agreement.

The procurement activities are overseen by the AFF Senior Administrative Officer who raises the Online Requisition Form (ORF) and forwards it to the AFF Executive Secretary for approval. The approved ORF is then sent to the ICRAF Procurement Unit which obtains a minimum of 3 quotes for the items to be purchased, the quotes are then evaluated, by AFF and ICRAF staff, based on quality and price and a supplier is awarded the approved purchase order.



Dry forest in the Sahel Parklands ©AFF



AFF Beyond 10 Years

5

Photo: AFF

**Mangroves of East African
coast, Mtwapa Kenya**

Looking towards the future

A medium-term review of the AFF project supported by Sida, was undertaken in 2017. In short, the review report states,

"The Sida-supported project has helped AFF to engage in: institutional development for organisations including NGOs; studies and other forms of knowledge generation; knowledge dissemination; capacity building activities; and some advocacy and policy-oriented actions. The latter includes assisting African delegates for their effective participation in international negotiations and mainstream decisions from such into national policies and plans. AFF has also assisted African delegates to express a common voice in international fora. Meanwhile, AFF itself has also evolved considerably with a growing membership and routines and systems developed."

With the continued increasing demands on the forest and tree resources that also come with many players in the sector, the necessity for a much clearer mapping of issues opportunities and challenges that bear on the sector becomes a prerequisite for the institution so as to have a clearer vision of the future and therefore define a path to follow, using the resources it can muster, in order to create the desirable changes in the society and to the state of these resources.

Given this scenario, AFF has recasted its approach to conceiving and managing its work through the following programmatic approach that has seven programme areas (that can also be broken down into thematic areas) and takes on board the dynamism that characterizes the forestry sector, and by examining what the society wants from the forest

and tree resources and what potential responses can be made to these demands. In doing this, AFF is taking into account the opportunities and strengths within the African forestry sector on the one hand, and weaknesses and threats to the sector on the other, in addition to the strengths and opportunities within AFF itself. It is also guided by its own strategy and the priority areas of action identified by the African forestry fraternity.

At the centre of this new approach are people and the environment they live in, and the commitment to promote sustainable management of these resources so that the livelihoods of the people can be improved, national incomes can be increased and the environment made more favourable for life. Therefore, Programme Area No.1 is devoted to all aspects directly related to the management,

conservation, improvement and expansion of the continent's forest and tree resources. Technical aspects of specific purposes of forest management are dealt with in Programme 2 (economic development), Programme 3 (environmental health, including climate aspects), and Programme 4 (food security). Policies and Governance are dealt with in Programme 5, while improved capacities and skills (training, education and research) is the focus of Programme 6 and, finally, Programme 7 focuses on Information and impact assessment. Naturally, there will be aspects that cut across these areas like gender, youth and marginalised groups issues, and contributions to the SDGs, or projects and activities which will have components related to more than one programme.

AFF will continue to streamline its organizational structure and became better aligned to deliver the results foreseen under its Short and Medium- Term Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and beyond.

Managing Risk at AFF

Programme assumptions and risks

The following risks are identified as having potential negative impact on achieving AFF's mission, goals, objectives and strategies if they become a reality. They may have an impact on different levels: the organization as a whole, programs, projects, processes, products, services or stakeholders. Managing these risks properly will increase the probability that AFF will survive for a long time and be able



AFF Programme areas

to work towards its vision as managing the risks increases the probability that AFF will be compliant with laws, regulations and contracts; and also makes organizational processes more efficient due to fewer disruptions and improves planning and decision-making due to a better understanding of the future.

The Analysis Matrix is to be used in conjunction with the ratings of consequence and likelihood to determine the level of risk rating. The level of risk rating consists of a word and numeric value. The numeric value assists with prioritising risks that are rated in the same word category.

	Risk	Consequence	Likelihood
Financial Risks			
1	Availability of funds for implementation	Moderate	Possible
2	Sustainability of funding	Major	Unlikely
3	Global financial down turn	Moderate	Likely
4	Significant inflation and exchange rate changes	Moderate	Possible
Operational Risks			
5	The Executive Secretary or a key staff member leaves.	Moderate	Possible
6	Availability and quality of information	Moderate	Possible
7	Availability of qualified expertise	Moderate	Possible
8	Staff shortage	Moderate	Likely
9	Natural disasters such as floods and droughts.	Minor	Possible
Legal / Regulatory Risks			
10	A staff member compliance with a law or regulation.	Moderate	Unlikely
11	Change of favourable tax laws and regulations.	Minor	Unlikely
12	New government regulations.	Moderate	Possible
Strategic Risks			
13	Willingness of partners	Moderate	Possible
14	Shift in focus by development partners	Moderate	Possible
15	Willingness of policy makers to uptake policy advise	Moderate	Possible
16	A donor changes its priorities.	Moderate	Possible
17	Host institution changes its policies	Moderate	Possible
18	Another organization offering similar services starts to operate.	Minor	Possible
Political / Social Risks			
19	Parts of a community do not cooperate with AFF experts.	Minor	Possible
20	Political/social unrest or violent crime.	Major	Possible

Consequence Likelihood	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
Rare	Low (1)	Low (3)	Medium (8)	Medium (10)
Unlikely	Low (2)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (16)
Possible	Medium (4)	Medium (7)	High (14)	High (17)
Likely	Medium (5)	High (12)	High (15)	Very High (19)
Almost certain	High (11)	High (13)	Very High (18)	Very High (20)

LEGEND:

Rating	Management Action for Risks
Low (1-3)	Confirm that routine procedures are up to date and actionable by all relevant staff.
Medium (4-10)	Confirm that existing routine procedures are up to date and actionable by all relevant staff, AND Also manage by specific monitoring within AFF Secretariat.
High (11-17)	Confirm that existing routine procedures are up to date and actionable by all relevant staff, manage by specific monitoring or response procedures within AFF Secretariat, AND Executive Secretary oversight needed and responsible officer(s) to proactively control the risk.
Very High (18-20)	Detailed research and planning required for Executive Secretary approval of controls, AND Responsible officer(s) to proactively control the risk with Executive Secretary / Executive Committee oversight.

Mitigatory measures and opportunities

The above risks also present opportunities through which AFF can address them. These include:

- Rapidly growing membership to AFF which is voluntary, and members are willing and committed to forestry development (i.e. volunteers, willingness and commitment);
- The membership contains considerable expertise, both in width and depth, which AFF employs in addressing these issues;
- Diversity of memberships (professional, geographical and linguistic) that provides flexibility in addressing these issues in almost all geographical zones where AFF operates;
- Growing recognition of AFF and its work that increases legitimacy of AFF as the lead African institution dealing with some of these issues;
- Accountability of AFF to its membership and other stakeholders, like development partners, is very good;
- Achievements of the Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry (TST) are widely known and appreciated, and therefore increase the demand for AFF support to these negotiations;
- There are strong and growing partnerships with relevant international and regional institutions as already reflected in joint activities between AFF and African and non-African partners.

- h) Growing recognition and increased resources for its planned activities increases the potential for collaboration and impacts;
- i) Close collaboration with donors to anticipate changes in areas of emphasis and funding;
- j) Increased participation in regional and global forums that deal with issues that hold potential to change global emphasis on programmes and funding;
- k) General goodwill in and outside the AFF.

Sustainability of AFF and its products

Policy support

The outputs from the work of AFF feed into various processes at national and regional levels in Africa, as well as at global level. As an institution AFF is now well recognized as a key player in African forestry. Key institutions in African forestry have a MoUs with AFF that guide systematic collaboration in addressing issues in this sector. The apex intergovernmental institution on the continent, AUC, has a MoU with AFF targeting developing forestry on the continent. Already, together with AUC and FAO-ROA, AFF has guided the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa that will guide forestry activities of the RECs and individual countries. ECOWAS has entrusted AFF with the task to be a lead institution in implementing one of the seven pillars of its forest convergence plan. The Pan African Agency for GGWSSI also has a MoU with AFF to guide development of activities and approaches that are relevant to this great pan- African initiative. With ICRAF, AFF has a MoU that regulates collaboration in addressing issues in forestry. AFF is also

accredited to sessions of UNFF, and COPs of UNCCD and UNFCCC. AFF was also represented on the Organising Committee for the World Forestry Congress that took place in Durban, South Africa in 2015. All these demonstrate the acceptability and political will of key players to work with AFF; in addition to the trust held by its members and by extension the institutions they represent in government, civil society and private sector. There is therefore mounting support for the sustainability of AFF.

Financial sustainability

The financial sustainability of AFF is of key importance to its governance. To this end a Task Force on Resources Mobilisation has been established within the AFF by the Governing Council. The Task Force is pursuing five different approaches to raising or acquiring funds and resources for AFF's operations:

- a) "Conventional" fund-raising on the "open market" among bilateral and multilateral donors and foundations, in the sense of requesting unrestricted core support or special project funds wherever such funds might be obtained, including from "new" sources.
- b) Raising resources for an AFF endowment fund, from any sources where they can be obtained.
- c) Acquire supplementary resources through partnerships with other institutions, private sector, and governments (collaborative programmes, secondments, etc.).
- d) Providing services, information, advice, etc., against payment (consultancy).
- e) Through membership fees and voluntary contributions.

While AFF strives to raise funding from various sources, it will also organise meetings of representatives of its donor organisation to continue to familiarise them with developments within the institution, especially in its programmatic activities as well as its other core functions. The idea is to raise and target support to both programmatic and core activities. This will give flexibility to what donors can support and in line with their priorities, as well as some flexibility to AFF's planning and budgeting process through core funding.

Sustainability of products of intervention

All activities undertaken by AFF have been prioritised by African forestry stakeholders through consultations between them and AFF. They also feature prominently in related national, sub-regional and regional policies, plans and strategies. The members of AFF belong to the institutions that are responsible for resolving these issues. The members are either employed in undertaking the work of AFF or receive the outputs of its work or both. In this manner they use whatever AFF produces to address similar issues at their places of work. Since AFF's outputs are disseminated very broadly, other stakeholders have access to such products and make free use of them.

Much of the previous support from Sida to AFF was project-based and without accommodating sufficient resources and time to follow up on uptake and eventual impact and sustainability of products of that project. The information available now indicates that some of the products from previous Sida support to AFF are being used, and impact is also gradually becoming visible. For example, the teaching compendium on NTFPs is used in several universities already and similarly the book on climate change. The previous sections have also presented some evidence on how such knowledge products and skills acquired

from training are being used. The plans made for individual countries as the starting point to implement activities under GGWSSI have been validated and owned by national governments. AFF introduced FLEGT into the SADC region, and this has already led to the formulation of a SADC FLEGT programme and a SADC Timber Association concept; both of which have been approved by the relevant SADC ministerial meeting in 2013. All these are from earlier work supported by Sida. The reports of external evaluations on AFF projects speak positively on how stakeholders see AFF.

Membership commitment and ownership

Presently AFF has 2,214 members as of April 2019. Members come from 84 countries worldwide; of these, 51 are African countries with 94% of the total members. Only 4-member states of the African Union, namely Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Sahrawi Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe are yet to be represented. Membership from outside Africa (8%), referred to as "Friends of African forestry", is from 33 countries namely: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Falkland Islands.

The region with the highest number of members is Western Africa (611), followed by Eastern Africa (470), Southern Africa (336), North Eastern Africa (331), Central Africa (184) and outside Africa (124).

Over 71% of AFF members have either MSc or PhD level degree qualifications, 22% with a bachelor's degree and 5% with a diploma. The remaining 2%

have a certificate level training. Also 78% (1,600) of the members are male while 22% (456) of the members are female. Members are actively contributing their time and expertise towards advancing the mission of AFF by voluntarily availing their individual resources in a pool for sharing through the AFF members' intranet.

All members have been individually vetted and approved by the Governing Council. They are actively contributing their time and expertise towards promoting the mission of the African Forest Forum.

Actually, when establishing AFF, the consultations undertaken demonstrated a unanimous acceptance of AFF, and many stakeholders, across the linguistic divide of Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone Africa, voiced concern that this institution was overdue in its establishment. The enthusiasm with which members were involved in the first Members' Forum electronic meeting in 2012, and the ideas they gave for strengthening the institution, is testimony to their commitment to their institution. For example, they conducted elec-

tions for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Members' Forum, suggested changes in the Constitution, approved all key decisions made by the Governing Council (and also sought more information on some), approved all proposals made to donors, in addition to transacting other business; and all this was done electronically. This was a clear demonstration of interest and ownership of their institution. In 2017 AFF Secretariat organised the second electronic meeting of the Member's Forum and they elected their Chair and Vice Chair, approved major decisions made on their behalf by the Governing Council and made recommendations on how to improve AFF.

Environmental sustainability and environmental impact assessment

In principle, for any work that AFF implements that requires EIA, then this will be undertaken. However, so far AFF has not undertaken activities that require EIA.

Annexes

Annex 1: Founder Members of the African Forest Forum

Michel Laverdière

Canada-FAO

Bjorn Lundgren

Sweden-KSLA

Macarthy Oyebo

Nigeria-FFD

Frank Kufakwandi

Zambia-AfDB

Stephen Agong

Kenya-AAS

Sébastien Malélé Mbala

DRC-DGF

Iba Kone

Côte d'Ivoire-AFORNET

Afsa Kemitale

Uganda-UNFF

Edouard Bonkougou

Burkina Faso-NTI

Alice Kaudia

Kenya-IUCN

Godwin Kowero

Tanzania-SFM II

Lidia Brito

Mozambique-UEM

Fred Owino

Kenya-FORIN

Linda Mossop-Rousseau

S. Africa-SAFCOL

August Temu

Tanzania-ICRAF

Foday Bojang

Gambia-AU

Annex 2: Members of the AFF Governing Council

CENTRAL AFRICA

1. Sebastien Malele Mbala
2. Paul Henri Bourobou Bourobou

EAST AFRICA

3. Fredrick Owino
4. Jean Baptiste Nduwayezu
5. Suzana Agustino

NORTH AND NORTH EASTERN AFRICA

6. Demel Teketay
7. Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim

SOUTHERN AFRICA

8. Alima Issufo
9. Anna Chileshe Masinga
10. Peter Gondo

WEST AFRICA

11. Marcathy Afolabi Oyebo
12. Ibro Adamou
13. Daniel Ofori

PRIVATE SECTOR

14. Humphrey Mwaniki Ngibuini

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

16. Ben Chikamai

FRIENDS OF AFRICAN FORESTRY

17. Bjorn Lundgren
18. Jürgen Blaser

WOMEN IN FORESTRY

19. Cecile Ngo Ntamag Epse Ndjebet

YOUTH IN FORESTRY

20. Prince Olawuyi Oluwaseyi

OBSERVERS

21. Almami Dampha-African Union
22. Nora Berrahmouni-FAO-Regional Office for Africa
23. Afsa Kemitale-UNFF Secretariat
24. Nelson Torto-African Academy of Sciences
25. Gerhard Dieterle -ITTO
26. Raymond Ndomba Ngoye-COMIFAC
27. Ravi Prahbu-ICRAF
28. Ex-Officio – Godwin Kowero

Annex 3: Members of the AFF Secretariat

Godwin Kowero (Tanzania)

Executive Secretary - CEO

**Marie Louise A.T. Avana-Tientcheu, PhD
(Cameroon)**

Senior Programme Officer

African Forests, People and Climate Change
Programme

Doris Mutta (Kenya)

Senior Programme Officer

Z. Henri-Noël Bouda, PhD (Burkina Faso)

Senior Programme Officer

Vincent Onguso Oeba (Kenya)

Programme Officer

Daphine Gitonga (Kenya)

Communications Specialist

Leon Awiti, PhD (Kenya)

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
Specialist

Barbara Owuor (Kenya)

Senior Administrative Officer

Caroline Kajuju (Kenya)

Senior Finance Officer

Annex 4: Group Photo -15TH AFF Governing Council held from 1-4 April 2019 at the Nairobi Safari Club in Nairobi, Kenya





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