



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



A programmatic approach to the work of the African Forest Forum

2017



About AFF

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 increasing relevance of forests and trees outside forests to peoples' livelihoods, national economies and the stability of the environment.

In this regard, AFF provides independent analysis 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. Operationally, AFF mobilises resources to address forestry and related issues that cut across countries and different African sub-regions with a view of enhancing the relevance and contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the livelihoods of the people of Africa and stability of their environment.

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.

Photo credits (left to right): Dry forest in the Sahelian Parklands © AFF; Secondary forest in the southern part of Nigeria © Larwanou Mahamane / AFF 2008; Harvesting timber in the Vipya forest plantations in Malawi ©Björn Lundgren/AFF

Copyright © African Forest Forum 2017. All rights reserved. African Forest Forum P.O. Box 30677-00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA Tel: 254 20 722 4203 Fax: +254 20 722 4001 E-mail:exec.sec@afforum.org Website: www.afforum.org

Follow us on Twitter @ africanff

Like us on Facebook / African Forest Forum

Find us on LinkedIn / African Forest Forum (AFF)

A programmatic approach to the work of the African Forest Forum

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	5
Forests and trees in Africa.....	5
The role of AFF.....	6
PROPOSED PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS.....	8
Summary overview	8
Programme area No.1 <i>Better management of forests and trees outside forests</i>	10
Programme area No.2 <i>Forests and trees in economic development and poverty eradication</i>	12
Programme area No.3 <i>Contribution of forests and trees to environmental health</i>	14
Programme area No.4 <i>Contribution of forests and trees to food and nutrition security</i>	16
Programme area No.5 <i>Policies and governance</i>	18
Programme area No.6 <i>Capacity building and skills development</i>	21
Programme area No.7 <i>Information management and impact assessment</i>	23
ANNEX 1: ADDRESSING SOME CHALLENGES IN THE AFRICAN FORESTRY SECTOR THROUGH THE PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH	25

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

FORESTS AND TREES IN AFRICA

Forest and tree resources in Africa have an immense potential to contribute to social and economic development of the continent through a range of economic, environmental, ecological and social services. They play an important role in the spiritual, cultural and economic lives of African people. Although much falls outside the formal sectors and is not captured by reliable statistics, they constitute key sectors of the economies and contribute immensely to the quality and standard of living of the people. For example, they provide the bulk of the energy needs, housing construction materials, all kinds of basic necessities (furniture, tools, art objects, etc.), wild foods (including fruits, bush meat, edible insects, bees wax and honey) and local medicines that serve the majority of the people on the continent. In addition, they support crop and livestock agriculture, wildlife, tourism and water resources. They are central to maintaining the quality of the environment throughout the continent, while providing international public goods and services.

Forests are increasingly being viewed in the broader context of the ecosystem services they provide. In this context a landscape approach to their management is emerging as a good way to visualize how forests and trees outside forests can be sustainably managed. Forests and trees, their management and the goods and services they provide, interface with other sectors of the national economies and with livelihoods and environment. Such linkages are today recognized in economic and social development, as evidenced by the increasing importance accorded forests and trees, not only in forest-related international instruments but also in wider international agreements. These include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, all of which can be linked to forestry; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the International Arrangement on Forests of UNFF, the AU Agenda 2063, and the Land Degradation Neutral Initiative of UNCCD, to mention a few.

Globally, two key challenges in the forestry sector are *deforestation* and *forest degradation*. The former refers to the conversion of forests to other land uses or the long-term reduction of the tree canopy cover below 10%, while the latter is defined (FAO) as changes within the forest, which negatively affect the structure or function of the stand or site and thereby lower the capacity to supply ecosystem services. Thus, from a policy perspective, *forest degradation* and *deforestation* are different processes.

In most of Africa, wanton deforestation and land degradation are mainly a reflection of unsustainable land use emanating from poor policies on agriculture and poverty alleviation. Activities in agriculture account for about 80% of loss of forest cover on the continent. Therefore, agricultural policies, besides being internally consistent, must provide for mechanisms to link the sector with other sectors in protecting and enhancing the environment on which it is critically dependent for resources such as land, water, nutrients, forest and clean air. The use of any one of these resources can affect, directly or indirectly,

other natural resources and wrong use of land, water or forests in the production of crops and livestock can have far-reaching effects on environmental integrity. To avoid any adverse consequences, agricultural sector policies must fit in overall environmental policies.

Forests and trees are also increasingly impacted by climate change and variability. However, they also influence climate. The last two decades has seen considerable attention paid to issues of climate change with respect to forests and trees and putting people and the environment at the centre of this. Many countries now include mitigation and adaptation practices in their forest policies, plans and activities. There has been noticeable awareness and growth of various initiatives like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in many African countries, however less so on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in forestry.

African forests are seriously threatened by agricultural expansion and inappropriate and low-producing agricultural systems, unsustainable commercial harvesting and exploitation for fuelwood and other products, increasing urbanization and industrialization, inadequate land use planning, inappropriate land and tree tenure regimes, drought and climate change, all of which contribute to the high rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the continent.

At the same time, the economic, social and environmental potential of increasing sustainably managed forest and tree resources has never been as obvious as it is today. With increased populations, incomes, urbanization and infrastructure in most of Africa follows a rapid increase in consumer demands for forest products – charcoal, construction material, furniture and fittings, paper and carton, NTFPs and much else. The potential for export of forest products is also obvious, evidenced not least by the almost explosive increase in purchases of sawn timber, roundwood and pulp chips by China and other countries in Asia.

It is in the context of addressing these challenges and opportunities for the benefit of the African continent and its peoples and nations that the African Forest Forum was established and operates.

THE ROLE OF AFF

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. As awareness has grown on the roles of forests and trees in national economic development, livelihoods and environmental stability, AFF has steadily gained membership (today, 2017, over 1850 members) and capacity (a well-functioning secretariat in Nairobi, with about 40-50 associate experts supporting it annually, and numerous partner agreements and MoUs with key national, regional and international institutions) to work within this framework.

However, 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 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 is recasting 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.



Private commercial plantation in Somanya, a district in the Eastern region of Ghana.

Photo ©: African Forest Forum (AFF), 2017.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

The purpose of presenting AFF's programme in this new structure (see figure below) is to show how the institution logically addresses its strategy and goals, and the many challenges and opportunities related to the forest and tree resources of Africa. At the centre of all is the commitment to promote sustainable management of these resources. 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 (e.g. gender, youth and marginalised groups issues, contributions to the SDGs, etc.) or projects and activities which will have components related to more than one programme.



The next section follows a more detailed presentation of the seven programme areas. Under each programme, a few examples of activities already done or ongoing by AFF are shown to indicate that, although AFF until now has worked with special donor-funded programmes, the actual projects/ activities can easily be fit in under the new suggested structure. They are shown here with the titles of the final reports, but most of them have included studies, workshops, training events, fact sheets and policy briefs.



Deciduous forest in Northern Benin. Photo ©: African Forest Forum (AFF)

PROGRAMME AREA No.1

BETTER MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS

Context

Following the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012, there is an increasing global interest in SFM and focus on a *green growth* pathway in which sustainable utilization and conservation of forests play a major part by protecting biodiversity, ensuring water supply and mitigating climate change, as well as securing forest based livelihoods and providing necessary and desired products and services to rural and urban populations. This requires a holistic approach to the management of forest and tree resources and mobilization of both the public and private sectors to support SFM.

At the African Union Summit in Malabo in June 2014, the Heads of State directed the AU Commission (AUC), in collaboration with Ministers responsible for forests, to put in place a *Framework for Sustainable Forest Management Programme in Africa* (SFMP). The strategic objective of the SFMP is to enable AU Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably manage and develop their forestry sectors for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this programme area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work on increasing the knowledge and understanding on how to manage Africa's forest and tree resources, including their dynamics, containing deforestation, increasing their quality and extent, best silvicultural practices, protection of the resources, improved seed sources and other aspects related to managing, expanding, improving and protecting the resources.

The **overall goal** is to *facilitate the enhancement of SFM in all forest types in Africa.*

Examples of issues, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Contain loss of forest cover; e.g. through a better understanding of the drivers of such loss and how they evolve over time, and of measures and mechanisms to rehabilitate/restore degraded forest lands including ways to promote them.

Expand forest cover where appropriate; e.g. by identifying the potential, scope and investments for such expansion through plantations, woodlots, agroforestry practices, enrichment planting, FMNR, etc. in various landscapes.

Better management of forest and tree resources; e.g. by facilitating containment of invasive species, promoting forest certification as a means for achieving SFM, promoting and facilitating management of trans-boundary forest resources, strengthening supply of quality germplasm for planted forests and trees on farm, strengthening surveillance of pest and diseases within and among countries, and by facilitating improvements to tree husbandry practices.



*Agroforestry in Burkina Faso with Borassus akeassii and Faidherbia albida.
Photo credit: Marco Schmidt/ Wikimedia Commons*

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- Chirwa, P.W., Larwanou, M. & G. Kowero, 2017. ***Forests, people and environment: some African perspectives***. Southern Forests Journal of Forest Science. Vol 79.
- Gichora, M., Kojwang', H. & P. Bosu, 2017. ***The status and trends of forest and tree pests and diseases management in Africa***. AFF Working Paper Vol. 3(3).
- Marunda, C.T., Avana-Tientcheu, M.L. & H.P. Msanga, 2017. ***Situational analysis of tree breeding and tree germplasm supply in Africa underpinning sustainable forest management***. AFF Working Paper Vol. 3(1).
- Teketay D., Mbololo A.M.M., Kalonga S.K. & O. Ahimin, 2016. ***Forest certification in Africa: achievements, challenges and opportunities***. AFF, Nairobi. 157 p.
- AFF, 2015. Pre-XIV World Forestry Congress Workshop on ***Forests, People and Environment: Some Perspectives from Africa***. 4-5 September 2015 Durban, South Africa. Book of abstracts.
- Lundgren, B., 2015. ***Forests and Trees. Their roles and opportunities in Africa's economic development, food security and environmental health***. AFF, Nairobi. 49 p.
- Chamshama, S.A.O., 2011. ***Forest plantations and woodlots in the Eastern and North Eastern African countries - a regional overview***. AFF Working Paper Vol 1 (18).

PROGRAMME AREA No.2

FORESTS AND TREES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

Context

In Africa, unlike in most other world regions where wood- and forest-based products already are significant components in national and local economies, promotion of the role of forests and trees in enhancing the economic welfare of nations and of the livelihoods of rural populations is highly critical and hold a great potential. Today, the situation in the wood- and NWFP-based production sectors is characterized by: non-sustainable practices; poorly developed value addition, industries and product improvement facilities; and, defunct transport, trade and market infrastructures. Around 80% of wood removals are still used for charcoal/firewood, a fair share illegally felled and traded and most falling outside formal economic sectors. At the same time, the potential today for an economic and sustainable expansion of the forest and tree based products, not least for rural communities and farmers, is enormous. Demand for various forest products is rapidly increasing as a result of expanding purchasing power of growing urban middle classes, the potential for inter-regional and international trade is significant, and the transport infrastructure is being improved throughout much of Africa.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work on all relevant aspects of economic production of wood- and non-wood-based forest and tree products, cost-benefit analyses of such products, product development, value-adding and small-and medium scale forest industries, economic opportunities for communities and rural people, understanding value chains and consumer demands and preferences, and local, national, regional and international trade issues and opportunities related to forest/tree products.

The **overall goal** is to identify and promote opportunities for economic development and poverty eradication based on forest and tree products.

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Sustainable supply of sufficient good quality forest products; e.g. strengthening participation of the private sector, local communities and other stakeholders in primary and secondary forest production; promoting Public-Private-Partnership and entrepreneurship development in forestry; better bioenergy – firewood, charcoal and liquid biofuels; trade and marketing in forest products and services; value addition and value chain analyses on forest products and services, including NTFPs.

Livelihood improvement opportunities; e.g. understanding socio-economic impacts of forest products, services and trade; identifying employment and income opportunities for all; livelihood support through forests and trees to other sectors (agriculture, livestock development and eco-tourism).

Contribution to national incomes, poverty, eradication and attainment of SDGs e.g. better valuation of forest benefits and their contribution at all levels.



Women smallholder farmers in Kenya. Photo credit: McKay Savage/Wikimedia Commons

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- On-going: in order to better understand the **private sector in forestry**, AFF has initiated studies in 22 African countries on different partnership arrangements in both primary and secondary private sector operations in forestry, and also assessing private-public-partnerships initiatives.
- Maisharou, A. & M. Larwanou, 2015. **Market potential of non-wood forest products in the Sahelian countries**. In International Forestry Review Vol.17 (S3).
- Chipeta, M.E. & G. Kowero, 2015. **An overview of intra-African trade in forest products: opportunities and challenges**. In International Forestry Review Vol.17 (S3).
- Popoola, L., Larwanou, M. & S.O. Jimoh, 2015. **Biofuel initiatives in West Africa and the Sahel: potential for success**. In International Forestry Review Vol.17 (S3).
- Popoola, L., 2014. **Cross-border trade in forest products and services and trade impacts in West Africa**. AFF Working Paper Vol 2 (8).
- Tieguhong, J.C., Ndoeye, O., Tchatat, M. & and B. Chikamai, 2009. **Processing and marketing of non-wood forest products: potential impacts and challenges in Africa**. In Discovery and Innovation Vol 21 (1).
- Asumadu, K., 2004. **Development of wood-based industries in Sub-Saharan Africa**. A report from the KSLA/AFORNET/FAO project Lessons Learnt on SFM in Africa.

PROGRAMME AREA No.3

CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS AND TREES TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Context

There is growing evidence that **climate change** is impacting not only on agriculture and food production but also increasingly on forests and forest ecosystems. Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to climate change, particularly in the vast areas of marginal land where the livelihoods of farmers and forest dependent communities are threatened. Currently, not much is known about the resilience potential of African forests and trees and the diversity of forest types and conditions to **adapt** to the impacts of climate change. However, forests are not just threatened by climate change, they also hold an immense potential in **mitigating** against such change, both through reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, especially CO₂, by reducing deforestation, and by and by enhancement of carbon sequestration in expanded growing forest and tree biomass. Thus, both climate response and mitigation by forests and trees, and their interaction, need to be carefully assessed so that informed cross-sectoral strategies and measures can be put in place to promote the role of forests and trees in climate change programmes.

Biodiversity is an important resource for African people for both consumptive (food, fibre, fuel, shelter, medicine, wildlife trade) and non-consumptive (ecosystem services and the economically important tourism industry) purposes. Given the heavy dependence on natural resources in Africa, many communities are vulnerable to the biodiversity loss that currently occur at an alarming rate through conversion of forests to other land uses, extreme climate events, fires and poaching. Effective measures to protect and, preferably, restore already lost plant and animal biodiversity, and the ecosystems they form part of, must urgently be put in place.

Water resources in Africa, their quantities, quality and seasonal availability for human and animal consumption and for agriculture, are strongly related to forest environments. Virtually all major rivers and streams emanate from forested or other wooded areas. Deforestation leads to uneven flow and to erosion and, thereby, reduced water quality. The role of forested watersheds cannot be over-emphasised.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work on all relevant aspects on how forest and tree resources interact with and can contribute to positive developments in climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and enhancement, ensuring water resources availability and quality, and other aspects of forest-environment interactions.

The **overall goal** is to *increase the knowledge and understanding of how forests and trees can contribute to a better environment in Africa, particularly with regard to adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and to biodiversity and water conservation.*

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Climate change and forest and tree resources; e.g. by identifying and analysing drivers, incentives, lessons learnt and policies for attaining Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as their quality and potentials for cooperation between countries; evaluate experiences and lessons learnt from programmes, measures and other activities undertaken by different countries to adapt to, and mitigate against, climate change (e.g. NAMAs, NAPAs and REDD+); explore measures to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change of forest dependent communities; strengthen mechanisms for incorporating forest related climate change issues into policies, plans, education and training at national and sub-regional levels.

Biodiversity and water resources; e.g. by identifying and analysing how improved and extended management and conservation of forests and trees can contribute to enhanced biodiversity, more secure water supply and to improved eco-system services; particular attention given to landscape and eco-regional scale issues and to trans-boundary and sub-regional aspects.



*Local women taking a canoe across the Congo River.
Photo credit: Paul Donfack/AFF*

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- Oeba, V. & M. Larwanou, 2017. ***Forestry and Resilience to Climate Change: A Synthesis on Application of Forest-Based Adaptation Strategies to Reduce Vulnerability among Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa***. AFF, Nairobi.
- Kojwang, H.O. & M. Larwanou, 2015. ***An overview of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) in Africa***. In International Forestry Review Vol.17 (S3).
- Makundi, R.W., 2014. ***Prospects for REDD+ in African forest plantations***. AFF Working Paper Vol. 2 (5).
- Chidumayo, E., Okali, D., Kowero, G. & M. Larwanou, (eds.), 2011. ***Climate Change and African Forest and Wildlife Resources***. AFF, Nairobi. 249 p.
- Mujuru, L. & E. Chidumayo, 2014. ***African woodlands and savannahs: opportunities from and potential of REDD+***. AFF Working Paper Vol 2 (15).
- ***Forrest-Water relations in Africa***. A series of four sub-regional studies all published as AFF Working Papers in 2011: ***SADC*** (P. Sola; Vol 1(3)); ***Sahel*** (A. Tougiani; Vol 1(7)); ***Central Africa*** (L.J. Betti; Vol 1(8)); and sub-humid ***West Africa*** (L. Popoola; Vol 1(1)).

PROGRAMME AREA No.4

CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTST AND TREES TO FOOD AND NUTRITUTION SECURITY

Context

With rising food prices and increasingly frequent droughts, floods and fires, as well as insufficient improvements in food production technologies and agricultural policies, food security is rapidly emerging as a key factor in Africa's social and economic development. The interactions between forest and trees, on the one hand, and food security, on the other, may not be immediately clear to most people, with the obvious exception of when forest land is cleared for agriculture. Still, there are several such direct and indirect interactions, many of which already play significant roles in the food supply for rural people, and most of which hold a tremendous potential for improvements. First, there is the direct production of foods from forests and trees, e.g. fruits, nuts, other edible parts of some trees (leaves, roots), game animals, honey, etc. Fodder from trees and shrubs for domestic animals, as well as forest grazing, are crucial sources of feed in animal husbandry. Trees and shrubs are potent improvers of soil fertility (e.g. through N-fixation on farm, as fallows in shifting cultivation, and via organic inputs through litter fall and root decay), they can be arranged on farm-land to reduce erosion, and they can provide a more amenable micro-climate for food crops and domestic animals (shade, wind brakes).

Forests on a larger landscape scale will also positively influence water accessibility for farming as well as creating a better local climate.

Finally, wood and non-wood tree products can provide much needed additional cash incomes for farmers and rural communities. In recent decades, there has been a rapidly increasing interest in and research on such interactions, particularly where trees and shrubs are integrated into farms (agroforestry), but much remain to be done. The potential of food accessions from outside farms (in forests and on common land), is often hampered by unclear tenure and user rights.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work mainly on aspects where forests and trees directly or indirectly can improve food security. The specific aspects of economic potentials through supplementary incomes from wood and non-wood forest products will mainly be dealt with in Programme 2, and aspects of positive forest macro-influences on food production through improved hydrology and climate will mainly be handled in Programme 3. Aspects related to tenure and user rights of forest food will be dealt with in Programme 5.

The **overall goal** is to *identify, analyse and promote ways in which forests and trees can increase, diversify and improve food and nutrition security.*

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Human food from forests and trees; e.g. identifying and analysing the absolute and relative importance of food from forests and trees (fruits, nuts, berries, honey, game meat, etc.) in the nutrition of people; how to improve management of important “food trees” in forests, woodlands and on farm; possibilities for genetic improvement and domestication.

Trees and shrubs enhancing growth of agricultural crops and domestic animals; e.g. analysing the potential role of trees and shrubs in enhancing soil fertility in crop land; improved micro-climate (wind, temperature, shade); improved growth, productivity and quality of domestic animals through fodder from trees and shrubs.

Interactions between forests and trees and agriculture at landscape level; e.g. analysing how forests and trees in the landscape can positively influence sustainable food production.

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- Agustino, S., Mataya, B., Senelwa, K. & E.G. Achigan-Dako, 2011. ***Non-Wood Forest Products and Services for Socio-Economic Development***. A Compendium for Technical and Professional Forestry Education. AFF, Nairobi. 239 p.



*Edible products from the forest are essential components of food security in many parts of Africa.
Photo credit: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)*

PROGRAMME AREA No.5

POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

Context

Forest-related policies and legislation in many African countries are out-dated and often also weakly enforced. There is a pressing need to adapt policies to the challenges and opportunities of rapid global environmental and economic changes. Social and economic changes are as important to sustainable development as the environmental changes already under way. Good governance within and beyond the forest sector is an imperative to improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent populations as well as in ensuring the sector's contribution to national economies, and to reducing illegal logging, forest degradation and deforestation. This also implies providing secure tenure to communities and other local stakeholders who use and manage forest and tree resources. Public sector forestry institutions need to become facilitators rather than just exercising command and control. New and innovative instruments for financing sustainable forest management that increase access to capital markets, value environmental services and mitigate risks can support emerging forest policies.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work on relevant aspects of identifying, formulating and promoting policies, legislation and governance measures aiming at improved sustainable and increased forest and tree management and conservation. Likewise, AFF will continue to support African nations and sub-regional and regional bodies in participation in international forest-related policy processes, as well as in the implementation of decisions and recommendations coming out of such processes (through its Technical Support Team).

The **overall goal** is to *facilitate creating a favourable environment for conceiving and implementing policies and enforcement of laws and regulations as means towards SFM as a contributor to social and economic development and to environmental improvement.*

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

National and regional policies; e.g. assess forestry linkages to national, sub-regional (e.g. RECs) and regional policies, plans and initiatives (e.g. GGWSSI); analyse evolution, implementation and potential for improvement of forestry activities related to them.

International macroeconomic and environmental policies; e.g. assess how such policies (Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, IAF, MEAs and others) can be facilitated and mainstreamed into sub-regional and national forest policies and plans; strengthen the capacity of Africa to contribute effectively to these global processes (e.g. in UNFF, UNFCCC, UNCCD).

Local forest management and tenure; e.g. evaluate adequacy of forest management and law enforcement approaches employed by the public and private sectors and by local communities and partnerships by the three; enhance good forest governance and trade in forest products and enforcement of laws and regulations (e.g. through FLEGT); examine ways for strengthening professionalism and ethics in the sector; examine what land and resource tenure and user rights policies are required to ensure SFM.



Illegal logging of rosewood from Masoala and Marojejy in Antalaha, Madagascar.

Photo credit: Eric Patel/ Wikimedia Commons

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- Kakuru, W., 2016. ***Forest law enforcement, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products in Africa***. AFF Fact Sheet.
- Gondo, P.C., 2015. ***Strengthening African capacity to monitor and report on compliance to international processes related to forests and climate change***. AFF Working Paper Vol. 3(2).
- Kojwang, H.O. & M. Larwanou, 2015. ***Forestry-related input into relevant policies at the regional and global levels: an African perspective on climate change***. In International Forestry Review Vol.17 (S3).
- Assembe-Mvondo, S., 2014. ***An analytical review of forest governance and equitable trade practices related to climate change in Central Africa***. AFF Working Paper Vol 2 (9).
- Milimo, P.B., 2014. ***Forest and climate change policies, strategies and programmes in the EAC and IGAD sub-regions***. AFF Working Paper Vol. 2 (18).
- ***Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)***. A series of four sub-regional studies all published as AFF Working Papers in 2011: **SADC** (P. Sola; Vol 1(9)); **Sahel** (A. Tougiani; Vol 1(6)); **Central Africa** (L.J. Betti; Vol 1(10)); and sub-humid **West Africa** (L. Popoola; Vol 1(2)).

PROGRAMME AREA No.6

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Context

The continuing shortage of capacities of African forestry and allied institutions represents a major constraint to the analysis, design and implementation of effective forest management programmes. Gaps in institutional leadership and management, as well as in skills and knowledge to develop and facilitate effective and sustained uptake of available technologies, represent perhaps the biggest challenges for SFM in Africa today. In addition to these capacity gaps in technical forest and tree resources management, entrepreneurship (specifically at community level) and policy analysis capacities represent significant weak areas. There is therefore need for the development of strategic and technical human capacity in the institutions that drive the forestry agenda at national and regional levels.

The lack of capacity is also a hindrance to the domestication and implementation of international and regional instruments, including policies and agreements related to forests (dealt with in Programme 5). To enhance effective management of forests at national and trans-boundary levels, the provision of technical and financial support is needed towards national and sub-regional governmental and non-governmental institutions dealing with forestry. Investments are needed in terms of finances, technology, training, equipment, tools and information to enhance the capacity of these institutions to effectively manage forest and tree resources.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF, with appropriate partners, will work on identifying gaps in capacities, skills and knowledge at all relevant levels (government agencies, technical and academic training institutions, community associations, private business, etc.), and in developing and promoting tools and means aiming at increasing relevant capacities and skills, e.g. through training courses, teaching and education material, hand-books, technical publications, fact-sheets, etc.

The **overall goal** is to *raise awareness and provide knowledge and skills to forestry practitioners, and those responsible for driving forestry development in various institutions.*

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Assessing gaps in capacities and skills; analyse qualitative and quantitative gaps in all relevant institutions and bodies to address both traditional forest and tree management practices and new emerging issues in forestry; key areas to assess include silviculture, tree seed improvement, community forest management, value addition and consumer requirements, protection against damage by pests and diseases, the roles and potentials of forests and trees in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and trans-boundary forest issues (hydrology, trade, bio-diversity protection, etc.).

Development of means to address the identified gaps; generate the knowledge required through studies, reviews and research – both based on activities carried out in AFF's Programmes 1-5 (see above) and by other institutions; develop contextualized training materials (compendiums) and training modules; organise relevant training based on the compendiums developed by AFF, either in AFF's own programme or by promoting use of such material by other training institutions.

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- Oteng-Yeboah, A.A., 2016. ***Training module on effective engagement of African delegates in inter-national multilateral processes***. AFF, Nairobi. 57 p.
- African Forest Forum, 2014. ***Training modules on forest based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading, and payment for other environmental services***. AFF, Nairobi. 106 p.
- A ***Training Needs Assessment*** (TNA) was implemented in Anglophone African countries in 2015/6 to evaluate forestry curricula in professional and technical institutions in relation to current needs and emerging issues. In 2016/17, a similar TNA is implemented for Francophone countries.
- AFF and the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Switzerland, have established a joint ***scholarship programme for capacity building of African scientists***.
- A series of ***training courses on Rapid Carbon Stock Assessment*** (RaCSA) were conducted in 2013 to 2015 training 357 trainers (ToT) from 12 countries. Additional courses organized in 2016 (71 people trained).
- Agustino, S., Mataya, B., Senelwa, K. & E.G. Achigan-Dako, 2011. Non-Wood Forest Products and Services for Socio-Economic Development: ***A Compendium for Technical and Professional Forestry Education***. AFF, Nairobi. 239 p.

PROGRAMME AREA No.7

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Context

As more stakeholders in Africa get involved with forest and tree management for a variety of goals – economic production, positive interactions with agriculture, environmental services, etc. - the demand for relevant and reliable information and knowledge is growing. Achieving SFM in Africa is particularly constrained by poor access to relevant knowledge and technologies, partly because its current availability is fragmented, and suppliers and users extremely diverse. The situation is worsened by the fact that there are very limited knowledge products specifically targeted towards stakeholders outside the forestry profession (i.e. communities, farmers, rural entrepreneurs, etc.). In the absence of systematic and targeted management of, and access to, technical knowledge, projects and programmes are not learning from previous experiences. In addition, a significant amount of data and information used in Africa is accessed from sources outside the continent, and in many instances such data, information and knowledge are used as proxies in making decisions in Africa with the obvious result that there is often poor matches between technologies and needs.

Knowledge brokerage (KB) can play an important role in managing these gaps and in supporting stakeholders within and outside the forestry sector to access relevant and timely information. KB is broadly defined as a set of intermediary activities that link knowledge production and use. KB can range from making information more accessible and understandable to helping different actors develop a shared understanding of an issue. The intent is to help decision-makers acquire, evaluate and use expertise that they would not otherwise obtain or incorporate into their decision-making. The rapid developments in ICT offer an unprecedented range of possibilities for improved and more efficient and relevant KB, offering greater reach, more access and new technologies for storing, filtering and translating knowledge into new formats.

Delineation and goal of AFF's work

In this thematic area, AFF will work on the collation, synthesis and provision of access to critical information and knowledge required by, and adapted to the unique needs of, various stakeholders in African forestry, as well as providing information to support decision- and policy-making for enhancing SFM at national, regional and continental levels. In addition, AFF will develop efficient tools to monitor and assess impact of its own and others' programmes.

The **overall goals** are to: i) *to build up and apply an effective system for generating, accessing and making available relevant knowledge and information*, and, ii) *to assess what impact AFF's interventions have*.

Examples of subjects, challenges and opportunities to be addressed

Gathering information; continuing process of gathering useful and relevant data of improved quality from concluded, on-going and planned projects and programmes, from both AFF's own activities and those by other relevant actors; determine knowledge needs of Africa's forest sector on an on-going basis and select relevant and reliable data and information that meet the needs of different actors; interconnect different international, regional and national forestry resources information systems to enable efficient ways of data access.

Disseminate information; analyse, disaggregate and make available in user-friendly form (adapted to different user groups, incl. non-forestry professionals) existing data, information and user-designed knowledge products; further develop and improve tools (IT, data-bases, media, publications, etc.) and capacities within AFF for dissemination of information; evaluate global, regional and national forestry financing opportunities and link them to stakeholders at relevant levels.

Impact assessment; develop effective tools and mechanisms to monitor, assess and follow up on uptake, outcomes and impacts of AFF's products and services, and report to appropriate constituencies.

Examples of ongoing and/or concluded AFF activities that fall under this area

- A well designed and continuously up-dated and improved **www-homepage** (www.afforum.org) featuring entries like about AFF, vacancies, membership, publications, resource data-bases, partners, news and events, and others; the homepage has a steadily increasing number of visitors and users (in 2016: 75 000 visits by 11 000 unique visitors).
- All **printed material generated by AFF** (c. 150 to date) is freely available as downloadable pdf-files, including: Journal articles (30), policy briefs (19), factsheets (4), reports (20), AFF Working Paper Series (38), training modules (3), newsletters (16), meeting proceedings (1), books (3), compendiums (1), and corporate documents (10).
- In the last couple of years, AFF has systematically built up relations with **TV-, radio- and printed media**; a media database with c. 40 journalists has been built up to which news, information and commentaries are regularly sent; as a result, media coverage of AFF and its work on African forests has increased significantly.

ANNEX 1: ADDRESSING SOME CHALLENGES IN THE AFRICAN FORESTRY SECTOR THROUGH THE PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH

1. Background

A pan-African workshop that deliberated, among other things, on potential future scenarios in African forestry was held between 20th October and 3rd November 2017, in Arusha, Tanzania. It then consolidated the ideas that emerged from the discussions into a framework that will guide future activities of AFF over a 10-15-year period. The workshop participants included researchers, academicians, civil society representatives, the private and public sectors, development partners, youth and women representatives. The AFF secretariat and its Governing Council were also represented. More specifically the workshop examined trends, opportunities, challenges, issues and actors in African forestry; and afterwards related some of the challenges and issues to the broad programmatic areas identified in AFF's programmatic approach. This was done to facilitate situating AFF's work in the context of addressing challenges and issues in the African forestry sector through its programmatic approach. The table below highlights the perceived challenges and issues the programme areas could address. Some issues that cut across programme areas in Section 2 are addressed in only one programme area in Section 3.

2. Challenges and issues aligned to Programme Areas

PROGRAMME AREA No.1: BETTER MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS

- Accelerated deforestation and forest degradation due to various drivers that include improved technology, agricultural production, mining, and infrastructure;
- Non-existence of or presence of weak forest management plans;
- Complete absence of or existence of partial national forest resource assessments;
- Low value addition in the forestry sector;
- Low and weak private sector engagement in forestry.

PROGRAMME AREA No.2: FORESTS AND TREES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

- Inability to meet increasing demands of forest and tree products (wood and non-wood);
- Low recognition and/or weak incorporation of forests and forestry in broader sustainable development;
- Ineffective management of forests that does not take into account a balance between economic, social and ecological issues for the benefit of the society and the environment;
- Low value addition in the forestry sector;

- Little contribution of the forestry sector to the national economy as measured by GDP;
- Low employment opportunities in current forestry practices;
- Weak contribution to livelihoods;
- Long gestation period for some key investments in forestry;
- Limited engagement with the private sector to promote forestry;
- Inadequate facilitation of the private sector in forestry for its development and growth, for example assistance to develop bankable projects and viable business plans;
- Inadequate valuation of forest and tree resources and the services from them;
- Use of inefficient and sometimes obsolete technologies to process forest products, leading to considerable waste and economic losses;
- Inadequate adoption and use of costly technological advancements, for example in forest resource assessment, wood and non-wood processing, and in information management and communication.

PROGRAMME AREA No.3: CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTST AND TREES TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Lack of total economic valuation forest and tree resources and the services from them;
- Inadequate knowledge and information on the impact of climate change on tree species, biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Low prices for forest carbon that constrain efforts in afforestation and reforestation activities under CDM and REDD+;
- Limited understanding, in the forestry sector, and investments in opportunities available in green and blue economies;
- Scanty investments in bio-economy and bio-energy;
- Increased degradation of water catchment areas that result in drying up of water bodies;
- Increased degradation of forest ecosystems that leads to loss of biodiversity and carbon sinks.

PROGRAMME AREA No.4: CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST AND TREES TO FOOD AND NUTRITUTION SECURITY

- Increased competition for land to produce food, fibre and fuel;
- Scanty investments in forestry related bio-economy and bio-energy areas;
- Considerable loss of diverse and nutritious sources of forest foods and medicines;
- Reduction of household incomes and national revenues due to forest loss;

- Scanty investments in development of non-timber forest products related to food and medicines;
- Low value addition in wood and non-wood forest and tree products.

PROGRAMME AREA No. 5: POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

- Inadequate capacity of the African forestry stakeholders to formulate and implement relevant policies, programmes and plans;
- Weak capacity of the African forestry stakeholders to mainstream recommendations from Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into their national policies, plans and activities as well as monitoring implementation and reporting on the same;
- Existence, in some countries, of old or obsolete policies and laws that are largely ineffective;
- Lack of or weak political good will to act;
- Weak law enforcement and good governance in forestry sector;
- Inadequate involvement of women and youth in forestry;
- Declining interest among the youth in forestry;
- Existence of some cultures and traditional norms that prevent women from practicing forestry;
- Declining observance of professionalism in forest sector;
- Existence of corruption in the sector;
- Unclear land tenure issues in forestry that constrain investments (and access to land for development) in the sector, suppress rights of women and marginalised groups;
- Very limited access to long term financing to actors in forestry.

PROGRAMME AREA No.6: CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Inadequate capacity and resources to link stakeholders to potential funding opportunities;
- Inadequate capacity and resources to address increasing demands on the forest sector;
- Limited participation of African delegates in the international discourses;
- Limited capacity and speed for the continent to address new and emerging issues related to the sector;
- Scanty investments in forestry related education and research;
- Low student enrolment in forestry education and training;
- Inadequate skilled personnel for many forestry related activities;
- Lack of or inadequate capacity for technology development/improvement in the sector;

- Inadequate capacity and resources for SMEs to engage in profitable forest products development e.g. value addition, value chain development;
- Inadequate capacity and resources for adoption and use of costly technological advancements, for example in forest resource assessment, wood and non-wood processing, information management and communication, and at different stages in the forest value chain.

PROGRAMME AREA No.7 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Inability to cope with increasing new and emerging issues in forestry and related fields;
- Inability to provide quality and timely information to different African forestry stakeholders;
- Low monitoring and uptake of knowledge and information on global economic trends for decision making at all levels;
- Inadequate mechanisms for supporting information dissemination and use of modern technology in forestry information management and sharing.

3. Objectives, outcomes and outputs in each Programmatic Area

The workshop discussions around the challenges/issues led to the identification of objectives that should guide addressing them in each programme area, as well as the expected outputs and outcomes. These are highlighted as follows.

Programme Area 1: <i>Better management of forests and trees outside forests</i>		
Programme goal: <i>To facilitate the enhancement of SFM in all forest types in Africa</i>		
Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Contribute to containing the loss of forest cover	1.1. Adoption of appropriate sustainable land use management (SLM) policies and practices increased	1.1.1. Sustainable land use management practices identified 1.1.2. Development of appropriate policies to promote SLM supported
	1.2. Protection of forest lands enhanced	1.2.1. Awareness of the need to protect forest lands created 1.2.2. Capacity to enforce protection of forest lands enhanced
	1.3. Viable alternative sources of livelihoods secured	1.3.1. Alternative sources of livelihoods identified and promoted
2. Contribute to net expansion of forest cover	2.1. Net forest cover and area under trees outside forests expanded	2.1.1. Establishment of plantations, restoration of degraded forests and agroforestry practices promoted
		2.1.2. Capacity of national tree seed centres enhanced

	2.2. Knowledge, skills and best practices used by stakeholders improved	2.2.1. Protection, enclosure, farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) promoted
3. Promote sustainable utilization of forests and trees outside forests	3.1 Knowledge and skills of forest stakeholders on sustainable utilisation of forest and tree resources enhanced	3.1.1 Forest stakeholders trained in sustainable forest management practices
		3.1.2 Knowledge and data on SFM practices generated and disseminated
4. Facilitate processes leading to better forest management planning	4.1 Inclusive processes for forest management planning adopted and internalised	4.1.1 Capacity of stakeholders in forest inventory enhanced to support forest management planning
		4.1.2 Participatory forest management planning promoted
		4.1.3 Co-generation and equitable sharing of benefits appreciated and enhanced
		4.1.4. State/national forestry departments sensitised and capacitated to develop better forest management plans to enhance SFM
5. Contribute to the enhancement of collaboration among different sectors and individual stakeholders associated with forest and tree resources in Africa	5.1 Intra-, inter- and trans- sectoral collaboration among stakeholders established and strengthened	5.1.1 A platform to promote integrated NRM established and operationalised

Programme Area 2: Forests and trees in economic development and poverty eradication		
Programme goal: <i>To identify and promote opportunities for economic development and poverty eradication based on forest and tree products</i>		
Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Identify and promote ways for increasing the supply of roundwood and NTFPs on the African continent from forests and trees outside forests	1.1 Sustainable supply of roundwood and NTFPs on the African continent enhanced	1.1.1 Up to date information on supply and demand of roundwood and NTFPs; challenges, opportunities and the options for meeting supply requirements, provided
	1.2 Socio-economic	1.2.1 A set of recommendations on

	wellbeing of forest actors in the value chain improved	enabling conditions to increase supply of round wood and NTFPs formulated and shared widely
2. Identify and promote technologically efficient means for value addition in biomass energy and other key product lines, including NTFPs	2.1 Better quality and diversified forest products made available	2.1.1 Up to date information on state of production and trade in biomass energy, its adequacy, challenges and opportunities for their improvement documented
	2.2 Incomes and wellbeing of actors in the value chain enhanced	2.2.1 Recommendations on enabling conditions for promoting viable value chain options formulated
3. Facilitate the strengthening and development of an organized private sector (with special emphasis on small and medium enterprises) in African forestry	3.1 A private sector in African forestry which is stronger, more visible, and organized	3.1.1 An organizational and governance structure for the private sector in African forestry established
	3.2 Small and medium forestry enterprises (SMFEs) in African forestry with more visible presence in the national economies	3.2.1 Private sector's access to sources of investment, technology and markets supported
4. Promote entrepreneurship opportunities in African forestry that enhance livelihoods, national incomes and employment	4.1 Entrepreneurial business startups in the forestry sector increased	4.1.1 Information on key areas with high potential for investment in the sector provided
	4.2 Existing forestry businesses thriving and performing well	4.2.1 Information on actors who have received training to develop bankable projects and the bankable projects developed
		4.2.2 Joint projects between AFF and actors in the sector

Programme Area 3: Contribution of forests and trees to environmental health

Programme goal: *to increase the knowledge and understanding of how forests and trees can contribute to a better environment in Africa, particularly with regard to adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and to biodiversity and water conservation*

Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Contribute to building capacity to sustainably manage forest and tree resources, taking into account climate change, for better provision of	1.1 Knowledge, competence and skills of key stakeholders improved	1.1.1. Key stakeholders trained in the management of forest and tree resources in the context of climate change for enhanced provision of ecosystem goods and services

ecosystem goods and services, and also for improved research and education in forestry		
		1.1.2. The capacity for handling climate change in forestry education and research institutions enhanced
		1.1.3 The number and quality of experts (in academia, research and development) working on climate change issues in forestry increased
	1.2 Impact driven climate change research and education in forestry enhanced	1.2.1 Research focus, facilities and technologies to undertake climate change related research in forestry improved
	1.3 Forest and tree resources are sustainably managed	1.3.1. Information on mechanisms/approaches to increase forest cover shared widely
		1.3.2 Periodic forest inventories and management planning institutionalised and operationalised
		1.3.3 Proper reflection of forestry contribution in national accounting (total economic valuation) appreciated and promoted
		1.3.4 Mechanisms for sustaining the supply of goods and services from forest and tree resources provided
2. Enhance the capacity of Africa in climate change related regional and global negotiations	2.1. Capacity to negotiate and articulate the interest of African forestry in climate change related multilateral agreements and initiatives enhanced	2.1.1. Capacity of African negotiators enhanced 2.1.2 African position is reflected in the resolutions and agreements 2.1.3 Visibility of African forestry profiled
3. Strengthen the capacity for Africa to implement recommendations from climate change related regional and global agreements and initiatives	3.1 African stakeholders capacitated to implement recommendations and decisions from climate change related regional and	3.1.1 The capacity of Africa to mainstream decisions and recommendations from climate change related regional and global agreements and initiatives in their policies and plans enhanced

on forests and related issues	global agreements and initiatives on forests and related issues 3.2 Stakeholders empowered to access funding opportunities	3.2.1 Funding sources for various activities in the sector identified 3.2.2. Training on relevant aspects of financial resources mobilisation executed 3.2.3 The capacity of Africa to mobilize funding that comes with these agreements and initiatives (including existing and emerging sources) strengthened
4. Enhance knowledge and understanding of how forests, trees and ecosystems services are impacted by climate change and vice versa	4.1. Better understanding cultivated on the relationship between forests and trees in climate change	4.1.1 Information on the impact of climate change on tree species, biodiversity and ecosystem services quantified and used
		4.1.2 Knowledge based adaptation and mitigation strategies (including CDM, REDD+ and others from the Paris Agreement like NDCs) devised and adopted
	4.2. Better understanding of measures to increase the resilience to adverse effects of climate change on forests and tree resources and people who depend on them	4.2.1 Approaches to enhance resilience to adverse effects of climate change on forest and tree resources, and people who depend on these resources identified and shared
5. Generate and share knowledge and information on opportunities in green and blue economies	5.1 Forest related opportunities in blue and green economies leveraged to enhance sustainable livelihoods	5.1.1 Relevant databases on forest related issues in blue and green economies created and shared widely
		5.1.2 Capacity of stakeholders in African forestry enhanced on aspects of blue and green economies

Programme Area 4: Contribution of forests and trees to food and nutrition security		
Programme goal: to <i>identify, analyse and promote ways in which forests and trees can increase, diversify and improve food and nutrition security</i>		
Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Identify the key forest foods which are worth conserving, and promote and determine ways of managing them in-situ and/or ex-situ	1.1 Key foods from plant, animal and insect species of forest origin properly managed in forests and farm environments	1.1.1 Information on foods of forest origin, their viability as food sources, and the appropriate management approaches for their sources provided
2. Promote use of forest foods in the diet	2.1 Foods of forest origin mainstreamed in diets	2.1.1 Information on factors influencing the availability, relevance and use of foods from forest origin provided
		2.1.2 Information on how to add value to foods of forest origin provided to the society
		2.1.3 Advocacy documents, guidelines and manuals and other relevant information on availability, relevance and value chains of promising foods of forest origin provided
3. To understand how the interaction between forests and trees and agriculture influence the availability of foods of forest origin as well as foods from trees outside forests	3.1 Improved knowledge on competition for land between forests, trees and agriculture for better decisions, including for improved food and nutrition security	3.1.1 Information on the competition for land between forests, trees outside forests and agriculture provided

Programme Area 5: Policies and Governance		
Programme goal: <i>To facilitate creating favorable environment for conceiving and implementing policies and enforcement of laws and regulations as means towards SFM as a contributor to social and economic development and to environmental improvement</i>		
Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Improve African stakeholder participation in formulation and implementation of policies and strategies at all levels	1.1 African forestry stakeholders have better understanding of global, regional and sub-regional issues related to forestry	1.1.1 Knowledge and skills on global, regional and sub-regional policies and strategies enhanced among African forestry stakeholders
		1.1.2 Opportunities and challenges on implementing recommendations from global, regional and sub-regional agreements identified, documented and shared widely
	1.2 African forestry stakeholders have effective participation in	1.2.1 Capacity of African forestry stakeholders in formulating and implementing policies in the sector

	formulation and implementation of policies at all levels	strengthened
		1.2.2 Capacity of African forestry stakeholders for effective implementation of policies related to the sector increased
2. Facilitate mainstreaming of decisions/recommendations from global, regional and sub-regional agreements, policies and initiatives into national policies, plans, strategies and programmes and reporting on the same	2.1 Enhanced integration of new global, regional and sub-regional agreements, initiatives and strategies into national forestry policies and plans	2.1.1 Capacity for African stakeholders in forestry to integrate decisions or recommendations from new global, regional and sub-regional agreements, initiatives and strategies into national forestry policies and plans strengthened.
		2.1.2 Frequency of reporting on national activities that are due to decisions and recommendations from international, regional and sub-regional agreements increased
	2.2 African forestry stakeholders have better structured approaches in implementation of global agreements and initiatives at national, sub regional and regional levels	2.2.1 Awareness on and interest in international agreements among African forestry stakeholders strengthened at national, sub regional and regional levels
		2.2.2 Capacity of African forestry stakeholders in the implementation of decisions and recommendations from global agreements and initiatives strengthened at national, sub regional and regional levels
3. Enhance governance of forests and tree resources by strengthening relevant institutions and improving involvement of women, youth and marginalized groups	3.1 Policies and practices in forest governance that integrate youth, women and marginalized groups profiled and promoted by African forestry stakeholders	3.1.1 Understanding by African policy makers on gender roles in forest management and use improved
		3.1.2 Involvement of youth, women and marginalized groups in forest management and use improved
	3.2 Appropriate and enforceable laws and regulations related to sustainable forest management secure	3.2.1 Efficiency and transparency in forest management and administration increased

	professionalism, transparency and ethics in the sector	
		3.2.2 Political good will translate into political action
		3.2.3 Appropriate rules and regulations put in place and implemented
	3.3 Contributions from youth, women, and marginalized groups visible in the sector	3.3.1 Networks for youth, women, and marginalized groups in forest and tree resources management and use strengthened
		3.3.2 Partnerships and alliances between AFF and relevant stakeholders in African forestry enhanced

Programme Area 6: Capacity Building and Skills Development

Programme goal: to *raise awareness and provide knowledge and skills to forestry practitioners, and those responsible for driving developments in forestry in various institutions*

Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Facilitate access of SME stakeholders to investment and funding opportunities in the forestry sector	1.1 More viable, vibrant and operational SMEs in the forestry sector	1.1.1 Capacity of SMEs in forestry to access funding opportunities enhanced
2. Facilitate development of innovative capacity on the continent to address technological issues in the sector	2.1 Capacity of forestry stakeholders to develop and use appropriate technology in their operations improved	2.1.1 Forestry stakeholders capacitated to use appropriate and improved technologies to existing as well as new and emerging issues in the sector
3. Promote entrepreneurship opportunities for SMEs in African forestry, including for women and youth	3.1 Entrepreneurial business startups in the forestry sector increased	3.1.1 Information on making investments in key high potential areas in forestry documented and shared widely
		3.1.2 Actors in forestry capacitated to develop bankable projects
		3.1.3 Joint projects between AFF and some actors developed
4. Strengthen capacity to research on current and emerging issues in forestry	4.1 African forestry stakeholders have better understanding of new and emerging issues related to forestry	4.1.1 African stakeholder's capacity to undertake quality research on new and emerging issues related to forestry enhanced
		4.1.2 Partnerships between relevant research, academic, public and civil society institutions strengthened

Programme Area 7: Information Management and Impact Assessment		
Programme goals: (i) <i>to build and manage an effective system for generating, accessing and making available relevant knowledge and information</i> , and, (ii) <i>to assess what impact AFF's interventions have</i>		
Objectives	Outcomes	Outputs
1. Strengthen or develop an effective system for gathering, managing and disseminating reliable information	1.1 Quality and timely information available to relevant stakeholders	1.1.1 Functional and effective system for gathering and collating information established/or enhanced
		1.1.2 Knowledge products on forestry, including those on climate change and other emerging issues, produced and shared in timely manner
		1.1.3 Functional and effective system for managing and dissemination of information related to forestry improved
		1.1.4 National platforms and networks for sharing of information on forestry established or strengthened
	1.2 Improved access, by stakeholders, to AFF knowledge products and services	1.2.1 Communication tools developed or enhanced and packaged to meet different target groups
		1.2.2 Effective communication pathways identified and promoted
		1.2.3 Media and social media promoted and strengthened in African forestry
	2.1 Improved processes and efficiency in the management of AFF projects and services	2.1.1 A common reference, based on AFF log frame, for development partners established and implemented
		2.1.2 Capacity of AFF staff in project management and provision of services enhanced
		2.1.3 Better involvement of AFF members at all levels
		2.1.4 Facilitation mechanisms to better engage members in implementing project activities and services identified
	2.2 Improved effectiveness in	2.2.1 Various stakeholders like youth, women, civil society and marginalized

	implementing forest based interventions at all levels	groups better engaged in forestry
	2.3 Strengthened M&E system at AFF	2.3.1 Good understanding of M&E tools by AFF members enhanced
		2.3.2 Findings from M&E by relevant African forest stakeholders implemented
3. Strengthen PMER Unit in impact assessment and reporting	3.1 Improved uptake and adoption of forest-based interventions at all levels	3.1.1 Engagement with relevant stakeholders enhanced
	3.2 Improved capacity in the impact assessment and reporting to facilitate decision making at all levels	3.2.1 Capacity for AFF members in impact assessment and reporting strengthened
		3.2.2 Appropriate reporting guidelines to capture key information for decision making developed
4. Improve and strengthen Knowledge Management and Communication Unit (KM&CU) in sharing and dissemination of information	4.1 Enhanced operationalization of KM&CU in development, management and sharing of AFF knowledge products and services	4.1.1 Capacity for KM&CU to engage AFF members and relevant stakeholders in forestry strengthened
		4.1.2 Capacity of AFF members to package knowledge, experiences and best practices enhanced
	4.2 Improved management of AFF membership	4.2.1 The profiles of AFF members regularly updated
		4.2.2 Updates on AFF members' activities and experiences documented and shared widely.



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



For more information please contact:

The Executive Secretary
African Forest Forum
c/o World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O.Box 30677-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 722 4000, Fax: +254 20 722 4001
Email: exec.sec@afforum.org; Website: www.afforum.org

