



The **Technical Support Team** of the African Forest Forum

Our mission is to strategically position informed African participation in international forestry and related dialogues, by providing leadership, technical guidance and support on forestry issues to African delegates, in a manner that promotes sustainable forest and tree management in Africa.

Above all, we have a great passion for African forestry with a fervent desire to ensure that African participation in international forums and negotiations is well informed, and

that the African voice is heard clearly and strongly. In addition, we seek to ensure that Africa benefits from the outcomes of these processes.



Why have a Technical Support Team?

African forests and trees underpin key economic sectors of many African countries. They are also central to maintaining the quality of the environment throughout the continent, while providing international public goods and services.

Unless African forestry perspectives are brought to bear on regional and international forest policy debates, there is the risk that outside interests that do not have the social and economic development requirements and agendas of the continent as their first priority will dominate adopted strategies.

The Technical Support Team (TST) was established by the African Forest Forum as a committee of its Governing

Council after an assessment of the participation of African delegates in regional and international forest policy dialogues. This assessment revealed a number of challenges including: inadequate participation and lack of continuity of representation, low technical representation in delegations, weak negotiation skills and inability to speak with one voice, all of which made African countries susceptible to being taken advantage of during negotiations on forestry.

Therefore, the TST seeks to strengthen African forestry stakeholders' participation and effectiveness in advancing their interests in the international arena. The TST also seeks to ensure that Africa benefits from the outcomes of these international processes.

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Our Work

We promote the participation of key stakeholders

in the process leading to negotiations, including women, youth, marginalised groups, NGOs, private sector, sub-regional and regional economic groups, diplomats, and other relevant secretariats and offices.

We help African delegates to have a united, influential presence

in regional and international forest related negotiations, by providing technical and logistical support both before and during these processes.

We facilitate consensus building

among African delegates.



We facilitate the monitoring, reporting and mainstreaming of decisions from forestry processes into regional, sub-regional and national levels.

We analyse, synthesise and share information on strategic African forestry issues.

We build capacity and skills for key players in negotiations and implement outcomes from these processes.

We maintain a database on delegates to negotiations, and on other people relevant to TST's mission.

Our Successes

TST has successfully facilitated preparatory meetings for African delegates

to sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) since 2005. TST has since then effectively supported the “African Group” in UNFF8 and UNFF9, increasing the impact of Africa’s contribution to the negotiations.

AFF was accredited as an observer to sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

in December 2009. TST has successfully monitored inter-sessional activities, making it possible for AFF to be represented at country-led initiatives.

TST has prepared position papers for AFF on key forest and related issues

that have contributed to the evolution of the African opinion in international debates. TST members have wide experience in international policy debates and international negotiations, and have contributed their expertise to different forums that have supported the international debates.

The Technical Support Team (TST) is a committee of the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum (AFF), and TST operates in close collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC).



TST Members

For information about current TST members, please contact us.

For more information, visit www.afforum.org or contact us at:

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