



2008 – 2018

African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



AFF 10th Year Anniversary Celebrations Report



About AFF

Established in 2007 as a non-political, non-governmental, objective, independent and not for profit international organization, 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 mobilizes 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.

Cover photos: Makungu Seedlings and Clonal Central Nursery owned by Green Resources Ltd- Mufindi District, Tanzania (credit: Prof. Reuben J.L Mwamakimbullah, President- Tanzania Association of Foresters); private commercial plantation in Somanya, a district in the Eastern region of Ghana (photo © African Forest Forum); women smallholder farmers in Kenya (credit: McKay Savage/Wikimedia Commons).

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AFF 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A report prepared by the African Forest Forum (AFF)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| AFF | African Forest Forum |
| AU | African Union |
| CDM | Clean Development Mechanism |
| COFO | Committee on Forestry |
| DSL | Dryland Sustainable Landscapes |
| EAC | East African Community |
| ET | Emissions Trading |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| GGWSSI | Great Green Wall of Sahara and Sahel initiative |
| JI | Joint Implementation |
| KFS | Kenya Forest Service |
| KEFRI | Kenya Forestry Research Institute |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| Sida | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| NGARA | The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa |
| ICRAF | The International Centre for Research on Agroforestry, also known as the World Agroforestry Centre |
| CSD | The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organisation |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |

A. INTRODUCTION

Background

The 10th Anniversary of the African Forest Forum (AFF) was celebrated on 22 May 2019, at the Amani Gardens, Karura Forest Service grounds in Nairobi Kenya. The celebration of this important anniversary presented an opportunity for AFF's founding members, members forum, secretariat, Governing Council and partners involved in its evolution to reflect on the achievements to date as well as to take stock of the challenges with which it is confronted.

The focus of AFF was directed towards forestry and related issues that cut across countries and different African sub-regions with the aim to further improve the public image and awareness of the institution, which, a decade later, is more relevant than ever. Specific objectives were to:

- Celebrate 10 years of hard work by founding members, staff, members forum and partners of the African Forest Forum (AFF);
- Recognize role past generosity of major donors had played in laying basis for current success;
- Highlight AFF's programmatic approach and plans for the future to secure further institutional and financial support;
- Increase the number of AFF members with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources
- Seek press coverage to raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests.

Organization of the anniversary event

Coordination of the celebration activities were undertaken by the African Forest Forum (AFF), the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). The planning committee consisted of the following members;

- Dr. Vincent Oeba – Programme Officer, AFF (Chairperson)
- Dr. Leon Awiti -Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist - AFF (Secretary)
- Prof. Godwin Kowero-Executive Secretary - CEO, AFF
- Dr. Doris Mutta-Senior Programme Specialist, AFF
- Dr. Marie Louise AVANA-Senior Programme Officer, AFF
- Dr. Z. Henri-Noel Bouda-Senior Programme Officer, AFF
- Ms. Daphine Gitonga – Communications Specialist, AFF
- Ms. Caroline Kajuju – Senior Finance Officer, AFF
- Ms. Barbara Owuor – Senior Administrative Officer, AFF
- Charles Ochieng-KFS
- Anne Kaari-KFS
- Bulbul Ratemo-KFS
- Charles Koech-KEFRI
- Margaret Njenga-KEFRI
- Robert Nyambati-KEFRI
- Clement Ng'oriareng-KFS

The following communication components were developed by AFF to promote the anniversary year and to facilitate celebratory activities:

- Creation of a specific logo and visual identity to be used on all anniversary material;
- Creation of e-signatures for all staff and info-mail template to publicize the Anniversary
- Creation of a 10th Anniversary booklet specifically designed to showcase AFF's journey in the past decade
- Creation of graphics for AFF social media pages and website;

- Creation of an AFF 10th Anniversary documentary and series of congratulatory messages from partners, founding members and key stakeholders.
- Development of a press release and backgrounder
- Environmentally and culturally sensitive commemorative products including eco-bags, certificates and plaques developed to celebrate the Anniversary and promote the Institution.
- Song and dance performed by the KEFRI and KFS choirs to entertain guests during the event.
- Development of knowledge products for dissemination during the anniversary
- Eight training compendiums on Basic science of climate change, carbon trading, climate modelling and scenario development, as well as a book titled, *“The State of Forestry in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”* for release

Anniversary activities and theme

The celebrations were marked by a number of events that included: a regional workshop on ‘sharing of information, knowledge and experiences in African Forestry’ (20-23 May 2019); and two regional training workshops on (1) ‘sustainable forest management and leadership for policy makers in Africa’ and (2) ‘forest governance for Eastern and Southern Africa’ held from 20-24 May 2019. With an impressive list of speakers from the field, the workshops showcased results obtained by AFF during the last two years from its work and strengthened the capacity of forestry managers, at all levels, to deliver effective governance and management of African forests and tree resources.

The final anniversary event was held under the theme, *“Celebrating 10 years of commitment to Africa’s forest and tree resources.”* By focusing on this theme, issues pertaining to the livelihoods of the people of Africa and stability of their environment informed AFF’s advocacy for increased relevance of the sector. It was attended by over 200 participants from across Africa, representing governments and public agencies, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). This Report captures the celebrations as per a record of speeches and photos submitted by AFF’s Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PMER) unit.

B. THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT OF THE AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)

Opening ceremony

The official ceremony was opened by a warm welcome and word of prayer delivered by the Master of Ceremony, Mr. Johnson Mwakazi (The Royal Voice).



Photo L-R: Guests at the 10th anniversary celebrations held at the Amani Gardens, Karura Forest Service grounds in Nairobi Kenya; Prof. Godwin Kowero ES-CEO AFF delivering his opening remarks

In his opening remarks, Prof Godwin Kowero, emphasized the need of a new narrative for Africa, that captures the urgency of the environmental challenges facing its forests and one that places forests and trees outside forests at the centre of human, animal and plant survival on the continent. Towards this end, he highlighted AFF's efforts on issues related to: management of trees and forests in different landscapes and in the context of climate change; forest certification; quality supply and management of tree germplasm; forest and tree pests and diseases; knowledge brokerage as well as supporting African delegates with capacity to develop common positions and negotiation strategies, in addition to effectively articulating their issues in international forestry related dialogues. In view of this, it was noted that the wealth of information generated through these activities provided a sound basis to develop and expand the forestry sector in Africa.

Speaking on behalf of the FAO Regional Office for Africa, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Mr. Edward Kilawe, Forestry Officer, commended AFF as a key partner in boosting the forestry agenda in Africa. He reiterated FAO's gratitude for the collaborative approach that has enabled the institution to support Africa's regional and country strategies and policies on sustainable forest management and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Almami Dampha, Senior Policy Officer, Rural Economy and Agriculture Department, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recognized the vision and foresight of the AFF founding members towards establishment of the institution. He also appreciated the Government and people of Kenya for providing a conducive policy environment to host the regional entity. Other partners equally acknowledged included ICRAF, UNFF, UN agencies, FAO, RECs, development partners, Donor Community among others. He reaffirmed the commitment of AUC in working with all partners towards Agenda 2063- Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse of the future.

Mr. Peter Gondo, Inter-Regional Advisor United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat expressed his gratitude to AFF for partnering in empowering the African voice and making sure that African issues were made a priority in global policy dialogue.

Ms. Ulla Andrén Regional Head of Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa Embassy of Sweden, Ethiopia commended AFF in creating a collective voice for forestry on the continent and beyond. She encouraged further inclusion of women's leadership in the forestry sector for increased productivity and economic benefits. In the same token, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Programme Manager Dr. Patrick Sieber, explained the support to AFF on improving the understanding about the relationship between climate change forests and trees in Africa for many years. In a recorded statement, he indicated a sense of pride in AFF's growth as an institution and re-affirmed commitment towards its long standing and rewarding partnership.

Mr. Macarthy Oyebo, Chair of the AFF Governing Council, provided an overview into AFF's journey over the past decade to become the leading platform of stakeholders in African forestry. In the process, he extended gratitude to all African governments, partners and stakeholders who enabled the institution to achieve its targets and move ahead with its work. He also appreciated 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. He further informed delegates that AFF had redefined its approach to conceiving and managing its work through a programmatic approach guided by its own strategy and the priority areas of action identified by the African forestry fraternity.

Mr. Gideon Gathaara, Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry lauded the efforts of the African Forest Forum (AFF) for a decade of service to African forestry, and the achievements attained within the short period. He stated that deforestation and forest degradation remained challenges that hindered the ability of African countries to address poverty. For this reason, he took note of the considerable work AFF had done in providing useful information from its continent-wide studies. The development of such information, he further noted, could support evidence-based decision making to improve management and wise use of forest and tree resources.

Cake cutting ceremony

The cake cutting ceremony officially ended the week-long series of festivities, marking the official 10th year anniversary of AFF's recognition as an independent and not for profit international organisation with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources. The ceremony officially came to a peak with those on hand singing "Happy Birthday" to AFF followed by a soaring rendition of the Africa Song. Led by the Guest of Honour, the cake was cut together with 3 Governing Council members and a member of AFF secretariat, amidst pomp, colour and celebration.



Photo L-R: Dr. Doris Mutta, Senior Programme Officer (SPO)-AFF; Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary-CEO AFF; Mr. Gideon Gathaara, Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Mr. Macarthy Oyebo, Chair AFF Governing Council; Prof. Demel Teketay, Chair AFF Members Forum.

Following this ceremony, official group photographs were taken of the dignitaries, the key speakers, AFF founding members and Members of the AFF Governing Council.



Photo L-R: AFF Founding Members with the Conservation Secretary, Kenya; AFF Governing Council Members with the Conservation Secretary, Kenya

AFF Training compendiums and book release

In the third part of the ceremony, eight training compendiums developed in a pedagogical manner were officially launched by Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary-CEO AFF; Mr. Macarthy Oyebo, Chair AFF Governing Council and Prof. Demel Teketay, Chair AFF Members Forum and Mr. Gideon Gathaara, Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry.



Photo L-R: AFF Founding Members with the Conservation Secretary, Kenya; AFF Governing Council Members with the Conservation Secretary, Kenya

The compendiums are namely:

- [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](#)

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. 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 training compendiums 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. These compendiums will be complemented by six others under preparation on climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation in African Forestry. 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.

In an effort to complement FAO's regular reports on the global state of forestry resources and on related aspects, AFF used the platform to also launch *"The State of Forestry in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges"*. The issue provides a broad overview of some of the most pressing concerns in the forestry sector, with the intention that subsequent issues of this publication will dwell on other equally important concerns that could not be accommodated in this issue. AFF plans to produce, with potential partners, such issues once every 2-4 years, resources permitting.

Presentation of awards of certificates

The presentation of awards in form of plaques to AFF's Founding Members was done by the Guest of Honour and facilitated by Ms. Daphne Gitonga-AFF Communication Specialist. The plaques were in recognition of their significant contribution towards the establishment of the institution on the 26th of January 2007. Likewise, members of the AFF Governing Council were appreciated for their invaluable leadership, expertise and support through the awarding of certificates.



Photo: AFF Founding members honored at the AFF 10th year anniversary

Exhibition and tree planting session

During the lunch break, a video (20min in length) that features voices from members of AFF on the occasion was featured. During this time the all participants, interacted with each other in a relaxed atmosphere, and visited the three exhibitions stands by the African Forest Forum (AFF), the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). The participants also had the opportunity to each get copies of the launched publications.

After the break, Ms Monica Kalenda, representing the Chief Conservator of Forests in Kenya provided a brief overview of the Kenya Forest Service and Friends of Karura Forest mandate She then led them on a tree planting exercise, with nominated participants from each geographical region. *"The tree planting segment is the most important aspect of the anniversary. It is a manifestation of the mission and objective of the African Forest Forum, and also a demonstration of how the organisation connects with nature and humanity,"* said Macarthy Oyobo, Chair of AFF Governing Council. Prof. Godwin Kowero, AFF Executive Secretary reiterated this notion, saying, *"AFF members are lovers of nature and many of us learn lessons of life from nature. This explains why this planting exercise is very significant."*



The Conservation Secretary, Kenya, watering a tree after planting. Looking on is Ms Monica Kalenda of KFS



KFS Choir entertaining guests during the tree planting session

Closing session

Prof. Demel Teketay, Chair of AFF Members' Forum in his closing remarks, reiterated the fact that the AFF secretariat was committed to mainstreaming gender considerations in its work as well as in the institution's key organs. He further gave highlights of the AFF membership and urged those who had not signed up to do so. The Chair of the AFF member's forum showed deep gratitude to the following partners, collaborators and service providers including; the Kenyan Government; the Ministry of Forestry; Kenya Forest Society; The Management at Karura Forest; Kenya Forestry Research Institute; World Agroforestry Center; The Governing Council of the African Forest Forum (AFF); The African Union Commission; African Union Commission; United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Regional Economic Communities of ECOWAS, EAC, ECCAS and SADC; The SLU; The Media; The Executive Secretary of The African Forest Forum; the 10th Anniversary Organizing Committee; the Master of Ceremony; the entertainment team; and, the Nairobi Safari Club Hotel.

ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME FOR AFF'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 22 MAY 2019 NAIROBI KENYA

| TIME | ACTIVITY | RESPONSIBLE |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| 7:30 am | Pick up from hotel(s) | B. Owuor |
| 8:30-09:00 am | Registration at venue | B. Owuor C. Kajuju |
| OPENING SESSION | | |
| 09:00-09:15 am | Arrival of Guest of Honour | Secretariat |
| 09:15-09:25 am | Opening prayer and national anthem | MC: J. Mwakazi |
| 09:25-09:55 am | Remarks by AFF Executive Secretary, | G. Kowero |
| 09:55-10:15 am | Entertainment | D. Gitonga J. Mwakazi |
| 10:15-10:20 am | AFF documentary | D. Gitonga |
| OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFF | | |
| 10:20-11:40 am | Remarks by representative from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Union Commission • United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat • Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations-ROA • World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF • Regional Economic Communities • Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) • Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) Chair, Governing Council of AFF Guest of Honour | MC |
| 11:40-12:00 | COFFEE BREAK | |
| LAUNCHING OF AFF COMPENDIUMS AND BOOK | | |
| 12:00-12:45 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights on the book: <i>"The State of Forestry in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges"</i> • Highlights on the training compendiums on climate change in forestry • Official launch of book • Official launch of training compendiums • Awards | MC |

| TIME | ACTIVITY | RESPONSIBLE |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote of thanks • Official photo | |
| 12:45-2:00 PM | LUNCH BREAK EXHIBITION AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS | |
| TREE PLANTING | | |
| 2:00-3:30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief on Kenya Forest Service and Friends of Karura Forest • Tree planting at Karura Forest | J. Kamau |
| 3:30pm | Departure to hotels | B. Owour and L. Awiti |
| EVENING PROGRAMME | | |
| 7:00-9:00 pm | Cocktail | B. Owuor, L. Awiti and C. Kajuju |

ANNEX 2: AFF 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS MEDIA COVERAGE

- AFRICA SCIENCE NEWS: [African Forest Forum to mark 10 years](#)
- CLIMATE REPORTERS: [AFF Celebrates 10 years of African Forestry](#)
- KASS FM: [AFF celebrates 10th anniversary in Nairobi](#)
- MY JOY ONLINE.COM: [Africa's forests to play major role in implementation of Agenda 2063](#)
- AFRICA WEB: [Les opportunités et défis de la foresterie en Afrique au cœur d'une célébration de l'AFF au Kenya](#)
- ENVIRO NEWS: [Foret: La gestion durable des forêts peut rapprocher la richesse de la'afrique](#)
- PAMACC NEWS AGENCY: [Sustainable Forest Management can drive Africa's natural wealth so near](#)
- CLIMATE REPORTERS: [Sustainable forest management can drive Africa's wealth so near-Experts](#)
- ENVIRO NEWS NIGERIA: [Africa's certified forest least in the world, study reveals](#)
- XIHUANET.COM: [AU to launch Africa's forestry management framework in 2020: official](#)
- GHANA NEWS AGENCY: [AU to launch Africa's forestry management framework in 2020: official](#)
- MODERN GHANA: [AFF celebrates a decade's work on African forestry](#)
- XINHUANET.COM: [Africa's forests cover increasing despite climate change effects: experts](#)
- ENVIRO NEWS: [Kenya: L'AFF Marque L'anniversaire de so savoir-faire en plantant d'arbres dans la foret de Karura](#)
- PAMACC NEWS AGENCY: [AFF marks anniversary with tree planting craftsmanship in Karura Forest](#)
- CLIMATE REPORTERS: [AFF marks anniversary with tree planting craftsmanship in karura forest](#)

ANNEX 3: SPEECH BY PROF. GODWIN KOWERO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-CEO, AFF

**The Guest of Honour, The Conservation Secretary for Environment and Forestry
The Representative of the African Union Commission,
The Representative of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF),
The Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO),
The Representative of United Nations Environment Programme-Regional Office for Africa
The Head of Regional Development Cooperation in Sub-Sahara Africa, Embassy of Sweden, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The Representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),
The Representative of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
The Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities of ECOWAS, EAC, and ECCAS,
The Chair of the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum (AFF)
Heads and representatives of other institutions,
Representative of various media,
All invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning!

I wish to welcome all of you to this celebration of a decade of active service of the African Forest Forum in African forestry.

However, before I continue, I wish to introduce you to the people who have guided the process of establishment and running this institution.

I wish to introduce to you the Founder Members of AFF: (All to stand up)

They were members of a Steering Committee for an Africa-wide project on “Lessons Learnt on Sustainable Forest Management in Africa”. This project was instrumental in conceiving the idea of an African Forest Forum. The Founder Members constituted the members of the first Governing Council of AFF. Gradually the Governing Council built up its membership and operational structure.

I wish to introduce to you past and present Members of the Governing Council of AFF: (All to stand up).

The Governing Council provides policy direction to the institution, among other responsibilities.

I wish to introduce to you the staff at AFF Secretariat: (All to stand up)

Mr. Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen,

When AFF was conceived the nature and type of challenges we saw the sector could address at that time (2006/2007) were much easier to handle than the challenges we see today in front of us. At that time priority was on improving livelihoods of rural people, national incomes and the environment, largely through better policies, legislation and investments into the forestry sector. These are still issues we continue to face and will remain central to forestry for a long time.... because they are part of the whole process of socio-economic development.

Since then the landscape has changed considerably. We now have this monster of global warming and its associated and increasingly complex challenges hanging above our heads. In

this regard, the forests and trees outside forests are now seen as critically important to saving our world from adverse effects of climate change.

As this is not enough the supply of adequate quality water on the planet and more specifically on the continent is an emerging serious problem, also threatening human, animal, plant life on land. We often hear of people dying from thirst! And conflicts over water are not farfetched, we see many of them on a small scale, but they hold potential to escalate. Again, we see forests and trees on the solution equation.

In many places land quality has been eroded and agricultural crop productivity is rapidly on decline. Fixing our soils is now an emerging problem in many countries. This is constraining our efforts to feed ourselves, and again this is yet another problem pointing to human survival. Trees are capable of fixing declining soil fertility and restoring soil structure.

The emerging scenario from these three examples is of one of mounting and serious threats to human survival that has been caused by our neglect to take good care of the air we breathe, the water sources for the water we drink, the soils on which we grow our food. However, we still can address these by timely interventions using forests and trees in the solution equation. This requires the African forestry fraternity to change the narrative on forestry from the simplistic impression many people unfortunately have on forest and tree resources, to one that places forests and trees outside forests at the centre of human, animal and plant survival on the continent. We have to wake up to these undeniable realities of our time. There might not be meaningful sustainable socio-economic development on the continent if we do not move very swiftly and take very good care of our forests, and trees on farms and other areas.

Having said that, what has AFF done in the last ten years?

We have a booklet summarizing some of the things we have done and the challenges we have encountered on the way. However, let me highlight a few:

At the outset, AF had to move very swiftly **to link with the international forestry community** given that many issues in global discourses had a bearing on African forestry. To this end AFF facilitated the creation of the African Group at meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests and has continued to provide technical support to African delegates to UNFF meetings. This has made Africa speak with one voice, become more articulate and effective in such meetings and make meaningful contributions to shaping global forestry policies. AFF is now extending similar support to delegates to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). AFF is accredited to the conference of parties (COPs) of UNCCD and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as to sessions of UNFF.

With respect to **our continent** AFF has a memorandum of understanding with the African Union Commission to develop forestry on the continent. We also work closely with our regional economic communities. For example, we have worked with SADC to raise the profile of the private sector in forestry in SADC countries by facilitating the establishment of the SADC Timber Association. We are also working along similar lines in ECOWAS countries, and the private sector has already laid the framework for the establishment of a sub-regional forest products association. While waiting for this to materialize some private sector actors are, on their own volition, operating a WhatsApp group that enables them share marketing and trade information of forest products. Further, ECOWAS has nominated AFF as a lead institution in implementing one of its seven pillars for its forest convergence plan; that is the pillar on “Information, education and communication”. In East and West Africa, we are still babysitting the creation of Professional Forestry Associations for these two regions.

AFF has also **carried out continent wide studies on various pressing issues** including the following:

1. An assessment of the continent's capacity to meet its afforestation and reforestation requirement for tree planting material, and how the demand and supply of such material is managed. This was in response to the many initiatives that come with a requirement for afforestation and reforestation like CDM and REDD+ embodied in the Paris Agreement, AFR 100, the Bonn Challenge, LDN of UNCCD, in addition to national requirements for tree planting material. In this regard few countries in Sub-Sahara Africa can meet their requirements for planting material, let alone planting material to take advantage of these global and regional initiatives. Also, many countries have reduced investments in forest research and development in tree breeding and deployment of tree germplasm, resulting in poor quality tree germplasm being used for planting as well as minimal operation or even closure of national tree seed centres.
2. Another area of concern is the capacity of the continent to protect its investments in forests (planted and natural) from pests and diseases. In this regard, we also undertook a survey on our capacity for surveillance on pests and diseases for forests and trees outside forests. The emerging picture is one of a shortage of technical skills for undertaking surveillance for tree pests and diseases as well as inadequate infrastructure to support necessary field and laboratory investigations.
3. A growing area in global forestry is the **sustainable management of our forests**. To this end we **assessed the status of forest certification on the continent**. In this regard, certified forests are very few on the continent and the capacity for forest certification is very inadequate. **If the continent has to ensure that its forest products are originating from sustainably managed forests and are procured legally then forest certification has to become an integral component of forest management.**
4. AFF facilitated five countries to **develop strategies on how the Green Great Wall of the Sahara and Sahel Initiative can be implemented**. These strategies have since formed the basis for developing field operations in these countries.
5. As far as **climate change and variability** is concerned, we had to first organize our scientific understanding of this in African forestry by compiling all scientific information we could muster into **a book on "Climate change and African forest and wildlife resources"**; which then opened a plethora of issues the continent has to address. As the momentum on carbon trade increased pace, we had to very quickly **train a critical mass of 574 people in 16 African countries, Kenya included (trained 56 people), who could rapidly assess forest carbon, develop the required documentation to facilitate trade in carbon, and also understand the regulatory frameworks and markets for such trade**. We have reports that many people have made good use of such training. Further, it was realized that education and training establishments need support on how to handle climate change in forestry training. We have since **developed training modules to guide such training**. We are also informed that these have been widely used to improve courses, curricula and other aspects of forestry, natural resources and environment education and training. More recently, **we have developed, in a pedagogical manner, eight compendiums, based on the training modules to provide relevant institutions with text to support forestry and related education and training**. They will be launched at this event.
6. Another milestone is related to **how we share the information and knowledge products** we generate. We organize **workshops**, but these bring only a few people. We therefore rely on **info mail** to reach our 2214 members and **social media**. However, our most important avenue is our **website**. For example, in 2018 our website received about **1.5 million visits** from **141 countries**. This resulted in a download of **22,608 document** and opening of **24 million pages**. This demonstrates that AFF has a global reach, it is not restricted to Africa.

An examination of the top ten countries visiting our website gives the following picture: Kenya, USA, India, Nigeria, France, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Germany, Tanzania and China.

7. Many of us enjoyed using the regular publication of the FAO state of world forest resources. We thought that African could **develop regular updates on the state of forestry on the continent**. We have compiled the first issue of such a series and this will also be launched shortly.

Finally, these and many more accomplishment, together with the way they are being used are summarized in a booklet prepared for this event.

Mr. Guest of Honour, ladies and gentlemen,

In short, we can say that AFF has **linked very well with the international community** with respect to participating in international discourses that are relevant to forestry. On the **African continent, AFF has established close links with regional, sub-regional and national institutions, as well as with key individuals in forestry and related areas**. AFF is also **firming its links with the donor community and global financial institutions** in the area of forestry and environment. Further, the **Secretariat has been firmly established and with good capacity for facilitating undertaking of studies on a wide-ranging forestry and related issues, in addition to managing and sharing information and knowledge**. All these attributes combine to enable me to **present to AFF members today an institution that is ready and capable, and in collaboration with partners, to face the present-day forestry related opportunities and challenges**.

The theme or pitch for AFF and partners in the coming decade had better be “forests for human, animal and plant survival” ...and nothing less.

All that we have done, together with the accomplishments we have achieved thus far, would not have been possible without:

1. The Government of the Republic of Kenya hosting us in this beautiful country and the excellent cooperation we continue to receive from our parent ministry, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, together with its key institutions namely the Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI). In fact, we have jointly organized today's event with KEFRI and KFS. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for these and other forms of support.
2. AFF has been hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), in an environment that is very conducive for its operations. We outsource some services from ICRAF which have been provided very efficiently. We are very grateful to ICRAF for its continued support.
3. Finances underline the survival of an institution. Right from the beginning the **Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida)** has been supporting us. Three years into our existence the **Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC)** joined Sida as our other main development partner up to the present moment. We gratefully thank the people of Sweden and Switzerland through Sida and SDC, respectively, for their trust in such a young institution and the support that has made AFF to grow to what it is now and the achievements it has made. We look forward to your maintaining this noble cause of sustaining the management of African forests, not only for African themselves, but also because African forests provide international public goods and services that are enjoyed globally.
4. We also continue to enjoy the good will and support from several UN agencies including UNFF, FAO, UNEP; African institutions like the AUC, RECs, African governments, civil society, private sector, academia, research, and individuals. We are very much indebted to their support.

5. And to all of you members of AFF, for trusting us at the Secretariat to grow and develop your institution. We thank you very much for the opportunity.
6. I cannot forget the **staff of the AFF Secretariat** and members of the **AFF Governing Council** as well as **Founder Members** of AFF for all their efforts during this decade as well as in organizing this event. I salute you all.
7. Finally, all we did would not have been possible without the hand of God on this institution. We pray that He continues to grow and develop this wonderful institution.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

ANNEX 4: SPEECH BY MR. DAMPHA ALMAMI, SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AT AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

**Guest of honor, distinguished guest, all protocol observed.
Receive greetings from African Union Commission from Addis Ababa**

Today is a Thanksgiving Day. *We are thanking God for bringing us this far.* within the fraternity of the Africa's Forest Forum. The good thing is that you can thank God anywhere and at any time. Where we are today, the Karura Forest with water falls and caves; provides an excellent place to do that. Mr. Chair or Mr. Mwakazi, while we are celebrating our achievements through African Forest Forum; we must not target to attribute to the late professor Wangari Mathai- that legendary Kenyan and African woman; environmentalist, conservationist for her contribution in preserving this beautiful and wonderful gift of nature.

Coming back to celebrations, African Forest Forum has given Africa a voice, a presence, dignity and respect in the global discourses on forestry and related matters. African Forest Forum serves as a place to go, a center of excellence for relevant information on the nexus between forestry and global issues of importance such as climate change, poverty, eradication, food security and conflict. In the true sense, we are indeed grateful to our God. But my moderator I am hesitant to add that god has stopped helping people openly and directly since the times of the early prophets. He (I mean God) works through people and institutions. We must therefore take this opportunity to recognize those individuals and institutions for their relentless and a decade long support to the Africa Forest Forum. 1st, I want to celebrate the founding members, fathers and mothers of the Africa Forest Forum for their visionary thinking and dedication to create this institution. We are all around here today, this morning and I will not attempt to name each and every one of you because I may err in doing so but I say a big thank you to you all.

We thank the government and people of Kenya for hosting and providing a conducive policy environmental for the smooth functioning of the Africa Forest Forum. It takes a great amount of magnanimity to host a regional entity. We express our gratitude to ICRAF for serving as apparent and causing organization to facilitate the activities of the Africa Forest Forum. We appreciate the generosity and comradeship. Furthermore, we salute the government of Sweden and Switzerland for their financial support to Africa Forest Forum since its beginning. Your governments are indeed supporting African in her bid to community resilience through sustainable forest supported management. We cannot hide our appreciation for all those institutions that have in one way or another assisted and worked with the Africa Forest Forum in supporting and promoting sustainable forest management in Africa, in its regard, I want to single out the United Nations forum for forest, UNEP, the United Nation environment and FAO and our regional economic communities here. ECOWAS and East African Commission I want to thank you for your partnership.

Lastly, but by no means the least, Africa Forest Forum Secretariat for their exemplary commitment in difficult circumstances to take the organization to this height. Special thanks go to the Executive secretary of the African Forest Forum, Professor Godwin Kowero for his distinguished leadership. the chair of the governing council Sir Macarthy Oyebo also deserve special mention for guidance he continues to provide to the secretariat.

The executive secretary already highlighted some of the key achievement of AFF. The facts speak for themselves on the ground, the various areas of the capacity enhancement done by AFF can be seen on the ground and we want to thank you for that. Our mission however is by no mean accomplished, Africa is going through what one can describe as a revolutionary period. With the effect of ...cc and forest is continuing to disappear. |We must rededicate ourselves at all levels. Mr. Moderator kindly allow me to quote Nelson Mandela, after climbing a hill, one realizes that there are many other hills to climb. The struggle to save our forests, the struggle to ensure to ensure food security and the struggle to ensure sustainable development must continue with renewed commitment at all level. And on behave the African Union Commission, I want to assure the African Forest Forum that in the struggle to climb these additional hills, you will always find AUC on your side. We are in this struggle together, for life, in our determination to make Africa better for posterity.

Thank you.

ANNEX 5: SPEECH BY MR. PETER GONDO, INTER-REGIONAL ADVISOR, UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS SECRETARIAT

Guest of honor, distinguished guest I am still looking for the shovel and the hoe, I am ready to go and plant a tree.

It is my honor to address this august gathering to celebrate the development, growth and achievement of the AFF.

The journey of AFF is very closely tied with the journey of the UNFF. The UNFF was established in 2000 mainly to try and bring focus and have a global platform to discuss forest policy in a united way after we failed to get the forestry convention in Rio. But nevertheless, after we try to come up with a convention, we agreed that we don't have to be legally bound to know how useful forest are.

After we fail to come up with a convention we agreed. The forum was formed and in 2007 as the ES pointed out, we put together our consensus on how trees are important to humanity to sustainable development and came up with the UN forest instrument. During that process, it was noticed that the African voice was divided. The participation of Africa in those negotiation and discussions was not strong enough and the AFF took it upon itself to really address this challenge and that efforts have been appreciated at a global level ,in fact without the efforts of AFF and the African group, the UNFF would not have succeeded to where it is today. So really, I want to thank AFF for partnering with the UNFF in and really bringing out the African voice making sure that African issues are a priority in global policy dialogue.

The other effort that I want to highlight is that in order to manage resources, you must mobilize the means to implement, especially the financial resources and AFF through working with its members has put a lot of effort into fighting for Africa. And making sure that mobilization of finances for African forest is given priority and one of the outcomes was that in 2015, there was an effort to actually come up with a funding mechanism to support countries to access resources for forest management and when the global funding facilitation networks was established under the UNFF (part of speech missing in the video footage)

The work continues we need to rededicate ourselves into generating new knowledge for African countries to make better decisions. Thanks, you to everyone who has contributed to this and especially the members of the African Forest Forum.

Thank you.

ANNEX 6: SPEECH BY EDWARD KILAWA, FORESTRY OFFICER, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Honorable guest, Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Rep of Kenya

Executive Secretary, AFF

Chair Governing Council of AFF

Chair of AFF members forum

Head of International Cooperation, Swedish Embassy- Addis Ababa

Representative of AUC

Representative of UNFF

Representative of RECs

Representative of ICRAF

Representatives of other organizations and development partners present here today

All protocols observed

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of the Regional Office for Africa, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, and of my own behalf as member of AFF, I would like to thank the African Forest Forum for having invited FAO to join AFF in its 10th Anniversary celebration.
- Today is the International Day on Biodiversity, celebrated this year under the theme (***Our biodiversity, our food, our health***). This is a great day for celebrating the AFF anniversary. Forests, trees and wildlife are critical for the provision of biodiversity that is key and supports the multiple goods and services essential for human wellbeing and for a healthy environment, food security and nutrition. They are even more important in dryland ecosystems, such as those prevailing in the Africa region, to address critical issues of land degradation, desertification, mitigation of climate change effects and strengthening the adaptive capacity and the resilience of the people and their production systems.
- I commend AFF efforts in being among our partner champions in boosting the forestry agenda in Africa through the many initiatives they have led or contributed to for advancing sustainable forest management in Africa and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I therefore reiterate FAO's gratitude to AFF and the many partners in Africa for the excellent collaboration in the field of Forestry.
- Through the rich and outstanding partnership in forestry with AFF, AUC and many other key partners such as other UN sister agencies and the CGIAR system, FAO has been able to build a strong programme to support Africa's regional and country strategies and policies. This cooperation has been focused on developing and strengthening forest policies and capacities for the sustainable management of natural resources, forest health and socio-economic development and equity, development of community forestry, climate change adaptation and mitigation and forest education.
- Just to highlight few areas where FAO have been working hand in hand with AFF, the African Union Commission and other partners:
 - FAO was key partner during implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM II) programme in Africa: Lessons learnt from 2005-2007, which was jointly implemented by African Academy of Science/AFORNET network-KSLA/Sweden and FAO; and it was this programme which led to the establishment of AFF, hence today is a big landmark to all those who contributed to this big cause.
 - the development of the African Union AU Sustainable Forest Management programme to be submitted for validation in July 2019 here in Nairobi;

- the support to AUC and The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA) for developing and adopting its Strategic Framework (2017-2030). We are now taking this collaboration under a next level to support its implementation.
- AFF has been also contributing and participating actively to the FAO forestry bodies such as, the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission in the regional, as well as the Committee on Forestry (COFO) at the global level. The African Forestry and Wildlife Commission is a very important regional platform, uniting member countries and other partners including AFF for discussion and exchange of experiences on forestry and wildlife development issues and in promoting landscape approaches to boosting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. We are looking forward to further collaboration and engagement of AFF for a successful organization of the next session (23rd session) that will be held in November 2019 in South Africa.
- FAO has been also collaborating with AFF and partners in drylands initiatives namely, Great Green Wall of Sahara and Sahel initiative (GGWSSI), and recently in the development of GEF-7 Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) impact programme led by FAO and involving Miombo and Mopane countries of Southern Africa.
- AFF is part of the FAO Advisory Panel on Forest knowledge, an FAO Forestry's education initiatives established to promote education and knowledge initiatives at the regional and global level. Likewise, FAO at regional level has been prominent and observer member of AFF governing council.
- Last but not least, I wish to recall the important role of Heads of Forest and Wildlife institutions and AFF in shaping FAO's work on forestry in Africa.
- As I conclude my remarks, by thanking again AFF and excellent leadership of Prof Godwin Kowero (Executive Secretary) and his team, for AFF contribution to Africa Forestry Agenda and wishing a happy anniversary and long-lasting partnership!

I thank you.

ANNEX 7: SPEECH BY MS. IDAH OGOSO, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL-RESEARCH ICRAF

Delivered by Dr. Muriuki, ICRAF Country Representative, Kenya

Observing protocols

My name is Jonathan Muriuki ICRAF Country Representative, Kenya. Apologies for absence of DG, DDG and entire leadership currently attending the WCA4. Also recognizing that a former DG and DDG are in the audience and are founding members BJORN and AUGUST. Some of our former staff are also in the audience - Dr. Daniel Ofori.

Where we have launched the International Union of Agroforestry on Monday 20th to grow the conversation that started 40 years ago to improve livelihoods through the interface of forests and agriculture. Proud to be associated with AFF - we are a CGIAR Center focusing on NRM with trees at the Centre. AFF agenda is important to us - we have just merged with our sister center CIFOR and are now under a common board. We have substantial investment in Africa - 2 regions.

And hereby passing regards from the interim RC DR. PETER GILRUTH - ESAf where we have offices in 7 countries to focus on highland areas as well as dry lands and coastal belt where agroforestry can support conservation of various forest ecosystems. Our work in WCA has three subregions with our Cameroon office focusing strongly on the Congo forest margin and the associated conversation. Agroforestry and forestry are at the Centre of addressing the challenges of poverty, land degradation, climate change and loss of biological diversity.

What an appropriate day then to celebrate AFF 10 on the international day for biological diversity and to note that your teenage will be spent in a period that, in March, has been declared the decade for global land restoration.

The choice of venue is also legendary as previous speakers have said.

The work of knowledge institutions such the CGIAR herein ICRAF and CIFOR as well as partners such as AFF, KEFRI, UNFF AND FAO among others is becoming all the more important. ICRAF is privileged to have been headquartered in Africa and to provide collegial facilities that could host such institutions and develop the knowledge base that Africa and the world so desperately needs. We therefore believe that with our new association with CIFOR we are better positioned to partner more closely with AFF and deliver sustainable forest resources for African livelihoods and economies

Africa has had a lot of poor connectivity in terms of infrastructure and the continued degradation of forest resources threatens our biological connectivity. This is a trend that must not be allowed to continue. We must enhance the connectivity so that food, water and health among other ecosystem services can be maintained for our growing population and economies.

It is therefore very heartening to hear the strides that AFF is taking towards this goal and are very proud to work together and to continue being host. On behalf of ICRAF-CIFOR Board, the management and staff of ICRAF therefore I hereby wish AFF a happy tenth anniversary

Thank you

ANNEX 8: SPEECH BY MR. MOUSSA LEKO, PRINCIPAL PROGRAM OFFICER-FORESTRY, ECOWAS COMMISSION

Good morning!

My name is Moussa Leko, senior forestry officer at ECOWAS Commission. Which is one of the regional economic communities of 15 western African countries, gathering about 300 million people. So I would like on behalf of my commissioner in charge of agriculture, environmental and water resource of the ECOWAS Commission when he received the invitation of the Africa Forest Forum, he directly gave instruction so that ECOWAS Commission after 10 years of partnership with Africa Forest Forum has to participate in this historical event of the 10th anniversary of the African Forest Forum.

Representatives of the African Union, Honorable Guest of honor representing the Ministry in charge of Environment and Forestry of Kenya, Executive Secretary of United Nation Forest, Secretariat representative Mr. Peter Gondo, representative of FAO, representative of World Agroforestry center ICRAF, representative of the Sweden International Development Co-operation Agency Ms. Ulla Andren, Honorable Chair of the governing council of Africa Forest Forum Mr. Macarthy Oyebo. Distinguishing guest all protocol observed.

I would like to deliver the remark of the Honorable Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, environment and water resource- Mr. Siku Sangare who could not make the trip to this wonderful and gorgeous city of Nairobi due to

(Part of the speech missing from the video footage)

Key point points captured as the speech was being delivered.....

- ECOWAS is grateful for the efforts in building the capacity of its members for SFM and promotion of sustainable development in the region such as capacity strengthening on : Forest law enforcement governance and trade, Forest certification, Multilateral environmental agreements , Private sector and climate change modelling. Thank you for your efforts.
- Africa is still facing a lot of challenges resulting adverse effect of climate change and we must renew our effort to lessen such effects.
- ECOWAS will AFF partnership in strengthening SFM and fighting climate change, we will support the effort of members for sustainable forest management.
- Long live AFF and the forest partnership and collaboration in Africa.

ANNEX 9: SPEECH BY MS. ULLA ANDREN, REGIONAL HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Thank very much honorable of the conservation secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, honorable of the executive secretary, honorable Chair of the AFF, honorable members of the international and Regional and Continental Organizations, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed. It's a great honor for me to be here today to represent Sweden and the Swedish International Development Cooperation and it's a fantastic day to celebrate with singing and dancing this fantastic staff from the podium. In this amazing environment in this forest. You have really found an appropriate place, congratulations executive secretary.

I said it's not by accident I'm here and it's because Sweden is also a forestry country and that's why we have been interested not only on development of our own forestry but also in other countries and there has been some very energetic in development cooperation working for fore in Africa. And I want to mention Dr. Bjorne Lundgren who's here because he's one of these people and in fact he told me that 50 years ago, that's a long time ago, he came as a young student studying forestry in Ethiopia and from there he has been a teacher and he has also been very active here in this country with the agroforestry and he is the founding member of Africa Forestry Forum and so I think it is a good sign of Switzerland and Sweden people committed to forestry in Africa.

I think I will like to pay tribute to all the founding fathers and mothers of the Africa Forest Forum. I think you were very visionary, and you made very good job creating Africa Forest Forum. Sweden is a proud partner of you since the beginning and even before the beginning because there was an African research network and there were projects that were also supported by SIDA. I think you have done very, very well so far because you have created an African voice in international forestry SACCOs and climate change and biodiversity etc. and as many have quoted proverbs here, I will also quote "if you want to go fast you go alone, if you go want to go far you go together and I think that is exactly what the Africa Forest Forum is about. You have gone very far because you have unity in purpose of wherever you want to go.

I want to mention three things, though and one is coming from a country who has a feminist foreign publicity. I think you have done very well in the gender aspect for forestry but considering seeing this public here, I think we still have a bit to go and I will encourage all the women to continue this course of bringing more women into forestry because we don't involve women in forestry we will not have the full potential of the forest. Thank you and when I come here for the 20th anniversary of the Africa Forestry Forum, I will see 50% women in here. We have to aim high, always. On biodiversity, I think it is not by accident that we are here also celebrating the international day of biodiversity. We are talking about climate change, but the loss of biodiversity is probably and even bigger threat to our planet and I think in this aspect Africa Forest Forum has a lot to do. It is really a challenge for the future to engage not only on forestry, people and climate but also on biodiversity and so you have a lot of work to do for the future and Sweden and SDA are very happy to be your continuous partner in this journey.

Asante sana.

ANNEX 10: SPEECH BY DR. PATRICK SIEBER, PROGRAMME MANAGER, SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC)

Honorable [Chair](#) of the Governing Council of the African Forestry Forum, distinguished representatives from the African Union Commission, United Nations Forum and forest secretariat the World Agroforestry Centre, Regional Economic Commissions and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agencies, dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues.

It is an honor for me to address a few words for you on this occasion of this African Forest Forum 10th anniversary celebration. I would have of course preferred to personally attend this memorable moment, but the other obligations have unfortunately prevented me from being with you in Nairobi today. I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Swiss agency of Development and Cooperation that has been partnering and collaborating with the African Forest Forum on improving the understanding about the relationship between climate change forests and trees in Africa for many years. AFF has been and continues to be one of us. This is key partners in a small but beautiful handpicked forestry portfolio that our division runs.

The common feature of these initiatives is that they work at regional level and address issues at the interface of forest and climate change with the hope of phenomenal that proceeds one of the biggest challenges that humankind has ever faced. And all our programs are to catalyze efforts that will allow a more evenly spaced to policy making. Together with the mutual initiative from social forestry policy advancement in South East Asia and the regional program on mountain forest ecosystem in the Latin America. The support to the African Forestry Forum from the main stay of operational pilot work and thus is part of the backbone of our forest climate work package.

This phase approach started now almost eight and a half years ago based on our common understanding and interest to unleash the potential of the provision of independent information to contribute not only to sustainable forest management, poverty reduction and food security but also to climate change mitigation and adaptation effort on the continent. Since then and witnessed by many stakeholder's evaluations and internal assessments. The African Forestry Forum has managed to become a prime resource for information for a wide range of partners and institutions that are shaping policies and improving programs. We would like to appreciate all of you for the great work delivered and will also congratulate the AFF members, the dedicated secretariat for the foresightedness and successful institutional development that plays over these 10 years.

Ladies and gentlemen all over the globe for us to be degraded and lost at the raid unprecedented in human history, large parts form the untouched normal forestry have become the object of timber exportation. Old grooved forests in temperate zones most of them in industrialized countries have really entirely disappeared over the past centuries and tropical rain forests are diminishing at a high rate because of human demand for land, food, timber, energy and minerals. Forestry and trees destruction inevitably mean the loss of a large part of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity and is a major contributor to the current growth in the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases. It also endangers the livelihood of many people since forests provide food, shelter and employment as well as health services especially to the poorest segment of the world's population.

The sustainable use and management of the world's forest and the critical role of people in protecting forest and other natural resources are increasingly recognized as key to sustainable development. Especially all those in the phase of the challenges passed by climate change. Indeed, a growing body of evidence demonstrates that a people-oriented forest policy and

management approaches can hold deforestation and reverse forest loss through a variety of initiatives including community forestry, reforestation and forest landscape restoration. These are all strong arguments for the cause of forests but the opportunities and threats that are posed on forests should still be more widely shared and better known out there for triggering action. A trustworthy platform for information chain and expertise and the creation of an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant technical issues on policies has been key in bringing all of this forward during the past decade and will remain key to foster progress in the years to come.

We applaud the African Forestry Forum as a leader that gives outstanding attention to the interlinked phase of forests, to people who depend on them for their livelihood and prosperity and landscape that they together shape over time and space. Forests are both precious and vulnerable, your contribution to all of this has been and will continue to be key and we wish to the wider AFF family success in building capacities and skills of stakeholders to better manage Africa's forests and tree resources in ways that will enhance livelihood, national economies, sustained biodiversity, improved quality of the environment and contribute to the global efforts to confide a negative impact of climate change in Africa and beyond.

Count on us for continued journey together and good luck.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX 11: 3.9 SPEECH BY MR. MACARTHY AFOLABI OYEBO, CHAIR OF GOVERNING COUNCIL, AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)

I am grateful to Almighty God for giving us the opportunity to witness today's occasion of celebrating AFF's commitment to sustainable management of Africa's Forest and Tree Resources aimed at supporting the livelihood of our people and also stabilizing and improving African environment.

Permit me Guest of Honour, distinguished ladies and gentlemen to give a brief background of where we were coming from, where we are now, i.e. today and where we hope to be in future. Please recall that the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro came out with three Conventions (the UNFCCC, the UNCBD and UNCCD) and a Declaration on Forest Principles, Chapter II of Agenda 21 on Conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests.

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) later facilitated extensive deliberations on the actions that are required to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests by establishing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (1995 – 1997) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests IFF, (1998 – 2000). Both processes (PPF and IFF) examined a wide range of forest related topics over a five-year period and recommended 270 proposals for action to be adopted by international community.

Although the IPF/IFF proposals for action are of non-legally binding nature, the participants of the two processes were under political obligation to implement the agreed proposals for action. Each country was then expected to conduct a systematic national assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to plan for their implementation. These were the precursors of the National Forest Programme Implemented worldwide.

In 2000 the economic and Social Council of the United Nations established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to succeed the IFF as the permanent intergovernmental body to be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to also support and monitor progress of the implementation of the work.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, about the same time on the African continent, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) supported the implementation of sustainable forest management project in Africa in two phases between 2003 and 2008.

One of the objectives of the SFM II project was to establish an African Forest Forum (AFF) that could sustain the momentum of an independent and objective analysis as well as provide sound advice and advocacy to back stop African leaders in decisions concerning the management of national forest resources as well as in various global fora.

There was a steering committee on the SFM II project that oversees the implementation of the project under the Chairmanship of Prof. Fred Owino. This period coincided with the building up period on the international forestry dialogue at the UNFF sessions. The coordination of African delegates became necessary at these sessions in order for the delegates to have a negotiation voice on issues that would be in the interest of implementation of sustainable forest management on the continent. The SFM II project came on board and supported the organization of preparatory meeting for African delegates to UNFF sessions from 2005. Members of the SFM II Steering Committee provided technical support as back up to the African Group emerged at the negotiating

sessions and for the African Group started negotiating from informed position of knowledge, backed with science.

Hitherto, African countries used to negotiate at the UNFF under the umbrella of G77+ China where African voice was very low and views of some key members of the G77+ China were imposed on Africa. One of the major achievement of the AG at the UNFF sessions was the outstanding performance in shaping and impacting positively the outcome of UNFF-7 in 2007, with the historical landmark adoption of the Non-legally Binding Instrument (Forest Instrument) on all types of forests and subsequent adoption by the United Nations General Assembly. Since then the visibility and vibrancy of the AG became noticeable and recognized by other negotiating partners.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, in order to maintain the momentum at the international forestry dialogue, members of the Steering Committee of SFM II project facilitated the establishment of the founder members who held their first meeting on January 26, 2007 and formally established the African Forest Forum as provided for in the charter, a professional body to lend a voice of concern for sustainable forest management on the continent based on use of science and indigenous knowledge including experience and expertise in advocacy and showcase the increasing relevance of forests and trees outside forests to livelihood on the continent. In addition to improving national economies and environmental stability. Thus, AFF was established as an important outcome of the Sida supported SFM II project. The second meeting of the founder members held on 25th July, 2007 nominated members to the Governing Council of AFF; while the third meeting of the Founder Members held on 15th October 2007 nominated the Chair and Vice Chair and more members to the Governing Council. The Governing Council met for the first time on 15th – 16th October 2007, thus marking the commencement of the operations of AFF as provided for in the constitution, and till date 15 Governing Council meetings were held. Unfortunately, as of now, three of the Founding Members (namely Frank Kufakwandi, Iba Kone and Linda Mossop Rousseau) have transited to higher glory.

Distinguished ladies and gentle, I request that we all rise up to observe a minute of silence in honour of these illustrious sons and daughter of Africa – (May their gentle soul rest in perfect peace) Amen. How I wish they were around to be part of this celebration!! These visionary founding members and past and current members of the GC would all receive an award for their meritorious service to AFF and by extension to promotion of SFM on the continent.

Distinguish ladies and gentlemen, at present has grown in membership to over 2000 spreading across the continent of Africa and other continents of the world. The AFF has met to a large extent the vision, aims and aspirations of the founding members by successfully implementing programmes that address the objective of improving the livelihoods of the people of Africa and environment they live in through the sustainable management and use of tree and forest resources on the continent.

Permit me distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to mention that the laudable achievement of AFF today would not have been possible but for the robust financial support from our donors the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation (SDC) to which AFF and indeed the people of Africa would remain grateful for their contribution to social and economic development of the continent through the programmes being implemented by AFF. Some of these programmes have made it possible for the continent to derive benefits from increased output of goods and services from sustainable management of our tree and forest resources.

On behalf of the Governing Council, I thank all our partners UNFF, AU, ICRAF, FAO and the Secretariat of the Forum ably headed by Godwin Kowero. Godwin had earlier on expressed gratitude to other government and of Kenya: I reaffirm this gratitude.

The Executive Secretary, Prof. Godwin Kowero has outline in detail most of the major achievement of AFF in his remarks. Shortly in this programme we would be launching a book titled “The State of Forestry in Africa; Opportunities and Challenges” as well as training compediums on climate change in forestry as part of our contribution to knowledge on the continent.

Distinguished Guest of honour, ladies and gentlemen, as for the future, the AFF is aware and conscious of the continuous increasing pressure on the forest resources due to various socio-economic dynamics of the sector. AFF has therefore taken a visionary step by mapping out strategies using the resources at its disposal to address desirable changes in the society as they affect the state of our forest resources. It has adopted a programmatic approach involving seven programme areas that are guided by the priority areas of action identified on the continent, the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the 17 SDGs most of which can be linked to forestry, the United Nations Strategic Plan on forestry, the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030, and its 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 targets, the Aichi Biodiversity targets, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Land Degradation Neutral Initiative of UNCCD.

Distinguished guest of honour, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for honouring our invitation to celebrate with us AFF's ten years of action on the continent which will also be marked with a commemorative tree planting activity later on in the course of this celebration. It is our hope that AFF will not rest on its laurels and would continue to strive to improve on our present achievement counting of course on the support of all our members including all the relevant stakeholders.

I congratulate all the distinguished members of the African Forest Forum and wish you all a happy 10th year Anniversary Celebrations. I thank you all.

**ANNEX 12: SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOR, MR. KERIAKO TOBIKO,
CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY-
DELIVERED BY MR. GIDEON GATHAARA, FOREST CONSERVATION
SECRETARY**

**The Representative of the African Union Commission,
The Representative of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF),
The Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO),
The Representative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida),
The Representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC),
The Representative of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
The Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities of ECOWAS, EAC, ECCAS
and SADC,
The Chair of the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum (AFF)
Heads and representatives of other institutions,
Representative of various media,
All invited guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to Kenya, those of you who are coming from outside our country. We hope you will enjoy your stay in our beautiful country.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the African Forest Forum (AFF) for a decade of service to African forestry, and for inviting all of us to come and share its joy. We are all here to celebrate with the African forestry fraternity and friends of African forestry from outside the continent for the very good achievements this institution has made in a very short period. For us in Kenya, we are also very happy that the institution we have hosted in Nairobi is doing very well. While I know that the institution has done much, let me take this opportunity to underline a few that caught our attention. When AFF was in its formative years, the world was debating on whether to have a legally or not legally binding instrument to guide management of forest resources globally. These debates were taking place at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). African countries were divided, between those for a legally binding instrument on one hand, and those for a non-legally binding instrument on the other. This was because each African country was negotiating from its country position. AFF moved with speed to facilitate the continent to come together as the “African Group” that negotiated with one voice, and eventually made considerable inputs into the final resolution of a global non-legally binding instrument for all forest types. Since then Africa has been approaching these and similar debates at UNFF with one voice.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Deforestation and forest degradation in our continent remain the challenges that impact on the ability of African countries to address poverty. To this end we also take note of the considerable work AFF has done in providing very useful information from its continent-wide studies. These include studies on the status of forest certification, our capacity to supply tree seeds and seedlings for various afforestation and reforestation programmes, the continent’s ability to provide adequate surveillance on pests and diseases on forests and trees outside forests, the state of the private sector in African forestry, among others. The development of such information has also facilitated the identification of task forces the continent can rely on in addressing such issues, as well as modalities for building requisite capacities in these areas. This information is being used by many on the continent to support evidence-based decision making that could improve the way we manage and use our forest resources sustainably.

Further, AFF has undertaken commendable work on climate change as it relates to African forest resources. We now understand better the interactions of climate change with our forests, and how the forests can enable us to withstand some of adverse effects of climate change. AFF moved with speed to train a critical mass of 574 experts in 16 African countries, Kenya included, to lead and train others on how to assess forest carbon and how to market forest carbon. Further, due to paucity of pedagogically developed information to guide education and training on climate change in forestry, AFF has developed training modules that continue to guide development of relevant curricula and courses. I am informed that AFF has gone a step further to develop, in a pedagogical manner, eight teaching compendiums that will be of invaluable value to lecturers and students at both professional and technical training levels, as well as for guiding implementation of short courses. These will be launched here shortly.

And another important milestone is a book titled “The State of Forestry in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”. AFF has embarked on a book series titled “The State of Forestry in Africa”, and this is the first issue of such a series. This book will be launched here today.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Let me point out that all the compendiums and the book are the first of their kind globally. I am really pleased that AFF has attracted very wide readership of its published work, and further, many people and institutions already work with such information to shape policies, teaching curricula, various approaches to teaching, forest management practices, as well as many activities on climate change in forestry. For example, last year there were over 1.5 million visits made to the website of AFF from 141 countries that resulted into downloading 22,608 documents, in addition to opening some 24 million pages. The reach of AFF is therefore beyond the African continent. In the same year of the top ten countries from which people visited the website of AFF, five were from outside the continent, namely USA, China, India, Germany and France.

I therefore wish to congratulate AFF for these and many other achievements and wish to thank all those who have supported the institution during this period like Sida and SDC.

As a parent ministry to AFF in Kenya, let me pledge our continued support to AFF as it looks forward to its next decade.

With these remarks I wish to declare that the 10th Anniversary Celebrations for AFF officially opened.

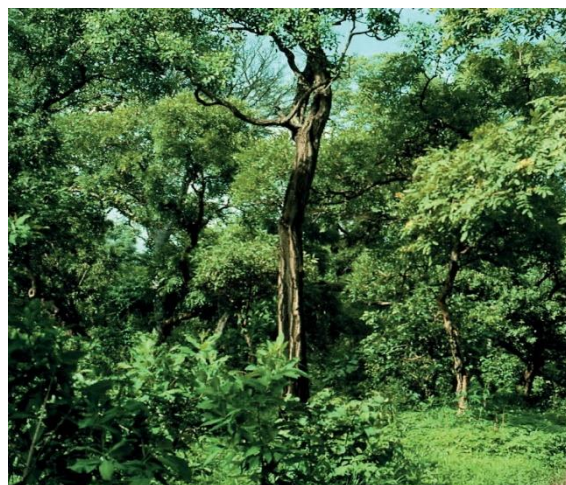
Thank you.



2008 – 2018

African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



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