



THE African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African Forestry

In this issue

- UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP-ROA) enters into MoU with the AFF
- Launch of the AFF Book entitled "Climate Change and African Forest and Wildlife Resources"
- MoU between ITTO and the AFF
- Nfp study for Eastern and Southern Africa launched
- AFF joins IUCN to launch a Regional Conservation Forum
- Five African countries winding up strategies, plans on GGWSSI

UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP-ROA) enters into MoU with the AFF

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Forest Forum signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in forestry development and environmental management on 5th October 2011.

Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, the Director of UNEP-ROA, and Prof Godwin Kowero, the Executive Secretary of the AFF, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institution at UNEP offices in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the signing ceremony, attended by senior officers of the two institutions, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared goals and objectives with regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources.



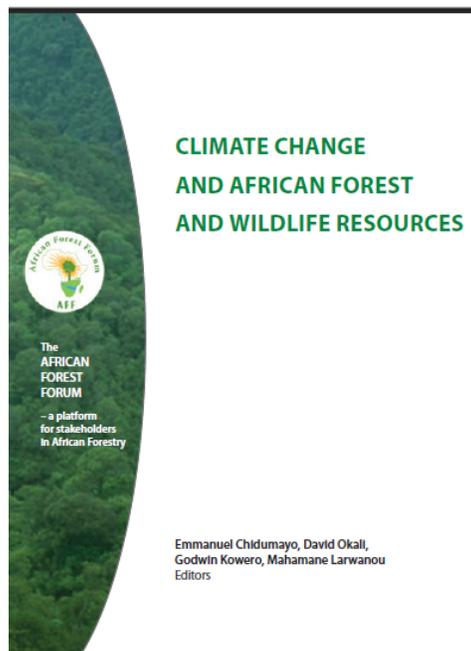
The purpose of the MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding and to facilitate collaboration between the two institutions to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the conservation, protection, and support of nature and natural resources to enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of Africa's peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

Within the framework of the MoU, the two institutions pledged to hold regular dialogue meetings and consultations as well as jointly execute activities in the areas of climate change, ecosystem management, restoration of degraded ecosystems, FLEGT, and strengthening Africa's capacity in international and regional dialogues and negotiations on forests and other environmental issues.

Launch of the AFF Book entitled “Climate Change and African Forest and Wildlife Resources”

In Africa, much as the forestry sector joined the debate on climate change fairly late, significant achievements for the sector have been made. These debates have succeeded in profiling the sector at all levels and also in mobilizing attention and resources for the sector to address the climate change important issues, and more specifically those related to reducing deforestation and degradation, enhancing carbon stocks, improving the protection of forests, and enhancing sustainable management of forest resources; issues constituting REDD+.

AFF has worked on climate change issues related to forests, trees and wildlife resources on the continent. The results from this effort have been compiled in the form of a book with the title “Climate Change and African Forest and Wildlife Resources”.



This book is, therefore, timely in that it highlights to all stakeholders, and in a systematic manner, the climate change issues relevant to the African forestry and wildlife sectors, with the view of increasing these sectors' contribution, at various levels and fora, and to addressing the vagaries of climate change.

The book also outlines the opportunities that climate change brings to the sectors.

The book is organized into five sections. Section 1 presents climate change in the global and African context by looking at a few key areas, including the physical processes of climate change, a review on adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in the African forestry and wildlife sectors, and a review of the international debate on climate change and how Africa features in it.

Climate change in African forests is the subject of Section 2. This includes climate change issues related to moist forests, woodlands and savannas, and those specific to the Sahel. In addition, institutional and governance arrangements that would be necessary for identified interventions in these eco-zones are discussed.

Section 3 presents an overview of climate change on African wildlife resources as found in moist forests, woodlands and savannas and the Sahel. Again institutional and governance arrangements that would be necessary for identified interventions in these eco-zones are discussed.

Socio-economic and policy considerations are presented in Section 4. They include aspects of community based adaptation to climate change, how climate change features in the socio-economic life of the African people, including specific issues related to gender, carbon trade and markets, policy and other approaches to climate change in African forests, trees, and wildlife. Section 5 summarizes some key observations from the various sections.

This could be a good section for those who have no time to read the whole book or just want to have a quick overview of the issues in the book before delving into details in the various chapters.

The Book is available for free download at: <http://www.afforum.org>

Nfp study for Eastern and Southern Africa launched

Most countries in Eastern and Southern Africa have already formulated their national forest plans (nfps) and are in varying stages of their implementation. From the current review of implementation of nfp-driven plans it is, however, clear that countries are making very slow progress. For most countries, the key limitations lie in achieving policy, legislation and institutional reforms which are necessary to implement nfp-driven plans. Specifically, there is need for sustained capacity building in policy and legislation reviews and in national forest programmes planning and implementation. In the Eastern and Southern African regions, it is of additional benefit to adopt a regional approach in analysing progress and in recommending aspects for improvement in nfp implementation.

As a response to the foregoing, in October 2011, AFF launched a project on nfp study for Eastern and Southern Africa with funding from the National Forest Programme Facility. The aim of the project is to strengthen capacities to implement and monitor national forest programme processes in Eastern and Southern African countries.

The project will deliver the following:

- In-depth analyses and up-dated status report on the nfp processes in the different countries;
- Recommendation for changes in nfp implementation modalities;
- Capacity building needs identified as well as recommendations and plans on how to address them; and
- Lessons learnt on nfp implementation.

AFF joins IUCN to launch a Regional Conservation Forum

The IUCN, in collaboration with the African Forest Forum, organized a Regional Conservation Forum on September 20-21, 2011, in Johannesburg, South Africa, that aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities that exist in the forest sector of the region to catalyze the forest debate as a stepping stone into Durban COP 17 this year and the World Conservation Congress (Rio+20) next year. The Regional Conservation Forum was also designed to be a regional celebration of the International Year of Forests 2011 and AFF had a number of displays on this.

Specifically, the meeting:

1. convened public forums for debate and exchange of ideas and experiences between practitioners, forest communities, technical advisors, scientists and policy makers;
2. capitalized on opportunities such as the International Year of Forests, the World Conservation Congress, the COP17 of the UNFCCC in Durban to publicize major outcomes, debates and resolutions of the public forums; and
3. strengthened and/or identified Communities of Practice through public forums.

The meeting was attended by over 80 participants from over 25 organizations in Africa and overseas. The format of the meeting was made up of high level panels and three knowledge streams (parallel session for knowledge and experience sharing) as well as a Green Pavilion (a platform for showcasing forest related activities that contribute to livelihoods, food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation). Stream 1 was entitled, "Forests, landscapes and people in a changing climate", Stream 2, "Food security in a changing climate" and Stream 3, "Opportunities for forest financing through changing climate".

MoU between ITTO and the AFF

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the African Forest Forum (AFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 27, 2011. The two institutions concluded the MoU with a view to affirming their commitment to cooperate in promoting the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forest resources in Africa and responsible timber trade throughout all ITTO Member countries in Africa and to mobilize necessary resources for the implementation of related joint initiatives.

Specifically, the MoU aims to:

- Establish a working relationship with the aim of increasing mutually desirable projects or activities that assist ITTO Member countries in Africa to implement sustainable forest management and trade practices and increase supplies of tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources;
- Provide support for research, training programmes, scientific information exchanges, joint organization of seminars, workshops and other meetings in ITTO Member countries in Africa;
- Provide support for strengthening ITTO Member countries in Africa in international and regional deliberations (dialogues) on forestry and related areas;
- Jointly develop and execute projects or activities, giving particular attention to capacity-building, information sharing and dissemination activities directed at assisting ITTO Member countries in Africa to promote good forest governance, responsible forest management and legal trade in timber and timber products;
- Implement collaborative activities in the area of rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests, climate change and forests as well as promotion of other environmental services from trees and forests.

Five African countries winding up strategies, plans on GGWSSI

The African Forest Forum and the African Union Commission, with support from an FAO TCP are assisting five countries namely: Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger to develop their strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and the Sahara Initiative (GGWSSI).

This iterative exercise started in 2010 and is almost over in all the five countries. The documents are ready for validation by the countries. After validation, the national governments will translate the action plans into bankable projects for funding by donor agencies and also through internal resources.

THE AFRICAN
FOREST FORUM
A PLATFORM FOR STAKEHOLDERS
IN AFRICAN FORESTRY

This newsletter is a mechanism for distribution and exchange for forestry information. It is being sent to you as an AFF stakeholder. To unsubscribe please write to: exec.sec@afforum.org If you wish to submit a story or item, please email: g.kowero@cgjar.org

Thank you.
The Editors.

African Forest Forum
P.O. Box 30677 00100 Nairobi
GPO KENYA
Tel: +254 20 7224203
Fax: +254 20 722 4001
Website: www.afforum.org