



THE African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African Forestry

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Message from the Executive Secretary

Capacity building in handling various aspects of climate change, as they relate to African forests and trees, at the national level was the main focus of the African Forest Forum (AFF) during this quarter. AFF organized national training workshops in the Republics of Sudan, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe and Tanzania to train professionals on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal, development of project idea note (PIN) together with project design document, familiarization with policies and other aspects related to carbon markets and trade, among others. These training workshops were guided by training modules developed by AFF and partners in 2012/2013, and targeted professionals as well as technical staff that have the duty to mould future staff to work on these issues. Also, the workshops targeted NGOs and extension agents who largely work with local communities, with the intention of imparting this knowledge and skills to these communities as they engage in forest carbon issues. Essentially, the workshops were for trainers at professional, technical and local community levels.

Apart from the training aspects, the

workshops provided avenues for sharing information on carbon projects in the individual countries. It became apparent that in some cases, individuals and institutions either lacked a mechanism for internal coordination and information sharing or did not share information related to carbon issues. The workshops provided opportunities to network within countries on these aspects and as such increased the collective or national capacity to address these issues. It also emerged that while some institutions, especially NGOs, were involved in some forest carbon projects, those overseeing such projects lacked the capacity to appreciate and understand what was involved in the technicalities of drawing up such projects, especially on how the carbon was estimated. This is because they relied on consultants who had that specialized knowledge and the skills. The workshops then broadened the scope of those in charge of such projects to better monitor, supervise and guide project activities in the future.

Through the workshops, AFF was able to reach more people at national levels and extend its reach on collaborative activities while

increasing the ownership of AFF by its members. Some of the participants who were not members of AFF before the workshops applied for membership, and in this way they will continue to actively participate in activities of the Forum. Also, several requests and demands were made to AFF by the participants, including repeating the course in the countries so as to reach more people. AFF will take up these requests in its future plans and to the extent possible.

In the process of conducting the workshops AFF, through its experts, started to accumulate information that would eventually facilitate the development of a teaching compendium on this module. This will be useful to relevant institutions in terms of teaching these subject areas at professional, technical and refresher course levels.

We are grateful to our experts, governments, training institutions and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) who have helped us reach out to a critical number of 191 individuals through these training workshops. We believe these trainers will make

a good contribution to moving the forest carbon agenda forward in their countries and Africa at large.

During this period, AFF participated in a number of other events that were organized by its partners but also, of strategic importance to the institution. In this regard, AFF participated in the first meeting of the Thematic Groups of the West African Forest Convergence Plan (WAFCP) for the validation of the results of the selection of the team leaders and their terms of reference that was held at the ECOWAS Commission Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria on July 21-23, 2014. Delegates to the meeting included experts from various international and regional organisations among them, the ECOWAS, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Environment Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), AFF, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the African Biodiversity Network (ABN), the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), as well as representatives from the member states of Ghana (in-coming Chair) and Côte d'Ivoire (outgoing Chair). AFF was represented by Prof Mahamane Larwanou, the AFF focal person for ECOWAS and myself.

The West African Forest Convergence Plan has been built around seven priority themes, each of which will be led by a theme leader. Lead institutions will work with other institutions at the national and other levels. AFF was chosen to lead work around the theme "General environmental information and communication" The ECOWAS Secretariat is responsible for mobilizing the financial resources necessary for the work under these seven themes or pillars.

Africa Eco-Mark (AEM) presents a good opportunity for Africa to market its products internationally by providing certification standards in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. AFF collaborates with AEM and is represented in the 4th Working Group on forestry which develops eco-labelling standards for forestry products while ensuring their sustenance in production. During the meeting of the 4th Working Group that was held in this

quarter, and with AFF participation through Prof Mahamane, the Working group examined the test report on the standard on forestry and provided guidance on how to further develop the standard.

In this quarter, AFF was also represented at the Second African Drylands Week, an event that was organized in N'Djamena, Chad where successes and challenges facing Africa's drylands were discussed. AFF and the African Union Commission (AUC) organized a side-event on work undertaken by AFF on land restoration in different sub-regions of sub-Saharan Africa. An outcome of this event is the need to strengthen the production, processing, marketing and trade in gum Arabica and related gums and resins. Already the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa has initiated, together with AFF, FAO, AUC and other partners, efforts on how to move forward on this. Also AFF was represented at the Twenty Second Committee on Forestry (COFO 22) and the World Forestry Week 4 in Rome, Italy. On the sidelines of COFO 22, AFF participated in meetings promoting forestry education in a better structured manner, and through FAO. Finally AFF participated in a conference organized by the World Future Council that brought together Eastern and Southern Africa legislators to Nairobi, Kenya to explore solutions to halt and reverse plight of African forests under the themes of landscape management, forest policies, and forests for people. The Nairobi Declaration, an outcome of the meeting, was a commitment by legislators to encourage the development and implementation of policies that will enhance forest conservation and rehabilitation of degraded lands, in addition to contributing to the welfare of their people.

Workshop on climate change in forestry in Eastern and Southern Africa from the secretariat

AFF organized a workshop from 8 – 10 July 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya, that shared the results and experiences with stakeholders on the work undertaken by AFF contracted experts in 2012/2013 in Eastern and Southern Africa on how climate change is featuring in sub-Saharan African forestry.

Mr Gideon Gathara, the Conservation Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Government of

Kenya opened the workshop. In his opening speech Mr Gathara highlighted various issues in line with the overall goal of the AFF's project on "African forests, people and climate change". He hoped that at the end of the workshop participants would gain a better understanding of how climate change issues could be or are being handled using tree and forest resources, in addition to how they could facilitate farmers and other land-based stakeholders to take advantage of climate change initiatives in rehabilitating degraded lands and forest resources.

The workshop was attended by 39 participants from Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. By gender, 15% of the participants were female.

As part of the key recommendations of the workshop, AFF was tasked to look into assessing the new and emerging capacity in knowledge and skills in forest education and climate change in Africa. AFF was further urged to share experiences gained on implementation of the activities to assist in decision making in various national governments especially on the issues of forestry and climate change as well as capacity building requirements and organize a workshop consisting of professionals and users of forestry resources in generating ideas that will support the development of forestry education in Africa. Other areas identified for AFF to contribute to include the development of a harmonized accreditation process embracing that of universities offering forest education. The participants felt that there was an urgent need for AFF to link up with national professional forestry associations in order to develop harmonized accreditation process for various universities in Africa offering forest education. Finally, the participants felt that no other institution was better placed like AFF to spearhead the formation of a regional national professional forest association whose membership is the forestry national professional associations to develop structures for formulating harmonized accreditation processes.

News from the secretariat

AFF recruited four staff to its Secretariat this quarter.

Dr Vincent Onguso Oeba - Programme Officer



Dr Oeba has joined the African Forest Forum as a Programme Officer. Previously and prior to joining AFF, Dr Oeba worked with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) as a Senior Research Scientist in Science and Policy of Climate Change. At KEFRI, Dr Oeba was also the Head of Biometrics and Resource Assessment.

Dr Oeba will be involved mainly in the coordination and implementation of AFF activities on climate change as it relates to forest resources and livelihoods. His work will involve issues in the framework of food, fuel and fibre production and use together with forest water yield and management. Dr Oeba will take charge of dissemination of information resulting from these activities.

Dr. Jummai O. Yila – Programme Officer



Dr. Jummai O. Yila has joined the African Forest Forum (AFF) as a Programme Officer. She was initially with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Klong Luang, Thailand, as a graduate associate teaching gender, culture and human development. She has researched gender, livelihoods, climate change adaptation, and natural resource management in many countries of Africa and Southeast Asia.

Dr Yila's interests include sustainable forest management, climate change adaptation, food security, examining institutional and socio-cultural aspects of vulnerability to climate change and the cross cutting theme of gender in development and natural resource governance and management.

At AFF, Dr Yila will work on these issues mainly through a project on "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa".

Ms. Evelyn Ndenga - Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist:



Ms. Evelyn Ndenga joined the African Forest Forum (AFF) as the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist in September 2014. Evelyn is a social science researcher as well as a monitoring and evaluation practitioner with experience in conservation and development oriented programs. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and French from Moi University, Kenya, and a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology of Rural Development from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She has worked extensively in international research organizations concentrating on forest conservation and plant knowledge dissemination programs in Africa. Previously she worked as the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the United States International University (USIU) Africa, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA), both in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr Makau Ngola - Knowledge Management Specialist



Mr Makau Ngola joined the African Forest Forum (AFF) as the Knowledge Management Specialist in September 2014. Previously, Makau worked with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya, where he was the Communications Officer for the Consortium for Advanced Research in Africa (CARTA). He holds a Bachelor of Education (Science), a Master of Arts in Communication Studies and a Master of Education in Library Science. Makau has a certificate in knowledge management, among others. He has worked with other NGOs in Kenya and the United Nations in the fields of communication, information and knowledge management.

3rd Inter-Parliamentary Regional Hearing on Exemplary Forest Policies in Africa

The 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Hearing on Forests for People' was convened by the World Future Council with the support of the Parliament of Kenya, the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources of Kenya, the FAO Regional Office for Africa, and the Green Belt Movement, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30 September – 3 October, 2014.

16 Parliamentarians from Eastern and Southern African countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as key civil society actors and high level experts on forest policies attended. AFF was represented by the Executive Secretary, Prof Godwin Kowero.

The meeting discussed options to halt and reverse the plight of forests in Africa. This was done through three key themes: Landscape management: experiences, opportunities and challenges (Chaired by Dr Luc Gnacadja, former Executive Secretary of UNCCD); African forest policies: spreading lessons from policy and practice (Chaired by AFF Executive Secretary, Prof Godwin Kowero); and Forests for people: focus area food (Chaired by Mr Peter Gondo-AFF Governing Council member).

At the end of the meeting, legislators made several recommendations aimed at supporting natural resources of land, water and forests. The commitments contained in the "Nairobi Declaration" and signed at the end of the meeting, recognized the importance of forests and their usefulness to the environment.

By the Declaration, participants avowed their continued commitment to pass and implement policies supported by robust programmes on forest conservation and rehabilitation of already degraded lands. Mobilization of their constituents, to ensure multi-stakeholder involvement in tree planting and growing, together with the rehabilitation of landscapes, was a strategy put forward and to be promoted by the parliamentarians.

The Second Africa Drylands Week

The African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the SOS Sahel, the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall and the Government of Chad, organized the Second Africa Drylands Week during 25 - 29 August, 2014 in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad.

The first Africa Drylands Week was held in June 2011 in Dakar Senegal.

The African Drylands Week is a regional forum that brings together experts, representatives of local populations, and policy makers from international, regional and local organizations to deliberate on Africa's drylands development, focusing on successes and challenges they face, including sustainable land management.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Chad, H. E. Mr Kalzeube Pahimi Deubet opened the meeting through a statement delivered by H. E Mr Adoum Younousmi, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. Two hundred participants attended this event. Also present were the Chad Republic Parliament Speaker, H. E Mr Pierre Buyoya, High Representative of the African Union in Mali and the Sahel (MISAHEL) and several Ministers and Parliamentarians from AU Member States.

Millions of farm families in the Sahel, and Eastern and Southern Africa, have made advances in land regeneration by applying the principles of farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) of trees on their croplands. Communities in regenerating their forests and grazing lands through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) have also registered successes. The meeting noted that their actions have resulted in multiple benefits in food security, resilience and adaptation to climate change, and the restoration of land and soils.

The meeting further noted that EverGreen Agriculture practices were widely recognized as 'Foundational Practices' to be applied universally in drylands because they do not involve cash investment, and complement all other improved agriculture and natural resource management practices. Also noted was the commitment made by African Heads of State, through the Malabo Declaration (June 2014), that 30% of all farmers shall be practicing

climate smart agriculture by 2025; launch the African Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Alliance; the new vision of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); and African Climate Change Program of 25 million farmers practicing CSA during the next ten years. Through their recommendations, participants proposed that all drylands development communities, through the African Union, the Great Green Wall Agency, all the drylands countries, and collaborating and supporting organizations, commit vigorously to achieving the goal of enabling every farm family and village across the drylands of Africa to be practicing FMNR and ANR by the year 2025. Coordination among actors and between interventions, as well as financing were identified as the most serious challenges in this endeavour.

Side event

The African Forest Forum, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, organized a side event titled "Management practices to mitigate land degradation and desertification in light of climate change in Africa: What avenues for scaling up?" on 27 August 2014. The aim of this event was to share information, experiences and other knowledge products from work undertaken by AFF and its partners on land restoration in different regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. AFF received feedback on, and identified the way forward with, the management practices that have potential for mitigating land degradation and desertification in the context of climate change in Africa. Prof Mahamane Larwanou (AFF) and Prof Paxie Chirwa (University of Pretoria) represented AFF at these events.

AFF at the 22nd Committee on Forestry and the World Forest Week 4

The Executive Secretary AFF, Prof Godwin Kowero led an AFF delegation to the Twenty Second Committee on Forestry (COFO 22) and the World Forest Week 4 from 23 – 27 June, 2014 in Rome, Italy. The delegation comprised Prof Mahamane Larwanou (AFF) and Ms Linda Mossop-Rousseau (South Africa). COFO 22 reviewed the state of the world's forests touching on forest policy measures, access to resources, markets and financing, equitable benefit sharing and valuation of forest products and

services. COFO 22 recognized that forests full range contributions are not reflected in the broader development agenda. Member countries considered various ways of promoting forests' contributions to global developmental objectives and that they contributed into the global negotiation processes.

Member states were urged to participate in the development of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as in the review the International Arrangement on Forests that will be the subject of the 11th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in 2015. Progress in implementing earlier decisions and the FAO's programme priorities for forestry in light of the Organization's new Strategic Framework were also considered by addressing work on climate change, Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), boreal forests and dryland forests.

COFO being the highest FAO Forestry statutory body holds biennial sessions that bring together heads of forest services and other senior government and other officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, find solutions to them and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action to take.

For the fourth time, COFO was held in conjunction with the World Forest Week - a series of meetings and events sponsored by FAO and its partner organizations and institutions. The World Forest Week 4 was an opportunity for sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and major accomplishments and achievements in various areas.

Side event

AFF delegation at the COFO 22 and the World Forest Week 4 also attended side-meetings of relevance to AFF: the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, the advisory panel on forestry education, an event on dry forests and agroforestry and a special plenary session on the pre-planning and preparation of World Forestry Congress to be held in South Africa, September 2015. By participating at the Congress, AFF will increase its visibility through papers, posters, presentations and organizing side events.

Training workshops on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal and development of basic carbon trade documents Africa

A series of workshops were implemented in Kenya, Burkina Faso and Tanzania and aimed at strengthening the capacities of participants on forest carbon stock assessment and through them, facilitate communities to establish basic data in negotiating with carbon markets in a cost-effective and time efficient manner. These workshops also equipped participants with a better understanding of the markets for carbon, policies and other frameworks guiding carbon trade. AFF is conducting these workshops under the auspices of its project entitled “African forests, people and climate change” whose goal is to “create capacities of stakeholders to strengthen the role of Africa’s forests and trees to adapt to climate change and mitigate its adverse effects in various landscapes in ways that will enhance livelihoods, sustain biodiversity, and improve the quality of the environment”.

Workshop for Tanzania

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in conjunction with AFF, conducted the training workshop for Tanzanian nationals at the SUA Forestry Training Centre in Arusha from 24 – 28, March 2014.

The Climate Change Impact, Adaptation and Mitigation (CCIAM) programme in Tanzania is a five year project which was launched in 2009. Participating institutions in CCIAM are SUA, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Ardihi University (ARU) and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA). CCIAM funded the workshop at the request of other Tanzanian institutions.

Thirty four participants belonging to research, education and extension services and various socio-economic sectors including agriculture, forestry, livestock, land planning attended the workshop. They appreciated the workshop content and presentations. They felt that it was necessary for AFF to hold similar courses addressing emerging issues like climate change. AFF was further requested to provide leadership on this type of capacity building trainings in collaboration with national institutions. Participants were informed of the benefits that accrue to AFF members. Prof Godwin Kowero, the AFF Executive Secretary and Prof Mahamane Larwanou represented AFF.

Workshop for Sudan

In Sudan, AFF conducted a workshop aimed at strengthening the capacities of participants on rapid appraisal of forest carbon stock and to help/support communities to establish basic data needed in negotiating with carbon markets in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner. It was held in Khartoum from 8 – 12, June 2014. Thirty four participants who were drawn from forest National Corporation, forestry research institutions, universities, ministry of agriculture, ministry of environment, non-governmental organizations and petroleum sector attended, 74% of the participants were female. The workshop equipped participants with adequate skills that would enable them explain the concepts of carbon pools, biomass, carbon stock and carbon fluxes. The acquired skills would also enable them apply appropriate protocols and methods for estimating carbon stocks from different carbon pools and implement measurement, reporting and verification systems for carbon accounting.



Field visit to demonstrate the use of Suunto for estimating tree height in a plantation forest for carbon trade

His Excellence Dr Hassan Abdelgadir-Hilal, the Sudanese Minister for Environment, Forestry and Physical Development delivered the opening speech where he expressed his gratitude to AFF for holding the training workshop in Sudan. He reiterated the Government of Sudan’s commitment to conserve forest resources for sustainable development and improving peoples’ livelihoods. He acknowledged the seriousness of climate change in affecting adversely many sectors of the economy and welcomed AFF’s efforts to build African capacity in response and cope with negative impacts of climate change.

Dr Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim, the General Manager of the Forest National Corporation, appreciated AFF for

conducting the first ever training workshop on Rapid Carbon Stock Appraisal (RaCSA), project idea note (PIN) and project design document (PDD) in Sudan. He said it was a great honour to the people of Sudan. The workshop was important in building capacity to those engaged in the management of forestry and other allied natural resources and further, provided the government of Sudan a continuous linkage with AFF. AFF, through the workshop, was providing forum for the African scientists to share research findings and other experiences on forestry and climate change. AFF remains, observed Dr Ibrahim, the only Pan African Institution that consolidates the common African position in forestry in the continent and debates the same well at the global level.

The Executive Secretary AFF, Prof Godwin Kowero thanked the Government of Sudan for hosting the workshop and appreciated the time His Excellence, Dr Hassan Abdelgadir- Hilal spared to grace the opening ceremony. Prof Kowero extended his vote of thanks to Dr Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim for the logistical support that made the workshop a reality. Dr Ibrahim had made valuable contribution to the affairs of AFF during his tenure as a member of the governing council of AFF, observed Prof Kowero.

At the end of the workshop, participants felt that they needed more sessions on capacity building on carbon stock.

Workshop for Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe professionals from forest National Corporation, forestry research institutions, universities, ministry of agriculture, ministry of environment, non-governmental organizations and petroleum sector attended a training workshop on strengthening their capacities on rapid appraisal of forest carbon stock. The workshop further aimed at equipping them with skills to help/support communities to establish basic data needed in negotiating with carbon markets in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner.

The workshop was organized by AFF in Harare from 30 June 2014 to 4 July 2014. Thirty participants who included 8 females attended.

They are expected to spearhead the implementation of forest carbon project in their respective areas of jurisdiction as well as becoming trainers to support forestry carbon project in Zimbabwe.

The workshop was opened by Honourable Mr. Irvin D. Kunene, Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The General Manager, Forest Commission of Zimbabwe, Mr Darlington Duwa, and Prof Godwin Kowero, the Executive Secretary, AFF gave remarks in the opening ceremony.

It emerged from the workshop that local institutions should be encouraged to include carbon stock appraisal in their academic courses and identification of award winning strategies for PIN development in order to guarantee financing. Participants requested to be linked to ongoing forest carbon projects in Zimbabwe such as the Kariba REDD+ project.

Workshop for Kenya

A training workshop for Kenyan professionals was held from 1 - 5 September 2014 at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) Drylands Eco-region Research Programme, in Kitui, Kenya. The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment Water and Natural Resources of the Government of Kenya observed, in a speech read on his behalf during the opening ceremony by the Conservation Secretary, Mr Gideon Gathaara, that climate change has been recognized as a major threat to the war against poverty in many countries in Africa. It has adversely impacted on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also present at the opening ceremony were Dr Ben Chikamai, Director, KEFRI and the Executive Secretary, African Forest Forum (AFF) Prof Godwin Kowero.



Group photograph of the Workshop participants

In his address, Prof Kowero said that AFF has put in place a number of Pan-African initiatives related to forests and trees. He noted that the effects of climate change on forest resources and their exploitation is one such issue. He emphasized the urgent need to move swiftly on this issue in order to contain the increasing challenges brought about by climate change. Prof Kowero noted that one approach in this direction is building capacity in Africa to address these issues. He informed the participants that similar capacity building sessions were planned for implementation in other African states in 2015.

While presenting the KEFRI's mandate, scope and vision, Dr Chikamai welcomed participants and highlighted KEFRI's partnerships with regional and international organizations working on climate change and its effect to forestry. He said "KEFRI has developed a climate change strategy based on relevant government blue prints such as the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCR), vision 2030 and national plans, among others, to address research-based issues on impact of climate change to forestry and response of forestry to climate change," He further cited KEFRI's Dryland Eco-region Research Programme as a good example where the institute is undertaking activities to help people adapt to climate change.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by AFF, KEFRI and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS). It was attended by fifty five (55) professionals from Government Ministries and parastatals, institutions of higher learning, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations. AFF was represented by

Prof Mahamane Larwanou, Dr Vincent Oeba and Ms. Caroline Kajuju.



Fieldwork demonstration establishing sampling plots for carbon stock assessment, Kitui, Kenya.

Workshop participants observed that such courses are crucial to build African capability in developing and negotiating carbon projects and more such courses be offered in the future. They also made several other observations and recommendations for future consideration by AFF in its training programmes.

Workshop for Burkina Faso

The African Forest Forum (AFF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère De environnement et du Développement Durable) of the Government of Burkina Faso, through the Direction Générale des Forêts et Faune du Burkina Faso, organized a training workshop in Koudougou from 8 – 12 September 2014 for Burkina Faso nationals.

Thirty-eight participants and 3 AFF staff - Prof Mahamane Larwanou, Dr Vincent Oeba and Ms Barbara Owuor – participated. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Burkina Faso, Mr Urbain Belemsobgo, presided over the opening ceremony.

At the end of the workshop, participants made recommendations both for AFF and African governments. AFF was tasked with sensitizing African governments on the opportunities presented by forests so that governments can benefit from these resources in a sustainable manner and to continue capacity building activities of stakeholders in Africa. African governments were also urged to set-up appropriate frameworks for developing and implementing Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) projects; to carry out national forest inventories periodically in order to establish reliable databases on their forest resources; and to develop and implement a continuous training programme for various stakeholders at different levels.

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