



THE African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African Forestry

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Message from the Executive Secretary

The African Forest Forum (AFF) continues to mobilize and strengthen the voice of stakeholders on many issues in African forestry. This year, and for the first time, AFF extended this effort towards the Eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) that was held from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia. At this conference AFF was accredited to sessions of UNFCCC. Suffice to add that one of the attributed goals for AFF is to 'galvanize a common African voice and opinion' as it relates to how the continent handles issues related to forest and tree resources. In this regard AFF, partnering with UNEP, did exactly that through a preparatory meeting of African delegates to this COP 11, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on August 21-23, 2013.

In furthering its work on climate change, AFF has in this period concentrated on a key area: limited knowledge on the relationship between

forests and climate change in Africa; and especially on adaptation and mitigation to the adverse effects of climate change, as well as capitalizing on the opportunities that climate change and variability offer the continent. As reported in an earlier Newsletter, AFF developed training modules in 2012 to partly facilitate how education and training institutions can start containing this shortcoming. Hence, AFF organized four sub-regional training workshops to capacitate participants with key elements for professional training on climate change in forestry; and in this process validate the training modules.

Participants to the workshops were lecturers and researchers as well as staff from extension and civil society organizations in key areas of science and practice of climate change in relation to forests. The training was offered to two groups, namely training and research institutions, on one hand, and extension and civil

society organizations, on the other. The training addressed issues of adaptation, mitigation, carbon assessment and trading and payments for ecosystem services (PES); all as related to forestry.

These workshops were held in Cameroun and Burkina Faso for Francophone countries, and in Ghana and Tanzania for Anglophone and Lusophone countries; and were organized in collaboration with selected national institutions. They were attended by 157 participants from 40 African countries.

We expect that knowledge gained from these training sessions will make us better prepared to deal with the vagaries of climate change and adapt better to its effects.

Thank you!

AFF at the Conference of Parties of UNCCD in Namibia

The African Forest Forum (AFF) participated in the eleventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia. This was the first time AFF attended COP sessions of UNFCCC.

AFF was accredited, at this meeting, to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties (COP). AFF is already accredited to sessions of UNFF and UNFCCC. Dryland and dry forest issues are at the heart of climate change debates as well as central to the work of AFF.

AFF has been instrumental in pushing the UNCCD agenda especially in Africa mainly by:

- ◆ supporting strengthening of the capacity of delegates from African countries in negotiations at regional and international levels that relate to forestry; as well as to internalize decisions from international processes and to monitor compliance to the same;
- ◆ preparing studies on climate variability of biophysical and economic systems related to the different African forest types;
- ◆ providing a platform for information sharing and expertise on sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forests and tree resources.

Prior to the conference, AFF in conjunction with United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) facilitated the preparation of African delegates to COP 11, in a meeting that took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on August 21-23, 2013. The sessions were partly facilitated by Mr. Macarthy Oyebo and Dr. Mahamane Larwanou, both being members of AFF's Technical Support Team to International and Regional Negotiations.

AFF and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) organized a side event at the COP 11 on 'The Partnership Creating an EverGreen Agriculture'. Dr. Larwanou (AFF) and Dr. Dennis Garrity (UNFCCC Drylands Ambassador and former ICRAF-Director General) organized the event. Dr. Larwanou

presented a paper on 'The Quiet Revolution on the Sahel' which focused on the adoption of EverGreen Agriculture in the Sahel region of Africa.

The objective of this side event was to update participants on the progress made on advancing EverGreen agriculture worldwide.

The side event was held in the backdrop of increasing adoption of EverGreen Agriculture in Africa. Millions of women and men in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia and other countries are already practicing EverGreen Agriculture, and the momentum for its spread is accelerating. Many countries in Africa are now either implementing or developing national EverGreen Agriculture, scaling up initiatives along with India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines in Asia. The community of regional and international organizations has been greatly expanding its support for these efforts.

In light of the above developments, discussions during the highly interactive side event revolved around new partnership opportunities to support this broad-based effort for transformative change; experiences deriving from Evergreen agricultural practices such as farmer managed natural regeneration and the use of fertilizer trees; and scaling-up approaches that have contributed to these successes.

Discussants also shared their perspectives and suggestions on the processes of scaling-up, and the imperatives for accelerated expansion.

AFF also participated in another side event, titled 'A Landscape Approach to Invest in Africa's Drylands – Wishful Thinking or a Foundation to Build Resilient Economies' organized by TerrAfrica, World Bank, and World Resources Institute. Dr. Larwanou also represented AFF at this event, in which he presented a video on 'Sustainable Land Management – the case of agroforestry parklands in the Sahel'.

The side event aimed at providing background information on the landscape approach, highlight real-world applications, provide a preview of an upcoming report that builds on the economic and ecological evidence and share stories of effective country applications.

Development of strategy for forest financing

More than 50 experts from Africa, Asia, and Americas converged in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June 3-5, 2013 to discuss a common strategy for forest financing in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs), Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The workshop, organized by The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), was held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). It aimed to discuss, consolidate and validate a forest financing strategy common to SIDS, LFCCs, Africa and LDCs based on the findings and recommendations that emerged from background studies and six workshops held in Iran, Niger, Trinidad & Tobago, Fiji, Senegal and Kenya. AFF was represented in one of the regional workshop held in Niamey, Niger.

During the meeting, the African Forest Forum (AFF), through its representative, Dr Mahamane Larwanou, provided its input towards the consolidation of the strategy. The common strategy will then be a blueprint for the design of forest financing strategies at national and regional levels.

During the workshop, participants provided inputs to the draft strategy document that was presented by the UNFF Secretariat. The workshop was a great success and the UNFF Secretariat will incorporate all the inputs and send the final document to all the institutions involved in this work, as well as other relevant institutions.

Sensitizing legislators, policy-makers and experts on exemplary forest policies

Africa needs effective national and regional policies to manage forestry and related natural resources. And for this to happen, parliamentarians and policy-makers in the continent require an understanding and demonstrated appreciation of the significance of forests and trees for livelihoods, the integrity of the environment and support to economic activities, at various levels of the society.

In the above context, an inter-parliamentary hearing on the significance of enacting and implementing relevant forest policies was held at Protea Hotel Courtyard, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 9-12 July 2013. It attracted over 35 legislators, policy-makers and experts drawn from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Germany. The participants committed themselves to raising awareness among legislators and policymakers about the significant role of forests and trees for livelihoods, the environment and the future of life on earth.

This event was convened by Word Future Council with the support of the Government of the Republic of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Tanzania Forest Services Agency; and also with the support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Given that policies related to forestry are at the core of AFF's work, the Executive Secretary, Prof. Godwin Kowero, represented the institution at this meeting.

In light of the critical importance of forests and their continuing plight, the 2013 hearing focused on regional and

national laws that deliver significant improvements to forests and to people who depend on them. Focus topics of the hearing were:

- ◆ people in forest management (moderated by Prof. Godwin Kowero);
- ◆ sustainable wood fuels;
- ◆ protecting natural forests through buffer zone management.

Participants agreed to serve as goodwill ambassadors for forests in Africa and promote and support women as key actors in the protection and sustainable management of forests and trees.

The World Future Council has been at the forefront of promoting enactment and implementation of forestry related policies in Africa. During the International Year of Forests 2011, the Council presented the Future Policy Award to exemplary forest policies that sustainably protect, enhance, and utilize forests. The National Forest Policy of Rwanda, initiated in 2004, won the gold award and the Gambian Community Forest Policy received the silver award. In 2012, the World Future Council conducted an Inter-Parliamentary hearing in Kigali, Rwanda, with the support of the Rwanda Ministry of Natural Resources, the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA), the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and GLOBE International. At the hearing, parliamentarians, policy makers and experts from Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia made the commitment to take back to their countries these ideas, policies, and successful experiences in order to gain support for their implementation as declared in the 'Kigali Declaration on Forests for People'.

Training on climate change for extension staff, and civil society organizations

The African Forest Forum (AFF) in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) and the University of Dschang conducted two training workshops to build the capacity of extension workers, and civil society organizations on the science and practice of climate change based on modules developed by AFF and partners in 2012.

The workshops "*Retooling staff from extension and civil society organizations on key areas of science and practice of climate change in relation to forests*" were held in Accra, Ghana, on July 29-31, 2013, and in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on September 9-11, 2013, respectively.

The overall objective of the workshops was to equip participants with key elements for professional training on climate change in forestry. Specifically, the workshops intended to:

1. familiarize participants with training and research needs in African forestry as related to climate change identified during an AFF organized workshop in Nairobi in November 2012;
2. familiarize participants with AFF training modules developed during the workshop in Nairobi in November 2012;
3. understand the role of forests in adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects;
4. understand the way carbon is assessed and traded;
5. enable the participants to further design, develop and eventually implement the contents of training modules on forests and climate change.

The first workshop held in Ghana, brought together 35 participants from 15 African countries representing government agencies, civil society organizations and youth organizations. They were from Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.



Participants of the 'Retooling staff from extension and civil society organizations on key areas of science and practice of climate change in relation to forests' training workshop held in Accra, Ghana, July 29-31, 2013.

It was facilitated by a team of three resource persons supported by staff from AFF Secretariat. Resource persons gave presentations on issues related to REDD+ and MRV in Ghana. The participants commended AFF for taking the lead on this initiative and promised to follow up this workshop with the use of the training modules in their work and institutions.

The second workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroun, attracted 41 participants from 17 African countries; mainly from extension services and civil society organizations. The represented countries were: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinée Conakry, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sénégal, Chad and Togo. The workshop was facilitated by two resource persons supported by staff from AFF Secretariat. In addition, resource persons made presentations based on case studies related to REDD+, MRV, allometric equations, CDM projects and other livelihoods projects implemented in Central African countries.



Participants of the 'Retooling staff from extension and civil society organizations on key areas of science and practice of climate change in relation to forests' training workshop held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, September 9-11, 2013.

Participants actively participated in reviewing the contents of the training modules, identified gaps and made suggestions on strategies for their implementation. They made the following recommendations:

- ◆ finalize and make available the final version of the training modules to participants and their relevant institutions;
- ◆ provide support to institutions/organizations in the implementation of the training modules;
- ◆ include a cross-cutting modules related to communication, advocacy and related issues;
- ◆ build awareness and facilitate a network of actors on climate change and forests in Africa.

The participants expressed appreciation for the work done by the African Forest Forum and for this important initiative and promised to implement the modules in their respective institutions.

Training on climate change for education, training and research institutions

The African Forest Forum (AFF) in conjunction with Sokoine University and the University of Ouagadougou conducted two workshops to build the capacity of training, education, and research institutions on key aspects of climate change, especially as it relates to forestry.

The two training workshops focused on the science and practice of climate change in relation to forests; and they were held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Dar es Salam (Tanzania) from 19-21 and 28-30 August, 2013, respectively.

The overall objective of both workshops was to build the capacity of participants with regard to key elements for professional and technical training on climate change in forestry. Specifically, the workshops intended to:

- ◆ familiarize participants with training and research needs in African forestry as related to climate change identified during an AFF organized workshop in Nairobi in November 2012;
- ◆ familiarize participants with AFF training modules developed during the workshop in Nairobi in November 2012 for professional and technical level;
- ◆ strengthen the understanding of participants on the role of forests in adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects;
- ◆ strengthen the understanding of participants on the way carbon is assessed and traded;
- ◆ enable the participants to further design, develop and eventually implement the contents of training modules on forests and climate change in their home institutions.

The first workshop in Ouagadougou attracted 43 participants from 19 Francophone African countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinée Bissau, Guinée Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Sénégal, Tchad and Togo. Resource people from AFF Secretariat in Kenya were there as well.

The workshop was facilitated by two resource persons supported by staff from AFF Secretariat. In addition, resource persons made presentations on some key issues in the sub-region as well as on specific case studies.

Participants actively participated in reviewing the contents of the modules, identified gaps and made suggestions on strategies for their implementation. Participants made the following recommendations:

- ◆ AFF should technically support African countries in seizing the opportunities offered in REDD+ programs;

- ◆ AFF should establish a platform for more collaboration between universities and research centers;
- ◆ teaching institutions should involve meteorological services in teaching of some of the modules;
- ◆ the need for conducting long term ecological studies for reliable data for models development;
- ◆ the finalized modules should be made available to all participants for their teaching.

The second workshop was held in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, and attracted 38 participants; mainly from universities, training and research institutions; a few civil society organizations and extension services were also represented. The participants came from 18 African countries, namely: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

The workshop was facilitated by a team of three resource persons supported by staff from AFF Secretariat.

Participants reviewed the contents of the modules by editing and making useful inputs for their improvement.

Suggestions on strategies for the implementation of these modules have been made. They made the following recommendations:

- ◆ scientists should find proactive ways of engaging policy makers to provide them with (country-specific) up-to-date data and information on climate change issues;
- ◆ there should be a repository where African countries can share information and best practices on climate change issues;
- ◆ communities should be supported to turn challenges into opportunities for sustainable livelihoods;
- ◆ climate change desks in each country should have a forest information system;
- ◆ there should be an office that deals with day to day national GHG inventory activities;
- ◆ a certain percentage of GDP should be channeled for climate change adaptation and mitigation;

- ◆ there is a need to strengthen research and training institutions to generate data on climate change to enrich training in climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- ◆ the use of trans-and multi-disciplinary approaches to development of curriculum and research proposals;
- ◆ there is the need to mainstream climate change issues in existing curricula;
- ◆ there should be regular skills updating;
- ◆ there is the need to devise a strategy to implement the modules;
- ◆ AFF could assist with training workshops or to identify the available professionals for different modules to train others;
- ◆ AFF as well as training and research institutions should facilitate scholarships, fellowships and staff mobility;
- ◆ there is a need for proper direction, coordination and monitoring of climate change interventions at local, regional and national levels;
- ◆ there is need to be systematic to in dealing with climate change;
- ◆ need for establishment of an insurance system against investment losses.

AFF will take up the recommendations made by participants to these workshops in planning its work in future.

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Thank you.
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