



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



Mobilising stakeholders in Africa towards sustainable forest management

*An assessment of efforts made by the African Forest Forum
from 2012 to 2016: A report prepared by the Planning, Monitoring,
Evaluation and Reporting Unit*

2017



About AFF

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

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFF	-	African Forest Forum
AHEG	-	Ad Hoc Expert Group
AFOLU	-	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses
AMCEN	-	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AUC	-	African Union Commission
CDM	-	Clean Development Mechanism
CLIs	-	Country Led Initiatives
COP	-	Conference of Parties
COMIFAC	-	Central African Forests Commission
COMESA	-	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPF	-	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
CoC	-	Chain of Custody
CSD University of Ibadan	-	Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Ibadan
EAC	-	East African Community
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
FSK	-	Forest Society of Kenya
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	-	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FORNESSA	-	Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa
GOFs	-	Global Objectives on Forests
GGWSSI	-	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
HAFL	-	School of Agriculture, Forests and Food Sciences, Bern University of Applied Sciences
IAF	-	International Arrangement on Forests
INDCs	-	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
KN	-	Knowledge Management
LULUCF	-	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAs	-	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MRV	-	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NGARA	-	Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa
PMER	-	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
NAMAs	-	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPAs	-	National Adaptation Programs of Action
NFP	-	National Forestry Programs
NLBI	-	Non-Legally Binding Instrument
PFAs	-	Professional Forestry Associations
PDD	-	Project Design Document
PDF	-	Portable Document Format

PIN	-	Project Idea Note
PMER	-	Planning Monitoring Evaluation Reporting
PPP	-	Public Private Partnerships
POWB	-	Plan of Work and Budget
4POW	-	Quadrennial Plan of Work of the UNFF
PSAC	-	Project Steering and Advisory Committee
RaCSA	-	Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Assessment
RBM	-	Results Based Management
RECs	-	Regional Economic Communities
REDD+	-	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SADC	-	Southern African Development Community
SDC	-	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Sida	-	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SFM	-	Sustainable Forest Management
TST	-	Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry
UNCCD	-	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEA	-	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change
UNFF	-	United Nations Forum on Forests
WFC	-	World Forest Congress

Executive Summary

This report highlights some findings from evaluation activities that have been undertaken on projects implemented by the African Forest Forum (AFF). Specifically, the evaluations were undertaken with four objectives that demonstrate the contribution of AFF (a) to improved access to up to date information on forestry, (b) to enhanced knowledge and skills among forestry experts to advance sustainable forest management (SFM) in Africa, (c) to changes to institutional plans, policies and structures that are favorable to SFM, and (d) to increased collaboration, networking and partnerships among stakeholders in forestry to promote SFM.

Information from AFF that could be attributed to the first objective, viz. to contribute to improved access to forestry information by stakeholders, was communicated to target audiences through all AFF channels of communication including the website, info mail, meetings and workshops organized by the projects. Most of the respondents (78%) to the surveys reported accessing most information from AFF through the info mail, followed by the website (63%) and AFF publications (53%). The social media pages were the least frequently accessed because they are relatively new communication channels for AFF and members are most probably not very familiar with them; while the info mail was popular because information was conveyed through email, that most people access on a regular basis. About 85% of respondents expressed satisfaction with performance of various aspects of the AFF website, specifically its accessibility, content, coverage, navigation, and interactivity.

Eastern Africa had more respondents accessing AFF information at 33%, compared to West Africa (29%), Central Africa (11%), Southern Africa (17%) and 8% from countries outside Africa.

Academic institutions (comprising universities, university colleges and technical colleges) comprised 45% of respondents who visited the AFF website, followed by research organizations and government institutions at 28% and 17% respectively. Academic institutions and research organizations accessed all the publications more than any other institution, whereas government institutions accessed journal articles, fact sheets, policy briefs and news articles more than civil society organizations, including NGOs. However, the latter access books more than government institutions and both equally accessed technical reports.

Overall, the respondents appeared to favour AFF knowledge products in the following broad areas:

- Forest based climate change adaptation and mitigation (79%)
- Education and training materials (73%)
- Information relevant to research and policy formulation (69%)
- Good forest governance and forest law enforcement (69%)

- Conservation of African forest resources (68%)
- Participatory forest management (65%)
- Knowledge management and communication (57%)
- Regional and international negotiations (54%)
- Private sector in forestry (51%)

The information obtained through various workshops and training sessions was used by the participants to: facilitate preparation of research proposals (50%), prepare forest management related documents (41%), to prepare policy related documents (38%), to prepare teaching materials, conference papers and scientific journals articles (36% for each), prepare academic dissertations/theses (22%), and prepare forest regulations and protocols (3%).

The information shared at a workshop on forest law enforcement and good forest governance was later used to:

- Create awareness on good forest governance among stakeholders (62%)
- Strengthen capacity for members of national forestry associations (62%)
- Advocate for policies that promote good forest governance and fair trade in forest products (50%)
- Initiate or participate in activities for promoting fair trade in forest products and private sector investment in forestry (25%)
- Fundraise for projects to promote good forest governance (25%)

With respect to trainings on MEAs the respondents used the knowledge and skills to:

- Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the significance of MEA processes (70%)
- Incorporate MEAs processes and negotiations into forestry training programs (50%)
- Develop strategies for mainstreaming MEAs into institutional and national plans (50%)
- Conduct research studies related to MEAs (20%)
- Fundraising for projects to implement targets and resolutions from MEAs (30%)

With respect to training on forest certification, the respondents have used the knowledge and skills gained to:

- Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the need for forest certification (63%)
- Incorporate forest certification into forestry training programs (9%)
- Incorporate elements of forest certification in research (9%)
- Provide training to relevant forestry professionals on forest certification (9%)
- Participate in development of national forest certification standards in my country (45%)
- Mobilise and build capacity of producers/ producer groups in readiness for forest certification (36%)

With respect to RaCSA training the respondents have raised interest among stakeholders on carbon trading projects (46%), enhanced conservation activities in readiness for carbon trading projects (38%), and they had mainstreamed carbon assessment issues within their institutions (16%).

In the end, information sourced from AFF has led to improvement in institutional plans, structures, operations and standards for some institutions. Such changes included:

- incorporation of aspects from these two trainings in teaching material to guide professional training at universities,
- facilitating formulating institutional strategic plans and business plans,
- facilitating development national forest certification standards and regulations
- development of partnerships and collaborative activities
- guidance to development of:
 - good forest management/governance practices like code of ethics (in some cases a professional foresters bill was developed for parliament action into law),
 - electronic portal between countries to track cross border trade in forest products, and
 - good co-management contracts/agreements between local communities and the central government in managing forest resources

Collaborations and partnerships were also formed through the networking facilitated by AFF during the workshops and training sessions. The partnerships included:

- Partnerships for joint fundraising on common issues in sustainable forest management
- Partnerships with government institutions for development and implementation of policies and regulations
- Research partnerships between peer institutions and individuals to promote sustainable forest management
- Public-private-partnerships on mutually aggregable forestry issues

Overall, there is a growing acceptance, by target beneficiaries, of AFF's knowledge products and other resources. This could potentially lead to the use of such products by the target audiences, including institutions, to improve their policies and operations. This then could facilitate the sustained management and use of forest and tree resources on the continent in ways that enhance local community livelihoods, national incomes and stability of the environment as envisaged in the mission of AFF.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In the period 2012 to 2016 AFF implemented two projects namely: “African forests, people and climate change” funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and “Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa”, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

The project on ‘Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa’ is being implemented in the period 2014 – 2018. The overall objective of the project is to generate and share knowledge and information through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into policy actions, and capacity building for improved forest management that addresses poverty eradication and environmental protection in Africa.

The project on “African forests, people and climate change” is currently in its second phase from 2015 - 2017. The first phase was implemented from November 2011 to December 2014. The overall goal of the project is to create capacities among stakeholders to strengthen the role of Africa’s forests and trees to adapt to climate change and mitigate its adverse effects on various landscapes in ways that will enhance livelihoods, sustain biodiversity and improve the quality of the environment.

Provisions for assessment of achievements and outcomes have been incorporated in both projects using a result based management approach. Results tracking frameworks have been developed for the projects to ensure that the expected results are planned for in the initial project plans and the annual plans of work and budgets, and indicators are provided to track outputs and outcomes.

Project outputs are disseminated to target beneficiaries through various channels of communication from AFF. These include the info mail, AFF website, workshops, social media and media briefings.

1.2. Summary of project accomplishments

1.2.1. Project on strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa

The achievements of the project are aligned to its six specific objectives as highlighted below.

Under the first objective “*to facilitate emergence of strong partnership platforms through which stakeholders can identify challenges related to sustainable management of forest and tree resources, and co- create solutions*”, the project has, as of end of December 2016, facilitated the organization of the following 3 platforms and formulation of 3 resolutions for forestry stakeholders:

- A research and development partnership platform was organized in August 2015 by AFF, AUC, FAO and NGARA for better coordination of gums and resins in Africa.
- A policy advocacy platform on forest governance to address illegalities in the forest sector was organized in July 2015 for eastern and southern African countries that, among other things, led to the establishment of an Eastern Africa Professional Forestry Association.
- A policy advocacy platform on forest governance to address illegalities in the forest sector was organized in May 2016 for ECOWAS countries, that among other things, led to commitments to strengthen national professional associations where they exist, and establish them where they do not exist. In addition, a resolution to form a sub-regional trade association for West Africa was made at the same platform.
- A Durban Declaration was prepared during the XIV World Forestry Congress in September 2015 that included outcomes from a partnership platform that was organized by AFF, NGARA, FORNESSA, CSD-University of Ibadan on “Approaches for improved forest management by addressing new and emerging issues for improved livelihoods, national incomes and environmental stability”.
- An African position paper, “Mombasa Declaration”, was prepared by African negotiators (African Group) during a preparatory meeting for UNFF11 and this guided the African Group in making good contributions to the key outcomes of the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held on 4 -15 May 2015 in New York, USA.



Participants of the Pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop held from 4-5 September 2015 in Durban South Africa. Photo: Photo © AFF/2016



Professor Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary, African Forest Forum (AFF), at the XIV World Forestry Congress 2015, delivering the Durban Declaration during the Africa Day Special Event during the XIV World Forestry Congress 2015 at the International Conference Center on 08 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. Photo credit: ©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto.

Under the second specific objective “*to facilitate the collation, synthesis, provision of access to, exchange and management of critical information and knowledge for forestry compatible development*”, the following were realized during this period:

- The AFF website was strengthened to become a more effective web-based knowledge and information sharing platform.
- The Knowledge Management and Communication Unit and Project Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Unit were established.
- A total of 38 working papers, 22 journal articles, 20 technical reports, 18 policy briefs, 4 fact sheets, 13 newsletters, a training module, a compendium, 1 workshop proceedings and 4 corporate documents were shared on the website.
- Two forest knowledge portals were created and linked to 50 new forest related databases; and in addition, 21,654 articles on forestry were aggregated for easy access on a one- stop shop platform.

The third specific objective is “*to catalyze efforts to enhance sustainable management practices with potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to adverse effects of climate change and upscale promising approaches that support livelihoods*”. Under this objective, the following achievements were made:

- Three technical reports and 2 policy briefs were developed in the context of provision of quality germplasm appropriate for use in different contexts. A training curriculum was also developed on tree breeding and germplasm production and distribution in Africa.
- Three technical reports, 3 protocols, 4 factsheets, 3 policy briefs and 3 draft journal papers were developed in the context of forest and tree pests and diseases in Africa.
- Research scholarships were awarded to 8 students (6 PhD and 2 MSc) to conduct studies on land use, land cover change and forestry (LULUCF) in relation to livelihoods in different forest types in Africa. The students came from the following universities: University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; University of Buea and University of Yaoundé, both in Republic of Cameroon; Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Ethiopia; Egerton University, Kenya; Moshi Co-operative University, Tanzania; and University of Pretoria in South Africa.
- Detailed national studies were completed on public private partnerships in forestry in 19 countries, namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Chad, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- The East African Community Forest Management and Protection Act that was enacted in November 2015 benefited from some technical contributions from AFF.

Achievements from implementation of the fourth specific objective “*to facilitate formulation and harmonization of evidence based policies, regulations and governance mechanisms to strengthen public and private institutions*” include:

- Five technical reports, a synthesis report for Africa, 5 policy briefs, 5 draft journal papers; all based on regional studies on forest law enforcement and good forest governance, and fair trade in forest products in Africa.
- Four sub-regional reports on the status of forest certification in North Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa; a training manual and 2 policy instruments on forest certification in Africa.

- A monograph on forest certification in Africa.
- A regional training course on forest certification was successfully organized for 40 participants from Eastern and Southern African countries (Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, South Africa and Madagascar).
- Six technical reports, 5 fact sheets, 5 policy briefs and 5 draft journal articles; all based on studies on good forest governance, law enforcement and trade in Africa.
- A sub regional workshop on strengthening professional forestry associations was successfully organized for 25 participants from Eastern African countries (Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi)
- A sub regional workshop for West Africa on strengthening the forest laws, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products was successfully organized for 57 participants from 15 ECOWAS member states. These are: Benin, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.



Participants to a “Regional training workshop on forest related international agreements” held in Mombasa, Kenya from 1-4 December 2015. Photo © AFF/2016



Participants to a ‘Regional training course on forest certification for Eastern and Southern Africa’ held at the Sai Rock Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, from 7-11 December 2015. Photo © AFF/2016

Under the fifth specific objective “to enhance capacity of institutions and individuals to achieve forest compatible development”, the following were the achievements:

- Forty delegates were trained in negotiation skills at a preparatory workshop organized by AFF in April 2015, before the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11). The delegates were from the following African countries: Zimbabwe, Gabon, Niger, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa, Senegal, Ghana, Burundi, Lesotho, Kenya, Cameroon, Zambia, Mozambique, and Ethiopia.

- A study on training needs in forestry was completed in Anglophone Africa that sought to identify capacity gaps in forestry development, and including on new and emerging issues such as green economy and climate change.

Regarding the sixth specific objective *“to strengthen participation in regional and international debates and negotiations related to forestry and enhance informed country adoption and implementation of international and regional forest and related agreements”*, the following were achieved:

- Technical support was effectively given by AFF, through its Technical Support Team, to African delegates to the following missions:
 - The Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on "Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" held on 2 – 6 March 2015 in Cairo, Egypt.
 - The Eleventh Ordinary Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on “International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015” held on 4-15 May 2015 in New York, USA.
 - The Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP12) held on 12-23 October 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.
- Two training modules were developed to guide training on effective engagement of African delegates in international multilateral processes were developed, in addition to a fact sheet, a draft journal article and a policy brief; all based on international multilateral processes.
- Two training workshops were successfully implemented for African forestry experts from 22 countries on forest related international agreements in Mombasa, Kenya in December 2015, and in Niamey, Niger in June 2016 for Anglophone and francophone countries respectively. The participants were from Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mali, Niger, Togo, Senegal, Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Guinea Conakry, and Central African Republic.
- A preparatory meeting was organized in Mombasa in April 2015 for African delegates to UNFF 11, and produced an African position document, the “Mombasa Declaration”, that was a consensus resolution document to guide deliberations at UNFF11 session in May 2015 in New York. At this session the African delegates were provided with technical backstopping from the AFF Technical Support Team and this resulted in a very effective articulation of the African position on the UNFF11 resolution on International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

1.2.2. Project on African forests, people and climate change

(a) First phase of the project (December 2011-December 2014)

The first phase of the project addressed three broad working areas, namely: Policy and Advocacy (Working Area 1); Capacity Building and Skills Development (Working Area 2); and Learning, Information Generation and Knowledge Management (Working Area 3).

The focus in Working Area 1 (WA1) was on policy and advocacy. It aimed to foster awareness on forests and climate changes issues, and promote appropriate changes in policies and practices; and both leading to two outcomes, namely: (i) forest sector profiled relative to other sectors of the economy in response to the challenges of climate change, and (ii) forest governance and equitable trade practices related to climate change improved. In order to achieve these outcomes, six studies were commissioned to provide a good understanding of the role of forests in climate change, livelihood improvement, contribution to national incomes; in addition to studies on institutional and other governance arrangements needed to better manage the forestry resources. A total of 13 technical study reports were prepared from these studies and these were further synthesized into 6 reports of a regional scope (published under AFF Working Paper Series) primarily for a broader pan African audience. In addition, 4 journal articles and 2 policy briefs were prepared. The articles were published as part of a special issue of the *International Forestry Review* (IFR) journal. All these publications continue to be shared widely through the AFF website.

In addition, a workshop that drew participants from key institutions that deal with these issues from eastern and southern Africa was held to share the same information. The expectation was that sharing the results from the studies would provide the participants with inputs into relevant initiatives and policies in their own countries, such as national forestry programmes (NFPs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs), National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPAs), in addition to sub-regional initiatives like the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), and inputs to climate change strategies, plans and activities of regional economic groups (RECs).

Working Area 2 (WA2) focused on building and strengthening capacity and skills in national training, education and research institutions, as well as civil society and local communities, for them to address, more effectively, forest and tree related climate change issues.

Working Area 2 activities also aimed to strengthen the capacity of country delegates to be more articulate in regional and international discourses related to forestry and climate change.

Studies conducted under Working Area 2 were on strengthening African capacity to monitor and report on compliance to international processes related to forests and climate change; and on identification of training and research needs in forestry as related to addressing climate change in the sector. The following were the study outputs:

- a) Two reports on training and research needs, one for Anglophone and Lusophone African countries and another for francophone African countries. Specifically, the training needs identified for professional, technical and informal groups (i.e. NGOs, extension agents and local communities) were:
 - i. basic science of climate change,
 - ii. forests and climate change adaptation,

- iii. forests and climate change mitigation, and
- iv. carbon markets and trading
- b) A “training module on forest based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading and payment for other environmental services for professional, technical and informal groups in Sub-Saharan Africa Anglophone and Francophone countries” was developed through an Africa-wide stakeholder workshop and shared widely.
- c) Draft contextualized material developed, based on the training module, for training of critical mass of trainers in different countries on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal (RaCSA) for professional, technical and informal groups.
- d) Four (4) sub-regional training workshops were organized in four African sub-regions to better orient and re-tool 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 and trees outside forests, and basing such training on these modules.
- e) Ten (10) national trainings for a total of 357 trainers on rapid forest carbon stock assessment (RaCSA) were conducted in Ethiopia, Zambia, Niger, Tanzania, Republic of Sudan, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Togo and Nigeria.



Participants on a field exercise on estimating forest carbon during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Sudan. Photo © AFF/2016



Participants on a field exercise on estimating forest carbon during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Zimbabwe. Photo: Larwanou Mahamane-AFF/2016

Working Area 3 (WA3) was about learning, information generation and knowledge management to ensure that production, adaptation, mitigation and policy processes involving forests and trees are backed by sound information. WA3 aimed at contributing to attainment of three key outcomes: (i) impacts and response to climate change and climate variability on forest and trees and the people who depend on them assessed, (ii) scope, potential and implementation of mitigation activities evaluated, and (iii) experiences and technologies in the restoration of degraded woodlands and dry lands assessed.

To achieve these outcomes, a number of studies were conducted in following broad areas: impacts and responses to climate change and climate variability on forest and trees and the people who depend on them; scope, potential and implementation of mitigation activities; experiences and technologies in the restoration of degraded woodlands and dry lands; and understanding the evolving linkage between bio fuel, food and fiber production and climate change in different African forest types and including the Sahel belt. The studies in WA3 resulted in 13 technical study reports which were further synthesized into 5 reports of a regional scope, primarily for a broader pan African audience. In addition, 9 journal articles were prepared and published as part of a special issue of the journal “*International Forestry Review*”; in addition to production of 10 policy briefs.

(b) The second phase of the project (January 2015-December 2017)

The goal of this phase is the same as in the first phase, i.e. 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. In this phase the activities of the project are organized around two objectives:

- (i) to improve knowledge and capacity of African stakeholders in managing forests and landscapes in the context of climate change, and
- (ii) to inform and contribute to the shaping of policies and initiatives relevant to forests and climate change.

With respect to Objective 1, four outcomes are envisaged at the end of the project:

- i. African stakeholders have better knowledge and skills on climate change and relevant AFOLU issues;
- ii. African stakeholders’ understanding of vulnerability to climate change and application of promising adaptation measures pertinent to AFOLU improved;
- iii. AFOLU based climate change mitigation interventions understood and applied by African stakeholders, and
- iv. A better structured private sector in African forestry equipped with appropriate tools to address climate change challenges.

The following achievements and/or outputs were realized for the period up to December 2016:

- i. Enhanced understanding of African forestry and climate change as well as Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) among African stakeholders through different knowledge exchange platforms.
For example, in 2015, AFF supported 121 African delegates to attend pre-XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC) and WFC in Durban, South Africa. During the pre-congress, 38 oral presentations were made and 20 poster presentations covering different forest and climate change issues;

- ii. Strengthened collaboration among African stakeholders, viz. partnership among various institutions, on climate change in African forestry through a workshop in Lomé, Togo where knowledge and experiences were shared among 71 African experts. A framework on how climate change in relation to forestry could be better implemented on the continent was discussed and strategies developed on how to address adverse effects of climate change;



Participants to “A regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry” held from 26 to 30 September 2016 in Lomé Togo. Photo © AFF/2016



Opening session of the same workshop. Photo credit: Radio Lomé /2016

- iii. Updated brief prepared on forest and climate change in Africa. The brief emphasizes the significance of African forests in the context of climate and African economy; role of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) in mitigation and adaptation to climate change; Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) mitigation and adaptation measures in Africa; inclusion of forestry into Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs); and partnership arrangements between public and private and civil societies as a way to profiling the role of forestry in response to climate change and sustainable development goals. The brief will be finalized and shared widely in 2017/8;
- iv. Improved functionality of AFF knowledge platforms, namely the website and social media for efficient and effective sharing of information and exchange of knowledge among African stakeholders interested in forestry, climate change and variability in Africa. These platforms are regularly updated and shows significant growth on downloads, unique visitors, pages opened, hits and followers’ social platforms. For example, in 2016 the website recorded 74,571 visits from 37,833 visitors from 153 countries worldwide who were in no doubt seeking to improve their understanding of various forestry issues. Data provided by the most widely used web analytics service on the Internet – Google Analytics- indicates a growth in total audience size by 10,997 unique visitors as compared to the year 2015;

- v. Created and updated web portal with links to 19 forestry related databases, and including 153 key words to facilitate search for information. This has resulted to increased uptake of AFF information and knowledge products;
- vi. Increased visibility of AFF following organized media events that provided direct interaction between journalists from various media houses in sub-Saharan Africa on one hand, and forestry experts, policymakers, training institutions, private sector, NGOs and others on several issues including priority and emerging issues on sustainable forest management (SFM), resilience to climate change by forests and trees, as well as the resilience of the people who depend on these resources in a climate change context;
- vii. Enhanced understanding of the trends and changes on forest cover and drivers of land use change in identified hotspots among different forest types in Africa. This is being achieved through in-depth studies carried out by four postgraduate students competitively awarded research fellowship covering the following forest types: Wood land and Savannas (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Malawi, 3 PhD Research Fellowships); and Parklands and Agro forests (Niger, MSc Research Fellowship). The studies are expected to be completed by 2017 and findings disseminated widely through different knowledge platforms;
- viii. Strengthening African capacity on international forestry and climate change through training eight African postgraduate students in Bern University of Applied Sciences. The training is through AFF-HAFL Fellowship/scholarship program between AFF and Bern University of Applied Sciences. The first cohort of four graduated and placed in different organizations in African countries whereas the second cohort is expected to complete their studies and graduate in 2017/8;



MSc graduates 2015 -including Nesibu Kedirkan (Ethiopia), Jacob Amoako (Ghana) and Ayélé Dangbo (Togo). Through the AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program, three of the four sponsored African students graduated with a *MSc in International Management of Forest Industries* from the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) at Bern University of Applied Sciences in Zollikofen, Switzerland. Yahya Kedirkan (Ethiopia) completed her studies in March 2016.

- ix. Developed eight contextualized teaching materials (compendiums) in a pedagogical manner namely: (i) *Basic science of climate change* (3), one each for professional, technical and informal groups; (ii) *Carbon markets and trade* (3), one each for professional, technical and informal groups; and (iii) *International dialogues, processes and mechanisms on climate change*, one each for professional and technical groups in forestry. The compendiums are under review and will be validated in 2017/8 and shared widely;
- x. Trained 143 African forest stakeholders in Swaziland (30), Madagascar (42), Guinea Conakry (40), Ivory Coast (31) from research and academia, forest administration, civil society organisations, extension staff, non-governmental organisation on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal (RaCSA). The trainees were equipped with knowledge and skills to develop carbon projects, assess/measure forest carbon and apply principles and concepts of carbon marketing and trade in forest carbon projects;
- xi. 14 postgraduate students from African universities were awarded research scholarships to conduct detailed studies on impacts of climate change; vulnerability of biophysical and socio-economic systems; and in-depth studies to generate knowledge that would enhance understanding of the trends and changes in forest cover and drivers of land-use change in selected hotspots. The students are from University of Nairobi, Maasai Mara University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, all in Kenya; University of Bahri, Republic of Sudan; University Dan Dicko Dankoulodo, in Maradi, Niger; Addis Ababa University and Hawassa University in Ethiopia; Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania; Lilongwe University, Malawi; University of Antananarivo, Madagascar; Free State University and University of Pretoria in South Africa; and University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were developed with each university to further partnerships during and beyond the grant/fellowship period;
- xii. Improved understanding on vulnerability and impacts/influences of climate change and variability on forests, trees and the people who depend on them, and with gender considerations. This has been accomplished through nine African postgraduate students competitively awarded AFF Research Fellowship to undertake in-depth studies covering different forest types, namely: woodlands (Ethiopia, PhD; Republic of Sudan, PhD; Malawi, PhD); parklands and agroforests (Niger, PhD; Ethiopia, PhD); tropical rain forests (Kenya, MSc; Nigeria, MSc; Madagascar, Post-doctoral and MSc); and montane forests (Kenya, MSc). Some students have completed their studies and graduated, published their thesis and journal articles; others are expected to complete by in 2017/8;
- xiii. Strengthened understanding on adaptation policies and measures to enhance resilience of social systems and ecosystems in Africa. This has been achieved through in-depth studies carried out by AFF experts covering the following Anglophone and francophone countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Ghana; and Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. The findings have been shared during an information sharing workshop in Lomé, Togo. Various knowledge products such as documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, technical reports, journal articles, policy briefs and factsheets have been developed and reviewed. They will be finalized in 2017/8 and shared widely through different AFF platforms;

- xiv. Strengthened understanding on AFOLU based climate change mitigation interventions among African forestry stakeholders. This has been achieved through in-depth studies carried out by AFF experts covering the following Anglophone and francophone countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Ghana-for Anglophone countries; and Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso for francophone countries. The findings have been shared during information sharing workshops in Lomé, Togo. Various knowledge products such as documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, technical reports, journal articles, policy briefs and factsheets have been developed and reviewed. They will be finalized in 2017/8 and shared widely through different AFF platforms; and
- xv. Improved understanding on the role of the private sector in African forestry in response to climate change. This has been achieved through in-depth studies carried out by AFF experts covering the following Anglophone and francophone countries: Zimbabwe, Kenya, Cameroon and Republic of Congo. The findings have been shared during an information sharing workshop in Accra, Ghana. Various knowledge products such as documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, technical reports, journal articles, policy briefs and factsheets have been developed and reviewed. They will be finalized in 2017/8 and shared widely through different AFF platforms.



Transmission preservation plant, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. Photo: Dr. Joshua Kiplongiwe Cheboiwo, Kenya Forestry Research Institute,

The second objective contains two outcomes, namely:

- (i) profile of the forest sector raised relative to other sectors of the economy in response to the challenges of climate change; and
- (ii) policies and practices that integrate mitigation and adaptation in AFOLU identified, profiled and promoted by African policy makers.

By 2016, the following achievements had been made:

- i. Prepared policy makers and negotiators from Africa to international processes relating to forests and climate change. Specifically, AFF Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry (TST) organized and trained 40 African delegates during the eleventh United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 11) preparatory meeting. The delegates were equipped with negotiations skills than enabled them to push for the African forest agenda during UNFF 11 as emerged from the African Group (AG) common position developed during preparatory meeting. This resulted to consideration of African inputs into international forest agenda for implementation;
- ii. AFF-TST enhanced inputs by African negotiators to the first meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the strategic plan to implement the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) held on 25 to 27 April 2016 in New York, USA. During this AHEG 1 meeting in New York, the participants explored the required strategic approaches and actions to achieve the objectives of IAF, including the mission, vision, communication strategy, possible goals, targets and priority action, the roles of IAF components and the organizational structure of the Strategic Plan; suggestions for the Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW); possible elements for the framework for reviewing implementation of the Strategic Plan and the planned follow-up activities leading to AHEG2;



Participants of the preparatory meeting for the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF12) and short course on negotiation skills held from 18 to 21 April 2017. Photo © AFF 2017

- iii. Inputs by African negotiators to the second meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group (AHEG2) on the strategic plan to implement IAF held on 24-28 October 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand, strengthened and better articulated through support from AFF-TST. The key areas discussed included: proposals for the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Programme of Work (4OPW) 2017-2020; non-papers on the guiding principles for the inclusion of goals and targets; existing inter-governmentally agreed targets, objectives, goals and commitment on forests; forests' contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and an indicative list of categories of forest-related data where baseline information is available or can be estimated, among other things;
- iv. Valuable inputs by the AFF-TST to the meeting of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in Rome, Italy from 18-22 July 2016. During the meeting, the delegates also responded directly to the milestone agreement of 2015 and investigate how forests and sustainable forest management can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. COFO considered how the full potential of forests, including forests contributions to livelihood, food security, jobs, gender equality and many other global development goals/initiatives, including the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreements, can be best be unlocked;
- v. AFF representatives attended the United Nations Framework on Climate Change 22nd Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP22) which took place from November 7 to 18, 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco where, apart from participating in many events relevant to climate change in Africa also strengthened AFF interaction with African delegates, forged alliances with other stakeholders that might in future lead to more opportunities for AFF.
- vi. Improved understanding of policies and measures in AFOLU and food-fuel-fiber (3Fs) nexus in the context of climate change as related to forestry in African countries. This was achieved through in-depth studies that covered four sub-regions in 16 African countries, namely, Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia); Southern Africa (Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar); West Africa and Sahel (Ghana, Nigeria, Niger and Mali); and Central Africa (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Chad). The findings from Southern Africa, West Africa and Sahel and Central Africa were shared during an information sharing workshop in Lomé, Togo. Various knowledge products such as documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, technical reports, journal articles, policy briefs and factsheets have been developed and reviewed. They will be finalized in 2017/8 and shared widely through different AFF platforms.

1.3 Project implementation at AFF

The current monitoring system for projects undertaken by AFF is guided by the results based system (RBM) as the main approach. RBM approach calls for managing both performance and results and it links planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation together in one management system.

A PMER strategy based on RBM was developed in 2014, and it acts as a guide for all monitoring and evaluation activities within the organization. A result tracking framework (also available separately in each project document) was prepared from the project log frame that has specific indicators, assumptions and risks for all levels of results (i.e. outputs and outcomes).

Process monitoring, which is a key component in RBM, is also undertaken by the project to monitor and improve on project performance. It involves monitoring activities against relevance, quality and time; and information on this is shared through project progress monitoring reports. It also checks for level of completion of outputs.

Annual POWBs are prepared by the AFF Secretariat and forwarded to donors after approval by the AFF Governing Council. Early in the year, AFF organises annual planning meetings for its staff, also known as staff retreats, to develop an implementation plan for the activities in the POWB and assign responsibilities to each individual staff. During such meetings, concept notes for planned meetings and terms of reference for expert's assignments are developed, discussed and agreed on. Contributions to be made by each staff member to the activities are established. This also forms part of the individual staff work plans for the year.

Monitoring and documenting progress on implementation of activities is done every quarter. In this regard, progress reports are solicited from staff during staff meetings or from face to face meetings with individual staff. Also, mission reports, workshop reports and minutes of various meetings are also consulted. These inform on the status of implementation of activities against the targets set in the project document, and informs whether activities will be completed on schedule. Any possible risks during project implementation are identified. Progress monitoring reports are then prepared and shared with the project leaders every six months.

During project implementation, several processes are taken to ensure that good quality outputs are obtained. Staff meetings, Governing Council Committee meetings (e.g. Executive Committee and Finance Committee) and PSAC provide vetting and supervision for individual staff and implementation of project activities and including monitoring of incomes and expenditures. Harmonization of study methodologies, validation workshops, review of publications and consultant supervision are conducted for quality assurance of project outputs.

Outcome assessment is conducted to provide information on whether the outputs generated are being used to realize the desired outcomes of the project. For workshop participants, a

workshop evaluation form is administered at the end of the workshop to assess the relevance of the workshop to the participants, to document key lessons learnt, the actions to be undertaken as proposed by the participants in order to apply from the knowledge and the skills gained from the workshop, and suggestions for improvement of delivery of future workshops. In addition, post workshop evaluations are conducted six months after the workshop, and again a year after, to assess the application of knowledge and skills gained from the workshop. For information disseminated through the website or through info mail, online or on-site surveys are conducted every year to assess the level of access to information shared by AFF, the application of such knowledge and outcomes achieved from use of such knowledge. These are categorized according to the type of institutions, and type of knowledge products shared by AFF and accessed by respondents.

2. OUTCOME ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECTS

2.1 Evaluation questions

Outcome assessments have been conducted to establish the extent to which the project outputs have generated the expected outcomes among the target audiences. Since 2015, AFF has initiated outcome assessment activities that should be done regularly to track and document project outcomes. These are guided by the following main questions:

1. Has AFF improved access to current information and knowledge on forestry related issues among stakeholders?
2. Has this information and knowledge enhanced skills among African stakeholders to undertake actions towards sustainable forest management?
3. Have there been changes in institutional plans, policies or structures to incorporate new and emerging issues as a result?
4. Is there increased networking/collaboration and partnerships among African institution as a result?

These questions also depict AFF's general theory of change for its interventions. This theory broadly anticipates that the organization's interventions in research, capacity building, knowledge sharing and creating partnership platforms would result in improved capacities of forestry related institutions in Africa to support management of forests and tree resources and contribute to development of evidence based forest policies on emerging issues, new livelihood practices, improved forestry education and training, increased private investment in the forestry sector and enhanced participation by Africa in international forestry dialogues. This theory based evaluation requires finding evidence to support the program logic of the organization. Normally, for each of the activities assessed, a logic would have been developed, and specifically indicating how the activity is expected to bring about the desired results.

A. Target respondents

The outcome assessment activities targeted stakeholders who benefited directly from AFF information resources. These were mainly the registered AFF members for whom AFF has detailed contacts and direct access; and shares information with them regularly. Although the website is accessed by the general public, AFF members, due to their numbers and diversity of interests/activities and loyalty to the organization provide a representative sample for assessing outcomes from the organization.

As of December 2016, AFF had 1521 members (78% male and 22% female). The members come from 78 countries, a majority (93%) from 50 African countries and the rest (7%) from 28 countries outside Africa that are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. African membership is divided into five African sub-regions as defined in AFF's constitution, namely western, eastern, central, southern and north eastern. The western sub-region had the highest number of members at 401(26.3%), followed by eastern at 353 (23.2%). The north eastern had 289 (19%), Southern- 254 (16.7%) and Central - 122 (8%). About 40% of the members have a PhD level qualification. Members come from the academia, government ministries/departments, NGOs, private sector, farmers' organizations and the general public. All members have been individually vetted and approved by the AFF Governing Council. Members actively contribute their time and expertise towards promoting the mission of the African Forest Forum. AFF supports members in the following ways:

- Providing them with information on new developments in forestry and sharing AFF study reports and publications, and other information with them.
- Involving them in permanent and ad hoc task forces, think tanks and committees to analyse and provide quality advice on specific issues.
- Involving them in initiating and implementing pilot projects, and in collaboration with African and/or other partner institutions.
- Commissioning them as experts to undertake tasks for AFF, and involving their institutions in conducting research that furthers global knowledge of African forestry.
- Providing them with technical expertise and advice on funding opportunities for priority issues, programs, projects and activity development.
- Providing them with information about job opportunities, meetings, and new publications, through direct mailings and through its website.

Also targeted are those who participate in AFF workshops and events individually or as representatives of their institutions. Workshop participants are selected from different forestry related institutions, including government, academic and training, civil society, and private sector, forestry associations and the media, among others.

B. Data collection

Data collection tools were developed and customized for each specific activity or event. Three types of surveys were implemented as follows:

i. Workshop evaluations

These surveys were initial contacts with the beneficiaries (i.e. workshop participants) to understand the relevance of AFF information and training to their day to day work. The following reports have been produced on basis on information collected:

For the Sida supported project:

- Evaluation report for the regional training workshop on forest certification for eastern and southern Africa, December 2015;
- Evaluation report for the regional training on multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) for Anglophone counties in Africa, December 2015;
- Evaluation report for the regional workshop on strengthening the enforcement of forest laws and regulations, governance and trade in forest products in West Africa, May 2016;
- Evaluation report for the regional training course on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and related international processes for francophone countries in Africa, June 2016;
- Evaluation report for the regional training course on forest certification in West and Central Africa, June 2016.

For SDC supported project:

- Evaluation reports for the 14 national workshops on rapid forest carbon stock assessment (RaCSA) in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sudan, Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Swaziland;

Jointly for the 2 projects:

- Evaluation report for the regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry, September 2016.

ii. Evaluations made six months after workshops

Follow up surveys have been conducted for workshop participants to determine the achievements made following the pledges they made during the workshops. These were made six months after the workshops. For Sida supported project the following surveys have been undertaken and the results are in this report:

- Follow up evaluation for participants of eastern Africa sub regional workshop on strengthening the enforcement of forest laws and regulations, governance and trade, July 2016;
- Follow up evaluation for participants to regional training on multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) for Anglophone countries July 2016;
- Follow up evaluation for the regional training course on forest certification for eastern and southern Africa, July 2016.

For the SDC supported project online survey to assess outcomes from participants of the RaCSA training workshops (Phase 1 of the project) were implemented and the following reports made:

- Evaluation of training workshops for professionals, extension services & local communities on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal (RaCSA) for the period Nov 2011 – Dec 2014 (Phase 1), and
- Evaluation of training workshops for professionals, extension services & local communities on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal (RaCSA) for the period Nov 2015 – Dec 2017 (Phase 2); on-going and to be reported on in another report.

For the 2 projects:

- Follow up evaluation for participants to the XIV WFC, July 2016

iii. General surveys on information access and use

Surveys on the access and use of information from AFF have been conducted annually. Such information has been shared on platforms jointly used by both projects such as the website and info mail to members. Reports have been generated from these surveys including:

- Web analysis to assess the uptake of information from the AFF website (a report of which has been made and with a brief on it provided in this report);
- Report on evaluation of access, use and outcomes of AFF information products and services, October 2015;
- Report on uptake and use of AFF information among AFF members, November 2016.

Face to face interviews were conducted with individuals for an in-depth understanding of the processes involved in application of knowledge from AFF sources, changes or improvements made to their institutional activities or policies, the target audiences and the impact on these audiences. In addition, staff mission reports and workshop reports have been used to provide useful data on access to AFF information and the reactions of the target audiences to AFF information products and services.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents findings from the various evaluations and assessment activities conducted on the projects. The findings are categorized as follows, and following the evaluation questions in the section above:

- Improved access to current information and knowledge on forestry related issues among stakeholders
- Enhanced knowledge and skills among African stakeholders to undertake actions towards sustainable forest management
- Changes in institutional plans, policies or structures to incorporate new and emerging issues resulting from use of AFF information
- Increased networking/collaboration and partnerships among African institutions

The findings are presented according to these broad areas.

3.1 Improved access to information and knowledge on forestry related issues

3.1.1 Knowledge products generated by AFF

The targeted audiences access information from AFF through various channels including the website, infomail, workshops and events, discussion platforms, missions and social media. The information shared include AFF publications, latest news on forestry issues, upcoming events, new publications from other sources, consultancy and training opportunities, links to forestry relevant databases and general information about AFF. During the period, a total of 38 documents published under AFF Working Papers Series, 30 journal articles, 20 technical reports, 19 policy briefs, 4 fact sheets, 15 newsletters, a training module, a compendium, and 10 corporate documents (Table 1) were available on the AFF website publications page. These publications are in the broad categories of climate change, livelihood options from forest products, forest law enforcement, forest governance, sustainable forest management, forestry education and forest policy. The publications were in Portable Document Format (PDF) that are downloaded for free. Over 75 sets of messages were sent to members through info mail in the same period.

Table 1: AFF publications on the website

Publication type	Number produced
Technical reports	20
Working papers	38
Journal papers	30
Policy briefs	19
Books	3
Fact sheets	4
Training modules	1
Newsletters	15
Proceedings	1
Corporate documents	10

Assessment of information access was done through web analytics, annual surveys among AFF members and workshop evaluations at the end of each workshop. The findings are presented in the following sections.

3.1.2 Web analysis of the AFF website

The web analysis conducted for the period from 2014 – 2016 confirmed a significant interest and uptake of information from the AFF website. The high number of unique visitors, total number of visits, page views, and sessions by both new and returning users in both 2015 and 2016 (Table 2) demonstrate that AFF provides information of high interest and relevance to its audience.

Table 2: Analysis of the AFF website

Criteria for web analysis	Year		
	2014	2015	2016
Number of visits	-	77,471	74,571
Unique visitors	-	26,836	37,833
Pages	-	457,585	436,126
Hits	-	892,705	1,391,111
Sessions	6475	14,727	12,745
Sessions by new users	2383	10,152	9,239
Sessions by returning users	4092	4,575	4,244
Avg. Session duration	3.58	3.08	3.22
Page views	19,727	34,848	30,785
Page views/session	3.05	2.37	2.48
Bounce rate (%)	53.56	61.22	49.09

The number of document downloads rose to 3038 with a frequency of 430,966 by the end of 2016 from just over 2000 in 2015. The web metrics also demonstrated a global viewership of the AFF website. Forty-one out of the top 100 visitors, in terms of sessions, in 2016 were from Africa, while the rest were from overseas. Visitors from the top 10 countries originated from Kenya, United States, Nigeria, United Kingdom, India, Ethiopia, Cameroon, South Africa, Sudan and Ghana. Citation tracking on Google scholar indicated that AFF publications had been cited 1,782 times in this period. This was attributed to increased information uploads on the website from projects under implementation in this period, the continuous updating of the publications on the website, in addition to other current information uploaded to the website. It was noted that longer average session durations coincided with periods when information was shared on important events and opportunities, for example with regard to consultancy and training opportunities shared by AFF.

3.1.3. Surveys among AFF members

AFF conducts annual surveys to assess the use of information products disseminated online and through other channels. Two surveys were conducted in September 2015 among AFF members who attended the pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop in Durban, South Africa (n=71) and in November 2016 among AFF members through survey monkey (n=145). These surveys assessed the patterns of access to AFF information, the most common channels accessed by users, the frequency of accessing information, type of information accessed and the use and benefits of the information. The findings were categorised by geographical region and also by type of institution.

Overall, the findings indicated that members accessed information from all the channels of communication, with a majority (78%) accessing information through AFF's infomail. The AFF website was visited by 63% of AFF members, many of them as frequently as daily (15%) and weekly (20%). They accessed all types of publications. However, the most cited uses of the information were to develop research and policy recommendations, for education and training, and better understanding of forest based climate change adaptation and mitigation. Specifically, the findings from the surveys indicated the following:

- The most frequently accessed source of information was the infomail; with 78% of respondents accessing infomail messages, followed by the website (63%) and AFF publications (53%). The social media pages were the least frequently accessed sources with about 69% of the respondents reporting never having accessed these sites, while 11% reported to have accessed them only once in a year (Figure 1).
- The info mail was a popular source of information because it was received through email, that most people access on a regular basis. Social media on the other hand is a relatively new communication channel for AFF and members are familiarizing with it. This may be the reason why it recorded the least access by respondents.
- An assessment on the frequency of accessing AFF information showed that the information on info mail, website and publications were more frequently accessed than other sources such as AFF events, social media and the intranet (Figure 1). According to the results, 56%, 43% and 33% of respondents accessed information from the info mail, website and publications more than four times in 2016 respectively.

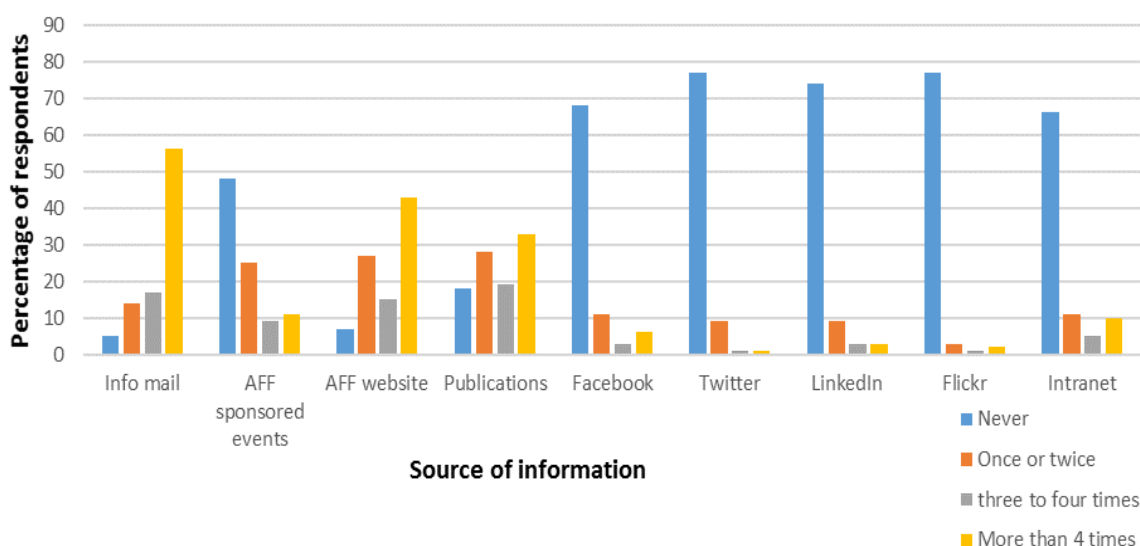


Figure 1: Frequency of accessing AFF information sources

In terms of geographical coverage, Eastern Africa had more respondents accessing AFF information at 33%, compared to West Africa (29%), Central Africa (11%) and Southern Africa (17%) (Figure 2). Eight percent (8%) were from countries outside Africa. In all African sub-regions, respondents accessed AFF information more than 4 times in the year.

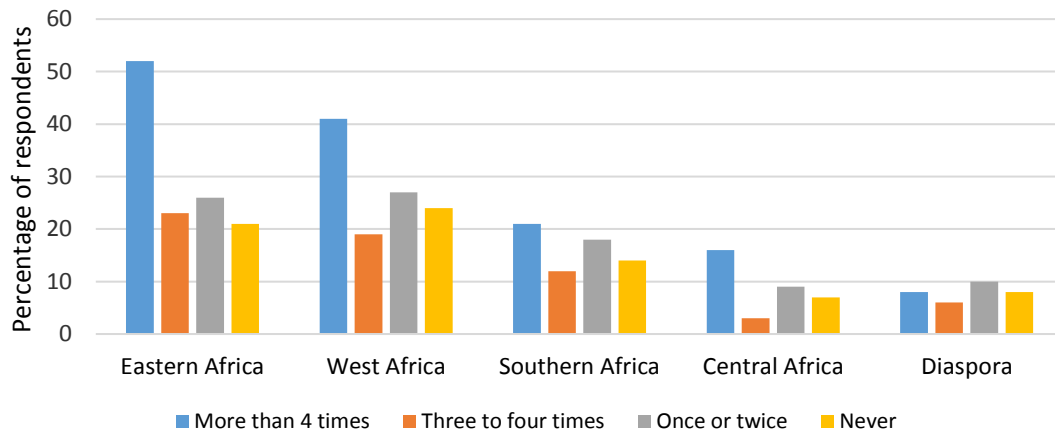


Figure 2: Access to AFF information sources according to sub regions

- With regards to the institution category, academic institutions (comprising universities, university colleges and technical colleges) accessed more information from the website than any other institution category. The findings indicate that at least 45% of respondents who visited the AFF website were from academic institutions. This was followed by research organizations and government institutions at 28% and 17% respectively.

Academic institutions and research organizations reported using all the publications more than any other institution, whereas government institutions accessed journal articles, fact sheets, policy briefs and news articles more than civil society organizations, including NGOs. However, the latter access books more than government institutions and both equally access technical reports (Figure 3). Respondents reported to have accessed at least more than one type of AFF publications on the website such as journal papers (19%), fact sheets (18%), policy briefs (20%), books (18%), technical reports (30%), and training manuals (15%), in addition to other knowledge products and services.

The results also indicate that academic institutions are in the lead in accessing and perhaps using training manuals developed by AFF to enrich their curricula and teaching, followed by news articles, books, technical reports and journal articles in that order. This trend is likely to change as the mixture of these publications on the website is likely to change significantly in 2017-2018.

Government institutions however, are accessing policy briefs more than news articles, fact sheets in that order, and equally access journal articles and training manuals. They are much less accessing books and technical reports. This reflects less interest in reading bulky documents.

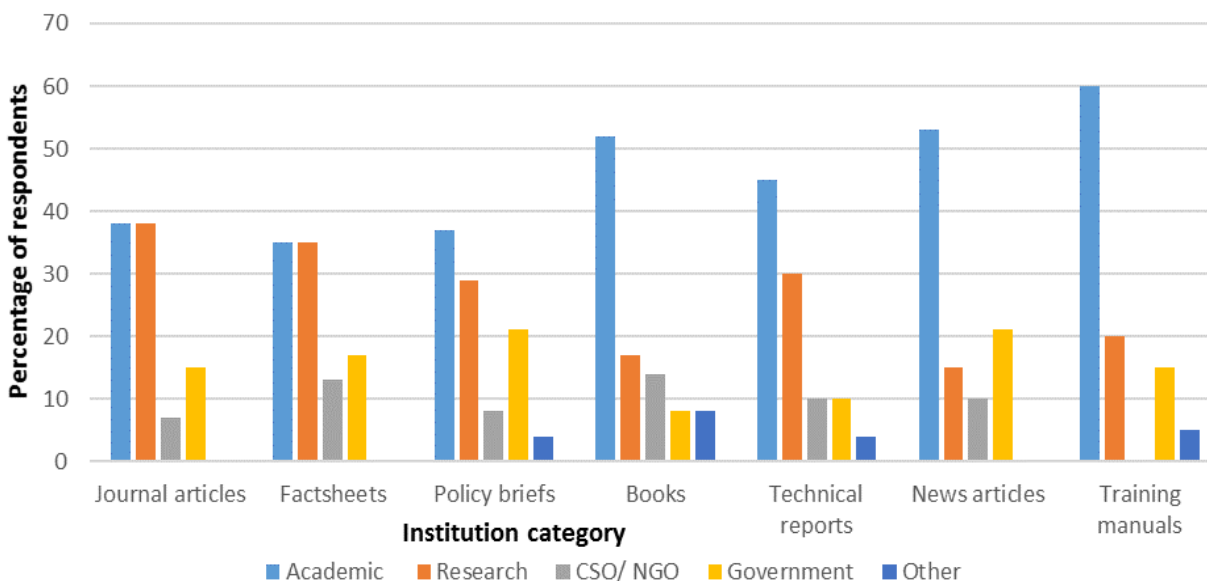


Figure 3: Access to AFF publications by institutional category

- At least 85% of respondents using the website expressed satisfaction with performance of various aspects of the site including accessibility, content, coverage, navigation, and interactivity. Specifically, most respondents were satisfied with the content of the website (81%), followed by its up to date information (80%) and accessibility (79%). Interactivity of the website was rated lowest in terms of satisfaction by 56% of the respondents.
- Respondents rated their satisfaction with knowledge and skills gained on selected thematic areas resulting from using AFF information. Over 50% of respondents reported satisfaction with the overall knowledge and skills gained. Specifically, the following thematic/broad areas were highly favoured by respondents in terms of knowledge gained (Figure 4).
 - Forest based climate change adaptation and mitigation (79%)
 - Education and training materials (73%)
 - Information for relevant to research and policy formulation (69%)
 - Good forest governance and forest law enforcement (69%)
 - Conservation of African forest resources (68%)
 - Participatory forest management (65%)
 - Knowledge management and communication (57%)
 - Regional and international negotiations (54%)
 - Growth of private sector in forestry (51%)

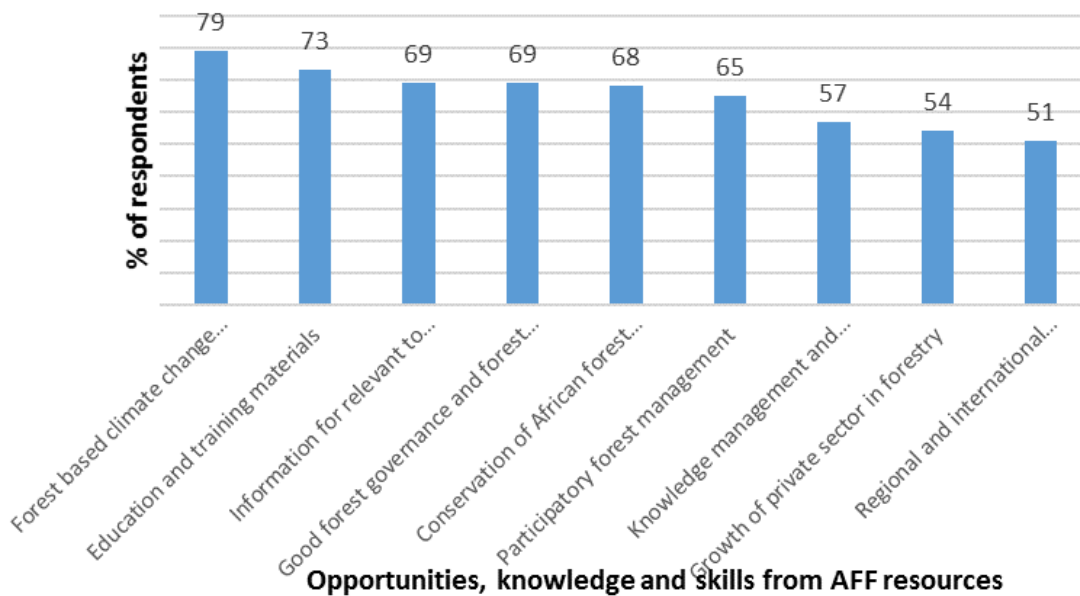


Figure 4: Benefits from use of AFF information sources

3.1.4. Project workshops and trainings

Specific evaluations were conducted for each workshop organised by AFF. This section provides highlights on how the individual workshops contributed to improved access to information and knowledge on forestry. Participants gave their views or perceptions on relevance of the workshop information to them and their institutions, effective delivery of the information by the resource persons and whether they did not have prior knowledge on the topics/areas covered by the workshop.

3.1.4.1. Workshops under the Sida funded project

During the reporting period, six workshops were conducted by the Sida funded project. These were:

1. Eastern Africa sub-regional workshop on strengthening professional forestry associations for enhanced forest law enforcement and governance trade. July 2015, Mombasa, Kenya.
2. Regional training on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and related international processes for Anglophone countries. December 2015, Mombasa, Kenya.
3. Regional training workshop on forest certification for Eastern and Southern Africa. December 2015, Mombasa, Kenya.
4. Regional training workshop on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and related international processes for Francophone countries. June 2016, Niamey, Niger.
5. Regional training workshop on forest certification for West and Central Africa. June 2016, Accra, Ghana.
6. Sub-regional workshop on strengthening forest law enforcement, governance and trade in forest products in West Africa. May 2016, Abuja, Nigeria.

The findings from each individual workshop on how the workshop was organised and how the information from the resource persons was effectively delivered were aggregated for all the six workshops to give a general perception on these aspects from the participants.

The level of satisfaction was evaluated on the following items: information availed to participants prior to travelling; adequacy of: travel arrangements, hotel accommodation, logistical support during the meeting and meeting room; perception on how knowledgeable the presenters/resource persons were, quality of information material provided, the duration of the workshop; level of participation/interaction and sharing experiences with fellow participants. These attributes were rated based on a five-point scale (1= strongly agree, 2 = agree, 3 = neutral, 4 = disagree and 5 = strongly disagree).

Overall, majority of the participants (92%) were satisfied with the way the workshop was organised and the way the information was delivered by the presenters/resource persons; with 44% strongly subscribing to this while 48% agreed or generally subscribed to this (Figure 5).

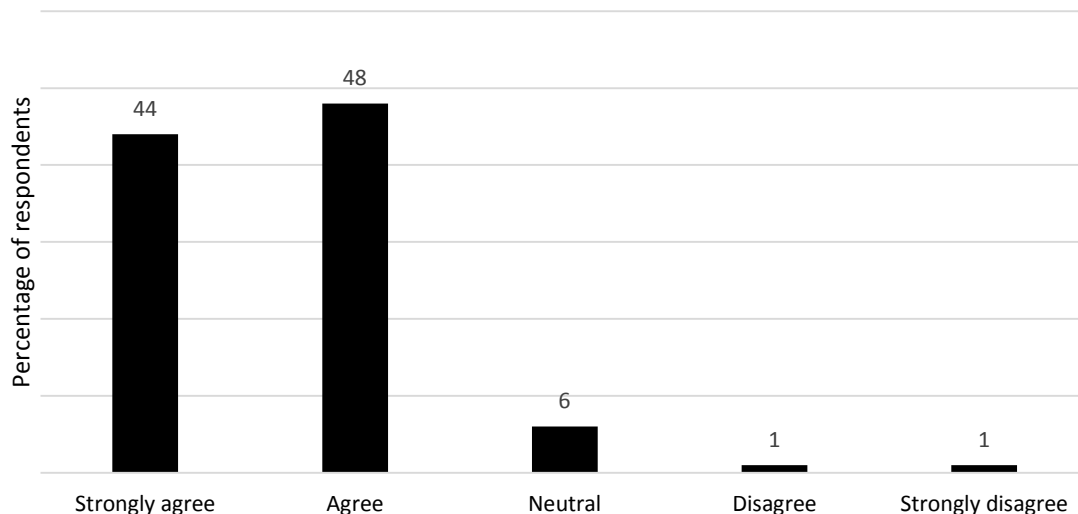


Figure 5: Satisfaction with organisation and delivery of workshops under the Sida funded project

Further, about 72% of the participants reported to have received new knowledge/information on the topics shared for the first time. This demonstrates the uniqueness of the information shared at the workshops and strengthens AFF's role in providing its stakeholders information on new and emerging issues in forestry. By doing so, AFF will most likely make a significant contribution to any potential outcomes realized by such stakeholders. During the evaluations, participants also rated their confidence to apply knowledge and skills gained from the workshops (at 54%). From each workshop, participants listed actions that they could take to apply such knowledge and skills, and these included: creating awareness on these issues among their colleagues and other relevant stakeholders, inclusion of such information in formal training in institutions of higher

learning, use of such information in developing research proposals, and mainstreaming relevant information into institutional policies (like recommendations from the workshops), and using the information to take actions that will improve livelihoods of local communities. These pledges are usually followed up six months after the workshops and also one year later.

3.1.4.2. Workshops under the SDC funded project

Under this project, 14 national training workshops for trainers for professionals, extension services and civil society, including NGOs, on rapid forest carbon stock appraisal (RaCSA) were conducted in various countries in Africa.

In Phase 1 of this project that lasted from November 2011 to December 2014, a total of 357 participants were trained from Ethiopia, Zambia, Niger, Tanzania, Republic of Sudan, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Togo and Nigeria. In Phase 2 of the project that spans 2015-2017, a total of 143 participants have been trained from Guinea Conakry, Madagascar, Swaziland and Ivory Coast during 2015-2016.

Evaluations were conducted at the end of each workshop to assess the level of satisfaction with the knowledge and skills gained and satisfaction with the organisation and facilitation of the workshop. The findings indicated that overall, participants were satisfied with the knowledge and skills gained from the training. Analysis of the participants' ratings from selected countries showed that almost all participants (85%-97%) rated highly their satisfaction with knowledge and skills gained from the training (Figure 6).

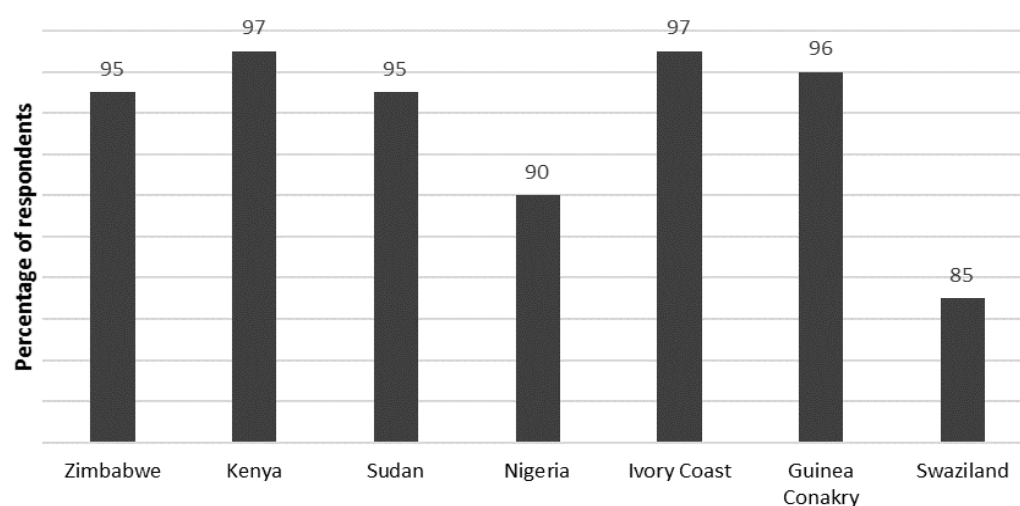


Figure 6: Satisfaction with knowledge gained from RaCSA training workshops

In addition, almost all participants (77%-96%) were satisfied with the way the workshop was organised and the facilitation of the same (Figure 7).

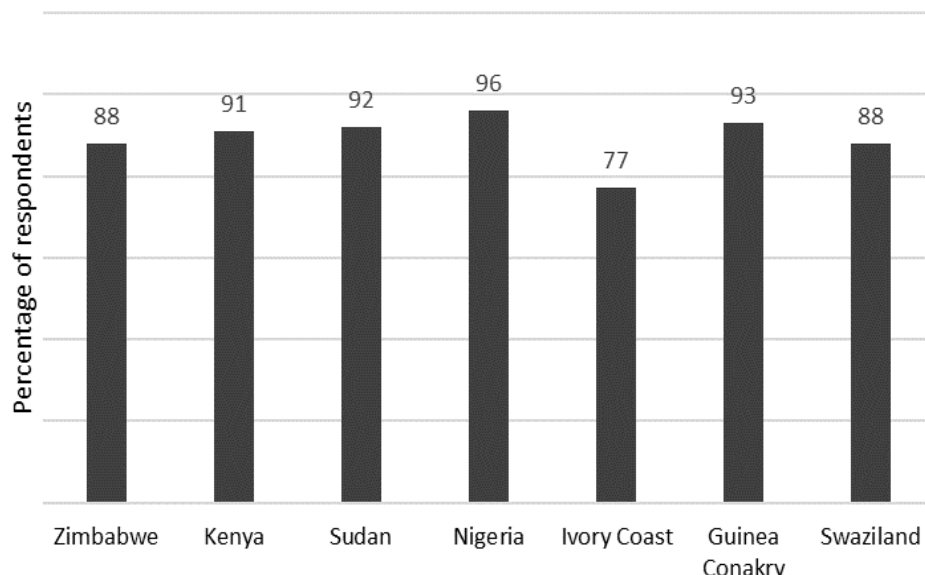


Figure 7: Satisfaction with the organisation and facilitation of RaCSA training workshops for selected countries

In August 2015, a survey was conducted online to assess the use of knowledge and skills from RaCSA workshops by the participants of the Phase 1 trainings. More than 50% of respondents were satisfied with the relevance of knowledge gained from the topics trained. Over 65% singled out forest carbon measurements, reporting and verification, development of project idea note (PIN), development of project design document (PDD) and payment of ecosystem services in relation to climate change as the most relevant topics to them (Fig.8).

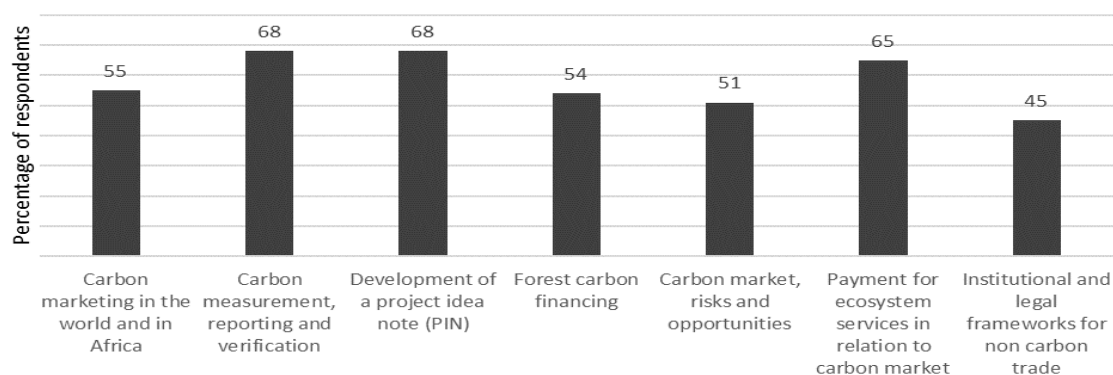


Figure 8: Rating on relevance of knowledge gained from the RaCSA national workshops

Over 50% of the respondents reported to have received such training for the first time. This means that the workshop facilitated access to unique information to the participants on forest carbon measurement and trade in forest carbon. More details on how they are using this knowledge is given in the coming sections.

Suffice to conclude that the participants accessed new and useful information that was very well conveyed to them through these workshops. On the side of AFF, it can be concluded that the workshops served as very good conduits and environments for ensuring that its stakeholders were availed with information that was new to many, conveyed in a very clear manner to facilitate its understanding, and very useful to them and their institutions.

3.1.4.3. Workshops jointly implemented by the two projects

a) Preparatory meeting for African delegates to UNFF 11

In April 2015, AFF organised a preparatory meeting for 44 African delegates (African Group) to the 11th Session of the United Nation Forum on Forests (UNFF 11). The main objective of the preparatory meeting was to enhance the capacity of African delegates to adequately participate in UNFF 11 and ensure that African issues are well articulated at the meeting. The meeting came up with a “Mombasa Declaration”, which was a document on the consensus reached on the various agenda items for UNFF11; to then guide African delegates at this session.

The post workshop evaluation indicated that as a result of the preparatory workshop, the African delegates participated effectively in the UNFF 11 meeting and had many of their contributions from the Mombasa Declaration captured in the final resolutions of UNFF 11 (Table 12). Some of the key issues presented by the African Group through the Mombasa Declaration that were taken up include the structure of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015, the relevance of the non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and a financing mechanism for African countries to implement the agreements arising from the UNFF resolutions. According to the participants, the preparatory meeting facilitated their access to the agenda and other documents for UNFF 11, accurate information on the status of Africa on related international resolutions and skills and strategies for negotiation.

b) Pre-XIV World Forestry Congress Workshop Forests, People and Environment

The African Forest Forum organized a pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop in Durban South Africa, during September 4 – 6, 2015, with the objective to promote and sustain discussion of key issues related to the interaction between people, forest and tree resources, and the environment on the continent. The pre-congress workshop was also expected to enhance meaningful African participation and contribution to the deliberations of the XIV World Forest Congress. The workshop was organized along four broad themes: (i) rehabilitation of degraded lands using trees, (ii) managing forests in the context of climate change, (iii) forest governance, and marketing and trade in forest products, and (iv) institutional organization for forestry at sub-regional and regional levels.

A total of 38 oral presentations and 20 poster presentations were made during the pre-congress workshop along these thematic areas, which were followed by discussions to identify key issues and resolutions for action. After the workshop, participants were expected to put together their complementary skills and competencies linked to their core business, expertise and experiences, to identify ways to address some common issues identified at the workshop. In July 2016, a follow-up evaluation was conducted to establish the actions undertaken by participants towards actualising expected outcomes they identified and committed to achieve during the pre-congress workshop. Specific actions were expected in several areas, including creating awareness and sensitization colleagues and other stakeholders on the deliberations of the two events, creating partnerships and collaborations to take action on the issues identified, developing new projects, advocating for the necessary action on some policy related issues, and identifying strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Findings from the evaluation showed that the participants had benefited from the wealth of information shared at the XIV WFC and the pre-congress events through oral and poster presentations, expert panel sessions, discussions, publications and interactions with fellow participants. They reported that the information was relevant not only to them as individuals but also their institutions and their countries. Many participants reported to have further shared the key messages received with other stakeholder groups including colleagues, institutional heads and other forestry practitioners through informal and formal meetings, workshops, conferences and outreach programs as seen in Table 3. Several media interviews were also coordinated by AFF secretariat to help raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests and trees. These were featured in various African print and electronic media.

Table 3: Examples on dissemination of key messages from the XIV WFC and pre-congress by some AFF sponsored participants

Participant	Specific information shared	Target audience and feedback	Period when it was shared
Dennis Kayambazinthu, Forestry Research Institute of Malawi	Informal meetings on improving governance through strengthening institutions.	Director and Deputy Director of Forestry	End of September, 2016
	Highlighted governance challenges and resolutions from the Congress in discussions reviewing the multi-stakeholder climate change adaptation project	LEAD Southern Africa, World Fish Centre and Malawi Forestry Department.	15 th February, 2016
	Reflected on the governance issues while discussing the integrated management of Mulanje Mountain	Board of Governors Meeting, FRIM	25 th February 2016.
Elizabeth Adeniyi,	Compiled the report of the	Head of the Federal	After the WFC

Participant	Specific information shared	Target audience and feedback	Period when it was shared
Student, University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Congress	Department of Forestry and the Permanent Secretary of Forestry Department, Ministry of Environment, Nigeria	
Dr. Gabriel Muturi, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya	Participants from KEFRI including myself shared highlights of the Congress to KEFRI researchers In addition, I prepared a back to office report.	KEFRI Staff	September 2015
	Pursued the interests raised on regional intervention on Prosopis invasion management and we are still discussing the possibility of a well-coordinated regional approach to the challenge.	FAO, Kenya office	
Mercy Gichora, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya	Contributed an article in KEFRI Newsreel magazine featuring highlights of WFC and AFF's full support for KEFRI authors/scientists to attend	KEFRI staff and stakeholders	Oct - Dec 2015 annual quarter
Mohamed Ahmad, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya	Education and awareness to schools, local communities and NGO's on role of forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation.		Weekly outreach
Gertrude Kenyangi, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Uganda	Sharing what transpired at and outcomes of the World Forestry Congress	Participants in a Workshop on REDD+ Preparation workshop in Kampala, Uganda	January 2016
		Participants in a workshop Climate Investment Fund – Forest Investment Program (CIF – FIP), Oaxaca, Mexico	June 2016
		Participants at United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2), Nairobi, Kenya	May 2016

- c) Regional workshop on sharing knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry

A regional workshop on sharing information, knowledge and experiences among the African experts working on sustainable forest management was organized in September 2016 in Lome, Togo. The presentations made at the workshop covered key thematic areas on climate change and African forestry and improving forestry business management in Africa. An evaluation undertaken at the end of the workshop indicated improved awareness, among participants on the topics presented on 'climate change and African forestry' (Figures 9 & 10).

Forty-nine percent of respondents stated that the information shared on climate change and African forestry was partially new to them, while for 42%, it was not new. Only 8% of respondents reported to have received new information. Although most participants reported that information shared under climate change theme was not completely new to them, they claimed to have learnt some new perspectives on the topics shared at the workshop.

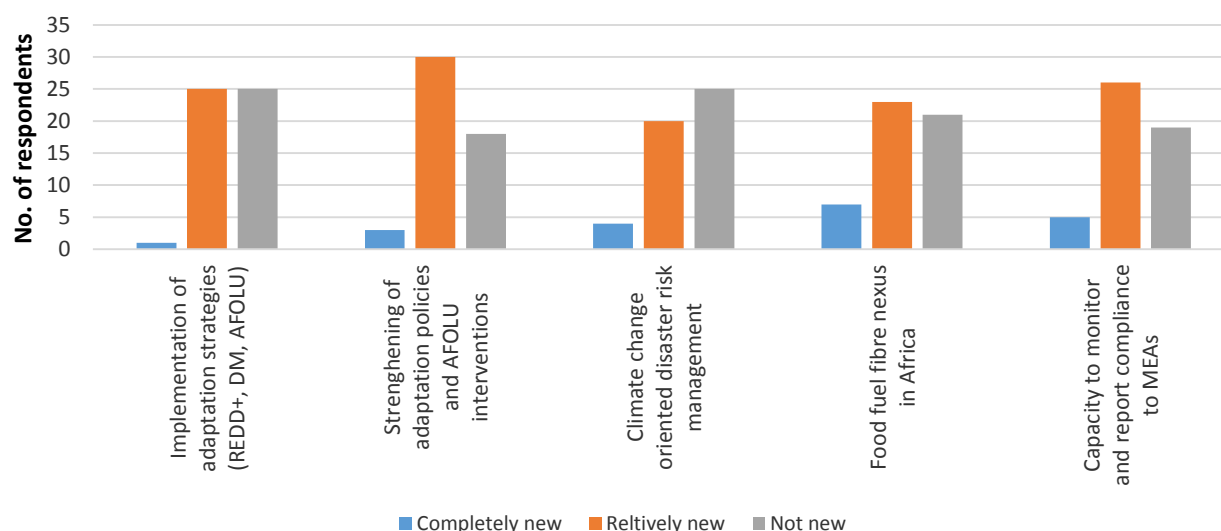


Fig. 9. Rating of information shared on the theme "Climate change in African forestry" (n=53)

The impression from this analysis is that issues of climate change are familiar to the participants, underlining the fact that awareness on climate change in the forestry sector is most probably relatively good in the countries they represent. On the topics presented on 'Improving forest business management in Africa', the information shared was still rated either relatively new or not new by majority (86%) of the respondents (Figure 10).

Compared to information on climate change in African forestry, these topics were relatively more informative to participants. More respondents got new information from the topics on 'Forest certification in Africa' and 'Tree improvement and management in Africa' compared to other topics area.

According to the respondents, these topics presented an opportunity for growth in the forest industry, but there was little expertise and operations in the identified areas. Respondents from Ghana and Zimbabwe reported that their institutions were already working on public private partnerships (PPP) initiatives, forest pests and diseases, and each had a tree seed center.

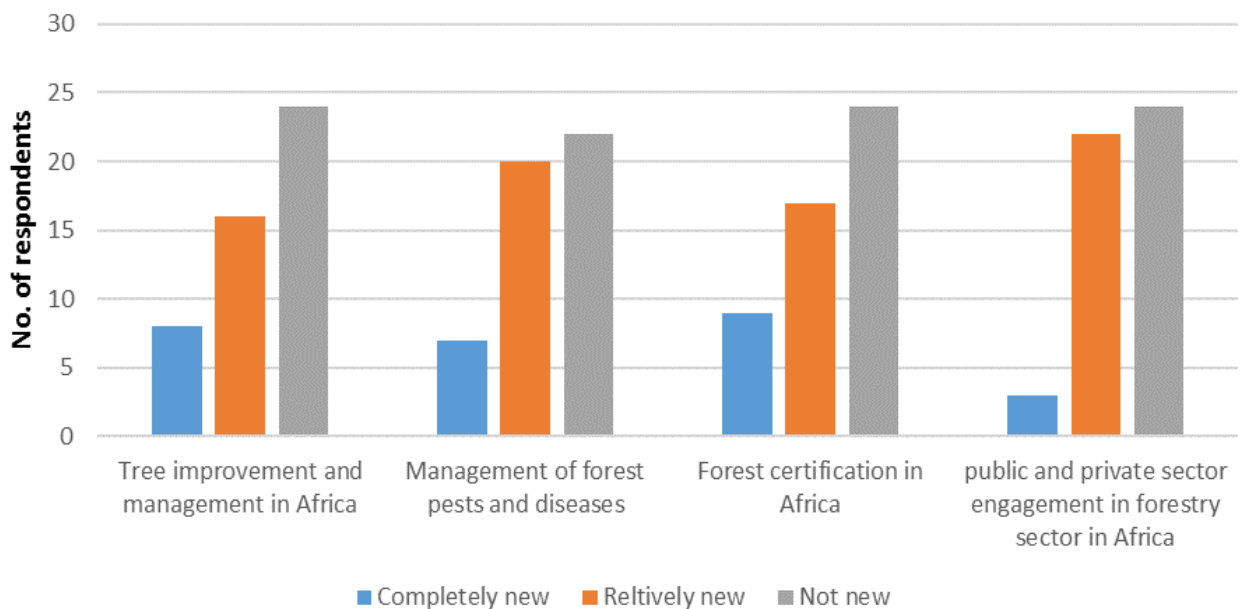


Figure 10. Rating of information shared on the theme 'Improving forest business management in Africa' (n=53)

In terms of relevance of the information shared at the workshop, 96% of participants rated the information as relevant to them and their institutions. Only about 4 % rated the information as not relevant. Specifically, the topics rated most relevant were those on 'tree forest pests and diseases' and 'climate change adaptation strategies' by 34% and 32% respondents respectively. Most of the respondents who found the information to be relevant reported that they worked directly with climate change adaptation and mitigation programs in their countries and they had to deal with the issues presented on a day to day basis.

3.2 Enhanced knowledge and skills among African stakeholders towards sustainable forest management

The surveys and evaluations conducted indicated that the target audiences of AFF were already taking actions using the information, knowledge and skills gained, to improve their day to day activities and for career growth. This section provides details on actions taken using the information from:

- a) Online resources from AFF (info mail, website, online publications)
- b) Project workshops

3.2.1. Use of information from AFF online resources

The survey undertaken in 2016 indicated that twenty-five percent (25%) of the respondents used information from AFF for their professional development in terms of improving professional networks, improving their knowledge on forestry issues, exposure to funding, job and consultancy opportunities and improving their writing. Further, the survey indicated that 50% of the respondents used the information to facilitate preparation of research proposals and 41% prepared forest management related documents, 38% prepared policy related documents, 36% teaching material, conference papers and scientific journals articles, respectively as shown in Figure 11, using information from AFF.

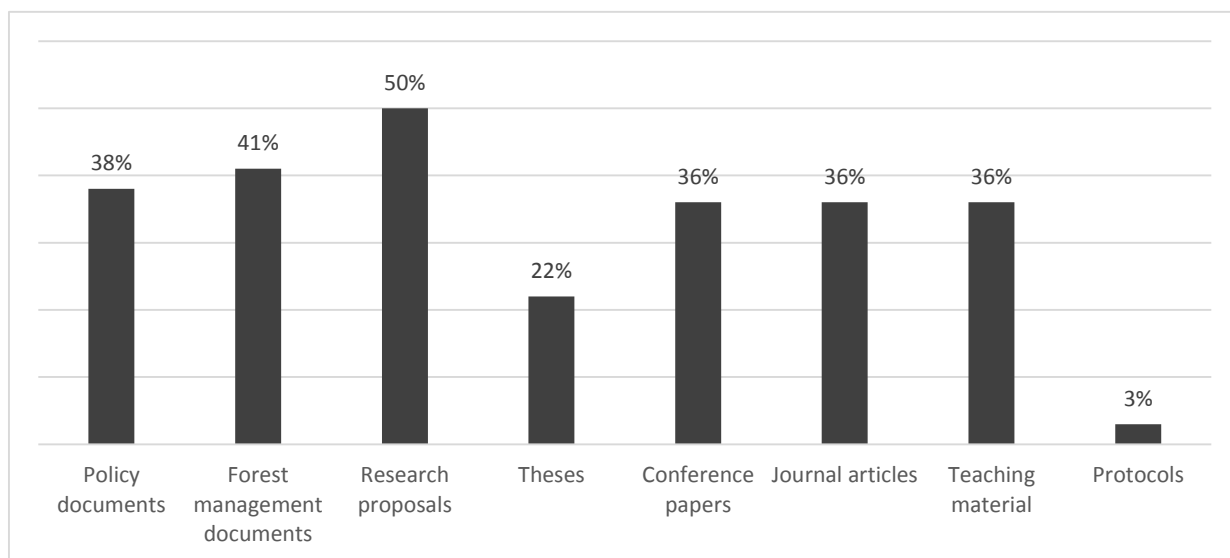


Figure 11. Information products developed from AFF material

Examples of the actions taken by the respondents and the type of information used are highlighted in Table 4. Since this information was given as feedback to open ended questions on the survey, the responses were more of a general nature, indicating a general perspective of how AFF information is put into use by them.

Table 4: Examples of how AFF information was used by respondents

Respondent	Information used from AFF	Actions taken to apply the knowledge
Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Lecturer, Universite de Dschang, Cameroon	Regional thematic publications, training modules on climate change, training manuals on climate change	Developed a training program and coordinating a training centre in forestry sector; Initiated a project on climate change and REDD+
Tarig Tagelsir Hassan, University of Bahri, Sudan	Research and policy recommendations from publications, expert workshops and funding opportunities	Used AFF information and services for teaching and it has been very useful
Jean Nduwamungu, Lecturer, University of Rwanda	Publications, funding opportunities, job opportunities, events announcements	Used AFF publications as reference to improve lecture notes
Abasse Tounngiani, Scientist, Institut National de recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN), Niger	Training manuals and publications	Training manual was used as a guide to prepare lectures in the university; Networked with colleagues from other research institutions at the XIV WFC Congress gave me opportunity to meet NARS colleagues.
Demel Teketay Fanta, Lecturer, Botswana College of Agriculture, Botswana	Technical reports, fact sheets, policy briefs and newsletter	Used the information to improve teaching, research and performance evaluation. Prepared new policies on forest certification
Olivia Agbenyega, Lecturer, Kwame Nkurumah University of Science and Technology (KMUST) Ghana	Workshops and events	Got skills that enabled participation in international and national assignments for Ghana. Improved teaching and research in the University. Conducted action research to benefit rural communities
Mercy Gichora, Research Scientist, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) Kenya	Research opportunities, consultancy opportunities, networking opportunities and events announcements	Writing of a research paper
Paxie Chirwa, Professor University of Pretoria, South Africa Malawi	Working papers, research papers, consultations	Broaden area for research, international networking and student fellowship
Kokou Kouami, Lecturer, Universite de Lome, Togo	Publications, technical reports, training manuals	Prepared a proposal in response to funding opportunities; facilitated me in proposal writing and access to funding opportunities for new projects
Ndiawar, Dieng, Individual Consultant and Forest Engineer,	African positions for negotiations, documents on technical aspects of global	Provided technical advice to the Minister of Forestry Service for national policy making workshops, conducted training at Ecole

Respondent	Information used from AFF	Actions taken to apply the knowledge
Senegal	objectives on forests (GOF), Job and training opportunities	Nationale Supérieure d' Agriculture (ENSA), Thies.
Joyce Chikudze, Forester, Zimbabwe Forestry College, Zimbabwe	Climate change book, training on carbon measurement, climate change curriculum, grants and scholarships	Conducted effective training and practical project development on climate change issues

3.2.2. Project Workshops

3.2.2.1. Workshops based on the Sida funded project

a) Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Workshop on Strengthening Professional Forestry Associations for Enhanced Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Trade (FLEGT)

The eastern Africa sub-regional workshop on strengthening professional forestry associations for enhanced forest law enforcement, good forest governance and trade in forest products was conducted in July 2015. The end of workshop evaluation indicated that participants were ready and able to take actions to apply knowledge and skills gained. In a follow up that was done conducted in July 2016, the participants reported to have undertaken some actions in line with their pledges made at the conclusion of the workshop. These actions are categorised broadly as follows:

- Creating awareness on good forest governance among stakeholders (62%)
- Capacity strengthening for members of national forestry associations (62%)
- Advocating for policies that promote good forest governance and fair trade in forest products (50%)
- Initiate or participate in activities for promoting fair trade in forest products and private sector investment in forestry (25%)
- Fundraising for projects to promote good forest governance (25%)

Table 5: Examples of actions taken by participants to FLEGT workshop

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions taken by participants 6 months after workshop
Creating awareness to promote good forest governance	New targets and activities related to FLEGT were included in strategic plan and in the Annual Business Plan of Tanzania Forestry Agency after discussions with members. Every year all TFS zones receive Zonal and Plantation budget for activities to promote good forest governance as directed in 5-year Strategic plan. Bruno Maxwell Mallya, General Secretary, Tanzania Association of Foresters

	Conducted lectures on good forest governance for forest officers and forestry practitioners in active service from July – August 2015. David Walugembe, Secretary General, Uganda Forestry Association
	Forums were organized for members of FSK including conferences and training workshops. Jamleck Ndambiri, Chairman, Forestry Society of Kenya (FSK)
Advocating for policies that promote good forest governance and fair trade in forest products	Recommendations were made by the Association to the team reviewing Tanzania Forest Policy. The 1998 Forest Policy of Tanzania is under review. General Secretary, Tanzania Association of Foresters
Activities to strengthen professional forestry associations	Conducted continuous registration of all foresters across the country into the association; Planned an annual meeting to propose a code of ethics for foresters to Minister for Natural Resource and Tourism. Bruno Maxwell Mallya, General Secretary, Tanzania Association of Foresters
	Held meetings with members and partners. Information from AFF was regularly disseminated to members. David Walugembe, Secretary General, Uganda Forestry Association
	Developed a code of ethics for members of the association as well as the Professional Foresters Bill. Prepared and reviewed the Forest Society of Kenya's Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022. Promotion of continuous professional development for members. Jamleck Ndambiri, Chairman, Forestry Society of Kenya
Initiate or participate in activities for promoting fair trade in forest products and private sector investment in forestry	Collaborated with Zambia foresters to design an electronic portal where all trade and transportation of natural resource goods in either country will be identified. Bruno Maxwell Mallya, General Secretary, Tanzania Association of Foresters
	Facilitated members of the Society to discuss fair trade issues of forest products; an emerging case in Sudan. Specifically, we focused on wood of sunt (<i>Acacia Nilotica</i>), Gum Arabic and non-wood products. Ms. Eman Ibrahim Ahmed Member, Sudanese Forest Society

These actions demonstrate the role and reach of the professional associations. They appear to reach most of their members, who are foresters, with forestry related information. However, efforts need to be made to reach non-foresters with relevant information.

The national professional associations reported to also having received support, mostly financial support from other institutions to achieve the actions reported. The Tanzania Association of Foresters received logistical and financial support from The Tanzania Forest Services and the Tanzania Forest Fund respectively. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations facilitated a workshop for the Uganda Forest Association and other institutions that resulted in a publication on the contribution of forestry to economy

and trade in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. The Forest Society of Kenya received funding for its activities from the Commonwealth Forest Association and the International Development Law Organization. They also received logistical support from the Kenya Forest Service.

b) Regional Training on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Related International Processes for Anglophone Africa

A post workshop evaluation was implemented six months, in July 2016, after the workshop was held to assess the application of knowledge and skills according to the pledges made by the participants at the end of the workshop.

The findings revealed that participants had initiated actions to share the knowledge and skills they learnt from the workshop as follows:

- Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the significance of MEA processes (70%)
- Incorporate MEAs processes and negotiations into forestry training programs (50%)
- Develop strategies for mainstreaming MEAs into institutional and national plans (50%)
- Conduct research studies related to MEAs (20%)
- Fundraising for projects to implement targets and resolutions from MEAs (30%)

These actions contributed to spreading further the reach of the knowledge shared at the workshop. Examples from individual respondents are highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6: Examples of actions taken by participants to MEA workshop

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop
Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the significance of MEA processes	<p>KEFRI's senior scientists were sensitized on MEAs by the participant to enhance their contribution to policy formulation Gabriel M. Muturi, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya</p> <p>Information from the workshop was shared with local officers in the Kenya Forest Service, National Environmental Management Authority, a local NGO - Wildlife Works and private farmers in Taita Taveta County. Faraji Mwakitau Salim, Mwatate District Stakeholders' Forum, Kenya</p> <p>Information and knowledge from the workshop was shared with lecturers and students in the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism, Makerere University. They were learning about the issue for the first time. The students proposed that the topics be included in their curriculum. Agatha Syofuna, Makerere University, Uganda</p>

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop
	<p>The knowledge on MEAs was shared with Head, Department of Forestry, Njala University; Director, Forestry Division (in the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security), Sierra Leone; District Forest Officers for Kambia, Bo and Moyamba districts and the Manager of Mirror Forestry Company, Sierra Leone, in a workshop organized by BIODIV and also with the students in the Institute of Environment and Development Studies, Njala University between January and March 2016. Moses Fayiah, Njala University, Sierra Leone</p> <p>Information on MEAs was shared with colleagues in the Forest Department and they were happy to learn about the issue for the first time. Lerato Pustoane, Department of Forestry, Lesotho</p>
Incorporate MEAs processes and negotiations into forestry training programs	<p>Training material was prepared for students in Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Systems and Agroforestry, University of Eldoret. The information was also used by other lecturers who were sensitized, to teach related courses. Isaac Emukule Ekise, University of Eldoret, Kenya</p> <p>MEA concept was incorporated in a course on Forestry Range Policy and Administration for Diploma in Forestry and Range Ecology students. Also incorporated MEA processes and negotiations as topic in a course in the proposed BSc in Forest Sciences Programme. Witness Mojeremane, Botswana College of Agriculture, Botswana</p>
Develop strategies for mainstreaming MEAs into institutional and national plans	<p>MEAs was included in the new strategic plan for FORIG and also included in development of an MOU with Forestry Commission of Ghana. Daniel Ofori, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), Ghana</p>
Conduct research studies related to MEAs	<p>A research study on developing drought tolerant trees for adaption to climate change in dry lands of Kenya, and sharing of its interim findings to diverse stakeholders were enriched with knowledge from the workshop. Gabriel M. Muturi, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya</p>
Fundraising for projects to implement targets and resolutions from MEAs	<p>A joint proposal for funding has been prepared with Wildlife Works Faraji Mwakitau Salim, Mwatate District Stakeholders' Forum, Kenya</p>

Some challenges encountered by participants in the application of knowledge and skills included:

- Lack of reference materials for students to complement the study on MEAs
- Mobilising stakeholders for the awareness sessions was a challenge, especially when most of them were engaged in field activities.

- Non-responsiveness of some target audiences
- Lack of guidance on how to mainstream the MEAs into ministerial strategic plans so that they can be further incorporated into the departmental plans.
- Lack of resources to conduct wider sensitization

c) Regional Training Workshop on Forest Certification for Eastern and Southern Africa

A post workshop evaluation was conducted in July 2016, six months after holding the workshop, to assess the application of knowledge and skills from the workshop. The findings indicated that some respondents used the knowledge to undertake the following actions as expected from the training:

- Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the need for forest certification (63%)
- Incorporate forest certification into forestry training programs (9%)
- Incorporate elements of forest certification in research (9%)
- Provide training to relevant forestry professionals on forest certification (9%)
- Participate in development of national forest certification standards in my country (45%)
- Mobilise and build capacity of producers/ producer groups in readiness for forest certification (36%)

This indicates that the project outputs are making positive changes within the participants' host institutions that would eventually lead to realising the expected project outcomes. Examples from individual respondents are given in Table 7.

Table 7. Examples of application of knowledge and skills from the regional workshop on forest certification

Expected actions after training workshop on forest certification	Specific actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop
Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the need for forest certification	<p>Created awareness among staff in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism of Sokoine University of Agriculture, on the need for forest certification. It was proposed that FC to be considered for inclusion in future curriculum reviews for the BSc. Forestry degree programme. Beatus John Temu, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania</p> <p>The concept of forest certification was introduced to Kenya Tree Growers Association (KTGA) in February 2016 and to Blue Lakes Company, exporters of wood products from Kenya in March 2016. Discussions with the Kenya Tree Growers Association (KTGA) were not very fruitful since the market for their tree products is local and they did not seem to need certification. Blue Lakes Company were enthusiastic about certification because it is a requirement for them as exporters and they were keen to initiate the process. Joshua K.</p>

Expected actions after training workshop on forest certification	Specific actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop
	Cheboiwo, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya
Incorporate forest certification into forestry training programs	Used the materials to teach a topic within a course for students in the Department of Forestry & Wood Science and KFS staff who train at the University. Joel Laigong, University of Eldoret, Kenya
Incorporate elements of forest certification in research studies	The Wood Technology Research Center under the Ethiopian Environment and Forestry Research Institute has crafted a research project for developing standards for forest products of Ethiopia. Teshome Tesema, Ethiopian Environment and Forestry Research Institute, Ethiopia
Provide training to relevant forestry professionals on forest certification	Conducted awareness and a pre-audit on Forest Manager-SFI and Foam International and a plantation owner of SFI in June 2016. They understood the importance of forest certification and were willing to follow FSC guidelines. Beatrice Joseph, Control Union, Tanzania
Participate in development of national forest certification standards in my country	<p>Developed the National Forest Certification Standard for Uganda, as part of the Forestry Standard Development Group in Uganda (SDG) Secretariat. This was submitted to FSC on the 29th March 2016. Herbert Wamagale, Environmental Alert, Uganda</p> <p>A draft forest law was recently prepared with participation of the participants from Ethiopia is now submitted to the Council of Ministers for ratification. It provides a statement which discloses the need for forest certification in order to bring sustainable forest management in place. Teshome Tesema, Ethiopian Environment and Forestry Research Institute, Ethiopia</p>
Mobilise and build capacity of producers/ producer groups in readiness for forest certification	<p>Visited producer groups such as Komaza Group, KINFFA and forest managers of FSK in January 2016 on the need for certification for forest products from the groups. FSK insisted that they have incorporated forest certification in their plans, however the evidence was the chain of custody certificate. Nasib Ali Mwamutsi, Kenya Forest Society, Kenya</p> <p>Discussions on the forest certification process were made with the Manager of Woodcarvers Association in Wamunyu in Machakos County, Kenya. According to the Manager, the association lacked adequate funds for certification and renewals of certificates. Joshua K. Cheboiwo, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya</p>

Some of the challenges encountered by participants included limited awareness among forestry stakeholders on forest certification. More sensitization was required to get stakeholders to embrace forest certification. Another challenge was the high local demand

for wood products, for which the market did not require certification. Some of the challenges experienced by respondents require intervention of different stakeholders for their knowledge to be applied effectively. For example, certification of products for local market would require policy intervention from government institutions.

d) Regional Training on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Related International Processes (Francophone countries)

The evaluation for this workshop sought to establish the level of understanding of international accords/agreements as a result of the training workshop, as well as on the knowledge and skills gained for negotiations and implementation of the same. Also, the evaluation solicited ideas from the participants on how they were going to use the information and skills gained.

The participants' assessment of the workshop indicated that all of them adequately understood the knowledge and skills shared at the workshop, with 54% rating their understanding level to be 'very adequate' and 46% rating it as 'fairly adequate' (Figure 12).

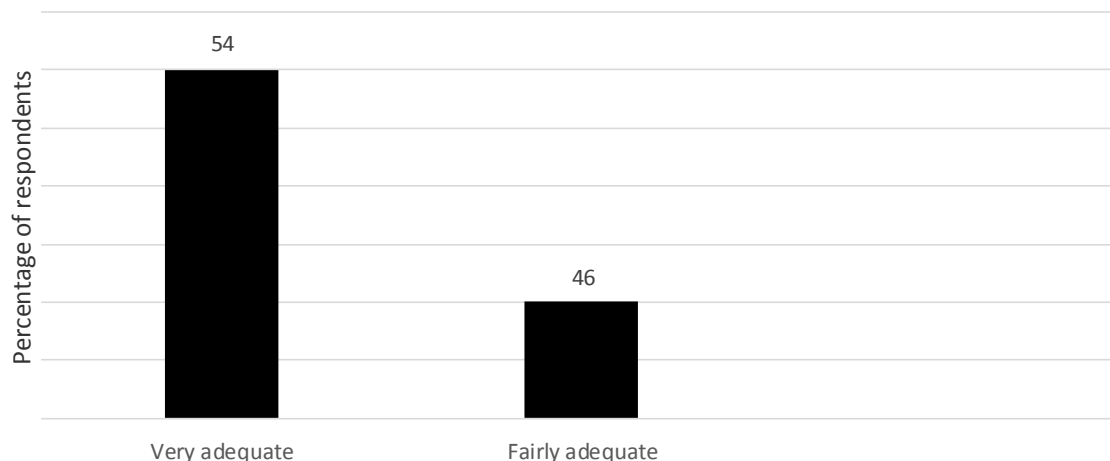


Figure 12. Rating on understanding of topics covered during the MEA francophone workshop

Participants were also asked to rate their confidence to undertake certain actions to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the training. The planned activities were: creation of awareness on MEAs, representing own country in negotiations, identification of strategies and institutions to mainstream MEAs, and participation in implementation of MEAs.

Most participants (66%) rated as 'very adequate' their ability to guide their countries in identifying strategies and institutions to mainstream MEA decisions in their plans and activities as well as their ability to participate in the implementation of MEA resolutions. This was followed by ability to create awareness among other forestry stakeholders on MEAs (62%), and ability to represent or support own country in MEA negotiations (43%) (Table

11). Overall, the responses received indicate that most participants were confident to undertake activities to implement recommendations from the MEAs in their countries and less than half of them felt ready to participate in MEAs negotiation processes.

Table 8: Participants rating on their ability to engage in MEAs

Actions after the training	Very adequate	Fairly adequate	Not adequate
Create awareness among other forestry stakeholders on MEAs processes	13	7	1
Represent or support own country in MEAs negotiations	9	12	0
Guide own country in identifying strategies and institutions to mainstream MEAs resolutions/recommendations	14	7	0
Participate in implementing MEAs resolutions/recommendations	14	7	0
Total responses	50	33	1
Percentage	60	39	1

Each participant was asked to list some specific activities that he/she could undertake after the workshop. These would then form the basis of follow-up evaluations by AFF. The actions proposed by participants are summarized as follows:

- Report to own institution what was learnt at the training workshop targeting directors, decision makers and colleagues
- Disseminate the knowledge widely through reports, websites, meetings, conference presentations and communication to different focal points
- Organize exchange sessions for the new and on-going conventions (MEAs) for information and sharing of experiences
- Implementing MEA related activities at community level in partnership with NGOs and local communities
- Participate in a COP meeting

e) Regional Training Workshop on Forest Certification for West and Central Africa

The evaluation for this workshop sought to establish whether there was improved understanding of forest certification among the participants. It also sought to establish whether the workshop equipped them with the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in forest certification activities in their own countries.

From the evaluation, most participants (69%) rated as 'very adequate' the presentations and other workshop interactions (like group work) that would increase their understanding of the topics presented at the workshop, while 28% rated the same as 'fairly adequate' (Fig.13). Overall this gives an impression that the participants were exposed to information that increased their understanding of issues related to forest certification, and consequently the workshop was prepared well to deliver on this.

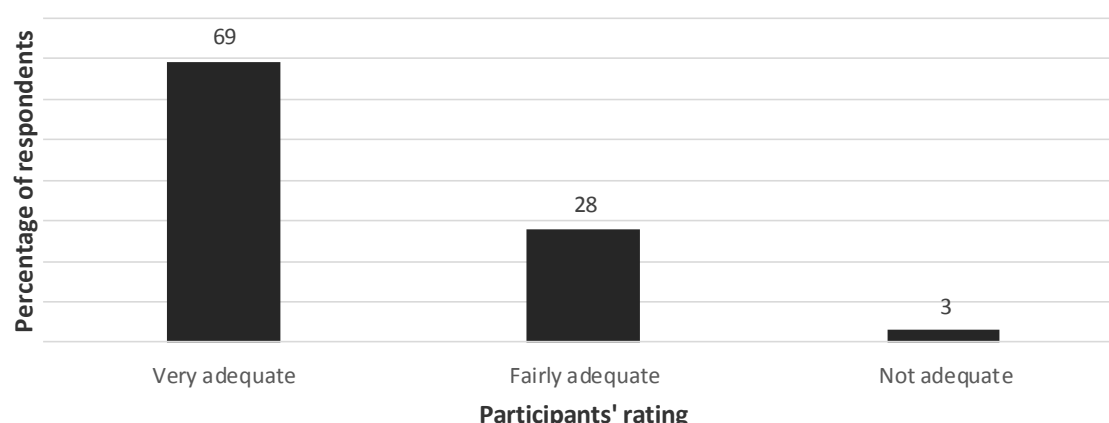


Figure 13: Understanding of topics on forest certification –participants from W&C Africa

Participants were asked to rate their confidence to undertake certain actions to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop. These actions were: to create awareness among stakeholder groups on the need for forest certification, to provide training to relevant forestry stakeholders on forest certification, to lobby for inclusion of forest certification in the national forestry programs in their countries, and to mobilize and build capacity of producers/ producer groups in readiness for forest certification. Overall, 46% of participants could 'very adequately' take actions to apply knowledge and skill from the workshop, while 48% felt that they had 'fairly adequate' knowledge and skills to do the same (Table 9). The impression is that 96% of the participants felt that they can work with the information and skills gained through this workshop. Most participants (60%) rated as 'very adequate' their ability to create awareness on forest certification. This was followed by ability to lobby for mainstreaming of forest certification in national plans and programs (42%), ability to mobilize producer groups for forest certification (40%) and ability to train stakeholders on forest certification (38%).

Table 9. Participants rating on their ability to undertake forest certification related actions after the training

Actions after the training	Very adequate	Fairly adequate	Not adequate
Create awareness among stakeholder groups on the need for forest certification	21	14	0
Provide training to relevant forestry stakeholders on forest certification	13	19	3
Lobby for inclusion of forest certification in the national forestry programmes in own country	15	16	3

Mobilise and build capacity of producers/ producer groups in readiness for forest certification	14	17	3
Total responses	63	66	9
Percentage	46	48	7

Each participant was asked to list some specific activities that he/she could undertake after the workshop. These would then form the basis for follow-up evaluations by AFF. The activities proposed by participants were to:

- Organize sensitization meetings for colleagues in their institutions and other stakeholders
- Engage with other stakeholders to conduct forest certification
- Solicit funding for forest certification
- Organize partnerships between national government and private sector for forest certification.

f) Sub Regional Workshop on Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement, Forest Governance and Trade in Forest Products in West Africa

The evaluation for this workshop sought to establish participants' their understanding of issues presented and discussed in relation to fair trade in forest products in West Africa. Also included were presentations and discussions on good forest governance and law enforcement in West African countries. The workshop also discussed challenges associated with these issues and came up with some recommendations on how to contain them.

Participants rating of their understanding of the information shared in the workshop was on a 3-point scale (1= very good, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory). Most of the participants (65%) highly rated their understanding of the topics covered (Figure 14); while for 28%, the information shared was good and for 3% it was satisfactory.

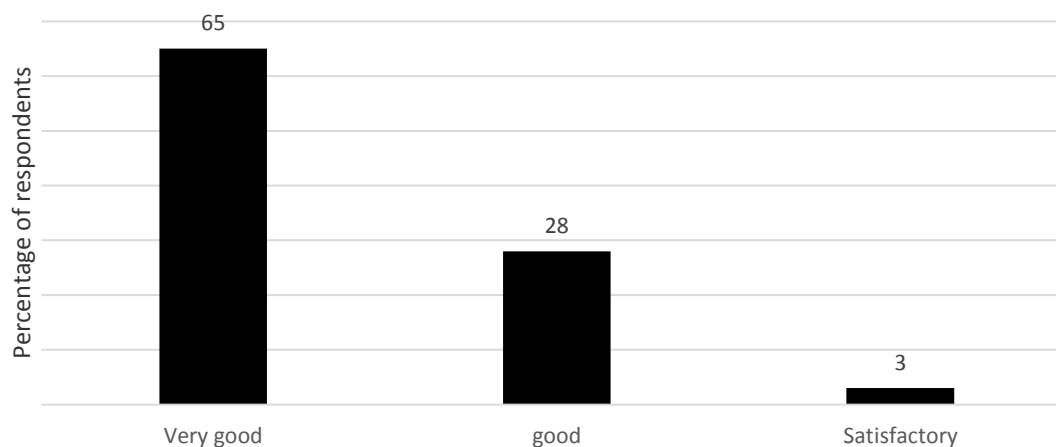


Fig. 14. Understanding of topics covered during the FLEGT Workshop for West Africa

Further analysis was done on specific topics of the workshop. For example, their understanding of information on the topics: ‘extent and ramifications of illegal logging and illegal trade in forest products’, ‘the need to strengthen professional forestry association in my country’, and ‘good lessons from other regions on forest law enforcement, good forest governance and trade in forest product’ was rated higher than other topics covered in the workshop (Table 10). Participants appreciated the extent of illegal logging and trade, especially from West Africa and the need for urgent measures to contain them. About 4% of the participants felt some of this information was not relevant to their institutions.

Further, many participants see a very good role for professional forestry associations in promoting ethics and professionalism in the sector (20%), as well as articulating forestry issues not only at national level (22%), but at sub-regional levels (19%). They called for strengthening these associations in countries in which they exist or establish them in countries in which they do not exist.

Table 10: Participants rating on understanding of topics covered

Content covered	Rating understanding of information shared			
	Very much	Not much	Not at all	N/A
Extent and ramifications of illegal logging and illegal trade in forest products	31	4	0	2
Mechanisms to contain illegalities in logging and trade in forest products	17	14	0	2
Role of professional forestry associations in articulating forestry issues at national level	22	11	3	1
Role of professional forestry associations in articulating forestry issues at sub regional level	19	15	2	1
Promoting ethics and professionalism in the forestry sector	20	15	1	1
The need to strengthen professional forestry association in my country	29	4	2	2
The synergies between my country's and ECOWAS plans and activities in the areas of forest law enforcement, good forest governance and trade in forest products	25	10	1	1
Good lessons from other regions on forest law enforcement, good forest governance and trade in forest products	27	8	0	1
Total responses	190	81	9	11
Percentage	65	28	3	4

Participants were asked to rate their confidence to undertake actions to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop. The actions proposed were: identification of mechanisms for strengthening forest law enforcement in their countries, strengthening good forest governance, articulation and promotion of professionalism and ethical conduct in the forestry sector, strengthening national professional forestry associations, and exploiting linkages between national forestry plans and sub-regional forestry plans.

Most participants (65%) rated as 'very adequate' their ability to initiate and/or strengthen national professional forestry associations in their own countries. This was followed by ability to identify mechanisms for strengthening good forest governance in their countries (57%), ability to articulate and promote professionalism and ethical conduct at work and in the forestry sector (51%) and ability to exploit linkages between national forestry plans and sub-regional forestry plans (49%).

Overall, the responses received indicate that on returning to their own countries most participants (52%) can undertake the actions 'very adequately' or 'fairly adequately' (39%). The overall impression is that 93% of the participants can put to practice the information and skills gained through this workshop to bring meaningful improvements at their work places and in the forestry sector, especially by increasing professionalism and ethical conduct in their work, both of which go a long way to enhance good forest governance and compliance to laws and regulations.

3.2.2.2. Workshops for SDC funded project

The evaluation of activities conducted under the SDC funded project included a survey that was conducted among participants for 10 national training workshops on Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Appraisal (RaCSA). These workshops were conducted in Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Niger and Burkina Faso. and trained a total of 357 people.

a) Training Workshops for Professionals, Extension Services and Local Communities on Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Appraisal (RaCSA)

A survey implemented after each workshop indicated that most participants reported to be satisfied with the relevance of the knowledge and skills gained from the training workshops. More than 50% of respondents were satisfied with the relevance of information conveyed on most of the topics covered during the training.

Over 65% singled out forest carbon measurements, reporting and verification, development of project idea note (PIN), development of project design document (PDD) and payment of ecosystem services in relation to climate change as the most relevant topics to them. Over half of the respondents expressed confidence to apply the knowledge and skills acquired from the training in all the areas that were assessed (Fig.15).

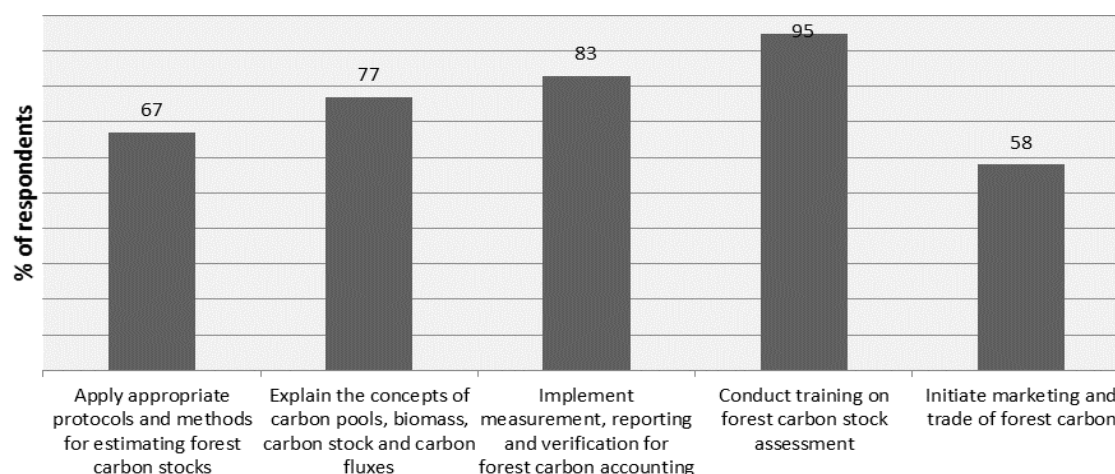


Fig. 15. Confidence to undertake actions from the RaCSA workshops by respondents

Over 95% were confident to train other stakeholders on forest carbon stock assessment. In most of the areas assessed, more respondents who reported to have had no previous training participated in actions identified at the end of the training compared to those who reported to having received similar training previously. Overall, the training had significantly improved the skills of the participants. Six months after the training workshops surveys were undertaken in the same countries to establish whether the capacity of institutions and individuals in the forestry sector was enhanced in any way by the participants' actions and in ways that would enable them to address climate change effects. Most of the respondents (46%) reported to have raised interest among stakeholders on carbon trading projects, while 38% noted enhanced conservation activities in readiness for carbon trading projects. Significantly, some 16% of respondents informed that they had mainstreamed carbon assessment issues within their institutions. Specific examples of activities undertaken are given in Table 11.

Table 11: Some examples of how participants used the knowledge and skills gained from the RaCSA national training workshops

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop (as reported verbatim)
Measurement, reporting and verification for carbon accounting	Member of MRV task force at national level under REDD+ readiness in Ethiopia, Researcher, Ethiopia
Develop a Project Idea Note (PIN)	Review and approval of PINs for micro credit financing and linking with credit sources. Trained 22 project developers and assisted 3 to finalise their PINs Forest administrator/ Manager, Burkina Faso
Develop a Project Design	Contributed in the preparation of Dzombo REDD+ Project by developing

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop (as reported verbatim)
Document (PDD)	<p>PDD. Researcher, Kenya</p> <p>Developed the PIN and PDD for a carbon sequestration project supported by the World Bank through the BioCarbon Fund Researcher, Niger</p>
Training stakeholders on forest carbon assessment	<p>Municipal level development plans for Koudougou in Burkina Faso were developed with inputs from the RaCSA training course implemented for Burkina Faso. Also the elected officials for the municipality were trained on the elements of RaCSA and it was after they understood them that they agreed on their inclusion in the municipal plans. Forest administrator/ manager, Burkina Faso</p> <p>Sensitized communities on role of forests to combat desert encroachment, pollution, climate change and poverty among other issues Researcher, Burkina Faso</p> <p>Trained district focal persons of the national REDD+ project in Ethiopia. Researcher, Ethiopia</p> <p>Conducted awareness training open days in various locations in Marigat sub-county for several associations, including several CBOs and CFAs, and sensitized an interested institution in Uasin Gishu County on the idea of carbon trade. CBO representative, Kenya</p> <p>Conducted awareness meetings among stakeholders and facilitated the State Planning Commission to commence draft of an integrated natural resource management and promotion of green economy.</p> <p>Conducted aggressive sensitization programs to communities and local councils to conserve and protect their forests so as to qualify for carbon market and trading Nigeria Researcher, Nigeria</p>
Conducting an assessment of forest carbon for a project	<p>Conducted biomass carbon assessment and development of native species tree allometry as part of PhD study on forest based climate mitigation. Student, Ethiopia</p> <p>Developed a pilot project for INRAN on measurement and monitoring of carbon dynamics. The project was funded by the EU through the CILSS. The project incorporated 3 Masters students Researcher, Niger</p> <p>Baseline data has been collected for a project for carbon assessment of the newly established three plantations in central zone Tanzania by the Tanzania Forest Service (Agency) Researcher, Tanzania</p> <p>Participated in assessing different project note documents to support the pilot REDD+ Programme in Nigeria with CSOs, NGOs, MDAs and private individuals.</p>

Expected actions after training workshop	Actions undertaken by participants 6 months after workshop (as reported verbatim)
	<p>Researcher, Nigeria</p> <p>An assessment of carbon stock in different forest ecosystems was done in the Togodo Wildlife Reserve in South Eastern Togo as part of CLIMAFRICA project</p> <p>Researcher, Togo</p> <p>Used the training to quantify carbon for one project in the north-western part of Zimbabwe and conducted carbon trading under the Community Climate and Biodiversity Standard Cabs Kariba REDD project, Zimbabwe</p> <p>Researcher, Zimbabwe</p>

About 57% of respondents reported to have experienced challenges in the application of knowledge and skills acquired from the RaCSA training. The two most common challenges cited were inadequate financial and human resources to implement carbon assessment activities (57%) and the perceived complexity of forest carbon projects (55%).

3.2.2.3. Workshops jointly implemented by the two projects

a) Preparatory meeting for African delegates to UNFF 11

As a result of the preparatory meeting of African delegates to the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11), the African delegates participated effectively in the UNFF 11 plenary sessions and had many of their recommendations and issues articulated well and captured in the final resolutions of UNFF 11 (Table 12). The recommendations and issues came from a Mombasa Declaration, a document on the African Group consensus reached on various agenda items on UNFF11 during the preparatory meeting. The preparatory meeting was guided by documents prepared by the UNFF Secretariat. The African Group selected conclusions and recommendations, in these documents they identified with, and included them as part of the Mombasa Declaration. This was in addition to consensus reached on other issues that arose at the meeting and needed to be shared with the international community. Some of the key recommendations presented by the African Group through the Mombasa Declaration that were taken up include those that contributed to the structure of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015, the relevance of the non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and a financing mechanism for African countries to implement the agreements arising from the UNFF resolutions.

From a post UNFF 11 survey that was undertaken, the delegates attributed their effective performance to the preparation and facilitation by the AFF Technical Support Team (TST) to Raise the Profile of Forestry. They expressed satisfaction that the Mombasa Declaration helped them to articulate their positions effectively and to contribute to the UNFF 11 ministerial declaration and the final resolutions.

Table 12: Inputs from the Mombasa Declaration included in the UNFF 11 final resolutions

Mombasa Declaration	UNFF 11 resolutions	Remarks
<p>From the information provided by UNFF Secretariat:</p> <p>A1 (b) The African Group believes that for the new IAF beyond 2015 to be more effective its structure should have the following elements:</p> <p>UN Forest Forum transformed to an Assembly and elevated to report directly to the UN General Assembly;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members states; • Secretariat; • Collaborative Partnerships on Forests (CPF); • Committee for the review of implementation; <p>Regional institutions and processes (to include those at sub-regional level, also to identify an appropriate regional body in each region to coordinate the initiatives and processes, including mechanisms to support regional activities)</p> <p>Enhanced Major Groups and other stakeholder processes;</p> <p>UN Special Envoy; and</p> <p>Financing mechanism for SFM</p>	<p>Resolution No. 2 (b) That the international arrangement on forests is composed of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member States, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests;</p>	<p>There is strong agreement between the two</p>
<p>NLBI is still relevant; however, there is need for increased, predictable and sustainable financing for its implementation and reporting on it at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels.</p>	<p>Resolution No. 7. Reaffirms the continued validity and value of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including its global objectives on forests, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and catalyze its implementation at all levels, taking into account forest-related developments since 2007, including developments in the context of the Rio conventions;</p>	<p>Both documents affirm the relevance of the NLBI. Both also agrees that the instrument needs to be strengthened. From the African Group, this should be through stable financing.</p>
<p>Extend the timeframe of GOFs to</p>	<p>Resolution No. 8. Decides to extend the timeline of the global</p>	<p>Agreement between the</p>

Mombasa Declaration	UNFF 11 resolutions	Remarks
2030.	objectives on forests to 2030, in line with the post-2015 development agenda, and to rename the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests the “United Nations forest instrument”, recognizing that the voluntary, non-binding character of the forest instrument, as set out in principle 2 (a) of the instrument, remains unchanged;	two
Use existing mechanisms more effectively, in this context, the UNFFS needs adequate and predictable financial resources: (1) to carry out its mandate and (2) build the capacity of member states to have more effective access to existing means of implementation;	Resolution No. 6 (f) iv & v: (iv) Review and advise on the availability of resources for sustainable forest management funding, including the strengthened facilitative process, and ensure that its operation is consistent with guidelines to be approved by the Forum; (v) Review and make possible proposals on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund;	Effective planning and use of financial resources proposed in the Mombasa Declaration is also mentioned in the resolution document
BVii Establish a dedicated GFF with the simple modalities for its access by developing countries;	Resolution No. 13 (a) That the name of the facilitative process shall be changed to the “Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network”; (e) That it should ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, medium-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds;	A financing platform proposed in the Mombasa Declaration is also in the final resolutions
Xvii) Enhancing the role of Major Groups Partnership of Forests (MGPoFs), private sector, and other	Resolution No. 29. Recognizes the importance of the continued and enhanced participation of major	Good agreement between the two

Mombasa Declaration	UNFF 11 resolutions	Remarks
stakeholders;	groups and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Forum and its intercessional activities;	

b) Pre-XIV World Forestry Congress Workshop on Forests, People and Environment

In July 2016, a follow-up evaluation was conducted to establish the actions undertaken by participants towards actualising the expected outcomes of the pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop organised by AFF and partners in September 2015, and also from the Congress itself. Specific expected actions were: creating awareness and sensitization on the deliberations of the two events, creating partnerships and collaborations to take action on the issues identified, developing new projects, advocating for the development of relevant policies on identified issues, and identifying strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

From the evaluation, the participants acknowledged to have benefited from the wealth of information shared at the XIV WFC events through oral and poster presentations, expert panel sessions, discussions, publications and interactions with fellow participants. They reported that the information was relevant not only to them as individuals but also their institutions and their countries. Some participants reported to have further shared the key messages received, with other stakeholder groups including colleagues, institutional heads and other forestry practitioners through informal and formal meetings, workshops, conferences and outreach programs. Specific examples of these actions are given in Table 13.

Further, participants reported to have initiated collaborative actions and prepared project proposals to address the issues discussed and the resolutions made at the congress. These included actions on: rehabilitation of degraded lands, managing forests in the context of climate change, improving good forest governance, better marketing and trade in forest products, and improving institutional organisation for forestry. A representative of the University of Lome reported to have initiated research collaboration with the University of Kinshasa on forest fires management, through experience sharing and contacts from the AFF organised pre-Congress workshop. The Kenya Marine Forests Research Institute representative reported to have made links with researchers from Sudan and West Africa for mangrove restoration projects. The representatives from Sokoine University in Tanzania and Forest National Corporation in Sudan reported to have received funding for climate change adaptation projects for mountain forests; and for a workshop on carbon trade respectively.

Table 13: Examples of actions undertaken after participation in the pre-XIV WFC congress and the Congress organised in Durban, South Africa, in 2015.

Participant	Specific actions undertaken (reported verbatim)	Target audience and feedback
Dennis Kayambazinthu, Malawi	A concept note was written in March 2016 and circulated to 5 retired senior forestry officers and submitted to a potential private forestry company willing to support the initiative of establishing a private forestry institution designed to improve on forestry governance and in support of national forestry programmes.	Private forestry institution
Reuben Mwamakimbula, Tanzania Association of Foresters, Tanzania	Preparing concept note and proposals for projects to address following issues 1. Rehabilitation of degraded forest hills 2) Mapping of natural resource uses conflicts 3) Advocating for productive landscape approach Two project proposals developed and accepted for funding. The projects are on rehabilitation of degraded slopes of Mt. Uluguru and community's livelihood improvement through modern beekeeping	TAF members, Community along the Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania
	Incorporated hydrological and agro-ecological modelling and holistic system thinking themes in a PhD programme in agro-ecology and 2) the latter was incorporated in MSc. Forestry	University students
Gertrude Kenyangi REFACOF. Uganda	Initiated partnership for Public-Private Partnership for Reforestation of Degraded Forest Reserve, under the Climate Investment Fund – Scaling up Renewable energy program in low income countries	We have not secured funding for any related project
Chidiebere Ofoegbu, South Africa	Incorporation of insights from the congress in a new study Established work relationship with a professor from Fuji university in China. This is my first working relationship with any institute in Asia from April – August 2016	Research and teaching institutions, United Nation Agencies

Participant	Specific actions undertaken (reported verbatim)	Target audience and feedback
Dos Santos Silayo, Tanzania Forest Service, Tanzania	Currently implementing a new project that is trying to assess impact of REDD+ piloting under the financial support from Norwegian Research Council. This project is being implemented in Uganda, DRC, Tanzania and Brazil drawing scientists from these countries and Norway. This project to a great extent was designed with the insights from the meeting including the contacts established in during meeting	
	Developing policy briefs on 1). Natural resource governance 2). Agroforestry for climate change adaptation. These briefs draw lessons from community adaptation and mitigation strategies. These briefs are a result of the ongoing project that we are implementing between SUA, Forestry Training Institute (FTI), RECOFTC and MJUMITA (Forestry Community Network in Tanzania). The project is titled "Empowering communities through training on participatory forest management, REDD+ and climate change initiatives"	Policy makers, communities, professionals
Bareremna Afelu, University of Lome, Togo	A research collaboration initiated with the university of Kinshasa and the researchers of Kenya and DRC on forest fires management since December 2015	Researchers

Several media interviews were also coordinated by the AFF Secretariat to help raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests and trees. These were featured in various African print and electronic media.

3.3 Changes in institutional policies, plans and structures resulting from use of AFF information

As part of the organizational theory of change, the actions taken by individuals who are target beneficiaries of AFF information would result into positive changes within their institutions, and in doing so increase the momentum, in the continent, towards sustainable forest management.

3.3.1. Survey on use of information from AFF resources

The surveys conducted in September 2015 and November 2016 sought to establish the respondent's influence on changes and improvements in institutions through their actions resulting from use of AFF information. Responses from the open-ended questions were used in the assessment. Sixteen respondents reported institutional changes made in 12 countries¹ as a result of using knowledge products from AFF. These changes included:

- improvements made to forestry training curriculum
- improvements to forestry related courses training/teaching materials,
- introduction of new activities,
- amendments to or initiation of new policies; and
- creation of new partnerships and collaborations.

Table 14 gives some specific examples of how AFF information from online resources was used to improve institutional strategies and operations towards SFM.

Table 14: Some examples of improvements in institutional structures and operations resulting from use of AFF knowledge products

Respondent	Actions taken to apply some AFF knowledge products (reported verbatim)
Marie Louise Avana – Tientcheu, Lecturer, Universite de Dschang, Cameroon	Developed a training program and coordinating a training centre in forestry sector; Initiated a project on climate change and REDD+
Demel Teketay Fanta, Lecturer, Botswana University of Agriculture, Botswana	Prepared new policies on forest certification and also used the information to improve teaching, research and performance evaluation.
Olivia Agbenyega, Lecturer, Kwame Nkurumah University of Science and Technology (KMUST), Ghana	Improved teaching and research in the Kwame Nkurumah University of Science and Technology and conducted action research to benefit rural communities
Kokou Kouami, Lecturer, Universite de Lome, Togo	Prepared a proposal in response to funding opportunities; the information facilitated in proposal writing and access to information on grants for new projects
Ibrahim Abdulahi, Researcher,	Conducted research that provided information for policy

¹ The countries are Cameroon, Botswana, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda

Respondent	Actions taken to apply some AFF knowledge products (reported verbatim)
University of Abuja Nigeria	development
Milton Penisera, Forester, Zimbabwe Forestry College, Zimbabwe	Conducted effective training and practical project development on climate change issues

3.3.2. Project workshops and training

Institutional changes and improvements resulting from the workshops and training were noted from follow up evaluations on four workshops on:

- multilateral environmental agreements and related processes for Anglophone and Lusophone countries,
- forest certification for eastern and southern Africa,
- eastern African sub regional workshop on strengthening of professional forestry associations for enhanced law enforcement, governance and trade; and
- pre-XIV World Forest Congress workshop on forests, people and environment.

The institutional changes noted were mainly:

- inclusion of the concepts into training programs,
- inclusion of the concepts in institutional strategic plans, development of policies, legislative bills and code of ethics,
- instituting partnerships and
- preparing contracts for natural forest resource management.

Some specific examples are given in Table 15.

Table 15: Examples of improvements to institutional structures and operations

Participant details	Institutional changes reported
Multilateral environmental agreements workshop for Anglophone and Lusophone countries	
Isaac Ekise Emukule, University of Eldoret, Kenya	Training materials on multilateral environmental agreements prepared and incorporated in the course on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Systems and Agroforestry
Witness Mojeremane, Botswana University of Agriculture, Botswana	Elements of multilateral environmental agreements incorporated into the course on Forestry Range Policy and Administration
Daniel Ofori, Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), Ghana	Multilateral environmental agreements incorporated into the new strategic plan for FORIG
Forest certification training workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa	
Joel Laigong, University of Eldoret, Kenya	Teaching notes for a course in the Department of Forestry and Wood Science improved using information from the training

Participant details	Institutional changes reported
Herbert Wamangale, Environmental Alert (Part of the SDG Secretariat), Uganda	National forest certification standards for Uganda developed and submitted to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Teshome Tesema, Ethiopian Environment and Forestry Research Institute, Ethiopia	A new law on forest certification was developed and submitted to the Council of Ministers in Ethiopia for ratification
Eastern Africa sub regional workshop on strengthening of professional forestry associations	
Bruno Samwel Mallya, Secretary, Tanzania Association of Foresters, Tanzania	New activities and targets to promote good forest governance included in the annual business plan of the Tanzania Association of Foresters (TAF)
Rupereza Herménégilde, Legal Representative, Actors Forum for Integrated Development (AFID), Burundi	Contacts developed for co-management of forest resources between community based associations and the forest administration in Burundi
Jamleck, Ndambiri, Chairman, Forest Society of Kenya (FSK)	Developed a code of ethics to promote professionalism among members and also the national Professional Foresters Bill. The Strategic plan for FSK was reviewed to include issues from the workshop
Bruno Samwel Mallya, Tanzania Association of Foresters, Tanzania	Designed an electronic portal to track cross border trade and transportation of natural resource goods in collaboration with Zambian foresters

In summary, the key changes made to institutions using the information from all these trainings included:

- incorporation of aspects from these two trainings in teaching material to guide professional training at universities,
- facilitating formulating institutional strategic plans and business plans,
- facilitating development national forest certification standards and regulations
- development of partnerships and collaborative activities
- guidance to development of:
 - good forest management/governance practices like code of ethics (in some cases a professional foresters bill was developed for parliament action into law),
 - electronic portal between countries to track cross border trade in forest products, and
 - good co-management contracts/agreements between local communities and the central government in managing forest resources.

3.4 Collaborations and partnerships among forestry related institutions to promote sustainable forest management

One of the key strategic objectives of AFF is to build and strengthen networking among the many and varied stakeholders in African forestry. Through its various workshops and trainings, AFF has brought together representatives of many forestry related institutions from over 35 countries from all the regions of Africa. These workshops have provided opportunities for participants to interact and develop working relationships/partnerships with each other both at individual and institutional levels.

From the evaluations undertaken after these workshops more partnerships have been formed from the pre-XIV World Forest Congress Workshop than from any other event during the period. Some few examples of the partnerships and collaborations reported by the respondents are highlighted in Table 16.

Table 16: Examples of collaborations initiated from networking among participants of the Pre XIV-World Forest Congress workshop

Participant	Specific actions undertaken (reported verbatim)
Dennis Kayambazinthu, Malawi	Collaborated with 5 retired senior forestry officers and private forestry institution to prepare a concept note for establishing a private forestry institution designed to improve on forestry governance and in support of national forestry programmes.
Gertrude Kenyangi REFACOF, Uganda	Initiated partnership for Public-Private Partnership for Reforestation of Degraded Forest Reserve, under the Climate Investment Fund – Scaling up Renewable Energy Program in low income countries
Dos Santos Silayo, Tanzania Forest Service, Tanzania	Collaborating with scientists from Uganda, DRC, Tanzania, Norway and Brazil to implement a new project to assess impact of REDD+ piloting under the financial support from Norwegian Research Council. This project to a great extent was designed with the insights from the meeting including the contacts established in during meeting
	Developing policy briefs on 1). Natural Resource Governance 2). Agroforestry for climate change adaptation. These are a result of the ongoing project that between Sokoine University of Agriculture, Forestry Training Institute and MJUMITA (Forestry Community Network in Tanzania). The project is titled “Empowering communities through training on participatory forest management, REDD+ and climate change initiatives”
Bareremna Afelu, University of Lome, Togo	A research collaboration initiated with the university of Kinshasa and the researchers of Kenya and DRC on forest fires management

There are also partnerships that were established by the other workshops and the trainings as highlighted in Table 17.

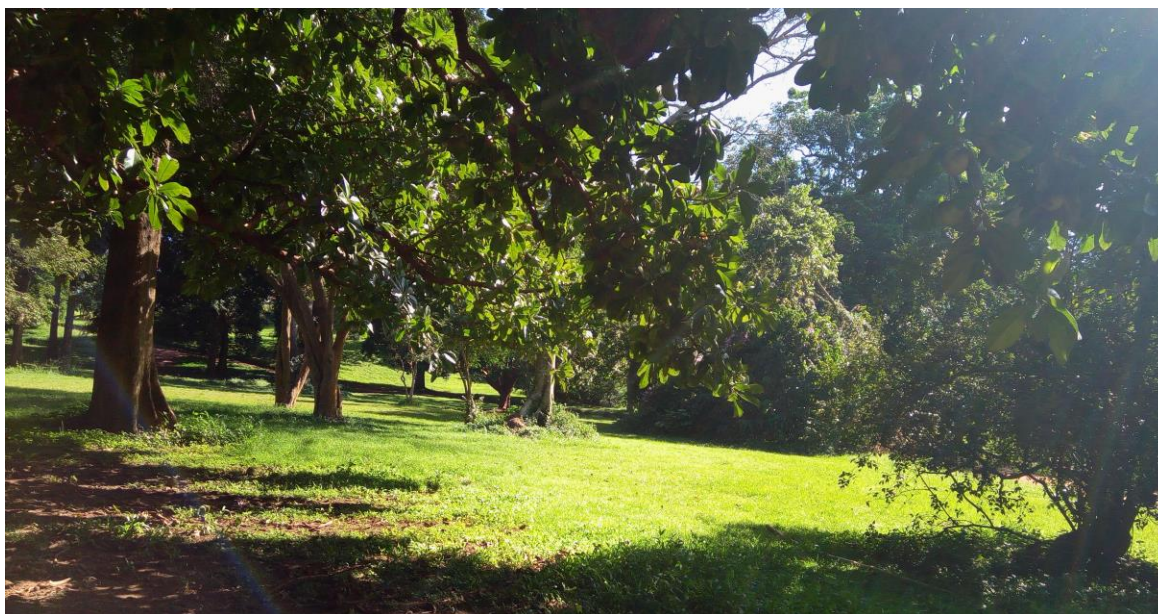
Table 17. Examples of collaborations and partnerships from AFF sponsored workshops

Workshop participant	Workshop attended	Specific actions undertaken (reported verbatim)
Faraj Mwakitau, Chairman, Mwatate District Stakeholders Forum	MEAs workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, December, 2015	Partnered with the County government of Taita Taveta in Kenya to implement REDD+ initiatives at local level with community
Daniel Ofori, Director, FORIG	MEAs workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, December, 2015	Developed a memorandum of understanding with the Forest Commission of Ghana to promote research on MEA related activities
Gabriel Muturi, Deputy Director, KEFRI, Kenya	MEAs workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, December, 2015	Joint initiative on combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa as part of the activities to implement MEA related actions
Nasib Ali Mwamutsi, Senior Forest Officer, Kenya Forest Service	Forest Certification workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa, Mombasa, Kenya, Dec, 2015	Partnered with the County Government of Kilifi, Kenya to develop the Conservation Bill for the County which incorporated forest management certification and chain of custody certification
Bruno Samwel Mallya, Secretary General, Tanzania Association of Foresters,	Eastern Africa sub regional workshop on FLEGT in Mombasa, Kenya, July, 2015	Collaborated with Forestry Association of Zambia to design an electronic portal for identification and recording of all trade and transportation of natural forest goods
Jamleck Ndambiri, Chairman, Forest society of Kenya	Eastern Africa sub regional workshop on FLEGT in Mombasa, Kenya, July, 2015	Engaged with other national forestry associations in Eastern Africa with a view of forming the Eastern Africa Regional Forestry Association
Prince Olawuyi Oluwaseyi, Coordinator, Young Volunteers for the Environment, Nigeria	West Africa sub regional workshop on FLEGT in Abuja, Nigeria, May 2016	Partnered with Plant for the Planet Academy to organise a workshop for youth in Nigeria on good forest management
Kwame Asamoah	West Africa sub	Partnered with FAO FLEGT Program to educate

Workshop participant	Workshop attended	Specific actions undertaken (reported verbatim)
Adam, Institution Ghana Timber Milers Organization	regional workshop on FLEGT in Abuja, Nigeria, May 2016	timber companies and traders on policies and laws regulating timber trade and on compliance with FLEGT-related mechanism
Rupereza Herménégilde, Legal representative AFID, Burundi	Eastern Africa sub regional workshop on FLEGT in Mombasa, Kenya, July, 2015	Collaborated with the Forest Administration in Burundi to promote forest management through co- management with community associations

The partnerships can be grouped as follows:

- Partnerships for joint fundraising on common issues in sustainable forest management
- Partnerships with government institutions for development and implementation of policies and regulations
- Research partnerships between peer institutions and individuals to promote sustainable forest management
- Public-private-partnerships on mutually aggregable forestry issues



Entebbe Botanical Gardens, Uganda. Photo © AFF/2016

4. CONCLUSION

From the findings of this outcome assessment, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The information from AFF has a wide audience. The web analysis has shown that users from over 150 countries, within and outside Africa access and use the information on the AFF website regularly. The number of returning users and document downloads over the years also indicate a growing uptake of the knowledge products by the users. From the workshops conducted by AFF, a significant proportion of the participants have shared further the information from such events with other audiences through meetings, back to office reports, sensitization and outreach events.
- AFF is an important source of knowledge on issues related to African forestry. The information from AFF is of great value to target audiences. Most workshop participants have attested to the relevance of the trainings and knowledge shared in their day to day work. The use of AFF information products and services has led to increased awareness on priority issues in forestry as captured in the feedback from respondents. Some reported to be learning about new issues for the first time.
- The actions reported by target audiences, by individuals and institutions, indicate that AFF has catalysed actions towards sustainable forest management in many African countries. The participants to events organised by AFF have initiated actions to improve teaching and research of forestry related issues; to introduce new concepts such as forest certification and forest carbon measurement to many forestry stakeholders including local communities; and to put up measures to raise funds for projects to address issues identified in sustainable forest management.
- AFF has provided platforms that have led to partnerships and collaborations among institutions with common interests in sustainable forest management. The target beneficiaries also reported many new collaborative initiatives resulting from use of AFF information. AFF organises workshops and other platforms where forestry experts meet, share ideas and develop initiatives to regional and sub- regional problems related to forestry
- There is a growing influence by AFF's knowledge products and other resources on its target beneficiaries that will potentially lead to their use of information from the institution to improve their policies and operations. This holds potential to sustain the management and use of forest and tree resources on the continent and therefore enhancing people's livelihoods, national incomes and stability of the environment as envisaged in the mission of AFF.



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



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