



## **African Forest Forum**

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry

# **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 8 Issue 1 November 2021



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

I am pleased to share the latest edition of the AFF Newsletter that draws attention to our work and progress through a turbulent and challenging year.

While we have seen the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forest resources, the forestry sector and forest-dependent communities, we have also seen innovative and inclusive approaches to sustainable forest management in planning for the socio-economic recovery after the crisis. This affords a well-timed opportunity for forest policy and investment decisions to drive the future towards a greener, more resilient and sustainable future.

AFF is now more outcome focused and results-oriented, and better equipped to provide independent counsel to African national and local governments towards achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global commitments.

Thanks to the first year of our Strategic Plan (2021-2025) in support of the institution's programmatic approach to its work, I am humbled to report that our plans have been found to be robust and flexible in the face of the global pandemic and its after-effects.

We have adapted to change with competence, expertise and a strong sense of urgency. We have held ourselves to our guiding principles of

accountability, transparency, integrity and professionalism. Moreover, we have reinforced our approach towards generating scientific-oriented collaborative research that could support African forestry stakeholders in the management of their forests.

This newsletter details how AFF, as a catalyst of change, has made use of different partnership arrangements, advocacy activities and platforms, knowledge brokerage and resource mobilization activities to address forestry issues high on the development agenda.

I gratefully acknowledge the generous assistance accorded to AFF by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). We are also grateful to AFF's members, Governing Council members, key partners and the many people and institutions who facilitated this work in various ways.

Godwin Kowero



Executive Secretary – CEO  
African Forest Forum



## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO AFF'S WORK IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

As of October 27, 2021, cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continue to rise across much of Africa with about 6.06 million cases reported and 149,569 deaths confirmed. At the global level there were about 245.56 million cases that had been recorded and 4.97 million deaths confirmed.

Movement restrictions and measures to mitigate the spread of the disease have had adverse impacts on sustainable forest management and forest protection efforts in many African countries. The measures have resulted in the postponement, and in some instances complete cancellation, of forest management activities such as silvicultural practices, afforestation and conservation initiatives. According to the African Union (2020), this could contribute to increased deforestation, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and constrain income generation in the short to medium term if no remedial actions are taken.



*Wood harvest in the evergreen forest of Ghana.  
Photo credit: Enoch Gbénato Achigan-Dako*

The African Forest Forum (AFF) recognizes that forests and trees outside forests currently serve as livelihood 'safety nets', for a rising number of rural communities, women and youth for their subsistence needs, especially, during the crisis. At such times, rural communities increase their dependence on forests and trees for food, fuel, shelter, and traditional medicines to reduce the risk of infection.

Likewise, the value of forest resources as safe spaces for socially distanced recreation has been appreciated in helping ease stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic. In this context, it was urgent to find ways to continue implementation of activities that support sustainable management and use of forests and trees outside forest

Like many institutions of its kind, AFF has been carrying out its work via novel means to guarantee business continuity and to inform strategic decision making. Its secretariat has undergone adjustments to its operations, while embracing the use of ICT and digital tools to conduct institutional work. From the shift to virtual meetings for consultations with experts and students, desk-based reviews of literature by experts to engagement of national experts for in-country field research to support regional experts, these are some of the approaches that have been adopted to facilitate project implementation and sustain robustness of AFF core operations.

Of particular interest and use, was the shift from the "usual regional face-to-face meetings" to "regional hybrid webinars" whereby a number of face-to-face meetings are organized in target countries, connected virtually between themselves, and to the AFF secretariat, selected resource persons and other participants attending online.

With a number of activities being carried over from 2020 to 2021 by the institution's flagship projects, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) have responded positively to the call for flexible implementation mechanisms in light of COVID 19 during this period. In view of this, the Plan of Work and Budget for 2021 developed by the Secretariat was revised based on inputs received from different AFF governing bodies approved by the 16th meeting of the AFF Governing Council

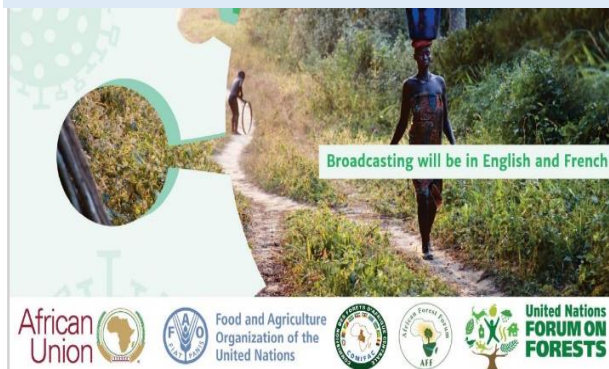


held virtually on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Business continuity plans drawn on a quarterly basis provided guidance to monitor work implementation, including making necessary adjustments in relevant quarters.

The Secretariat continues to conduct regular monitoring of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic conditions in countries in Africa, in order to

gauge the evolving enabling work environment that would be safe and secure for AFF staff, experts and other project implementing partners. It will also continue to rely on donor funding, competitive project funding from various other sources, and possibly income from services rendered that does not conflict with its status as a not-for-profit NGO, as sustainability measures for the institution.

## COVID-19 AND FORESTRY SECTOR: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR BETTER RESILIENCE IN AFRICA



A first Africa-wide activity for AFF was its participation in implementing a webinar with the African Union Commission (AUC), and in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC) to map a way forward to guide interventions for continuity and improvement of the forestry sector on the African continent during the post COVID-19 period.

The webinar titled, *“COVID-19 and forestry sector: Challenges, opportunities and strategies for better resilience in Africa”* was held on 24 July 2020. H.E. Amb. Josefa SACKO Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission delivered the opening remarks.

Panelists included: Mr. Almami Dampha, Senior Policy Officer for Forestry and Land Management, AUC; Ms. Morongoa Suzan Leseke, Acting Deputy Director General of Forestry Management, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, and Chairperson of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission; Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) Founder & President, Edea, Cameroon; Mr. Raymond Ndomba Ngoye, Executive Secretary Central African Forestry Commission, Yaounde, Cameroon; Ms. Nora Berrahmouni, Senior forestry officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, Ghana, Ms. Barbara Tavora-Jainchill United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarter New York, NY 10017 USA; Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Head of Division, Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management, AUC; and Prof Marie Louise Tientcheu-Avana, a Senior Programme Officer with the African Forest Forum.

Participants were able to delve into the impacts, challenges and possible opportunities to the forestry sector brought by COVID-19 pandemic; share ideas on what could be done presently to minimize the adverse impact of the pandemic on the sector and identify viable strategies to support stakeholders in African forestry to cope with COVID-19. AFF's Senior Programme Officer, Prof. Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu delivered a presentation entitled, *“Forests and tree-based livelihoods in Africa: some COVID-19 effects”* at the webinar. Since then, the outcomes from this webinar have continued to feed in discussions on how this pandemic is featuring in forestry.

## 16TH SESSION OF THE UN FORUM ON FORESTS: XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS SIDE EVENT



The UNFF16 side event titled, *“Promoting forests as the force in a green and resilient recovery: Building momentum for the XV World Forestry Congress,”* was held virtually on 26 April 2021.

Organized by the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) Secretariat of the Korea Forest Service and FAO, the side event enabled participants to learn more about the WFC preparatory process, engage in discussions on the main challenges faced by the forest sector in a post COVID-19 era and explore the ways in which the WFC can be an innovative forum to bring stakeholders to address these challenges, leverage partnerships and promote forests as a central pillar in global and national recovery efforts.

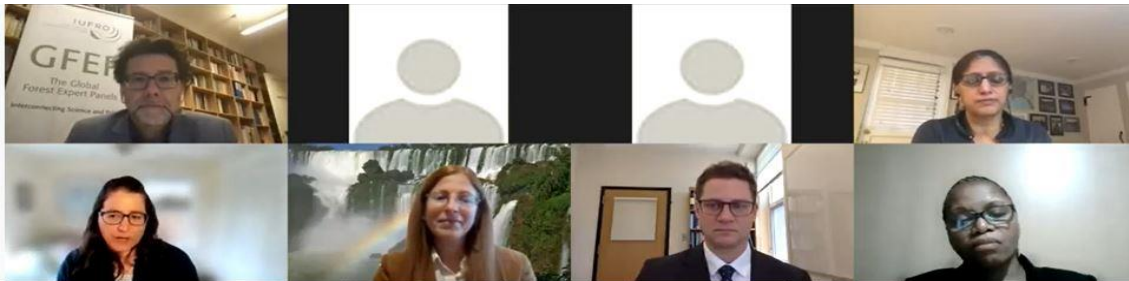
The event featured opening remarks by H.E. Byeong-Am Choi, Minister, Korea Forest Service (KFS), Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Dr. Eunsik Park, Secretary-General, XV World Forestry Congress, KFS.

Prof. Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer with AFF, and leading its African Forests, People and Climate Change Programme, took part in the event as a panelist. In her presentation, Prof. Avana-Tientcheu highlighted the growing importance of NGOs in

calling on national governments to recognize the forestry sector as “essential” in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in both the short and long terms. She brought to the fore the opportunities that forest products and services can provide in mitigating impacts and building back better, especially in relation to sustainable and green solutions. Specifically, through the existence of several studies she showcased the contributions of forests towards the production of personal protection equipment (PPE’s), essential oils, pharmaceutical products and medicines. As a long-term strategy, she urged government agencies to partner with research institutions and NGOs to utilize scientific evidence for policymaking.

The panel was moderated by Mr. Peter Csoka, Associate Secretary-General of the XV World Forestry Congress, and with FAO, and featured an esteem panel of diverse forest stakeholders including: Ms. Myrna Cunningham, President, Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC); Ms. Marta Gaworska, Chief, International Cooperation Directorate General of the State Forests, Poland; Mr. John Parrotta, President, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and H.E. Ms. Kitty Sweeb, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Suriname to the UN, and Chair, UNFF16/17 Bureau

## IUFRO-GFEP SIDE EVENT AT UNFF16 ON FORESTS TREES AND ERADICATION OF POVERTY



On 26 April 2021, the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) Programme of IUFRO organized a side event during the 16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16).

AFF participated in this event as one of the lead authors of the IUFRO publication *"Forests, Trees and the Eradication of Poverty: Potential and Limitations. A Global Assessment Report"* that presented scientific evidence on the range of contributions that forests and trees make to curbing poverty and their potential to contribute to the achievement of SDG1 targets aimed to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

The report shows that forests and trees support human well-being and are critical to end poverty. It finds that forest-poverty dynamics are affected by a range of social, economic, political, and environmental contextual factors, such as rural outmigration, gender norms, remittance flows, and elite capture. The report also highlights levers that are being applied to alleviate poverty in forests and tree-based systems as rights based, regulatory, markets and supply chains, and forest and tree management levers; as well as key messages from the findings.

AFF's Dr. Doris Mutta, Senior Programme Officer- one of the panelists at the side event was part of the core group of 21 experts, supported by 22 additional experts, from different parts of the world and different scientific backgrounds who worked together on this study for almost two years.

Following a scoping meeting in Rome, Italy, in May 2019, the experts met three times. The first meeting took place in August 2019 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, US, and the second in January 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya. The third meeting in April 2020 was originally supposed to take place in Vienna, Austria, but was moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the first-ever virtual Panel meeting in the context of the GFEP initiative. The October 2020 official launch of

### KEY MESSAGES

The report's key messages are highlighted below:

1. Forests and trees can help the poor face global changes such as climate change.
2. Benefits from forests and trees to human well-being are unevenly distributed.
3. Structural barriers prevent poor people from using forest and tree products to exit poverty.
4. Inadequate land use policies may lead the poor to bear excessive costs.
5. Policy and management measures that enable forests and trees to contribute to poverty alleviation must be tailored to each specific context.





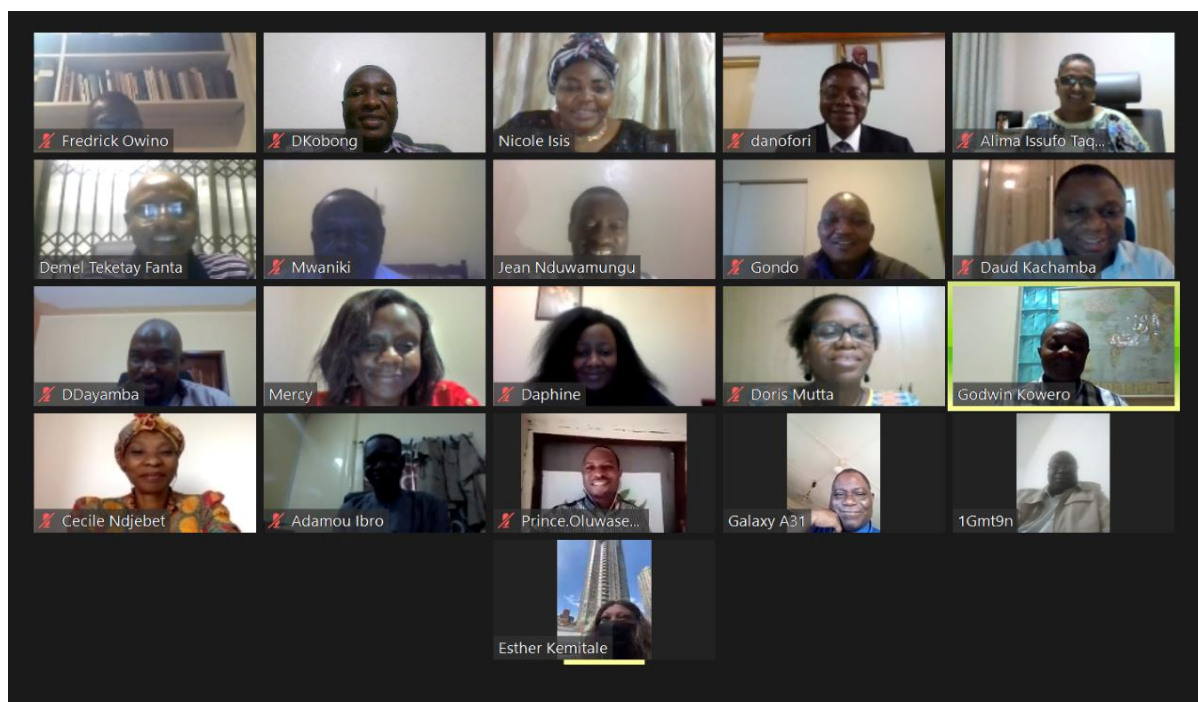
the report was also conducted online and timed to coincide with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2020.

The IUFRO side event at UNFF16 featured key statements by Dr Alexandre Buick, Executive Director IUFRO and Dr. Mette Løyche Wilkie, Director, FAO. The event was moderated by Dr. Christoph Wildburger, IUFRO-GFEP Programme Coordinator. Other panelists at the side event were: Coordinating Lead Authors Prof Daniel C Miller, University of Illinois, USA, Dr Mónica Gabay, National

University of San Martin, Argentina, Dr Reem Hajjar, Oregon State University, USA, and Dr. Priya Shyamsundar, The Nature Conservancy, USA.

The UNFF16 side event also gave an exclusive early insight into an upcoming IUFRO GFEP publication entitled *"Forests, Trees and Poverty Alleviation in Africa: An Expanded Policy Brief"*. This policy brief, that was presented by Dr Doris Mutta, aims to demonstrate how forests and tree-based systems are central in achieving a prosperous Africa through poverty alleviation.

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> AFF GOVERNING COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY



The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum (AFF) was held virtually on 16 April 2021.

The policy and direction of the affairs of AFF are vested in its Governing Council (GC). The Council meets every year to review AFF's work and interactions with its partners. It is composed of fifteen representatives from the African Continent, equally and equitably drawn

from five geographical sub-regions from which the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected. It also includes representatives from outside the continent (from the *Friends of African Forestry*); Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector in forestry and the Executive Secretary, who serves as the Secretary in the Forum Meetings and of whom is an ex-officio member.

AFF's Governing Council Chairperson Mr. Macarthy Afolabi Oyebo, former Director of Forestry in the Ministry of Environment, Federal Department of Forestry in Nigeria, presided over the opening. On behalf of the GC, he commended the AFF Secretariat for the good work and working efficiently and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for developing COVID-19 Business Continuity Plans. Further, he led the GC in approving among other things, operational plans and budgets for the Sida and SDC supported projects for 2019, 2020 and 2021 in addition to the final reports for the respective years.

In its resolutions, the GC noted that the final evaluation reports provided evidence-based information on the good performance of the projects and lessons learned on forestry development in Africa and AFF's institutional growth. The GC also appreciated the initiatives by the Secretariat on establishing collaborations with many African universities as this can increase AFF's visibility and commended the Sida and SDC projects for the ever-growing synergy between them. The meeting encouraged AFF to continue with the partnerships to expand the potential funding horizon.

The GC also approved the *AFF Strategy (2021-2025)* that sets out a vision for AFF to deliver effectively on its "*Programmatic approach to the work of the African Forest Forum*". The Strategy intends to position the institution as a leading organisation on African forestry in its commitment to promote sustainable management of forestry resources in ways that address the needs of the African people and the environment they live in. Based on a science-policy-management framework, through the Strategy AFF will recast its approach, reducing its focus on processes and outputs and increasing it towards outcome and impact.

The Strategy is based on the seven priority areas of action identified by the African forestry fraternity, as contained in the AFF Programmatic Approach, to address the many challenges and opportunities identified on African forestry for the plan period. It seeks to also contribute to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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*The AFF Strategy (2021-2025) outlines the following:*

- *Global and Africa-wide priorities in forestry that should guide the work of AFF.*
- *Opportunities that Africa's diversity presents for AFF and African forests, including a wide range of things that influence people and forests or are impacted by them, such as climate change; these are issues AFF should not overlook.*
- *Principles and values that should guide AFF in achieving its vision, mission and goal, and particularly in working together with its partners and other forestry related stakeholders.*
- *Strategic guidance for the development of the programmatic work of AFF in the short and medium term (5-15 years).*
- *Highlights on how the institution will implement the strategy*





## GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND GENDER RESPONSIVE RESEARCH AT AFF



AFF-HAFL scholarship students attending a meeting at Lüdernalp. Photo credit: School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Zollikofen, Switzerland.

Around the world, men and women often have distinct roles in the management of forests, different access to forests and different ways of using forest resources, and their relationship with the forest is constantly changing (CIFOR, 2016). However, growing literature on the topic indicates that gender-based barriers still exist in decision making and often prevent women from fully contributing to forest-related planning, policy-making and implementation.

Since the UN Beijing conference (1995) and Convention on Women (1999), there have been a number of significant events and global frameworks that have come together to draw importance to gender mainstreaming in political, economic, social fields, including sustainable forestry. These have included the

UN Millennium Declaration (UN 2000); the 2030 agenda for sustainable development (UN 2015d) and a variety of resolutions and decisions of the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2020, AFF engaged an expert to conduct a gender analysis on the institution's plans and activities with the view to inform development of a gender mainstreaming strategy for the organization. Using the Kobo Collect tool, the expert undertook a Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) to evaluate the two levels at which AFF's gender mainstreaming work broadly takes place: the institutional and the programme levels.

**Gender mainstreaming** entails 'assessing the implications for women and men for any planned action' in order to make their respective concerns and experiences 'an integral dimension' of the entire project cycle 'so that women and men benefit equally, and equality is not perpetuated' (UN 1997).

While, in practice, it entails a range of gender-sensitive actions the core components include 'the gender analysis, the generation and utilization of sex- and gender-disaggregated data, the effective participation of men and women and the empowerment approach for equal opportunities' (FAO, 2016).



From a programme perspective, AFF ensures that all its projects respond to the different needs, demands of, and challenges faced by women and men in promoting sustainable forest management on the continent. Both professional and other women contributed and continue to contribute to project design and execution, equally benefiting AFF and their larger forest communities that include grassroots women. Whenever possible, AFF also seeks to promote:

- gender situational analyses and documentation of gender practices.
- integration of gender specific issues in the terms of reference developed for various studies and other tasks.
- collection of gender disaggregated data sets on project activities including on meetings and various workshops.
- development of gender indicators and information targets to track and monitor gender perspectives on expected project and activity outcomes.
- inclusion of gender criteria in the selection of experts and students for research consultancies and grants respectively.

From an organisational perspective, AFF is focusing gender mainstreaming in its internal policies and processes, taking into consideration its culture, systems and staff from different countries. To deepen the awareness, knowledge, commitment and capacity of all professional staff on the gender function, two staff seminars have been conducted by the experts. At the same time, the women at the secretariat, who represent 60% of the staff, count on the support of their male counterparts at critical points including allocation of resources and technical backstopping of the projects. AFF also recently created 'Women in Forestry' and 'Youth in Forestry' chapters, both represented at the Governing Council (GC), to provide policy guidance and related support on gender representation in African forestry.

To strengthen its initiatives on promoting integration of gender-related concerns and issues into its everyday work, organizational structure, the various areas of AFF research, partnerships and information sharing approaches, a gender mainstreaming strategy is currently under development.

## AFF GC member selected to UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration Advisory Board



We are pleased to announce that our AFF's Governing Council member, **Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet** was selected to serve on the Advisory Board for the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) (2021-2030).

In a congratulatory message, Prof. Godwin Kowero – Executive Secretary, CEO at AFF stated, *“for us at the Secretariat this is a great honour to our continent, and by extension to AFF where she serves on its Governing Council”*.

Cécile is the Women's Major Group Organizing Partner for Francophone Africa and the Founder & President of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF). She also leads the 'Women in Forestry' Chapter at AFF.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a global effort aimed at restoring the planet and ensuring One Health for people and nature, to “prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide”. Led by the UN Environment (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Decade was launched on June 5 for World Environment Day. Restoration of ecosystems is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly those on climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water and biodiversity conservation



## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AND TREE RESOURCES

While strengthening capacity through civic education on rights and responsibilities of different actors to improve forest governance is gradually emerging, more efforts need to be directed to these aspects. AFF has accumulated a reasonable body of knowledge and experience in forestry and related issues. Capacity building and skills development is relevant to all AFF stakeholders, individually and as groups, from poor communities that live close to forest resources, to scientists, private sector businesses, and policy makers at all levels.

In the last few months, AFF has facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration among countries on various aspects related to forests and trees on the continent. At the regional level, AFF has partnered with various institutions and forestry experts to share findings from studies on priority issues affecting the forestry sector. These are related

to climate change in forestry, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) value chains, mainstreaming of multilateral environment agreements into national policies, plans and activities, and public private partnerships in the sector. For the most part, these exchanges have been peer-to-peer, practical and cost-effective.

Beyond the African region, AFF has collaborated with other stakeholders, and more specifically in providing back up to African delegates in the process that culminated in development and adoption of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and related four-year work programme. AFF continues to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions and is currently supporting 18 postgraduate students who are undertaking their research work within the framework of the work implemented by the institution.

### AFF Testimonial

*I got engaged with AFF as one of the trainee's during the Regional training course, on Forest Certification for Eastern and Southern African sub-region; held on December 7-11, 2015 in Mombasa, Kenya.*

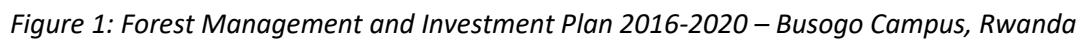
*The aim of the training was to:*

1. *Sensitize forest practitioners on the concept of forest certification, including forest certification schemes and their requirements, and its potential role in improving forest management.*
2. *Build the capacity of forest practitioners on the concept, principles, and implementation of forest certification, including Chain of Custody (CoC) certification.*
3. *Equip forest practitioners with knowledge, tools and skills required for the development of National Forest Certification Standards (NFCs) that are best suited for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.*

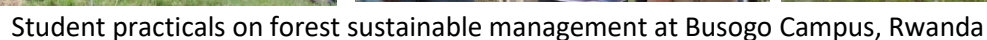
*As a lecturer in the department of Forestry and nature conservation, in the University of Rwanda; I coordinated a seminar on the relevance and an overview of forest certification in March 2016. It was attended by the faculty lectures and students especially those from the concerned department of forestry, at Busogo campus. Subsequently, it was agreed by the department council to incorporate an induction course on forest certification during the revision of forest curriculum. Thereafter, a school **Forest Management and Investment Plan 2016-2020** was designed to serve as a demonstration project for the students as well as the community.*







## PICTORIAL



## PICTORIAL



Students in implementing the forest management plan at Busogo campus

## NEW PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS



**Sustainable Business Models for Informal Charcoal Producers in Kenya**

2021; Mutta, D.; Mahamane, L.; Wekesa, C.; Kowero, G.; Roos, A; Journal Article

This study explores the SBMs of informal charcoal-producing enterprises in coastal Kenya. It describes key business-model components: value proposition, value creation and delivery, and economic value capture. Impact and dependency on sustainability-related indicators were also studied. Findings demonstrated that charcoal enterprises, despite their informal status, adopt elaborate business models.

Available at: [https://afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English\\_220.pdf](https://afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English_220.pdf)





**Review of land use, land use change and forest sector potential for green economy in Anglophone West African countries**  
2019; Popoola, L.; AFF Working Paper

This study investigates the forest sector potential for green economy growth, as well as some aspects of Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) in Anglophone West African countries of Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone using a combination of desk work and field studies. Observed drivers of LULUCF in the study area include population growth, agriculture, infrastructure development, uncontrolled and illegal logging.

Available at: <https://afforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Vol-4-Issue-7-English.pdf>



**Training needs analysis and forestry curricula evaluation in professional and technical institutions in sub-Sahara Anglophone countries**  
2020; Katsvanga, C. A. and Mudywa S. M.; AFF Working Paper

Traditional forestry curricula, as evidenced by the competence profiles of most forestry graduates, comprise gaps between acquired knowledge and skills, on one hand and market needs, on the other hand. A training needs assessment was undertaken in Sub Sahara African (SSA) Anglophone countries, with the aim of assessing the content of the forestry curricula in professional and technical training institutions in comparison with current market needs and emerging forestry related issues.

Available at: <https://afforum.org/publications/>



**Aboveground and belowground tree biomass and carbon stocks in the miombo woodlands of the Copperbelt in Zambia; Ferdinand Handavu, Stephen Syampungani, Gudeta W. Sileshi & Paxie W. C. Chirwa**

Globally, belowground biomass (BGB) accounts for 20–26% of total biomass, and as such it is an important carbon (C) pool for many vegetation types. However, large uncertainty exists for belowground biomass C compared to aboveground stocks. Using data from 108 destructively harvested trees belonging to 36 miombo species, we estimated root to shoot ratios, and developed models for estimation of aboveground biomass (AGB), BGB and total biomass C stocks in the Copperbelt province of Zambia.

Available at: [https://afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English\\_225.pdf](https://afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English_225.pdf)

## STAFF DEPARTURES

AFF sadly announces the departure of three of its staff members: **Leon Awiti** (PMER Specialist) who joined his family in the USA; **Dr. Noel Henri-Bouda** (SPO) who left to join FAO in Cape Verde and **Dr. Vincent Oeba (PO)** who returned to his employer, Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) after expiry of his leave of absence. We wish them all of the best and look forward to collaborating with them again in the near future!





## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



**Dr Mercy Ojoyi**, a Programme Officer, holds a PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and University of Twente, Netherlands through sandwich training. She holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Environmental Science and Honors degree in Natural Resources Management. Prior to joining the AFF, she worked as an International Climate Researcher with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, University of Bonn, Germany. She previously worked as a Strategic Programme Manager at the Department of Research and Innovation, University of Pretoria where she supported co-ordination and monitoring of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)'s University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) programme. She also worked as the overall Project Co-ordinator for the global land matrix programme.



**Dr Daud Kachamba**, a Programme Officer, holds a PhD in Forest Inventory from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, MSc degree in Forest Engineering from Stellenbosch University in South Africa and a BSc degree (2003) in Agriculture from the University of Malawi. Dr Kachamba specializes in forest inventory using both field-based and remote sensing techniques. Dr Kachamba is regarded amongst the leading researchers in the application of unmanned aerial vehicles aka drones in forest inventory. Before joining AFF, Dr Kachamba worked as a Senior Lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi and as a Land Resources Conservation Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi.



**Dickson Kobong**, a Planning Monitoring Evaluation & Reporting Specialist, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Kenyatta University and a certified monitoring & evaluation professional from Kenya Institute of Management Studies. In addition, he holds CPA Part 1 certificate. Dickson has more than 9 years' knowledge and experience in designing and implementing monitoring & evaluation activities for several organizations in Kenya. Prior to joining to AFF, he worked as a Strategic Manager in charge of Monitoring & Evaluation at Pamoja Child Foundation where he also supported fundraising. He is about to complete a master's degree in project planning and management at the University of Nairobi.



**Dr. Djibril S. Dayamba**, a Senior Programme Officer, holds a PhD degree in Forest Biology, Ecology and Management from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Master of Sciences in Rural Development from Polytechnical University of Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. He has 10 years' post-doctoral experience in agro-sylvo-pastoral domains, environment and climate related issues. Before joining AFF, Djibril acted as West African Regional Senior Scientist and Climate Impact and Adaptation Expert for Climate Analytics (CA). Djibril also worked for World Agroforestry (ICRAF) as Postdoctoral Scientist on climate-smart agriculture and for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) as Research Assistant on land restoration and climate mitigation projects. He is also part of the national research system in Burkina Faso.

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