



# THE African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African Forestry

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## MoU between AFF and CILSS signed on Monday, September 12, 2011.



The African Forest Forum and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) have signed an MoU for “Mutual Agreement of Cooperation between AFF and CILSS in Support of Forestry Development and Environmental Conservation in the Sahel”.

The signing ceremony was held at “Maison des Aînés” in Bamako, Mali, during the celebration of the 26th CILSS day. The ceremony was chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mali. It was attended by 78 people from various Ministries and staff from the CILSS Secretariat, the Sahel Institute and the Agrhyment Regional Centre.

The two institutions share common goals and objectives with regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including conservation of Africa’s forest and tree resources. Both institutions have expressed desire to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations. Both the CILSS and AFF Executive Secretaries made short statements before they signed the documents in both the French and English languages. They also expressed willingness to engage their institutions in furthering this collaboration.

## AMCEN meeting held in Bamako, Mali

The 4th Special Session of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN): “Consolidating the Common Position and Strategy for Climate Change in Africa” was held in Bamako, Mali, from 12th to 16th September 2011.

This was composed of a Technical Committee session from 13 to 14 September 2011 and a Ministerial Segment from 15 to 16 September 2011 that was attended by over 50 African ministers responsible for environment matters. A meeting on International Environmental Governance (IEG) on 12 September 2011 preceded the technical and ministerial segments.

Many African countries and representatives from national, regional and international organizations attended this meeting which was opened by the Malian Minister of Natural Resources and Sanitation. A summary of the outcome from the AMCEN meeting can be found at: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/22176>

## AFF pays tribute to Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai



We believe many of you will by now have heard of the passing on of Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai, who needs no introduction to all who work with trees, forests, human rights and the poor. She stood tall for all this.

For us from the African region, we have never had a stronger champion for better care and management of trees and forests on the continent, and world over. Her untimely departure is therefore a great loss, not only to her family and friends, but to all humanity, and the trees and forests whose case she ably and fearlessly put forward.

As we join all who mourn her death and celebrate her life, let us get inspired by her great works. She demonstrated what a determined single human being can do for the environment and human well-being. Collectively we should be able to build on her achievements and what she stood for.

## African forest policies crowned best in world

African governance was praised at UN headquarters in New York when the winners of the 2011 Future Policy Award were announced. Rwanda's National Forest Policy was the gold winner of the 2011 Future Policy Award and The Gambia's Community Forest Policy took home a Silver Award.

The prize is awarded annually by the World Future Council, a foundation that brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. The jury which decided on the winning policies was composed of experts on sustainability and forests from all five continents.

These achievements give Africa something to smile about, especially the stakeholders in the African forestry sector. Even then, we should not be complacent with such achievements. We must soldier on boldly, in not only making good forest policies but also in implementing them well.

We congratulate Rwanda and The Gambia for raising very high the African forestry flag! These two countries have given Africa a very good reason to celebrate the International Year of Forests!

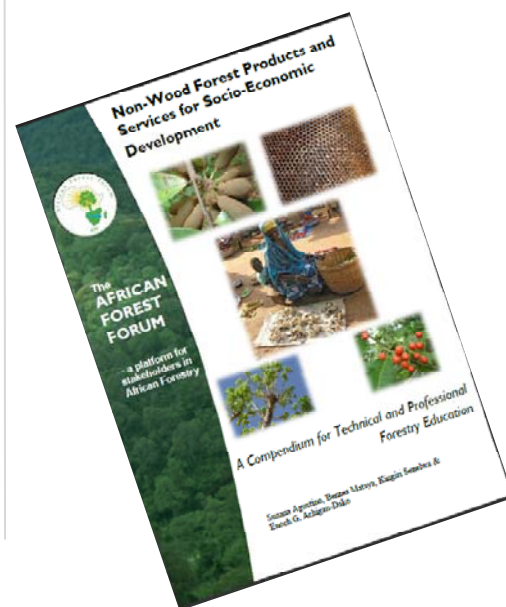
## AFF releases a new compendium on NWFP

Africa continues to have serious problems with generating new information and innovations in forestry, accessing externally available information, as well as with analyzing and adopting such information and innovation into practical forest management. A substantial amount of information on Non-Wood Forest Products and Services (NWFPs) is available in various sources and forms and are of varying scientific quality. The AFF explored how such information could be made of use by educational and training institutions for technical and professional education in forestry and related areas.

This gave rise to the preparation of the non-wood forest products and services compendium which aims at enabling students and other interested groups including government officials, producers, exporters, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes and other stakeholders to acquire knowledge, skills, and values in the identification, development, management, utilization and promotion of opportunities in NWFPs.

The compendium is not written as a paper for scientific journal publication, but as scientific information drawn from various sources and presented in a pedagogical manner to facilitate uptake of the same by students and their instructors. Information dispersed in various writings on the subject has been collated and systematically synthesised into chapters that focus on certain topics and in a sequence that facilitates the understanding of the industry of Non-Wood Forest Products and Services. Hopefully this compendium will provide incentives for others to write books that will address the needs of teachers and students on the same and similar issues.

The Compendium is available at: <http://www.afforum.org>



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Thank you.  
The Editors.

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