



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry

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AFF launches a new website

We are excited to announce that AFF home page has a new look. The new site is the result of the efforts of many people, from members of the AFF Secretariat to members of the various governing organs and the wider community of the Forum membership. Each of them shares in the success of the new site. The new site allows us to do a better job of telling the AFF story of making a difference in African forestry.

Drawing from feedback from the site's users, the navigational structure remains unchanged. We don't want people to have to do a lot of searching for what they are looking for. We know that they are already used to finding things in certain places on this website. The new look, while much improved in design, allows them comfort in the familiarity.

The new website features include an online profiler. This feature now makes it possible for one to apply online for membership to AFF. Members can easily login and update their profiles, thereby remaining in touch with the Forum at all times. Various statistics on our members are also on display for registered users. The site was built using more modern coding, and will allow for easier updates and future redesigns.

Our goal is to keep you informed about new developments, people, places and events that impact forestry and those who depend on forests in Africa in a more timely manner, and this improved online presence will help us do just that. We invite you to browse through its pages and, using the feedback tool on the home page, let us know what you think. The address is still www.afforum.org. Feel free to email us articles, photos and short stories about issues and challenges as well as opportunities and success stories related to African forestry.

African delegates prepare for the UNFF9

The African Forest Forum (AFF), with funding from Sida and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), organized a preparatory meeting of African delegates to the UNFF9 in Nairobi, Kenya, on December 14-15, 2010.

The meeting brought together 41 delegates from 29 countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African République, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinée Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, République de Guinée, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Representatives of the UNFF Secretariat, the African Union, the FAO Regional Office for Africa, COMIFAC and SADC as well as members of the AFF Technical Support Team to International and Regional Negotiations (TST) were also present.

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The meeting sought to discuss and form an African consensus on the draft agenda items for UNFF9; develop a common approach to the deliberations at UNFF9; as well as, build African capacity for international negotiations. The main outcomes of the meeting included a two page Declaration as well as positions from the plenary discussions on the various items of the different themes under the UNFF9 agenda.

You can download the full report from [here](#).

Republic of South Africa to host the XIV World Forestry Congress

“The first World Forestry Congress was held in Rome in 1926 and has generally taken place every six years since then. Gatherings serve as a forum for governments, universities, civil society and the private sector to exchange views and experiences and to formulate recommendations for implementation at national, regional and global levels. The Congress also provides an opportunity for the sector to produce an overview of the state of forests and forestry in order to discern trends, adapt policies and raise awareness of issues among decision-makers, the public and other parties concerned. Its functions are advisory, not executive, and participants attend the Congress in their personal capacity. The implementation of recommendations is a matter solely for those to whom they are addressed in light of their own particular circumstances - governments, international organizations, scientific bodies and forest owners, among others. The outcomes are brought to the attention of the FAO Conference which may consider endorsing, through a resolution, any declaration emanating from the Congress.” Source: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/en/>

The Republic of South Africa will host the XIV World Forestry Congress in 2015. The FAO Council selects the host country in accordance with established criteria.

External evaluation of AFF begins

The external review of Sida supported activities of the African Forest Forum began in January this year. The aim of the external evaluation to review progress against plans as contained in the project agreement signed between Sida and AFF, as well as assess if any major developments have taken place during the implementation period that could lead to the need for adjustments of the original plan.

Two senior professionals in forestry, one from Ghana and the other from Sweden, have been engaged to carry out the task. They each have over 35 years of professional experience in Africa. They are expected to have a draft report by April 2011.

EC meets in Nairobi

The AFF’s Executive Committee met for its Ninth Session, in Nairobi, Kenya, on the 9 and 10 November 2010. The meeting deliberated, among other things, on Plan of Work and Budget for 2011 and new SDC funding for the AFF. Other key issues discussed were reports from meeting with donors; links with key organisations such as UNEP and CILLS; as well as the ongoing AFF engagement in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

The EC also reviewed 57 new applications for membership to the Forum and made recommendations for consideration by the Governing Council that meets in March 2011.

AFF kick starts FLEGT for the Sahel

The African Forest Forum (AFF), in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Regional Office for West and Central Africa, organized a workshop on "Forest law enforcement, governance, and trade in the Sahel", on October 28-29, 2010, in Bamako, Mali.

The overall objective of the workshop was to facilitate the promotion of good forest governance in the region by integrating a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process into existing national and regional structures and thus enhance the contribution of forestry to social and economic development in the region. The workshop was attended by 27 participants representing Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

The workshop had plenary sessions in which eight presentations belonging to two themes, i.e., FLEGT, as well as climate change and forest-water relations, were presented. After the workshop participants were organized into three groups. The groups identified key issues and challenges; proposed strategies, solutions and actions; prioritized actions into short, medium, and long term; as well as identified key partner institutions for the implementation of the proposed actions.

This workshop is a follow-up to a workshop organized by a project on "Sustainable Forest Management in Africa-SFMII" and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Regional Office for West and Central Africa on "Lessons and the way forward with sustainable forest management in the Sahel", that was implemented on November 14-16, 2007 in Bamako, Mali. The AFF has followed up on some of the recommendations of that workshop.

Please click [here](#) for report on this workshop.

Upcoming events

9th Session of the UN Forum on Forests and Launch of the International Year of Forests will take place 24 January - 4 February 2011, at the United Nations, New York, USA. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

For more information go to <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

7th Session of the AFF Governing Council: will take place 1-3 March 2011 in Mombasa, Kenya. The 7th Session, among others, will consider and approve the Work Plan and Budget for 2011, the Audit Report for 2010, the Annual Report for 2010, as well as key partnerships and collaborations. The Governing Council will also consider close to 100 new applications for membership to the Forum.

18th Session African Forestry and Wildlife Commission: Created in 1959, the African Forestry Wildlife Commission (AFWC) is one of six Regional Forestry Commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues on a regional basis. It meets every two years. The 18th Session will be held in Benin, Cotonou, 31 January– 4 February 2012.

For more information contact: Regional Office for Africa (foday.bojang@fao.org)

This newsletter is a mechanism for distribution and exchange of information relevant to forestry to a broad audience within and outside Africa. It is being sent to you as AFF's stakeholder. We want to respect your privacy and desire not to have your e-mail inbox filled with unwanted correspondence. If you do not want to receive this newsletter please send us a note at <exec.sec@afforum.org>, and we will remove your name from the distribution list.

If you wish to submit a story or an item for this newsletter, please email: g.kowero@cgiar.org. Thank you. The Editors.