



BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN AFRICAN FORESTS THROUGH THE PARIS AGREEMENT

MEDIA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

06 – 08 September 2021 | Anglophone Africa | via Zoom

Media Roundtable Purpose and Overview

Introduction

The African Forest Forum (AFF) is a pan-African non-governmental organization with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is an association of individuals who share the quest for and commitment to the sustainable management, use and conservation of the forest and tree resources of Africa for the socio-economic wellbeing of its people and for the stability and improvement of its environment. The purpose of AFF is to provide a platform and create an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant policy and technical issues pertaining to achieving sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources as part of efforts to reduce poverty, promote gender equality, economic and social development, and protect the environment.

In the efforts to enhance national forest governance to respond to the Paris Agreement and related global climate change policies and initiatives related to forestry, AFF undertook studies that analyzed national capacity and generated knowledge that could guide how to improve forest governance processes in ways that cultivate better responses to climate change impacts on the continent.

Moreover, in efforts to building resilience to adverse climate change impacts for local communities in African drylands, AFF in collaboration with the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA) undertook studies that analysed the state of production, trade and marketing in gums and resins and also assessed the resources potential in selected sites in producing countries. The findings from these studies provide up to date information on the existing capacity in Africa to improve the production, processing and trade through development of gums and resins value chains as avenues for improving livelihoods, national incomes and the environment, all of this in the context of developing climate change resilience opportunities and approaches for vulnerable communities.

AFF is therefore organizing sub-regional webinars for Anglophone and Francophone African countries in order to share the findings from these studies as well as other information, knowledge and experiences that the institution gathered in 2020/21. These webinars target African stakeholders working on climate change, forestry and related issues.

It is expected that the webinars will provide an opportunity for AFF and its stakeholders to :

- (i) develop a forum or a mechanism for further dialogue that could improve collaboration and sharing experiences in the African continent on climate change and related sustainable forest management (SFM) issues;
- (ii) deliberate on findings from the studies, and more specifically on how to use the study results as evidence to support formulation/improvement of policies and their implementation; this could cultivate interest in, and better inform investors to the forestry sector;
- (iii) strengthen exchange of information amongst stakeholders who participate in and implement decisions from various forestry related processes like those under the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and
- (iv) promote and facilitate the development of relevant policy and institutional frameworks that could enhance the uptake of forest related adaptation and mitigation mechanisms in Africa, as a means for improving forest governance

in the climate change context.

In order to facilitate a wider exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences on these issues and better profiling of the forest sector in a climate changing environment, AFF has associated to the regional webinars a round table discussions with representatives of African media, selected experts and partners who contributed to the above studies.

Overall objective

The overall objective of the media roundtable discussions is to strengthen the capacity of science reporters to better understand and effectively report on how African countries are handling climate change impacts on the forestry sector and people that depend on it.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the media roundtable discussions are to:

1. Improve the understanding of media professionals on the link between climate change and forestry in Africa, and other issues related to how African forestry stakeholders digest and mainstream decision and agreements from international discourses in their national forestry instruments as a way of increasing accuracy in reporting.
2. Share widely results obtained by AFF and NGARA during the last two years on their work on the role of gums and resins sector to respond to impacts of climate change and specifically for people who depend on it.
3. Cultivate personal relationships between webinar participants and the media outlets in order to increase reach to all audiences.
4. Enable key media to move the conversation to another level, from the need for improved forest governance to the need for environmental, systems and policy change.
5. Build a pool of journalists dedicated to effective coverage of forestry and climate change in Africa.

Discussion format

The format of the media roundtable discussions will be based on questions prepared in advance and provided to the panel of experts. The topics will be based on the two thematic areas of the regional webinar namely: (i) Enhancing national forest governance responses to the Paris Agreement; and (ii) Development of gums and resins sector for climate resilient communities.

Participants

The media roundtables will include 8-10 participants representing a diverse group of media outlets (print, local broadcast news, radio, scientific publications) and influential bloggers. In order to have a thought-provoking conversation among the panelists and media, a private zoom link will be shared ahead of time for the roundtables. A media participant given the floor by the Chairperson will address the meeting in his or her personal capacity and not on behalf of a country or organisation. However, participants can usefully draw upon the experiences of their respective countries during the discussions. The media participants will also be expected to provide feedback to the plenary on 8 September 2021 on:

- (1) *What should be the way forward based on the lessons learned?*
- (2) *What can media do differently and better?*

Event Structure and Agenda

Monday, 6 September 2021 | 16:00 – 17:30 East African Time (EAT)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
15:45-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual connection to the Zoom event 	Media participants, experts and moderator
16:00-16:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions General expectations and objectives of the roundtable 	D. Gitonga
16:10-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating knowledge and sharing information on forestry related climate change issues in Africa: the AFF experience. 	G. Kowero
16:30-16:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key and emerging issues on national forest governance response to the Paris Agreement and related policies and initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successes, failures, obstacles, potential facilitating factors 	C. Dlamini
16:50-17:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q & A session 	Media, C. Dlamini, P. Chirwa, B. Chikamai
17:25-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks 	M. Avana

Tuesday, 7 September 2021 | 16:00 – 17:30 East African Time (EAT)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
15:45-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual connection to the Zoom event 	Media participants, experts and moderator
16:00-16:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions General expectations and objectives of the roundtable 	D. Gitonga
16:10-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTFP contribution to community resilience to climate change 	M. Avana
16:30-16:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key and emerging issues on gums and resins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successes, failures, obstacles, potential facilitating factors 	B. Chikamai
16:50-17:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q & A session 	Media, B. Chikamai, R. Ng'ethe, S. Kiama, B. Mbilinyi
17:25-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks 	G. Kowero

Zoom links

Monday, 6 September 2021 | 16:00 PM EAT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95606951959?pwd=emljQjBwUHNfZzBCZk1HVWVWa2RtUT09>

Meeting ID: 956 0695 1959

Passcode: 059016

Tuesday, 7 September 2021 | 16:00 PM EAT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99988066283?pwd=aDJKYTduMEIDajVDSGgycHloekQ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 999 8806 6283

Passcode: 865039

Speaker bios



Prof. Godwin Kowero

Executive Secretary – CEO, African Forest Forum

Prof. Godwin Kowero, the Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum, is a Tanzanian professor of forest economics and policy analysis. He holds a Ph.D. with specialization in these areas, and also an Honorary Doctorate Degree (Doctor Honoris Causa) from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and also of the Tanzania Academy of Sciences.

He has considerable experience in teaching in several universities in Tanzania (University of Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture), Kenya (Moi University) and Mozambique (Eduardo Mondlane University). He has also had ten years of international research in forestry with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), for which he was its Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa for 7 years. He has over 80 peer reviewed publications, including chapters in books, and books.

He guided the establishment of the African Forest Forum (AFF) in 2006 and has since been its Executive Secretary. AFF is a pan-African forestry institution based in Nairobi, Kenya that provides a platform for sharing information and expertise and create an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant policy and technical issues pertaining to achieving sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources as part of efforts to reduce poverty, promote economic and social development and protect the environment.

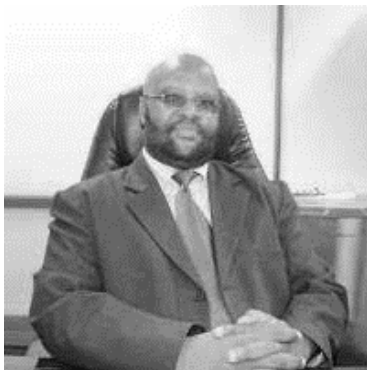


Marie-Louise Avana- Tientcheu
Senior Programme Officer, African Forest Forum

Marie-Louise Avana- Tientcheu is an associate Professor of agroforestry and social forestry at the Department of Forestry, faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences, of the University of Dschang. She holds a PhD in Agroforestry and Plant Biotechnology, specialised in tree domestication of the University of Yaoundé 1 in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

She was previously the Director of Studies and Lecturers Affairs, University of Dschang-Director of the Regional Centre for Specialised Studies in Agriculture (CRESA), Forest and Wood in Yaoundé-Cameroon, Coordinator of the International Master curricula in Agroforestry at the Department of Forestry/Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences and the Erasmus Mundus Master Courses Tropimundo and also vice-chair of ANAFE Board Cameroun.

As an academic staff of the Department of forestry at the University of Dschang, she teaches and supervises students in tree/agroforestry systems products and services, Agrobiodiversity, tree seeds physiology and vegetative propagation, domestication of indigenous trees producing high value Non timber Forest products; her research interest cover the domain of tree species. Since 2018, she is a Senior Programme Officer at AFF. Marie-Louise is always jovial and highly sociable. She always dreamed to make people happy and be proud of her!



Dr Cliff Dlamini
Executive Director of the Center for Coordination of
Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
(CCARDESA)

Dr Cliff Dlamini holds a PhD in Forestry, MSc in Forest Genetics and tree improvement, BSc Hons in Forest Science and a BSc in Agriculture. He also holds a Masters in Development Finance and a Master of Philosophy in Environmental Law and currently pursuing an MSc in Sustainable Development and finalizing an Executive MBA. He has contributed to AFF work on

development of training modules on forest-based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading and payment for environmental. He also led the development of AFF training modules on sustainable forest management, forest governance and trade. He has a broad knowledge on forestry and other emerging areas. He has published widely and undertaken various consultancies in forestry, policy, governance, mainstreaming of multilateral environmental agreements among others.



Dr. Ben Chikamai

Executive Secretary, The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA)

Dr. Chikamai was the Director of Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) from 2009 until 2018. He was a Regional Coordinator of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) in Africa from March 2005 to December 2017 and Board member of the International Union of the Forestry Research Organisation (IUFRO) and Liaison Officer for Africa from August 2010 to September 2019. He has extensive working experience in forestry utilisation, forestry and natural resources management, and research management and networking in research and development.

He is also the current Executive Secretary of The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA) and , member of the Advisory Board Regional Coordinator of the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) in representing Africa, and the Coordinator for the Association of Forestry Research Institutions in Eastern Africa (AFREA). Ben received the Head of State Commendation Award in 1996 for his contribution to the development of gum arabic and plant resins sub-sector in Kenya. He was also awarded a certificate of merit for Innovative Scientific Research and Development of KEFRI in 1990, in recognition of his contribution in the areas of biomass energy and production of laminated items.

He has extensive experience in leadership and research management having published over 70 publications in peer reviewed journals, books and book chapters



Robinson Ng'ethe

Robinson has over 35 years of experience in public policy analysis and investment in forestry and natural resource management within the framework of public policies aligned to poverty reduction. He is knowledgeable on monitoring and evaluation, environmental impact and social assessment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, economic analysis of payment for environment services, among others. He has worked with Government and the private sector in Kenya on different programmes supported by development partners and the World Bank.

He has excellent analytical, planning, economic analysis and organizing skills experience in large programs, projects and diverse teams in East Africa and the Great Horn of Africa regions. He has been at the forefront on REDD+ issues specifically in mitigating climate change and adaptation. He has been involved in several projects in the region on maintaining and managing forest ecosystems that essentially contribute to increased resilience to climate change. He has good knowledge on use and application of data analysis tools, methods of data analysis, GIS and remote sensing techniques. He has also working experience in Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somali, Rwanda, Burundi and Madagascar.

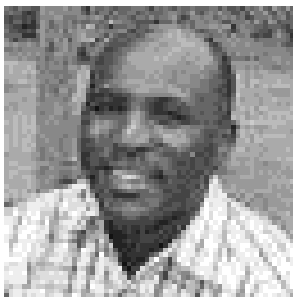


Mr Stephen Maina Kiama

Research Scientist, Kenya Forestry Research Institute

Mr. Stephen Maina Kiama is a Research Scientist at Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) with specific focus on applied GIS & Remote Sensing in land cover/land use mapping and change detection, resource assessment, and monitoring vegetation condition among others. He has a training in Natural Resource Management and Geo-information Science and Earth Observation, GIS/Remote Sensing Rural.

He has wide research experience in natural resources management, GIS and Remote Sensing. He has undertaken various consultancy services on GIS and remote sensing in forestry sector and other allied natural resources. He is a member of various professional associations.



Prof. Boniface Peter Mbilinyi

Associate Professor, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

Prof. Boniface Peter Mbilinyi is an Associate Professor, at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). He holds a PhD in Natural Resource Assessment, Rural and Land Ecology Survey and Agricultural Engineering. He has wide teaching and research experience GIS and Remote Sensing courses.

He has undertaken extensive research and consultancies on resources assessment, developing tools and methods for mapping land use-land cover in Tanzania and published on the same and other areas of research. He has also undertaken mapping of current and future vulnerability for the agriculture, water, transport, and terrestrial sectors in East Africa with a detailed analysis on the Lake Victoria Basin. He is a member of various professional associations.



Prof. Paxie Chirwa

University of Pretoria

Professor Paxie Wanangwa Chirwa is the Director of the Forest Science Postgraduate Programme in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria. His research focus areas include socio-ecological systems in forests; resource use in agroforestry; social or community forestry; climate change with focus on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF).

His research group works on a range of projects in South Africa and the miombo dry forest and woodlands of southern Africa. The research aims to understand the link between people and natural resource use and management, and interventions that will successfully promote sustainable forest management. He has published widely and is a reviewer of internationally recognized journals. He has also guest edited special issues for the International Forestry Review, Agroforestry Systems and Southern Forest: A Journal of Forest Science.

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