



BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN AFRICAN FORESTS THROUGH THE PARIS AGREEMENT

MEDIA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

August 30 to September 1, 2021 | Francophone 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 adverse 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 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 adverse 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 10 to 12 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 roundtables will be conducted in English language with simultaneous interpretation provided in French

The media participants will also be expected to provide feedback to the plenary on 1 September 2021 on: (1) *What should be the way forward based on the lessons learned?* and (2) *What can media do differently and better?*

Event Structure and Agenda

Monday, 30 August 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
16:10-16:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating knowledge and sharing information on forestry related climate change issues in Africa: the AFF experience. 	G. Kowero
16:25-16:45	<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 	L. Mahamane
16:45-17:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q & A session 	Media, Elvis Ngwa, K. Fobissie, L. Mahamane, B. Chikamai
17:25-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks 	M. Avana

Tuesday, 31 August 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
16:10-16:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTFP contribution to community resilience to climate change 	M. Avana
16:25-16:45	<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
16:45-17:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q & A session 	Media, M. Abdou, Zerbo Patrice, B. Chikamai, Dimobe Kangbeni, L. Mahamane
17:25-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding remarks 	G. Kowero

Zoom links

Monday, 30 August 2021 | 16:00 PM East African Time (EAT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91337697879?pwd=cUFaakkxSkNVLzhGdCtWVXBtRS8vQT09>

Meeting ID: 913 3769 7879

Passcode: 567833

Tuesday, 31 August 2021 | 16:00 PM East African Time (EAT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92752886334?pwd=Yk53T1ZWa1BodVdlZFYyZjRzY0NYUT09>

Meeting ID: 927 5288 6334

Passcode: 437934

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.

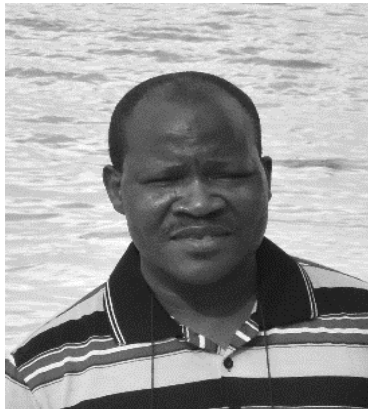


Marie-Louise Avana- Tientcheu
Senior Programme Officer, African Forest Forum

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!



Prof Larwanou Mahamane
Forest Ecology/Agroforestry and climate change specialist

A Senior Scientist in climate-smart agriculture and Professor of Forest Ecology and Agroforestry of CAMES, with over 25 years of experience in research, program management, and rural development in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa, including in the areas of forestry, agroforestry, biodiversity, water and lands, climate change and environment. Larwanou holds a Ph. D in Plant Biology and Ecology at the University of Niamey and has extensive experience in research analysis, project identification and coordination, strategy and policy

formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation in strategic development.

He worked in a senior management role and gained a lot of know-how with technical management of projects, including resource mobilization and development programs. Most of his work in the past was on ensuring smooth coordination, negotiations, designing policies and strategies on natural resources, climate change and rural development in an African context.

Larwanou is now a Professor of forest ecology and agroforestry at University Abdou Moumouni in Niamey. He worked for 10 years as head of programs management unit at the African Forest Forum in Nairobi, Kenya and as Senior Scientist at the International Crops

Research Institute for the Semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT) in Niamey, Niger and at the National Institute for agricultural research of Niger (INRAN) as scientist. Larwanou has published more than several scientific papers in international journals and is a member of several scientific management committees in Africa. He is fluent in writing, reading and speaking in both French and English.



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



Mr. Abdou Maisharou

Director General, National Agency for the Great Green Wall of Niger

Maisharou Abdou is a Water and Forestry Engineer, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management, and a Master of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management: Forest Pathology and Entomology from the Federal University of Ibadan in Nigeria. He has climbed several positions in the Water and Forests Administration in Niger since 1996. First as Head of Forestry and Land Restoration, Head of Restoration and Reforestation Division, and Head of the National Forest Seed Center of Niger, before being appointed Deputy

Coordinator, at the National Coordination Unit of the Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Observatory Network (ROSELT-Niger), a desertification observation and monitoring project of the Ministry of the Environment and Fight Against Desertification at a closing phase. A strategic study was carried out under his supervision to replace the project structure in the national structure named the National

Center for Ecological and Environmental Monitoring. Mr. Maisharou had also coordinated several projects on the restoration of degraded lands and fight against desertification, and the valuation of non-timber forest products, which gave him consistent expertise in Sustainable land management and conservation and in the field of valuation of Non-Wood forest products. especially Gum Arabic. Maisharou Abdou is the Director General of the National Agency of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Niger since 2015. He was decorated Commander on the Niger National Order of Merit since 2017.



Dr. Dieudonne Alemagi
Senior Manager, FOKABS

Dr. Alemagi holds a Ph. D in Environmental and Resource Management from Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, Germany. During his career, he has published more than 50 publications including journal articles, book chapters, policy briefs, and reports in the area of forest policy as well climate change mitigation and adaptation in Cameroon and the Congo Basin.

His papers have appeared in international journals such as Climate Policy, Energy Policy, Forest Policy and Economics, Land Use Policy, Resources Policy, among others. He has held a number of high-profile positions including, Climate Change and Policy Associate Scientist at the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). At ICRAF, he conducted research in the areas of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+), sustainable forest management, and biodiversity conservation in Central Africa. From 2008 – 2011, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. During the course of his career, Dr. Alemagi has provided consultancy services to international organizations like the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), National Resources Canada, and the Environmental Management and Poverty Alleviation. Dr. Alemagi joined FOKABS in May 2017.



Prof Kalame Fobissie
CEO, FOKABS

Fobissie is the founder and CEO of Fokabs. He provides strategic leadership to the company. Before founding Fokabs, Fobissie worked in Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia as a climate change expert with the University of Helsinki-Finland, WWF and CIFOR. He has provided climate change advisory services to the World Bank, AfDB, GCF, UN (UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNFF, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, IOM) and others.

He has published extensively and worked in more than 60 countries on climate change. During the drafting of the Paris Climate Agreement and its implementation rules, he led some of the negotiations for Africa. Fobissie is a Professor at the School of International Development, University of Ottawa-Canada, and a Professor of Tropical Forest Management, University of Helsinki-Finland. He holds a PhD in Agriculture, Forestry and Climate Change, and a Master degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Helsinki. He completed his Executive MBA at the Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa, Canada.



Ngwa Elvis Suh Akongnwi

Manager, FOKABS

Elvis is a Natural Resource and Climate Change Expert and holds a Master of Science (M.Sc) Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Buea, Cameroon. He is a Doctoral Student in Environmental Engineering and currently leads the Roadmap to Deforestation-Free Cocoa Process in Cameroon, an initiative which seeks to promote climate-smart agriculture, social inclusion, forest protection and contributes to NDC emission reduction ambitions of Cameroon.

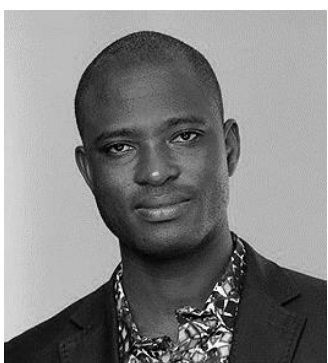


Prof. Zerbo Patrice

Lecturer and research scientist, Joseph Ki-Zerbo University

Prof. Zerbo Patrice is a lecturer and research scientist with the University of Ouagadougou. Patrice has sixteen years research experience on value chains and indigenous forest plants species uses, conservation and focusing on broad areas of botany, ethnobotany, plant ecology and biodiversity, among others.

His experience is built on several research studies undertaken on non-timber forest products value chains, sustainable management and contribution to adapt to adverse effect of climate change, focusing on medicinal plants, wild fruits and cosmetic plants in Burkina Faso, all of which included plant inventory to assess the resource base. He therefore participated in many forest inventory activities including the latest national forest inventory in 2016 and the Biological Diversity Monograph in 2017. Prof. Zerbo also interacts with a network of university's laboratories and research centers nationally and internationally that will ease the acquisition of reliable data to update information on the status of gums and resins in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries. He has published widely peer refereed articles, technical and consultation reports as well as proceedings on areas relevant to the current call.



Dr. Kangbéni Dimobe,

Lecturer and-researcher, University of Dédougou

Dr. Dimobe is a conservation biologist with special interest in the application of GIS and Remote Sensing techniques in natural resource management. His background is Botanist, with an Msc in Botany and a PhD in Botany and Plant Ecology. Since January 2019, he is a lecturer at the University of Dédougou (Burkina Faso). He previously worked for the Competence Center of WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) as Associate Researcher from June 2017 to March 2020.

He has 11 years' experience in international research projects as he has been involved in several projects such as WASCAL Core Research Program 2.7, RIPIECSA and WorldBank project on Disaster Risk Reduction in ECOWAS countries. His research interest spans across the fields of forest ecology, Natural resources management, climate change, Biogeography, Conservation, Forest estimation, Biomass modelling, Ecosystem services and Functional

ecology. His research activities have led to 41 peer-review articles, of which more than twenty of them are in impact factor journals (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=E044AWgAAAAJ&hl=fr>) .

He has also attended 10 international conferences and have been awarded eight prestigious research grants and prize. In 2020, he has been awarded the African-German Network of Excellence in Science (AGNES) Grant for Junior Researchers. He is member of five scholars' society (IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, South African Association of Botanists, American Geophysical Union).

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