



Overview of Achievements (2017-2022)

- I. Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa**
Project Duration: 2017 – 2019

- II. Strengthening management and use of forest ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa**
Project Duration: 2019 – 2023

**Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
(Sida)**

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Acronyms

AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AFF	African Forest Forum
AUC	African Union Commission
CARDDESA	The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ECOWAS	Economic Commission for West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FORNESSA	Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GHGS	Green House Gases
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KM	Knowledge Management
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
NGARA	Network of Gums and Resins in Africa
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Products
PA	The Paris Agreement
PFAEA	Professional Forestry Association for Eastern Africa
PMER	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSAC	Project Steering & Advisory Committee
REC	Regional Economic Communities
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
R&D institutions	Research and Development Institutions
SADC	The Southern African Development Community
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TST	Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry
WFC	World Forestry Congress

1. Introduction

Africa has an estimated 636 million hectares under various forms of forests, with the area under natural forest estimated at 625 million ha and that of planted forest at 11 million ha. This forest estate covers 20.6 % of the continent's land area and 16 percent of the world's forest-cover (FAO, 2020). The forests range from evergreen rainforests in Central Africa to the extensive woodlands and dry forests of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Sahel. Africa's forests are highly diverse. They include a number of internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots that carry a wide variety of fauna and flora; and are home to some of the largest wildlife reserves in the world, such as the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania which covers an area of over 50 000 km². The extensiveness and richness of these resources are rivaled only by those of Latin America. Further, these diverse forests also include protected areas for cultural and ritual significance (initiation, sacrifices, religious practices, etc.) to local communities and indigenous people.

The African forest cover has been declining at a rate of 3.9 million hectares per year from 2010 to 2020 (FAO, 2020); a rate that is much higher than that of other regions in the world. This is attributed to the two key challenges facing forests namely deforestation and forest degradation that impact on the capacity of forest ecosystems to supply goods and services. Four out of 10 countries globally that recorded the largest annual net losses in forest area between 2010 and 2020 were in Africa namely; Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique and the DR Congo (FAO, 2020). This decline is negatively affecting the sources of livelihoods of forest dependent communities in terms of access of wood fuel (firewood, charcoal), timber products (construction poles, posts, etc.), non-timber forest products-NTFPs (medicine, gums and resins, fruits, mushrooms etc.) and provision of broad-based ecosystem services.

The direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation are a) agricultural expansion for commercial and subsistence purposes; b) wood extraction; and c) infrastructure expansion, including mining and urban expansion. The indirect drivers are fundamental social processes, such as human population dynamics or agricultural policies that underpin the direct drivers. Climate change also affects the productivity of forest ecosystems.

In responding to effects of deforestation and forest degradation AFF seeks to contribute to the strengthening of sustainable forest management on the African continent by carefully exploiting the opportunities these resources present to the socio-economic development of the well-being of the people and nations in the continent as well as protecting the environment. And this should be done without compromising on the sustainable supply of forest products and other ecosystem services. Essentially this is about how to best relate people and their needs to the forests in ways that the forests are not destroyed, their capacity is enhanced as well as for global policy processes, and the delivery of all its products and services is sustainable. This approach guided the execution of the Sida supported project *Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa* that was implemented from 2014 to 2019. This report covers achievements realised by the project between January 2017 and August 2019.

In the follow up to the project AFF sustained efforts and momentum to influence and facilitate organizations (governmental and non-governmental) and individual stakeholders to take actions that lead to improved forest management in ways that would eventually strengthen sustainable development in Africa. This is being done through promoting socially inclusive approaches and measures for protecting, planning and sustainably managing the forest resource, and supply of ecosystem goods and services on the continent, catalysing research and development on the relationship between climate change and forests, trees, forest ecosystems, and people to strengthen and deepen understanding on the relationship, and on renewable bio-based energy options dynamics. The project approach also includes facilitating capacity development of African stakeholders on forest

planning and management, on climate change resilience, and on participating in and addressing concerns from global forest related discourses; in addition to strengthening mechanisms for knowledge brokerage to broader constituencies of influence, as well as monitoring, evaluation and reporting on impacts of project outcomes for organizational history and learning. This approach is guiding the execution of the follow up Sida supported project namely *Strengthening management and use of forest ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa* being implemented from September 2019 to August 2023. This report covers achievements realised by the project between September 2019 and June 2022.

2. Projects Implementation

2.1 Projects coordination:

The projects are executed by the Secretariat of the African Forest Forum through project management staff including a Senior Programme Officer/Programme Manager, a Senior Programme Officer and a Programme Officer who are responsible for managing the daily activities of the project. The Knowledge Management, Communications, and the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting specialists, and the Administrative Officer and Finance Officer also contribute to the implementation of the project. The governance of the project is facilitated by a Project Steering & Advisory Committee (PSAC) which provides strategic guidance, scientific quality assurance, as well as financial oversight, ensuring that project implementation stays on course.

In executing the projects, AFF seeks to influence and facilitate organizations and individual stakeholders to take actions that lead to forestry improvement that contributes to poverty alleviation and protection of the environment. This is done through convening, advocacy, partnerships, knowledge brokerage, facilitating capacity development, and catalysing research and development which support sustainable forestry and tree resources management.

2.2 Project Budget

The total budget was Swedish Kroner 48 million for the project *Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa*, and Swedish Kroner 42 million for the project *Strengthening management and use of forest ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa* through grants provided by the Government of Sweden

2.3 Partnerships:

AFF has created strategic partnerships that are crucial to the successful implementation of the projects and sustainability of the project activities. The partnerships bring together complementary resources, expertise and skills, and provide the opportunity to harness different organisations' competence and comparative advantages for the benefit of a common vision.

To this end the project explores synergies with the SDC supported project "*African forests, people and climate change*", through joint activities and co-financing of workshops and experts studies that complement both projects.

During 2017 to 2019 AFF signed MOUs with 6 African universities to undertake research on various issues on forestry. These universities include: University of Stellenbosch in South Africa; University of Buea in the Republic of Cameroon; Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources in Ethiopia and; Egerton University in Kenya, Moshi Cooperative University, Tanzania, and University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Further, during the period AFF engaged various international, regional and national organisations in organizing sub-regional workshops and capacity building events convened and co-financed by the project. The organisations include Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), African Union Commission (AUC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Network for Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA), Forest Society of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), the Government of Niger, University of Lomé, Forest Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), and Centre for Sustainable Development- University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

During 2020 – 2022 AFF signed MOUs with thirteen additional universities. These universities include Pan African University, housed at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, Alassane Ouattara in Côte d'Ivoire, Université D'Abomey-Calavi in Benin, Université de Yaoundé in Cameroon, Université Marien Nguabi in Republic of Congo, Université Nazi Boni in Burkina Faso, University of Dschang in Cameroon, University of Parakou in Benin, University of Zambia in Zambia, l'Université Ouaga 1 Professeur Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Burkina Faso, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State in Nigeria, Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi in Niger, and Université de Lomé in Togo

Further, during the period AFF engaged various international, regional and national organisations in organizing sub-regional workshops and capacity building events convened and co-financed by the project. The organisations include African Development Bank, UNFF, COMIFAC, FAO, IUFRO, SLU, University of Freiberg, Austria, WFC, AUC, UNCCD.

3. Projects achievements

This report is on work that has been done from January 2017 to mid-2022 i.e. about five years. During this period the Secretariat executed two Sida grants entitled *Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa* over the period January 2017 to August 2019, this project concluded in August 2019; and *Strengthening management and use of forest ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa* over the period September 2019 to June 2022.

The achievements made in this period are highlighted in the following sections in terms of outcomes. The respective outputs are presented in detailed project reports already shared. In addition, there are two other documents that address achievements of this programme. One document demonstrates how the information from this work has been shared, and the second document shows how these outputs have been taken up by various stakeholders and how they are being used. So this report will confine itself to only presenting the outputs and outcomes for the two grants while their sharing, uptake and use will be presented separately.

4. STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA PROJECT DURATION: 2017 – 2019

4.1 Project objectives

The overall project objective was: *“to generate and share knowledge and information through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into policy options and capacity building for improved forest management that better address poverty eradication and environmental protection in Africa”*.

The operationalization of the overall objective was guided by six specific objectives, namely:

1. To facilitate the emergence of strong partnership platforms through which stakeholders identify challenges related to sustainable management of forest and tree resources and co-create solutions.

2. To facilitate the collation, synthesis, provision of access to, exchange and management of critical information and knowledge demanded by stakeholders in African forestry for forest compatible development.
3. To catalyse efforts to enhance sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to adverse effects of climate change, and up-scale promising approaches that support livelihoods.
4. To facilitate the formulation and harmonization of evidence-based policies, regulations and governance mechanisms to strengthen public and private institutions to effectively support SFM and transparent trade.
5. To enhance capacity of institutions and individuals – including farmers and farmer organizations, and other private sector actors, professional organisations, and public-sector organizations - to achieve forest compatible development.
6. To strengthen participation in regional and international debates, and negotiations related to forestry and enhance informed country adoption and implementation of international and regional forest and related agreements.

4.2 Key results on project outcomes, outputs per component:

The project had six components, six objectives and six outcomes. During 2017 to August 2019 the project achieved the following:

Component 1: Partnership platform

Outcome 1: Institutional change enhanced through an effective partnership platform for catalysing institutional innovation. This outcome anticipated the establishment and operationalisation of innovative institutions at regional and sub-regional levels that could function as platforms for mobilizing strategic stakeholder thinking and activities towards problem solving for priority forestry issues in Africa. Key achievements include:

1. Professionalism and ethics in the forestry sector better addressed in the ECOWAS sub-region by a forest products association *Association sous-regionale sur le commerce des produits forestiers* established through the project's work on forest law enforcement, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products (FLEGT).
2. A WhatsApp group for private sector actors in forestry entitled *AFF Private Sector Forum* established and operational for sharing public private partnerships (PPP) strategies, knowledge and experiences at global, sub-regional and national levels.
3. Four declarations, and statements developed by the project as a result of various convenings and platforms organised by the project. These include:
 - a. *Common position* made in Nairobi, Kenya during the preparatory meeting of the African delegates to Twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-12) held in New York, United States of America from 01 – 05 May 2017.
 - b. *The Common position for the Thirteenth Session*, developed by AFF's Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry (TST) and accepted by African delegates (African Group). This document was key to guiding Africa's input to the discussions during UNFF13 held in New York, USA from 07-11 May 2018.
 - c. *Outcome statement* to establish a network of trained tree seed managers to exchange ideas, information, technologies on best practice to safeguard sustainable production of quality tree planting materials for more successful afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration programs in Eastern and Southern African countries
 - d. *Outcome statement* to establish a network of trained tree seed managers to exchange ideas, information, technologies on best practice to safeguard sustainable production of quality tree planting materials for more successful afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration programs in West and Central African countries

4. A total of 2 regional moderators and facilitators trained, and their capacities strengthened through the platform convenings.

Component 2: Knowledge Management

Outcome 2: Access to information and knowledge, enhanced evidence-based policy formulation, and increased awareness of the contribution of forest resources. This outcome anticipated increased access by forest stakeholders to relevant and timely critical information and knowledge demanded by stakeholders to influence: a) policy making at continental, regional and national levels; b) investment decisions; and c) capacity building.

Key achievements include:

1. Eighteen knowledge products on analysis of eight SFM themes were produced by experts, and disseminated to over 500 stakeholders from 33 African countries through 7 interactive face to face forums and 7 capacity building workshops. The themes include: green economy; forest products utilisation and private sector in forestry; provision of quality tree germplasm; forests and tree pests and diseases; forest governance, law enforcement and fair trade; forest certification; multilateral environmental agreements and processes and transboundary forestry resources.
2. Nine journal papers on the above themes produced through a special issue of the *African journal of Rural Development* disseminated to the academic and research communities through academic journal outlets.
3. Three book chapters prepared on tree germplasm; forests pests and diseases; and forest certification produced for the *Status report for forestry in Africa: Challenges and opportunities* and disseminated to over 100 forestry stakeholders at its launch on 22 May 2019 as part of AFF's 10th Anniversary celebration.
1. Stakeholders in forestry including governments, scientists, and civil societies in over 100 countries worldwide are improving their understanding on various forestry issues by accessing new and up to date information availed through the AFF website. Details on the uptake and impact of the work are presented in a separate report on knowledge management and communications and planning monitoring evaluation and reporting.

Component 3: Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihoods

Outcome 3: African forestry institutions are catalysed to take actions that address SFM and its interface with sustainable livelihoods and environment. This outcome anticipated availability of technical advice to African institutions on scientifically proven approaches and mechanisms to catalyze efforts to enhance sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to adverse effects of climate change, and up-scale promising approaches that support livelihoods. Development of livelihoods-based models are crucial.

Key achievements include:

Capacities of five postgraduate students (five PhD) in five African universities strengthened through joint research work undertaken between AFF and the universities under Land Use Land Use Change and Forests (LULUCF) postgraduate fellowships granted by the project. In-depth studies have been undertaken to understand changes in land use changes in relation to livelihoods (with gender considerations) and the environment. Five PhD theses were successfully defended, and students graduated. Five journal papers were published by the students. The studies were on:

1. Assessment of the effects of forest fragmentation on forest cover dynamics, tree species diversity and carbon stock in Taita hills, Kenya, Egerton University, Kenya
2. Valeurs écologiques et économiques des écosystèmes de la Réserve de Faune du Dja sous l'influence des effets anthropiques, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon.

3. Management of shifting cultivation and its implications for biodiversity, biomass and soil carbon: the case of East Wollega, Ethiopia, Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hawasa University, Ethiopia
4. The role of co-operatives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing sinks through land use, land-use change and forestry in Tanzania, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania through its constituent college Moshi Cooperative University.
5. Land-use and land-cover change and carbon stock estimation in the Copperbelt miombo woodland of Zambia, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa.

Component 4: Policy and FLEGT

Outcome 4: African countries use evidence to review and/or develop forest policies and governance structures that support sustainable management of forest and tree resources, and facilitates transparent trade This outcome anticipated the formulation and harmonisation of evidence-based policies, regulations and governance mechanisms to strengthen public and private institutions to effectively support SFM and transparent trade.

Key achievements include:

Capacity of 55 forest policy and decision makers from 34 countries in west, central, eastern and southern Africa sub-regions strengthened to develop, institute and employ appropriate mechanisms to address illegalities in the forest sector for effective forest governance, better ecosystem services delivery and transparent trade. This was achieved through two training workshops on forest governance organised in Yaoundé, Cameroon and Nairobi, Kenya through the *Training module on good forest governance for Sub-Saharan Africa countries* developed by the project.

Component 5: Capacity Strengthening

Outcome 5: Africa's forestry stakeholders, leaders and practitioners, are more aware of the benefits of sustainable forest management, the actions that need to be taken to achieve this, and have the capacity (tools and knowledge) to take the necessary interventions. The outcome anticipated enhanced strategic human capacity of institutions and individuals – including farmers and farmer organizations, and other private sector actors, professional organisations, and public-sector organizations that drive forest agenda at national and regional levels - to achieve forest compatible development.

Key achievements included:

1. Assessment of training needs on new and emerging issues informed the design of concrete plans of action to contain identified capacity gaps and needs in forestry education; and development of training modules to guide tailor made capacity building programmes in forestry in Anglophone and francophone African countries
2. Capacity of 31 policy practitioners from 15 countries strengthened on leadership and advocacy skills to influence national and regional agenda that promotes sustainable forest management and enhanced services delivery in the context of global environmental change. This was achieved through a regional training course on SFM and leadership organised in Nairobi, Kenya through the *Training module on sustainable forest management and leadership* developed by the project.

Component 6: Enhanced International Engagement

Outcome 6: African participation in international forestry discourses is effective, well coordinated, and agreements signed are implemented:

This outcome anticipates increased and coherent contribution by African negotiators to regional and global dialogues on forestry related multilateral processes to ensure the development of agreements

that respond to Africa's needs and resonate with Africa's aspirations, in addition to adoption and implementation of the agreements in national policies, plans and activities.

Key achievements include:

1. Africa's voice in international negotiations on forest issues has become clear and more coherent leading to integration of Africa's position in the outcome documents of the United Nations Forum on Forests meetings and sessions. The common Africa positions developed for the Twelfth and Thirteenth UNFF session were effectively used by the African Group.
2. A total of 43 forestry practitioners from 15 countries trained on international multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and negotiation processes, resulting in building a critical mass of African forestry experts knowledgeable on intergovernmental processes and negotiations. This was achieved through *Regional training workshop for African forestry experts on forest related international agreements* organised in Lusaka, Zambia.

5. STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT AND USE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA PROJECT

DURATION: 2019 – 2023

5.1 Project objectives

The overall project objective: To generate and share knowledge and information through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into policy and decision-making options and capacity building, for improved forest management that better address poverty eradication and environmental protection in Africa.

The operationalisation of the overall project objective is guided by eight specific objectives, namely:

- Objective 1: To identify and promote opportunities for protecting and sustainably managing the forest resource base on the continent as well as the supply of its ecosystem goods and services
- Objective 2: To improve knowledge and capacities of African stakeholders in responding to adverse effects of climate change through better management and use of forest ecosystems and trees outside forests
- Objective 3: To examine the potential for production and use of liquid biofuels in Africa as a means towards developing green and circular national economies.
- Objective 4: To enhance national forest governance by strengthening African capacity to effectively participate in multilateral environmental processes and mainstream and implement decisions from them into their national policies and activities
- Objective 5a: To strengthen the capacity of the Knowledge Management and Communication Unit in managing and sharing of information
- Objective 5b: To strengthen the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Unit to effectively support AFF activities
- Objective 5c: To strengthen the Finance and Administration (F&A) Unit for improved management of financial and administrative function
- Objective 5d: To improve overall governance and oversight on AFF activities

5.2 Key results on project outcomes, outputs per component:

The project has five components, eight objectives and twenty expected outcomes. During September 2019 to June 2022 the project has made progress on the following project outcomes:

Component 1. Sustainable management and use of land-based ecosystems with the preservation of biodiversity

Project outcome 1.1 Gender disaggregated stakeholders increasingly protecting forest lands and adopting appropriate sustainable land use management policies and practices;

This outcome anticipates evidence-based adoption of land use systems that enable forestry stakeholders to maximise the economic, social and ecological benefits from the land while protecting forests. Key achievements include:

- Analysis reports on status and trends on sustainable land use management policies and practices in different forest types in Africa produced based on literature review and in-depth stakeholder consultations in fifteen countries
- Four sub-regional synthesis reports produced for central Africa, eastern Africa, west Africa and southern Africa sub-regions, and the findings shared with 54 participants from 14 Anglophone and Lusophone African countries, 60 participants from 13 Francophone countries and 100 virtual participants through the regional information sharing workshops held in Mombasa, Kenya and Ouadadougou, Burkina Faso.

Project outcome 1.2 Stakeholders, by gender, capacitated to use improved knowledge, skills and best practices to contain loss of forest cover

This outcome anticipates development of evidence-based strategies and approaches that would equip stakeholders with effective gender-sensitive technologies, skills and best practices to contain forest cover loss while simultaneously promoting economic and social empowerment of forest dependent stakeholders. Key achievements include:

- Analysis reports on drivers of forest cover change and evaluation of initiatives to contain forest cover loss in different forest types in different countries in Africa produced based on literature review and in-depth stakeholder consultations in nine countries.
- Two regional synthesis reports produced for west and central Africa, and for eastern and southern Africa sub-regions, and the findings shared with 54 participants from 14 Anglophone and Lusophone African countries, 60 participants from 13 Francophone countries and 100 virtual participants through the regional information sharing workshops held in Mombasa, Kenya and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Project outcome 1.3 Stakeholders, by gender, in African forestry capacitated to sustainably manage the forest resource base in ways that enhance the supply of ecosystem goods and services

This outcome anticipates strengthened stakeholder capacity for effective forest planning and management for enhanced supply of forest ecosystem goods and services in Africa using training modules developed by the project. Key achievements include:

- Analysis reports on evaluation of ways for improving forest planning and forest management in different forest types in select countries in Africa to enhance the supply of forest ecosystem goods and services in Africa produced based on literature review and in-depth stakeholder consultations in eight countries.
- Two regional synthesis reports produced for Francophone countries, and for Anglophone and Lusophone African countries and the findings shared with 54 participants from 14 Anglophone and Lusophone African countries, 60 participants from 13 Francophone countries and 100 virtual

participants through the regional information sharing workshops held in Mombasa, Kenya and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

- Training modules drafted for forest planning and forest management to address identified capacity gaps. These modules will be used to train stakeholders after they are validated.

Component 2. Climate change and ecosystem services

Project outcome 2.1: Better understanding cultivated on the relationship between forests and trees, ecosystem services, and climate change in different contexts

This outcome anticipates a) improved stakeholders' understanding on the impacts of climate change and variability on forests, tree resources and forest ecosystem services to support the development and/or strengthening of sound adaptation policies for improved resilience of the biophysical and social systems; and b) capacity development and professional expertise in forestry among young professionals in Africa. Key achievements include:

- Partnerships created with eleven African universities on postgraduate research through signed Memoranda of Understanding to provide a legal framework for collaborative research and signed Research Agreements that outline the scope of specified research for twelve postgraduate research proposals.
- Capacities of two postgraduate students in two African universities strengthened through joint research work undertaken between AFF and the universities on the relationship between forests and trees, ecosystem services and climate change, and two PhD theses developed for examining and one journal article published. The studies are on:
 1. *Changements hydroclimatiques et vulnérabilités biophysiques dans le Sud-ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire* (Hydroclimatic changes and biophysical vulnerabilities in the southwest of Côte d'Ivoire) by **Yaya Doumbia**, a PhD student at Université Alassane Ouattara, Côte d'Ivoire.
 2. *Assessment of Mau forest cover, climate change and impacts of evictions on livelihoods in Rift-Valley, Kenya* by **Alice Jebiwott**, PhD student at the Pan African University, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Project outcome 2.2: Better understanding of measures to increase the resilience to adverse effects of climate change on forests and tree resources and on people who depend on them, disaggregated by gender;

This outcome anticipates a) improved stakeholders' understanding on the measures on how to increase the resilience of biophysical and social-economic systems to support development and/or strengthening of sound gender sensitive adaptation policies and measures; and b) capacity development and professional expertise in forestry among young professionals in Africa. Key achievements include:

- Partnerships created with four African universities on postgraduate research through signed Memoranda of Understanding to provide a legal framework for collaborative research and signed Research Agreements that outline the scope of specified research for six postgraduate research proposals.

Project outcome 2.3: African stakeholders capacitated to implement recommendations and decisions from global climate change agreements, including NDCs, REDD+ and the Kyoto Protocol under the Paris Agreement

This outcome anticipates that stakeholders have access to knowledge and capacity on how national forestry governance processes should take into account decisions on global climate agreements for enhanced compliance. Key achievements include:

- a. Enhanced awareness and strengthened understanding of over 240 forestry stakeholders from 10 countries on global climate change agreements and mechanisms including the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and NDCs, REDD+, and their implications for national forestry policies achieved through regional information sharing webinars organised to disseminate findings of analysis of national forest governance responses to the Paris Agreement (PA) by African countries. The webinars were organised for six Francophone countries and four Anglophone and Lusophone countries through a hybrid approach and convened forestry stakeholders through 10 simultaneous in-country workshops.
- b. A critical mass of over 227 forestry practitioners in 11 African countries knowledgeable on forest related multilateral environmental agreements trained and equipped with negotiation skills and their capacity to mainstream decisions from international agreements into national processes strengthened through two sub-regional training webinars. The webinars were organised for four Francophone countries and seven Anglophone and Lusophone countries through a hybrid approach, and convened forestry stakeholders through 11 simultaneous in-country workshops.

Component 3. Renewable energy

- a) *Outcome 3.1*: An understanding of the scale of production, use and potential for biofuels in Africa;
- b) *Outcome 3.2*: An appreciation of the manner in which land shifts in the production of biofuels, food and primary forestry on the continent, and
- c) *Outcome 3.3*: Better understanding of the relationship between production and consumption of biofuels and greenhouse gases (GHGs).

These outcomes anticipate evidence-based planning for the growth and development of the liquid biofuels sector in Africa in ways that generate incomes to local people and nations, without compromising food and environmental security. This will be achieved through stakeholders having better understanding of: i) supply and demand for liquid biofuels and economic viability in a competitive market environment ; ii) potential land shifts in food-fibre – fuel in selected countries; iii) impact of liquid biofuel production on forest cover and cropland; relationship between production and consumption of liquid biofuels, and GHG emissions; iv) relevant policy and legal interventions for sustainable production of biofuels. Key achievements are as follows:

- Analysis reports on potential of African countries for the production and use of liquid biofuels as a strategy for developing green and circular economies in selected countries produced based on literature review and in-depth stakeholder consultations in fifteen countries.
- Three sub-regional synthesis reports produced for central Africa, eastern Africa, and southern Africa sub-regions, and the findings shared with 54 participants from 14 Anglophone and Lusophone African countries, 60 participants from 13 Francophone countries and 100 virtual participants through the regional information sharing workshops held in Mombasa, Kenya and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Component 4. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Project outcome 4.1: African delegates to MEA discourses effectively negotiate and articulate their forestry related interests

This outcome anticipates increased and coherent contribution by African negotiators to regional and global dialogues on forestry related multilateral processes to ensure the development of agreements that respond to Africa’s needs and resonate with Africa’s aspirations, in addition to adoption and implementation of the agreements in national policies, plans and activities. Key achievements include:

- A common Africa position for UNFF16 achieved through UNFF16 TST preparatory meeting organized by AFF on 22 April 2021 via digital platform that generated key messages related to key agenda items for UNFF16
- A common Africa position for UNFF17 achieved through UNFF17 preparatory meeting for African delegates organized by AFF on 22 April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya that generated key messages related to key agenda items for UNFF17
- A common Africa position for UNCCD COP15 achieved through preparatory meeting for African delegates organized by UNCCD, AUC, AFF on 28 to 30 April 2022 in Marrakech, Morocco that generated key messages related to key agenda items for UNCCD
- These consensus documents were instrumental in the effective articulation of Africa's positions that were conveyed through government representatives during the sessions.

Outcome 4.2: African stakeholders have better understanding of new and emerging issues related to forestry

This outcome anticipates that African forestry stakeholders including governments, scientists, and civil societies worldwide are improving their understanding on new and emerging forestry issues by accessing new and up to date information availed through the AFF knowledge sharing platforms. Key achievements are as follows:

Up to date knowledge on topical new and emerging issues compiled by the AFF Secretariat and shared through international webinars organised through partnership initiatives. The topical issues include

- Promoting forests as the force in a green and resilient recovery: Building momentum for the XV World Forestry Congress, in partnership with WFC
- Forest-based bio economy for all: opportunities and challenges, in partnership with IUFRO and University of Freiberg, Austria
- Forests, trees and eradication of poverty: An expanded policy brief for Africa hosted by the IUFRO
- Strengthening the African private sector in forestry in the context of industrialization and regional integration in Africa in partnership with CCARDESSA, SADC, AfDB,
- Forests and tree-based livelihoods in Africa: some COVID-19 effects and the role of SFM in partnership with AUC, UNFF, FAO

Outcome 4.3: African stakeholders capacitated to implement recommendations and decisions from MEAs on forests and related issues.

This outcome anticipates that African stakeholders access relevant up to date information for their use on implementation of forest related MEAs. Key achievements are as follows:

A total of 227 African forestry stakeholders and delegates from eleven countries trained on mainstreaming MEAs into national forestry policy processes through a platform to examine the obligations of eleven African countries arising from forestry related MEAs. The stakeholders also deliberated on measures to contain constraints in mainstreaming MEAs into national forestry processes.

Outcome 4.4: African stakeholders capacitated to access global funding opportunities that come with the MEAs

This outcome anticipates that African stakeholders have access to information on mechanisms to access global funding for their use and capacity to mobilise global funding for forestry. Key achievements are as follows.

- Capacity of 25 REDD+ focal points from 18 countries equipped with knowledge and skills for the effective engagement with the Global Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) application processes, including preparation of the project documents through completion of the respective templates through a regional training workshop on climate finance and writing bankable projects for African forestry stakeholders organised in Mombasa, Kenya.
- Capacity of 39 forestry stakeholders from 8 Francophone countries capacitated to access information on global funding opportunities and developing bankable projects for GCF, GEF, GFFFN through a regional training workshop on climate finance and writing bankable projects for African forestry stakeholders organised in Douala, Cameroon.
- Capacities of forestry stakeholders in Burkina Faso and Zambia strengthened on formulation of bankable projects on climate adaptation and resilience through two national write-shops to develop bankable projects.

Component 5. Strengthening AFF as an institution

Outcome 5.4: AFF programmes, plans and activities are gender sensitive and responsive

This outcome anticipates strengthened institutional and management capacity of AFF Secretariat, Governing Council and partners for mainstreaming gender more effectively into AFF's programmes, plans and activities that will maximise benefits from forestry for women and youth. Key achievements include:

- A Gender audit/assessment report on AFF's programmes and plans produced that presents the strength, policies, programmes, organization process and structures, capacity gaps and recommendations on key strategic interventions to strengthen commitment and approaches for gender mainstreaming at all levels
- AFF's capacity strengthened for the development of gender sensitive and gender responsive programmes, projects, plans and activities through a training conducted for the AFF Secretariat using training guidelines developed by the project
- A draft gender mainstreaming strategy developed to guide adoption of an enhanced gender sensitive approach to the design and implementation of AFF activities.

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