



Overview of Achievements

2017-2022

Sida supported projects

- 1. Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa 2014-2019***
- 2. Strengthening Management and Use of Forest Ecosystems for Sustainable Development in Africa 2019-2022***

Third Meeting of AFF Members Forum

28 to 30 June 2022





Outline of Presentation

Project 1: Overall objective, project context, specific objectives, outcomes, implementation approach, Sida-SDC synergies,, project interventions, project achievements by outcome,

Project 2: Overall objective, project context, specific objectives, outcomes, implementation approach, Sida-SDC synergies, project interventions, project achievements by outcomes

Challenges, lessons learned and observations





Project 1: Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa 2014-2019

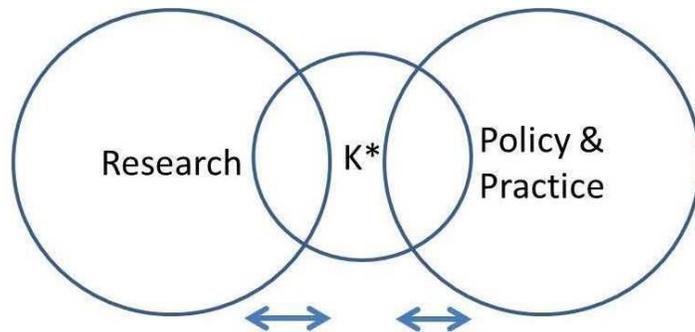
Six components, 6 objectives, 6 outcomes





OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

“To **generate and share high quality and up-to-date 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”



Link between research and policy and practice/investment

K* -Knowledge Management;
Knowledge Transfer;
Knowledge Translation;
Knowledge Exchange;
Knowledge Brokering;
Knowledge Mobilization.





PROJECT CONTEXT

- Project provided support to **sustainable forest management** in Africa through the African Forest Forum (AFF)
- Project aimed to complement the efforts of African countries to address
 - **deforestation** and **forest degradation** and
 - challenges that significantly impact on their ability to **address poverty in the region**
- AFF aimed to **explore opportunities** to enhance the contribution of forests and tree resources to livelihoods, national **economies and environmental sustainability.**
- Target beneficiaries: **Policy actors; land managers; civil society actors, private sector, media, youth, women**





SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To establish and facilitate the running of an **innovation platform** as the means through which it will **engage the many organizations** and initiatives working on forest and tree resources in Africa and other global partners to **tackle identified priority interventions**.
2. To facilitate the collation, synthesis and provision of **access to critical information and knowledge demanded by stakeholders in African forestry**, as well as **create space** for on-going exchange to **support decision-making** for enhancing sustainable forest management
3. To catalyse efforts of national and regional institutions **in Africa**:
 - a) **Identify sustainable land management practices** that have **potential to improve resilience of forests and trees** to adverse effects of climate change and minimize degradation of these resources; **and**
 - b) Identify, adapt, disseminate and facilitate **up-scale promising best practices** for management and utilization of forest resources to **support livelihoods**.





SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES cont'd

4. To **strengthen public and private institutions** as well as CSOs and CBOs, to effectively **perform their core roles** that support forest and tree resources management and **facilitate trade for enhanced human livelihoods**;
5. To **enhance capacity** of those institutions and individuals – including farmers and farmer organizations, private sector actors, professional associations, and public sector organizations **at local, national and regional levels in order to enhance sustainable forest management**;
6. To continue to **support African countries** to **effectively participate in regional and global processes** and facilitate the development of a more **systematic and country-recognized and owned approach to achieving 'common African positions'**, and to facilitate **domestication of international agreements** in national policies and plans





PROJECT OUTCOMES

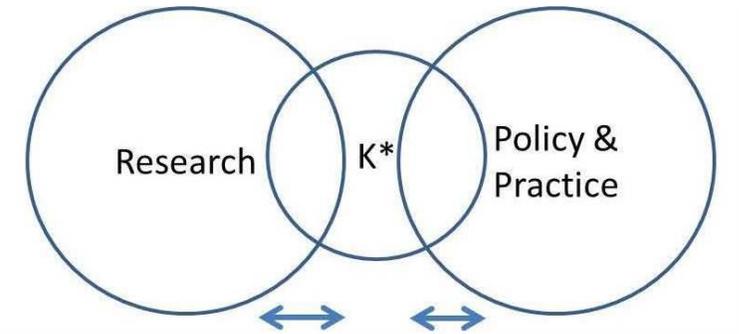
- **Outcome 1:** *Institutional change enhanced through an effective partnership platform for catalysing institutional innovation/***Partnership platform**
- **Outcome 2:** *Access to information and knowledge, enhanced evidence-based policy formulation and increased awareness of the contribution of forest resources/***Knowledge Management**
- **Outcome 3:** *African forestry institutions are catalysed to take actions that address Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and its interface with sustainable livelihoods and environment./***SFM and Livelihoods**
- **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 facilitate transparent trade. /***Forest governance and trade (FLEGT)**
- **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 make the necessary interventions;* **Capacity Strengthening**
- **Outcome 6:** *African participation in international forestry discourses is effective, well-coordinated, and agreements signed are implemented/***Enhanced International Engagement**





PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

1. Knowledge generation through **consultancies** commissioned to experts on SFM themes to generate **up to date knowledge and information**: Consultants (20) regional, national: scientists; postgraduate students (5); training facilitators, independent reviewers
2. Knowledge brokerage through:
 - a) **Stakeholder interactions (14)** *face to face* meetings, convenings, knowledge sharing platforms, capacity building events, side events through **partnership platforms** with **national, regional, global institutions to share and exchange knowledge and network**
 - b) Online platforms social media, media platforms
3. Results based management through **project monitoring** : assessment of project impacts; regular impact surveys, tracking project outcomes, promote organisational learning



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Synergies between the Sida and SDC supported projects

The 2 projects jointly address the following five themes/issues:

- Poverty eradication, livelihood outcomes, options
- Climate change and forest ecosystems-adaptation and resilience building
- Multilateral environmental agreements –capacity building, mainstreaming MEAs
- Strengthening AFF as an institution





ACHIEVEMENTS

- Outcome 1: *Institutional change enhanced through an effective partnership platform for catalysing institutional innovation*

Achievements made towards the outcome

Institutional platforms established

- Professionalism and ethics in the forestry sector can be better addressed in the ECOWAS sub-region by a forest products association *Association sous-regionale sur le commerce des produits forestiers* **initiated** through the project's work on forest law enforcement, good forest governance and fair trade in forest products (FLEGT).
- A WhatsApp group for private sector actors in forestry entitled *AFF Private Sector Forum* **initiated** and operational for sharing public private partnerships (PPP) strategies, knowledge and experiences at global, sub-regional and national levels





Outcome 1 cont'd

Resolution/declarations/common positions related to sustainable forest management generated.

- Four declarations, and statements developed by the project as a result of various convenings and platforms organised by the project. These include:
 - *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.
 - *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.
 - *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
 - *Outcome statement* to establish a network of trained tree seed managers to exchange ideas, information, technologies on best practice to safeguard sustainable production





Outcome 2: Access to information and knowledge, enhanced evidence-based policy formulation and *increased awareness* of the contribution of forest resources

- **Increased access to information and knowledge products through interactive stakeholders forums**
- **Eighteen knowledge products** on analysis of eight SFM themes developed and produced by experts, shared 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.
- **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**.
- **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.
- **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, databases, ect. KMCOM, PMER Units





Outcome 3: African forestry institutions are catalysed to take actions that address Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and its interface with sustainable livelihoods and environment

Achievements made towards the outcome are as follows:

1. Quality scientific information generated on **land use systems** to inform policy decisions and development of livelihood focused models; **five PhD theses, five journal papers**

2. 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.

Five PhD theses were successfully defended, and students graduated. Five journal papers were published by the students.

The studies were on:





Outcome 3 cont'd

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.





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 facilitate transparent trade

Achievements made towards the outcome include:

1. **Capacity** of African institutions and forest policy and decision makers in eastern, west, southern and central Africa sub-regions strengthened on good **forest governance** to promote sustainable forest management through training modules developed by the project. **55 practitioners in 34 countries trained and made commitments to improve policies/regulations**
2. **Mechanisms** strengthened to enhance good forest governance in eastern and West Africa sub-regions through professional forestry association, and forest products association





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 make the necessary interventions

Achievements made towards the outcome include:

- 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. *Traditional forestry training model is not adequately equipped to produce graduates with requisite skills; training module on SFM and leadership*
- **Capacity** of 31 forestry policy practitioners in 15 countries strengthened on leadership and advocacy skills to influence national and regional agenda for improved forest management for enhanced forestry services delivery for socio-economic development in the **context of global environmental change**.





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

Achievements made towards the outcome include:

- Africa's voice in international negotiations on forest issues has become clear and more coherent. **Two African common positions for UNFF12 and UNFF13; African negotiators back-stopped by TST; better articulation of Africa's position and outcome documents reflecting Africa's proposals**
- A critical mass of African forestry practitioners knowledgeable on forest related multilateral environmental agreements created. **43 forestry practitioners from 15 countries equipped with negotiation skills, a network of people knowledgeable on intergovernmental processes using training modules developed by the project.**





Key challenges

Challenges experienced

- Shortage of experts with expertise/experience beyond national scope resulting in fewer applications for consultancies
- Limited capacity of some experts due to competition for their time and expertise leading to delayed delivery of outputs
- Low capacity of some experts to write good scientific papers due to limited exposure
- Shortage of external reviewers in the continent leading to quality assurance process taking considerable time
- Low rates/fees or compensation for experts' short assignments
- Delay in attracting quality applicants for research fellowships- re advertise





Project 2: Strengthening Management and Use of Forest Ecosystems for Sustainable Development in Africa 2019-2022

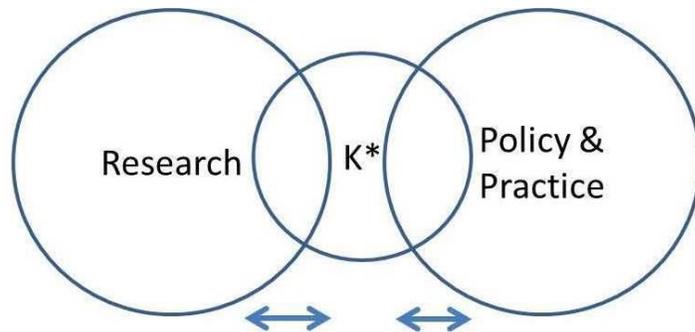
Five Components, Eight Objectives; Twenty Outcomes





OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

“To **generate and share high quality and up-to-date 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”



Link between research and policy and practice/investment

K* -Knowledge Management;
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Project context

AFF seeks to **influence and facilitate** organisations (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, through

- **Promoting approaches** for protecting, planning and sustainably managing the forest resource, and supply of ecosystem goods and services on the continent (Component 1),
- **Catalyzing research and development** on the relationship between climate change and forests, trees, forest ecosystems, and people (Component 2), and on renewable bio-based energy options dynamics (Component 3).
- **Facilitating capacity development** of African stakeholders on climate change resilience (Component 2), on participating in and addressing concerns from global forest related discourses (Component 4);
- **Strengthening mechanisms** for knowledge brokerage to broader constituencies of influence, as well as monitoring, evaluation and reporting on **impacts of project outcomes** for organisational history and learning (Component 5).





Specific objectives

- **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





Expected project outcomes

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

- **Outcome 1.1:** Gender disaggregated stakeholders increasingly protecting forest lands and adopting appropriate sustainable land use management policies and practices
- **Outcome 1.2:** Stakeholders, by gender, capacitated to use improved knowledge, skills and best practices to contain loss of forest cover
- **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

Component 2. Climate change and ecosystem services

- **Outcome 2.1:** Better understanding cultivated on the relationship between forests and trees, ecosystem services, and climate change in different contexts
- **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
- **Outcome 2.3:** African stakeholder institutions capacitated to implement recommendations and decisions from global climate change agreements, including NDCs, REDD+ and the Kyoto Protocol under the Paris Agreement





Expected project outcomes *cont'd*

Component 3. Renewable energy

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

Component 4. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- **Outcome 4.1:** African delegates to MEA discourses effectively negotiate and articulate their forestry related interests
- **Outcome 4.2:** African stakeholders have better understanding of new and emerging issues related to forestry
- **Outcome 4.3:** African stakeholders capacitated to implement recommendations and decisions from MEAs on forests and related issues
- **Outcome 4.4:** African stakeholders capacitated to access global funding opportunities that come with the MEAs





Expected project outcomes *cont'd*

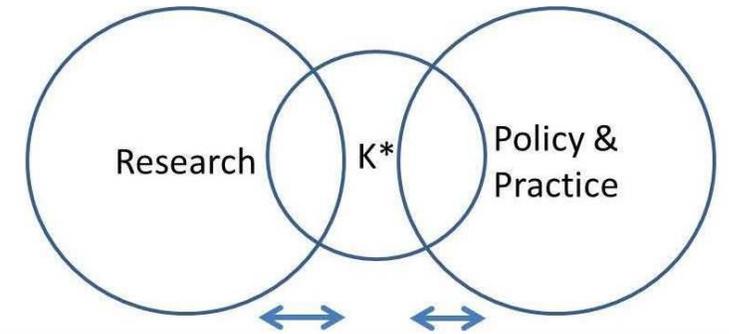
- **Component 5.** Strengthening AFF as an institution
- **Outcome 5.1:** Stakeholders receiving and using quality and timely reliable information from AFF
- **Outcome 5.2:** Stakeholders have improved access to AFF knowledge products and service
- **Outcome 5.3:** AFF operating with improved processes and efficiency in the management of its projects and services
- **Outcome 5.4:** AFF programmes, plans and activities are gender sensitive and responsive
- **Outcome 5.5:** Enhanced capacity for financial monitoring, accounting and reporting
- **Outcome 5.6:** Enhanced efficiency in administration of AFF activities
- **Outcome 5.7:** The Governing Council and its committees, together with PSAC, providing good policy guidance to AFF Secretariat and effective oversight on its plans, finances and activities





PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

1. Knowledge generation through **consultancies** commissioned to experts on SFM themes to generate **up to date knowledge and information**: Consultants regional (14), **national** (29): scientists; postgraduate students (18); training/ workshop facilitators (24)
2. Knowledge brokerage through:
 - a) **Stakeholder interactions** -(9 regional, 21 national) *face to face, virtual, hybrid* meetings, convenings, knowledge sharing platforms, capacity building events, side events through **partnership platforms** with national, regional, global institutions to **share and exchange knowledge and network**
 - b) Online platforms social media, media platforms
3. Results based management through **project monitoring** : assessment of project impacts; regular impact surveys, tracking project outcomes, promote organisational learning
4. Project monitoring during COVID-19 **through business continuity plans** –quarterly plans



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Synergies between the Sida and SDC supported projects

The 2 projects jointly address the following five themes/issues:

- Poverty eradication, livelihood outcomes, options, gender responsive
- Climate change and forest ecosystems-adaptation and resilience building
- Renewable energy
- Multilateral environmental agreements – capacity building, mainstreaming MEAs the Paris Agreement, access to global funding
- Strengthening AFF as an institution





ACHIEVEMENTS

Component I: Sustainable management and use of land based ecosystems with the preservation of biodiversity

PA I: Better Management of forests and trees outside forests

PA 6: Capacity Building and Skills Development

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

- **Activity:** Analysis of existing sustainable land management policies and practices in different forest types in Africa, taking gender into consideration (4 sub-regional studies, 15 country studies); 3 KRAs; 15 country reports,
- Key Result Area 1, 2 & 3 Land management frameworks, sustainability of promising frameworks, compatibility with forestry development and protection evaluation. To inform formulation of pilot projects to promote best SLM practices
- Analysis reports: 4 sub-regional synthesis reports submitted and shared with 114 stakeholders in 27 countries

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

- **Activity1:** Assessment of dynamics of drivers of forest cover change, in different forest types (2 sub-regional studies; 10 country studies); (8 country reports,
- 3 KRAs *In synergy with the SDC supported project.* Key Result Area 1, 2 & 3: Dynamism of forest cover change drivers, gender based initiatives, viable livelihood opts
- Analysis reports: 2 sub-regional reports submitted and shared with 114 stakeholders in 27 countries.





Component I cont'd

Activity2: Evaluation of efficiency of sawn timber value chains in selected countries in different forest types (6 country studies); 6KRAs: 6 inception reports, 4 literature review reports submitted

Methodologies harmonised through virtual platforms, harmonised data collection tools prepared

Key Result Areas, 1,2,3,4,5 & 6: Mapping of the value chain; efficiency studies on the various operations in the value chain (product flows, technology, transaction costs); industrial roundwood material availability; governance structures at each level; other determining factors and approaches (institutional, financial, policy, and others).

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

- **Activity:** Evaluation of ways for improving forest planning and forest management in selected countries in Anglophone, Lusophone and francophone Africa, with the aim to enhance the supply of forest ecosystem goods and services (2 sub-regional studies; 8 country studies); 5 KRAs. 6 country reports.
- Key Result Area 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5: Planning processes in different forest types, adequacy of the plans, extent of compliance to plans evaluated; state of forest management, and training modules developed
- Analysis reports: 2 sub-regional reports submitted and shared with 114 stakeholders in 27 countries, two draft training modules submitted.



Component 2. Climate change and forest and tree-based ecosystem services

PA3: Contribution of forests and trees to environmental health

PA5: Policies and Governance

PA6: Capacity Building and Skills Development

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

- **Activity:** In-depth studies on assessment of trends of impacts of climate change on forests, tree-resources, and on forest ecosystem services, as well as coping mechanisms in selected African countries in different forest types. 12 postgraduate studies *In synergy with the SDC supported project.* **Capacity development** and **professional expertise.** MOUs (10 universities) and Research Agreements signed (12)

7 students submitted progress reports,

2 PhD dissertations defended, 1 journal article produced

1. Pan African University, housed at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria
2. Université Alassane Ouattara, Côte d'Ivoire
3. Universite D'Abomey-Calavi, Benin
4. Université de Yaoundé, Cameroon
5. Universite Marien Ngouabi, Central African Republic
6. Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso
7. University of Dschang, Cameroon
8. University of Parakou, Benin
9. Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Ethiopia
10. University of Zambia, Zambia





Component 2 cont'd

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;

- **Activity1:** In-depth studies on assessment of gender responsive resilience to climate change of forest related biophysical and socio-economic systems in selected countries covering different forest types. (6 postgraduate studies) *Synergy with the SDC supported project. MOUs (4 universities); Research Agreements signed (6) 3 students submitted half year progress reports.*

1. Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria
2. Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi, Niger
3. Université de Lomé, Togo.
4. University of Pretoria, South Africa

Activity 2: PSPs to monitor forest conditions under changing climate . Applications received for screening and contracting institutions





Component 2 cont'd

- **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**
- **Activity1:** Enhance awareness of forestry stakeholders on the provisions and implications of the Paris Agreement (PA) and related global climate change policies and initiatives, actions required to improve national forest governance *In synergy with SDC support* through:
 - 2 sub-regional webinars titled *Sharing of information and experiences on national forest governance responses to the Paris Agreement* held through a **hybrid approach** through ten country workshops (face to face and virtual) (Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone) convening 240 stakeholders in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, The Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, and Tanzania digitally connected to AFF Secretariat and experts. **Ten country workshop reports finalised**

(capacity gaps, stakeholder sensitisation to grassroots, cross-sectoral, focal points coordination)





Component 2 cont'd

- **Activity2:** Strengthen stakeholders capacity for mainstreaming of global and regional decisions from climate change international agreements and initiatives achieved through:
- 2 sub-regional training webinars on *Understanding and mainstreaming into national forestry policies, plans and actions of decisions from global and regional climate change related processes* held for Central and Southern Africa sub-regions through **hybrid approach** in eleven country workshops (face to face and virtual) (Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone) convening 227 participants in Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, digitally connected to the AFF Secretariat and resource persons. **Eleven country workshop reports finalised.**
- (inclusive preparation of country positions,-communities, private sector, regional discussions-for Africa, multisectoral delegation for Africa, capacity demands for negotiations)





Component 3. Renewable energy

PA 3: Contribution of forests and trees to environmental health

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). (4 sub-regional studies; 15 country studies) 5 KRAs; 12 country reports;). *In synergy with the SDC supported project.*

- **Activity:** Assessments of the potential of African countries for the production and use of liquid biofuels as a strategy for developing green and circular economies on the continent in four sub-regions
- **Key Result Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5:** Status of biofuel production, processing, challenges, opportunities, prospects, effect on cropland and forests, competitiveness in international market, relevant policy framework

Analysis reports: 3 sub-regional reports submitted and shared with 114 stakeholders in 27 countries





Component 4: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

PA 5: Policies and governance

PA 6: Capacity building and skills development

- **Project outcome 4.1: African delegates to MEA discourses effectively negotiate and articulate their forestry related interests**
- **Activity:** The AFF's Technical Support Team to Raise the profile of forestry in Africa (TST) effectively support African delegates to UNFF, UNCCD sessions through a common Africa position.
- **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.





Component 4 cont'd

- **Outcome 4.2: African stakeholders have better understanding of new and emerging issues related to forestry;**
- **Activity:** Studies/reviews on new and emerging issues related to forestry. *In synergy with the SDC supported project.* During the reporting period the following were achieved (*international virtual platforms*):
- Topical new and emerging issues presented through regional and international webinars organised through partnerships:
 - 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





Component 4 cont

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

Activity: Regional training workshop on mainstreaming of global and regional decisions from climate change international agreements and initiatives (see *outcome 2.3*)

- 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.





Component 4 cont'd

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

Activity: Regional training workshop on global funding mechanisms

- 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

- **Activity/s:** Gender analysis for AFF's programmes; development of gender mainstreaming strategy for AFF's programmes and activities; and build the capacity of AFF Secretariat staff , GC and partners
- A **Gender Audit/Assessment** report on AFF's programmes and plans was produced that presents the strength, policies, programmes, organization process and structures and recommends key strategic interventions to strengthen commitment to enhance capacities for gender mainstreaming
- Based on the findings of the audit **training modules on gender mainstreaming** were developed to guide AFF's institutional development on gender to be used to train AFF staff, GC, and partners. One training for AFF staff conducted
- A draft **gender mainstreaming strategy** has been developed to guide adoption of an enhanced gender-sensitive approach to the design and implementation of AFF activities





Component 5 cont'd

Outcome 5.7: The Governing Council and its committees, together with PSAC, providing good policy guidance to AFF Secretariat and effective oversight on its plans, finances, and activities.

Approvals of operational progress reports and plans of Work and Budget Sida and SDC supported projects for 2019 to 2023, through meetings of:

- Project Steering and Advisory Committee
- Executive Committee of the Governing Council
- Governing Council





CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic **WHO control measures**. In response/ compliance countries took **measures to control its spread** and restricted travel and gatherings affecting field studies and large and regional meetings
- **COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan (BCP)** prepared in April 2020, 2021 *Regular monitoring of the evolving situation*. Adoption of the following measures:
 - Increased **use of digital technology** to execute project activities. Virtual communication platforms were used to gather experts to discuss and harmonise methodologies-data collection tools. Subsequently, desk-based studies were successfully completed,
 - For planned regional studies, the BCP recommended **country focus** on execution of studies where in-country travel is permitted while international travel was still restricted. **30 national experts were engaged** to conduct 47 country studies- field research, collect and analyse data to contribute to regional studies that had been delayed.
 - For trainings and information sharing events, AFF adopted **a hybrid approach to meetings** where AFF staff and experts around the continent are digitally connected to face-to-face meetings organized concomitantly in 21 different countries through 21 national facilitators/institutions. This is appropriate for countries where face to face gatherings are permitted
 - AFF stakeholders reach has multiplied significantly as well as logistical and administrative demand-**longer time planning horizon** critical for multiple *countries*





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CONTRIBUTIONS OF

- EXPERTS
 - PARTNERS
 - PSAC
 - PROJECT TEAM
 - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
 - GOVERNING COUNCIL
- GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN

