



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



Biennial Report

Sustaining Africa's forest and tree resources
2015 - 2016



About AFF

Established in 2007 as a non-political, non-governmental, objective, independent and not for profit international organisation, the African Forest Forum (AFF) is an association of individuals with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.

AFF exists to voice the concerns of African forestry stakeholders, and to use science, indigenous knowledge, and experience to advocate for the increasing relevance of forests and trees outside forests to peoples' livelihoods, national economies and the stability of the environment.

In this regard, AFF provides independent analysis and advice to national, regional and international institutions and actors on how economic, food security and environmental issues can be addressed through the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests. Operationally, AFF mobilises resources to address forestry and related issues that cut across countries and different African sub-regions with a view of enhancing the relevance and contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the livelihoods of the people of Africa and stability of their environment.

Vision

The leading forum that unites all stakeholders in African forestry

Mission

To contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of the people of Africa and the environment they live in through the sustainable management and use of tree and forest resources on the African continent.

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Sustaining Africa's forest and tree resources

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	iv
Message from the Chair of the Governing Council.....	v
Message from the Executive Secretary	vi
Charting a new course for African forestry	1
Chapter 1: Policies and governance in African forestry	3
Chapter 2: Building Africa's capacity to manage forest resources	8
Chapter 3: Building resilience to climate change effects	14
Chapter 4: Gender considerations in the work of AFF	19
Chapter 5: Managing and sharing forestry information.....	20
Chapter 6: Partnership platforms.....	33
Chapter 7: Management and administration	36
Chapter 8: Financial management at AFF.....	40
Annexes.....	41

Abbreviations and acronyms

AFF	African Forest Forum
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFLEG	African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
AHEG	<i>Ad-Hoc</i> Expert Group
AUC	African Union Commission
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
COP	Conference of Parties (of UNFCCC)
EAC	East African Community
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU-FLEGT	European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
XIV WFC	Fourteenth World Forestry Congress
GGWSSI	Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
GCF	Green Climate Fund
INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
LULUCF	Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NGARA	Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
PFAEA	Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa
PSAC	Project Steering and Advisory Committee
RaCSA	Rapid Carbon Stock Appraisal
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
HAFL	School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (in Switzerland)
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SMD4GC	Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TST	Technical Support Team
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
WMF	World Mountain Forum

Message from the Chair of the Governing Council

Since its establishment in 2007, the African Forest Forum (AFF) has always provided independent analysis and advice to national, regional and international institutions and actors, on how economic development, food security and environmental issues can be addressed through sustainable management of forests and trees.

The Forum has steadily gained membership and authority in various domains as to meet its vision “To be the leading forum that unites all stakeholders in African forestry”. This vision has been translated into strategic and operating values and principles contained in the *AFF Strategy (2015-2020)* which is underpinned by four priority areas namely networking, programming, advocacy and organizational development.

The ability to deliver in implementing the strategic plan to meet its goal and objectives through enhanced partnerships at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels has been the focus of the last two years of AFF’s plan of work. The activities carried out in the biennial period were those contained in our two main projects, namely; i) Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa; and, ii) African forests, people and climate change; which were financially supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), respectively.

The Biennial Institutional Report (2015-2016) of the African Forest Forum therefore demonstrates how the institution has evolved from a project-based network to an active institution with established governance, partnership and various platforms to its credit. The hard work, sense of delivery and dedication of the Staff at the Secretariat under the able leadership of Prof Godwin Kowero, the Executive Secretary of AFF, have earned the confidence of our various collaborating partners. I wish to reiterate that AFF will continue to deliver good results to its stakeholders and maintain and create partnerships that will deliver at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

This message will not be complete without recognizing the commendable support by our donors namely the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the various African governments, regional and international organizations who are working with AFF. I wish to reassure our donors and partners that AFF will remain focused in executing all its future plans of work and in accordance to our contractual obligations.

Macarthy Oyebo
Chair of AFF Governing Council

Message from the Executive Secretary

In these last two years forests and trees outside forests continue to feature very strongly in national, regional and global development processes. This momentum will most likely continue into the foreseeable future.

High rates of deforestation and forest degradation in Africa have brought intense focus on the need to sustainably manage forests since they are drivers of economic development and environmental stability. Emphasis on these issues was also underlined in international discourses under the three Rio conventions as well as those on the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Arrangements on Forests, in addition to many other discussions at all levels. Also in this regard, the continued and relatively unconstrained scramble for land illustrated once again our dependence on shrinking quality land for food, fibre and fuel production, a struggle that continues to accelerate loss of forest and tree cover, and worse still, in the context of increasing adverse effects of climate change and variability. The importance of sustainably managing forest and tree resources has therefore continued to be highly profiled in many circles.

Since its establishment, the African Forest Forum (AFF) has provided a bridge between science-based knowledge and strong policies that will support sustainable forest management; effectively working within a science-policy-management framework. As awareness has grown on the role of forests and trees in national economic development, livelihoods and environmental stability, AFF has steadily gained membership and capacity to work on these and other issues, as will no doubt be demonstrated through this biennial report.

The adoption of the *AFF Strategy 2015-2020* underpinned a new level of cooperation and transparency between the AFF Secretariat and governance organs on one hand, and AFF members and other African forestry stakeholders on the other. This strategy aims to make AFF a stronger and more focused institution, that is able to deliver more effectively on its mandate and taking into account

the challenges and opportunities that continue to unfold in the forestry sector.

The ability of AFF to deliver on a number of issues and through enhanced partnerships at the continental, regional and national levels is among the key achievements made in these two years. In this period, AFF broached extensively at the pan-African level and, for the first time, issues related to forest certification, quality supply and management of tree germplasm, managing forest and tree pests and diseases, and public-private-partnerships in primary and secondary forestry production. The wealth of information generated through these activities provides a very good basis to develop and expand the forestry sector in Africa.

Also, AFF continued to work on issues related to management of trees and forests in different landscapes and in the context of climate change, good forest governance and law enforcement, as well as supporting African delegates with capacity to develop common positions and negotiation strategies, in addition to effectively articulating their issues in international forestry related dialogues. All these efforts have been made to ensure that Africa remains on the path of sustainable development.

This report also demonstrates how AFF is making use of different partnership arrangements, advocacy activities and platforms, knowledge brokerage and resource mobilization activities to make its contribution to the sustainable management of Africa's forests and tree resources.

Prof. Godwin Kowero
Executive Secretary of AFF



Charting a new course for African forestry

In September 2015, at the fourteenth World Forestry Congress (XIV WFC) held in Durban, South Africa, the global forestry community gathered to set out a vision for 2050 where forests play a decisive role of improving food and livelihood security as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. In December 2015, the landmark Paris Agreement - in which forests are a key part - was reached at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris and adopted by 195 countries. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) also became fully operational in 2015 and promises to be the single largest global financing source for climate mitigation and adaption measures, including as related to forests. In September 2015 the UN Sustainable Development Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and coming with it the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, all of which can be linked to forestry.

These and other developments in 2015 highlight

the role of forests and trees in socio-economic development and environmental stability of the planet and therefore define the context in which forestry business should be conceived. Given these opportunities that come with the increasing number and diversity of forest-related international instruments, agreements, and processes, can the true potential of forests and trees in promoting sustainable development be unlocked? This is the challenge that faces many stakeholders in forestry, AFF included.

Generally, the focus on forests has continued to spread and disperse as part of an overall broadening of roles of forests and trees, institutional mandates, actors in forestry and benefits from the sector. This is stimulating the rising preference for all-inclusive approaches to sustainable development of the sector. Promising too is the worldwide recognition that the society – forest relationship is critical for a truly integrated, systemic approach to forest related developments.

Some of the fixed notions on forestry business are gradually giving way to a new landscape approaches that place forestry issues at the forefront

of socio-economic development and in the context of broader societal development goals.

Emphasis on sustainable forest management (SFM) continues to soar in the context of providing guidance on the way forests are managed and used. SFM can be described as the attainment of balance between society's increasing demands for forest products and benefits, and the preservation of forest health and diversity. This balance is critical to the survival of forests, and to the prosperity of forest-dependent communities.

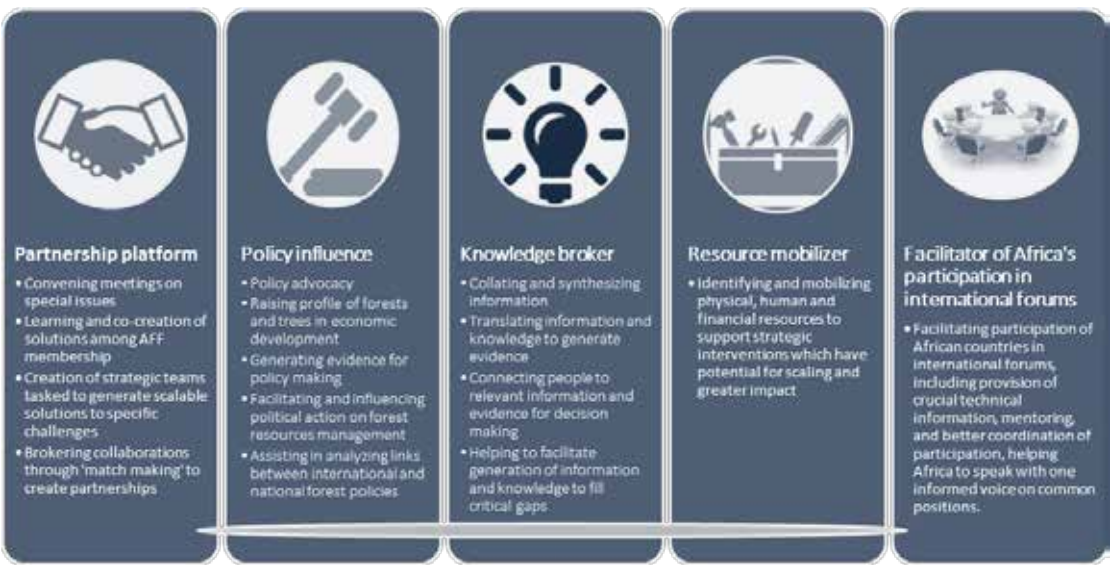
But confidence in this paradigm comes with a note of caution, at least for the African continent, given the very big investments that will be required to get the forest resources on the continent to be managed sustainably and used wisely. There is therefore not a single silver bullet that can be employed to enhance progress towards forest-related sustainable development on the continent. Rather, a range of innovative interventions should be prudently pursued by actors at various levels and including the key ones in forestry like government, private sector, civil society organizations and local communities.

As a contribution to this effort, AFF has leveraged on the distinct expertise and comparative advantage of its character to influence and facilitate organizations and people to take actions that could better situate

forestry in the path of sustainable development of African nations. The institution, along with its partners, has worked on key fronts over the past two years to cultivate shifts in perceptions, priorities, values, capacities and skills to bear on subsequent impact on forestry and related decisions and practices.

The interventions leading to this have included convenings on specific issues, advocacy, partnerships and collaborative activities, knowledge brokerage, facilitating capacity and skills development, research and development activities. The goal has been to initiate a process through which local communities are seen and treated as critical stakeholders (participants and beneficiaries) while strategies for harnessing the potential of forest and tree resources to support livelihoods today, some of which employ these interventions, are given as much attention as the sustainable management and wise use of these resources for the benefit of future generations.

Viewed in this context, AFF is a platform that facilitates change in the forestry sector as highlighted in the figure below. It is this special character that gives the institution the ability to continually adjust to the ever changing environment that affects forests and trees and their roles, the people who depend on these resources and actors in forestry business.



AFF as a platform for facilitating change in the forestry sector

Source: The African Forest Forum. 2014. Strategic Plan (2015-2020), Securing the future of African forests. Nairobi.

Chapter 1: Policies and governance in African forestry

Some of the most serious impediments to the development and governance of forestry resources on the continent include the absence of, or inadequate, policies and legislation, effective implementation of the same where they are present, limited empirical evidence on socio-economic and other issues to inform policy development and compliance enforcement, political goodwill, technical understanding of some specific forestry issues as well as new and emerging issues related to the sector, and many uncoordinated institutional frameworks (including NGOs) operating on African forestry.

If African nations are to contain the increasing challenges of deforestation and forest degradation that are a result of continued encroachment into forests for various reasons, including farming and habitation, as well as increased illegal forest harvesting activities in any sustainable way, then effective governance of these resources at all levels is critical, as well as ensuring that forestry is placed at the heart of sustainable development. And this is where AFF comes in.

Delivery of expert scientific studies to inform decision making underpinned AFF's work in 2015-2016. From New York to Switzerland, Nepal to South Africa and Paris to Bangkok to Marrakech, the nexus between society and forestry resonated at high level meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Through capacity building for African delegates to such meetings, providing technical backstopping at the meetings through evidence based information, and strengthened partnerships, AFF has strengthened the voice for stakeholders in African forestry in some of these gatherings.

Facilitating policy making at global level

Expert scientific advice has increasingly been called upon to inform political decision-making. Many of the problems of most interest to policy-makers are complex, embracing broader environmental and socio-economic issues that can be better addressed through interdisciplinary and cross-sector approaches.

A single African country delegate to such international discourses can hardly marshal the requisite skills to address such complex situations and be at all the side meetings that are required to develop consensus on issues, and often at parallel meetings that can take place at the same time. Also institutional memory is lost fast as countries change their representatives to such meetings very frequently.

It is for this reason that AFF established a Technical Support Team (TST) to Raise the Profile of Forestry that supports African delegates in regional and international dialogues on forestry and related areas to ensure that policies developed and decisions made conform to sustainable forest management on the continent and traction is secured on the evolution of these processes.

The AFF-TST, by providing technical backstopping to African delegates to articulate Africa's interests in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) increases their understanding of the MEAs and their relevance to their countries, and eventually cultivates individual country ownership of the agreements that then encourages the countries to mainstream relevant recommendations from them into their national policies, plans and activities.

The TST members have wide experience in international policy debates and negotiations related to forestry, and have freely contributed their expertise to African delegates in such discourses. The members are:

NAME	COUNTRY
Macarthy Oebo (Chair)	Nigeria
Andre Madingou (Vice Chair)	Gabon
Ndiawar Dieng	Senegal
Adjumane Kadio	Cote d'ivoire
Alice Kaudia	Kenya
Jones Kamugisha	Uganda
Anna Chileshe Masinja	Zambia
Sebastien Maléle	Democratic Republic of Congo
Alima Issufo	Mozambique
Ibro Adamou	Niger
Fredrick Owino	Kenya
Godwin Kowero (AFF Executive Secretary)	Tanzania

Over the past two years, African delegates have articulated forestry related issues better in international negotiations, and more specifically to those organized by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Limited TST support has also been extended to forestry related issues in negotiations organized by the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

In 2015 for instance, African governments had the opportunity to take advantage of the UNFF review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAFs) by assessing if the model had been effective in carrying out their mandates and in charting options for the future. Consequently, a coordinated approach by Africa to forest policy was essential in this process and also towards generating political commitment and in securing effective action at the global level that ensures that the IAF beyond 2015 would build on the achievements of the past and also integrate African forests fully within the global development agenda.

AAF contributed to this effort by supporting African delegates, technically and logistically, to participate in different meetings and other forums that dealt with the IAFs. Forty-four African delegates from 22 countries were trained in negotiation skills and successfully articulated the African position on the new global International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) that was adopted at the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in May 2015.



Peter Gondo, AFF-TST member, at the Second Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests (AHEG2) of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), 12-16 January 2015, New York, USA. Photo: IISD/2015.

"Right now, I am an adviser on sustainable forest management at the UNFF, thanks to the networks and experience gained through the African Forest Forum".



Cécile Ndjebet, President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests, and AFF member. AHEG2, New York, US. Photo: IISD/2015

"I participated in international negotiations training which will impact significantly on my participation as member of Women Major Group"



Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary, AFF. INTERLAKEN+10: Governing Forest Landscapes: Lessons Learnt from Ten Years of Experience and The Way Forward Post-2015. 3-5 February, 2015; Switzerland.

"AFF continues to place emphasis on the interconnection between science-policy and management in its work. Also efforts to raise awareness and build capacity in many areas that are central to the practice of forestry, as well as on seemingly new and emerging areas, continue to feature high in AFF's work".

In 2015, a critical mass of 33 forestry practitioners from 14 Anglophone and Lusophone African countries was trained on MEAs. In 2016, another 36 African forestry practitioners from 9 Francophone African were trained on MEAs for ECOWAS countries to effectively represent their countries in

these international dialogues. The trained delegates can help make the continent more effective in engaging in international forestry related processes, in addition to facilitating mainstreaming decisions from such processes/ agreements into their national policies, plans and actions.

Influencing forestry policies in East Africa

EALA ENACTS A FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION BILL

East African Legislative Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda.

November 26, 2015:

Encouragingly, there are clear signs that forest governance reforms have never been higher on the agenda in East Africa. Following on from efforts to save the East African Community (EAC) forest cover, a major achievement came in the form of a new regional framework that seeks to curtail encroachment on forests.

The EAC Forest Management and Protection Bill, 2015, aims to promote the development, protection, conservation, sustainable management and use of the forests in the community, especially trans-boundary forests ecosystems, in the interest of present and future generations. It seeks to espouse the scientific, cultural and socio-economic values of forests and harmonize policies and national forest laws.

The Bill, which was later passed in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Kigali Rwanda, delineates the roles and responsibilities of Partner States and seeks to promote uniformity and integration in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and management. It envisages creation of an EAC Forests Board which will be seen by the EAC Council of Ministers that serves as the policy organ of the community.

The Bill also provides for strengthening professional national forestry associations and establishment of a regional professional forestry association to be supported by the East African Community (EAC). This achievement was made possible partly through effective advocacy led by AFF on the important role of professional forestry associations (PFAs) in sustainable forest management.



Photo: Hon Christophe Bazivamo, mover of the Bill on Forestry Management and Protection Bill, 2015. East African Legislative Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda

Key studies aimed to facilitate change at regional, sub-regional and national levels

AFF undertakes studies that strengthen understanding of the dynamics of forest ecosystems, the people who depend on them, the policy and regulatory frameworks that surround the people and these resources, and the research-policy-development interface that informs decision making at all levels in order to make interventions in the forestry sector that are compatible with sustainable

development. In this regard, AFF continued, during these two years, to pursue its mandate of lobbying for appropriate policies and decisions to secure the roles of forests in socio-economic development.

The key actors in forestry business, namely national governments, private sector, local communities and civil societies are presently operating in an environment where the national governments are no longer responsible for supplying nearly all that the forest sector needs, like it used to be in the

past before national governments embarked on macroeconomic reforms that distanced them from doing business and instead becoming custodians of policies and providing oversight for policy implementation, as well as securing enforcement of forest laws and regulations.

This has drastically changed the forestry business scenario. For example, it has put into jeopardy the provision of quality germplasm to local communities for their forest and tree based

activities, as well as the overall management of pests and diseases in individual countries; activities that were formally national government responsibilities in many countries. Also, individual actors in forestry have to develop or incur the cost of acquiring the capacity and skills required to undertake forestry activities, a role that was largely played by national governments through public institutions that supplied such human resources freely to the other players.



Deforestation due to logging near Lobeke National Park, Cameroon. Photo ©Paul Donfack/AFF



Vehicles transporting semi-processed timber from the forest. ©Tieguhong Julius Chupezi



Valuable timber trees in the forests; a moabi tree. Photo credit: Tieguhong Julius Chupezi

A key problem in managing forest resources on the continent is the continued high frequency of illegalities that characterize and tarnish the forestry sector. Illegal harvesting and trade in forest products continue to feature in many technical writings and news media. Issues of corruption in the sector are also high on many agendas. Unfortunately, people are gradually getting used to read, hear and work with these issues.

Other key pressing issues in the sector include the management and provision of quality germplasm, management of pests and diseases, as well as institutionalization of forest certification as a tool for attaining SFM. AFF undertook several studies on these issues, at sub-regional and regional (continental) levels during this period and shared the results in various workshops.

A study was undertaken and a technical report made on forest law enforcement, good forest

governance and fair trade in forest products Africa. The results of the study provided an insight into how weak enforcement of forest policies and regulations/ laws, including beyond national borders, affects not only the sustainability of forest ecosystems but also the sustainability of the livelihoods of local communities and national economies that depend on forest resources.

The report also shed light on the ongoing implementation of the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT) and African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) processes. The participants to the several workshops that discussed this and other reports:

1. Agreed on how to promote good forest governance including how to mitigate illegal cross-border trade in forest products through activities coordinated by the national and

- regional forestry professional associations.
2. Put up mechanisms in 2015 for the formation of the Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa (PFAEA) comprising over 2000 members with the goal of achieving excellence in the practice of forestry within the sub-region. The functions and accountabilities of the PFAEA address many forest and landscape scale issues, including: curbing illegal timber trade, leading campaigns against politically motivated forest excisions, lobbying for improved forest governance and increasing their visibility among the wider stakeholder community in order to contribute meaningfully to national, regional and global discourses in forestry. The Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa (PFAEA) builds on past achievements of national forestry associations including: successful resistance to the unlawful allocation of *Mabira* forest in Uganda to a private investor for sugar plantation; providing guidelines for eucalyptus farming in Kenya and halting the improper acquisition of a teak plantation in Tanzania.
 3. Put up mechanisms in 2016 for the formation of a further two sub-regional platforms in the form of a professional forestry association and a forest products trade association, both for West African countries, and with similar aims as for the Professional Forestry Association of Eastern Africa.

Also, four technical reports on the status of forest certification in North Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa were developed based on studies made in these sub-regions. An additional synthesis report on forest certification in Africa entitled *Forest certification in Africa: Description of Forest Certification Schemes and the Experience of Certification in the African Continent* was also developed as a monograph that has been widely shared. The assessments provide an inventory of existing forest certification systems in Africa and the potential role of forest certification as a market driven mechanism that can promote responsible forest management. A training module on forest certification was also developed to guide building forest certification capacity and skills on the continent.

Other analytical studies carried out by AFF focused on tree germplasm improvement, production, supply and demand in the Eastern, Southern and West/Central Africa sub-regions. Three technical reports provide up to date knowledge on best practices that hold potential to facilitate provision of quality germplasm for agro-forestry systems and improved forest establishment and productivity. The assessments have resulted in the development of a seed testing manual and protocol for handling priority tree species that will assist forestry practitioners, smallholder farmers and the private sector to access better adapted and quality germplasm for improved tree performance and productivity.

Analytical studies were also carried out on forest and tree pests and diseases in the Eastern, Southern and West/Central Africa sub-regions. Three technical reports provide up to date knowledge on the status and trends of forest and tree pests and disease management in Africa and propose appropriate measures and protocols for effective surveillance of forest pests and disease epidemics within countries and across borders.

Chapter 2. Building Africa's capacity to manage forest resources

Human resources are an important part of the entire cycle of sustainable forest management; from the establishment and maintenance of forests and trees to their proper harvesting, processing and marketing of their products and services.

Capacity gaps in institutional leadership and management as well as in skills and knowledge to facilitate effective uptake of available technologies represent one of the biggest challenges for sustainable forest management in Africa today. The African Forest Forum seeks to provide up-to-date knowledge and best practices through education, training and continuing professional development in the many areas of African forestry that require strengthening.

Training needs assessment and capacity building activities

Developing local and national capacity in forestry requires human resources with improved skills and capacities to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes; and improved institutional arrangements for economic development. Evidence suggests that all countries need to improve their capacities to manage the growing demands on forest resources and increasing obligations to the international community.

As an immediate first step, a number Training Needs Assessment (TNA) were undertaken by AFF as follows:

1. *On compatibility of forestry curricula with actual needs*
A TNA was implemented in the Anglophone African countries in 2015/6 to evaluate the content of the forestry curricula in professional and technical institutions in Africa in relation to the current needs, and also addressing emerging issues such as climate change and green

economy as they relate to the forestry sector. A similar undertaking is being implemented for Francophone countries in 2016/7. The results of the assessment are anticipated to guide professional and technical institutions in improving their education and training programmes in forestry and related areas. They will also be used to contribute to the development of a capacity building programme on forestry for Africa that is responsive to current challenges and opportunities in forestry.

2. *On handling climate change issues in forestry*
A TNA implemented for Sub-Sahara Africa in 2011 led to the development of a set of comprehensive training modules on forest based climate change adaptation, mitigation and carbon trading. The modules have been tailored for different audiences, including professional, technical and informal groups. The latter are extension agents and civil society organisations that interact with local communities. AFF collaborates with the 'informal group' as a way of getting its information reach local communities. During these two years AFF has developed, in a pedagogical manner, six contextualised training materials in the form of compendiums. The compendiums developed are on:
 - (a) Basic science of climate change. Three compendiums, one each for professional, technical and informal groups;
 - (b) Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Appraisal (RaCSA). Three compendiums, one each for professional, technical and informal groups.

The compendiums will be validated in 2017 before sharing them widely with education and training institutions in forestry and related areas for capacity building and skills development in Africa.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE MODULES		
GROUP	MODULE	KEY AREAS OF CONTENT DEVELOPED
Professional	Basic Science of Climate Change	understanding global change and climate systems; drivers of climate change; vulnerability to and impact of climate change; climate change data; climate change modeling and scenario development (projections); and international dialogues, processes and mechanisms on climate change
Technical		understanding global change and climate systems; drivers of climate change; vulnerability to and impact of climate change; climate change data; climate change modeling and scenario development (projections)
Informal		basics of climate change, causes of climate change, and vulnerability to and impact of climate change
Professional	Rapid Forest Carbon Stock Appraisal	concept of Payment for Environmental Services (PES), forest-based carbon stock estimation, carbon markets, risks and opportunities, dynamics of carbon markets, principles and practices of forest carbon financing and trading mechanisms
Technical		principles and concepts of carbon trade; payments for environmental services; carbon trading processes and agreements; approaches to carbon stock estimation; methodological issues in carbon trade and marketing; carbon market risks and opportunities; global, regional and national marketing and trade in forest carbon; dynamics of carbon markets; and institutional and legal frameworks in carbon trade
Informal		introduction to PES; principles, concepts and regulations in carbon market and trading; carbon benefit sharing;

More details on capacity building on climate change will be given in the next chapter that deals exclusively with issues of climate change in forestry.

3. On participation in international negotiations

A study was undertaken and a report on “Effective engagement of African delegates in international multilateral processes” produced that guided the development of a training module to guide building the capacity and skills of African negotiators in such processes. In this period, 113 negotiators/delegates from 33 countries were trained guided by this training module.

4. On forest certification

Based on studies undertaken on the status of forest certification in the various sub-regions a training manual was developed to guide development of capacity and skills for forest certification on the continent. A total of 86 people from 33 countries were trained in these two years.

Sabbatical and intern fellowship awards

AFF encourages and support short stays at the Secretariat by visiting scholars as a way of advancing their professional development through working on selected tasks by the institution. Through this collaboration, three short term sabbatical fellowships were offered in 2015-2016 to African scholars to undertake studies for a period of 2-3 months each at the Secretariat in the areas below.

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU)

A fellowship opportunity was made available to work on issues AFF is addressing in the realm of AFOLU in selected African hotspot areas and different forest types (*moist forest, rain forest, mangroves, woodlands and savanna, parklands of the Sahel*); in addition to coordinating the production of a special issue of a journal based on papers presented at an AFF organized pre-congress XIV World Forestry Congress workshop on “Forests, people and environment: Some perspectives

from Africa” that was a prelude to the XIV World Forestry Congress held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015.

Prof. Paxie Chirwa, the Chair and Director of the Postgraduate Forest Programme at the University of Pretoria in South Africa won the award. He spent his sabbatical time at the AFF Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya. He conducted desk based studies guided by specific terms of reference, from 1 November- 31 December 2015.

The findings from his studies have generated knowledge that will continue to improve African stakeholders’ understanding of vulnerability to climate change and application of promising adaptation measures pertinent to AFOLU. They also support the development and strengthening of sound adaptation and mitigation policies that take into consideration gender responsiveness and measures associated with improving resilience of the social systems and ecosystems. The findings also provide good information on gender-sensitive assessment of vulnerability and impacts/influences of climate change and variability on forests, trees and the people who depend on them.

In addition, he coordinated the production of a special issue of *Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science*, an international journal that has the option of producing the papers online. This came online in 2017 through his efforts. This journal has many papers covering a broad range of subjects stretching from those related to restoration and management practices in Sahel and miombo degraded landscapes of Africa to those looking at forestry based livelihoods for local communities. Several of the papers are of a pan-African scope. He also facilitated the finalization of several reports under his ToR for publication under AFF Working Paper Series. His fellowship was in line with and supported by the SDC supported project on “African forests, people and climate change”.

Another fellowship opportunity on “*Supporting forest compatible development through evidence-based policy options for improved forest governance, green growth and enhanced forest productivity for sustainable livelihoods and environmental stability in Africa*” was offered to Dr. Tajudeen Okekunle Amusa from 1 November to 31 December 2015 at the AFF Secretariat in Nairobi. Dr. Amusa is a lecturer at the Department of Forest Resources Management, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. His areas of specialization include forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Like Prof Chirwa, Dr. Tajudeen facilitated the finalization of several reports under his ToR for publication in AFF Working Paper Series, in addition to producing factsheets and policy briefs in the areas of green economy, and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), good forest governance, and provision of quality tree germplasm. He also worked with Paxie Chirwa in the production of a special issue of *Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science*. His work holds good potential to assist African countries to address deforestation and forest degradation in ways that enhance the contribution of forests and tree resources to livelihoods and environmental stability. His fellowship was in line with and supported by the Sida supported project on “Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa”.

Forest Compatible Development¹

¹ *Forest compatible development* (FCD) is development that minimises the harm caused to forest and tree resources, while maximising the many human development and environmental protection opportunities in systems where forest and tree resources are an important part. FCD emphasises strategies which embrace development goals and development strategies that integrate the threats and opportunities to forest and tree resources.



Prof. Paxie Chirwa, winner of the AFOLU and forest based carbon markets and trade fellowship award *"The University of Pretoria is one of the recipients for the Post Graduate Research Fellowships and has also signed the MoU for collaborative research with AFF."*



Tajudeen Amusa during his two month visiting programme in Nairobi
"I have gained a better awareness of the status of forestry on the African continent, with specific import to some of the issues forestry education and research must urgently attend to. Being in the knowledge industry, the immediate thing has been to scale-up on the gains and lessons from the pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop and the main congress"



Ms. Issoufou Balkissa of New Mexico State University during a field visit at the KEFRI dry land eco-regional research programme in Kitui.
"As far as I can remember, I have wanted to build my professional career in Africa, so I needed to have an insight of how it works there. I was not disappointed since it really has opened my mind".

Student internship programme

AFF hosted Ms. Issoufou Balkissa of the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at New Mexico State University, USA, as an intern at the Secretariat from May –July 2015. As an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Science, Ms. Balkissa, a national of Niger, participated in a programme of joint youth mentorship activities towards her project titled *"Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Agro pastoral Production Systems of Kenya"*

The objective of the project was to restore degraded land in the semi-arid and arid areas in eastern Kenya. In pursuit of this, the internship accorded Ms. Balkissa the opportunity to conduct field trips to the KEFRI Dry land Eco-regional Research Programme in Kitui. Her field work focused on collection of biophysical and socio-economic data around Kyuso forest and sites rehabilitated by the project. She also conducted her laboratory internship at KEFRI headquarters, Muguga, where

she familiarized herself with soils, biotechnology, pathology, entomology, tree breeding and other related laboratory assignments. These activities facilitated preparation of Balkissa's dissertation. Her successful internship at the AFF Secretariat was made possible under the supervision of Prof. Larwanou Mahamane and Dr. Vincent Oeba, both with AFF.

Post-graduate scholarships based on AFF's project activities

In the period under review, AFF launched a post-graduate fellowship grant to facilitate the implementation of various activities in the two projects. The scholarships aimed at building the capacity of the students in the areas AFF is working on, as well as the capacity of their universities and eventual employers. This also created another opportunity for AFF to partner with many African institutions and also increasing its reach on the continent. AFF developed memoranda of understanding with these universities before

developing contractual agreements with them to implement the scholarships.

Twenty postgraduate students from 11 countries across Africa were awarded research fellowships that will help them complete their graduate degrees in forestry based programs.

Twelve of the fellows (3 females and 9 males) are supported through the “*African Forests, People and Climate Change*” project funded by SDC. Of these, 4 are on their masters’ degrees while 8 are at PhD level. Their research is on issues related to the impacts of climate change vulnerability of biophysical and socio-economic systems with particular emphasis on gender responsiveness and critical ecosystems. The fellows are from: University of Nairobi, Maasai Mara University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (all from Kenya); Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), University of Bahri (Sudan), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Dan Dicko Dan Kolodo University of Maradi (Niger), University of Free State (South Africa), Lilongwe University of Agriculture (Malawi), and University of Antananarivo (Madagascar).

The other eight fellows did research on issues related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), supported by the Sida funded project entitled “*Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Africa*”. The main aim is to contribute towards enhanced sustainable management practices that have potential to improve resilience of forests and trees to the adverse effects of climate change, and up-scale promising approaches that support livelihoods.

These eight postgraduate students are from seven African universities, namely University of Stellenbosch and University of Pretoria (both South Africa); University of Buea and University of Yaoundé (both Cameroon); Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources (Ethiopia); Egerton University (Kenya); Moshi Co-operative University (Tanzania). Two of the students are undertaking masters and six PhD level studies; whilst three are from West and Central Africa and

five from East and Southern Africa.

Both research fellowships are implemented in various African forest types including rain forests, mangroves, woodland and savanna, and parklands of the Sahel.

AFF-HAFL scholarship program

In response to the challenges and impacts of climate change in Africa, and more specifically to the forestry sector, AFF and the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) in Zollikofen, Switzerland, a department of Bern University of Applied Sciences, have agreed to establish a partnership that will support a scholarship programme (AFF-HAFL scholarship program) for capacity building of African scientists that will eventually enhance the role of forests and forestry in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

The aim of the AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program is to strengthen AFF and, more specifically, to build capacity in forest-related policy and management in African countries by providing opportunities for young professionals to undertake master’s degree studies at HAFL. People benefiting from the scholarship are expected to become the future champions in spreading knowledge and experience through AFF and related institutions and networks.

FOUR AFRICAN STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM AFF-HAFL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

On 25 September 2015, three of the four first batch of sponsored African students graduated with a MSc in International Management of Forest Industries from the School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) at Bern University of Applied Sciences in Zollikofen, Switzerland. The fourth one completed her studies in March 2016. Jacob Amoako (Ghana), Fifonsi Ayélé Dangbo (Togo), Nesibu Yahya Kedirkan (Ethiopia) and Carolyne Kathini Kyalo (Kenya), received grants from AFF-HAFL Scholarship Program covering all expenses including research project costs for the 2014-2015 academic year (Annex 1). A total of 41 candidates from 14 African countries applied for the scholarship.

Winners of the Award were selected following a two-level selection process. The first step was based on a list of selection criteria developed by AFF-HAFL scientific experts where 10 candidates were shortlisted. The successful candidates were then taken through an aptitude assessment in interviews in compliance with admission requirements of HAFL.

Ultimately, the four academics were chosen based on their research proposal and motivation letter towards: relevance of the problem, clarity of research objective, clarity of research question, methodology, work plan and budget. The motivation letter was examined for the ability to articulate the linkages between personal goals and training and the coherence of the stream of thought.

110 candidates from 19 different African countries applied for the 2nd edition of the scholarship. Four scholarships were awarded to Temitope Elizabeth Adeniyi (Nigeria), Lydia Afriyie (Ghana), Fredyas Jaurès Eyebiyi (Bénin) and Matia Mulumba Agabe (Uganda) (Annex2). The students arrived in Switzerland in the beginning of February 2016 and will graduate in September 2017.



Winners of the AFF-HAFL scholarship award. From Left to Right: Nesibu Yahya Kedirkan (Ethiopia), Jacob Amoaka (Ghana), Fifonsi Ayele Dangbo (Togo), and Carolyne Kathini Kyalo (Kenya). Photo: Bern University of Applied Sciences Zollikofen, Switzerland

Chapter 3. Building resilience to climate change effects

On 5 October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. It then entered into force on 4 November 2016. The accord is the first-ever universal, legally binding climate deal that sets out to limit global warming to well below 2°C by the end of the century. Essential to meeting the 2°C target is conserving and enhancing natural ecosystems. This means, among other things, ending the destruction of natural forests and restoring degraded and destroyed forests and other ecosystems.

Supporting the UN Framework Convention's processes and decisions has been one of AFF's core activities, as has been demonstrated in building the capacity and skills of African forestry stakeholders in areas ranging from rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests and lands, accessing carbon markets, generation and uptake of climate related information, strengthening the ability to participate in the negotiations and outreach.

AFF's climate change work in 2015/16 has further focused on issues related to the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and voluntary carbon market-oriented activities covering various forest types.

Climate change as it relates to forestry and people

The last two decades has seen considerable attention paid to issues of climate change with respect to forests and trees and putting people and the environment at the centre of this. Many countries now include mitigation and adaptation practices in their forest policies, plans and activities. There has been noticeable awareness and growth of various initiatives like REDD+ in many African countries, however less so on CDM in forestry.

The challenge for forest management therefore has been how to include and operationalize an objective on carbon sequestration (i.e. introduction of a climate change component) in forest management plans, without constraining the supply of other equally important forest products and services from all forest types. AFF's work in this regard has focused on building the capacity and skills of individuals and institutions to address climate change and variability in forestry. This has included issues related to rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests and lands, building national capacity and skills to assess and trade in forest carbon, generation and uptake of climate change related information by educational and training institutions, and effective capacity for participation in regional and international forums that address climate change issues, among others.

Capacity building and skills development in forest carbon stock assessment

The development of profitable national forest carbon projects in Africa is another challenge arising from climate change and climate variability. AFF, in collaboration with many national partner institutions held a series of national training workshops over the biennium to strengthen the capacities and develop the skills of African countries to undertake Rapid Carbon Stock Assessments (RaCSA) and enable them to establish basic data needed for accessing carbon markets in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner. The training focused on, among other things, assessment of forest carbon, forest carbon marketing and trade, development of Project Idea Notes (PIN) and Project Design Documents (PDD). The training modules developed earlier, namely *“Training modules on forest based climate change adaptation, mitigation, carbon trading and payment for other environmental services”* guided the instruction. These modules are now widely used by professional and technical institutions as well as informal groups (extension agents and NGOs) who can reach local

communities with such information.

The first series of training on RaCSA that were conducted from November 2013 to November 2015 resulted into the training of 357 trainers of trainers (ToT) drawn from 12 countries: Ethiopia, Zambia, Niger, Tanzania, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Togo, Nigeria, Madagascar and Swaziland. The ToTs were from varied backgrounds including, but not limited to, African scientists in forestry and related disciplines, academic staff

from higher learning institutions in forestry and related faculties, policy makers, forest managers and administrators, extension staff and technical staff from NGOs, including community based organizations.

Further trainings were organized in 2016 with a total of 71 people trained, of which 40 were from Guinea Conakry (29 males and 11 females) and 31 were from Ivory Coast (5 females and 27 males).



Participants on a field exercise on estimating forest carbon during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Sudan. Photo: AFF/2015



Participants at a field exercise on above ground biomass assessment during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Madagascar. Photo: AFF/2015



Participants on a field exercise on estimating forest carbon during a RaCSA training workshop organized by AFF in Zimbabwe. Photo: Larwanou Mahamane-AFF

PARTICIPANTS TRAINED AT NATIONAL LEVEL
IN RAPID CARBON STOCK APPRAISAL (RACSA)

COUNTRY	TARGET	ATTENDED	% ACHIEVED
1. Ethiopia	30	35	117
2. Zambia	30	21	70
3. Niger	30	34	113
4. Tanzania	30	29	97
5. Sudan	30	34	113
6. Zimbabwe	30	30	100
7. Kenya	30	54	180
8. Burkina Faso	30	35	117
9. Togo	30	33	110
10. Nigeria	45	52	116
11. Madagascar	30	42	140
12. Swaziland	30	30	100
13. Guinea Conakry	30	40	133
14. Cote d'Ivoire	30	31	103
Total	435	500	115

Gender aspects were also taken up in the training, even though in some instances it was difficult to have women and youth well represented during the RaCSA courses. For instance, the analysis from some selected countries showed that most of the participants who attended the trainings were male except in the case of Sudan where 71 % were females (Figure 1).

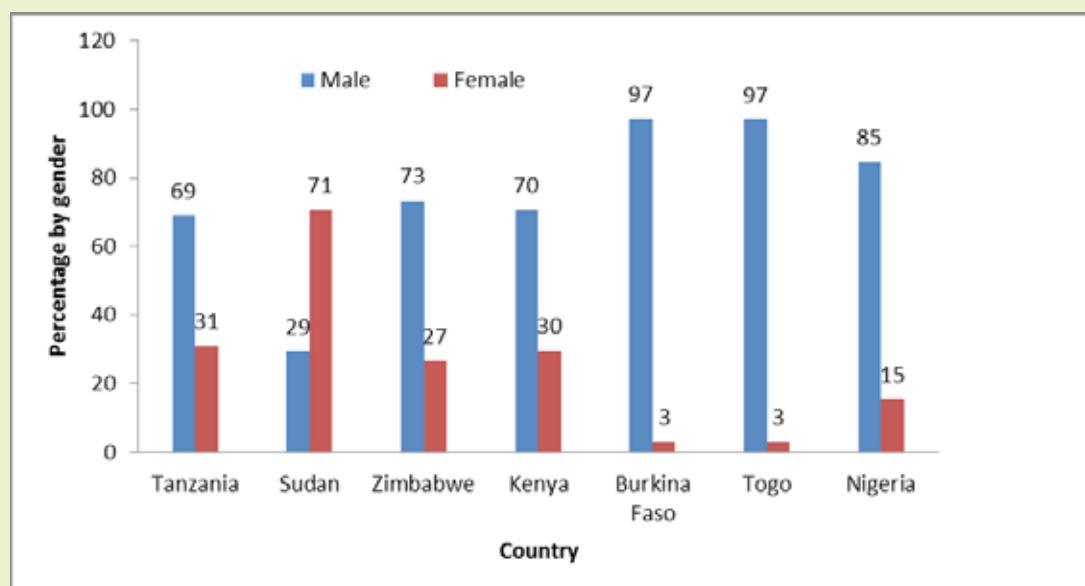


Figure 1: Analysis of gender participants by gender trained in various countries

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM RaCSA TRAININGS

At the end of the first phase of the trainings, an evaluation was conducted to get a feedback from participants about the course, lessons learnt and recommendations. Out of a total 357 respondents, 137 participants took part in the survey.

The results were as follows:

- 60% of respondents were satisfied with relevance of knowledge gained.
- Over 65% singled out carbon measurements, reporting and verification, development of project idea note (PIN), development of project design document (PDD) and payment of ecosystem services in relation to climate change as the most relevant topics to them.
- More than 50% of respondents had initiated or contributed to relevant actions by the time of the survey.
- A majority of the respondents expressed confidence in the following: applying skills acquired from the training; use of appropriate protocols and methods for estimating forest carbon stock (67%); explaining the concepts of carbon pools, biomass, carbon stocks and carbon fluxes (77%); initiating marketing and trade in forest carbon (58%); implementing measurement reporting and verification of forest carbon (83%); and, training other stakeholders in forest carbon stock assessment (95%).

Overall, the participants appreciated the training as assessed based on the expectations they had at the beginning of the course. They found methods used in training were very appropriate and the materials provided were current and very useful.

Some issues participants raised to consider in future work on RaCSA

- AFF should continue to follow-up on the training conducted in order to track impacts of the course in these countries.*
- AFF and its partners could identify mechanisms and platforms for enhancing sharing of information on areas covered in the trainings so as to increase the reach of this information to more professionals in forestry and other related areas.*
- AFF and partners could evaluate how to undertake the trainings online in order to reach many other interested stakeholders in forestry.*
- AFF and partners could evaluate ways of expanding the scope and duration of the training, from the introductory nature that it is, to include other aspects like those of a socio-economic nature, as a way of increasing the depth of knowledge on the principles and concepts related to forest carbon marketing and trade.*

Climate change adaptation in mountain regions

Approximately half of Africa's countries have mountains higher than 2000m, with mountains above 4500m being concentrated to the north-western, central and eastern regions. Those mountains cover an estimated 3 million km² of surface area and ensure life-supporting goods and services for millions of people by providing water, food and energy security at the local, national, and regional levels (Africa Mountain Partnership, 2015)². Several mountain regions suffer from dismal poverty, extensive land degradation, and inequitable land rights, and are already enduring severe negative impacts from climate change. Mountain regions are among the most sensitive to climate

change, and receding glaciers are one of the most visible indicators of global change.

The first major international decision to address the issue of mountains and mountainous regions was at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, held from 3-14 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is in this context that the First African Mountains Regional Forum under the theme "Towards a Shared Mountain Agenda for Africa" convened in Arusha Tanzania, from 22-24 October 2014, in which AFF participated in organizing the theme on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". The Forum called upon African states to develop and implement mountain-specific policies and laws and mainstream sustainable mountain development in their national development agenda.

² <http://events.arcosnetwork.org/index.php>



The Mt. Elgon ecosystem is an important water catchment for both Kenya and Uganda and the countries along the Nile basin. In Kenya, Mt Elgon is recognized as one of country's five major "water towers". Photo credit IISD, 2016



Delegates of the Andean Forests Program together with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network, African Forest Forum and the Global Program on Climate Change of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation at a joint session during the COP 21 in Paris, December 8th 2015.



Participants to the 2016 World Mountain Forum (WMF) themed, "Mountains for our Future," convened in Mbale, Uganda from 17-20 October 2016

The Andean Forests Program, together with the ASEAN Social Forestry Network, African Forest Forum and the Global Program on Climate Change of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation organized a joint session along the sidelines of COP 21 in Paris on December 08, 2015. As a result of this, the four parties are in the process of developing a specific action plan that will foster sustainable and resilient mountain forest landscape management across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The idea is to build synergies across the continents with the aim of bolstering a solid and clear voice at the international table to position mountain forest landscapes in the international climate change and sustainable development policies and scientific debates.

AFF participated in the 2016 World Mountain Forum (WMF) that was held under the theme "Mountains for our Future" in Mbale, Uganda, from 17-20 October 2016. AFF participated in organizing the theme on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". The Forum provided a platform for participants to discuss sustainable mountain development (SMD) in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chapter 4.

Gender considerations in the work of AFF

AFF has made deliberate efforts to mainstream gender into its activities and related analyses. A staff seminar on gender was organised in 2015 aimed at achieving a common understanding of gender responsive research. Subsequently, project activities were organised to ensure gender sensitivity and responsiveness in the selected

studies. In this regard, gender responsive work at AFF will be achieved through analysis of gender situational analysis; documentation of gender practices; making the determinants for participation in activities to be gender sensitive, e.g. qualification, duration and timing.

FOCUS ON GENDER

Milestones achieved in mainstreaming gender in AFF's activities include:

- integration of gender specific issues in the terms of reference developed for various studies;
- gender response analysed output and gender disaggregation data sets;
- gender indicators and information targets developed to track and monitor gender perspectives on expected outcomes; and,
- gender criteria included in the selection of experts and students for research grants.

For example, gender representation in meetings and capacity building workshops and gender disaggregation of participants in consultancies, workshops, and trainings under the project *Strengthening sustainable forest management in Africa* during 2014 to 2016 indicate:

- Out of a total of 49 experts engaged by AFF to undertake its activities in this period, nine experts were female (18.4%) while 40 (81.6%) were male.
- Out of a total of 10 workshops and training sessions, bringing together a total of 516 participants, women representation ranged from 12.8% to 34.4%.

The low representation of women is also exemplified among the AFF membership which currently stands at 22% while men represent 78%. Not many women participate in professional forestry activities on the continent.

At the AFF Secretariat there are 50% women and 50% men.

Chapter 5. Managing and sharing forestry information

Rapid progress in global technological advancement means that knowledge acquisition, storage and access are evolving very fast. The emergence of the internet as a dominant, reliable, cost-effective and widespread medium for accessing and transmitting information has facilitated acquisition and sharing of knowledge. Increasingly, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as well as digitized data have become necessities in the current globalized knowledge based society.

However, the enormous growth of information is also creating numerous challenges for information seekers and users. For example, in Africa, sustainable forest management is often particularly constrained by poor access to knowledge and technologies. Relevant and timely information and knowledge on SFM are needed for: influencing policy-making at continental, regional and national levels including investment decisions; monitoring impact of interventions; capacity building and day-to-day forest management decisions, among others.

AFF views knowledge management as a dual challenging activity. First, managing information and processes and, second, managing people and their environment so that knowledge is created, shared and applied more systematically and effectively. By creating a new balance in the creation, sharing, translation and application of knowledge, AFF is working towards delivering on its commitment as a knowledge brokerage institution that facilitates access to forest related information for a sustainable future.

Advancing AFF's knowledge assets, information systems and communications

In a first step towards building a strong knowledge based organization, AFF relied on a clear roadmap for managing knowledge resources better while inculcating a culture of sharing knowledge among stakeholders and disseminating lessons and best

practices arising thereof. Since its implementation in 2015, the AFF Knowledge Management Strategy has facilitated networking, programming and advocacy activities of the institution as well organizational development of the Secretariat for effective delivery on its mandate.

The strategy addresses capacity gaps in skills and knowledge in order to facilitate effective and sustained uptake of available technologies to address challenges of weak infrastructure, affordability, inappropriate available formats, language barriers or cultural contexts in Africa. Free cloud based applications for information repositories, file sharing, Google Alerts and RSS feeds are some of the methodologies that have been utilized for improving access to equitable, relevant and timely information. An AFF Knowledge Management Training Manual provides support and facilitates building capacity to distill and synthesize tacit knowledge from individuals with expertise to information seekers in order to help them to respond to the needs of their different audiences.

Knowledge management methods and tools in the form of a repository also provide new opportunities to improve AFF's work by improving effectiveness, efficiency and communication. The knowledge repository gives open access to AFF and partner publications, technical and assessment reports, guidelines, newsletters, journal articles and other types of information material. By providing knowledge products online and in digital format, it aims to improve access to and the visibility of AFF's body of published work among governments, scientists, NGOs, the private sector, students and the public.

Investments in advancing AFF's knowledge assets, information systems and communications will further help build and support a vibrant 'virtual' community of stakeholders in African forestry. It will also help strengthen AFF as a knowledge brokerage institution.

Knowledge brokering to improve forest management

A second step towards building a strong knowledge based organization include keeping the global, regional, national and local forestry community informed about the latest developments in the African sector. The AFF website serves as a knowledge and information hub on African forestry for its members and other stake-holders. It has been expanded considerably in terms of functionality to include two new knowledge portals. The portals link to over 50 databases on forest resources to provide a one-stop shop for forestry knowledge in Africa.

In this way, the website avails knowledge on priority issues that are critical for the development of the forest sector, including current, new and emerging issues; the aim being to inform policy making, investment decisions and capacity building at continental, regional and national levels. The website is also able to provide daily information drawn from the news, social media, international and business community that forms the agenda of on-going discussions, making it both transparent and accessible to all stakeholders.

Further, it increases the public's access to data and information on forestry and other developments around the world, largely through collaboration with AFF members and relevant organizations and individuals. Data provided by the most widely used web analytics service on the Internet – Google Analytics – gives the following milestones on AFF's web traffic, product downloads and spread of visitors over these two years:

Web traffic

The users of AFF's website are a mixture of regular and loyal audience, and those with interest in its content and the African continent and its forestry. In 2016, the website recorded 74,571 visits from 37,833 visitors³ from 153 countries worldwide who were seeking to improve their understanding of various forestry issues. This indicates a growth in total audience size by 10,997 unique visitors⁴ as compared to the year 2015.

³ A visitor is sometimes referred to as a unique visitor or a unique user to clearly convey the idea that each visitor is only counted once

⁴ Unique visitors are the number of different people visiting the web page

The number of sessions⁵ by new visitors more than doubled in 2016 to 7,899. The subsequent 'returning versus new visitor's ratio'⁶ is 38:62. The growth in numbers of new users per month can be attributed to the ongoing improvement of the website's user experience and content quality. It is also an indicator that AFF's ongoing programmatic and communication activities are making good progress and are increasingly conforming to its mandate as a knowledge brokerage institution. The analysis of the statistics from the website indicates that the users viewed both the website and the information on it as valuable resources and returned for more.

For the same reason, the 'average session duration'⁷ increased from 3min 15 seconds in 2015 to 3min 22 seconds in 2016, indicating that web users engaged for a longer period of time on the website. The months of the year that were marked by longer average periods of use were those that carried announcements on the following AFF events:

- ▶ Sub-regional workshop on strengthening forest law enforcement, forest governance and trade in forest products in West Africa, 23-25 May, 2016, Abuja, Nigeria. (Posted on 19 April 2016)
- ▶ Training workshop for African forestry practitioners on forest related multilateral processes for African Francophone countries. (Posted on 8 June 2016)
- ▶ COFO 23, World Forestry Week 5 open in Rome Italy. (Posted on 7 July 2016)
- ▶ Regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry. (Posted on 25 August 2016)
- ▶ Promoting sustainable mountain development in Africa. (Posted 11 November 2016).
- ▶ Knowledge sharing for better management of forest ecosystems in Africa. (Posted 11 November 2016).

⁵ Sessions are interactions that take place on the website within a given time frame i.e number of times visitors accessed the web resources.

⁶ This refers to the percentage of visitors who have used the site more than once versus new users who were introduced to the site but did not return

⁷ Average session duration is measured by the amount of time new and returning visitors are spending on the website

This shows that announcements on global and pan-African forestry events have a bearing on the level of interest and engagement on the part of audience interaction with the website, demonstrating the growing interest of stakeholders in pan-African and global issues. It also demonstrates both tangibly and intuitively that AFF has a connection with its members and thus provides an entry point to plan changes that can help users interact more, not only with the information on the site, but to also extend its stakeholders' reach to both the wider African forestry fraternity and the global community.

Apart from that, the website's total hits in 2016 were 1.4 million. In 2015, the total number of hits were about 0.9 million. While an analysis of this type of data is hardly a true reflection of the site's performance, it shows that in 2016, there was an increase in the number and variety of photos, graphics and videos downloaded from the website. As a result, the number of hits has increased in these two years.

The website's most popular entry page is the homepage. As the digital face of the institution, the homepage is designed to reflect AFF's corporate branding through items like the logo, tagline, colours and fonts. To complete the user experience and encourage more return visitors, the website is designed in a visually appealing way – a way in which the buttons, links, and other resource materials stand out and are easy to use. The homepage also makes use of calls to action in strategic places to attract users, guide them along appropriate paths and allow them to delve into other pages.

Other pages that have a high number of people visiting are: vacancies, membership, publications, about us, news and events. From this it can be inferred that users access the website is to explore available opportunities, as can be quickly glanced from the webpage. This is followed by a general interest to join AFF's growing membership and make use of the available information on job and training opportunities; in addition to exploring other resources available on African forestry like publications, news and events. AFF is continuously working to ease navigation to all areas on the website.

AFF also utilized Search Engine Optimization (SEO)⁸ strategies such as adding phrases, descriptions of images; to increase visibility of the website in search results list on the internet. Relevant key words on the website such as 'African forestry' ensure accessibility in the google search engine and this improves the chances that users come across the AFF website.

Product downloads

AFF produces a range of products that inform members and other stakeholders on the latest information from research and other studies on African forestry and related areas, as well as important events that have a bearing on national, regional and global forestry issues. The range of information materials freely available on the website include: Journal articles (30), policy briefs (19), factsheets (4), reports (20), publications under AFF Working Paper Series (38), training modules (3), newsletters (15), meeting proceedings (1), books (3), compendiums (1), and corporate documents (10).

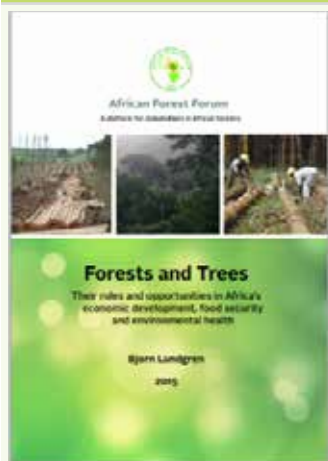
All this information is relevant to many African forestry stakeholders in decision making, policy formulation and implementation. This is attested by the downloading of a total of 36,468 documents and pages in 2016 by national governments, scientists and civil society. These downloads were made up of 2,801 downloaded PDF documents along with 33,667 opened pages. The product downloads included documents published under AFF Working Paper Series, policy briefs, fact sheets, and training modules on climate change; all were cumulatively accessed 429,369 times.

The most downloaded publication in 2016 on the website was the English version of the *Forest certification in Africa: achievements, challenges and opportunities* monograph/book. It is presumed that users downloading the book are from the wider scientific and academic community, policy makers, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, and the governments seeking to better understand forest certification in Africa. About 50% of the most downloaded documents are original research

⁸ Search engine optimization (SEO) is the process of affecting the visibility of a website or a web page in a web search engine's unpaid results—often referred to as “natural”, “organic” or “earned” results

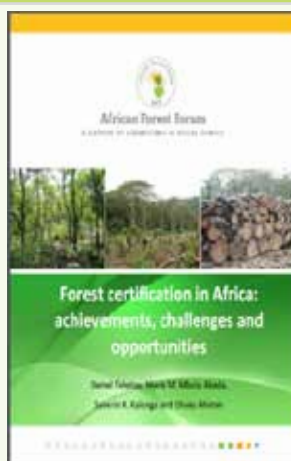
papers published in a peer reviewed scholarly journal – The International Forestry Review. Published in 2015, the papers indicate audience interest in transnational issues covering international forest science, policy, management and conservation.

SOME POPULAR AFF PUBLICATIONS IN 2015-16



The publication titled '*Forests and Trees: Their roles and opportunities in Africa's economic development, food security and environmental health*' by Björn Lundgren was published by AFF in time for the XIV WFC held in Durban South Africa in September 2015.

It aims to highlight and promote the great potential roles of forests and trees in Africa's economic development, food security and environmental health, and to indicate what requirements need to be addressed in order to realize these potentials. Available for download on the AFF website at: http://www.afforum.org/sites/default/files/English/English_13.pdf



The publication titled *Forest certification in Africa: achievements, challenges and opportunities* is by Teketay D., Mbolo A. M. M., Kalonga S. K. and Ahimin O. 2016.

The aim of the monograph is to enhance the understanding of achievements made in forest certification in Africa as well as identifying gaps, challenges, constraints encountered and needs for capacity building, including training programme(s) that will be instrumental in the promotion and successful implementation of forest certification in Africa. Available at: http://www.afforum.org/sites/default/files/English/English_13.pdf



Technical and editorial review was provided by the AFF Secretariat towards the development of the special issue of the International Forestry Review (Vol.17 (S3), 2015). Available at: <http://www.afforum.org/publications/journal-articles>

Geographical spread of visitors to the website

The highest visits to the website originate from the following ten countries: Kenya, USA, Nigeria, UK, India, Ethiopia, Cameroon, South Africa, Sudan and Ghana. African countries dominate the list with Kenya in the lead. The fact that AFF is headquartered in Kenya could be one of the main reasons that the country tops the list.

AFF continues to primarily target its information to African country stakeholders and this can be seen to bear fruit because 7 out of the ten countries are from the African continent. The United States of America follows closely behind with an impressive 566 new users, along with the United Kingdom and India, demonstrating an international and widespread appeal of AFF's activities and products, stretching from the Americas through Europe to Asia.

A further analysis of the top 50 countries visiting the website, indicate impressive visits from French speaking countries including, Cameroon, Benin, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Togo, Madagascar, Burkina Faso and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), among others.

The website is gradually being populated with French written material translated from what is already appearing there in English. Hopefully, before the end of 2017 the website will have both French and English windows, with all documents on the website appearing in both languages.

Engaging the media: A promising approach to extend AFF's reach

Thirdly, efforts to increase the reach of AFF with its information have targeted the expansion of the communications partnership sphere of influence by engaging with sectors previously not involved (media) or weakly engaged (i.e. media associations), in addition to engaging with emerging key regional bodies (e.g. the Pan African Media Alliance for Climate Change).

A key achievement towards this end has been the development of a media database of 40 journalists to facilitate sharing of timely information on the outcomes and news-worthy findings from AFF's

work - crucial for increased visibility, uptake and impact.

The media outlets were selected following a comparative analysis of local, regional and international media based on reach, circulation and credibility. As a result, several media interviews have been coordinated by the AFF Secretariat, to help raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests and trees.

For example, 17 articles (15 English, 2 French) were collected in 2016 with media coverage spread across the East, West, South and Central Africa, as well as with the wider international community. The majority of the media focused on issues related to the state of African forests while referring extensively to the contribution of forests to national economies and rural livelihoods by making reference to studies undertaken by AFF and partners.

Some of the media engagements involved interviews with staff from the AFF Secretariat, its partners and members and some have featured on Channel Africa (South Africa) – the international radio service of the SABC – that hosts various interviews with experts on interesting and important issues affecting Africa and the globe.

Others included features on: KTN and Standard Digital News (East Africa); Eco Nigeria, TVC News, Radio Lomé, *Environment Infos* and InfoCongo (West Africa); Standard Tribune (Central Africa), and the Pan African Media Alliance for Climate Change (PAMACC), an international news wire. Wire reports have been reproduced in at least two media outlets including Today.ng and agilience.com.

In 2015, there were only 4 articles in the media; hence there was a tremendous improvement in 2016 after AFF had a good strategy in place.

RADIO

- **African Dialogue, 9 Sep 2015, 14th World Forestry Congress.** Interviewees include: Trevor Abrahams, Secretary General of the 14th World Forestry Congress; Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forestry Forum and Dr. Aissetou Yaye, Executive Secretary of The African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE). <http://iono.fm/e/207269>
- **Our Heritage, 17 Sep 2015, Forest and people (part 1).** The podcast features Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum <http://iono.fm/e/209597>
- **Our Heritage, 9 Oct 2015, Forests Our Heritage.** The podcast features Dominic Walubengo (Kenya) and Dennis Kayambazinthu (Malawi) <http://iono.fm/e/216506>
- **United Nations Radio:** News feature with Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forestry Forum <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/kiswahili/2015/09/mzigo-wa-kiuchumi-kwa-ajili-ya-tabianchi-ni-mzito-kwa-bara-la-afrikaprof-kowero/#.ViS-Dn4rK01>
- **African Dialogue, 29 Sep 2016, Knowledge sharing conference in Togo.** Interviewees among others include: Prof Godwin Kowero Executive Secretary (AFF), Dr Mbolu Abada Marie Marguerite, Senior Lecturer University Yaounde and Humphrey Ngibuini Kenya Delegate <https://iono.fm/e/336597>; <https://iono.fm/e/352092?autoplay=1>; <https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/african-dialogue-forestry-lome-togo>; <https://soundcloud.com/sydney-katunga-phiri/aff-prof-godwin-koweromp3>
- **Radio Lomé, 26 Sep 2016, Knowledge sharing conference in Togo.** News feature available at <http://www.radiolome.tg/2016/09/26/forum-des-experts-forestiers-internationaux-a-lome/>

TELEVISION

- **KTN, 2 and 3 Oct 2016, The Chamwada Report: The State of African Forests Episode 63 (part one and two)** News feature available at: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/watch/2000114441/-the-chamwada-report-the-state-of-african-forests-episode-63-part-one> and <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/watch/2000114442/-the-chamwada-report-the-state-of-african-forests-episode-63-part-two>
- **TVC News, 4 Oct Saving Africa's Forests** available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lizzB-cSn9Y>

DIGITAL MEDIA

- **Eco Nigeria, 26-30 Sept 2016.** News features available at: <http://econigeria.com/aff-kicks-off-regional-workshop-on-african-forestry-in-lome-togo/>; <http://econigeria.com/food-production-increases-annually-as-forest-area-diminishes/>; <http://econigeria.com/saving-africas-endangered-forests/>; <http://econigeria.com/lessons-from-africanforestry2016-understanding-sustainable-forest-management/>
- **The Standard Tribune, 28 Sept 2016.** Available at: <http://thestandardtribune.com/2016/09/28/forest-experts-seek-to-deepen-knowledge-on-african-forestry/>
- **PAMACC news wire, 28 Sept 2016.** Available at: <http://pamacc.org/index.php/k2-listing/item/339-forest-experts-seek-to-deepen-knowledge-on-african-forestry>; <http://www.pamacc.org/index.php/k2-listing/item/340-roads-used-by-forest-loggers-are-a-major-environmental-challenge-experts>
- **InfoCongo news wire, 4 Oct 2016.** Available at: <http://infocongo.org/africas-great-green-wall-to-fight-climate-migration-terrorism/>
- **Environnment infos: N° 12 - 16 Octobre 2016**



KTN, 2 and 3 Oct 2016, The Chamwada Report: State of African Forests Episode 63 (part 1 and 2) featuring among others, Harrison Ochieng AFF member and private consultant during the knowledge sharing regional workshop held in Lomé, Togo 26-30 September 2017.

Available at: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktnnews/video/watch/2000114441/-the-chamwada-report-the-state-of-african-forests-episode-63-part-one>



Watch Prof. Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary, AFF explain his view on the economic challenge climate change presents to the African continent

Available at: <http://www.afforum.org/resources/video>



Watch news feature broadcast on Nigeria's TVC news on "a regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry" organized by AFF and the University of Lomé in Togo.

Available at: <http://www.afforum.org/resources/video>

In addition to the mainstream media, internet-based applications have been used as a tool to allow virtually instant access to, and sharing of, information. Social networks like Facebook, media-sharing sites like YouTube and micro-blogging sites like Twitter have facilitated social interaction via the creation of a hashtag (#Africanforestry2016) and exchange of member generated content during key events. Flickr, a popular image and video hosting website widely used by researchers, has also been utilized to enhance embedding of AFF photographs in blogs and social media.

Topics that have dominated conversations on social media are related to the following areas: the state of African forests, SFM, and links between forestry and climate change. In 2015, AFF's Twitter account witnessed growth from 29 to 488 followers while Facebook was up at 644 from 150. AFF has used these channels to reach large audiences, fast and inexpensively. With the introduction of frequently

updated published information (RSS feeds) such as blog entries, news, events making headlines. Information is continually posted very efficiently on the website.

As a result, attention to and coverage of forestry issues has substantially improved; with AFF's profile, reputation and membership gaining visibility on local, regional and international news channels, sites and social media platforms. The cost of buying space taken up by media articles, of which AFF did not pay for in 2016, is USD 43,142.

Workshops and events

Fourthly, there were two crowning moments during the biennium for AFF: The XIV World Forestry Congress, which offered a good platform to discuss better ways for managing and protecting the world's forests for the sake of humanity and the environment, and a workshop with the title *Regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and*

experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry.

The XIV World Forestry Congress was held in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 11 September 2015 with the theme “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”. Over 4,000 participants from 142 countries, representing governments and public agencies, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, NGOs, and community and indigenous organizations attended the five day plenary and thematic dialogue sessions.

In a run up to the main event, a pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop organized by AFF was a unique opportunity for stakeholders in African forestry to better understand the broader context in which deforestation, forest and land degradation has been taking place and especially why it is so rapid in Africa as compared to other continents. The two-day pre-XIV World Forestry Congress workshop was organized by the African Forest Forum in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa, the Centre for Sustainable Development-University

of Ibadan, and the Forest Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa, with financial support from Sida and SDC . It was hosted and also partly supported by the Government of South Africa.

Key messages from this workshop were identified, discussed and presented by AFF’s Executive Secretary, Prof. Godwin Kowero during Africa Day – a special event of the XIV WFC held on 8 September. Organized by AFF and partners, in support of the Durban Declaration, participants had this rare opportunity to share, network and participate in this unique experience.

“We applaud the role of the Forum (AFF) in facilitating attendance and the contribution of African delegates at international and regional negotiations related to forestry. We see this role growing as global events continue to shape the development agendas in Africa through globalization and supra-national sustainable development initiatives.” - Ms. Edith Vries, Director General Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa



Plenary session of the Pre-XIV WFC workshop held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in Durban. Photo © AFF 2015.



Mr. Macarthy Oyebo, Chairman of the AFF Governing Council, delivering his welcome address at the opening of the Pre-XIV WFC workshop in Durban. Photo © AFF/2015.



Ms. Edith Vries, Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in South Africa delivering the keynote address at the opening of the Pre-XIV WFC workshop. Photo © AFF/2015.

The other highlight was “A regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry” from 26 to 30 September 2016 in Lomé, Togo. The regional workshop provided participants with a platform to share knowledge, lessons learnt and good practice, and make available policy instruments and tools developed through studies undertaken by AFF and partners.

The workshop used a participatory approach, which allowed the exchange of information and experiences among the 71 participants and media practitioners that attended the event. A blend of short technical presentations, group work, discussions, open forum and excursions created a very positive learning environment. Knowledge exchange media roundtables were held as two side events to the 5 day workshop. Journalists

were invited to attend and cover the roundtable discussions that were led by a panel of international experts and moderators.

The roundtable discussions provided direct interaction between journalists, forestry experts, policymakers, training institutions, private sector, NGOs and others on priority and emerging issues on sustainable forest management (SFM) and resilience to climate change by forests and trees as well as the local communities that depend on these resources. Results from studies that covered the following areas were presented for discussion: climate change, green economy, provision of quality tree germplasm, forest pests and diseases, good forest governance and law enforcement, forest certification and public private partnerships (PPP) investments in the forestry sector.



Participants to “A regional workshop on sharing of knowledge and experiences to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders in African forestry” held from 26 to 30 September 2016 in Lomé Togo. Photo © AFF/2016



Opening session of the same workshop. Photo: Radio Lomé/2016



Presentation by Dr. Tahiana Ramana, Associate Professor, wood and forestry sciences, ESSA-Forêts, Madagascar, to the plenary.

Making use of information shared by AFF

As part of its catalytic role in managing and sharing information for transformation and change in the African forestry sector, AFF monitors the uptake and impact of its knowledge products in the use of environmentally sound forest management practices. Since 2015, AFF has undertaken data collection and analyses through regular surveys, to assess the ability to access, use, replicate, improve and, possibly, re-share the knowledge amongst, across and within countries, stakeholder organizations and institutions.

In this regard, surveys were undertaken to provide more details on the patterns of access and uses of the information shared by AFF, especially online. The findings indicated that forestry and agriculture related institutions from the academic, research, government, civil society and private sectors used the information more than any other groups that participated in the survey. The infomail was found to be the main source of information for users followed by the general website and publications, respectively. The findings provided a good indication on how the information from AFF had been used towards development of teaching materials, development or revision of curricula, policies, new research and development project ideas.

In addition, post workshops evaluations provided an opportunity for a more comprehensive assessment

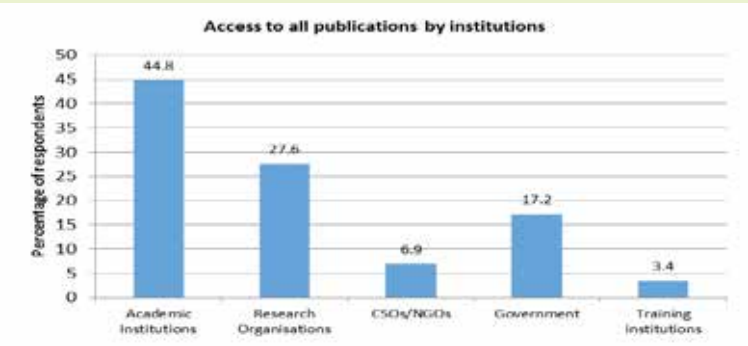
of the relevance, efficiency and use of AFF information. The regular evaluations conducted after each workshop indicated that participants gained valuable information and knowledge from these workshops and they informed that they were able to apply such knowledge in their daily activities. From the workshop evaluations it emerged that a number of participants and their institutions were able to make use of the knowledge and information gained in various ways. These included further dissemination of the information and knowledge, identification of research opportunities, incorporation of the information into tertiary education courses, networking between institutions and for fundraising. The knowledge and information was also factored into review of institutional strategic plans, recommendations for policy review and memoranda of understanding among institutions to implement common projects.

UPTAKE AND IMPACT OF AFF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

A survey was conducted in September 2015 to assess the uptake and possible impact of AFF knowledge products by AFF members within their respective institutions. The aim of the survey was to identify patterns of access, relevance, efficiency and use of information shared by AFF. Seventy one (71) representatives of forestry related institutions from 28 countries across Africa responded to the survey.

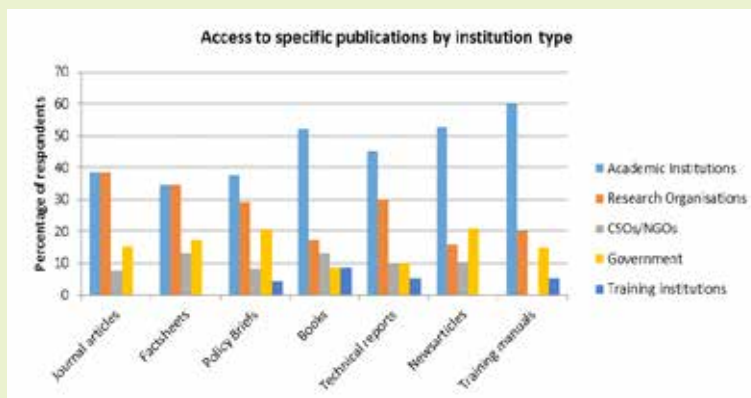
An analysis of the data revealed that academic institutions (comprising universities, university colleges and technical colleges) accessed publications on the AFF website more than other institution categories surveyed, followed by research organizations and government institutions at nearly 45%, 28% and 17% respectively. Other training institutions reported least access to publications (Fig. 2).

Figure 2: Institution categories accessing AFF information products



The findings also showed that the academic institutions and research organizations referred more to training manuals and technical reports (under AFF Publication Series), whereas government institutions accessed policy briefs more than other publications. CSOs/NGOs on the other hand accessed fact sheets and books more than any other publication type (Fig. 3).

Figure 3: Type of publication accessed according to institution category



UPTAKE AND IMPACT OF AFF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS (CONT.)

Twenty five percent (25%) of the respondents further reported that the information contributed to their professional development in terms of improving professional networks, knowledge on forestry issues, exposure to funding, job and consultancy opportunities and improvement of writing skills.

The information also impacted on forest policy development work for 11% of respondents. This included ability to provide technical advice to policy makers, participation in policy making, knowledge on regional and international policies.

For 18% of the respondents, the information contributed to development of new projects through generation of project ideas, identification of funding opportunities and opportunities to collaborate in other projects.

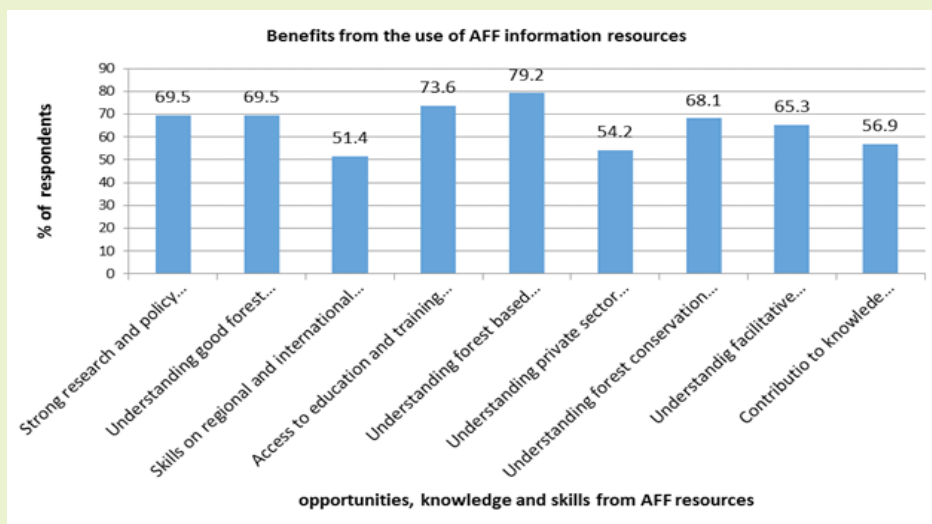
The actions taken to apply the knowledge and skills corresponded to the institutions the respondents were affiliated to. These were in education and training (10%), research (15%), policy development (8%), climate change research, adaptation and mitigation (10%) and community development (5%).

Respondents were also asked to rate their satisfaction with knowledge and skills gained on selected thematic areas resulting from using AFF information (Figure 4). Over 50% of respondents reported satisfaction with the overall knowledge and skills gained.

Specifically, the following thematic areas were highly favoured by respondents in terms of knowledge and skills gain.

- Understanding forest based climate change adaptation and mitigation (79%)
- Enhanced access to relevant education and training materials (73%)
- Enhanced ability to formulate research and policy recommendation (69%)
- Understanding good forest governance, law enforcement and its applications (69%)

Figure 4: Benefits from the use of AFF information resources



The table below provides examples of the actions taken by the respondents (reported verbatim) and the type of information consulted. Since this information was given as feedback to open ended questions on the survey, the responses were more of a general nature, indicating a general perspective of how AFF information is put to use by respondents.

EXAMPLES OF HOW INFORMATION HAS BEEN USED BY AFF MEMBERS

RESPONDENT	INFORMATION USED	ACTIONS TAKEN TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE
Lecturer, Université de Dschang, Cameroon	Regional thematic publications, training modules and manuals on climate change	Developed a training program and assisted in coordinating a training centre in the forestry sector; Initiated a project on climate change and REDD+
Assistant Prof, University of Bahri, Sudan	Research and policy recommendations from publications, expert workshops and funding opportunities	Used AFF information and services to prepare lecturers within the University
Lecturer, University of Rwanda	Publications, funding and job opportunities, events announcements	Used AFF publications as reference to improve lecture notes
Scientist, Institut National de recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)	Training manuals and publications	Training manual was used as a guide to prepare lectures in the university; made contributions to AFF publications that gave an opportunity to advance research career; networked with colleagues from other research institutions at the XIV WFC Congress that availed the opportunity to network with professionals from NARS

Lecturer, Botswana College of Agriculture	Technical reports, fact sheets, policy briefs and newsletter	Used the information to improve teaching, research and performance evaluation. Prepared new policies on forest certification
Lecturer, Kwame Nkurumah University of Science and Technology (KMUST), Ghana	Workshops and events	Acquired skills that enabled participation in international and national assignments for Ghana. Improved teaching and research in the University; conducted action research to benefit rural communities
Research Scientist, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)	Research, consultancy and networking opportunities and events announcements	Developed a research paper
Professor, University of Pretoria, South Africa	Working and Research papers, consultations	Broadened area for research, international networking and student fellowship
Lecturer, Université de Lomé, Togo	Publications, technical reports, training manuals	Prepared a proposal in response to funding opportunities;
Forester, WaterAid, Uganda	Report on - Forest certification potential in Africa: what shapes forestry in Africa	Prepared and presented a technical paper for in an international congress with guidance from AFF information resources
Researcher, University of Abuja, Nigeria	Training and funding opportunities	Conducted research that provided information for policy development
Gender Specialist, National Research Institute, Madagascar		Used the information for networking and research activities
Individual Consultant and Forest Engineer, Senegal	African Positions for negotiations, documents on technical aspects of global objectives on forests (GOF), Job and training opportunities	Provided technical advice to the Minister of Forestry Service for national policy making workshops; conducted training at École Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture (ENSA), thesis
Forester, Zimbabwe Forestry College,	Climate change book, training on carbon measurement, climate change curriculum, grants and scholarships	Conducted effective training and practical project development on climate change issues
Professor, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania	Technical reports	Made aware of emerging issues in forestry
Research Assistant, Kenya Marine Forests Research Institute (KMFRRI)	Participation at the pre-XIV WFC workshop, RaCSA training in Kitui, Kenya; Opportunities for scholarships (AFF HAFL)	Improved capacity in measurement of forest carbon and REDD+. Made an application for the AFF HAFL scholarship

Chapter 6: Partnership platforms

Partnership is AFF's 'way of working' and is embedded in all its interventions, primarily through: convenings on specific issues as well as for on-going sharing, learning and co-creation of solutions among the AFF membership – at continental, regional and national levels; the creation of strategic teams tasked to generate scalable solutions to specific challenges; and brokering collaboration through 'match-making' to create partnerships that bring together complementary resources and/or skills for enhancing effectiveness and probability of success in delivery of interventions at regional or continental levels.

Regional cooperation

From the African Union Commission (AUC) on one hand, to African Regional Economic groups such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) and integrated land management programmes like the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahelian Initiative (GGWSSI) on the other, AFF has been forging partnerships to address its mandate.

During this biennium, AFF considerably increased its convening power by capitalizing on cultivating confidence of African governments and other partners in the institution. This is ably demonstrated by its support to government initiatives for which assistance from AFF has been solicited like in development of strategies to guide initial national activities for GGWSSI (for which support was given to Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Chad), implementation of the Convergence Plan for Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa, led by ECOWAS, for which AFF is a team leader of one of the seven pillars of this strategy, namely "Information, education and communication".

AFF works very closely with the African Union Commission on many fronts. The two institutions have a MoU that guides development of forestry on the continent. For example, in 2016 AFF led the development of a Sustainable Forest Management Programme (SFMP) for Africa that was recommended by the AU Summit in its Decision 'Assembly/AU/Dec.538 (XXIII)' and adopted by Heads of States in Malabo in June 2014. This will be a framework for sustainable forest management that would enable Member States and Regional Groupings to sustainably manage and develop their forestry sectors for social-economic development and environmental protection.

AFF has also made major strides in raising awareness on the importance of good forest governance and law enforcement within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This cooperation has to-date led to the development of a SADC-FLEGT Programme in support of activities aimed at strengthening compliance to forest regulations, as well as the SADC Timber Association concept.

AFF's partnership with AUC, FAO, UNCCD, CILSS, and SOS Sahel supports successful organization of the African Drylands Week events, which is a regional forum that brings together experts, representatives of local populations, and policy makers from international, regional and local organizations to deliberate on Africa's drylands development, focusing on successes and challenges they face, including sustainable land management.



Dry forest in the Sahelian Parklands. Photo ©AFF



Secondary forest in the southern part of Nigeria. Photo © Larwanou Mahamane /AFF



Harvesting timber in the Vipya forest plantations in Malawi.

On the global scene, a member of the AFF Secretariat participated in the organizing committee for the XIV World Forestry Congress that was, for the first time, held in Africa (in Durban, South Africa) in September 2015. Further, AFF is accredited to sessions of UNFF, COPs of UNFCCC and UNCCD. Also, AFF works very closely with many other global institutions like FAO, IUFRO, UNFF, UNEP, ICRAF, and many individuals from outside Africa, some of whom are members of AFF. In addition, AFF works with many African institutions and individuals.

Collaboration with universities and other research institutions

In this biennial AFF signed 18 MoUs with African universities whose students were awarded research fellowships. The MoUs provide opportunities for further collaboration in many areas of mutual interest beyond the current student fellowship period.

More recently, AFF initiated MoUs with Hawassa University, Ethiopia, and the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in the same vein. All these partnerships are expected to also facilitate down-scaling the findings from AFF's studies, through these national institutions, to the national and sub-national levels and eventually creating impact in their own countries.

In 2015, AFF signed a MoU with Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. This MoU seeks to enhance close working collaboration

and relationship with relevant Kenyan Government agencies working on forestry and related issues, including climate change. It is also anticipated that through this MoU, the findings from AFF studies will influence policy and national dialogues on forestry and climate change in Kenya. In partly operationalizing this agreement AFF has signed an MoU with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) to promote and undertake research and development activities on forestry and allied natural resources; implement rigorous, well researched and detailed programmes to advance and enhance an understanding of the needs and opportunities available through forest and tree resources; build the capacity of KEFRI, AFF and partner staff in science and policy in forestry.

Further, AFF and the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA), an independent pan-African NGO based at KEFRI, have partnered to facilitate the development of gums and resins in Africa, a request that was extended to AFF by the African Union Commission with the aim of empowering women who are key producers of *Gum Arabic* on the continent. More specifically, this partnership seeks to better coordinate the production, marketing and trade in these products with the view to enhance socio-economic development in arid and semi-arid lands in the producing countries.



Local forestry community in AFF partner institution's research area
© AFF and Egerton University, 2016



Edible products from the forest are essential components of food security in many parts of Africa.
Credits: ICRAF



Gums and Resins are used for medication, food, additive to soft drinks, confectionery, pharmaceutical, adhesive, for making paint & printing color, among others © AFF

Engaging the private sector

The African Forest Forum has embarked on an initiative to better understand the private sector in forestry with the aim of facilitating the development of mechanisms for its strengthening and growth. In this regard, AFF has initiated studies in 22 African countries on different partnership arrangements

in both primary and secondary private sector operations in forestry, and also began assessing private-public-partnership initiatives. The studies also look at how the private sector in forestry is handling climate change issues. This work is still ongoing.

Chapter 7.

Management and administration

The biennium was a landmark for internal management as AFF streamlined its organizational structure and became better aligned to deliver the results provided under its *Short and Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2015-2020)*. In particular, resource mobilization was improved including adopting of a more efficient approach for using allocated funding, positioning of the institution as a strategic regional partner of choice for multilateral and international organizations and relevant international processes, as well as initiation of an endowment fund, that already has some modest contributions from members of the Governing Council and Secretariat of AFF, in order to facilitate sustainability of the institution.

Programme of work

The 11th and 12th meetings of the AFF Governing Council (GC) held from 24-25 March 2015 in Mombasa and 22-23 March 2016 in Nairobi, respectively, approved, among other things, the operational plans and budgets for activities implemented in 2015 and 2016 for both projects, in addition to the annual reports for the respective preceding years.

The GC also approved new institutional arrangements such as the merger of the ToRs of the *Technical Support Team for international and regional negotiations* with those of the *Working group to raising the profile of forestry initiatives* to create a *Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry*. The GC also approved a Resources Mobilisation Strategy for AFF developed by the Task Force on Resources Mobilisation.

Administrative and management issues at AFF

Project administration and management

In line with building human and resource capacities, good working teams have been formed at the Secretariat with a mechanism for coordinating the projects established by the Programme Management Unit (PMU); and without much interference from the Executive Secretary (ES), though he also provides input as necessary. This has helped facilitate building of synergies between

individual projects along with cutting down on operational costs. Two Senior Programme Officers (SPOs), assisted by two Programme Officers (POs), have been the driving force in these developments.

Communication and Knowledge Management

Likewise, the Knowledge Management and Communications Unit (KMCOMM) was also made operational during this period. Two members of staff were recruited for communication and knowledge management and have since been working very closely together. They already have in place Communication and Knowledge Management strategies to guide AFF in its knowledge brokerage role as well as in communicating to its target audiences.

For administrative purposes the Knowledge Management Specialist is directly supervised by the Head of

PMU but works on all projects. The Communication Specialist also works on all projects, however is supervised by the ES in order to ensure that information that leaves AFF conforms to expectations.

Programme Management, Review, Monitoring and Evaluation (PMER)

One staff member was recruited to guide the work of the nascent PMER Unit. This began with the development of a PMER strategy to guide AFF's activities. Consequently, the planning and monitoring of performance of annual activities of the projects have continued to receive considerable input from this Unit. Evaluation of performance of AFF's dissemination approach through workshops, training courses and seminars has been a constant activity of this Unit.

Every six months after these events and later one year after, there is a follow up on what those participating in such events promised to do. In this way, AFF keeps track of uptake and possible impact of information shared through these avenues. Also, the monitoring of uptake and impact of information generated and shared through the previous phase of each project is continuously being undertaken. This is because the present projects build upon some

activities implemented and issues relevant in their previous phases.

In the last two years, the PMER Unit has become operational and is currently growing. The PMER Specialist works with all projects but is directly supervised by the ES in order to ensure that the impact of AFF's work is captured and communicated properly.

Finance and Administration

A Finance Officer (FO) and an Administration Officer (AO) man the Finance and Administration Unit (FAU) that is under the direct supervision of the ES. FAU is operational and getting stronger. Occasionally, the two officers have been supported by short term hired labour, especially at peak hours of operation, like when undertaking annual financial audits. In this period AFF received two clean audit reports from our auditors Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for the respective years. This Unit supports all activities undertaken by AFF. The annual budget for AFF has grown from an average of US\$1.5 million to about US\$ 2.5-3 million.

Staff development

Apart from exposure to short term courses, there has not been extensive staff training in their areas of work that has been supported by AFF. However, on their own volition and at their own cost, the FO and AO are at different stages of doing masters' degrees in areas that will be useful to their jobs. Also, the PMER and the Knowledge Management specialist are doing PhD studies that hold potential to strengthen their skills in their daily tasks. Given such study loads during off working hours it would not be advisable to load them with additional training.

The scientific staff members, i.e. the two SPOs, two POs and ES, continue to strengthen their scientific knowledge and skills by directly working on some project activities as well as supervising the work done by AFF's experts. This has led to considerable scientific publishing, either by themselves, or jointly with the experts. This contributes immensely to building their scientific exposure, contacts and publishing record. Gradually, the Knowledge Management, Communication, and PMER specialists will work with the scientific staff at the Secretariat in joint publishing, as well as in producing knowledge products to other audiences.

Office of the Executive Secretary

The ES has many responsibilities that are defined in the Constitution of AFF. In this regard, the office has ensured that all annual project plans and budgets are made and approved by relevant organs, their deliverables achieved as desired, relevant communication made to donors (financial and operational reports), financial audits undertaken, accountability made to the Governing Council and its committees, and information generated shared as planned. This has been made possible through supervision of activities undertaken by the SPOs, AO, FO, PMER and Communication Specialists, and, through the SPOs, the two POs and Knowledge Management Specialist.

All these activities are supported by numerous other activities undertaken by the AO and FO, including procurement of relevant materials, support to recruitment of experts and AFF staff, and organization and support services for running of events like workshops and training courses. All these and many other activities undertaken by the FAU are supervised by the ES

Additionally, the ES is secretary to meetings of the Governing Council (GC) and Executive Committee (EC). It therefore has been and is the duty of the ES to prepare the meetings of the GC and its committees and ensure implementation of recommendations that come from them. The GC meets once every year, normally March, together with its committees.

The EC meets twice year, usually in March and November. Both the EC and GC approve the work plans and budgets for the two projects together with reports emanating from them, monitor their implementation, and oversee staff performance and collaborative arrangements/partnerships with relevant institutions, among other things.

It is also the duty of the ES to cultivate good relations with the host institution (ICRAF) and host country (Kenya). In this regard, the ES has continued to liaise with various ICRAF staff and senior leadership in an effort to enhance good working relationships. Fortunately, some of them are AFF members and even the DDG-Research represents ICRAF on the GC.

Furthermore, the ES also continued to work closely with the parent ministry in Kenya together with key forestry institutions in the country, including

Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). To this end, AFF and the parent Kenyan ministry signed a MoU in 2015 to strengthen collaboration on forestry matters, and a separate agreement was signed with KEFRI in 2016.

Through the leadership of the ES, AFF also worked very closely with the Forestry Society of Kenya, a professional forestry association, and in 2015 this support culminated in the initial stages of establishing the East African Professional Forestry Association that will link forestry professionals from Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

With regard to strategic guidance to the institution, two key interventions stand out, namely; containing currency fluctuations in grants and growth of the institution and its ability to link better with development partners.

With the strengthening of the US\$ against other world currencies, AFF experienced a decline in the US\$ value of the grant received from Sida, a loss which in 2015 stood at around US\$1.6 million over the five year period. With the collaboration of the SPOs, AFF has since sought to engage more postgraduate students instead of contracted experts in many aspects of its work.

This has resulted into cheaper ways of doing the same tasks and under proper supervision and with much more on ground data and yielding better outputs. In the same token, it serves to build capacity in the students, the universities that train them and their eventual employers. Also AFF reduced the number of workshops by sharing results from the two projects in jointly organized workshops, thereby being cost efficient.

GROWTH OF THE INSTITUTION AND ITS ABILITY TO LINK BETTER WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

AFF is currently developing a programmatic approach to its work, as opposed to the current project approach. The ideas that have already been discussed and approved by the EC and GC, and which will be developed further, dictate that the programmatic approach will be hinged on the following five pillars:

A. A better understanding of forests and trees outside forests and ways to manage them better

- Containing and reversing forest cover loss in Africa
- Improving quality of primary forest production

B. Contribution of forests and trees to economic and social development and to poverty eradication

- Enhancing the contributions of forests and trees outside forests to poverty eradication, national economies and attainment of the SDGs

C. The contribution of forests and trees to environmental health

- Enhancing the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to climate change, biodiversity conservation, quality water supplies and other ecosystem services

D. The contribution of forests and trees to food and nutrition security

- Examine the various ways forests and trees support food security and production through, for example, as income supplement to rural people, support to agricultural production and livestock husbandry, water availability etc.

E. Cross cutting issues

- Policies and governance
 - Improving governance of forestry resources and activities and law enforcement
 - Interrogating and improving the institutional (policy and legislative) environment in support of forest compatible development
- Capacities and skills
 - Enhance skills and capacity to undertake tasks in forestry
- Information, knowledge and skills
 - Strengthening management of information and knowledge
 - Monitoring and measuring of impact in forestry

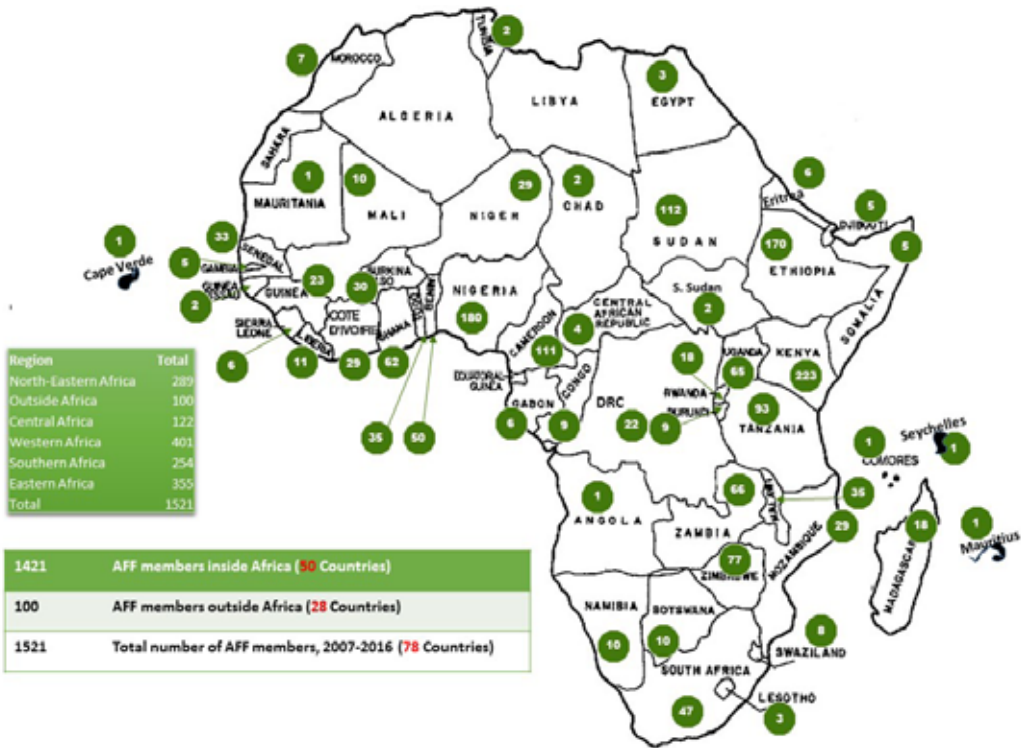
Membership to AFF

Since its inception, AFF has progressively admitted members on an annual basis. By the end of 2016 AFF had a total of 1521 full members, with 90% being ordinary members while the rest are associate members (mainly students). In 2016, AFF received over 304 applications for membership which will be evaluated at the next meeting of the Governing Council to be held in March 2017. If all these applications are approved, this will represent a membership growth of 150% in the period 2011 -2016. Members are predominantly male (78% of the total), reflecting the forest profession in general.

Members come from 78 countries worldwide; of these, 50 are African countries with 93% of the total members. Only 5 member states of the African Union, namely Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Sahrawi Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe are yet to be represented. Membership from outside Africa (7%), referred to as “Friends of African forestry”, is from 28 countries namely: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States.

Over 56% of AFF members have either MSc or PhD level degree qualifications, 31% with a Bachelors degree and 11% with a diploma. The remaining 2% have a certificate. Members come from the academia, government ministries and departments, NGOs, private sector, and farmers’ organisations, among others. AFF members are individually vetted and approved by the Governing Council.

Members are actively contributing their time and expertise towards advancing the mission of AFF by voluntarily availing their individual resources in a pool for sharing through the AFF members’ intranet. At their own volition, members have exchanged, through the intranet, 397 full text journal articles which have received 8475 views and have been downloaded 2,903 times.



Chapter 8:

Financial management at AFF

AFF is hosted at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) through an agreement. As parts of this agreement, ICRAF provides AFF with office space, in addition to ICT, procurement, human resources and access to travel services, all at a fee agreed upon with ICRAF. As a result of the hosting arrangement AFF adheres to the following ICRAF's policies and guidelines in financial and human resources management, and in procurement: (a) ICRAF Finance Policy, (b) ICRAF Procurement Guidelines, and (c) ICRAF Human Resource Policy.

With respect to procurement, the ICRAF Procurement Unit undertakes all procurement of goods and services on behalf of AFF. The recruitment of AFF Secretariat staff and hiring of experts/consultants who undertake some of AFF's work is also done by the ICRAF Human Resource Unit in very close collaboration with AFF, and this follows the ICRAF Human Resources Policy. All forms of procurement and the recruitment of AFF Secretariat staff and hiring of experts/consultants are initiated by AFF with the approval of the AFF Executive Secretary. AFF develops the ToR for recruited persons.

The procurement activities are overseen by the Administrative Officer who raises the Online Requisition Form (ORF) and forwards it to the AFF Executive Secretary for approval. The approved ORF is then sent to the ICRAF Procurement Unit which obtains a minimum of 3 quotes for the items to be purchased, the quotes are then evaluated based on quality and price and a supplier is awarded the approved purchase order.

Having followed all due processes of procurement, accounting and reporting in adherence to the relevant ICRAF human resource, finance and procurement policies and guidelines, AFF undergoes an annual external financial audit exercise which is conducted by reputable audit firms, such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernest &

Young. Annual financial audit reports are presented to the AFF Finance Committee for review and to the Governing Council of AFF. AFF is also accountable to the NGO regulatory bodies in Kenya, i.e. the National Council of NGOs and the NGOs Coordination Board. AFF submits annual audited financial statements to the NGO Coordination Board and pays an annual membership fee to the National Council of NGOs.

The annual budget for AFF in recent years is about US\$2.5-3.0 million. AFF is guided in both financial and administrative matters by the following key documents that have been approved by the GC, and also used by external financial auditors: (I) African Forest Forum Financial Regulations and Rules, and (ii) Guidelines for Administrative and Financial Operations. Both documents were developed by AFF.




AFF holds bank accounts with the Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) through which it receives donor funding and from which it then makes transfers to ICRAF according to its needs. AFF's finances are transacted through the ICRAF finance system, currently the Agresso system. As part of the hosting agreement, ICRAF handles all finances for AFF and maintains the books of accounts; however, AFF's Finance Officer acts as an intermediary between AFF and ICRAF.






The FO initiates all the transactions to be made by ICRAF on behalf of AFF, in addition to following up with ICRAF to ensure that the transactions conform to approved AFF activities. AFF also has a separate cost center in the ICRAF finance system as well as an income account where income vs expenditure transactions between AFF and ICRAF are periodically settled. The FO is also responsible for preparation of all financial reports to AFF's donors and for internal consumption within AFF.


ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: FIRST COHORT OF AFF RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Area of focus I: Assessment of Impacts of Climate Change Vulnerability of Biophysical and Socio-Economic Systems with Particular Emphasis on Gender Responsiveness and Critical Ecosystems in Africa

No	Name	Photo	Nationality	Degree	University	Study title
1	Basiru Adeniyi Okanlawon		Nigeria	MSc	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya	Vulnerability analysis of gender in relation to climate change and climate variability to communities living adjacent to South West of Nigeria
2	Moussa Massaoudou		Niger	PhD	Universite Dan Dicko Dankoulodo De Maradi, Niger	Dynamique, résilience, valeurs socio-économiques et potentiel de séquestration du carbone des peuplements ligneux des parcs à <i>Faidherbia albida</i> (Del.) A. Chev. Et <i>Prosopis africana</i> (Guill., Perrot et Rich). Taub.du centre-sud du Niger.
3	Zelege Arragaw Alemayehu		Ethiopia	PhD	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia	Vulnerability and adaptive responses of smallholder farmers' to climate change in the central highlands of Ethiopia
4	Fenta Muluken Mekuyie		Ethiopia	PhD	University of the Free State, South Africa	Understanding resilience pathways to climate change in a changing rangeland environment among pastoral societies of Afar region, Ethiopia
5	Musa Tarig Tagelsir Hassan		Sudan	PhD	University of Bahri, Republic of Sudan	The use of non-timber forest products as potential adaptation measures in the Sudan's forestry sector

No	Name	Photo	Nationality	Degree	University	Study title
6	Saalu Faith Nyangute		Kenya	MSc	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Climate variability and gender vulnerability assessment of forest dependent communities and their coping mechanisms for improved livelihood: case study of Buyangu community in Kakamega tropical rain forest, Kakamega County
7	Oyieko Simeon Oruko		Kenya	MSc	Maasai Mara University, Kenya	Use of Geo-Information Technology to Model the Environmental and Socio-economic Effects of Global Warming and Climate Change and Variability in Narok County, Kenya
8	Matava Bennet Andack Fraser		Malawi	PhD	Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania	Towards a comprehensive integration of climate change in forest management in Malawi
9	Haulesi Chisangalalo		Malawi	MSc	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	Assessment of impacts of climate change vulnerability of biophysical and socio-economic systems with particular emphasis on gender responsiveness and critical ecosystems in Malawi
10	Rakotondrasoa Lovanirina Olivia		Madagascar	Post. Doc	School of Agronomy University of Antananarivo, Madagascar	Assessment of impacts of the climate change vulnerability of human communities and ecosystems in central and northeast of Madagascar

No	Name	Photo	Nationality	Degree	University	Study title
11	Sylvanus Mensah		Benin	PhD	University of Stellenbosch , South Africa	Quantifying the effects of land uses on ecosystem services provided by trees and forests in a landscape context
12	Dongang Ceraphine		Cameroon	MSc	University of Buea, Cameroon	Community perception of forest conservation policies and impact on land cover change and CO2 emissions around the Korup and Kupe Reserves, Cameroon
13	Roger Bruno Tabue		Cameroon	PhD	University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon	Economic evaluation of carbon storage and sequestration as ecosystem service of protected areas in Cameroon: a case study of the Dja Wildlife Reserve.
14	Berhanu Terefe Abdissa		Ethiopia	PhD	Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hawassa University , Ethiopia	Biophysical dynamics of forest shifting cultivation: its implication for carbon sequestration and climate change
15	Chemuku Wekesa		Kenya	PhD	Egerton University, Kenya	Effects of forest fragmentation on forest cover dynamics, tree diversity and carbon stock in Eastern Arc mountains of Taita Hills, Kenya

No	Name	Photo	Nationality	Degree	University	Study title
16	Alice Jebiwott		Kenya	MSc	Egerton University, Kenya	Forest cover dynamics and ecosystem services of Katimok Forest Reserve, Baringo County, Kenya
17	Justinian Mushumbusi Bamanyisa		Tanzania	PhD	Moshi Co-operative University, Tanzania	The potential of co-operatives in reducing emissions and enhancing sinks from Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
18	Ferdinand Handavu		Zambia	PhD	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Modelling carbon dynamics of the Zambian miombo woodland ecosystems

ANNEX 2: SECOND COHORT OF AFF RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Area of focus: Assessment of trends on forest cover change and drivers of land use change in selected hotspots of different forest types in Africa

No	Name	Photo	Nationality	Degree	University	Study title
19	Kangbeni Dimobe		Burkina Faso	PhD	University of Ouagadougou , Burkina Faso	Assessment of trends on forest cover change and drivers of land use change in selected hotspots in different forest types in West Africa
20	Mamane Abdourahamane		Niger	MSc	Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi, Niger	Dynamique d'occupation des terres et potentiel de séquestration de carbone dans les agrosystèmes au Sahel Niger
21	Gebretasdik Zenebe Mekonnen		Ethiopia	PhD	Hawassa University, Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources , Ethiopia	Assessment of Land Use/ Land Cover Change in woodlands of central rift valley of Ethiopia in the context of climate change
22	Gondwe Monica Fides		Malawi	PhD	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Assessment of trends on forest cover change and drivers of land use change in Miombo woodlands of Malawi

ANNEX 3: MEMBERS OF THE AFF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)
AND TECHNICAL STAFF AT THE SECRETARIAT (2015-2016)



Photo: 12th AFF Governing Council (GC) held from 22-23 March 2016 at the Nairobi Safari Club in Nairobi

ANNEX 4: MEMBERS OF THE AFF SECRETARIAT



**Godwin Kowero
(Tanzania)**

Executive Secretary



**Paul Donfack
(Cameroun)**

Programme Officer



**Larwanou
Mahamane (Niger)**

Senior Programme
Officer, Head of
the Programmes
Management Unit
(PMU)



**Daphine Gitonga
(Kenya)**

Communications
Specialist



Doris Mutta (Kenya)

Senior Programme
Officer



Makau Ngola (Kenya)

Knowledge
Management
Specialist



**Vincent Onguso Oeba
(Kenya)**

Programme Officer



**Barbara Owuor
(Kenya)**

Administrative Officer



**Evelyn Ndenga
(Kenya)**

Planning, Monitoring,
Evaluation and
Reporting Specialist



**Caroline Kajuju
(Kenya)**

Finance Officer



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



For more information please contact:

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