



# GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN AFRICAN FOREST FORUM'S PROGRAMMES

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

*“ADVANCING WOMEN IN AFRICAN FORESTRY IN THE  
CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”*

African Forest Forum (AFF)  
*11-21 July 2022 via zoom*





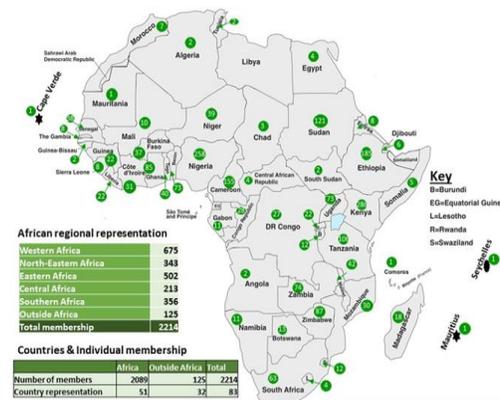
## THE AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)

AFF is a pan-African NGO with Hqs in Nairobi, Kenya.

An association of individuals who share the quest for and *commitment to the sustainable management, use and conservation* of forests and tree resources of Africa

For

the **socio-economic well-being** of its people and for the **stability and improvement** of its environment





## AFF'S ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE ON GENDER

- » AFF seeks to **promote the empowerment of all marginalized groups** particularly women and youth whose representation, priorities and needs are seldom addressed in the forestry sector
- » AFF's **policy** is to have project activities organised in ways that **secure gender sensitivity and responsiveness.**
- » AFF has focused on facilitating specific activities that would **enhance equal participation and representation**
- » AFF Strategy 2021-2025
  - Core value: Respect for diversity, **gender:** and others, including those who depend on forest and tree resources and AFF stakeholders
  - Guiding principle: Incorporating **gender aspects** in its work





## CONTEXT

## WHY FOCUS ON GENDER?

- » Gender issues are **gaining recognition** in the forestry sector at national, regional and global levels. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 5** on gender equality and **SDG 15** life on land.
- » Women face different challenges due to **imbalances in social norms** and **power relations**
- » Women and youth are often **excluded** from entities responsible for **decision making** and **public policy**
- » Women and youth lack equal access to and **control over land** and **natural resources** they depend on
- » Yet women have **deep knowledge** about the productive activities carried out in the forests esp. NTFPs and are therefore **key players** in forestry programs
- » Yet the **creativity, energy** and **innovation** of the youth can be a valuable contribution to combating deforestation, forest degradation, climate change, and other forest-related issues.
- » The **implication** is that benefits from forest and tree based programmes are **not evenly distributed**
- » Gender inequality therefore **constrains the ability** of forests and trees **to alleviate poverty** in a way that is effective, just and sustainable





# TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY IN FORESTRY PROGRAMMES

## *Addressing the barriers: economic, social, cultural*

- » Sustainable forest management projects with **an explicit gender lens** can help reduce women and youth's vulnerability by enhancing their socio-economic empowerment; by reducing informality in the production and marketing of non-timber forest products where women dominate; and by promoting legal reforms in land tenure, and institutional development through enhanced training and leadership development for women and youth
- » Unless project processes are designed to support women's effective participation in forest institutions, and in economic production and benefit-sharing processes **socio-cultural norms** often make it difficult for women to participate in local forest governance as key stakeholders on an equal footing to men.
- » Increasing women's participation in forest decision-making bodies **improves forest sustainability** and could give women more **opportunities to raise their voices** and participate in the policy-making processes.
- » Strengthening property rights, **promoting gender equality**, and supporting community groups to access improved technology and to integrate relevant commodity chains can help **redress inequitable benefit flows** from forest and tree resource





## STRENGTHENING AFF IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING

**Gender mainstreaming (men, women and youth) will contribute to**

- » transformation of **unequal gender relations** within the forestry sector.
- » achieve social protection of families, communities and national economies
- » enhance **economic gains** such as access to income through various forest and tree activities undertaken by men, women and youth.
- » **positive effects on sustainable management** of forests and meeting **environmental targets**





## TOWARDS STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT FOSTERS GENDER EQUITY, EQUALITY

*AFF's growing organisational culture of gender mainstreaming –into core business and decision making processes*

- » 2014 AFF engaged a gender specialist, at Programme Officer level to guide the evolution of gender in its work
- » 2015 Staff seminar on gender was organised aimed at achieving a common understanding of gender responsive research.
- » 2015-2021 Subsequently, the projects plans of work, budgets, log frames are designed to ensure gender sensitivity and responsiveness as is practicable for a clearer focus on women and youth
- » To ensure
  - a) active participation of women, elderly people, youth and minorities in forestry programs -wood processing, marketing and trade including SMEs based on all forest types in Africa.
  - b) such groups have room to express their interests and issues and equal opportunities to participate in project planning, implementation.





## TOWARDS STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT FOSTERS GENDER EQUITY, EQUALITY

- » **2020** AFF commissioned a consultancy to **evaluate the extent to which this policy had been successful** with the view to identify strengths, policies, programs and structures, and capacity gaps to be addressed to strengthen AFF's institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. **Gender audit/assessment conducted**
- » The Audit recommends **key strategic interventions** to strengthen commitment to enhance capacities for gender mainstreaming, *including* development of **more gender sensitive and gender responsive programmes**, projects, plans and activities at different levels with the view to **maximize the project's impact** through **enhanced benefits** to women and youth.
- » **2021** Based on the Audit findings **a training manual and guide for trainers** on gender mainstreaming has been developed to guide **AFF's institutional development** for staff, GC, and partners to support AFF's **commitment to continuous learning** and institutional growth..
- » **2021** A draft **gender mainstreaming strategy** has also been developed to guide adoption of an **enhanced gender-sensitive and responsive approach** to the design and implementation of AFF activities





## TOWARDS STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT FOSTERS GENDER EQUITY, EQUALITY

- » Continuous learning and institutional growth through capacity building and networking
- » **2021** training on gender mainstreaming for AFF staff to strengthen understanding of gender issues, interaction with forestry sector, concept of gender mainstreaming and, its application and equip with tools for designing gender sensitive and responsive projects, plans and activities and reporting.
- » **2022** organised a virtual 'Community of practice on advancing women in forestry' as an active on-line learning and communication network of forestry professionals, practitioners, researchers who share a concern or a passion for gender in forestry and climate change and how to address gender better as they interact.





## **GENDER IN AFF'S PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES**

- Gender situational analyses and documentation of gender practices
- Integration of gender specific issues in the terms of reference for studies
- Gender criteria in experts and students selection for consultancies and grants. (experts/students 18.4% female and 81.6% male)
- Gender representation in meetings and capacity building workshops (21.5% women 78.5% male)
- AFF Secretariat women 70% while men 30%; Governing Council; 25% women and 75% men.
- Notably. AFF membership representation stands at women 22% while men represent 78%;





## **Sustainable forest management and livelihoods**

- » Outcome 3: African forestry institutions are catalyzed to take actions that address SFM and its interface with sustainable livelihoods and environment
- » Output: Land use change and livelihoods with gender considerations understood
- » Output: Private sector growth in forestry
- » Mapping out of the key actors and identifying the gender groups' representation in wood processing, marketing and trade including SMEs, charcoal value chains, NTFPs value chains
- » Evaluating the scope for public private partnership in forestry including models/approaches that can enhance social inclusion, gender equitable practices and forest compatible livelihoods development,

## **Sustainable management and use of land based ecosystems**

- » Outcome: Gender disaggregated stakeholders increasingly protecting forest lands and adopting appropriate sustainable land use management (SLM) policies and practices
- » Output: Sustainable land use management policies and practices identified taking gender into consideration
- » Outcome: Stakeholders, by gender, capacitated to use improved knowledge, skills and best practices to contain loss of forest cover
- » Output: Capacity of African forestry stakeholders to contain loss of forest cover enhanced
- » Outcome: Stakeholders, by gender, in African forestry capacitated to sustainably manage the forest resource base in ways that enhance the supply of ecosystem goods and services
- » Output: Inclusive processes of forest management planning adopted





## Promotion of entrepreneurship opportunities in African forestry

**Outcome:** Actors in the gums and resins value chain better engaged, especially private sector, women and the youth, for improved wellbeing

**Outputs:**

- Strengthened understanding of the state of production and trade in gums and resins in selected countries very sensitive to climate change
- Strengthened capacity of entrepreneurs in gums and resins, including women and youth, to develop bankable project

**Outcome:** Sustainable business models for tree based value chains in Sub-Saharan Africa charcoal, NTFPs

**Output:** Strengthened knowledge on value chain analysis focusing on resource-poor, women, and youth including value chain structure, processes, resources, capabilities, business environment, and policy imperatives

## Climate change and forest and tree based ecosystem services

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

**Outputs:**

- Gender-sensitive resilience and adaptation measures/ strategies to adverse effects of climate change on forests, trees resources and the people who depend on them assessed
- Strengthened capacity of African forestry stakeholders, disaggregated by gender, for co-conception, co-designing, planning and implementation of measures to increase adaptation and resilience





### **Capacity strengthening on SFM**

**Outcome:** Africa's forestry stakeholders, leaders and practitioners, are more aware of sustainable forest management actions that need to be taken and have the capacity (tools and knowledge) to take the necessary interventions.

**Output:** Gender disaggregated training needs assessment in the context of new and merging issues like climate change, climate smart agriculture, sustainable development goals, green economy, blue economy, among others.

### **Programmes development**

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

**Output:** AFF gender strategy developed and operationalized

