



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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

African Forest Forum (AFF)
11-21 JULY 2022 VIA ZOOM





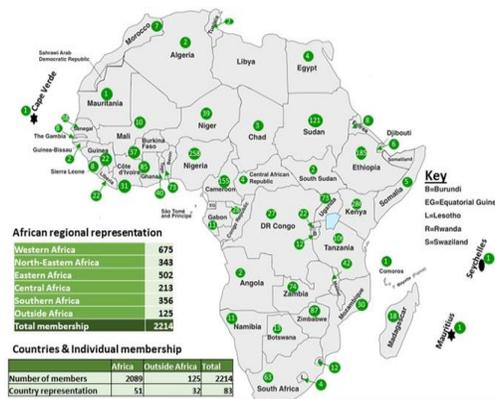
THE AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (AFF)

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





BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Gender in AFF

- » 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 has focused on facilitating specific activities that would **enhance equal participation and representation**
- » AFF's **policy** is to have project activities organised in ways that **secure gender sensitivity and responsiveness.**
- » 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





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 are often excluded from entities responsible for decision making and public policy
- » Women lack equal access to and control over land and natural resources they depend on
- » Yet they have deep knowledge about the productive activities carried out in the forests esp. NTFPs and are therefore key players in forestry programs





AFF-Sida project: “Strengthening management and use of forest ecosystems for sustainable development in Africa”

Overall Project Objective “To **generate and share knowledge and information** through partnerships in ways that provide inputs into **policy and decision-making options** and **capacity building**, for improved forest management that better address **poverty eradication** and **environmental protection** in Africa”

AFF-SDC project: “The African forests, people and climate change”

Overall Project Goal: To **build capacities and skills** of stakeholders to **address adverse effects of climate change** and take up *opportunities that come with climate change* through:

better management and use of Africa's forests and tree resources in various landscapes in ways that will *enhance livelihoods*, national economies, *sustain biodiversity*, improve the *quality of the environment* and contribute to the global efforts to *contain climate change*





Strengthening AFF as an institution

Expected projects' outcomes:

- » AFF programmes, plans and activities are gender sensitive and responsive
- » Women's platforms and networks to increase sharing of information on forestry and climate change issues of relevance to women are established or strengthened

Specific initiatives

- » 2020 AFF evaluated ways through which the institution can improve institutional and management capacity for mainstreaming gender more effectively in its plans and activities.
- » 2021: Training of AFF Secretariat staff on gender mainstreaming in activities and plans
- » 2022 AFF is organizing 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.**





Purpose of the Community of Practice (CoP)

- » African forestry stakeholders have **access to information on mechanisms for gender mainstreaming** in the forestry sector in the context of climate change, and that AFF and partners have **strengthened understanding and capacity** to **mainstream gender** in activities and plans.

This would include a deepened understanding on the following:

- *The role of women in forest resource management and conservation amidst climate change crises*
- *How women are disproportionately affected by climate change*
- *The need for involvement of women in climate governance and action*
- *Opportunities for securing participation of women in climate action*





The Community of Practice

Objectives

- » Strengthen knowledge and experience sharing on gender in forestry and climate change through **knowledge collaboration platform**
- » Allow a continent wide geographically and professional audience **to connect and tackle** the complexity of issues needed to support **sustainable solutions** to advance women in forestry in the context of climate change.
- » **Equip the AFF members and stakeholders** with knowledge on **gender mainstreaming processes and tools** for **gender responsive and gender sensitive programming**, planning, implementation and reporting on projects at national, regional and international levels.

Expected output

- » The CoP will contribute to a **more connected** and **collaborative community** in the field of gender in forestry and climate change at regional and global levels.
- » **Strengthened understanding** of the AFF members and stakeholders **on gender issues and their interaction within the forestry sector** and the concept of gender mainstreaming





Experts

- » Doreen Asumang-Yeboah, Gender consultant
- » Cecil Ndjebet –AFF *Women in Forestry Chapter*, AFF GC

Participants:

- » AFF Members
- » Women's networks-professional and grassroots,
- » Researchers
- » Academicians
- » Forestry practitioners





Community of Practice – The Approach

- ❑ Each week day a *zoom meeting* will be held starting with a short introductory presentation of about 20 minutes followed by activities/discussion / experience sharing among participants
- ❑ Last day of 2nd week will be online training on gender mainstreaming via *Zoom*





PROGRAMME

