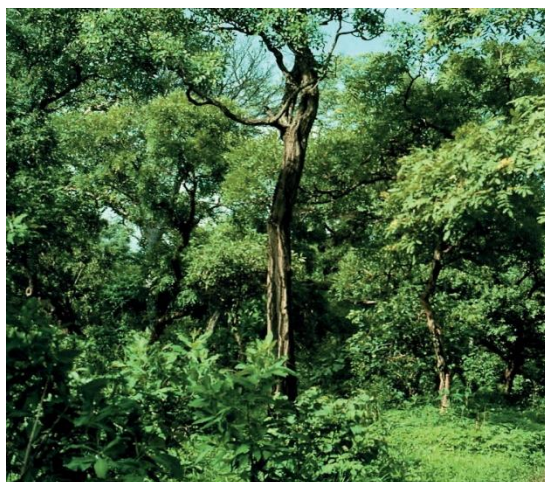




# African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



Report on the first meeting of the members'  
forum of the African Forest Forum

*15-20 February 2012*



## **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.

Photo credits (left to right): Dry forest in the Sahelian Parklands © AFF; Secondary forest in the southern part of Nigeria © Larwanou Mahamane / AFF 2008; Harvesting timber in the Vipya forest plantations in Malawi © Björn Lundgren/AFF

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# **REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MEMBERS' FORUM OF THE AFRICAN FOREST FORUM (15-20 FEBRUARY 2012)**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Members' Forum was successfully implemented, electronically, between February 15 and 20, 2012. It was planned to end on February 17th, but members requested for an extension of time. Much as initially only 43 people confirmed to have received the invitation to the meeting, a total of 107 people participated in discussing the various items of the agenda. For each agenda item a record of those participating was kept and if a decision was made then the decision is binding if the majority of those participating in discussing that issue are associated with that decision. Some specific comments are also reported against each agenda item.

## Agenda 1: Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Members' Forum

**Responses:** 57 Nominations:

**Chair:** Fredrick Owino (8), Demel Teketay (6), Victor Agyeman (5), Marcathy Afolabi Oyebo (5), August Temu (4), Linda Mossop-Rousseau (4), Peter Gondo (4), Alima Issufo (4), Abdelazim Ibrahim (3), Sebastien Malele Mbala (2), Afsa Kemitale (1), Edouard Bonkougou (3), Anna Chileshe-Masinja (1), Bjorn Lundgren (1)

**Vice Chair:** Christine Nantongo (5), Abdelazim Ibrahim (5), Edouard Bonkougou (4), Victor Agyeman (3), Sebastien Malele Mbala (3), Anna Chileshe-Masinja (2), Demel Teketay (2), Joseph Cobbinah (2), Bjorn Lundgren (1), Peter Gondo (1), Jean Baptiste Nduwayezu (1), Linda Mossop-Rousseau (2), Oscar Eyog-Matig (1), Marcathy Afolabi Oyebo (1), Andre Madingou (1), August Temu (1), Alima Issufo (1)

**Comments:** Prof. Frederick Owino was elected as Chair of the Members' Forum. Christine Nantongo and Abdelazim Ibrahim hold five votes each for this position. The Constitution Article 4, Section 2 4 a)6: states, "In case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall be entitled to a second or casting vote." In this regard the Chair made a casting vote for the position of Vice-Chair, making Abdelazim Ibrahim the Vice Chair of the Members' Forum.

## Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda

**Responses:** 60

**Adoptions:** 56

The agenda was adopted with the following comments:

- Add to Item 6 some information on the AFF proposed activities for the current year, 2012.
- With respect to item 7 explore how to start a discussion and put forward programs to develop the capacity of young members.
- Bring Agenda 6 after Agenda 2; this could give some basis for discussing Agendas 3, 4 & 5.

## **Agenda 3: Ratification of the AFF Constitution**

**Responses:** 44

**Ratified:** 40 as it is (i.e., without any comments) The Constitution was ratified. There were however a few comments including:

- Two members suggested exploring possibility of Members Forum meetings to be held every 3 years instead of every 5 years
- Make sure that AFF and its constitution are widely circulated to attract new possible members especially among African foresters or forest interested professionals from Africa.

There were also several editorial observations. The idea that AFF members interact more often is a good one; and the AFF Secretariat will explore ways of making this possible, without having to wait for a Members' Forum. All editorial remarks/observations have been considered and the revised constitution will soon be posted on the website.

## **Agenda 4: Ratification of the guidelines for administrative and financial operations of the African Forest Forum**

**Responses:** 56

**Ratified:** 45 as is (i.e., without any comments)

The Guidelines for Administrative and Financial Operations of AFF were ratified. There were however a few comments including:

- The Guidelines for Administrative and Financial Operations of AFF need to be in tandem with the constitution, because the Constitution is the supreme document.

- The Governing Council, acting on a recommendation of the Executive Committee, shall set the first annual membership fees upon approval of Members' Forum and announce when they shall be effective.
- Strongly agree with decision to invite 'likeminded' representatives of other institutions as observers. This may even extend it to advisory and not just observer at discretion of General Council. This way they can input and actively participate in deliberations though they will not take decisions. There were also several editorial observations that have already been taken care of in finalizing the document.

## **Agenda 5: Ratification of major decisions by the Governing Council**

**Responses:** 60

**Ratified:** 57

The decisions made by the Governing Council submitted to the Members' Forum were ratified. There were however a few comments as follows:

- I take this opportunity to thank you for the quality and seriousness of the work in general and the efforts that you keep to deploy in French for all members of the African Forest Forum at the same level of information.
- I would like to suggest "restoration of degraded forests of Africa" as a potential project area for AFF.
- I suggest that the program "African Forests, People and Climate Change", we study the possibility of including strengthening the profile of the forestry sector, including in countries with low forest cover, among the objectives or specific priorities.

## **Agenda 6: Information on key achievements by AFF**

**Responses:** 55

Members received and appreciated the achievements made by AFF. Some of the comments made include the following:

- A very solid report! Thanks.
- Great! Well done - this is fantastic, especially the efforts in mobilising resources and our visibility through publications and meetings!

- The document is compiled such that the unparalleled commitment of the AFF Secretariat, the donor community, AFF members in all their cadres, and strategic alliances is clearly seen.
- The AFF has a very bright future and all concerned parties to continue working hard for the transformation of the African Forestry Landscape which under severe threat from alarming Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Climate Change.
- Thank you for the document - and I think it reflects the activities undertaken by the forum I find only that one must include places of meetings held and mention COMIFAC
- Achievement very impressive by all standards. I would like to have thorough economic valuation of the contribution of forests and trees to GDP, i.e., valuation of ecosystem services, as a programme of the forum. This is needed, among other things, to strengthen the case of the forest sector in competing for budget funds especially at the national level.
- I am very impressed with the AFF's achievements especially about number of publications and fund-raising works. I would like to congratulate the AFF secretariat for this excellent job! Your e-mail updates that you have been sharing with the AFF members (e.g., vacancies, funding opportunities) are also an excellent service for us thank you!
- The report is ok and congratulations for these accomplishments. AFF members expect more accomplishments in the next planning phase.
- Thank you and the entire team for a job well done. A lot of ground has been covered during the period.
- We need to interest more ladies to join AFF. To the extent possible the comments made on each agenda item will be taken care of in the plans and programmes that AFF make and implement. With respect to all editorial observations on the Constitution and on the Guidelines for Financial and Administrative Operations, these have been considered in finalizing these two documents.



## **ANNEX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Aafi Abderrahman, Morocco
2. Abasse Tougiani, Niger
3. Åke Barklund, Sweden
4. Akol Micheal Charles, Uganda
5. Ali Mahamane, Niger
6. Alouka Sena, Togo
7. Andre Daniel J.R, Senegal
8. Anke Weishelt, Germany
9. \*Angelingisi Makatta
10. Asomaning Glen, Ghana
11. Baard Johan, South Africa
12. Bankole Olatunde Philip, Nigeria
13. Barklund Pia, Sweden
14. Bekele Tsegaye, Ethiopia
15. Bekele Million, Ethiopia
16. Betemariam Aynekulu, Ethiopia
17. Bosu Paul, Ghana
18. Brito Maria Lidia, Mozambique
19. Busili Edwina, Kenya
20. Camara Layaly, Guinea
21. Chibembe Adolphe Safari, Congo
22. Chimere Mariteuw Diaw, Senegal
23. Chirwa Paxie, Malawi
24. Cuambe Carla, Mozambique
25. Dampha Almami, Gambia
26. Diallo Souleymane, Mali
27. Diop Gora, Senegal
28. Dlamini Sibusiso Cliff, Swaziland
29. Eisa El Dow Maymoona, Sudan
30. Elfadil Omar Osman, Sudan
31. Eyog-Matig Oscar, Cameroon
32. Ezebilo Ejike Eugene, Nigeria
33. Fagbemi Tai, Nigeria
34. Fameso Thomas Folurunso, Nigeria
35. Fekadu Debushe Homma, Ethiopia
36. Fermino Augusto, Mozambique
37. Geleta Hundera Kitessa, Ethiopia
38. Gert Nyberg, Sweden
39. Haber Elise, South Africa
40. Hailwa Joseph, Namibia
41. Ibrahim Nada, Sudan
42. Ibro Adamou, Niger
43. Idriss Hared, Djibouti
44. Igwe Ifeanyi Morris, Nigeria
45. Ilunga Munemh, Congo
46. Ishengoma Romanus, Tanzania
47. Jacob Mushi, Tanzania
48. John Okorio, Uganda
49. Kaboggoza John, Uganda
50. Kabore Alexis, Burkina Faso

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 51. Kalaghe Gustav Alfred, Tanzania  | 78. Odilia Chilekwa, Zambia           |
| 52. Katumba Balikitenda, Uganda      | 79. Okali Uke David, Nigeria          |
| 53. Kemitale Afsa, Uganda            | 80. Okia Akais Clement, Uganda        |
| 54. Ketema Yemshaw Yonas, Ethiopia   | 81. Olasina Busuyi Agbeja, Nigeria    |
| 55. Kipkore Wilson, Kenya            | 82. Omoro Mildred Akinyi Loice, Kenya |
| 56. Kowero Godwin, Tanzania          | 83. Opanga Stephen Paul, Kenya        |
| 57. Larwanou Mahamane, Niger         | 84. Oruonye Daniel Emeka, Nigeria     |
| 58. Laverdiere Oliva Michel, Canada  | 85. Osman Zeinab, Sudan               |
| 59. Linda Rousseau, South Africa     | 86. Owino Fredrick, Kenya             |
| 60. Lugman Mohamedein, Sudan         | 87. Oyebo Afolabi Macarthy, Nigeria   |
| 61. Mabugu Ramos, Zimbabwe           | 88. Popoola Labode, Nigeria           |
| 62. Mack Cyril Rory, South Africa    | 89. Ratemo Mushieka, Kenya            |
| 63. Madingou Jules Andre, Gabon      | 90. Robert Nabanyumia, Uganda         |
| 64. Mensuro Girma, Ethiopia          | 91. Rutabingwa Frank, Rwanda          |
| 65. Mian Kodjenini, Cote D'Ivoire    | 92. Salehe Yonazi John, Tanzania      |
| 66. Mohamed Ballal, Sudan            | 93. Samuel Kalimunjaye, Uganda        |
| 67. Morrison Twesigye , Uganda       | 94. Savadogo Patrice, Burkina Faso    |
| 68. Morris Igwe, Nigeria             | 95. Semeki Jean, Congo                |
| 69. Moussa Barry, Mali               | 96. Serra Ferreira, Mozambique        |
| 70. Mupada Kosia Edward, Uganda      | 97. Shomkegh Simon, Nigeria           |
| 71. Mwitwa Jacob, Zambia             | 98. Sianga William Cassian, Tanzania  |
| 72. Nabanyimya Robert, Uganda        | 99. Tasila Banda, Zambia              |
| 73. Neemaeli Eliason Usiri, Tanzania | 100. TEE Norbert Terver, Nigeria      |
| 74. Ngibuini Humphrey, Kenya         | 101. Temu Basil August, Tanzania      |
| 75. Nketiah Kwabena Samuel, Ghana    | 102. Tieguhong Julius, Cameroon       |
| 76. Obare Aiko Gideon, Kenya         | 103. Van Jacobus, Netherlands         |
| 77. Odera Ebby, Kenya                | 104. Wood Peter, United Kingdom       |

105. Yaye Drame Aissetou, Niger

107. Zuwarime Jethro, Zimbabwe

106. Zacharia John Lupala, Tanzania



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## For more information please contact:

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