



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry



African Forests, People, and Climate Change Project (AFP-CCP)- Phase III

End of Phase 3 Report

25 November 2018 – 28 February 2023

Project no.7F-06587.03 (Executive Summary)



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 analyses 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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African Forest Forum

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AFRICAN FORESTS, PEOPLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT (AFP- CCP)- PHASE III

End of Phase 3 Report

15 November 2018 – 28 February 2023

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Project no. 7F-06587.03 (Executive Summary)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the achievements realised during the third phase of the project on “**African forests, People and climate change**” that commenced on November 15, 2018, and ended on February 28, 2022

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.

Project objectives

Objective 1: To strengthen capacity of African forestry stakeholders in adopting best practices that integrates both adaptation and mitigation options in response to the impacts of climate change and variability to biophysical and social systems in different landscapes.

Objective 2: To enhance national forest governance by strengthening the capacity of African stakeholders to respond to the Paris Agreement and related global climate change policies and initiatives related to forestry.

Objective 3: To promote entrepreneurship opportunities and technologically efficient means for value addition in African forestry, including those related to climate change that enhance livelihoods, national incomes, and employment.

Objective 4: To strengthen AFF's institutional capacity in creation and sharing of relevant forest and tree-based knowledge and information for improved decision making.

2. Project implementation approaches

AFF adopted three approaches to achieving the project's outputs and outcomes as follows:

Undertaking independent and objective analysis on forest and climate change related issues:

This was achieved by recruiting 11 regional and 28 national experts to undertake various tasks. The project also facilitated 4 postgraduate students through the AFF-HALF fellowship, in partnership with Bern University of Applied Sciences, that culminated into development of 4 MSc theses addressing various issues. All these studies generated 81 knowledge products, details of which are in the next chapter.

Capacity building and advocacy

This was achieved by developing training modules and compendiums to guide capacity building of African forestry stakeholders at all levels on forestry and climate change related topics. The project also facilitated 24 training and information sharing workshops and webinars which imparted a total of 1,295 African forestry stakeholders with relevant skills by sharing the findings generated from the studies undertaken since 2019 and facilitating peers to peers learning.

Offering advice on relevant policy and technical issues on forests and climate change:

The project contributed to organising preparatory meetings for delegates attending the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 16 and UNFF17); and facilitated participation of African forestry stakeholders to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related events (UNFCCC COP25, UNFCCC COP26 and UNFCCC COP27; UNCCD COP 15, XV WFC). The project supported the organisation of sessions of the AFF Communities of Practice (4) and policy dialogues (5).

3. Summary of key project' achievements

key achievements of the project are as follows.

1. Improved understanding among African stakeholders on the following:

- a. Integration of adaptation and mitigation options that address climate change challenges and opportunities on different forests, tree resources and social systems in selected African countries.
- b. Status of implementation of REDD+ in some African countries, including success factors, challenges, and opportunities to move forward the process.
- c. How national forest governance in some African countries facilitated responses to the Paris Agreement and responses to other related climate change initiatives.
- d. State of production and trade in gums and resins in some selected African countries that are very sensitive to climate change.

This was achieved through sharing of information that was obtained through national experts' studies, based on the above four areas, which covered a total of 46 African countries, and sub-regional syntheses based on these studies. The countries selected for each of the studies covered the main language groups (Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone) geographic sub regions (Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa) and forest types found in Africa. This information was shared through workshops and communities of practice on the four areas listed above. Further, for some countries policy dialogues involving people from various government ministries

and departments, as well as civil society, research, academia, and private sector. These studies generated the following knowledge products available as AFF Working Paper Series (4), factsheets (12), policy briefs (11), manuscripts of journal articles (12) and technical reports (17). This information was also made freely available to all through AFF's website and social media.

- 2. Improved uptake, by stakeholders in many countries, of AFF developed integrated forest and tree-based adaptation and mitigation framework** that could address climate change and climate variability in African forestry. This was made possible through the development, by AFF, of a framework that was based on studies that identified best practices on forest and tree-based interventions that could integrate both adaptation and mitigation options in response to climate change. The framework also includes determinants and enabling factors for upscaling this approach.

The uptake of the framework was facilitated through a three steps approach: (a) a validation workshop that attracted 58 forestry stakeholders from 28 African countries to discuss, validate, and own the framework ; (b) operationalisation and contextualisation of the framework through field appraisal studies, followed by five national validation workshops which involved 124 forestry stakeholders from Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia; this further improved the framework and enhanced national ownership; and (c) capacity building of 400 forestry stakeholders on how to use the framework through 1 face to face and 3 hybrid meetings/conferences, including the XV World Forestry Congress held from 2 to 6 May in Seoul, Korea. The field appraisal studies generated 16 deliverables, in terms of 5 technical reports, 4 manuscripts of journal articles, 4 policy briefs and 3 factsheets. The implication of this effort is that the AFF developed framework is now being used in many African countries.

- 3. Enhanced the capacity of African forestry stakeholders from Francophone and Anglophone countries with knowledge and skills on forests and tree-based climate change mitigation and adaptation** using the compendiums for short courses on both adaptation and mitigation. This was achieved through three training workshops which attracted 160 stakeholders from 27 African countries. These training workshops enhanced the knowledge and skills of these stakeholders, specifically on the contribution of forest and tree resources to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as on exploiting opportunities for supporting the implementation of forest-based adaptation and mitigation policies, plans and actions. These workshops expanded the scope for future efforts on further adoption and implementation of the AFF developed framework discussed under item 2 above. The Francophone training workshop attracted 50 participants from eleven countries, namely Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia. The Anglophone workshops involved 110 participants from 16 countries: Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. **Supported African delegates to global discourses relating to forests and climate change through the AFF Technical Support Team to Raise the Profile of Forestry (AFF-TST).** This was achieved specifically, during three sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF14, UNFF16 and UNFF 17), as well as the fifteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 15). For UNFF14, AFF-TST provided support to the African Group (AG) in formulating an African common position that was in line with the different issues on the agenda of the meeting. For the UNFF16, UNFF17 and UNCCD COP15, AFF-TST facilitated advance preparatory meetings for delegates to equip them with negotiations skills and guide the preparation of common Africa positions for both the UNCCD COP 15 and UNFF sessions in line with the agenda and documents for these meetings.

In all these meetings/sessions, the African Group participated very actively and articulated well its concerns, as well as having them highlighted in the outcomes (resolutions) of these global discourses. AFF also supported TST and Secretariat members to attend several international meetings of relevance to forests and climate change with the aim to gather useful information that could be used for strengthening and growing the institution. They also provide an opportunity for AFF to share its experiences and results from its work with the global forestry stakeholders. These meetings also provide opportunities for AFF to network/collaborate with other institutions, in addition to exploring funding opportunities. The meetings were those of the 24th, 25th 26th and 27th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP24, COP25, COP26, COP27), the 17th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment held in Durban in 2019 and the 21st session of the FAO-African Wildlife and Forestry Commission.

5. **Built the capacity of African forestry stakeholders with knowledge and skills on how to develop bankable projects on forest and tree-based climate change that address resilience and improvement of livelihoods of forest dependent communities.** This was done through five national write-shops for trainers of trainers (ToTs) from forest administration, civil society organisations, private sector, and community-based organisations. The training aimed to supporting their countries in mobilizing funds and other resources for (i) implementing the framework on the integration and uptake of forest and tree-based mitigation and adaptation (M+A) options in response to climate change; (ii) enhancing REDD+ implementation; and (iii) strengthening of gums, resins and other NTFPs value chains of relevance for women and youth groups. A total of 110 African stakeholders were trained from five countries, namely, Burkina Faso (18), Cameroon (20), Democratic Republic of Congo (33), Kenya (25) and Zambia (14). A total of 22 concept notes on bankable projects were drafted and are being processed nationally to solicit funding. Two of them from Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo, were upgraded and submitted for consideration to the Global Environment Facility and the Central African Forest Initiative respectively, for funding. There is a need to follow up on this in future in order to monitor and report on the progress on finalisation and submission of the concept-notes developed to relevant donors, the aim being to facilitate the countries

to raise resources that could support the implementation of activities on forest and tree-based climate change resilience in these countries; as a way of sustaining this AFF effort.

6. ***Enhancing forestry component in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through improved knowledge and capacity among African stakeholders in articulating adaptation, mitigation, REDD+ and other AFOLU-based activities in their NDCs.*** This also resulted into promoting entrepreneurship opportunities and technologically efficient means for value addition in African forestry for enhanced resilience of climate-vulnerable communities and landscapes. This was achieved using a 3-step approach: a) AFF generated evidence-based information from several subregional studies; b) shared information through regional workshops and webinars as well as Communities of Practices (CoPs) to African forestry stakeholders such as governments, private sector, research and academia, civil society organisations, youth, men and women, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and international organisations; c) based on key messages and recommendations from the studies, AFF facilitated policy dialogues and capacity building in different countries to address the identified gaps. A total of 1,295 stakeholders were reached through all these events including 414 through information sharing workshops and webinars, 664 through CoPs, 109 and 108 during policy dialogues and training on business enterprises respectively. The implication is that through these efforts AFF reached many people from various disciplines and work areas who can appreciate the contribution of forests and trees outside forests and eventually raise the profile of forestry in national discussions on NDCs, given their broad understanding on how forests and trees are related to issues of adaptation and mitigation of adverse effects of climate change, as well as how these also feature in the landscape in the context of agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU). The expectation is that the next iteration/revision/submission of NDCs will have stronger articulation of forestry.
7. ***Enhanced contribution to the growth of science that is related to climate change in African forestry.*** In line with its purpose, AFF contributions must be science based, be they policy advice, advocacy, or capacity building. Good scientific information is used to guide government policies, project designs and implementation, activities of research and academic institutions and advocacy activities by extension agents and civil society organisations. This project generated and shared quality knowledge products on how forests and trees outside forests relate to various aspects of climate change, and other emerging issues.

Overall, the project contributed to the production of 20 compendiums on forests and climate change related issues. In the three-year reporting period the project produced 4 AFF documents published under AFF Working Paper Series (carefully edited), 24 technical reports (slightly edited), 16 policy briefs, 14 factsheets, 2 training modules, 4 MSc thesis on international forestry, and 10 draft manuscripts of scientific papers to be published by “*Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science*” as a special issue on the theme: “*National forest governance responses to the Paris Agreement and other forest and tree-based initiatives for climate resilient communities and landscapes in Africa*”

All the 20 training compendiums were developed in a pedagogical manner, and six of them were developed in this reporting period. During this period the six compendiums, together with eight others that were produced during the second phase of the project were translated into French:

The six new compendiums were developed on:

- a. Forests and climate change adaptation for professional and technical training and for short courses in African forestry, one each in French and English (3 compendiums)
- b. Forests and climate change mitigation for professional and technical training and for short courses in African forestry, one each in French and English (3 compendiums)

The compendiums translated into French were on:

- c. Basic science of climate change for professional and technical training and for short courses in African forestry, one for each (3 compendia);
- d. Climate modelling and scenario development for professional training in African forestry (1 compendium);
- e. International dialogues, processes and mechanisms on climate change for professional and technical training in African forestry (1 compendium);
- f. Carbon markets and trade for professional and technical training and for short courses in African forestry, one for each (3 compendiums).

The innovative and highly participatory approach used for developing, reviewing, and validating these training compendiums (at least 50 people were involved for each compendium) has contributed to strengthen and better contextualise them with case studies from different African forest landscapes, in addition to them being owned by African stakeholders. The compendiums provide up-to-date educational and training information, organized in a pedagogical manner, that is crucial for a standard or uniform approach in building the capacity and skills on climate change issues related to forestry among African forestry stakeholders from both Francophone and Anglophone language groups. The knowledge and skills that will be gained from trainings using the compendiums are expected to provide guidance on addressing national and regional issues related to climate change and forestry by interested stakeholders.

In addition, several knowledge products generated during the second phase of the project were finalised and shared widely at the information sharing workshop held as part of the AFF'10th anniversary celebration in May 2019 and on AFF website. These included the eight compendiums mentioned above, a special Issue of International Forestry Review (IFR) Vol. 21(SI) 2019 on "*Forestry sector and other land uses in relation to climate change*" which contains 10 AFF developed papers.

During the project period, the total number of information materials freely available on the website increased from around 173 in 2018 to 257 in December 2022. These included knowledge products generated through all AFF project activities and those availed by partners and members.

8. **Improving delivery of information generated by AFF.** The institution has a Knowledge Management and Communications Unit that is guided by a Knowledge Management Strategy and a Communications Strategy. In the reporting period, AFF:
- (a) Revamped its website and intranet to increase access to AFF knowledge products and other relevant information in a more user-friendly manner. An AFF Web Analytics Dashboard (AWAD) was built to allow users visualising the web metrics with all statistical details such as chart types and maps in one dashboard.
 - (b) Developed a Knowledge Management Strategy (2021-2025), including a framework /plan for its operationalisation, with the aim to strengthen AFF's position as a leading forestry knowledge brokerage institution, as well as to enhance coordination and integration of knowledge management at AFF and institutionalize a knowledge management culture conducive to collaboration internally and externally with stakeholders, in addition to building a cohesive structure of the organization.
 - (c) Equipped its Secretariat staff and members of the Governing Council and some partners from Anglophone and Francophone countries with best practices in knowledge management as well as knowledge skills for an effective operationalization of the Knowledge Management Strategy.
 - (d) Undertook (i) a comprehensive evaluation of the website, identified potential niches and audiences and developed five (5) key pillars to guide the transformation of AFF's digital space to a dynamic knowledge hub; (ii) launched four Communities of Practices on key emerging issues related to forestry and climate change that have significantly contributed to increase AFF' reach in sharing knowledge, innovations, and experiences, facilitated peers-to-peers learning and uptake of best practices among geographically and professionally varied audiences. All this was in line with the implementation of the AFF KM Strategy (2021-2025).
 - (e) Influenced positively the interest of the Francophone African forestry stakeholders to AFF's work through enhanced efforts for translation of AFF' corporate documents and knowledge products on the website into French, increased number of events organised solely in French and various activities implemented in French speaking countries. These efforts have contributed to significantly increase the number of website visits from French speaking countries including, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Senegal, and Togo among others.
 - (f) Strengthened engagements with media on AFF activities using several approaches: a) consistently involving them in all events organised by AFF; b)

facilitating media roundtables and podcasts; c) established a media chapter and two media representatives on the AFF Governing Council. During the project period, these media events generated many articles in different languages (including English, French, Swahili, and Chewa), and contributed to strengthen the capacity of science reporters to better understand and effectively report on African forestry issues. These roundtables have also helped to raise the profile of forestry, highlight threats to forest resources and the environment, and champion better management of African forests and tree resources in the context of changing climate to increase sharing of information among interested stakeholders on emerging topics related to forestry and climate change. So far, online platforms created are as follows: i) AFF Research Fellows; (ii) Forest-based adaptation and mitigation options among African stakeholders; (iii) Gums and resins actors; (iv) Alumni for AFF-HAFL Fellows; (v) Interested parties on NDCs, and (vi) public private partnership in forestry.

- (g) Built and expanded social media platforms to enhance access to information and knowledge sharing among African forestry stakeholders and AFF members. Twitter followers increased from 778 in 2018 to 1,210, while Facebook increased to 5,140 from 1,707. AFF has also installed 'WhatsApp-for-web' on its website, which has enabled participants to continue their chats from any device which has the ability to run a Chrome browser therefore providing and strengthening the ultimate user experience.

These activities have contributed to maintain high interest for knowledge products generated and shared by AFF during the project period as evidenced by the consistent number of visits recorded since 2018 (at least 600,000 visits per year) with an average of 6,000,000 file requests and pages opened annually.

9. **The Planning Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Unit at AFF undertook two surveys on access, uptake and use of AFF knowledge products over a period of ten years which showed that knowledge products generated by AFF remain of considerable interest to its clients** like policy makers (policy briefs, fact sheets and some of the other knowledge products), scientific community including researchers, academicians and students (journal articles, compendiums, technical reports, books and documents under AFF Working Paper Series) and general public (newsletters, reports and other knowledge products). AFF has continued to monitor the extent to which the project outputs had contributed to achieve the expected outcomes through impact assessment reports produced at the end of all training and information sharing events organised throughout the project implementation. The interest and use of such knowledge products was seen to extend beyond the lifetime of the projects that generated them. So, project impacts continue to be monitored by AFF, even after expiry of related projects. This feedback is important to gauge the impact of the institution.
10. **Strengthened links with various organisations, institutions, and platforms in raising the profile of forestry and climate change in Africa** by compiling knowledge and information on relevant new and emerging issues and sharing them using diverse approaches including physical and virtual side events at global

discourses (UNFF14 in 2019, AfDB-GCF workshop on REDD in 2019; FAO and International Union of Forest Research Organisation (IUFRO) side events at UNFF 16 in 2021; IUFRO World Day in 2021; XV World Forestry Congress (2022), UNCCD COP 15 (2022)), webinars (African Union-FAO-UNFF-AFF webinar on COVID 19 in the forestry sector, CCARDESSA-SADC Forestry Symposium in 2021 and Africa Development Bank webinar on “Forest products for industrialization and regional integration in Africa” in 2021); papers presented at the XXV IUFRO Congress in Brazil, 2019.

Overall, this project successfully achieved its overall goal by generating and sharing new knowledge and information that has contributed to build capacity and equip African forestry stakeholders from 46 countries (Figure) with relevant skills to address the adverse effects of climate change and take up opportunities that come with climate change through implementation of best practices and policies. This was in addition to adopting strategies that integrate forests and tree-based mitigation and adaptation options in various African forest landscapes.

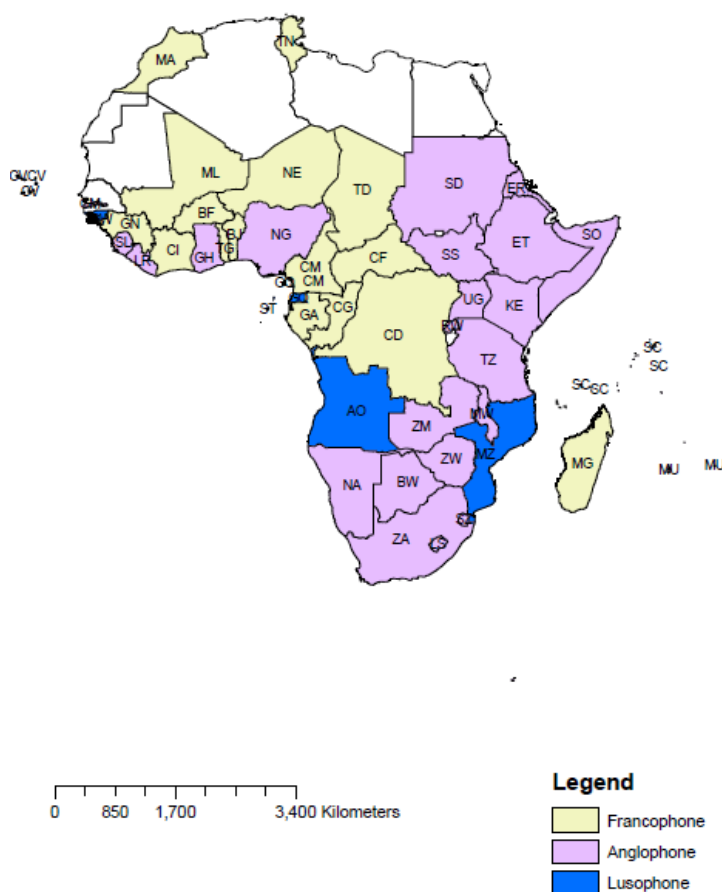


Figure: African countries per language group reached through studies, workshops, and webinars during the 3rd phase of the project on “African forests, people and climate change.”



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