



African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African forestry

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SDC boosts funding for the AFF

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in support to the AFF, committed funding to the tune of CHF 289,000 (about US\$300,000) for a number of operational activities that will help to foster collaboration between the two institutions, in addition to facilitating defining the mode of more support from SDC.

AFF membership passes the 500 mark

The Forum is growing very fast in terms of membership. There are now over 540 members, who make their time, resources, and energy available to achieve AFF's mission. This is a good sign of its trust and credibility by various stakeholders. These members come from 44 countries in Africa as well as 13 countries in Europe, Asia, and North America. The members are active stakeholders from public institutions, private sector, NGOs, the academia, civil societies as well as development partner organizations.

UNFF Expert Group Discusses Forest Financing

The open-ended intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on Forest Financing held its first meeting from 13-17 September 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. The AHEG is mandated to make proposals to the 10th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), in 2013, on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM), the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund.

More than 160 experts from 60 countries and 20 international and regional organizations, as well as major groups, heard presentations in plenary and parallel sessions on topics including: the cross-sectoral importance of forest financing for achieving internationally agreed development goals; national and regional experiences; policies and strategies on forest financing; the activities undertaken by forest-related financing mechanisms; and the work of the UNFF facilitative process.

The AFF was represented by five members. Three members of AFF made presentations to the meeting.

Please click here for reports on the workshop
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html>

XXIII IUFRO World Congress Concludes in Seoul

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress, organized by the International Union of Forest

The Executive Secretary
African Forest Forum
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O.Box 30677-00100,
Nairobi, Kenya
Phone: +254 20 722 4203,
Fax: +254 20 722 4001
Email: exec.sec@afforum.org;
Website: www.afforum.org

Research Organizations (IUFRO), took place from 23-28 August 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Congress theme was, "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment". It drew over 2,700 participants from 92 countries, the largest number of participants in the Congress' history. There were also 2,027 presentations and 1,053 posters.

The Congress and its technical and poster sessions focused specifically on: forests and climate change; biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resources; forest environmental services; forest products and production processes for a greener future; emerging technologies in the forest sector; frontiers in forest and tree health; forests, communities and cultures; and forests, human health and environmental security.

Of particular note were repeated references to the following issues: narrowing knowledge and other gaps between science and policy; the need for the discipline of forestry and forestry education to evolve with changing demands on forests; the need for greater interdisciplinary work efforts; the importance of adopting more socio-ecological perspectives, which recognize the social embeddedness of efforts to protect and improve forest ecosystems; and the need for, and role of and approaches to forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A member of the AFF Secretariat represented the Forum in this event.

Please click here for more information

<http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/forest/iufro/iufroxiii/html/ymbvol178num5e.html>

AFF engages UNEP Regional Office for Africa

A meeting between Prof Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum, and Mr Mounkaila Goumandakoye, Director of UNEP Regional Office for Africa was held on August 19, 2010 with the objective of identifying and discussing areas of common interest for the development of joint initiatives/activities, and define modalities for future collaboration between the two institutions.

The two parties agreed that there is a good scope for collaboration between the two institutions, since they both address key issues in Africa. The areas of common interest in which collaboration could be developed in the immediate future are: a) climate change (adaptation and mitigation), b) governance of natural resources, and c) ecosystem management.

Other areas in which the two institutions could also consider to engage in include the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and the Sahara Initiative, and review of existing NAPAs or facilitating the development of new NAPAs.

Currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being developed.

TST meets in Nairobi

The AFF's Technical Support Team (TST) to International and Regional Negotiations met in Nairobi, Kenya, on the 12 and 18 September 2010. The meeting deliberated, among other things, on activities leading to the preparatory meeting for the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) early next year. Other key issues discussed were the UNFF9 preparatory meeting for African delegates, the twentieth meeting of the Committee on Forestry of the FAO (COFO) and the Sixteenth Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP16).

The TST also seized the opportunity to meet with African delegates to the first

Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing held in Nairobi, 13-17 September, 2010.

COFO's 20th session discussed global forestry issues

The Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 4 - 8 October 2010. It was attended by about 770 from 117 countries, representatives of nine UN agencies and programmes, and observers from 34 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.

The plenary sessions addressed the following: the Global Forest Resources Assessment: the way forward; Forest Biodiversity, Fire and water in the Context of Climate Change; Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in Forest Finance and Forest Governance; Decisions and Recommendations of FAO bodies of Interest to the Committee, Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry; Communicating the Role of Forests in Sustainable Development -the International Year of Forests (2011) (IYF); and Conclusions from the XII World Forestry Congress and Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress (2015).

The International Year of Forests (2011) will offer a unique opportunity to further the forest agenda; therefore the forest community should make the best use of it.

Many recommendations came from these sessions. A summary report can be found on the following website: <http://www.ilsd.ca/vol13/enb13175e.html>

Documents for the meeting and other information in different languages can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/64701/>

World Forest Week 2: For the second time, COFO was held in conjunction with World Forest Week - a series of meetings and events sponsored by FAO and its partner organizations and institutions. The World Forest Week is also an opportunity for sharing state-of-the-art knowledge and informing on major accomplishments.

More information on the World Forest Week can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/64665/>

The AFF was represented in these events by a team of 4 members from its Technical Support Team to International and Regional Negotiations.

AFF facilitates FLEGT in Southern Africa

The Technical Committee on Forestry of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has established a Working Group to guide the evolution of a FLEGT process in SADC countries. The Working Group which draws members from South Africa (Chair), Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Tanzania and Zambia held its first meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, on October 19-20, 2010. The AFF and the SADC Secretariat were also invited as observers. The AFF facilitated the meeting.

Upcoming events

Sub-regional workshop on "Forest law enforcement, governance, and trade in the Sahel". The African Forest Forum (AFF), in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Regional Office for West and Central Africa are organizing a workshop on **"Forest law enforcement, governance, and trade in the Sahel"**, October 28-29, 2010, Bamako, Mali.

This workshop is a follow-up to a workshop organised by a project on "Sustainable Forest Management in Africa-SFMII " and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Regional Office for West and Central Africa on "Lessons and the way forward with sustainable forest management in the Sahel", that was implemented on November 14-16, 2007 in Bamako, Mali . The AFF has since followed up on some of the recommendations of that workshop.

The overall objective of the workshop is to facilitate the promotion of good forest governance in the region by integrating a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process into existing national and regional structures and thus enhance the contribution of forestry to social and economic development in the region.

Preparatory meeting for African delegates to the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9): The African Forest Forum (AFF), with funding from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is organizing a preparatory meeting of African delegates to the UNFF9 to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 11-12, 2010.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Discuss and form an African consensus on the draft agenda items for UNFF9.
- Develop a common approach to the deliberations at UNFF9.
- Continue the process of building African capacity for international negotiations.

All African delegates to UNFF9 are expected to attend this meeting.

Forest Day 4 will take place on 5 December 2010 alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancún, Mexico at the Cancún Center. Forest Day 4 is hosted by the Government of Mexico, through the National Forestry Commission and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Meetings of sub-committees of the Governing Council of AFF: Three sub-committees of the Governing Council of the AFF will meet as follows:

- Task Force on Resources Mobilisation - November 08, 2010
- Technical Support Team to International and Regional Negotiations – November 09, 2010
- Executive Committee – November 10, 2010

This newsletter is a mechanism for distribution and exchange of information relevant to forestry to a broad audience within and outside Africa. It is being sent to you as AFF's stakeholder. We want to respect your privacy and desire not to have your e-mail inbox filled with unwanted correspondence. If you do not want to receive this newsletter please send us a note at <exec.sec@afforum.org>, and we will remove your name from the distribution list.

If you wish to submit a story or an item for this newsletter, please email: g.kowero@cgiar.org. Thank you. The Editors.