



## **DECISIONS FROM THREE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS** *(October 15-16, 2007; January 27-28, 2008 and June 12-13, 2008)*

The Governing Council (GC) of the African Forest Forum (AFF) has met three times in less than one year: October 15-16, 2007; January 27-28, 2008 and June 12-13, 2008. During this formative period of the AFF it has become necessary for the GC to meet frequently to provide a good take off of the AFF. The meetings of the Steering Committee (SC) of the project on Sustainable Forest Management in Africa (SFM) were planned during the same dates. This facilitated holding the three GC meetings because the GC shares many of its members with the SC. In all these meetings several decisions were made to facilitate the work of the AFF. With the exception of the first meeting, the second and third meetings were preceded by meetings of the Executive Committee of AFF. The key decisions from these three meetings, outlined below, demonstrate progress made in the administration and management of the affairs of the AFF through the GC.

### **A: FROM THE THREE MEETINGS:**

#### **1. Membership to AFF**

During the three meetings the GC approved 345 applications for membership to the AFF as follows:

- Central Africa (38)
- Eastern Africa (92)
- Northern and North-Eastern Africa (55)
- Southern Africa (60)
- Western Africa (73)
- Outside Africa (25)

#### **2. Committees of the GC**

In order to facilitate its work, the GC set up the following committees, in addition to the Executive Committee:

##### *Technical Support Team (TST) to International and Regional Negotiations*

1. Linda Mossop-Rousseau (South Africa) -Chair
2. Macarthy Oyebo (Nigeria)
3. Peter Gondo (Zimbabwe)
4. El Hadji Sene (Senegal),
5. Barry Moussa (Mali),
6. Adjumane Kadio (Cote d'Ivoire),
7. Alice Kaudia (Kenya),
8. Jones Ruhombe Kamugisha (Uganda)
9. Anna Chileshe-Masinja (Zambia)
10. Sebastien Malele (Democratic Republic of Congo)
11. Fred Owino (Kenya)
12. AFF Secretariat

##### *Working Group on Raising the Profile of Forestry in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) - in short "Forestry in CAADP"*

1. August Temu (Tanzania) –Chair
2. Fred Owino (Kenya)
3. Victor Kwame Agyeman (Ghana)

4. Christine Nantongo (Uganda)
5. Foday Bojang (Gambia)
6. Afsa Kemitale (Uganda)
7. Edouard Bonkongou (Burkina Faso)
8. AFF Secretariat

*Working Group on Climate Change*

1. Christine Nantongo (Uganda) – Chair
2. Fred Owino (Kenya)
3. Humphrey Ngibuini (Kenya)
4. Andre Mandingou (Gabon)
5. Lidia Brito (Mozambique)
6. Anna Chileshe-Masinja (Zambia)
7. AFF Secretariat

*Task Force on Resources Mobilisation.*

1. Victor Kwame Agyeman (Ghana) –Chair
2. Bjorn Lundgren (Sweden)
3. Linda Mossop-Rousseau (South Africa)
4. Sebastien Malele (Democratic Republic of Congo)
5. Humphrey Ngibuini (Kenya)
6. Peter Gondo (Zimbabwe)
7. AFF Secretariat

All these committees have Terms of Reference that guide their operations. These are posted under item 20.

**B: FROM THE FIRST MEETING:**

**3. Appointments to the Governing Council**

The first meeting appointed three additional members to the GC as follows:

Eastern Africa: Jean Baptiste Nduwayezu (Rwanda)

Central Africa: Andre Mandigou (Gabon)

Western Africa: Victor Kwame Agyeman (Ghana)

It was agreed that the appointment of one member from the Northern and North Eastern sub-region and another one from “Outside Africa” should be made at an opportune time noting that the two regions had few members in AFF.

**4. Appointment of members to the Executive Committee**

The following were appointed as members to the Executive Committee (EC), in addition to the Chair (Macarthy Oyebo-Nigeria) and Vice-Chair ( Sebastien Malele -DRC) of GC, and the Executive Secretary (Ex-officio member and Secretary to EC), as provided for in the Constitution:

- Fred Owino (Eastern Africa)
- Lidia Brito (Southern Africa)
- Demel Teketay (Northern & North Eastern Africa)

**5. Proposed activities and budget for the AFF (2008-2012)**

The GC revisited a project proposal that had been submitted to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and that constitutes a programme to support forest management in Africa through AFF; focusing on the following seven areas:

- Information generation, sharing and uptake.
- Good forest governance.
- Effects of, and mitigation and adaptation to, climate change.
- Forest-water relations and management.
- Strengthening Africa in international and regional dialogues on forestry and related areas.
- Rehabilitation of public forest plantations.
- The potential for collaboration between African and Swedish forest institutions.

The budget for implementing the five year programme is about US\$5 million. Already Sida has granted AFF Swedish Kroner 23 million, equivalent to US\$ 3,287,250, for three years: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008 up to 31 October 2011.

The areas of work in this programme are based on the outcomes of four sub-regional workshops that were implemented by the SFM project. These are areas on which there is already consensus as priority areas for action. The seven areas incorporated in this proposal are therefore either both urgent and continental or sub-regional in context, and thus very suitable for a mechanism such as the African Forest Forum to take the lead on. In the case of the potential links between Africa and Sweden, we envisage that from the two major interactions, through the SFM project, between African and Swedish partners in Sweden (in Uppsala, 18-22 October 2004 and Stockholm, 21 May 2007), Swedish forest institutions and expertise can play a positive role in collaboration with African colleagues and sister institutions. It is therefore logical for the AFF to submit this request to a Swedish institution, Sida. Another 15 priority issues were identified in the four sub-regional workshops and have already been turned into project proposals. The AFF will link up with appropriate national and regional forestry bodies in Africa to search for funding and establish appropriate mechanisms for their implementation.

## **6. Logo for AFF**

The GC approved a logo for AFF and with the words “African Forest Forum” and abbreviation “AFF”. In addition, the GC recommended that:

- The logo can be expressed in different languages of the AU to suit the occasion, but shall retain the AFF acronym.
- When the logo appears in other languages, the English worded logo should be affixed alongside it.

## **7. Appointment of Executive Secretary of AFF**

The GC appointed Godwin Kowero as the first Executive Secretary of the AFF. The decision was based on Article 9 of the Constitution of AFF on the qualifications, conduct, tenure of office of the Executive Secretary; as well as on the Terms of Reference for that position, and the resolution of the Founder Members on this position.

The GC also appointed August Temu as signatory to AFF bank account, as provided for in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Further, the GC recommended that the Chair of the GC writes to Fred Owino, the Chair of the SC for SFM project, a letter commending him for the good work he and the SC have done, especially in guiding the SC to establish and facilitate the initial operations of the AFF.

### **C. FROM THE SECOND MEETING:**

#### **8. Membership to the GC**

The GC welcomed Abodunrin Charles Omoluabi as an Observer Member for the African Development Bank.

#### **9. AFF registration and website**

The Forum was registered on December 06, 2007. It has its own website ([www.afforum.org](http://www.afforum.org))

#### **10. Appointment of alternate members to the EC**

The GC decided that it is necessary for the EC to have alternate members from three sub-regions in order to ensure a quorum to meetings, should current members fail to attend meetings.

Appointed Christine Nantongo, Anna Chileshe-Masinja and Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim as respective alternate members to Fred Owino, Lidia Brito and Demel Teketay.

### **C. FROM THIRD MEETING:**

#### **11. Participation in UNFF activities**

The GC decided that the TST should explore how to participate in the UNFF Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting in Vienna (Nov. 2008) on Financial Mechanisms, as well as in the Country-led Initiative on MYPOW in Suriname (Sept. 2008).

It also decided that Macarthy Oyebo (Nigeria) and Linda Rousseau Mossop (South Africa) represent the TST in these two events.

#### **12. African Model Forest Network**

The GC decided that the AFF links with the African Model Forest (AMF) led by Dr. Chimere Diaw in Cameroon.

#### **13. Collaboration between AFF and the Royal Swedish Academy for Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)**

The GC decided that the KLSA be a liaison office for AFF in Europe. This follows from the support the KSLA has been giving to the SFM and AFF over the years. The AFF needs to link with partners in Europe. The KSLA has supported this effort in many ways, including the support to organizing and implementing the May 21-25, 2007 Seminar on "African-Nordic Collaboration on SFM" in Stockholm, Sweden. The Constitution of AFF provides for such liaison offices.

#### **14. Support to the SFM II project and AFF secretariats**

The GC decided to recruit a Senior Programme Officer (with assistance of ICRAF) to support the Secretariats of SFM and AFF during the extension period of the SFM project from July to October 2008. This will help in preparing the launching of the initial activities of AFF later in the year.

Dr. Larwanou Mahamane, from Niger, was recruited.

#### **15. Collaboration between ICRAF and the AFF**

The GC recommended that ICRAF and AFF develop a programmatic way to link the two institutions through joint activities.

#### **16. Membership and attendance to GC meetings**

The GC decided to invite the Director of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), as an observer, to GC meetings.

The GC also decided to invite heads of relevant sub-regional institutions to GC meetings, as observers, when such meetings are held in their sub-regions.

#### **17. Report on AFF to the NGOs Coordination Board of Kenya**

The GC received and approved a report to the NGOs Coordination Board of Kenya. Each year the AFF is required to write a report on its activities and finances to this Board.

The GC also recommended that the AFF be registered in about two more countries.

#### **18. The input by AFF into Chair of UNFF's Statement to UNFF8**

The GC received a letter from the UNFF Secretariat inviting the AFF to make inputs into the Statement by the Chairman of UNFF8.

The GC commissioned the TST to work on the response, taking into account the agenda for UNFF8.

#### **19. Other issues**

The GC recommended that a letter be written to the Executive Secretary of ANAFE to congratulate the institution for the good progress it has made.

The GC tasked the AFF Secretariat to make business cards for TST members, and explore possibilities of making badges, stickers and ties with the AFF logo, as a way of promoting the AFF.

The GC also appointed Fred Owino as signatory to AFF bank account, as required by the NGOs Registration Board of Kenya.

#### **20. Terms of reference for various committees of the GC**

##### **1. Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee (EC) is a Committee of the Governing Council (GC) and therefore reports to the GC. The members of the EC are recruited from the GC, by the GC, as well as their manner of replacement.

Apart from other instructions the Executive Committee might, from time to time, receive from the Governing Council, the specific mandate of the Committee is to:

1. Recommend to the GC draft rules and procedures for the conduct of the GC.

2. Recommend to the GC draft policies and procedures to guide the activities and overall development of the AFF.
3. Recommend, and where necessary approve, for later ratification by the GC, agreements, contracts, policies, procedures, programmes and applications for membership.
4. Oversee the work of the Secretariat, including evaluation and monitoring.
5. Cultivate, with the secretariat, relevant partners for AFF.
6. Ensure that all relevant statutory requirements for an international NGO based in Kenya, including financial requirements, are complied with.
7. Initiate, as appropriate, activities that will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the AFF and submit to the GC for approval.
8. Undertake any other functions that may be necessary and appropriate to achieve the objects of AFF, subject to approval by the GC.

## **2. Terms of Reference of Working Group on Climate Change**

The Working Group on Climate Change is a committee of the Governing Council and therefore reports to the Governing Council. Its members are recruited by the Governing Council as well as their manner of replacement.

Apart from other instructions the Working Group might, from time to time, receive from the Governing Council, the specific mandate of the Working Group is to:

1. Facilitate the development of a programme on climate change for AFF.
2. Provide guidance and monitor progress on the AFF climate change programme.
3. Facilitate the development of a database on information as well as people and institutions working on climate change in Africa, and key people from outside Africa.
4. Facilitate identification and sharing of information on climate change and forestry in order to improve understanding of the climate-forest nexus.
5. Undertake any other activities relevant to the Working Group and with prior approval of the Governing Council.

### **3. Terms of Reference for the Technical Support Team (TST)**

The Technical Support Team (TST) is a committee of the Governing Council and therefore reports to the Governing Council. Its members are recruited by the Governing Council as well as their manner of replacement.

Apart from other instructions the TST might, from time to time, receive from the Governing Council, the specific mandate of the TST is to:

1. To facilitate negotiations on forestry and related issues in ways that promote sustainable forest management in Africa
2. To facilitate linking policy with impact on forest management in relevant negotiations.
3. To support raising the profile of forestry at the political level.
4. To track developments, of relevance to Africa, in the international forestry arena/dialogue.
5. To promote participation of key stakeholders in the process leading to negotiations, including women, youth, marginalized groups, NGOs, private sector, sub-regional and regional economic groups, and relevant secretariats/bureaux and diplomats.
6. To facilitate informed participation, by African delegates, in international and other relevant negotiations, for example through advance preparations and support with logistics during the negotiations.
7. To exchange information among TST members.
8. To maintain a data base on delegates to negotiations and other people who can work with the TST.

### **3. Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Resources Mobilization**

The Task Force on Resources Mobilisation is a committee of the Governing Council and therefore reports to the Governing Council. Its members are recruited by the Governing Council as well as their manner of replacement.

Apart from other instructions the Task Force might, from time to time, receive from the Governing Council, the specific mandate of the Task Force is to:

1. Assist the Governing Council in ensuring sustainable funding through the following activities:
  - a) Explore the policies, priorities and processes of different funding agencies with an interest in natural resources in Africa.
  - b) List the proposals that AFF needs to identify funding for, and assist the Secretariat in identifying specific donors for funding.
2. Develop a funding strategy for AFF, including:
  - a) Endowment Fund, (b) Membership fees, and (c) Other funds

3. Develop a strategy to engage the private sector in supporting the AFF.
4. Develop a strategy to show that AFF has substantial support from within the African Region, including support from:
  - a) African Development Bank
  - c) Regional bodies such as AU, COMIFAC, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, etc.
  - d) Regional Banks e.g. the East African Development Bank.
  - e) Commercial banks with an interest in supporting green initiatives e.g. Standard Chartered Bank of South Africa
  - f) Multi-lateral agencies such as the United Nations, FAO, World Bank, etc.