



# THE African Forest Forum

A platform for stakeholders in African Forestry

## In this issue

- The Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council held in Livingstone, Zambia
- Workshop held on “Strengthening capacities to implement and monitor national forest programme processes in Eastern and Southern Africa”
- A new programme on people, climate change and forests takes-off
- AFF held its first Members Forum
- AFF welcomes a new staff

## The Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council held in Livingstone, Zambia



The Governing Council of the African Forest Forum met on March 1-2 in Livingstone, Zambia, deliberated and made decisions on a number of issues. It approved the Plan of Work and Budget for 2012. This included the implementation of 8 projects under the Sida supported programme as well as the new programme supported by the SDC.

The Technical and Financial Report for 2011 was also scrutinized and approved.

The GC noted that all activities were implemented as planned and within the budget. Also in 2011, a number of working papers, policy briefs, as well as a book were released.

With the peaking of publications coming out of the work of AFF, the GC set up an Editorial Committee that will oversee the quality and relevance of AFF publications. The Committee is comprised of David Okali (Nigeria), Brice Sinsin (Benin), Mafa Chipeta (Malawi), Emmanuel Chidumayo (Zambia), Demel Teketay (Ethiopia), Benoit Sarr (Senegal), Sibiri Ouedrago (Burkina Faso), Labode Popoola (Nigeria), Shabani Chamshama (Tanzania),

Ben Chikamai (Kenya), and Ousseynou Ndoye (Cameroon).

The GC also admitted a total of 38 applicants to membership of the AFF. This brings the total of AFF members to 640. The GC noted the successful conclusion of the first meeting of the Members' Forum that was held electronically.

# Workshop held on “Strengthening capacities to implement and monitor national forest programme processes in Eastern and Southern Africa”

The African Forest Forum (AFF) and the National Forest Programme Facility (NFP) housed by FAO in Rome, jointly organized a workshop on “Strengthening capacities to implement and monitor national forest programme processes (NFP) in Eastern and Southern Africa” held on February 22-23, 2012 in Dares Salaam, Tanzania with Funding from the NFP Facility and AFF.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. review main findings of sub-regional studies;
2. develop shared understanding of challenges and opportunities related to NFP implementation;
3. identify lessons learnt and way forward.

Over 30 participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya attended the workshop. Other participants were representatives from FAO and the AFF Secretariat.

The workshop noted that future NFP support should focus on:

- strengthening organization and capacity of smallholders, women, local communities and indigenous people depending on forest and farms, with respect to engagement in policy dialogue and access to financing and other investment opportunities;
- strengthening multi-sectorial stakeholder policy platforms at local, sub-national and national levels;
- strengthening communication and dissemination of key information and learning at all levels, i.e. local, national, regional and international levels.

## A new programme on people, climate change and forests takes-off

The African Forest Forum with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), launched a three year programme entitled: “African Forests, People and Climate Change: African Forest Forum (AFF):” The SDC has earmarked CHF 3,814,060 (approx. USD 4.2 million) to the programme for the three years, from November 2011 to December 2014.

The overall goal of the programme is to create capacities of stakeholders to strengthen the role of Africa’s forests and trees to adapt to climate change and mitigate its adverse effects in various landscapes in ways that will enhance livelihoods, sustain biodiversity and improve the quality of the environment. In this regard the programme will focus on the following three areas:

- ▶ Working Area 1: Foster awareness on forests and climate change issues and promote appropriate changes in policies and practices.
- ▶ Working Area 2: Build and improve capacity to address forest related climate change issues.
- ▶ Working Area 3: Ensure that production, adaptation, mitigation and policy processes involving forests and trees are backed by sound information.

The key outputs of the programme will include: raised profile of forest sector; capacities of key stakeholders and training/research institutions strengthened; capacities of CSO and local communities to address forest-related climate change improved; impacts of climate change on forests and trees better understood; scope and potential of mitigation and adaptation activities evaluated and better understood; evolving link between biofuel, food and fibre production better understood.



## AFF held its first Members Forum

The first Meeting of the AFF Members' Forum was successfully held, electronically, between February 15 and 20, 2012 with the participation of 107 members. The meeting elected the Chair (Prof. Frederick Owino - Kenya) and Vice Chair (Dr. Abdelazim Ibrahim - Sudan) of the Members' Forum and ratified the Constitution, the Guidelines for Administrative and Financial Operations, as well as the major decisions made by the Governing Council at its various meetings. The report on achievements made by the AFF during the first three years of its existence was very well received.

The meeting was initially planned to end on February 17<sup>th</sup>, but upon members' requests, the meeting was extended to February 20<sup>th</sup>. Although 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.

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.

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- 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 with regard to 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 services 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.

### AFF welcomes a new staff



Prof. Emmanuel Chidumayo has just joined the AFF Secretariat as a Senior Programme Officer.

He will lead the climate change work of AFF. He has held various positions, both at the University of Zambia in Lusaka and the Government of the Republic of Zambia. He is currently the Manager of the Makeni Savannah Research Project that is investigating responses of savannah plants to climate and climate change. He has authored four books and has 64 refereed articles in journals. Please join us in welcoming Prof. Chidumayo to the AFF family!

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A PLATFORM FOR STAKEHOLDERS  
IN AFRICAN FORESTRY

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