



A PLATFORM FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN AFRICAN FORESTRY

PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



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Professional Forestry Associations in Southern Africa

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFF	African Forest Forum
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIFM	Association des Ingénieurs Forestiers de Madagascar
AMOMA	Mozambique Association of Forest Operators
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Commonwealth Forestry Association
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAZ	Forestry Association of Zambia
FD	Forest Department
FOA	Forest Owners Association
FSA	Forestry South Africa
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Ha	Hectare
ICFM	Initiative pour la Certification Forestière à Madagascar
IEED	International Institute on Economic Research, Environment and Development
IFR	International Forestry Review
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MW	Mega Watt
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NISC	National Industrial and Science Council
ORASCOM	Orange River Commission
PFA	Professional Forestry Associations
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RFS	Royal Forestry Society
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAF	Society of American Foresters
SAFJ	Southern African Forestry Journal
SAIF	South African Institute of Forestry
SATG	South African Timber Growers
SF-JFS	Southern Forests, a Journal of Forest Science (Formerly South African Journal of Forestry)
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TPA	Timber Producers Association
TPAZ	Timber Producers Association of Zambia
TPF	Timber Producers Federation
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
USA	United States of America
ZAFICO	Zambia Forest Industries Commission

Foreword

The forest sector, particularly in this day and age, is under the global spotlight for a number of reasons. Globalisation of forest markets, national development, deforestation, climate change and others have spurred unprecedented discussions on issues related to governance, rights of forest dependent people, standards of practice and concerns over biodiversity and environmental services. Despite these issues, the forest sectors in much of southern Africa and indeed the whole continent have, except for a few countries, seen declines in the standards of forest management, under funding of public forest services, increasing cases of illegal trade and escalating rates of deforestation and forest degradation. These trends in the sector largely provided the motivation for this paper, which focuses on forestry associations as a mechanism for strengthening the profession and practice of forestry. In preparing materials for this paper, it was apparent that there was a general decline in the levels of funding for public forest services despite the clear need for stronger forest services to meet the increasing and often daunting forest management challenges, not to mention, the levels of sectorial ambitions contained in well laid out policies and strategies. Not surprisingly, the same trends have a bearing on the many cases of moribund or non-existent professional forestry associations. As countries try to unlock or increase the economic benefits of their respective forest sectors, they also have new opportunities from global issues such as REDD+, which could provide some of the incentives to rejuvenate the forest sectors of Africa. Clearly, forestry associations have a central and pivotal role in this endeavour, since it is through sound forest management by well trained and committed personnel that Africa will realize and benefit from the full potentials of the sector.



Godwin Kowero

Executive Secretary, African Forest Forum.

Executive Summary

A survey of ten southern African countries showed that half of them have had professional forestry associations or their equivalent, but most of which are at the moment dormant for reasons associated with general economic decline which has affected their forest sectors. South Africa is the only country in which, professional and industry-related associations currently thrive side by side. Nevertheless, it is quite encouraging that, countries, such as Zambia, Zimbabwe with dormant associations and those with no associations such as Malawi and Mozambique are keen to revive or start them respectively. Interestingly the absence of professional forestry associations has not deterred the creation of industry or forestry trade-related associations, such as those of timber producers, timber exporters and concession holders. It is an opportune moment for the African Forest Forum and its partners to support the strengthening, creation or revival of both professional and industry associations. In doing so, AFF could help strengthen forestry practice in individual countries and regions.

CHAPTER 1 Introduction

THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Associations of people sharing a common interest have been around for as long as human beings have tended to socially interact outside the realms of their immediate families or clans. All manner of social interactions between clans led to the development of socio-political systems based on agreed norms or rules. These socio-political structures were maintained by a variety of governance structures, such as the institutions of modern day social-democracies. One can also argue that political governance structures were created or evolved to serve societal interests and the issues of how societies govern themselves, and what system of governance suited society is what inspired political thought from the days of early Greek philosophers. The systems of governance that still exist today in the form of oligarchies, dictatorships and democracies were described by philosophers such as Aristotle.

It is from these structures that associations evolved either to serve special interests and in a number of cases, also to serve public interests. It would appear that the evolution of modern societies and the building of economies based on production and trade is what gave birth to the divisions of labour; that in turn gave rise to hunters, herders, fishermen, warriors, medicine men, blacksmiths, loggers, craftsmen and others. As modernity increased in the course of human history, latter day professions such as medicine, engineering, arts and crafts, music, agriculture, chemistry flourished particularly during the industrial revolution era in Europe.

When one talks about forestry associations today, one must be mindful of the origins of associations and how some of them have led to major contributions to political, scientific and technological / economic thought, and the developments and even socio-economic transformations that ensued from them.

EXAMPLES OF EARLY PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS

This sub-section is devoted to forestry associations and illustrates when and where the first documented associations were formed and run. Two nationwide associations from the UK and the USA are briefly described to show their major functions and in the process one can see how they have shaped and guided present day forestry associations. In addition, a multi-country association is described since it is relevant to a number of eastern and

southern African countries which were former colonies of Great Britain. An operational definition of forestry associations is also provided.

Definition of forestry associations

Francois (1967) proposed a definition of a forestry association as “a group of people, all of whom are for some reason interested in forestry or forest industries” with the implication that the activities of the members of the association may be, directly or indirectly, permanently or temporarily, concerned with the forest and its products.

In contrast, a "professional forestry association" is restricted to a group of specialists with the same interests in forestry or forest industries, and may gain wholly or in part, their livelihood from forestry activities and are directly involved in the activities of their profession.

Structures and functions of early forestry associations

In describing the structures and functions of professional and other forms of forestry-related associations, two early national examples and one multi-country are noteworthy. These are the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) of the United Kingdom and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA).

The Royal Forestry Society has a published motto, *“Promoting the wise management of trees and woods”*. It is a charitable organisation that was established in 1882 in Northumberland, England. Originally known as the English Arboricultural Society, the organisation was founded by a forester, Henry Clark, and nurseryman, John W Robson, both from Hexham. The RFS aims to further *“the appreciation, understanding and knowledge of trees, woods and forests”*. The society claims a membership of over 4,000 spread throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The analogous organisation in Scotland is the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. Overseas members are also admitted. The society is patronised by HM, The Queen. It publishes a journal entitled the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*, specialising in scientific articles focusing on all aspects of British forestry and woodland management. It sponsors two vocational qualifications, the 'Professional Diploma in Arboriculture' and the 'Certificate in Arboriculture'.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is a scientific and educational non-profit organization, representing the forestry profession in the United States of America. Its mission statement declares that it *seeks to advance the science, education, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society*. Its headquarters are located in Bethesda, Maryland.

The SAF was founded in the year 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the United States Forest Service. The SAF is very active in improving the quality of post-secondary forestry education in the United States. It is dictated by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the main accreditor for academic degree programs in professional forestry, both at Bachelor's and Master's levels. Accreditation is ongoing, with a full review of all universities taking place once every ten years, with the one for 2007 being the latest. Currently, only Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Minnesota are accredited until 2017. Additionally, it reviews two-year programs leading to an Associate's degree in forest technology and other related fields.

The SAF also offers a continuing education credit system, with the expectation of keeping foresters and their associates current on the rapidly developing information and technologies. In addition it produces five periodic journals, which are all archived through the members-only "Roots of Forestry". The Journal of Forestry and that of Forest Science are the most comprehensive journals of general scholarly forestry research. Additionally, the society distributes journals that are particular to the different climatic forest regions of North America and their relative management styles.

The Commonwealth Forestry Association which was formed in 1920 after the First World War is fully described in section 2.1, where it is used to illustrate the origins of professional forestry associations in former British Colonies which later became countries of the British Commonwealth.

CHAPTER 2 An Overview of the Current Status of PFAs in Southern Africa

In the course of this study, eight countries were visited namely Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Madagascar and Malawi were consulted by email and telephone.

The issues around which country surveys were done are listed below, but their individual importance varied across countries, depending on whether the professional associations were active, moribund or absent. The issues are:

- ▶ the existence of any forestry or forestry-related associations;
- ▶ status of activity of each association (active, dormant or moribund);
- ▶ main functions;
- ▶ membership (including conditions for membership);
- ▶ structure and governance (planning, implementations, supervision, reporting and auditing mandates);
- ▶ funding sources or mechanisms;
- ▶ main achievements;
- ▶ perception of each country's policy environment with respect to associations;
- ▶ reasons for decline or for their active status
- ▶ suggestions on membership and funding sources;
- ▶ current issues that associations are handling or could handle

For those associations that are active, the information regarding their status and functions are presented under the categories namely, membership, structure and governance, main functions, funding sources, main achievements and suggested improvements.

For those associations that are moribund, particular attention was given to reasons for their decline, current policy environment, their potential membership upon renewal, desired governance structures and possible sources of funding.

For countries which have never had an association, focus was on the key issues affecting the forestry sector that could be used to justify the formation of an association, the current policy framework, potential membership, opinions on governance structures, and potential funding sources.

THE ORIGINS OF FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Experiences during the colonial period

The present forestry associations in southern Africa owe their origins to the colonial history of the region during which, priority was given to the development of industrial plantations, in order to supply wood and fibre for local industries, create employment and supply export markets. This 'policy push' underpinned forestry development in much of eastern and southern Africa; Alongside this policy which gave political support and prominence to the forest sector, training in forestry was promoted within the colonies, mainly through ranger and technical level colleges and a few also made it to overseas universities to pursue professional training in forestry. Other than South Africa which has a long history of industrial forestry and had its own teaching institutions, the first members of forestry associations in other southern African countries owed their professional training to foreign universities and became the vanguards of professional forestry associations which were created in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya Zimbabwe and Zambia. It is only much later, in the late 1960s and early 1970s that, professional forestry training was offered by a few of the African universities. In this regard, the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and Makerere University in Uganda are good examples of pioneer forestry teaching institutions.

Given the dominance of Great Britain as a colonizing power in much of East and southern Africa it is logical to examine the origins and evolution of forestry associations in Britain since this could have influenced how the same evolved in the former British colonies. Britain did not have a national forest service until 1919, which was after the First World War. The first Director of Forestry spearheaded an initiative supported by the Director of Forestry in Australia to form a forestry association to further the interests of the forest sector and practitioners within the British Empire. This led to the formation of the Empire Forestry Association in 1920 soon after the first ever Empire Forestry Conference (later named the Commonwealth Forestry Conference).

The original objectives of the Empire Forestry Association as laid down in the first charter were:

- ▶ to foster public interest in forestry
- ▶ to form a centre for and provide means of communication between all engaged in forestry
- ▶ to collect and circulate information relating to forestry and the commercial utilisation of forest products.
- ▶ to secure general recognition of the dependence of timber supply on forest management.

In 1962, when it became the Commonwealth Forestry Association through a Supplemental Royal Charter, an important objective emphasizing, the environment and conservation was added namely,

“To secure general recognition of the beneficial influence of trees and forests in relation to climate, the conservation of land and water resources and to the conservation of wildlife”.

The above environment and conservation objective would 12 years later become the theme of the 10th Conference of the Commonwealth Forestry Association. Furthermore 1962 also saw the addition of a few more specific objectives which were:

- ▶ to exchange views and to support and cooperate with institutions and associations and to record and make known the result of the neglect of forestry generally throughout the Commonwealth;
- ▶ to study existing laws, rules and regulations appertaining to forestry throughout the Commonwealth, and as occasion arises, to confer with the constituted authorities regarding their operation;
- ▶ to originate and sustain, by all legitimate and constitutional means, organised action in support of representation which it may be deemed necessary to make in pursuit of the general objects of the Association;
- ▶ to prepare, produce, publish and circulate books, pamphlets, treatises, essays and newspaper articles and periodicals, to hold meetings and to delivery lectures of addresses in all parts of the British Commonwealth calculated to forward the attainment of the objects of the Association;
- ▶ to provide prizes or rewards for the composing and writing of books, pamphlets, treatises, newspaper articles or lectures designed or calculated to forward the attainment of the objects of the Association;
- ▶ to promote research whether by the operation of demonstration forests or otherwise and to establish scholarships in such a manner as shall be designed or calculated to forward the attainment of the objects of the Association.

To date there are, or have been, branches of the CFA in the following countries and institutions: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, (Democratic Republic of Congo or DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

With changing times and priorities, the objectives of the CFA were further revised and these are in the 1981 Commonwealth Forestry Handbook. Some of the more famous products of the CFA are its publications, which report on current research activities, up-to-date developments and news, and international initiatives and have a world-wide readership. The

two main publications of the Association are the International Forestry Review (IFR, formerly Commonwealth Forestry Review) and Commonwealth Forestry News. In order to reach a wider audience the Commonwealth Forestry News was created in 1998, particularly to seek the active participation of members in all parts of the Commonwealth and beyond, and in particular to provide an international platform for reports from the Association's national branches. For field practitioners, the Commonwealth Forestry Handbook is an important publication containing practical information on forestry practice.

Forestry associations or societies in the post-colonial era

Despite the many national branches that the Commonwealth Forestry Association helped create, it remained very much a multi-country association of foresters practising in the countries of the British Commonwealth, with little or no major political recognition or direct impact within each of the countries. Hence, there are countries, such as Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, which have both a CFA branch and also a local forestry association or society.

In line with the format of the Royal Society of Foresters and the Society of American Foresters a number of professional forestry associations in Africa were formed in the 1970's to provide a forum where 'foresters' could discuss both technical and policy matters affecting their profession, with a view to improve professional practice and also provide 'exclusive forums' to preserve their professional identity and pride, just like those of engineers, doctors and lawyers, which tend to have relatively high profiles in many countries. In a few examples from the African continent, such associations have been organized and run very much like the Society of American Foresters, but unlike SAF, only a few have significantly influenced the growth of the forestry profession in its many facets.

The rest of this paper examines individual country experiences in the post-independence period.

TYPES AND ROLES OF FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

Types of associations

In a number of southern African countries today, the associations which are forestry related are not exclusively about forestry professionals seeking an identity and to further the boundaries of professional forestry practice. They also include timber users and associated industries. This is especially true in countries that have either significant commercially exploited natural forests or industrial plantations, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa and Zambia. The

associations that exist in these countries include professional forestry associations and those catering to the interests of groups such as growers, concession holders, mainstream industry and saw-millers. Hence one finds associations with titles such as South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF), Forestry South Africa (FSA), Timber Producers Federation (TPF in Zimbabwe), Timber Exporters Federation (DRC), Timber Producers Association (TPA in Zambia) and Mozambique Association of Forest Operators (AMOMA).

Timber Growers Associations

The type of association representing timber growers and industry is best exemplified by Forestry South Africa, which functions in a country that has the largest industrial forest plantations in the world. Its aim is to support growth and economic viability of both the primary production and wood-based industrial sub-sectors. The association liaises with its member and with policy makers to address a range of issues, such as land rights and all forms of industry related tariffs and taxes, which tend to increase production costs and reduce profits, among others.

Saw Millers and Timber Producers Associations

Such associations are found in Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. Again South Africa is a leading example where the industry aims to improve productivity through the use of efficient machinery and improve the quality grades of timber for both local and export markets. In Mozambique and Zambia where natural forests are commercially exploited, saw millers tend to also hold timber concessions. The associations provide forums to negotiate with central governments on the terms and conditions of timber licenses, taxes on machinery, protection of local producers, royalties and so on. In addition, they also aim to improve and maintain quality standards of wood products in order to secure good prices to and keep them in the market.

Professional Forestry Associations

Professional forestry associations (PFAs) typically tend to draw their membership from field practitioners, researchers and academics, often with professional forestry qualifications from recognized universities and technical colleges.

Though not so in most of southern Africa, in some cases membership requires the passing of an accreditation examination upon which one can practice as a professional forester in his or her respective country, and is then expected to adhere to the laid down standards of practice be it in nursery, logging, planting or plantation tending operations. Typically, they strive to build a sense of community, professional pride and a constituency, which serves as the legitimate voice through which professional opinion regarding any aspect of the forest sector is expressed to the public or policy makers.

CHAPTER 3 Forestry Associations in Southern Africa

This section presents summaries with respect to the existence and status of all types of forestry and forestry related associations in individual countries. A summary of the forest resources in each of the ten countries included in this paper and the presence and status of forest related associations is in table 1.

Table 1: Types of forestry associations in southern Africa. Figures in bracket indicate plantation areas.

Country	Forest resources by country (10 ³ ha) , 2005 Figures	Type of Forestry Association or Society			
		Professional Association	Industrial Prod & Manufacturing	Timber Concessionaires	Saw Millers
Botswana	11,943 (0.40)	None	None	None	None
Lesotho	8 (20)	Moribund	None	None	None
Namibia	8,040 (0.4)	None	Yes (Charcoal Producers & Exporters)	None	None
Mauritius	37 (13)	None	None	None	None
Madagascar	12838 (35)	Yes			Yes
Malawi	3,402 (93)	None	None	None	None
Mozambique	30,601 (50)	None	None	Yes	Yes
South Africa	9,203 (1,340)	Yes	Yes	None	Yes
Zambia	42,252 (75)	Moribund	None	Yes	Yes
Zimbabwe	19,040 (141)	Moribund	Yes	Yes	Yes

This sub-section presents summaries on the status of these associations in each of the 10 countries. Ideally the countries could be arranged in alphabetical order, however in this text the countries have been clustered into 3 groups; i) countries with active or moribund professional forestry associations, ii) countries that have never had any professional forestry associations, and iii) the island states. Based on this arrangement the countries are grouped as:

- ▶ Category 1: South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- ▶ Category 2: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi and Mozambique
- ▶ Category 3: Madagascar and Mauritius

COUNTRIES WITH ACTIVE OR MORIBUND PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS

South Africa

Background

South Africa has about 500 000 ha of natural high forests, 1.38 million ha of industrial plantations, and an estimated 28 million ha of dry woodlands. In addition to that, it has a number of national parks which are well managed. Its huge industrial plantation base supports a world class wood-based industry consisting of saw mills, pulp and paper mills and furniture firms. The facts and figures of the forest industry presented here give an indication of the relative importance of South Africa's forest sector to the overall economy.

The performance of the sector in the 2007-2008 years (Forestry South Africa, 2009), are as follows:

- ▶ Industrial plantations occupied about 1.1% (about 1.38 million ha) of the total land area, which was in fact, a decrease from a high figure of 1.5 million ha in 2000
- ▶ Round wood sales were 20 million cubic meters
- ▶ Gross value of forest products (round wood, sawn wood, pulp and paper) was about 21.36 billion Rand (3 billion US\$) which was 12% of manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Forestry associations in South Africa

The country offers a good study on how associations function and what they can do to influence applied research, training and national policies that affect the industry. South Africa has two major nationwide associations namely, Forestry South Africa which is comprised of timber growers and wood-based industries of South Africa. Some of its pulp and paper industries are global players. The other association is the South African Institute

of Forestry which is a professional foresters association that is mainly concerned with the maintenance of professional standards of practice, scientific research and the dissemination of research and other findings to the larger body of practitioners. Forestry South Africa gives an annual grant of US\$ 3000 to SAIF.

The rest of this sub-section is devoted to the structure, functions and key achievements of Forestry South Africa, with the aim of drawing valuable lessons to the other countries in the region.

(a) Forestry South Africa (FSA)

Forestry South Africa was formed when two separate bodies; Forest Owners Association (FOA) and South African Timber Growers (SATG) Associations, decided to merge in 2002. There is also Saw Milling South Africa, but not described here, since the purpose of this report is already sufficiently served by the two larger associations.

Membership

FSA controls 98% of all plantations in the country which comprises large, medium and small independent growers. The membership includes 9 large timber growers, 1300 medium size growers and 20 000 independent growers. The philosophy which led to the merging of formerly different associations was to create a politically acceptable balance of representation between big, medium and small players, as opposed to the past when they were separate entities. After the end of apartheid period there was a strong realization that the image of the sector had to change and also deal with the politically sensitive issues such as land restitution.

The challenges that led to the formation of FSA

The forest industry realized that it needed an umbrella body, representing its main facets, so that it could deal more effectively with issues affecting the industry, than would be possible if the membership remained fragmented in a new South Africa. This was particularly true for issues that are not under the direct control of the industry but which affect investment and production, such as policies on taxation, tariffs (e.g. on energy) and land ownership.

Structure and Mission

The mission of FSA is to “serve the interests of all South African timber growers in a manner that will enhance the long-term sustainability and profitability of their activities and which will promote the growth and development of the Forestry Sector”. It is run by a Secretariat headed by a Chief Executive Officer and 8 staff members (4 technical and 4 non-technical) at its headquarters in Johannesburg. It also has an office in Kwa-Zulu Natal in close proximity to the main timber growers. It is supervised by an Executive Committee whose structure is described in the next section.

Governance

The Association has a constitution and it convenes Annual General Meetings (AGM) 4 times a year, preceded by Regional Committee Meetings. The Regional Chapters are set to consult more closely with the members and to seek views on issues that should be discussed or taken up by the Executive Committee and through it to the AGM. The AGM is the one that approves the Strategic and Annual Development Plans, the implementation of which is supervised by the Executive Committee that is comprised of representatives from 5 large, 3 medium and 3 small growers. The Executive Committee, which reports to the AGM, elects a chair on a rotational basis and usually meets 4 or more times depending on issues that need to be addressed. Implementation of the annual work plan and the day to day decisions are taken by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) but guidance on what ought to be done is given by the Executive Committee.

Traditionally FSA used to have Group Committees representing large, medium and emerging growers, each of which met three times a year but in 2008 a decision was made to integrate the groups by having joint meetings amongst them and feeding the outcomes into the Executive Committee.

There are also Working Committees which deal with specific issues, and are convened when necessary. Examples are Water and Environmental Affairs, the Human Resources and Land Affairs Committees. There are also a number of sub-working groups, which deal with specific issues such as, post-settlement support models for land reform, forest certification, transport, research, and skills development for the industry.

Decisions at meetings are reached by consensus and there is no voting.

As an operating principle, the association does not deal with matters that may relate to competition amongst its members; hence it does not get involved in the specific commercial activities of its members and concentrates on issues that are generic to the general membership.

Key Objectives/Functions of the Association

- ▶ To promote the interests of all growers of all commercial tree species and to create unity of purpose amongst members.
- ▶ To promote the commercial production and utilisation of timber and forest products in an environmentally sound manner and to use natural resources without detriment to their long-term sustainability.
- ▶ To promote the growth, development and well being of the South African forestry industry locally and internationally.
- ▶ To promote policies and operating practices which support free competition and which foster and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

- ▶ To promote, support and encourage education and training, research and development and technology transfer in the interests of its members.
- ▶ To collect, analyse, exchange and disseminate information, literature and statistics relevant to the needs of its members.
- ▶ To represent the interests and views of its members to Parliament, Government, Provincial and other public or private bodies and officials in South Africa and elsewhere, as may be necessary.

The current key priorities of FSA are briefly outlined as follows.

Production

In order to maintain and increase fibre supply the FSA invests in communities to maintain land under forest production through empowerment programmes which fund inputs towards the establishment of plantations and woodlots. This is a response to a recent tendency in South Africa, in which the total area of land under plantations has gone down by 120,000 ha from a total of 1,500,000 ha in 2000 to 1,380,000 ha in 2009, partly because of public environmental concerns and land restitution claims which have created new land owners who may not want to grow trees. In this regard it has a target to expand plantations to compensate for the recent losses occasioned by 70,000 ha of voluntary withdrawals as a result of water debates. It therefore has to guard against the conversion of forest land to other uses.

To counter the negative perceptions on new afforestation projects, FSA also provides data and information regarding water use by plantations as compared with commercial agriculture, and promotes the importance of the forest sector, which is a significant employer and represents 12% of manufactured GDP.

FSA also supports work on forest protection, given the huge investments that its members put into the establishment and maintenance of plantations to maturity. It is therefore quite concerned with pests and diseases, and its membership contributes funds for applied research, such as the Forest Pathology Chair at the University of Pretoria. It is also currently funding research on the control of the Sirex Wood Wasp which is a growing pest problem in South Africa. It is also significant that FSA is one of the few associations concerned with the likely effects of climate change on pests, diseases and fire. In this regard, it promotes research on how to adapt its forests to changing conditions that may extend the geographical range of pathogens, pests and vectors.

Labour issues

The association is also addressing the working conditions of forest labour. The bulk of labour in the forest industry is sourced through contractors who hire labour on short term contracts; and the workers by the nature of their short term contracts are not unionized. One

of the drawbacks of non-unionized labour is that it deprives the sector of a more or less permanent constituency that could lobby on behalf of the industry. In addition, their terms of employment do not adequately address issues of safety, health care, leave and all manner of social programmes that are often offered to long-term contracts. This has led to public criticism of the employment conditions of forest workers and it is significant that FSA has chosen to address it, among others.

Influencing policies outside the forest sector

One of the most important functions of FSA is to influence policies that affect the forest sector and which reduce profits by increasing production costs. In 2009 FSA lobbied the central government against proposals to increase energy costs which would hurt the saw milling and pulp and paper industries, which use considerable quantities of power.

In addition, FSA can lobby government on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This is because FSA has the political clout to access and even put pressure on politicians, including government ministers, and challenge bureaucratic delays, much more efficiently than would a government department. This is a very important but understated function.

Funding

FSA has to have a steady funding base to finance its ambitious programme. So far, its main sources of funding are:

- ▶ Levy on each m3 of wood or wood product sold by its members. This is its main funding source, which constitutes 80% of the total funding; and it depends on the outputs of the sector.
- ▶ Government funding through grants and performance based contracts since FSA is contracted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to collect and publish production statistics of the forest industry.
- ▶ International funding from the FAO which has a budget line to support forest associations and the International Institute on Economic Research, Environment and Development (IEED)

It also hopes to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government to govern Research and Development and Land Reform processes affecting the sector, and for which it will be paid. It also charges fees from Forest Industrial Training courses that it mounts.

Programme auditing is done by the Executive Committee using the Business Plan and Financial Audits which are done as per the rules governing social welfare organizations.

Planning

FSA has a Charter which has a 10 year life span; and this has been approved by its entire membership. Within the framework of the charter, it develops annual strategic plans and work plans. Its current strategic plan deals with issues such as:

- ▶ land reform;
- ▶ codes for growers and contractors;
- ▶ key areas of focus;
- ▶ key strategic objectives.

These are presented to the Executive Committee for endorsement. After that the FSA takes the business plan and its strategic objectives on a 'Road Show' during which the document is presented to members for their inputs. After its final approval the Secretariat develops an annual business plan.

Highlights of key achievements of the sector

The forestry sector was able to negotiate a Land Redistribution Model which was signed by the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs – its aim was to secure land for the timber industry and facilitate joint venture relationships with formerly disadvantaged citizens.

In the past the relationship between FSA and the relevant Government departments, particularly forestry, was adversarial; but it has since improved quite substantially. In fact the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries contracts out the collection of vital statistics to FSA.

One other key achievement was the signing of the Forest Sector Transition Charter; a three year process which was in line with the Government Black Empowerment Policy. Issues pertaining to Sector Growth, Sector Protection and Sector Research and Development are all in the Charter.

It commissioned a study on water use efficiency in trees and was able to down play the hostility of many people to plantations.

Partners

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in which forestry sits, is the main partner in the central government which also provides community extension services, supports enterprise development, information gathering, research and development. Others are, the South African Institute of Forest Research, the Fire Programme, Biodiversity for South Africa. Tertiary institutions such as University of Stellenbosch, Saasveld Forestry College, Limpopo University, are also partners, as are; Forest Industrial Training Authority and international donors and support organizations such as FAO and IEED. Other industries

such as Business Unity South Africa and South African Forestry Contractors are partners, but much less so than the ones already mentioned.

(b) The South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF)

The South African Institute of Forestry is a professional association of forestry related professionals geared towards delivering a professional service to forestry. Its stated mission is *“to assist members to achieve excellence in the practice of forestry, to promote growth and sustainability in the industry whilst being responsible as custodians of a sensitive environment”*.

Its objectives are mainly:

- ▶ the promotion of all aspects of forestry;
- ▶ the improvement of practice in the professional and technical aspects of forestry;
- ▶ the enhancement of the status of members;
- ▶ the protection of members' interests; and
- ▶ the representation of the forestry professionals in South Africa.

It also provides its members with a Code of Ethics, to which members are bound and by so doing, are required to uphold the dignity of the profession and to act in an honourable manner in all businesses conducted.

Constitution

The SAIF has a constitution, which is geared towards member service. After celebrating its 40 years in June 2008, the Council of the SAIF is investigating options to ensure that the Institute remains current, relevant, progressive, and offers real value to its members.

Structure/Governance of SAIF

The Institute consists of a central office based in Pretoria, from which the secretariat operates. There are four active branches (Kwa Zulu Natal, Mphumalanga, Southern and Western Cape) and a representative from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Its affairs are run by a Council elected by members. The Council consists of a President, Past President, Vice-President, Liaison Officer, a Secretary and a Journal Editor. Each of the four active branches, have chairpersons who liaise with the Council.

Membership

The SAIF has provisions for three membership categories, namely, full members (who should hold a recognised forestry qualification from either a university or a technical college and have been engaged in forestry for a period of at least three years), retired (open to all who have retired from the industry) and student members (who should be registered students studying towards a forestry degree or diploma).

To be a member, one applies through a Branch Chair or a Branch Committee Member, whereupon the application is forwarded to the Council and upon approval confirmation is offered after fees have been paid.

Functions

In addition to the objectives stated above, SAIF also plays a crucial role to promote forest research and practice by producing 3 major publications namely; The Forestry Handbook, Fire Handbook and a Forestry Journal.

The Forestry Handbook, is an interesting publication which has chapters on topics such as; Historical developments on forestry in South Africa, Sustainable Forest Management, Policies and Legislation, Timber Plantation Silviculture, Protection, Engineering, Utilization, Non-timber Benefits and Round wood marketing.

The Fire Handbook is devoted to the management of fire, which can be quite destructive to forest plantations.

SAIF also mounts courses from which it charges fees. Examples of courses offered in 2009 were on Forest Finance and Economics and Forest Management

Southern Forests, a Journal of Forest Science (SF-JFS), is the main scientific publication of the SAIF and published in collaboration with National Industrial and Science Council (NISC). It is one of the leading forestry journals in the southern hemisphere, and publishes scientific papers in forest science and management of planted or natural forests in the southern hemisphere and the tropics. It also publishes papers on related disciplines, such as wood-processing, forest engineering, environmental aspects of forestry, social forestry, agro-forestry, socio-economic science, plant science, non-wood forest products and other goods and services derived from forests in the broadest sense.

It was formerly published under the title, Southern African Forestry Journal (SAFJ) till November 2006, after which it changed its name to Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science, commencing with issue 69(1) in July 2007.

Funding

Its main sources of funding are:

- ▶ Membership fees
- ▶ Income from short courses
- ▶ Sales from publications
- ▶ Grants (e.g. from Forestry South Africa)

Zambia

(a) Forestry Association of Zambia (FAZ)

Introduction

Zambia had an ad hoc professional association; the Forestry Association of Zambia (FAZ), but which has been dormant since the early to mid-80s. The Faculty of Forestry at Copperbelt University has been encouraged to revive it but it had not done much in that regard. The closest forum to a professional forestry association is the Natural Resources Forum of Zambia which is funded by donors, and is affiliated to the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources.

Earlier on there have been suggestions that a special forum on forests be formed and run under the auspices of the National Forest Programme (NFP) being implemented in the country. But the idea has remained unimplemented.

The FAZ was actually affiliated to the CFA, and from which Zambian foresters were offered training opportunities and sponsored attendance to professional meetings and study tours.

The functions and role of FAZ

In its active days, FAZ concentrated mainly on:

- ▶ The organization of specialist symposia on things like research findings and forest management issues.
- ▶ Peer review or internal review meetings to discuss papers, new procedures, etc, proposed by members.
- ▶ Organizing discussion fora on topical / interesting/ controversial issues.
- ▶ Producing newsletters and other publications.
- ▶ Setting benchmarks for professional conduct.
- ▶ Vetting those who could speak on forestry matters.
- ▶ Making annual operational plans.

There were no available records of the meetings of the association at the Secretariat.

Governance

FAZ had an Executive Committee consisting exclusively of government officials.

It also had a constitution which contained a “code of conduct or charter” for association members, but these documents were not available at the Forest Department.

The main weaknesses of the FAZ, according to the Office of the Director of Forestry, were that: 1) it was driven solely by civil servants and had a weak asset base 2) it relied heavily on the Industrial Plantation Division for funding, which at that time was directly under the Forest Department. When the Industrial Plantation Division became a para-statal company with its own Board of Directors, and was renamed the Zambia Forest Industries Commission (ZAFICO) in 1982, the Conservator of Forests no longer had access to funds to run the affairs of the association. This was a major reason for the decline and "death" of the association. The situation became worse in the second political dispensation, which it would appear, did little to support forestry in Zambia.

Current Policy Environment

1. Establishment of a professional association

While there is no specific policy statement regarding the formation of forestry associations in the current forest policy, it can be concluded from the discussions in Zambia that it provides a conducive environment for such associations and community based organizations. This is because the government has adopted a strong participatory approach in the management of forests by a variety of stakeholders in Zambia and the ministry under which the Forest Department falls, already supports the functioning of the Natural Resources Forum. All indications are that a professional forestry association would be equally supported.

Furthermore, the Faculty of Forestry at the Copperbelt University in Zambia has reportedly been encouraged to revive the dormant professional association and the current Director of Forestry fully supports its revival. It is also highly relevant in the face of new expectations from the forest sector, particularly the issues such as, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and climate change in general, which have brought forestry into the global focus. In addition, the appointment in 2008 of the first and former President of the Republic as a patron, together with other eminent persons to promote tree planting was yet another indication of renewed political support for forestry in general. The apparent renewal of political support for forestry is a good opportunity that Zambia can take to revive its forestry association.

2. Key features of a future professional association

Those interviewed suggested the following as key features of a revived association:

- ▶ Should be an independent body removed from Government.
- ▶ The existence of an association should be recognized in the official forest policy and should be recognized as a certification body for professional foresters by the Government.
- ▶ Should be independent and with an office space and a lean secretariat.

- ▶ Should own a bank account.
- ▶ Its officials should be members in their own professional capacities and not by having been high ranking government officials but include private sector, academia, independent professionals, NGOs, etc.
- ▶ Should have had a clear business model to run its activities.

3. Suggested membership

There were two schools of thought on this. One is that it should be restricted to professional foresters who should be certified after passing a professional examination set by the association. Others were of the opinion that it should be more broad-based to include people from the natural resource sector. It would seem that a core membership of professionals certified by the association and associate members from other disciplines is a reasonable way to incorporate both views.

The association should be open to all those interested, but preferably members of academia and professionals in both public and private practice.

The association should have strong linkages to policy making institutions at the national level and also to regional and international bodies such as AFF and South African Development Community (SADC). National institutions could include:

- ▶ Government Forestry Department
- ▶ Government Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- ▶ Environmental Council of Zambia
- ▶ Ministry of Commerce, Trade & Industry (through its Director of Trade)
- ▶ Some of the forestry and environment- based private sector organizations.
- ▶ Civil Society Organizations

4. Functions

- ▶ Set standards for forestry practice and get industry to endorse Codes of Practice (e.g. standards in nursery management, silvicultural treatments and harvesting).
- ▶ Set codes of conduct (personal conduct) and uphold professional and ethical standards.
- ▶ Vet and accept members who pass a professional exam set by the association and thereby certified as such.

- ▶ Raise the profile of FAZ through targeted communications, public relations and broad based membership.
- ▶ Provide a common and meaningful platform for addressing stakeholders concerns in the forestry sector.
- ▶ Serve as a springboard for interpreting and disseminating information from government and other organizations to the general public through identifiable representative bodies.
- ▶ Serve as a meaningful instrument for policy implementation, successful design implementation and monitoring of development and environmental programs in the forestry sector.
- ▶ Serve as a conduit for conveying ideas of the general public to government to facilitate collective policy development based on the principle of democratic governance.

5. Sources of funding

These could include:

- ▶ Membership fees.
- ▶ Donations or contributions from timber or forest industries.
- ▶ Levy – on forest products sold – provided that compliance standards have been set and approved.
- ▶ Fees from courses conducted by FAZ.

Relevance of a professional forestry association in Zambia

The Timber Producers Association of Zambia (TPAZ) believes that in the pursuance of the objectives of the new forestry policy and other obligations of Zambia on forestry and environment, emphasis has been put on stakeholder participation in the management of its natural forests. It believes that an active association would be a welcome asset as it would help to uphold the principles and management practices that support sustainable forest management and the emerging environmental issues.

The current focus on global issues, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation is a big opportunity, given Zambia's forest resources, which could 'pave its way' to new and additional funding. A strong professional association can add credibility to Zambia as a REDD+ country and play a role in the planning and implementation of REDD+ programmes. In addition it can help to sort out governance issues, such as benefit sharing models which are seen as critical to the success of REDD+ under participatory management approaches.

(b) Timber Producers Association of Zambia (TPAZ)

The TPAZ was formed in 2001 to promote the sustainable use and marketing of timber and timber products for the development of Zambia. Upon its formation, it embarked on a serious awareness raising campaign across the country, and consequently gave rise to a number of groupings with interest in ecological, social and economic components of the forestry sector. Its members are potential participants in the initiatives being carried out towards formation of professional association in the forestry sector.

Benefits of a PFA to Timber Producers Association of Zambia (TPAZ)

The management of the Timber Producers Association sees promise in a strong forestry association as furthering its own interests in various ways, including:

TPAZ would have a strong backbone to support, uphold and address its ideals and agenda to relevant authorities and other stakeholders.

Implementation of TPAZ envisaged programs such as development of Common Market Centres for forestry products in all district centres and creation of “incubators” in selected centres to facilitate training in various entrepreneurial skills can be realized if there is strong support from a professional body working together with the industry. Through a professional association TPAZ would find it easier to push the establishment of a Timber Board which could facilitate creation of a financing facility to assist key players in the sector. The association would also accelerate unity, co-operation and coordination of all key players in the timber sector and strengthen relationships with other players in the non-wood sectors.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has historically been a strong forestry country with a viable and vibrant timber industry. However years of economic decline, particularly the last 10-12 years have seen a near collapse of the timber industry as a result of hyper-inflation and issues regarding security of tenure within the land reform process. During its active years it had a viable and strong professional forestry association; Forestry Association of Zimbabwe (FAZ), which was heavily supported by the Timber Producers Federation and the Forestry College based in Mutare.

Reasons for decline

An association existed but it went dormant in the mid-90 as economic difficulties persisted and since then, the place of the association has been virtually taken up by the Timber Producers Federation. At its prime, it was primarily driven by the commercial timber industry leadership and the Forestry College in Mutare; and forestry lecturers played an active role in facilitating monthly meetings, together with a monthly magazine.

When profit margins in forestry dwindled to dismal levels, companies lost the interest to fund activities of the PFA. Professional foresters also left the country in large numbers, mainly in search of better remunerations outside the country.

It would appear that the association needed the patronage of a senior person who is also a professional forester; hence the sentiment that such an association will thrive only when it receives support from the top.

Within the industry, the culture of sharing of information or technology was seriously impaired during the “hard times” as companies had to rely on their own devices to survive. What it meant in practice was that any innovation was jealously guarded and not shared with competitors. This has tended to reduce the propensity of members to form strong associations.

The above picture notwithstanding, an association is still critical to the needed improvements in the performance forestry sector, including the state forests and its commercial forestry activities.

Current Policy Environment

While the policy environment is still unstable, it is nonetheless timely for an association because of the realized need to revive a once proud and productive forest sector, with its proven history to meet local demands and also supply export markets, which the current political leadership clearly knows and would like to see rejuvenated. For example, the land reform and resettlement programme in Zimbabwe has made it necessary for the entire forestry industry to work together on common issues to keep the industry intact and to speak with one voice to protect and promote the interests of the sector. More specifically, a forest based land reform policy was developed to minimize loss of the forest resource base. The policy recognizes forestry as a viable land-use option and requires that forest land should not be converted to another form of land use, even if forests and forest lands may change hands. Furthermore, and despite the risks associated with the land reform agenda, the government considers forestry and other natural resources as key to the country's economic recovery process and to rural development. Another recent and positive development is that the country has joined the National Forest Programme Facility, which will no doubt seek and promote skills development and high professional standards, and provide a further motive for a revived forestry association.

Despite the supportive environment, the lingering issues of land tenure, particularly the perceived problem over security of tenure, may be hindering new investments in the industrial forestry sub-sector.

Other Conditions necessary for revival of the Forestry Association of Zimbabwe

According to staff from the offices of the General Manager of the Zimbabwe Forestry Commission and that of the CEO of the Timber Producers Federation, the issues below, in addition to the policy environment, are important to the revival of the association:

- ▶ a clear agenda/information that benefits members and industry;
- ▶ availability of skills (the professionals);
- ▶ availability of funding to sustain its activities;
- ▶ visibility;
- ▶ clarity on land tenure in terms of attracting investment capital.

Presently members of the TPF are those who are mainly engaged in timber growing, although associate membership is accepted from any other related organizations such as timber transporters, forestry equipment suppliers, timber processors and furniture manufacturers. Because of this, members of a revived Forestry Association of Zimbabwe may also come from a wide stakeholder base which generally comprises of individuals or organizations interested in the advancement of national forestry objectives and sharing emerging forestry innovations. A revived Forestry Association of Zimbabwe and the TPF would thus complement each other and the TPF would therefore benefit from interactions and innovations that may be useful to the forest industry.

Past functions of the association

Though no document was provided on the association by the Zimbabwe Forestry Commission, the key functions which were considered important were to:

- ▶ Share technical information to improve production, particularly in the industrial plantation sub-sector, through publications and newsletters.
- ▶ Promote professional standards in forest management and of ethical behaviour amongst its members.
- ▶ Support the activities and safeguard the interests of the timber industry, hence lobby the government to uphold or develop forestry-friendly policies.
- ▶ Promote research in industrial plantations (Zimbabwe has had an impressive tree improvement programme and enviable seed orchards).

Today the functions of a PFA are critical to the industry which is trying to revive its former glory.

Key Success Factors for a PFA in the context of Zimbabwe

The key success factors in the context of Zimbabwe include:

- ▶ Availability of sustainable funding for coordination and facilitation of PFA activities.

- ▶ Commitment from the chief executives of the major stakeholder institutions, both private and public;
- ▶ A few champions to inspire existing and potential members;
- ▶ Mutual trust among member institutions and individual members and willingness to share information, including that on innovations;
- ▶ Having a clear strategic plan with clear annual objectives;
- ▶ Supportive government policies, particularly those that would encourage new investments in the forest sector.

Suggested membership of a revived association

This would include personal and institutional / corporate membership such as:

- ▶ All major commercial timber producers who are currently members of TPF.
- ▶ The regulatory authority, the Forestry Commission, including the Forestry and Wood Technology Training College in Mutare.
- ▶ Timber Producers Federation, Timber Council, Forestry Commission, Universities, NGOs (e.g. Environment Africa), CAMPFIRE Association, indigenous Timber Federation.
- ▶ Research Institutions such as the Forestry Commission Research Unit.
- ▶ Universities that are offering forestry and related degree such as the National University of Science and Technology, Bindura University, Africa University and the University of Zimbabwe.
- ▶ NGOs that employ a large number of foresters.
- ▶ The FAO office in Harare.
- ▶ The parent Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management.
- ▶ Zimbabwean foresters working outside the country.

It is recommended that any professional forester will need to be registered with the association just like in other professions. Similarly, private entrepreneurs such as bush millers, forestry contractors, timber traders and furniture manufacturers should be registered with the PFA in order to operate. However this requirement will need to be promulgated as a policy of the central government.

Funding mechanisms

Funding mechanisms could include:

- ▶ Corporate and individual membership fees by way of annual subscriptions;
- ▶ Hosting meetings and symposia for which the association is paid facilitation fees;
- ▶ Fees from organizing training courses for practising foresters;
- ▶ Contributions from donors;
- ▶ Offering consultancies for the government (e.g. to collect production and trade statistics).

Governance structure

- ▶ The PFA would be a voluntary organization which should be managed through a committee of elected or nominated by the membership.
- ▶ It should have a constitution and be registered formally.
- ▶ It should hold regular meetings as stated in its constitution and inform its members accordingly.
- ▶ An Annual General Meeting (AGM) should also be held to report on past achievement and discuss plans for the following year.

What is expected from the AFF

It is advisable that the AFF encourages or supports Zimbabwe to hold a national meeting of relevant stakeholders in forestry in order to promote the revival of such an association.

(a) Timber Producers Federation of Zimbabwe

History and membership

It was created in 1995, and is mainly composed of plantation growers and saw millers involved in the promotion of timber products, research, training and the protection of quality and environmental standards.

The TPF is the main and the only authentic source of data and information on production from industrial plantations. The TPF is a non-government organisation formed by timber producers to safeguard and promote their interests. Membership of the TPF is voluntary and it is funded by levies from its members. It sends out detailed data forms to capture monthly production statistics, to which responses by members appear to be still satisfactory.

Governance

The TPF is run by a CEO who reports to a Board appointed by its membership and operates on annual work plans that are approved by the membership on its Annual General Meeting.

Funding

It is funded through subscriptions by its membership and a levy on the volume of timber and timber products sold by its members.

Functions

These are:

- ▶ Collection of vital statistics on wood and wood products produced for domestic and export markets. The data on industrial timber production is based on details filled in on

standard TPF forms each month and member companies are expected to provide accurate and up to date information.

- ▶ Policy advocacy with government, particularly on land reform and tenure security.
- ▶ Seeking new (particularly) export markets for its members.
- ▶ Promoting applied research in aid of improved production (e.g. baboon control in plantations).
- ▶ Promoting price stability in the timber markets by discouraging the purchase of illegally sourced timber that in recent years have brought distortions in the local market.

Key Achievements

They include:

- ▶ TPF has survived in Zimbabwe after a period of unprecedented inflation and political instability.
- ▶ Some of its key members such as Border Timbers have Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification under its watch.
- ▶ Despite FSC rules prohibiting use of poisons in pest control, TPF was able to convince FSC to give it a 3-year exemption to use brodifacoum, a poison to use experimentally for baboon control, without the companies losing their FSC certificates.

COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NEVER HAD ANY PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Botswana and Namibia

Background

The two countries do not have significant amounts of commercial timber resources but rely on the forests and woodlands for non-wood timber products, also known as Veld Products, some of which already enjoy commercial success. In this regard, the Hoodia plant (*Hoodia* spp.) with its hunger suppressing qualities and the devil's claw (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) with its many medicinal properties and Marula Oil (from *Sclerocarya birrea*) stand out. In addition, veld foods such as mushrooms, wild fruits and mopane worms, among others, are noteworthy.

Justification for associations

The two countries have substantial coverage of dry woodlands which have both ecological and direct economic values through the many wood and non-wood products, particularly to local communities.

The woodlands also store substantial amounts of carbon if one considers the large areas they cover. There is already substantial interest in forest management in the two countries and in Namibia, the Forest Act of 2001, which has provisions for the declaration of Community Forests, has seen the creation of 13 such community forests which provide wood and non-wood products and call for sustainable management practices.

The two countries could share technologies and experiences in the management of dry woodlands. Both countries recognize the importance of maintaining large areas under woodlands as 'ecological buffers' which can play crucial roles in the coping strategies against the potential ravages of climate change. The woodlands are also quite important to both the livestock and tourism industries.

Already there are a number of non governmental organisations supporting the production of non-timber forest (veld) products, some of which have already been mentioned.

Policy environment

Both Botswana and Namibia have strong support for natural resources management, and also strong traditions for community based management of natural resources (CBNRM), which have existing strong associations in both countries. While Namibia developed policies and legislation in support of devolution of rights to communities to manage natural resources and benefit from them, Botswana followed with a Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) policy in 2008. While the policies do not directly call for the formation of professional associations, there is nothing to suggest that such associations cannot thrive.

Support for forest protection and management and the interest shown by their respective government forest directorates/departments suggest suitable policy environments for the formation of associations.

Types of association

Based on the fact that the two countries do not have large commercial forests (natural or planted) associations of foresters alone would be rather restrictive.

However, it would seem that an association of woodland managers that would bring together foresters and CBNRM practitioners would be more inclusive, and could combine aspects of forest management with wildlife and other non-wood resources.

It would seem that an association of "Woodland Resource Managers" could suit both countries, rather than strictly forestry associations. In fact such an association composed of foresters and other natural resource disciplines would not only represent a fairly novel approach but also promises to be intellectually interesting because of the mix of backgrounds, but all geared to promote the sustainable management of natural resources.

Malawi

Introduction

In addition to the now fragmented miombo woodlands in most parts of the country except in the north, Malawi also has forest plantations covering an area of 93,000 ha. After the first political dispensation came to an end, the succeeding governments adopted a policy that the Forest Department should assume the role of regulator and not be the main player in forest production and marketing as had been the case. Hence plantations were privatized to concessionaires to harvest and also regenerate or re-plant after clear felling. However, the policy did not perform to expectations and the replanting of clear felled areas has fallen way below acceptable levels, a fact over which the Forest Department is seriously concerned, and with good reason. This concern is furthermore, echoed by a huge public outcry as evident in many newspaper articles written on the subject. It has been alleged that the bulk of the timber harvested had reportedly been exported to East Africa and significant amounts of it were exported illegally and with no tax revenues to the central government. However no export statistics were made available.

Policy environment

Malawi has a National Forest Programme that involves both the public and the private sectors. Because of illegal activities regarding the exploitation of the main forest plantations in Chikangwa or Vipya, there seems to be strong public support for the forest sector to reform and assert its authority and one of the issues which a number of active and retired foresters have agreed upon is the creation of a Forestry Forum; in effect an association of forestry professionals.

Justification for a forestry association

As stated already, prominent retired foresters in Malawi have pointedly called for the creation of a public forum on forests in Malawi and the Department of Forestry is supportive of such a forum since it recognizes the importance of an independent professional body that can scrutinize public policies and even help resist undue political pressure which may not always be in the interest of the forest sector.

The Forest Department has been under public scrutiny over the difficult situation regarding the timber concessions at the Chikangawa Forest Block. As a result, the public through numerous newspaper articles would like to see a strong Forest Department with a high visibility and to restore its own credibility. A strong professional lobby could lend valuable support in the necessary revival of plantation forestry development in Malawi. It could help promote good forestry practice and assist the government to promote public-private partnerships in the development of plantations, and even co-management arrangements of indigenous forest reserves.

Issues that an association would address

The issues which were suggested as possible functions of an association include:

- ▶ Seek high level policy support for the association;
- ▶ Help revive public confidence in the sector;
- ▶ Draw up Code of Practice for all foresters in both the public and private sectors;
- ▶ Steer public-private sector partnership models for plantation development in a new direction, after the failure of the current model;
- ▶ Advocate a review of current policies to improve support to private sector involvement in forestry;
- ▶ Promote private lending to forestry operations in Malawi;
- ▶ Promote research and education in forestry.

Membership

Potential members could be drawn from:

- ▶ Trained foresters from the public sector, universities and the private sector;
- ▶ Retired foresters,
- ▶ NGOs as associate members.

Funding sources

They could include:

- ▶ Annual subscriptions,
- ▶ Timber levy,
- ▶ Private donations,
- ▶ Donor support.

Mozambique

Mozambique has no professional forestry association but strongly believes that it could very well do with one. In 2009, an association representing timber producers and exporters, AMOMA was formed and was still awaiting formal registration by the Government of Mozambique.

Justification for a professional forestry association

Interest in forming associations rose from the provinces, particularly from the charcoal producers in Maputo to supply the city. As the number of producers increased an Association of Charcoal Producers was formed. To date up to 40 operators are active in Mwamba and Magudi districts, but their practices would be helped into sustainability if an association of forestry practitioners was also available.

With respect to timber, there is an Association of Timber Producers in Sofala Province but on a national scale, there were no functional timber producer or forest practitioner associations. Other associations such as the 'Order of Engineers' exist; and a graduate forester is supposed to register with the Order, whereupon one is issued with a Professional Identify Card. The Order of Engineers has several chapters; Civil, Chemical, Mechanical and Forest Chapters, and each chapter has its code of ethics and practice.

An association will be a great help to the timber industry because today anyone seeking a concession needs to prepare a management plan using the services of a registered professional. An association could offer such a service through its members and because it would set codes of practice, this could improve the quality of management plans.

Considering her substantial forest resources in comparison to other southern African countries, and the fact that it has over 100 trained foresters, it can build and run a strong professional society that can help improve the standards of practice in the forest sector.

Membership

Mozambique has a sufficient number of trained foresters and they are distributed in national and provincial governments, universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The numbers certainly make it feasible to run an association, and there is a feeling that there are no policy impediments to the formation of such an association.

Key Functions

They key function could be to:

- ▶ Debate and address topical issues affecting the forest sector.
- ▶ Review key government documents – like new policies and legislation.
- ▶ Facilitate formulation and promotion of timber grading system to improve export quality.
- ▶ Promote sound concession management in line with principles of Sustainable Forest Management
- ▶ Support potentially large plantation development programmes.

Funding sources

They could include:

- ▶ Membership fees
- ▶ Levy on timber sales
- ▶ Donor contributions

Mozambique Association of Forest Operators (AMOMA)

Membership

The association was founded in 2009 as a result of the global financial crisis. The industry decided to form an association which is composed of 112 concessionaires, of which 84 have approved management plans.

The new and yet to be registered association already has members from each of the 11 provinces but the main ones are Cabo Delgado, Manica, Sofala and Zambesia. Each province has an association of concessionaires / concession holders. The conditions for each provincial association joining the national one include:

- ▶ a minimum of 10 members;
- ▶ a constitution;
- ▶ each member must be registered with the ministries of agriculture and industry;
- ▶ members must all be approved concession holders;
- ▶ must be registered companies;
- ▶ must have certificates of good conduct.

Proposed structure

The association has provisions for:

- ▶ a General Assembly chaired by a President;
- ▶ an Executive Committee (with President and Secretary);
- ▶ a Management Committee;
- ▶ a Finance Committee (including an internal audit function).

Specific objectives

- ▶ To improve standards of wood processing and increase the competitiveness of Mozambican products.
- ▶ Increase efficiency and reduce waste.
- ▶ Promote technology transfer to improve local timber industry.
- ▶ To deal with government through an organized entity and process.

Each province has a representative that communicates with others and through whom information from the Association's President is channelled.

Funding Sources

These are mainly membership fees.

Current issues that the Association is addressing

At the time of reporting, the Association had expressed the desire to see the government make some policy decisions such as:

- ▶ to limit the import of wood products that are available in Mozambique;
- ▶ to facilitate the export of timber from Mozambique's ports and not Durban, S. Africa, where arbitrary grading systems can be used to underpay Mozambican wood exporters.

Desired interventions from AFF

The key ones are:

- ▶ They would welcome any support from the AFF to help curb the illegal logging by Asian businesses, and this is considered a very urgent issue.
- ▶ They would appreciate any support from the AFF to seek grants to build up the association.

Lesotho

While the country has no history or tradition on natural resource management associations, there is room to form one that reflects Lesotho's current land management priorities. It actually attempted to form a forestry association complete with a constitution, a copy of which was provided, but it never took off.

Policy environment and justification for an association

The National Forest Programme Facility is a good forum which works with both government agencies such as the Forest Department (FD) and NGOs such as World Vision in matters such as tree planting and land rehabilitation. To date the country has a total of 20,000 ha in woodlots. In general, the NFP Facility outsources a lot of its work to local NGOs.

The Government through the Parliament has put a high priority on land rehabilitation, faced with its hilly terrain and fragile soils which are erosion prone. In line with this, the parent ministry of forestry is now known as the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, to highlight the land reclamation mandate.

Because of this, forests and woodlots play an important protective function on Lesotho's farmed landscapes and pastures. The Government has set aside 16 million US\$ per year for land management activities, with 96,000 people involved in building gabions and

terraces. Surprisingly while the recurrent budget for the FD has gone down drastically the 16 million dollar budget for land reclamation has remained.

In view of the priority, the government has developed i) a Climate Change Adaptation Project with the FAO, ii) a Sustainable Development Programme with Global Environment Facility (GEF) and iii) is also involved in the Orange River Commission (ORASCOM).

Suggested association and membership for Lesotho

Structure and governance

Given the government's priority in overall land management and reclamation, an Integrated Natural Resource and Land Management Association, inspired and guided by the Ministry would be the most feasible option. Government could also facilitate it by providing office space. The drive to form and run an association should primarily come from outside government, and by being a civil society organization, it stands a good chance of attracting funds from the central government and other donors.

Membership

The membership could be drawn from professionals, in the forestry, rangeland, land and other natural resources sectors.

Proposed functions for an association.

- ▶ It could help mobilize people to take up responsibility for land management without getting direct government cash incentives.
- ▶ It would be a watch dog to see if government is delivering on its policy commitments.
- ▶ It would promote the integration of tree into pastures to improve groundcover without reducing grazing potential.
- ▶ It could provide a monitoring framework for land management programmes such as the Annual Tree Planting Programme that covers 10 districts and 80 constituencies.
- ▶ It could facilitate the formation of range management associations to practice rotational grazing, re-seeding and tree planting on range lands.

Funding Sources

They could include:

- ▶ Seed money from government
- ▶ Membership fees
- ▶ Donor funds

Assistance from outside (by the AFF)

Some technical support to share experiences from well established associations (their structures, constitutions and how they function) could be possibly used to convince political principals on the virtues of such an association in Lesotho.

THE ISLAND STATES

Mauritius

Background and Introduction

Mauritius is one of the Indian Ocean island states which are part of SADC, and like Madagascar has unique plant and animal diversity. However, unlike Madagascar, it is more vulnerable to biodiversity loss through a number of invasive alien plant and animal species, some of which were introduced to the island in the last century. Examples of invasive alien plant are the Chinese Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) and Wild Ginger (*Hedychiary cononarium*) among many others.

The total forest cover is about 50,000 ha of which 13,000 ha is under plantations. State land covers about 20,000 ha, the rest being on private land. Forest laws have made provisions for protective forests on watersheds (mountains), steep slopes, riparian strips and along the coast (mangroves), and as windbreaks (salt spray belts of Casuarina). The 13,000 ha of plantations only supply 30% of the local demand for industrial wood; the rest met through imports from Asia and SADC countries such as South Africa and Mozambique. The sector employs some 5000 people and supports 30 saw mills on the island. The protective, biodiversity, water supply and eco-tourism uses of the forests are valued on the island above their value for timber; and the protection and management policies generally reflect this. Interestingly, forest land is also leased (10,000 ha) for deer ranching to provide venison, which is in high demand. Currently there are 60,000 deer being raised on the island.

The island derives most of its energy from thermal (oil driven) power plants. It has also begun to generate power from sugar cane bagasse and is planning to build a 16 MW wind farm. The government also offers lower tariffs on solar panels and hybrid cars. Historically pressures for forest conversion came from poor farmers but with increasing affluence and near-full employment, the pressure now comes from big high property investors for land to construct high value homes, hotels and golf courses.

Policy environment

As stated earlier, Mauritius values the protective, biodiversity, water supply and eco-tourism functions of its forests more than timber. Its forest protection and management policies generally reflect this. It is the belief that the current policies such as the National Forestry Policy of 2006, and current initiatives such as the Sustainable Land Management Project in Mauritius and Rodrigues and the National Forestry Action Plan (is still in production) would be supportive of a forestry association. In addition, the suggestions below are considered positive to the creation and functioning of an association. The forest sector is highly regarded in Mauritius and has won two national performance recognition awards and a regional one on its achievements on Environmental Education in South Africa in 2008. The government and the public are well aware of the importance of forest cover for valuable freshwater supplies in such a small (2000 km²) land mass. The Forest Department alongside National Parks, runs a number of Strict Nature Reserves and Forest Reserves. The efforts of the Forest Department are complemented by the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, a local and visible NGO. Currently Mauritius is running an initiative dubbed, Sustainable Mauritius, in which the Forest Department is a major player.

Institutional basis for a forestry association for Mauritius and other Indian Ocean Island states

At the moment Mauritius might need to create an institutional home for a local professional association and would need to go through an appropriate registration system that could be quite lengthy. While that is feasible, it would probably not be worth the effort because in the current structure of the Forest Department, there are only four professional (degree holding) posts; (Conservator, two Deputies and one other Chief), the rest are technicians that develop through the ranks.

Because of the above, Mauritius does not feel that having a national professional forestry association is a viable idea. Instead, it would prefer a professional association that draws its membership from the island states of the Indian Ocean. A possible existing institutional home to an association is the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) which includes Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros and Reunion (France). Currently, the President of the IOC is Reunion; Seychelles is the Secretary and Mauritius is the venue for meetings. The IOC currently deals with issues of trade but the management of natural resources could be a powerful addition, and with lots of challenges in the future.

Possible functions of a regional professional forestry association

Such an association would:

- ▶ give small island states a stronger voice in both national and international dialogues;
- ▶ facilitate the sharing of skills to promote SFM in all the states;

- ▶ help focus on the maintenance of key ecological processes and maintaining biodiversity in support of nature and ecotourism;
- ▶ provide a forum through which the states can professionally find ways and means of curbing illegal trafficking of forest products, which is currently on the rise.

The key functions of a professional association

These will be to:

- ▶ improve the standards of professional practice on the island states;
- ▶ facilitate promotion of trade and reduction of illegal trade in products;
- ▶ facilitate control and management of invasive alien species;
- ▶ facilitate conservation of biodiversity;
- ▶ secure sharing of information through a common platform;
- ▶ secure technology transfer to improve tree growing and more efficient and sustainable use of existing forest resources (particularly in Madagascar).

Suggested way forward

The Acting Conservator of Mauritius and with the encouragement of the AFF could informally seek the opinion of the Directors of Forestry of Madagascar and Seychelles on the proposal for a professional forestry association. The AFF could alternatively write to Madagascar and Seychelles to seek official opinion on the matter. In the meantime, it would be prudent for the AFF to encourage dialogue among the IOC countries toward a professional forestry association.

Madagascar

Introduction

Madagascar, being the largest of the island states, has the largest forest resources estimated at about 9,725,000 hectares in 2005. Dense rainforests represent 47% of this area, dense dry forests 29%, spiny forests 18%, and mangroves about 3%; while less than 3% is covered by artificial forests, mainly eucalyptus and pine plantations. About half of Madagascar's natural forests are in the eastern region and on the eastern ridge, forming a forest corridor from the northern Tsaratanana range to the Andohahela range in the South. The other half of natural forests, mainly dense dry forests, spiny forests, and mangroves, is distributed more loosely in the northern, western, and southern parts of the country. The main plantations are in the Moramanga region and around the city of Fianarantsoa for pine plantations and east of the Analamanga Region for eucalyptus. Forest plantations, some of which are privately owned provide wood for local industry and some is exported. Forest resources are crucial for the majority of Malagasy people particularly for construction.

About 80% of energy needs, particularly at the household level, are met by firewood and charcoal.

Existing associations

Association of Forest Engineers of Madagascar (AIFM) – Structure and governance

Madagascar has one legally constituted association known as Association des Ingénieurs Forestiers Malagasy (AIFM), or Malagasy Association of Forest Engineers. AIFM is legally constituted as non-profit organization. The association has a President, a vice-president, a secretary, a counsellor and a treasurer. Its activities are supervised by a Board on behalf of its members.

Membership

Any Malagasy who has earned a degree in forestry is eligible for membership; currently its membership is estimated to be 250 individuals.

Funding mechanisms

AIFM mainly relies on membership subscriptions to fund its activities, but because of its changing role as a platform for lobbying, it could attract funding from external donors as well.

Functions of the AIFM

AIFM aims to defend the interest of forest engineers inside the forest sector (at first the activities were limited to social activities, to support its members). Recently, during the last political crises, and spate of illegal exports, it has added lobbying government to defend and promote SFM in conjunction with civil society.

So far, the most memorable achievement of AIFM was the establishment of a platform for civil society with the main aim to protect environment, and the lobby, against the illegal trafficking of 'rosewood'. In a way, that has helped the Association to review its agenda to better support SFM.

Despite the above functions, an observation has been made within Madagascar that: AIFM, must assert itself more than it does at present and more actively promote good governance, as well as to promote SFM in Madagascar. In addition it must set standards for ethical conduct and forest practices, and by so doing, help to 'professionalize' the forest sector.

Initiative for Forest Certification (ICFM)

Structure, governance and function

Created in 2009, ICFM (Initiative pour la Certification Forestière à Madagascar or Initiative to promote forest certification according to FSC in Madagascar) is now legally constituted and is run by a Board which supervises the work of its Executive Director.

ICFM is legally constituted as a nonprofit non-profit association. It was established because of the requirement of the FSC process that national standards of certification must be handled by a national association. ICFM has a President, a vice President, a secretary, a treasurer.

Membership

Its membership currently stands at about 30 and is open to individuals, associations, companies and civil society who are interested in forest certification, or sustainable forest management

Funding

At the time of reporting, the ICFM did not have funding, but in 2010 the German cooperation (GTZ was expected to now GIZ) supported its activities in preparation for its endorsement of the national standard FSC. ICFM has a very clear mission, but it has to develop a work plan for it to attract funding.

CHAPTER 4 Recommendations to Rejuvenate, Strengthen or Create Forestry Associations

INTRODUCTION

This section presents a few recommendations on how the African Forest Forum, and indeed any other organization, could go about strengthening forestry associations, bearing in mind that out of 10 countries surveyed, only one, South Africa, has both active and highly influential associations namely, Forestry South Africa and the South African Institute of Forestry. In other countries with forest industries such as Zimbabwe and Zambia, the professional forestry associations which had been created years ago have gone into dormancy for various reasons and instead, it is industry based associations that have survived without the much needed guidance from independent professional bodies. In Mozambique and Malawi, there have been no such associations, but in both countries the realization that professional associations matter is now a fact. In Malawi the public mood would strongly support a professional forester's forum, to handle the controversies which surrounded the privatization of and maintenance of forest plantations. Both categories will need encouragement to rejuvenate dormant ones or create new associations. To start the discussion the section starts with a special case of the Indian Ocean Island States of the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar.

THE CASE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES

In Mauritius and Seychelles, forests have a significant role in the supply of ecological services and the survival of their significant tourism industries. Madagascar needs its forest for ecological and protective functions, in addition to direct economic benefits that are derived from the exploitation of natural and planted forest resources.

As individual countries, the two smaller Island states may not be under any urge to form an association but under the banner of the Indian Ocean Commission, they can form a highly formidable association which represents the peculiarities of island states and professionally interact with their mainland counterparts. Such an association would include the two other members of the Commission, Comoros and Reunion Islands, both of which are not much affiliated to SADC, but this should not be a major impediment.

COUNTRIES THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

It is advisable to engage with an initial cluster of countries that are well suited by a combination of attributes to influence forestry practice, and are also important voices at international discussion forums. Such attributes should among others include:

- ▶ Strong industrial plantation-based industries;
- ▶ High potential for engagement in carbon projects and programmes;
- ▶ Number of in-country professional foresters;
- ▶ Substantial natural forest cover.

Going by the above attributes, countries such as Madagascar (with the other two islands), Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe should be given priority for support. In addition, South Africa should be in this group to play the role of an exemplary study in the role of forestry associations in economic development. As such, the AFF could enlist the support of South Africa's two major associations to support developments in other countries; a role that it should be keen to play in view of its industry's interests in the rest of the region.

The second group of countries should be Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana. Angola should also be added to this group, even though it was neither visited nor interviewed during the preparation of this paper.

Namibia and Botswana

As stated earlier, Botswana and Namibia need special attention with regard to the formation and support for their possible forestry associations. They would address issues related to the management of dry woodlands to produce timber, wood fuels, a suite of other non-timber products and ecological services. This may require a carefully thought out strategy to help them launch such an association that could bring in foresters, vegetation ecologists and wildlife experts and range management specialists together. To start things up, such associations could be termed "woodland management associations". However the driving force for the establishment of such a multi-disciplinary association could be foresters, in order to make it easier for them to share with other forestry associations in the region.

A starting point would be to state the objectives and functions of such associations and the membership requirements that should still require some standards of practice in woodland management. While describing the functions and conditions for membership could be tricky, it is nonetheless worth doing.

WAYS TO HELP CREATE OR REJUVENATE DORMANT ASSOCIATIONS

This should be supported by clear action plans which should be shared and possibly endorsed by key or influential forestry personnel in each of the countries. Ways to help create or rejuvenate forest associations would include, their promotion through in-country presentations on their relevance, government and/or public endorsement, sponsored participation at relevant regional meetings, identification and support for enthusiastic and motivated individuals or 'champions', and the creation of a small and functional regional contact or advisory group.

In-country meetings with the AFF

A number of countries such as, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe, expressed the desire to organize meetings of foresters in their countries to be addressed by the AFF on matters regarding the running of associations. This would be a good opportunity to show case the South African and other models from the continent. The main issues to discuss and share experiences on, would be promoting professional codes of practice, constitutional framework or model constitutions, membership drives, governance, lobbying government (policy advocacy), sustainable funding models and examples of achievements from other associations.

Regional meetings of forestry associations

It may be quite efficient to hold annual regional meetings of existing and potential forestry associations, provided that new participants are carefully chosen based on their potential to influence the courses of events in their own countries in favour of stronger or even establishing new forestry associations. Such meetings should be organized with clear action plans for each country to rejuvenate or create new associations and should concentrate on the issues already mentioned in the preceding paragraph on in-country meetings. The meetings will be organized by a specialized contact group with the support of an organization such as the AFF. They should be used ideally to showcase exemplary progress against challenges to the forest sector in a given country, and for sharing views on new and emerging issues affecting SFM.

Seed funding

Countries could benefit from modest funding to hold initial meetings and to equip a small office which can be linked to the AFF and other supportive organizations. Some countries expressed this view and it would be worthwhile to choose an initial cluster of countries as suggested earlier to benefit from such a facility if the AFF can secure funding. South Africa already gets funding from GEF and FAO and given the increasing recognition that the AFF

has attracted it could be a credible force to get such funding. In addition, the AFF could inspire countries by sharing experiences from countries which have made impacts through their own forestry associations. That way, countries with moribund associations and those that have never had any, could use their own funding to revive or establish them respectively.

Working through in-country champions

Most associations work initially from the sheer energy and ingenuity of their “national champions”. The AFF would be well served to identify such champions in each country and support them to achieve set targets for their respective existing or rejuvenated associations. Again this can be a deliberate policy of the AFF with regard to this matter.

Create and support a regional working group

For purposes of sustainability and to create a peer group, a small “Regional Working Group on Forestry Associations” can be very helpful especially in the first 3-5 years. Such a working group could be part of the regional meeting recommended above but would be encouraged to network electronically throughout the year and be facilitated to physically meet prior to larger regional meetings. This group should include influential foresters from academia, civil service and NGO’s that are active in their respective country associations.

LINKAGES TO THE AFRICAN FOREST FORUM

Based on the interest that countries have shown in starting new or rejuvenating dormant associations, it would be prudent for the AFF to form strong linkages with each country association. Several mechanisms can be used of which a few are suggested:

- 1) AFF could host an initial regional meeting after in-country visits to the first set of countries that have been suggested for urgent support. This could help to launch new associations and help steer rejuvenated ones towards meaningful achievements in their respective domains. After that it could create a budget line for an annual meeting of association CEOs and contact group members. This would enable :
 - a. reporting on progress of each association against set targets.
 - b. reporting on the key achievements of working groups.
 - c. sharing policy and other challenges.
 - d. sharing experiences on key achievements from each association.
 - e. receiving presentations by specialists within the forest sector on issues covering both production and the conversion/manufacturing industries.

- 2) The AFF could consider co-sponsoring a bi-annual newsletter on the functions, activities and key achievements of forestry associations.
- 3) New and existing associations could be supported by the AFF through an Information Service. Topics could include at the very minimum new production or conversion technologies, new emerging markets, macroeconomic / global trade policies that may affect the sector and events of interest regionally or internationally.
- 4) The AFF could facilitate sponsorships for association representatives to attend and contribute at international meetings.
- 5) The creation of an award system for performing associations sponsored by donors should be strongly considered and could be made sustainable through an investment trust fund. The award criteria can be worked out if the idea is taken up, but it should consider contributions to SFM policies, policy advocacy, increase in employment, adoption of new innovations in the sector/industry, the achievement of management of forest product certification, among others.certification.
- 6) To achieve the above, the AFF could seek funds for a 4-5 year initiative to specifically support associations, with a view to having at least two thirds of them at the end of the funding period supporting themselves and contributing to SFM, and generally promoting the forest sector.

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Society of American Foresters: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society of American Foresters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_American_Foresters)

Annex 1: Countries and Institutions Visited

Botswana

Mrs Mmasera Manthe Tsuameng – Acting Director of Forestry

Mr. Antony Ntema – Forest Research

Lesotho

Mr Nchemo Maile, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation

Mr Roland Hilbert, Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation

Madagascar

Gerard Rambeloarisoa, Former Director of Forestry, Madagascar (now private consultant)

Malawi

Dr Denis Kayambazinthu, Director of Forestry, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Malawi

Mr Gilbert Mtsendero (Private Sector - Saw milling and timber exports)

Mr Kenneth Nyasulu (Private Sector - Saw milling and timber exports)

Mauritius

Mr V Kezoo, Acting Chief Conservator of Forests

Mr P.Khurun, Acting Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests

Mozambique

Mr Jorge Cabral Chacate, Acting CEO of AMOMA

Muino Taquidir and Industry Advisor, National Directorate of Lands and Forests.

Mr Rito Mabunda, Forestry Coordinator, WWF Mozambique

Namibia

Ms A, Shishome, Deputy Director, Directorate of Forestry

South Africa

Mr Renny Madula, Department of Forestry, South Africa

Mr Michael Peter, CEO, Forestry South Africa

Zambia

Mrs Anna Chilese Masinja, Director of Forestry

Mr Frederick Mulenga, Principal, Zambia Forestry College

Mr Charles Masange, Secretary General, Timber Producers Association of Zambia

Dr P Matakala – Country Director, WWF Zambia

Zimbabwe

Mr D. Duwa, Manager, Forestry Commission of Zambia

Mr Lloyd Mubaiwa, CEO, Timber Producers Federation of Zimbabwe

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