

# African Dreams from Hanoi, Vietnam: Africa Forest Enterprises Connect Network

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Network (AFEDONET)

## Participants During the Fourth International Forest Connect Workshop Held at Hanoi, Vietnam(15-18/Jan 2015)



# Wonderful Learning Experience at Hanoi, Vietnam

- Participants had a wonderful learning experience which led to an informal discussion on what should be taken back to Africa after the forest connect workshop, **hence the Birth of AFECONET**
- Participants representing African Countries at Hanoi loudly wondered why Africa can not Network to enhance locally controlled forest enterprises

# Rationale

- Development of locally controlled forest enterprises offers the greatest opportunity for communities to fight poverty, improve livelihoods, generate household incomes, create employment and a pathway for women and youth to participate in natural resources management in Africa

# Background

- **Africa Forest Enterprises Connect Network (AFECONET)** will be committed to the development of locally controlled forest enterprises for livelihood improvement in Africa
- AFECONET will place community empowerment and economic incentives at the heart of its approach
- Consistently develop, consolidate, institutionalize and advance approaches and strategies which promote community-based enterprises and value chains
- Promote cross-sectoral collaboration and networking to enhance public private partnerships.
- Connect locally controlled businesses across Africa to share experiences.

# Envisaged Vision

- The vision of AFECONET is that communities of Africa locally control their forest enterprises and have the rights to exploit their natural resources sustainably to produce food, fuel, and fibre products in ways which improve local livelihoods and sustain the environment.
- This will be a Pan-African knowledge network of like-minded professionals, support institutions and practitioners of locally controlled forest enterprises drawn from Forest and Farm Producer organizations, Government, non state actors and the private sector

## Vision

- This vision includes creating a mosaic of forest businesses controlled by local communities with a view of diversifying rural economies and sustainable management of Forest resources in Africa .

# Mission

- AFECONET's mission is to generate, connect and upscale innovative locally controlled enterprise oriented solutions across Africa aimed at improving the livelihoods of the poor while bolstering national economic development

# The Objectives

**The objectives of AFECONET will be to;**

- Create multi-functional stakeholder platforms and networks for locally controlled forest enterprises to support small and medium micro-enterprise development in Africa.
- Advocacy to influence policy to support locally controlled forest businesses and sustainable use of natural resources in Africa.
- Create regional resource centers for knowledge sharing and building capacities of communities to develop locally controlled forest enterprises.

# Objectives

- Develop strategies which enhance interaction and create a popular movement for smallholder forest and farm producers 'and the private and public sectors to do business across Africa.
- Promote viable forest enterprise development models beneficial to the people of Africa

# Objectives

- Strengthen governance/institutional capacities of forest and farm producer organizations for business development and gender equity in Africa

# Approach

- AFECONET will be affiliated to Global Forest Connect network and other African NRM and governance bodies.
- AFECONET will aim at establishing and strengthening regional networks in the *Western, Southern, Eastern, Central, and Northern Africa*

# The Focus

## **Development of thematic areas focusing on:**

- Locally controlled forest businesses and related value chains, enterprise planning and development
- Policy advocacy for secure tenure rights
- Forest certification businesses
- Sustainable natural resource management
- Information and communication Technologies suitable for locally controlled business practitioners across Africa.

# The Focus

- Risk management in locally controlled forestry businesses
- Connecting locally controlled Forestry business to support institutions across Africa.
- Institutional capacity strengthening for community based enterprises,
- Technology development, Sourcing and dissemination
- Advocacy for equity
- Establishing and strengthening of information and knowledge sharing hubs
- Capacity building and services for FFPOS

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