



CONCEPT NOTE
AFOLU COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE

2020

Background and Context

Countries in Africa are championing efforts to catalyze low emission climate-resilient development. As a key aspect of their efforts, countries are leading work in the AFOLU sector that align with key socio-economic development goals. To further these efforts and enable peer learning and application of learning to key policy measures and actions, the Africa LEDS Partnership, Africa LEDS project team, and the AFOLU working are partnering to launch an Africa AFOLU Community of Practice (CoP).

The Africa AFOLU CoP is intended to be an interactive network comprised of national and subnational governments, technical institutions, businesses, non-profits and other international organizations addressing real-time policy and technical challenges and solutions related to the AFOLU sector. It is a platform for ongoing collaboration to allow for deeper learning and sustained participation, continuous access to tools and expert assistance, and to foster champions that will serve as role models for other countries in the regions. The AFOLU CoP is designed to be demand driven to meet members' needs and will offer support and solutions to early movers as needs emerge. Objectives of the CoP are highlighted below.



AFRICA LEDS
Partnership



Objectives

- Enabling countries to achieve key socio-economic objectives through catalytic action in the AFOLU sector.
- Supporting peer learning and knowledge sharing on key topics within the AFOLU sector in Africa based on demand-driven interest and needs and with a focus on translating robust analysis into concrete policies and other actions.
- Building the capacity of hub institutions to continue the work of the CoP over time and transfer capacity to other institutions on the continent.

In 2018, the CoP activities were launched in collaboration with 8 partner countries through the Africa LEDS Project: Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique and Zambia and in collaboration with a broader set of countries through the Africa LEDS Partnership. Initial priority topics were chosen in relation to demand-driven consultations with the 8 countries since the start of the project. Following the initial launch event in April 2018, the CoP was expanded to include other countries throughout the Africa region. In 2018 and 2019 the AFOLU CoP focused on peer learning, knowledge exchange, and expert assistance on the following three topics:

Priority Topics in 2018

- Agroforestry action as a driver of socio-economic development and emission reductions
- Linking agricultural production with small-scale energy sources to enable socio-economic development, emission reductions and finance mobilization
- Analytical approaches to assess GHG emission and socio-economic development impacts of actions across the energy and agriculture sector through integrating models and translating these approaches into policies and other concrete approaches

In 2019, a champion institution, IREN in Cote d'Ivoire, was contracted to lead the regional peer learning activities outlined below through the community of practice. Key topics of focus for the CoP in 2019 included:

Priority Topics in 2019

- Integrated energy – AFOLU modeling tools and methods
- Good practices and lessons from the clean energy-agriculture pilots in the Africa LEDS project countries and in Africa more broadly
- Highlights of strengthened policies and plans resulting from the Africa LEDS project country activities and in Africa more broadly

Priority Topics in 2020

- Agroforestry action as a driver of socioeconomic development and emission reduction
- Linking agricultural production with small-scale energy sources to enable socio-economic development, emission reductions and finance mobilization
- Climate-smart agriculture policies, technology and measures
- Long-term planning and decarbonization of the land-use sector
- Analytical approaches to assess GHG emissions and socio-economic development impacts across both the energy and agriculture sector through integrating models and translating these approaches into policies and other concrete strategies

Activities

The AFOLU CoP will conduct the following activities in 2020:

- Strengthen links and partnerships with stakeholders across the African continent. This will be done by identifying and engaging key institutions drawn from public sector at national and subnational level, private sector and academia
- Partner with international and regional partners to provide virtual peer learning and training on key topics above and focused on outcomes from the modeling and pilot activities under the Africa LEDS project
- Offer technical support in conjunction with the LEDS-GP and AfLP secretariats via the Climate Helpdesk. This support will be in support of member countries' NDCs or LEDS commitments
- Development of a toolkit on LEDS modeling methods and tools, with case examples from the countries that highlight lessons learned that can be replicable in other countries and focus on the impact of the LEDS GP support
- At least one in-person workshop bringing members together to discuss AFOLU priorities and exchange country experiences
- Advisory and peer support to countries on LEDS modeling, implementation projects (building on the pilot activities), policies, and the key topics highlighted above
- 2-3 Virtual meetings/webinars on selected AFOLU topics for members to learn from experts in the field and participate in open discussions on the various challenges they face
- Documenting good practices and lessons from the country activities (including modeling and pilot projects) through a series of knowledge outputs to be made available online for all members

Participants

The AFOLU CoP was launched with the 8 Africa LEDS project country partners highlighted above in 2018. Following the April 2018 launch session, a communication was sent to the full AfLP inviting them to join the CoP based on interest in the AFOLU topics. The larger CoP came together for ongoing virtual sessions in 2018. In early 2019, further communication will be sent to the AfLP and Africa LEDS project teams to expand CoP membership.

CoP participants may be from national and sub-national government agencies, technical institutions, private firms, NGOs and/or international organizations working on priority AFOLU topics noted. The direct and active involvement of these stakeholders across African countries is key to the success of the CoP.

The AFOLU CoP offers the opportunity for participating countries to learn from each other and from other experts in the field on specific AFOLU topics. Each online session is designed to include presentations by one or two selected participating countries and other experts in the field, and an open discussion on each country's challenges and approaches. Country government participants will also have access to no-cost technical assistance to support advancement of AFOLU actions aligned with socio-economic development goals. Participants are expected to commit to sharing knowledge and experiences, to applying learning and resources, and to providing feedback on results achieved from engagement in the CoP.

Participants' Roles

- Participants will actively engage in the discussions and come prepared to share their country's experience with key AFOLU topics
- When appropriate, it is encouraged that participants recruit their peers to participate to learn and share information
- It is encouraged that participants share the learning and materials from this CoP with their peers
- It is expected that participants will share with the AfLP community how they are applying the learning from participation in this CoP to advance policies, plans and projects in their countries

Expected Outcomes

Engagement with the AFOLU CoP in 2020 will help participants understand and apply to their country's context, the various building blocks that support successful AFOLU action implementation and critical socio-economic development goals. This can range from initial data collection and analysis all the way to development of specific policies and projects. Expected outcomes include improved knowledge, improvement and design of AFOLU policies, plans, project and other measures, and improved regional collaboration for AFOLU action implementation. The AFOLU CoP will also produce important learning materials, which could include case studies outlining best practices, fact sheets, webinars, draft policies, and annotated collection of resources.

Specific performance goals for this Community of Practice for the 2020 include

- At least 2 countries have documented improvements in their policies, analytic and planning approaches, or projects.
- At least 6 CoP participants have identified enhancements in knowledge and technical and analytic capacity to support AFOLU measures that will result in improved socio-economic circumstances.
- At least 1 new technical resource or compilation of tools, resources, training materials, and good practices has been developed.
- At least 4 new brief case studies prepared on AFOLU priority topics in cooperation with the LEDS GP Leadership database team.
- At least 2 new strategic partnerships have been developed with regional and international institutions to advance further cooperation on AFOLU scale up.

