**SAVE THE DATE!**

**1st African Forum on Urban Forests**

5-9 July 2021 - Zoom platform

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), we are pleased to announce that the **1st Africa Forum on Urban Forests** (AFUF) will be held on the week of 5-9 July 2021. The Forum will include presentations and group discussions over the course of the week. It is intended to be a technical meeting bringing together representatives of national and local governments, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, urban planners, representatives and experts from forestry country and regional institutions and networks, urban foresters, landscape designers and other private sector and young professionals who deal with the planning and management of urban forests and green public spaces. It will enable them to exchange experiences and lessons learned, and discuss possible long-term collaboration on the development of strategies for a greener, healthier, and happier future in Africa.

The **aim** of AFUF is to highlight positive examples of planning, design, management and monitoring approaches that cities with diverse cultures, environmental and socio-economic contexts, sizes, forms, structure and histories have implemented in collaboration with other sectors in Africa to optimize the contribution of urban forests and green infrastructure to sustainable economic development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, landscape restoration, combating desertification and sand encroachment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, building resilience, improved social cohesion, and increased public involvement and green jobs. More specifically, the **objectives** of the Forum are:

- raising awareness on the importance and contributions urban forestry and urban greening as a tool to increase resilience of cities to global/regional changes, biodiversity conservation and action against climate change and desertification and enhance green recovery;
- disseminating inspiring practices on the co-creation, maintenance and management of urban forests and green public spaces networks;
- improving collective knowledge, taking stock on progress made through inclusive open debates and review experiences and policies, lessons learnt on urban and peri-urban forestry and green infrastructure development in Africa and discuss opportunities for scaling-up;
- creating a periodic appointment for the urban forest and green infrastructure actors and stakeholders in Africa and link it to the global World Forum on Urban Forests and the World Urban Forum;
- supporting the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda processes and optimizing actions related to urban ecosystems and green spaces;

On a **wider scale**, the event will aim to identify concrete actions that will be taken to achieve greener, happier, more inclusive and healthier cities and communities, in line with the **Call to Action** and the five standards proposed by the **Tree Cities of the World** program launched at the **1st World Forum of Urban Forests**. It will also provide inputs and contributions to the FAO’s Green Cities Initiative development and
implementation in Africa as well as to the implementation of the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission held in March 2020 in South Africa.

To register to the Forum, please access the zoom registration page at the link: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q5OkxOrBQ_uJsw02C2vueA

In preparation of the Forum, a questionnaire for the collection of information on the state of the art of urban forestry and urban greening in African countries has been prepared. The answer will be compiled in a short report and presented at the Forum. As replying to some questions might require the consultation and collection of data and figures, you may wish to print a copy (see below attachments) and review the questions before starting to fill it in. We are of course aware that not all information will be available in each country, so please complete to the best of your knowledge. Click on the links below to complete the questionnaire in your preferred language: English, French, Portuguese.

Updated information on the conference (including the programme of the event) are available on the FAO Urban and peri-urban Forestry webpage, at: http://www.fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry/en/

A call for abstracts has also been opened for the selection of speakers for the thematic sessions. Everyone is invited to contribute to the discussion by submitting the proposal for an oral/poster presentation when registering to the event.

For any question or request of information, please feel free to contact simone.borelli@fao.org and michela.conigliaro@fao.org

We hope to see you all in July.

Sincerely,

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