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FOOD AND
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ORGANIZATION
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Eighteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week

Cotonou, Republic of Benin, 16 to 20 January 2012

Advance Information

At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Benin, the Eighteenth Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) will be held in Cotonou, from 16 to 20 January 2012.

The Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week (AFWW) will be simultaneously observed during the week. The purpose of the AFWW would be to reflect on the International Year of the Forest 2011 (IYF2011) and, in so doing, to draw the attention of policy makers to the importance of forests and wildlife in the improvement of the livelihoods of the populations and thus in social and economic development.

The theme selected for the Eighteenth Session and the Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week is “*The importance of governance and benefit sharing in the sustainable management of African forests, trees and wildlife*”. This theme is intended not only to underscore the importance of good governance in natural resource management but to also underscore the need to include all stakeholders in decision making, implementation and benefit sharing for sustainable forest and wildlife resource management.

An official invitation, together with the draft agenda, will later be dispatched to Governments, international and non-Governmental Organization, institutions and agencies. Information on practical matters regarding the organization of the meeting will also be sent out later to all invitees.

The 18th AFWC and the 2nd AFWW is an opportunity for interested parties to showcase their activities in the Forestry and Wildlife sectors in Africa. To this end, limited space will be available for exhibitions, side events and video shows for information and knowledge exchange as well as debates on sub-regional and regional initiatives on forestry and wildlife across the continent. Participants are therefore urged to share any recent innovations and experiences.

FAO will prepare Secretariat Notes and make these available on the Commission's web page at www.fao.org/forestry/afwc before the Meeting. You are welcome to visit the site regularly. For communication with the Secretariat, the dedicated email address, afwc@fao.org can be used, or fax to (+233 302) 7010943/ 668427 for the attention of the AFWC Secretary.