



WFC2015
XIV World Forestry Congress

Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future

AFRICA

AT XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS
Tuesday 08 September, 2015



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTRODUCTION

Forests are invaluable assets for humanity. They support livelihoods of billions of people, help achieve environmental sustainability, and serve as a source of social and spiritual values for many people. Given the high dependence of people on forests and other resources in them like wildlife for their daily social and economic needs, sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources in Africa cannot be achieved without the direct involvement of all stakeholders at all levels, and especially including those who directly depend on these natural resources for their livelihoods.

As the most important and inclusive gathering of the global forest community, the 14th World Forestry Congress (WFC) will provide a platform for African governments, academics, civil societies, the private sector, forest users and all other people who have an interest in forests and forestry to discuss and share information and knowledge on the forestry sector, and find ways of addressing the many opportunities and challenges in a manner that could pave way to the sustainable management of these resources.

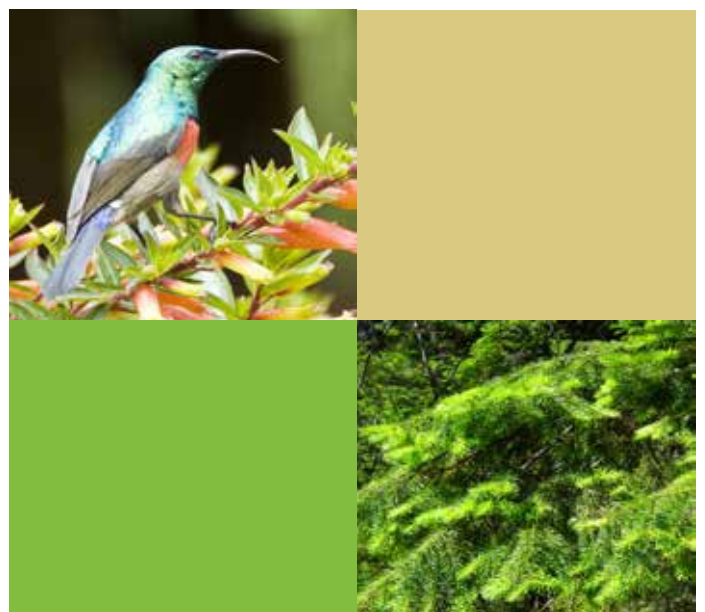
The World Forestry Congress also offers an opportunity to consolidate responses to climate change challenges in the forestry sector and to showcase, through many of the presentations that will be made at the Congress, results from some promising forest and related activities being implemented in Africa.

As a contribution to this effort, the African Union Commission in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfdB), African Forest Forum, FAO of the United Nations, Government of the Republic of South Africa, NEPAD

Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, will organize an, "Africa Day" with the theme: **Addressing Climate Change through sustainable forest management.**

This is intended to complement presentations made in the Congress from the continent of forests and forestry, as well as those from side events, exhibitions, launches and networking activities planned during the Congress.

The "Africa Pavilion" will serve as a knowledge exchange platform and exhibition place to showcase developments in African forestry.



AFRICA DAY

Africa Day is intended to provide a platform for sharing information and knowledge on key issues in African forestry that the continent needs to understand and take care of. These could be in the realm of broad policy perspectives and forest and forestry governance frameworks, agreed on internationally or regionally.

They could also include key observations and trends that have a strong bearing on how the forest practice could evolve on the continent. Having a broad discussion of such issues will most likely contribute to improving coherence between forest development, management and use and indeed the sustainability of these resources, especially in an environment characterized by various challenges like those stemming from adverse effects of climate change.

The Africa Day also seeks to enhance a better understanding of the urgent need for investment in forest and forestry, while creating synergies and partnerships for smarter investments in forest and agriculture in the continent.

More specifically Africa Day will provide forum for:

- Showcasing and bringing light to forest sustainability issues in Africa
- Providing a multi-stakeholder platform for interaction between policy makers, scientists and practitioners
- Open debates that set the context for Africa-relevant issues and themes within the larger framework of sustainable development in Africa
- Knowledge sharing among stakeholders working in Africa
- Promoting quality scientific research, field experience and evidence-based policy.

This event will also build on, and be informed by, actions on the ground, forums, initiatives, consultations, conferences, meetings and workshops held in the past 10 years, such as the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and improved Livelihoods, the Forest Convergence Plans of the Central African Forestry Commission and the Economic Community of West African States, the Africa Common Position on Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda, The East African Community Forest Management and Protection Bill, EAC Climate Change Strategy and EAC Climate Change Master Plan and IGAD's Environment and Natural Resources Strategy.



Tentative Schedule

There will be two levels of interactions, one at policy level and the other a panel discussion preceded by presentations that will provide fodder for the discussions. The following schedule presents activities/speakers in these two levels.



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PROGRAMME

■ Opening

14: 15 Policy level panel moderated by South African government

- Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
- H.E Belete Tafere, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Ethiopia (TBC)
- Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (TBC)
- Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- H.E Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union
- H.E Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa

15: 10 Technical segment chaired by the AU Commissioner for DREA

- Experiences from the Central African Forest Commission
Raymond Mbitikom - Central African Forest Commission
- Youth voices
Erick Ogallo, youth representative
- Africa and climate change
Frank Rutabingwa, Senior Natural Resources Expert - UNECA
- Forest investment in Africa:
Clotilde Mollo, Coordinator of the Congo Basin Partnership Fund, African Development Bank
- Integrating forests with other land use
Frederick Kumah, Director WWF Africa
- Highlights from the AFF pre-XIV WFC workshop on “Forests, people and environment: Some perspectives from Africa”
Dr Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum

15:55 Discussion

16 :10 Summary points, unveiling of “Nature and Faune Magazine” conclusion remarks by Mr. Bukar Tijani Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

16 : 15 Closure



AFRICA PAVILLION: EXHIBITION AND KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

The Africa Pavilion would be a shared-space in which partners showcase to the world their works in African forestry and related sectors. It will be jointly managed by AUC and FAO. However, African stakeholders can use the pavilion for their various functions based on approval of the AUC.

The events in the pavilion, which will go on for the whole duration of the Congress, will include side events organized by African stakeholders, meetings and group consultations, film shows, poster exhibitions, media events and cultural events.



Expected outputs from all these events:

Greater African participation in deliberations and understanding of African forestry and related development issues;

Greater awareness of what different countries, institutions, organizations and individuals are doing in forestry and cultivate appropriate partnerships and synergies necessary to address sustainable forest management and related development issues in Africa and beyond;

African media more aware of and increasing profiling of forest and forestry issues;

Media outside Africa giving good exposure to African forestry and related issues at the 14th WFC;

Better awareness and understanding, on the part of the global community, on opportunities and challenges in African forests and forestry.

Languages

Interpretation in the official languages of the Congress (French, English and Spanish) will be provided during the Africa day events.



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