



WFC2015
XIV World Forestry Congress

Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future

7-11 September 2015

Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre
Durban, South Africa

XIV World Forestry Congress



www.wfc2015.org.za
www.fao.org/forestry/wfc
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#Forests2015



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

About the World Forestry Congress

The World Forestry Congress (WFC) is the largest gathering on forests and forestry and is held at six-year intervals by a host country and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Congress serves as a platform where governments, academics, civil society, the private sector and people who have an interest in forestry come together to discuss and share information and knowledge on forests and forestry, and find ways of addressing key issues for sustainable development.

In 2015 the Congress will take place for the first time on African soil after South Africa was awarded the rights to host the event. The XIV WFC will be held in Durban, South Africa from 7 to 11 September 2015, following the XIII WFC held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2009. The theme of this year's event is "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future".

Aims and objectives

The XIV WFC aims to:

- clarify why it is so important to recognize forests and forestry as an integral part of sustainable development – from local to national and international levels;
- identify, analyse and raise awareness of the major issues facing forests and forestry and propose new forms of technical, scientific and policy actions that will result in greater sustainability by linking sound policy to feasible practice;
- serve as a key venue in 2015 for the world's foresters – from decision-makers to local practitioners as well as partners from other sectors – to share their knowledge and latest findings in a forum that will allow for challenging, constructive and sometimes controversial debate, the exchange of experience and views, and the fostering of collaborative partnerships and networks;
- provide a global showcase for the latest developments and innovations in forests and forestry, using multimedia learning platforms to illustrate their practical applications and linkages;
- ensure that critical issues are addressed and that all key stakeholders, including young people, women, indigenous people and local communities, are given a platform where the voice of the constituencies they represent will be heard.

Welcome



Mr Senzeni Zokwana, MP

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Republic of South Africa

South Africa's forest resource base, comprising three types, namely, woodlands, natural forests and commercial plantations, plays a significant role in terms of addressing the country's triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. Our forests play a significant role in poverty eradication through job creation, economic growth and supply of basic needs, particularly in the communities that live in close proximity to the forest areas, which are characterized by high levels of unemployment and poverty.

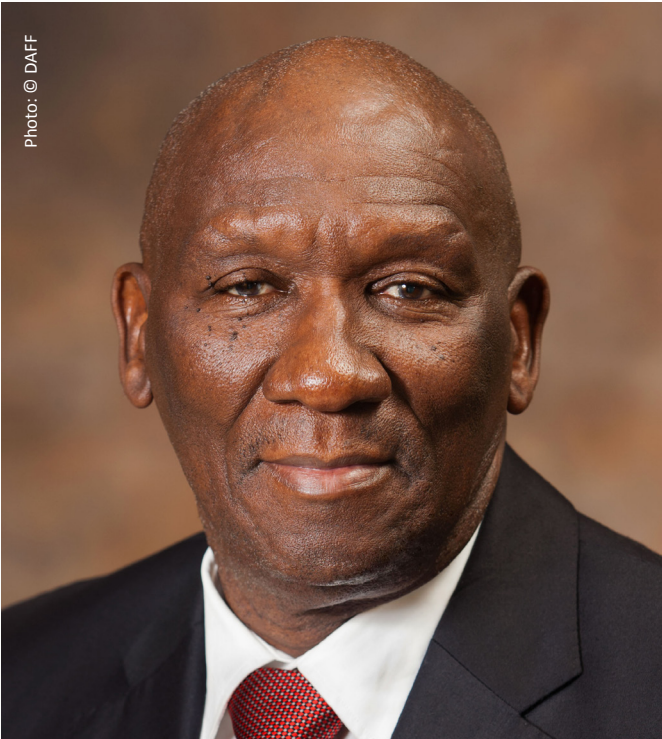
These forests act as safety nets in that the communities derive their livelihoods from them. Timber, fuelwood, building poles, medicinal plants and edible fruit types are some of the resources sourced from the forests. Moreover, forests are known for playing a vital role in the provision of ecosystem services while also being responsible for mitigating the effects of the global phenomenon, climate change. Like in many other parts of the world, South Africa's forests are still threatened by human activities such as mining, developments, unsustainable harvesting of forest produce and wildfires.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, under my watch, is responsible for ensuring sustainable forest management and development and sees the XIV World Forestry Congress as a good platform for the global forestry community to meet and share ideas and experiences that seek to obtain a mutual goal – that of seeking ways of reversing forest degradation and deforestation. The theme for the Congress, "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future", puts the peoples of the world at the heart of forests and I sincerely trust that the meeting will yield the desired objectives, including that of ensuring a sustainable future for the forests.

In this light, together with members of the Local Organizing Committee and FAO, I am pleased to invite all people involved with the forests of the world to the XIV WFC, to be held for the first time on African soil since its inception in 1926. I am optimistic that the Congress will provide a good opportunity for the participants to craft solutions that will benefit the sustained survival of all types of forests and trees outside the forests, wherever they occur in the world.

Messages

Photo: © DAFF



General Bheki Cele, MP
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Republic of South Africa

South Africa's forests play a significant role in terms of poverty alleviation through job creation and economic growth. Forests can also help mitigate the effects of climate change. Forests must therefore be a critical part of global and national agendas seeking to ensure sustainable development.

It is against this background that I welcome with pleasure the announcement that South Africa will be hosting the XIV World Forestry Congress (XIV WFC). The XIV WFC will be held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, from 7–11 September 2015 in Durban, in the province of KwaZulu Natal, in South Africa.

I am delighted as I believe efforts have to be made to profile forestry as a viable sector that creates employment and contributes to the economy.

Furthermore, I believe efforts have to be made to promote and implement sustainable forest management in all its dimensions and to fully capture its contribution to improving human livelihoods and to poverty reduction.

The XIV WFC is a perfect and wonderful platform to do so.



Photo: © Aerial/FC



Photo: © DAFF

Edith V. Vries

Director-General, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of South Africa

South Africa is indeed proud to play host to the XIV World Forestry Congress 2015 (WFC). It is the first time ever the World Forestry Congress will be held in Africa.

The theme of the Congress is “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”, and will be a partnership initiative between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa.

It gives me great pleasure as the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to invite you all to participate in this great event.

The WFC, an event hosted every six years, aims to renew commitment from various sector players to profile forestry as a viable option to attract foreign direct investment, much needed to address the growing challenges faced by the sector globally.

The World Forestry Congress provides a platform for the global forestry community to meet and share ideas and experiences to arrive at a mutually enriching goal: that of seeking ways of reversing forest degradation and deforestation.

It also provides an opportunity not only to share our experience but also to learn from others in our quest to meet our goal of sustainable forest management and development.

This exchange of information, ideas and experiences will enhance our understanding of the issues and challenges facing the sector and the actions to be undertaken in order to ensure a sustainable future for the forests.

South Africa is one of the most diverse and interesting countries in the world. It is highly diverse in terms of its climate, culture and tourism activities.

I encourage you to make the most of your visit here to South Africa and the many wonders of our beautiful country and to enjoy our warm hospitality.



Photo: © Dirive Amey/Flickr

Messages



Eduardo Rojas-Briales
Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

For the first time ever, Africa is hosting the World Forestry Congress, the most important and inclusive gathering of the global forest community. Established in 1926, the Congress has the vital task of discussing emerging issues in the forestry sector and guiding ways to address them over the coming decades. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations (FAO) has been entrusted with supporting the Congress, in close cooperation with the host country, since the UN system was established in 1945. We are delighted that the Republic of South Africa has offered to host such a significant gathering.

Africa showcases the most important global challenges and opportunities for forests and forestry. Climate change, urbanization, increasing demands on commodities (food, fuel, fibre and forests – the so-called “Four Fs”) and environmental services, competition for public funding as well as the need to empower local communities, engage the private sector and strengthen governance and institutional reform are just a few. Forests play an essential role in the region. More than a quarter of Africa’s overall energy supply comes from forests, and they are crucial for preventing and reversing desertification. At the same time, however, forests have been seen as significant water consumers themselves.

FAO hopes that all of these issues, and especially the way that they interconnect, will be addressed at the Congress and that the discussions will equip the forest community with a deeper understanding of the complexities of the world we live in. If there is a common element to the current challenges, it is their global nature. We are confident that with your presence, with the support of governments, civil society, the private sector and academia, and with inspiration from South Africa, the Congress will meet all our expectations and provide the legacy we want – and need – for the future.





Trevor Abrahams
Secretary-General of the XIV World Forestry Congress

Tiina Vahanen
Associate Secretary-General of the XIV World Forestry

Forests and trees play vital roles in human well-being and national economies and in the provision of essential environmental services such as clean air and fresh water. But policymakers, the wider community and even foresters have not always fully acknowledged these roles.

Today, the forestry profession must embrace the full range of forest products and environmental services and the rights and views of all forest stakeholders. It must also keep society informed of the roles of forests in the well-being of people and the environment.

Forestry, therefore, can no longer operate in isolation. It is an integral part of communities and landscapes and a vital component of sustainable development at all levels.

The XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC) will provide a unique venue for bringing forestry into the mainstream. It will emphasize people-centred forestry, socioeconomic issues, and the role of forests, trees and forestry in national economic development. It will address key environmental issues such as climate change, water and sustainable woodfuel supply – the latter being particularly crucial in Africa. And it will explore new governance structures that promote sustainable forest management.

The theme of the XIV WFC is “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”. The Congress will show that investment in forestry is an investment in people and, in turn, an investment in national economies and sustainable development.

The Congress is particularly timely for discussing the UN post-2015 agenda and the sustainable development goals. It is clear that people must be at the centre of sustainable development, and that poverty eradication and sustainable management are essential requirements. Forestry has immense potential in all these areas – in empowering people, in helping eradicate poverty, and in sustainably managing resources.

The XIV WFC will enable the world’s foresters and forest supporters (beyond the forest sector) to project a new vision for the future of forests and forestry by sharing their expertise and experiences and building partnerships for the future.

We expect the Congress to provide lasting benefits for institutions, communities, businesses and all those with an interest in the forest sector and related activities worldwide.

To make it happen, we want experts, practitioners and other stakeholders from a wide range of sectors to participate and engage. We are setting the stage for a participatory congress in which all stakeholders are free to share their ideas, practices, technologies and experiences. We will use innovative approaches to engage diverse participants in dynamic, stimulating and wide-ranging dialogues.

We cordially invite you to meet us in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015 for this exciting event.

Thematic focus

The central theme of the XIV WFC, “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”, aims to show that investment in forestry is an investment in people and, in turn, an investment in sustainable development.

Forestry will become more attractive as an investment prospect in light of the growing importance of forests in reducing poverty, achieving food and nutritional security, addressing climate change, conserving water, producing energy and improving urban environments.

The cross-cutting focus of the XIV WFC will examine the need for, and the advantages of, investing in:

- the enabling environment – especially policy and institutional settings;
- people – building capacity at all levels, increasing knowledge and education in forestry, empowering community-based forest institutions, and developing other human capital;
- assets – forests and value-added production such as wood processing facilities, infrastructure and product innovation, largely by the private sector.

FORESTS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY	BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH FORESTS	INTEGRATING FORESTS AND OTHER LAND USES
Putting people at the centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting forest income to improve food security and nutrition • Organizing people and communities for greater local control in forestry • Involving women and youth in sustainable forest management • Forests and trees as drivers of socioeconomic development • Managing forest-related conflicts • Wildlife in local livelihood development Acknowledging forests’ cultural and recreational roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional forest-related knowledge • Public perceptions of forests • Archaeology, anthropology and forests • Art and forests Accounting for the multiple benefits of forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests in national economic measures • Forests and the bioeconomy • Forest environmental services 	Forests as buffers against environmental change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests and climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Enhancing adaptation to, and the mitigation of, climate change ◦ The future of REDD+ • Forests and water • The conservation of forest biodiversity Increasing forest resilience to natural disasters and shocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring the resilience of forests in drylands • Pests, diseases, fire and floods 	The role of forests in sustaining landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation • Forests and landscape restoration • Planted forests versus forest plantations – a new era of forest management Integrating approaches to landscape management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding synergies between forestry, agriculture, water and energy • Agroforestry and trees outside forests • The role of urban forests in fuelling and feeding cities and providing environmental and social services
ENCOURAGING PRODUCT INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE	MONITORING FORESTS FOR BETTER DECISION-MAKING	IMPROVING GOVERNANCE BY BUILDING CAPACITY
Increasing the range of products from sustainably managed forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy: formalizing the woodfuel supply • Innovative wood-based products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The use of wood in infrastructure and building ◦ Biomaterials and nanomaterials • Innovative non-wood forest products • Shaping the dialogue on biotechnology Towards sustainable trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic, regional and international trade • Linking producers to markets • Improving trade transparency • The impacts of certification 	What the data tells us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of forests and forestry • Information gaps Progress in forest monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments in national forest monitoring system • Information on forest policies and governance • Innovative technologies for data collection and sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Remote sensing ◦ Open-source applications • Smallholder access to technologies and data • Information needs on forests and other land uses for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 	Capacities, knowledge and communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New era for forestry as long-term profession and business • Increasing institutional capacities at all levels • Using traditional and indigenous knowledge • Fostering participation and partnerships in sustainable forest management • Adapting forestry education and research to new realities • Modernizing extension and training • Communicating effectively with multiple audiences Reshaping forest governance architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing forests to the fore in international policy development and negotiations • Coordinating policies among the sectors • Implementing national forest programmes • Securing forest tenure

Pre-Congress events

Friday 4 September 2015

- **Forests, People and Environment** – A two-day event organized by the African Forest Forum to discuss important trends relevant to the African forestry sector with a view to enhancing the roles of forests and trees in national economic development and poverty alleviation; improving food security and nutrition; and enhancing environmental stability and other forest values.
- **#Forests2015 Social Media Boot Camp** – A three-day capacity building event open to beginners and more experienced professionals that will help participants learn or hone existing social media skills including blogging, Twitter and social reporting.
- **Research Symposium: Underpinning sustainable tree plantations in Southern Africa** – The depth and breadth of forestry research across South Africa will be showcased, including how research provides innovation, knowledge and technology to advance operational and management objectives, and influences policy and strategic decision-making while developing skills and knowledge.

Saturday 5 September 2015

- **Building Momentum** – Representatives from community-based forestry, forest and farm organizations, stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders will gather to: share their experiences and challenges; share recent initiatives, developments and lessons; build synergies and create a sense of common interest; agree on key messages, a roadmap for action and a communication and outreach strategy for the World Forestry Congress.
- **Forests, People and Environment** – Day 2.
- **#Forests2015 Social Media Boot Camp** – Day 2.

Sunday 6 September 2015

- **Building Momentum** – Day 2.
- **#Forests2015 Social Media Boot Camp** – Day 3.
- **Youth – Setting the stage: engage, speak out, be heard!** – A youth orientation event providing advice on how youth can make the most of their presence at the Congress and how to network, especially for participating first-timers and students.

For more information on pre-Congress events, see:

www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/precongress-events



Special events

Tuesday 8 September 2015

- **International Forests and Water Dialogue** – A two-day event that will see the finalization and launch of a Five-year Forests and Water Action Plan calling for action in the areas of science, policy, economics and forest practices.
- **More than heat! Wood energy for the future** – An event to highlight the potential wood energy holds for sustainable development and greener economies, including ways to make the use of wood energy more sustainable and efficient, thereby enhancing its contribution to livelihood improvement, gender equity, food security, health, and sustainable forest management.
- **Youth – Forests for the future** – An event organized by young people for young people, with the specific aim of bringing the youth perspective to the Congress, focusing on young people's roles in sustainable forest management, innovations in technology and youth development.

Wednesday 9 September 2015

- **Africa Day** – An opportunity for the world to learn about Africa's achievements and experience in rising to the challenge of sustainable forest management.
- **International Forests and Water Dialogue** – Day 2.
- **Wildlife Forum** – A one-day event to address challenges and opportunities in sustainable wildlife management, showcasing the experiences of countries, organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities and the private sector in addressing poverty alleviation and livelihood security issues while safeguarding the world's rich and diverse wildlife.

Thursday 10 September 2015

- **Business Networking Event** – A dynamic business-to-business networking event designed to strengthen private sector participation in the Congress by offering a platform for scoping investments, scouting business partnerships and seeking leads to financing trade and investments.
- **Forests and Climate Change** – This event focuses on the role of forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation. It will explore experiences in implementing forest and climate change actions as well as related forest monitoring and climate finance issues.
- **Innovation and Investment Forum** – A forum to explore how forest-based innovations are breaking new ground and creating tremendous opportunities to fuel a bio-economy and directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award 2015** – One of the most prestigious forest accolades, the award was established by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to honour the memory of Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a champion of forest issues worldwide and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

For more information on special events, see:

www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/special-events

Side events

Besides daily official plenaries, dialogues and special events, the Congress will accommodate almost 200 other events including side events, networking events, launches, performances and regional events to share experiences and innovations as well as increase opportunities for dialogue among Congress participants.

Papers, posters and videos

The call for abstracts for the XIV WFC resulted in submissions from around the world, including – for the first time – proposals for videos demonstrating the successes and challenges of work going on in the field. In total, 828 papers, 259 posters and 38 videos were submitted, creating a very strong technical programme across a wide range of forestry topics.

South Africa's forest resource base

South Africa's forest land covers just over 40 million hectares (about 36.7 percent) of the country's total land area of 122 million hectares. Despite its "low forest cover" status, South Africa ranks as the third most biodiverse country in the world.

The South African forestry sector is a reliable source of employment, with plantation forestry employing approximately 166 000 people and a further 63 000 in downstream processing plants. It has been calculated that, including the families of forest sector employees, approximately 1.2 million people are dependent on the forestry sector.

South Africa has the highest percentage of proportional area of certified plantations in the world. About 82 percent of commercial plantation areas in South Africa have received Forest Stewardship Council certification.

The history of forestry in South Africa is a remarkable story of the parallel actions of protecting a very small indigenous resource while creating the substitute plantation resource that has satisfied the demands of a growing population, and creating an export-oriented and competitive industry.

Forestry has supported a vital rural industry, contributed to the growth of infrastructure, expanded technology into remote rural regions, and substantially grown human capital through an integrated and adaptive programme of research and innovation, a blend of scientific indigenous forest management and plantation forest.

This coherent programme involved parallel but integrated programmes of genetics, silviculture, forest management technology, and wood product development, and this has eased the burden on natural forests. Continuous innovation that focused on silvicultural practices and technology and the quest to improve timber quality culminated in products suited to market needs. That innovation continues today.

The commercial forest sector has been proactive, leading the world in certification and adapting to the special social requirements in South Africa, hence supplying the market with certified products derived from sustainably managed forests. Some private forestry companies are on a drive to empower poor communities through outgrower schemes whereby emerging tree growers are supported to manage their small-scale plantations.



The Congress venue

Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre

The XIV WFC will be held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC), formerly the Durban International Conference Centre, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC is widely acknowledged as one of the most advanced conference facilities globally. It has been named Africa's leading conference centre for the 10th year by the World Travel Awards, and has been voted amongst the top 20 conference centres in the world by the International Association of Convention Centres (AIPC). Well positioned, close to Durban's central business district, beaches and city and beachfront hotels, the venue is renowned for its high standards of service, cutting-edge technology and top-level catering.

The architecturally appealing purpose-built centre is also positioned as one of the industry's environmentally-conscious front-runners, demonstrating its overriding commitment to reducing its effect on the environment.



South Africa

The jewel at the southern tip of Africa, South Africa is the continent's second largest economic powerhouse after Nigeria and business gateway to the hinterland. It is widely regarded as one of the most popular holiday and investment destinations in the world.

A country of intriguing contrasts, South Africa boasts highly developed infrastructure coupled with a diversity of natural resources. Visitors are generally awe-struck by the stark contrasts of the landscape which includes endless beaches, vast deserts and craggy mountain peaks. Although one eighth the size of the United States of America and nearly five times the size of the United Kingdom, South Africa commands more than 1.2 million square kilometres of some of the most ecologically and geographically diverse and stunning land in the world.

With its predominantly sunny climate, South Africa offers a year-long "tourist season", allowing visitors and locals to enjoy an idyllic lifestyle.

The host province: KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal is one of South Africa's most important economic hubs and tourism provinces, renowned for its conservation efforts, natural attractions and prehistorical and historical sites. Some of its key natural attractions include:

- uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site with its rock art, evidence of the early San people or Bushmen;
- ISimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site;
- game reserves such as the Hluhluwe uMfolozi—South Africa's oldest, where the white rhino was saved from extinction;
- Tembe Elephant Park, which reportedly has the biggest elephant population in Africa.

KwaZulu-Natal also has a rich cultural mix, which ranges from the cultures of one of the biggest Indian population concentrations outside mainland India to the famous Zulu people and communities with European ancestry. The region is also associated with famous personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi,



Photo: © DAFF

Winston Churchill, John Dube, Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela and Alan Paton. Mahatma Ghandi, for example, spent much of the more than 20 years that he lived in South Africa at his “ashram” in Phoenix, which forms part of a unique tourism route known as the Inanda Heritage Route. This route also includes the Ohlanga Educational Institute and home of Reverend John Dube, the first president of the ruling African National Congress. This is the site where Nelson Mandela cast his first vote and went on to report to Rev. Dube, at his gravesite in the grounds of this institute, that “We are finally free”. The moment also represented the end of former President Mandela’s “long walk to freedom”.

KwaZulu-Natal is also proud of its beach culture, with a range of world-class beaches, internationally recognized surf spots and shark-diving reefs. This rich heritage and tourism environment will assist in ensuring that delegates to the WFC not only have a rich, meaningful meeting, but an experience that provides them with a better understanding of this African region.

Durban

South Africa’s second most important economic metropolitan region, Durban ripples with vibrancy and is the country’s most popular leisure destination. With mild winters, hot summers and golden beaches stretching as far as the eye can see, the city is a melting pot overflowing with cultural diversity, sunshine and scenic beauty.

Situated in the province of KwaZulu-Natal and with a population of some 4 million people, Durban is less than an hour’s flight time from the country’s primary gateway airport, O.R. Tambo International Airport, in Johannesburg. Durban is also the main port city for South Africa, accounting for 65 percent of all imports and exports into the country.

It is widely regarded as one of South Africa’s fastest growing cities — emerging as an exciting hub around Africa’s busiest harbour. Its privileged location on the eastern seaboard gives the city a subtropical climate, with an average of 320 sunny days a year.

Durban’s modern infrastructure meets international standards and the city offers a highly sophisticated communications infrastructure, including fibre-optics and broadband, making it a veritable smart city.



Useful information

Getting to Durban

International access into Durban is mainly through flights into Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport, the main hub airport for South Africa, and onwards to Durban's King Shaka International Airport. Hourly connecting flights between Durban and Johannesburg usually take less than an hour and are available with a number of international and domestic airlines. King Shaka International Airport has efficient taxi, shuttle and car rental services.

Documents required

A valid passport with or without visa, depending on your nationality, is required to enter South Africa. Tourists generally do not require a visa to enter South Africa. For more information regarding South African visa requirements please visit www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/applying-for-sa-visa. Please note that it is not possible to apply for visas at any South African port of entry.

Climate

During the months of September/October, Durban has an average minimum temperature of 15 °C and an average maximum of 23 °C.

Currency

The South African unit of currency is the Rand, which utilizes the decimal system. One Rand is equal to 100 cents. Rand notes are available in the following denominations: R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10. Coins are available in the following denominations: R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

Payment methods

Although US dollars and euros are generally accepted, foreign currencies can be exchanged. All major credit cards and traveller's cheques are widely accepted in South Africa. Most businesses, tour operators, airlines and hotels accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club. Travellers' cheques, in all the major currencies,

may be exchanged at any bank. In addition, many hotels, department stores and restaurants will also accept traveller's cheques. Visitors should, however, enquire whether such a service is offered prior to conducting any transaction.

Value-added tax

VAT is included in the marked/quoted price of goods and services provided in South Africa. International visitors may claim refunds of VAT paid on any goods which they intend to take out of South Africa. Information leaflets regarding VAT and refund procedures are available from the VAT Refund Administration Offices at the O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, King Shaka International Airport and Cape Town International Airport.

Electricity supply

The South African electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. Most plugs are 15 amp 3-prong or 5 amp 2-prong, with round pins. If an adaptor is called for, consider bringing one with you, although they can be purchased locally. US-made appliances may need a transformer. Most hotel rooms have 110 volt outlets for electric shavers and appliances.

Time zone

South Africa's time zone is UTC+02:00.

Health information

High-quality medical services are widely available throughout South Africa. However, as the country does not employ a national health and welfare system, visitors are advised to secure medical cover or insurance prior to visiting the country.

Entering South Africa does not require any form of immunization. However, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of travellers entering South Africa within six days of leaving an infected country. Visitors who travel through or disembark in such countries are advised to be inoculated against yellow fever.



Registration

Take advantage of the Congress's "early-bird" rates by registering before 30 June 2015. Full registration will give you access to all events during the five days of the Congress, while partial registration is available for people wanting to attend only one, two or three days. Special prices are available to citizens of South Africa and eligible countries (list below*). Reduced rates are also available for students, retirees and people accompanying participants.

STANDARD*			SPECIAL*		
			Participants from South Africa and eligible countries		
CATEGORIES	EARLY BIRD (until 30 June)	REGULAR (July–September)	CATEGORIES	EARLY BIRD (until 30 June)	REGULAR (July–September)
FULL (5 days)	ZAR 7050 USD 600	ZAR 8250 USD 700	FULL (5 days)	ZAR 4150 USD 350	ZAR 5300 USD 450
PARTIAL (1–3 days)	ZAR 4250 USD 360	ZAR 5400 USD 460	PARTIAL (1–3 days)	ZAR 2650 USD 225	ZAR 3550 USD 300
STUDENT/RETIREE Proof of status required	ZAR 2200 USD 200	ZAR 3300 USD 280	STUDENT/RETIREE Proof of status required	ZAR 2200 USD 200	ZAR 3300 USD 280
COMPANION Limited access	ZAR 1650 USD 140	ZAR 2150 USD 180	COMPANION Limited access	ZAR 1650 USD 140	ZAR 2150 USD 180

Please note: Fees are fixed in South African rand (ZAR). US dollar (USD) prices are indicative and subject to exchange rates.

*Special rates are available for citizens of:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Grenada	Libya	Palau	Sudan
Albania	Chad	Guatemala	Macedonia, FYR	Palestine	Suriname
Algeria	China	Guinea	Madagascar	Panama	Swaziland
American Samoa	Colombia	Guinea-Bissau	Malawi	Papua New Guinea	Syrian Arab Republic
Angola	Comoros	Guyana	Malaysia	Paraguay	Tajikistan
Argentina	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Haiti	Maldives	Peru	Tanzania
Armenia	Congo, Rep.	Honduras	Mali	Philippines	Thailand
Azerbaijan	Costa Rica	Hungary	Marshall Islands	Romania	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Côte d'Ivoire	India	Mauritania	Rwanda	Togo
Belarus	Cuba	Indonesia	Mauritius	Samoa	Tonga
Belize	Djibouti	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Mexico	São Tomé and Príncipe	Tunisia
Benin	Dominica	Iraq	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Senegal	Turkey
Bhutan	Dominican Republic	Jamaica	Moldova	Serbia	Turkmenistan
Bolivia	Ecuador	Jordan	Mongolia	Seychelles	Tuvalu
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Kazakhstan	Montenegro	Sierra Leone	Uganda
Botswana	El Salvador	Kenya	Morocco	Solomon Islands	Ukraine
Brazil	Eritrea	Kiribati	Mozambique	Somalia	Uzbekistan
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Korea, DPR	Myanmar	South Africa	Vanuatu
Burkina Faso	Fiji	Kosovo	Namibia	South Sudan	Venezuela, RB
Burundi	Gabon	Kyrgyz Republic	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam
Cabo Verde	Gambia, The	Lao PDR	Nicaragua	St. Lucia	Yemen, Rep.
Cambodia	Georgia	Lebanon	Niger	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Zambia
Cameroon	Ghana	Lesotho	Nigeria		Zimbabwe
		Liberia	Pakistan		

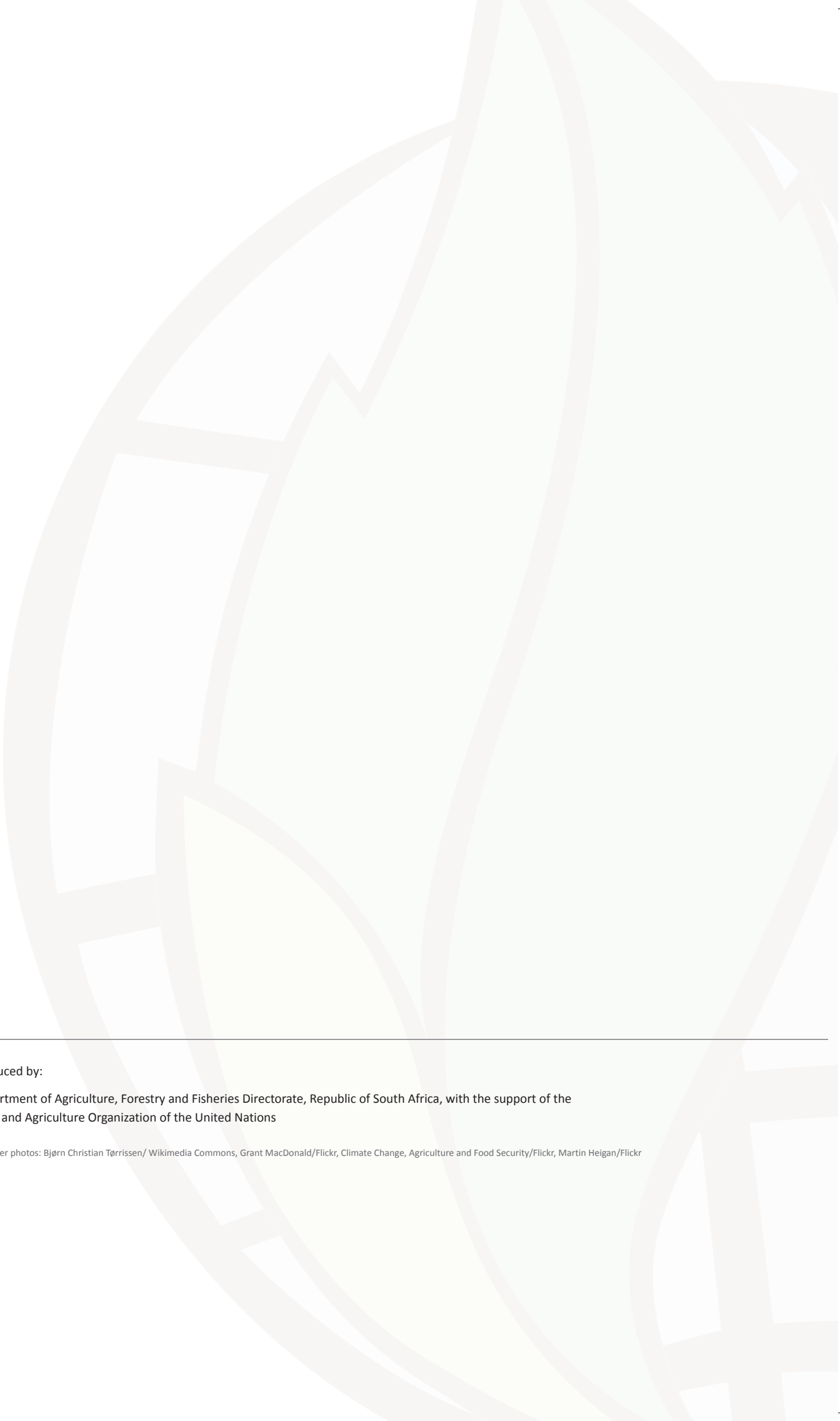
Sponsorship and exhibitions

A variety of sponsorship packages are available for the Congress. For more information on sponsorship and exhibitions, please refer to the separate WFC Sponsorship and Exhibitions brochures or contact info@wfc2015.org.za.

Draft programme

Sunday 6 September	Monday 7 September	Tuesday 8 September	Wednesday 9 September	Thursday 10 September	Friday 11 September	
Pre-Congress events						
	Opening ceremony (1h30)	Plenary session (1h30)	Plenary session (1h30)		The Way Forward (3h)	
	High-level dialogue on global forest agenda (1h30)	Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) launch (0h30)	Poster sessions	Special event: Innovation and Investment Forum (3h)		Special event: Forests and Climate Change Event (3h)
		Sub-theme dialogues (2h)	Sub-theme dialogues (2h)			
Side events and partner meetings (1h30)	Side events and partner meetings (1h30)	Side events and partner meetings (1h30)	Side events and partner meetings (1h30)	Business Networking Event (1h30)	Side events and partner meetings (1h30)	
Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)	Plenary session (1h45)	More than heat! Wood energy for the future (2h)	Sub-theme dialogues (1h45)			
		Poster sessions	Special event: Africa Day (2h)			
		Sub-theme dialogues (2h)				
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Welcome cocktail	Poster sessions	Side events and partner meetings (1h15)	Side events and partner meetings (1h15)	Side events and partner meetings (1h15)	Closing dinner	
	Side events and partner meetings (1h15)					

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for writing. It features horizontal ruling lines spaced evenly down the page. In the top left corner, the word "Notes" is written in a dark brown, serif font. The background of the paper is decorated with a faint, light gray illustration of a globe showing latitude and longitude lines. Overlaid on the right side of the globe is a large, stylized, light gray letter 'V'. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.



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