Thematic Sessions

The central theme of the XIV World Forestry Congress is Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future. The aim is to show that investment in forestry is an investment in people and, in turn, an investment in sustainable development. The programme of activities will encompass a week of technical sessions and special events, side events and round-table discussions on six thematic areas covering all key aspects of forests and sustainable development. These six sub-themes are listed below with related indicative topics to guide participants through the programme.

1. Forests for socioeconomic development and food security

Putting people at the centre

- 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

- Traditional forest-related knowledge
- Public perceptions of forests
- Archaeology, anthropology and forests
- Art and forests

Accounting for the multiple benefits of forests

- Forests in national economic measures
- Forests and the bioeconomy
- Forest environmental services

2. Building resilience with forests

Forests as buffers against environmental change

- Forests and climate change
  - 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

- Restoring the resilience of forests in drylands
- Pests, diseases, fire and floods
3. Integrating forests and other land uses

The role of forests in sustaining landscapes
- 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
- 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

4. Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade

Increasing the range of products from sustainably managed forests
- Energy: formalizing the woodfuel supply
- Innovative wood-based products
  - The use of wood in infrastructure and building
  - Biomaterials and nanomaterials
- Innovative non-wood forest products
- Shaping the dialogue on biotechnology

Towards sustainable trade
- Domestic, regional and international trade
- Linking producers to markets
- Improving trade transparency
- The impacts of certification

5. Monitoring forests for better decision-making

What the data tells us
- The state of forests and forestry
- Information gaps

Progress in forest monitoring
- Developments in national forest monitoring systems
- Information on forest policies and governance
- Innovative technologies for data collection and sharing
  - 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

6. Improving governance by building capacity

Capacities, knowledge and communication
- 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
- Bringing forests to the fore in international policy development and negotiations
- Coordinating policies among the sectors
- Implementing national forest programmes
- Securing forest tenure