



**WFC2015**  
XIV World Forestry Congress

*Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*

7-11 SEPTEMBER 2015 Durban | South Africa

## 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