



WFC2015
XIV World Forestry Congress

Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future

7-11 SEPTEMBER 2015 Durban | South Africa

Building momentum for community-based forestry, forest and farm producer organizations

A two-day event preceding the World Forestry Congress,
5-6 September 2015; Durban, South Africa

Communities and smallholder forest producers are the largest group of stakeholders in ensuring a sustainable management of the world's forests, while at the same time providing income and direct livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people. With the right policies, legislation, investments and services such groups hold great potential for rural economies and the forestry sector. The XIV World Forestry Congress is an opportunity to share achievements, discuss key issues for communities and producers across the globe and a step towards attracting investments for forests and people.

The event

The event will bring together participants to:

- provide a platform for producer, indigenous people and community representatives to prepare and familiarize themselves before the XIV World Forestry Congress;
- strengthen networking and organizational capacities;
- discuss pressing policy matters;
- strategize and develop a common roadmap for action



Ms. Magda Kerdy
Secretary of Environment, Water and Soil
Autonomous Government of Pando, Bolivia
in a community nursery.

Photo: Jeffrey Campbell, FAO, 2014.

Why?

Communities and smallholder producers face similar challenges that often result from a lack of information, organizational capacities or access to platforms to raise their concerns. Yet, groups from around the world are showcasing that local solutions can be responsive to both environmental change and socio-economic development. There is a need to build linkages and support between local- and international governance. The "Building Momentum" event responds to this need by creating a common ground to:

- raise the profile of key stakeholder groups that are often underrepresented at international events;
- deliver key messages from people and organizations who depend on forest landscapes, resources and products for their livelihoods

Programme

During the two-day event, participants will have the chance to take stock of the current situation for community and producer groups, obtain feedback from preparatory regional events, share best practices, network and strategize before the Congress. The programme will focus on:

Saturday 5 September

A global overview of the status of community-based forestry and the outputs from regional forestry events will be shared to assess the current situation. Participants will be able to participate in round table discussions on the most important policy issues their organizations are facing. In the afternoon the collective feedback will be presented to come up with key policy recommendations, which will be incorporated into a shared resolution.

Sunday 6 September

The morning of the second day will be spent on how to build strong membership-based organizations and effective communication. In breakout groups on different topics, participants will share and discuss successful examples of organizational strengthening and good governance. During the afternoon there will be an opportunity to plan in detail for the participation in different sessions of the Congress and to develop a common action plan for the week.

Who can attend?

The “Building Momentum” event targets community-based forestry practitioners, forest and farm producer organizations, policymakers, academia and civil society organizations involved in aspects of community-based and farm forestry such as tenure, governance, small and medium-sized forest enterprises and livelihoods.

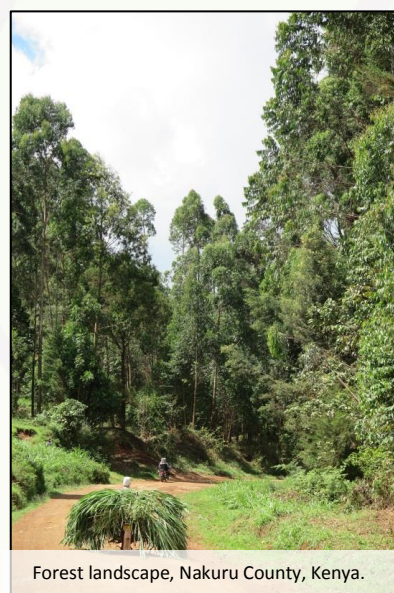
Those registered for the XIV World Forestry Congress, who would like to attend the event, can apply by sending a note of interest to the event organizers no later than 17 August, describing their:

1) interest; 2) organization; and 3) area of work.

Participants will be selected based on their overall engagement with community-based forestry and forest and farm producers, as expressed in their application, and in consideration of space available.

Translation will be available in English, Spanish and French.

The event is free of charge.



Forest landscape, Nakuru County, Kenya.

Photo: Jeffrey Campbell, FAO, 2014.

Contact Information



Erik Andervad
FAO Forestry Department
Erik.Andervad@fao.org