



Forests, Food Security and Financing in a Changing Climate

Celebrating the International Year of
Forests – A Regional Forum

September 20-21, 2011

Johannesburg, South Africa



Background

In Eastern and Southern Africa, Forests and woodlands are critical for the well-being of people and the provision of a broad range of products, services and functions. They contribute immensely to economic and social development through formal and informal trade in timber and non-timber forest products. They also contribute to environmental services through their safety net, spiritual and aesthetic value. Forests are also vital in the protection of water sources and storage of considerable amounts of carbon.

Most of the region's 590.5 million people live in rural areas where the vast majority interact with forests and woodlands daily both as nomads or sedentary farmers and depend directly or indirectly on forests and woodlands for food, fuel wood, building materials medicines, oils, gums, resins and fodder. It is estimated that forests generate at least 20% of the disposable income of landless and poor families, while 85% of the wood removed from forests and woodlands is burned as fuel by both rural and urban residents.

As people confront the impacts of climate change, governments will incur some costs that would have otherwise been non-existent. Droughts and floods will, for example, place increased demand on fiscal budgets for disaster preparedness as well as the health. Droughts and floods will also result in increased demand on relief and other social services that, if not properly addressed, could lead to political unrest.

In spite of the significance of forests, the actual and potential contribution to food security, sustainable livelihoods and the economy as whole, is often underestimated. Often, limitations in understanding and undervaluation of the social, economic and ecological role of the forests, results in a narrow focus on agricultural productivity with regards to the development and, more specifically, the food security debate with limited regard for the linkages with the wider landscape, including forests and climate change.

Making a change and contributing to sustainable development

The International Year of Forests, World Conservation Congress, and Rio+20 a

Today, however, there is a growing recognition of the need for us to find different ways to engage and there are a number of opportunities ahead:

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011). Everyone from Governments and the UN system, to major groups and other forest-related organizations are invited to come together to raise awareness on strengthening the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations and are encouraged to hold activities in celebration of the Year.



The 2011 Resolution on Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication from the Ninth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) invites member states and other relevant stakeholders to “take actions to foster the role of forests that contribute to poverty eradication in developing countries based on sustainable forest management, as the basis for the economic development for those countries.” UNFF also calls for the development and implementation of the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration to further develop and implement forest landscape restoration and other approaches that support sustainable forest management with the full participation of forest dependent communities.

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in June 2012 in Brazil, will set the sustainability agenda for the next decade, and we expect that a strong call for responsible and sustainable business practices will emerge from the conference. Business must answer the call to create a sustainable future based on a low-carbon economy – green jobs, renewable energy and energy efficiency – and global markets that can deliver benefits for all.

Furthermore, with a little over 18 months to go until the next IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) kicks off in Jeju, IUCN and the Republic of Korea launched the theme of the Congress - Nature+ -, a simple and memorable slogan that captures the fundamental importance of nature and its inherent link to every aspect of our lives. The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world’s largest and most important conservation event. From 6 to 15 September 2012 at the [International Convention Center \(ICC\)](#) in Jeju, Republic of Korea, WCC will bring together people from all sectors, and from over the world, to debate, discuss and decide on real on-the-ground change for people and nature.

The IUCN Regional Forum

Building on IUCN’s convening power, the Regional Conservation Forum aims at addressing the challenges and build momentum on the opportunities outlined above to catalyze the forest debate and bring the people back to the center. It seeks to convene key stakeholders (including IUCN State/Government and NGO members; United Nations bodies and other international cooperating partners, international and local NGOs, academic and research institutions; and the business sector to actively engage in discussions around the link between **Forests, food security and finance in a changing environment**.

The climax of the forum will be a regional celebration of the International Year of Forests during which the regional delegates will join South African counterparts in a publicized event within the City of Johannesburg.

The Regional Forum seeks to,

“Enhance knowledge, attitudes and practice for integrating forest conservation and food security, in a context of change, in Eastern and Southern Africa”

This Regional Forum, will:

- Convene public forums for debate and exchange of ideas and experiences between practitioners, forest communities, technical advisors, scientists and policy makers;
- Capitalize on opportunities such as the International Year of Forests, the World Conservation Congress, the UNFCCC Durban to publicize major outcomes, debates and resolutions of the public forums; and
- Strengthen and/or create Communities of Practice identified through public forums and harnessed in the aftermath of the regional Forum for development of collaborative research projects, policy dialogue and communication.

The Forum will involve two major events:

- a) **Knowledge Streams** – Parallel sessions for knowledge and experience sharing; and
- b) **The Green Pavilion** – A platform for showcasing forest-related activities that contribute to livelihoods, food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Green Pavilion will give an opportunity for companies and organizations to market their innovations, technologies and projects that are related to forest and landscape management, food security, climate change, and financing. The pavilion will be structured to be inviting, generating interest and buzz among exhibition visitors thereby offering a platform for making valuable contacts. It will be organized in line with the Knowledge Streams. While companies and organizations will be required to pay for the space, the project will sponsor some community-based exhibitors as a way of ensuring their inclusion in this activity.

The celebration of the International Year of Forests will involve forest-related field activities within the City of Johannesburg to be decided in collaboration with the national partners in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. Given that the Forum is happening during the Arbor month in South Africa, the celebration will include which may involve (but not limited to) award ceremony by the South Africa government to best Greening initiatives, and a gala event in the evening involving various artists but focusing on messages related to the IYF and Arbor month.

The event will involve a number of local and international media to ensure that the key messages for the IYF reach wider audiences.

Stream 1: Forests, landscapes and people in a changing climate

Putting people back in the center

Possible presentations/panels:

- The relevance of rights based approach
- Governing Africa's forests and tree dominated landscapes in a globalized world
- Governance, tenure, livelihoods and contested land in Forests and tree dominated landscapes
- The challenges of REDD - carbon rights, social safeguards
- The relevance of linking adaptation and mitigation and the resilience thinking

Stream 2: Food security in a changing climate

Forests, large-scale land acquisition and food security

Possible presentations/panels:

- Food security and biodiversity - linking ecosystems and sustainable management of ecosystems to food security
- Understanding food security - drivers of demand and supply and the impacts on forests
- Forest-based research and technology for improved agricultural innovation and production
- The biofuel delusion

Stream 3: Financing in a changing climate

Climate change adaptation and mitigation - challenges and opportunities

Possible presentations/panels:

- Carbon financing - The politics of market driven and fund based mechanisms
- Africa's access to carbon markets (Clean Development Mechanism and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) - challenges and opportunities
- Coping with the impacts of changing climates- The political, economic and social costs
- Tapping into unconventional carbon sinks- mangroves and drylands
- Bringing nature and business closer together - evolution and innovation in conservation finance
- Forest financial flows - tapping into Africa sources of funding

Getting involved

Given the thematic focus of the Regional Forum, the forum seeks to bring together a diversity of stakeholders including;

- IUCN Members, Commissions and partners
- Government representatives from different sectors including forest, environment, water, agriculture, coastal and marine (involved in protecting mangroves as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation), infrastructure, public works, trade and industry, finance, etc.
- Private sector, local community representatives, academia and research institutions, and regional bodies

How can you participate?

Individuals and organizations are invited to register their interest to participate in one or more of the following:

- Presenting a paper or a communication;
- Moderator;
- Participating in panel discussion;
- Exhibiting innovations;
- Supporting civil society and other stakeholders to engage;
- Communicating the event/Media;
- Organizing a cultural event;
- Financial support. In cash or kind
 - Up to USD 20,000 - Bronze medal
 - From 21,000 to USD 30,000 - Silver Medal
 - From USD 31, 000 to USD 40,000 - Gold Medal
 - Above USD 40,000 - Diamond Medal

How to register?

The online Call for Contributions to the Knowledge Streams and the Green Pavilion closes on August 10, 2011. Please visit www.iucn.org/esaro to submit a proposal or fill the attached form and send it to the address indicated on the form by August 10, 2011.



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*Celebrating the International Year of Forests – A Regional Forum
September 20 -21, 2011*

REGISTRATION FORM

Institution/organization			
Contact person	Name:	Position:	E-mail:
	Tel:		
Organization contact details	Country:	City:	
	Tel:	Fax:	E-mail:
	Address:		
Type of organization	IUCN member <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	Private sector <input type="checkbox"/>	Academia/Research <input type="checkbox"/>	Community-based group <input type="checkbox"/>
	International organization <input type="checkbox"/>		
Knowledge Stream of interest	Stream 1: Forests, landscapes and people in a changing climate <input type="checkbox"/>	Stream 2: Food security in a changing climate <input type="checkbox"/>	Stream 3: Financing in a changing climate <input type="checkbox"/>
Type of participation	Presenting a paper or a communication; <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibiting innovations in Green Pavilion <input type="checkbox"/>	Organizing a cultural event <input type="checkbox"/>
	Event moderator <input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting civil society/other stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/>	Financial support <input type="checkbox"/>
	Participating in panel discussion; <input type="checkbox"/>	Communicating the event/Media <input type="checkbox"/>	General participation <input type="checkbox"/>
Name (s) of participants			

Additional information will be requested upon receipt of the registration form

Please e-mail or Fax the Registration Form to: Irene Hungwe, IUCN South Africa Office SAQA House, 3rd Floor, North Wing, 1067 Arcadia Street, P. O Box 11536 Pretoria, South Africa. Tel:+27 12 3428304 or +27 12 3428305. Fax: +27 12 3428289. Email: iucnsa@iucn.org

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