



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

5-6 September 2015

Pre-congress event before the XIV World Forestry Congress,
Durban, South Africa (7-11 September 2015)

Rationale and objectives

As the pressing issues of climate change, food insecurity, loss of environmental services, growing demand for forest products and large-scale deforestation take center stage, attention should not be diverted away from the communities who are critical for addressing these issues. Increasingly, community-based family forest owners, forest and farm smallholders, indigenous people, forest-dependent people, women, youth, and other groups whose views may otherwise be marginalized, are stepping forward to demand their rights and demonstrate their solutions for improving livelihoods and managing forest landscapes. Innovative forestry departments and policy planners are listening and working together with these groups. But there is a need to build momentum around people, those who live in and live off the land and the solutions that they propose, in order to shape sustainable development and ensure the essential role of forests into the future.

The objectives of this pre-congress event are for forest and farm producers, indigenous peoples, community forest stakeholders and those who represent them, to share their experiences and challenges, create common views and interests, and agree on a strategy for action and communication plan for the World Forestry Congress, and beyond. Of many identified aims, three stand out, to increase *engagement*, *understanding*, and *networking*.

1. Increase the presence and direct *engagement* of community-based forestry practitioners and forest and farm producer organizations before and during the Congress, offer a platform for sharing of current issues, define key messages, and agree strategies to maximize their voice in relevant sessions.
2. Through sharing and debate, increase the *understanding* of and learning about current challenges and opportunities for community-based forest and land management, cross-cutting gender issues and assess the support demanded, to facilitate the development and work of forest and farm producer organizations.
3. Strengthen global *networking* among family forest owners and farmers, producer organizations, community forestry groups, indigenous peoples, women and youth, and those who represent and advocate for them.

Building momentum before the pre-congress event

A series of events have been taking place around the world, providing local stakeholders with the opportunity to generate their own messages for feeding into the pre-congress event and ultimately into the World Forestry Congress.

Momentum began to be built at the 'Strength in numbers' International Conference on Forest Producer Organizations that took place in Guilin, China on 25-28 November 2013 and continued one year later at the Global Landscapes Forum, Lima, 5-6 December 2014. During 2015 the following meetings provide regional feedback preceding the World Forestry Congress:

- The first African Farm/family Forest Producers Conference in Nairobi, 9-11 June.
- Asia Regional Workshop, on community forestry, experiences of successes and challenges throughout the region to strengthen forest users groups' associations, Manila, 29 June - 03 July.
- RECOFTC pre-congress event for smallholders, indigenous peoples and community forestry members in Asia, 8-10 July.
- Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests (AMPB) exchange visit on community territorial management in Panama and Mexico, 3-7 August.
- The Asia Farmers Association (AFA) conducted local, district and national consultations to share key learning and issues linked to forestry faced by farmers in Asia, Regional meeting in Myanmar, August.

Pre-Congress Programme

Agenda September 5th – The messages

TIME	EVENT	OBJECTIVE/COMMENT	SPEAKERS	LEAD
AM	SHARING OUR MESSAGES			
8:30-9:50	Setting the scene Taking stock - Presentation of the key messages and learning from regional pre-congresses	Key messages from momentum-building events, bringing regional organizations together around 'problems, solutions, and a call for action'	Eva Muller, Dir. FOE; Forestry South Africa rep; Apex organizations from Africa, Latin America and Asia; Indigenous People rep.	Chun K Lai Moderator
BREAK				
10:00-11:00	Review of 40 years of community forestry Presentations around key findings and panel discussion	15 min presentation 15 min panel presentations 30 min open floor discussion	Dominique Reeb, FAO, panel	FAO
11:00-12:00	Showcasing cases of successful policy advocacy	3 x 10 minutes presentation 30 min open discussions	FFF partner organizations	FFF
LUNCH				
PM	REFINING OUR MESSAGES			
	Group 1: Tenure – land rights and land justice	Refines messages around the thematic area	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	FAO SF Unit
	Group 2: Access to local and international markets	Refines messages around the thematic area	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	FFF/Forest Connect
	Group 3: Support services from GOs, FFPOs and NGOs	Refines messages around the thematic area	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	RECOFTC
	Group 4: Financing/ investments	Refines messages around the thematic area	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	Tropenbos International/ FAST
BREAK				
15:45-17:15	Feedback in plenary on key messages and defining our messages	Inputs into pre-congress resolution	Jeffrey Campbell, FFF	Moderator
17:30	Wrap up and ending of day 1	Film		FAO

Agenda September 6th – The messaging

TIME	EVENT	OBJECTIVE/COMMENT	SPEAKER	LEAD
AM	COMMUNICATION AMONG PRODUCERS			
08:30-08:45	Summary of previous day and outline of day 2		Moderator	Moderator
08:30-09:00	Press conference (simultaneous)	Q&A session for invited press	3-4 heads of Apex POs/ (others to be Selected)	Burness Communication
08:45-10:00	Showcasing successful examples of producer groups internal strengthening	3 x 15 min presentations 30 min open floor discussion	FFF partner organizations	FFF
BREAK				
10:15-11:45	FFPOs internal strengthening. Breakout in four thematic areas, with practical exchanges of experience on effective organizations, with short success stories or original initiatives to trigger discussions.			
	Group 1: Building inclusive membership and good governance	How are new members recruited? What are the processes to formalize partnerships? How decision making can be transparent and equitable? How can this be improved?	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	Facilitated by IFFA & GACF
	Group 2: Improving youth and women engagement in and through your organizations	How do you include youth and women in your organization? Original or innovative ways to reach out to these groups	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	Facilitated by IAITPTF
	Group 3: Consensus building and two-way communication	How do you communicate with your members? How are priority areas decided with constituents? How is local reality taken into account?	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	Facilitated by AMPB
	Group 4: Effectively influencing policy	How do you influence policy at local, national or international level? Ways, successes and challenges	Groups to select Chair and Rapporteur	Facilitated by AFA
11:45-12:15	Feedback in plenary on experiences	Shares examples	Moderator	Moderator
LUNCH				
PM	GETTING READY FOR THE WFC AND BEYOND			
13:30-14:00	The context for key messages: Climate Finance, WFC, SDG, UNFF and UNFCCC	5 minutes to highlight key messaging opportunities at each event	Selected presenters	Moderator
15:15	From building momentum to moving mountains – A strategy for engagement during and following the WFC	Based on the feedback session in Day 1 – agree on key messages that will go into the action plan and on a draft text “Commitment for action” that will be finalized on the last day of the WFC	Moderator with participants in plenary	Moderator
BREAK				
15:30-16:30	Outline of the WFC: planning for sessions, side events and pavilion	Agree on what events to attend, by whom and what messages to be delivered	Moderator	Moderator
16:30-16:45	Wrap up and sharing of action plan	Sharing of the final “Commitment for action”	Jeffrey Campbell, FFF	Moderator
17:00-17:30	Community theatre performance	Invited press		
18:00-21:00	Official WFC welcome cocktails			

Press coverage

A press conference will be held on Sunday morning of this event to communicate the messages from participants with the media. The press conference programme to include local community members as speakers and a question and answer session. A press release will be sent out via participants' networks and social media.

Building momentum during the World Forestry Congress

The momentum created during the pre-congress event will continue to build-up during the Congress in particular during the four sessions under sub-theme 1: Forests for socio-economic development and food security and the numerous related side events listed below. Participants of the pre-congress will organize themselves to strategically participate in events of importance to community-based forestry and forest and farm producer organization to ensure that their messages are heard.

World Forestry Congress: Partial list of Side events for sub- theme 1

7-11 September	12:45 - 14:15	18:15 - 19:30	19:45 - 21:00
Monday 7th	1, 2		3, 4,
Tuesday 8th	5	6	7, 8, 9
Wednesday 9th	10, 11, 12	13	14
Thursday 10th	15		

1. Democratising forest business: investing in successful locally controlled forest business models (IIED)
2. Opportunities and challenges for harnessing local forest management to improve rural livelihoods in Africa (IUFRO)
3. 40 years of community based forestry (FAO)
4. Highlighting the music, art and traditions of forests: an evening of forest culture (FFF)
5. Better outcomes for people and forests: the importance of locally-tailored solutions, long-term commitments and working in partnership (BLI)
6. Invest in us – forest smallholders, community forest members and indigenous peoples in Asia (RECOFTC)
7. Landscapes and livelihoods: forest and farm producer organizations sharing their stories (TROPENBOS)
8. Vibrant and thriving social forestry in Southeast Asia for investing in a sustainable future (ASFN)
9. Women leading forest management in the tropic: cases from Africa, Asia and Latin America (REFACOF)
10. The implementation of forest tenure reforms: What works, what doesn't and how can implementation be strengthened (FAO)
11. Traditional values, practices and forest policy: transforming local challenges into renewed partnership (FAO/CIAS)
12. Unlocking the real value of forests through strengthening locally controlled forestry (PEFC)
13. Creating an enabling environment for sustainable development of small scale and community-based forest enterprises (FAO)
14. The resilience of community forest conservation initiatives in times of global change (GFC)
15. Gender matters in forestry - challenges and opportunities (CIFOR)

Participation

The pre-congress 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.

Contact Information



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