



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



### FIRST IUFRO-FORNESSA REGIONAL CONGRESS

25 – 30 JUNE 2012

Nairobi, Kenya

***THEME: FORESTS AND TREES SERVING THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD***

#### **BACKGROUND**

An estimated 70 percent of the rural population in Sub-Saharan Africa depends on forest goods and services for the supply of basic needs, income and employment. However, Africa's forests are being depleted at the rate of 4.1 million hectares annually. Given the crucial role forests play in supporting livelihoods, more efforts need to be directed towards managing African forests on sustainable basis. The Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA), a regional hub of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), was established to support and strengthen research in order to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources of Sub-Saharan Africa. Since its formation in 2000 FORNESSA has fostered regional cooperation amongst forest scientists in the region.

The first IUFRO regional congress in Africa will be held in partnership with FORNESSA and is expected to bring together about 350 participants to deliberate on issues relevant to the conservation, sustainable management and utilization of forest and tree resources in the region.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND CONGRESS THEMES**

The Congress will provide a platform for African forest scientists, forest managers and policy makers and their colleagues from other parts of the world to share and exchange information and experiences on critical issues affecting forest and wildlife resources in Africa. The overall goal of the congress is to demonstrate how forest science is impacting on livelihoods, environmental management and development in Africa. The congress will highlight research that puts relevant information in the hands of forest communities, forest managers, policy makers, the private sector and civil society.

#### ***Specific themes to be covered include:***

- Forests and Climate Change
- Forests and Water
- Forest Policy, Governance and Trade

- Forest Biodiversity and Conservation
- Agroforestry, Energy and Food Security

### **ORGANIZATION**

The Congress is being organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) with support from a number of donor organizations and institutions. The congress will be jointly hosted by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).

The Congress will be held from 25 – 30 June, 2012 at ICRAF's head office in Nairobi, Kenya. A one-day in-congress field trip will be organized to selected sites in Kenya. Optional post-congress tours will also feature in the programme.

### **REGISTRATION**

Conference registration fee of US\$200.00 will be charged with discounted rates for students (US\$120.00). This fee will cover congress material, inaugural cocktail, coffee breaks and lunches on session days, congress dinner and in-congress field trip.

Complete instructions for registration and payment of conference fees will be included in the second announcement in September, 2011.

### **SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

If you wish to submit a paper or a poster related to any of the congress themes, please send your abstract of 300 – 350 words to:

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Abstracts should include:

- Full names, addresses of authors, and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
- The abstract should clearly describe the research objectives, major findings and conclusions of the proposed presentation.

Please indicate in the message accompanying your abstract whether you would prefer either a poster or oral presentation, or no preference.

### **DEADLINES**

Submission of Abstracts: 15 November, 2011

Notification of Acceptance: 31 January, 2012

#### *Call for Session Proposals*

We also invite submission of proposals for specific technical sessions relevant to the themes of the Congress. Such proposals should include:

- a session title
- a brief (2-3 sentence) description of the objectives of the session
- the full name(s), address (es), and email address of the session organizer. Organizers will be responsible for ensuring that proposed speakers submit their abstracts to the Chair of the CSC before the November 15, 2011 deadline and will be expected to chair their sessions during the Congress.

A tentative list of proposed speakers may be included. Proposals should be submitted by September 15, 2011 to the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC).

Session proposals will be reviewed by the Congress Scientific Committee and decisions made regarding their acceptance by October 15, 2011. Additional presentations may be added to the program by the CSC based on the open call for abstracts.