



**WFC2015**  
XIV World Forestry Congress

*Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*

7-11 SEPTEMBER 2015 Durban | South Africa

# Plenary reports from the High-level Dialogue, plenaries, sub-themes and special events

# Agenda

- Introduction – Tiina Vahanen, Associate Secretary-General, FAO
- Overview of week and introduction of key issues of importance for the XIV WFC – Trevor Abrahams, Secretary-General
- Reports from High-Level Dialogue, Sub-themes and Special Events
- Discussion
- Feedback and observations on the outcome elements



# High-level Dialogue (1)

14 Ministers and high-level officials participated

Closing speeches by:

Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO

H. E. Senzeni Zokwana, Minister for Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa.

## High-level Dialogue (2)

- Forests have a role in major global challenges, such as **food security**
- Better **integration** between forestry and related land-use policies
- Importance of forests for **climate-change** mitigation and adaptation
- Contribution of forests to many of the **Sustainable Development Goals**
- Significance of forests for the livelihoods of **indigenous and local communities**
- Clear calls to promote **effective stakeholder and civil society engagement, gender equality, good governance and secure land tenure**



## High-level Dialogue (3)

Urgent need for more effective **investments**, with adequate **financial resources** in:

- **capacity building**, especially at the community-level;
- **research, product innovation** and **technology transfer**;
- **micro-enterprise development**;
- **forest education**; and
- creating **employment** opportunities, especially for **young people**.



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# Sub-theme 1: Forests for Socioeconomic Development and Food Security (1)

- Indigenous peoples, local communities, family smallholders, women, men, young and old, and their organizations, already manage a third of the world's forests. They are also major investors and landscape custodians, and they and their forests play a critical role in ensuring food security and nutrition, local livelihoods, responding to climate change, and meeting the SDGs.



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## Sub-theme 1: Forests for Socioeconomic Development and Food Security (2)

- Indigenous peoples, local communities and family smallholders have the potential to do much more. But to ensure they play a greater part in the solutions to local and global challenges, serious and renewed actions are needed to secure their tenure rights, strengthen their organizations, improve services, provide fair access to markets, and increase finance and investments at all levels.

# Sub-theme 1: Forests for Socioeconomic Development and Food Security (3)

- We urge governments and non-government actors to directly consult with indigenous peoples, local communities, family smallholders and their organizations, engage as equal partners in prioritizing, developing, implementing and monitoring forest-related policies and programmes that meet their needs and demands.



# Sub-theme 1: Forests for Socioeconomic Development and Food Security (4)

- Indigenous peoples, local communities, family smallholders have the numbers, the knowledge and are vital for the future of the world's forest.



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## Sub-theme 2: building resilience with forests (1)

- Resilience needs to be a part of forest/land management from planning through implementation, taking into consideration the potential risks, impacts and shocks from natural and man-made disasters and crises.
- The role of trees and forests in disaster risk reduction needs to receive more attention, particularly in support of the Sendai Framework 2015 – 2030.

## Subtheme 2: building resilience with forests (2)

- Strong action to regulate the trade in non-native tree/plant species is critical in reducing the impact of pests and pathogens and ensuring forest resilience for a post-2015 development plan.
- Integrated fire management is an essential tool for building resilience in forests.
- Genetic diversity in forests must be maintained and enhanced through sustainable land management practices.



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## Subtheme 3: Integrating forests and other land uses (1)

Intensify efforts to integrate forests and other land uses to achieve sustainable landscapes and livelihoods by:

- establishing mechanisms for effective integrated and cross-sectoral land-use planning;
- applying the landscape approach and adaptive management on the ground;
- maintaining effective multistakeholder platforms; and
- better linking research to policy.



## Subtheme 3: Integrating forests and other land uses (2)

Improve agriculture-forestry linkages and synergies in the landscape to enhance food security and nutrition and alleviate poverty through:

- implementing integrated landscape management to optimize the roles of agriculture, forests and other land uses and to maximize the synergies among them;
- enabling smallholders to realize their potential contribution by providing them secure land tenure and access to forest resources, and access to markets, inputs and technologies; and
- encouraging voluntary corporate efforts to decouple deforestation from commodity production.



## Subtheme 3: Integrating forests and other land uses (3)

Bring forest and landscape restoration to scale through coordinated efforts and active collaboration among key actors, including:

- the public sector to provide stable and enabling legal and institutional frameworks, investment and policy support that will help catalyze private sector and community investment in FLR.
- the private sector to build social and environmental benefits into their business plans for FLR and to engage smallholder farmers and rural communities as partners and beneficiaries of the restoration activities.



## Subtheme 3: Integrating forests and other land uses (4)

- Public, private and civil society take collective action to apply five principles to guide the present and future establishment and management of planted forests: 1) good governance, 2) corporate responsibility, 3) equitable sharing of costs and benefits, 4) adoption of a landscape approach and 5) sustainability across different scales.



# Subtheme 4: Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade (1)

- Create awareness on, and improve image of, sustainable intensification of forestry through improved forest management and responsible use of biotechnology.
- Improve access to finance, materials and knowledge among aspiring tree growers to empower them as entrepreneurs, contractors and out-growers in locally controlled and managed forests.



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## Subtheme 4: Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade (2)

- Demonstrate the full potential of legal and sustainable wood in construction and related uses for resolving housing challenges and improving the quality of lives among the increasingly urban population in developing countries.
- Advocate for better inclusion of forest products value chains in the concept of bio-economy, and strengthen their multiple values for the society through resource and energy efficiency, renewability and recyclability.



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## Subtheme 4: Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade (3)

- Help local operators access knowledge and financing to investments in alternative value added uses of biomass.
- Disseminate knowledge of and transfer new and non-conventional technologies for more diversified uses of biomass.
- Support countries in reforming and governing land tenure with local empowerment, participation and organization, as a precursor of investments.



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## Subtheme 4: Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade (4)

- Deploy international cooperation, multistakeholder dialogue and appropriate governance frameworks to guide research priorities, to address societal concerns over new technologies, and to ensure that the flow of innovations reaches those who need them the most.



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# Subtheme 5: Monitoring forests for better decision-making (1)

- Forest inventory has continuously evolved in many countries with major changes in methods and purposes. No single method or approach fits every set of circumstances, so locally relevant consultation and design is essential.
- Modern methods can reduce the cost of monitoring and speed the delivery time for results. For example, data collection quality is greatly improved by using data recorders rather than paper plot records.



## Subtheme 5: Monitoring forests for better decision-making (2)

- Producing results and ensuring they are used are often not connected – there is too little effort in making the connections to information use in decision-making. Initial designs should include plans for ensuring dissemination and use of results.
- Ground-based inventory is much more accurate than remote sensing for forest resource monitoring. Ground-based inventory that incorporates remote sensing for inventory design, forest health, stratification and other uses is increasingly used as a standard.



## Subtheme 6: Improving governance by building capacity (1)

- Integrated and sustainable resource management requires adequate governance arrangements across sectors and scales. This can be achieved through informed political leadership, inclusive decision-making and improved intersectoral capacity for collaboration.
- To achieve the SDGs, investment is needed in institutional arrangements that engage and involve stakeholders in decision making at all levels and that mobilize action by aligning goals and incentives, strengthening ownership and accountability.



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## Subtheme 6: Improving governance by building capacity (2)

- To improve governance, public forestry institutions need competencies in ethical leadership, transparent information management, and facilitation of decision-making processes. Adequate incentives are also required to promote behaviours and attitudes consistent with good governance.
- Resources must be invested in developing forest communications to help decision-makers and the wider public understand forests, recognize their many benefits, and support the forest community in its work to safeguard those benefits for future generations.



# International Forest and Water Dialogue (1)

- The interaction between trees, forests and water and the role this plays in addressing critical issues, such as food security, access to quality water, climate change and landscape resilience deserves greater recognition at national, regional and international levels.
- Dialogue participants reaffirm that they have a strong demand, need for, and willingness to participate in and contribute to a newly established network that will consolidate, synthesize and share knowledge, best practices and common methodologies, as well as build the capacity of scientists, practitioners and policymakers on the interaction between forests and water.



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# International Forest and Water Dialogue (2)

- Greater resources are needed for research on forest-water interactions and this research translated into policy action and practical implementation, including at the community level.



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# Africa Day (1)

## Key messages from the Africa Day special event on 8 September 2015

Key message 1: Multisectoral integrated approaches of sustainable management of forest resources:

- Adequate harmonization of policies, institutional mandates, forest law enforcement and governance arrangements.
- Integrating traditional forest management knowledge and practices with scientific approaches, including the participation of local communities in forest management and utilization.
- Ensuring that Africa remains on the path of sustainable development by tackling the challenges posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity, and desertification, especially for rural populations, farmers, youth and women through implementing the principles of sustainable forest management.



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# Africa Day (2)

## Key messages from the Africa Day special event on 8 September 2015

Key message 2: Technological innovations and strengthening in the forestry sector:

- Recommended innovation and technology development as critical elements for enhancing the forestry sector's contribution to economic development and providing decent employment, especially for rural communities, women and youth.
- Urged for more investments in capacity building, particularly at technical and vocational levels.



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# Africa Day (3)

## Key messages from the Africa Day special event on 8 September 2015

Key message 3: Investment and financing for sustainable forest management:

- Underscored the need for African governments to increase investment and incentives in the development of the forest sector.
- Encouraged development of partnerships between governments, the private sector, local communities, civil society, research and academia to effectively respond to current and emerging demands on the forest sector and to implement the Agenda 2063 as well as the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Recommended development of regional guidelines to facilitate access and benefit-sharing to boost trade in wood and non-wood forest products, expand market infrastructure, technology application, and ensure adequate financing among Africa's forest stakeholders at all levels.



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# More than heat! Wood energy for the future (1)

- Wood energy is not “the poor man’s fuel”. It is a renewable, climate friendly and available form of energy when it is produced sustainably and used efficiently.
- A comprehensive approach addressing the full value chain for fuelwood and charcoal as well as governance issues is needed to improve sustainability and efficiency, especially for charcoal production and trade.
- Special attention needs to be paid to women and children who bear most of the burden of wood fuel collection and use, including by reducing the health risks.



## More than heat! Wood energy for the future (2)

- As countries embark on a sustainable development path in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, wood energy should be promoted as a viable, renewable alternative to fossil fuels for a wide range of industrial purposes in industrialized as well as in developing countries.
- In Sub-Saharan African countries, where a large proportion of the population relies on wood energy, enhancing sustainability and efficiency of woodfuel production and consumption should become priority for development policies and strategies.



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# Wildlife Forum (1)

- The sustainable management of wildlife is an important part of integrated approaches to the multipurpose use of natural resources and can play a meaningful role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. Done sustainably, wildlife management can provide benefits for food security, livelihoods, natural heritage and biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.
- Multidisciplinary approaches with strong community participation are needed to combine knowledge on the sustainable use and trade of wild meat and other NTFPs, strengthen legal frameworks and health protocols, and promote law compliance, multisectoral collaboration, innovative market approaches, and best practices.
- The role of indigenous and local communities in wildlife management is essential and must be strengthened through participatory approaches, including in wildlife monitoring and the eradication of poaching and wildlife crime.



## Wildlife Forum (2)

- It is possible to sustainably harvest wild meat and other non-timber forest products and compatible with conservation, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Better understanding of the causes and consequences of human-wildlife conflicts, including analyses of local situation, is needed in order to create models for mitigating conflicts and increasing the tolerance of indigenous and local communities to co-exist with wildlife.



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## Wildlife Forum (3)

Combating the illegal trade in wildlife requires:

- a coordinated effort at all levels, treating such crimes as serious crimes, and deploying the same tools and techniques used to combat other serious crimes;
- the involvement of indigenous and local communities, recognizing that basic levels of security must first be in place for communities to benefit from the legal use of wildlife;
- stronger interagency and cross-border collaboration; and
- the deployment of novel and innovative approaches and tools for the monitoring of wildlife populations, use and trade, including new identification and traceability tools.



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# Youth – Our commitment for change

Outcome document, to be integrated in final outcome documents of the WFC  
Global Youth, 10 September 2015





 **Agri-Groomers**  
...responsible farmers' vision



• If trees could t  
10:30 - 12:



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# Our Vision – commitment for change

Youth as a collective envisions forests as resources that are managed in ways that enable continuous provision for the needs of current and future generations. We see forests that

- are managed based on multi-stakeholder engagement and acceptance;
- serve people – provision of food, water, shelter, energy and employment;
- are maintained as a spring for inspiration, spirituality and culture; and
- protect nature, the climate and ultimately sustain life.



# We commit to:

- framing actionable policies at all levels
- implementing policies at the local, national and global level
- actively engage in our communities
- breaking barriers and contribute to integrated solutions across sectors, regions and generations
- partnerships and alliances for a green economy
- leading change today for tomorrow

by **respecting different perspectives, beliefs and cultures** and bringing people together rather than setting them apart



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# We urge to provide

Investment in **innovative education** for developing skills including

- Social and intercultural awareness
- Communication
- Practical capacity building
- Critical thinking

Platforms for **meaningful engagement** of young people and social equity in local/national/global decision making processes



**Please join us !**



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# Innovation and Investment

- [Oral presentation was given]



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# Forests and Climate Change (1)

- Continue to enhance the awareness and the understanding of the significance of climate change for the forest sector by governments and stakeholders, with particular attention to forest dependent communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- Promote more exchange opportunities, in particular south-south, and partnerships to benefit from ongoing unprecedented experience and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation actions on the ground and new scientific findings and advance in technology.
- Increase understanding of the challenges and opportunities governments face today to address climate change, and how to address them in the context of wider sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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# Forests and Climate Change (2)

- Promote sustainable forest management practices that incorporate adaptation and mitigation to climate change as part of their objective.
- Continue to increase the availability and quality of information that will allow for informed decisions by policy makers and help practitioners to implement most suitable practices to contribute to the multiple objectives of forest, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Urge more action on the ground and encourage to assess their impacts and communicate them in a transparent manner, including by more coordinated and effective mobilization of diverse financial resources.



Email to: [WFC-XIV@fao.org](mailto:WFC-XIV@fao.org) and  
[abrahams@iafrica.com](mailto:abrahams@iafrica.com) by 8.00 p.m. tonight.



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