



Second Announcement

2nd World Congress of Agroforestry

Agroforestry – The Future of Global Land Use

23-28 August 2009, Nairobi, Kenya



Background

Agroforestry first captivated the attention of the scientific community in the late 1970s. Today, Agroforestry has come of age—poised as a sustainable land use option the world over. Its potential for achieving the goals of the key global environmental conventions—Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification, as well as the Millennium Development Goals—has drawn the interest of scientists and policy makers alike.

The Stern Review on the economics of Climate Change, published at the end of 2006, put forests and land use firmly back on the global agenda. The 12th Climate Change Convention of the Parties (COP), co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, emphasized how crucial it is to link carbon credits with smallholder agroforestry throughout the tropics. Scientists are developing effective and inexpensive methods to enable major carbon investment flows to smallholders, and governments and development agencies worldwide are taking notice. Emerging partnerships between institutions engaged in agroforestry and biological conservation are building on their respective strengths to tackle the challenges of protecting biodiversity. Indeed the role agroforestry plays in tackling global environmental problems, and poverty, has never been more widely appreciated.

It is against the backdrop of these exciting developments that we announce the 2nd World Congress of Agroforestry, scheduled for 23-28 August 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. A country widely recognized for its rich biodiversity, Kenya is well suited to host this important Congress because of its tree planting culture. The Central Highlands are dominated by agroforestry systems, including an expanding smallholder dairy sector based on utilization of fodder trees on farms. These unique agroforestry systems will be the subject of several field trips to be integrated into the overall Congress Programme.

The 1st World Congress of Agroforestry, held in 2004 in Florida, USA provided a global forum for agroforestry professionals to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas, and to plan future strategies in agroforestry research, education & training, and development. The 2nd World Congress of Agroforestry will strengthen the momentum of knowledge-sharing and will further underpin the enormous crescendo of interest in agroforestry that is building up worldwide.

Congress Objectives

The 2nd World Congress on Agroforestry will assess opportunities to leverage scientific agroforestry in promoting sustainable land use worldwide. The Congress will serve as a forum for agroforestry researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers from around the world to:

- Share new research findings, lessons, experiences, and ideas that will help influence decisions that impact on livelihoods and the global environment
- Explore new opportunities and cement exiting partnerships in agroforestry research, education, training, and development
- Form new networks and communities of practice, and nurture old ones

Expected Outputs

Planned publications include a summary document, a book of abstracts, refereed journal articles, journal special issues, and books on the key topics covered in the symposia and technical sessions. A declaration that embodies the substance of Congress deliberations will be developed as a tool for discussions with policy makers and donor agencies to advance the cause of agroforestry worldwide.

Who Should Attend

- Academics
- Development Professionals
- Environmental Consultants
- Extension Specialists
- Farmers/Land Owners
- Government Officials
- Land Managers/Consultants
- Natural Resource and Forestry Professionals
- Non-Government and Private-Voluntary Organizations
- Policy Makers
- Private Sector Representatives
- Scientists
- Students

Program

The overall Congress theme is “Agroforestry – The Future of Global Land Use”.

Plenary, symposia, concurrent sessions, and poster sessions will be organized around different major topics, based on the following:

- Markets as opportunities and drivers of agroforestry land use
- Tree-based rehabilitation of degraded lands and watersheds
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Agroforestry’s contribution to a multifunctional agriculture combining productivity with environmental sustainability
- Policy options and institutional innovations for agroforestry land use

We invite interested persons to submit suggestions for technical sessions or abstracts for papers before the following deadlines:

Deadline for proposing technical sessions.....31 March 2008

Deadline for submitting paper abstracts (300 words maximum).....31 August 2008

Sponsorship

The Congress will be organized as a collaborative effort by a diverse group of institutions worldwide. The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), based in Nairobi, Kenya, will be the principal organizer, with co-sponsorship by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also based in Nairobi, and by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida. Financial and professional support is solicited and expected from a large number of institutions worldwide. Please contact the organizers if you are interested in becoming a co-sponsor of this exciting and important global effort.

Congress Logistics

Further details about the organization, call for papers, field trips, registration fees, hotels, and a preliminary congress programme will be posted on the congress website (<http://worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>).

The Kenyan capital Nairobi is easily accessible from anywhere in the world, and has direct flights on a wide range of major airlines from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The City also has several world class hotels, in addition to a multitude of top quality locally owned accommodation. The country’s advanced tourism sector assures a unique Kenyan hospitality that is unrivaled anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Participants will have opportunities to organize their own visit to many of the country’s famous national parks and reserves, including several that are within a few hours drive of Nairobi.

Contact Information

Please contact any of the following for information about participation, co-sponsorship and organizing a symposium or technical session:

Dr. Dennis Garrity, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Kenya: d.garrity@cgiar.org

Dr. P. K. Nair, University of Florida /IFAS, Florida, USA: pknair@ufl.edu

Dr. Howard-Yana Shapiro, Mars, Incorporated, Virginia, USA: howard.shapiro@effem.com

Michael Hailu, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya: m.hailu@cgiar.org

Dr. Mohamed Bakarr, Conservation International, Washington, DC: m.bakarr@conservation.org

Visit the congress website: <http://worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/>